

UPDATE to Member Clubs re RAL Voluntary Administration

Last Wednesday evening RMCA emailed clubs and suggested that with RAL entering Voluntary Administration, attendance at the RMCA AGM was an opportunity for clubs to hear and share information about the process. This happened at the AGM and later at the dinner.

Jono, RAL's CEO, and acting on behalf of the administrators, took time after the formal closure of the meeting to present and take questions. Key take-outs from that session were:

- The administrators will continue to trade the business while looking for the most appropriate way forward to maximise recoveries for creditors.
- They will be applying for an extension to the process to enable more time to explore all options to keep the ski fields operating.
- The process is fast moving, evidence of this seen via the email sent by the administrator to life pass holders and other creditors about the creditors meeting and vote this week.

The clubs are collectively viewed as a significant stakeholder to the ski fields and RMCA is recognised will have representation at relevant meetings.

The first such meeting with the administrators was on Monday 17 October and the meeting included key stakeholders representing mana whenua, Ruapehu and Taupo district councils, Department of Conservation, and RMCA.

The key points prepared by RMCA for presentation at that meeting included:

- Thank RAL management for their work operating in challenging circumstances of the two COVID years and the triple dip La Nina event.
- Club support for RAL continuing on the Maunga and knowing that snow will fall again.
- Club members valuing and recognising the privilege of being on the Maunga, a world heritage national park. Clubs are not just buildings - they are places where family and friends build memories and experiences, where knowledge is passed from one generation to the next.
- The consequence of no ski fields would be dire. Many clubs would close, and most do not have the funds to properly remove their assets.
- The South Island fields currently do not have the capacity to take the North Island snow sports numbers. Already some South Island fields have road/parking congestion problems.
- Clubs want RAL to succeed and many club members want to help.
- Clubs want to know what mechanism/s can/will be put in place for funding and if crowdfunding, how that might work and when.

Although RMCA cannot share the content of the meeting, we can share that there is unity in supporting the administrators to explore all options to have a good plan to keep RAL operating. The alternative of not doing this would be catastrophic for the region socially, culturally, environmentally, and economically.

RMCA will continue to engage with the process and update member clubs.

What can club committees do?

- Many have already taken the time to understand the voluntary administration process and are actively communicating with their club members.
- Some have held special general meetings and have resolved to financially support when a mechanism is put in place.

For clubs who have not returned the membership data that RMCA requested on Saturday - presenting accurate club data is vital for RMCA's advocacy so please send us the information as soon as you can. The information will also help us understand the percentage of club members who are also shareholders and/or life pass holders. The information will be useful for modelling/exploring crowdfunding options.

Kia Kaha
RMCA Executive Council