

The Bulletin

RUAPEHU SKI CLUB

Volume 83, No. 2

June 2018



The first chairlift installed anywhere in New Zealand was the original Rockgarden single chair, pictured here soon after it opened in 1954. The building on the right is the motor house for the previous Rockgarden rope tow. Photo: RSC Collection.



CONTENTS

- 2 President's column
- 3 Ruapehu news
- 5 RAL lift prices
- 5 Office news
- 6 Gondola approved
- 7 Whakapapa plans
- 8 Swiss instructor
- 11 Helicopter saved
- 12 Canoe journey
- 15 Paralympic medals
- 16 Ski in Taranaki
- 17 RSC calendar
- 17 New members
- 18 Longest ski race
- 20 Funding of RAL
- 21 Who owns RAL?
- 23 Obituaries
- 24 Winter biathlon
- 25 Volcano Cup
- 28 Medals for Murray
- 30 World snow news
- 32 RSC info page

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

It's that time of the year again where we are completing the work party season and preparing the buildings for the ski season. This year's program has included the modernisation of the water heating systems in the Lodge.

Five separate water cylinders have been replaced with a single system that uses heat pump technology. The result is that the new system will provide some 14KW of heating energy from only 4KW of electricity.

Apart from being more efficient than the previous systems, the new installation will give us far more control over avoiding peak usage periods. These have previously been a significant source of expense for us. The new installation will also be less sensitive to the temperature variations affecting us in the early winter, where quite some damage has previously occurred.

Work parties are a vital part of the Club. There are some projects that must be performed by certified tradesmen; however, there also many that can be undertaken by anyone.

As Club members, we are all part-owners of the Club buildings and, in the same way, we would maintain our bach, we should be participating in the maintenance of our buildings. Working parties do save the Club a lot of money.

In my experience, working parties have always been very rewarding. They have also been a great opportunity to meet with other members outside the ski season. Work parties are actually a lot of fun.

This is also the time of the year when we are preparing for our annual general meeting and our Committee elections. I am happy to say that we have a full complement of dedicated enthusiasts on hand to keep our Club going.

The entire executive committee comprises over 20 people. I know that sounds like a lot and the reason for that is that many hands

make light work.

We, on the Committee, are all volunteers and all have sometimes extremely pressing family and professional commitments. Spreading the load is very important as we all operate a concern that would easily compare with a more than a modest hotel.

We have a have a supply of around 170 beds and provide anywhere from 6000 to over 10,000 bed-nights per year, depending on the demand. We also cater for a number of events and programs, such as the Snow Squads, school holiday programs and the Haensli Cup. All of which enhance the demand for the accommodation we provide and our revenue.

Standing for the Committee is a great way of contributing to the Club and at the same time having a decisive impact on the future of the Club.

I am sure you are all aware of the RAL gondola project by this time. At the time of writing, the Ruapehu District Council has just delivered a favourable decision on the granting of the resource consent.

I will not go into the details of the decision. I would, however, like to make mention of our interaction in the process.

We, on the Committee, have engaged intensely in the project. We believe that the project will have an enduring impact on Whakapapa.

Our intent has always been to seek the most positive outcomes, not only for RSC but for the entire skiing community. Not only for the immediate future but for an enduring legacy.

The immediate impact of the project is that it will broaden the annual revenue window of RAL substantially. The increased revenue will benefit the entire ski area because RAL is a non-profit organisation and all profits must be re-invested in the company and its assets.

Our analysis of the project became focused on the impact of the decommissioning of the Waterfall Express. Although this facility is approaching end of life, the main problem is that it would obstruct the path of the new gondola.

While we have, on completion of due diligence, always supported the gondola as a matter of principle, we had severe reservations over the impact on the decommissioning of the Waterfall Express.

Uphill access from Hut Flat has always been a trump card for RSC. However, a closer analysis showed that the lack of uphill access from Hut Flat would have an adverse effect on the entire alpine community.

The loss of continual and immediate access to the middle slopes of Whakapapa would cause increased congestion elsewhere, affect the safety of skiers and have an adverse impact on the overall alpine experience.

Our negotiations with RAL have secured

legally binding assurances of a definitive and more prompt reinstatement of uphill access from Hut Flat, of earthworks to improve the terrain and capacity of potential areas of congestion and of improved snowmaking and grooming facilities to mitigate the effects of the restructuring of the Rockgarden - Staircase - Waterfall corridor of Whakapapa.

We share the expectations expressed by RAL that in a few years, Ruapehu will be celebrated as the premium destination for alpine enthusiasts for New Zealand. And that we will be in a prime position to capitalise on those expectations.

Richard Nelson
President

THROUGH THE LODGE WINDOW

Happy Valley will open for the ski season at Queen's Birthday weekend on June 2nd. Other **Whakapapa** lifts will follow on June 16th.

Subject to having enough snow, **Turoa** will open on June 29th.

Whakapapa last season had more ski and/or snowboard visitors than Turoa, for the first time in six years.

Whakapapa jumped to 210,000 visitors, mainly due to its snowmaking advances, while Turoa was static on 149,000 visitors, partly due to poor weather.

RSC congratulates New Zealand skier Adam Hall as a co-winner of the Winter Paralympics top honour, the Whang Youn Dai achievement award. He won it for his work with disabled people in New Zealand.

Hall is one of two athletes from this year's Paralympics to win the award, along with Finnish para nordic skier Sini Pyy who is the female recipient.

RAL has appointed two staff into key roles in time for the upcoming ski season.

Jono Dean has been appointed general manager for Whakapapa and Lyndsey Jackman is operations manager for Turoa.

The New Zealand team that skied in the 1968 Olympic Winter Games at Grenoble (France) held a 50 years reunion at Arrowtown in February.

The team was Tom Huppert, Mo Gardner, Chris Womersley, Michael Dennis, Robert Palmer, Anne Reid and Margot Blakely, and only Robert (deceased) was absent.

Robert, Margot and Mike were all RSC members.

A storm in March caused more than \$1 million in damage to roads and farms in the Ruapehu District.

The storm cut-off road access to the Blue Duck tourist lodge at Whakahoro on the Retaruke River requiring 112 people to be evacuated by helicopter.

Water tanks, repair items, food and a generator were flown in for the 20 staff who remained on site.

Ohakune sportsman Daniel Schlumpf is seeking support for his plan to set up a temporary synthetic ice skating rink in Ohakune this coming winter, the Ruapehu

**THE
RUAPEHU SKI CLUB**

(inc) Founded 1913

P.O.Box 8064, Symonds St.,
Auckland, New Zealand 1150

Telephone: 0-9-377 3856

Facsimile: 0-9-377 3859

Email: admin@rsc.org.nz

Website: www.rsc.org.nz
c/o McConnell Properties

Level 2

204 Quay St
Auckland CBD 1010



President: Richard Nelson

Vice-Presidents: John Benn, Liza Fitzsimmons, Marion Quinn, Phill Thomass, Donald Webster

Secretary: Catherine Hegley

Treasurer: Heather Chao

Immediate Past President: Adrian Adriaansen

Captain: Brent Moffat

Vice-Captain: Catherine Gafa

Committee: Arran Birchenough, Carl Burling, Jeff Davies, Vanessa Hills, Nils Johannessen, Matthew Lamb, John Payne, John Tetley, Fiona Willison

Patron: Bill Speight

Patroness: Kath Harrison

Auditors: Hart and Co

Admin Officer: Sheryl Brownlee

Lodge Officer: Carl Burling

Hut Officer: John Benn

Chalet Officer: Phill Thomass

Turoa Officer: Donald Webster

Heritage Fund Guardians:

Richard Nelson, Adrian Adriaansen, Robin Dallas, Bernard Smith. Fund

Treasurer: Mike Wardle

Glacier Hut Custodian: Joe Gabriel

Bulletin reported.

He plans a 240 square metre rink at Christie Park to run from June until the end of the ski season. Charges would be \$18 per session for adults and \$14 for children.

Mr Schlumpf said the plan, in conjunction with Ohakune 2000 and hopefully Ruapehu Alpine Lifts, is not to make a profit but to cover costs.

The inaugural Ring of Fire run around Mt Ruapehu in April drew a field of 628 trail runners including 178 ultra-distance runners.

The 178 started at 4am from the front door of the Chateau Tongariro and ran 72km around the mountain to finish at night on a red carpet in the Chateau lounge in front of the famous Ngauruhoe view window.

Others ran reduced courses, the most popular event a three-person relay.

The 72km winner was Andrius Ramonas in 8 hours 46 min 36 sec. The fastest woman was Kelly Sutherland in 10:55:30.

A daily lottery should be used to limit the numbers of walkers on the Tongariro Alpine Crossing, according to NZ Herald travel writer Winston Aldworth.

He said the hikers on the stunning 19km tramp sometimes look like an extended queue, so crowded is the path.

Recently he entered a lottery in Southern Utah (US) where 10 permits to walk the rock formations are handed out by lottery each day, and the same would work for the crossing. Some 150 daily passes would be suitable.

The deadline for the September Bulletin will be Friday August 17th. All items should be with the Editor in Wellington by then.

THE BULLETIN

Founded in 1936 by Jock and Fitzie Graham.

Editor: Alan Graham, 63 Messines Rd, Karori, Wellington 6012.

Telephone: 04-476 4598.

Email: alanjograham@xtra.co.nz

Advertising: RSC Administration
PO Box 8064, Symonds St.

LIFT PRICES FOR 2018 WINTER

An RAL day pass this season will cost \$125, up from \$117 last season. The youth rate (5 to 18 years) is \$75.

A two-day flexipass will cost \$210 (youth \$126). Three-day, four-day and five-day flexipasses are also available.

See RAL's website (mtruapehu.com) for details of all the passes including season passes.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Thank you to those members who have paid their subscriptions promptly.

We have a number of emailed invoices returned, due to incorrect addresses. Please check that the Office has your changed email contacts, especially if you have changed email providers.

Also can you ensure that your membership number and/or invoice number are on the bank details of internet banking.

We have some payments with Trust names only and these are currently unallocated to subscriptions.

Contact the Office if you have paid your subscription but this is not showing on your account.

CORRECTION

Unfortunately there was a typo in the March Bulletin that said our cancellation fee is \$50. It is \$5.

To summarise:

Cancellations (online or by email to the Office) must be made 48 hours prior to the first booking date (eg Friday night cancelled by midday Wednesday prior).

All alterations to bookings incur a \$5 (not \$50!) administration fee per person affected, irrespective of the date of alteration.

SICKNESS REMINDER

All our buildings are communal and well heated and therefore sickness, such as flu or stomach bug, can spread rapidly.

The Club asks that in the interests of Health and Safety, if you or a member of your party contracts a communicable sickness before you travel, please do not come.

If you or any of your party falls sick while on the mountain, the Club asks that in the interests of all the other building occupants, you vacate and inform the building leader.

In all cases where bookings are affected, please inform the Administration Officer of your change in plans.

PARKING METERS

Jo Bouchier of the Ruapehu Mountain Clubs Association (RMCA) advises;

“DOC has advised they are considering implementing parking meters in Whakapapa Village from the winter 2019 season.

“Before everyone gets full of angst about this, it is a process which will require them to go through public consultation and would require a bylaw amendment to enable them to do this, as at present the bylaws which govern the area do not permit a separate charge for parking.

“The type of machines they are considering are cashless, i.e. card only and number plate recognition.”



This gondola, seen in Switzerland, is similar to the Leitner gondola planned for Whakapapa.

GONDOLA IS APPROVED

The application of RAL to build a gondola lift from the Top O' the Bruce to the Knoll Ridge Café has been approved by a hearing of the Ruapehu District Council, subject to 17 conditions.

Details of the hearing and the decision can be viewed on the Ruapehu District Council website.

The gondola will pass between RSC Lodge and RSC Hut.

There will be 10 person detachable gondola cabins carrying 2400 persons per hour. The bottom terminal will be at 1631m and the top terminal at 1816m, with a running length of 1833m. There will be 14 towers.

It is proposed to have the lift running next year and at that time to remove the Waterfall quad chairlift which is coming to the end of its useful life. It will be replaced eventually by a lift running from Hut Flat to the top of the Knoll.

In its decision the hearing panel found that actual and potential effects of the gondola been appropriately avoided, remedied or mitigated by the decision and operation of the proposal, as well as the conditions offered by RAL and accepted by the RDC.

RSC asked if a mid-station would be possible. The answer was that it would be very expensive, would slow down the ride and would be located right outside RSC Hut.

WHAKAPAPA PLANS

Here are some of RAL's plans for the Whakapapa skifield.

They are in addition to the much-publicised gondola from the road-end to the Knoll Ridge Café, and the replacement of the Waterfall Express quad chair with a lift from Hut Flat to the top of the Knoll.

Meads Wall Quad Chairlift.

This lift in Happy Valley will replace existing lifts including the Double Happy chair.

Cornice Bowl Express.

This 6-seater will replace the Far West T bar and will be on a new line to the east, bringing reduced exposure to lahars.

Chalet Buildings.

Total seating at Chalet facilities will increase from 1030 seats to 1380 seats. New facilities will be developed at the Top O' the Bruce Plaza while a new Western Chalet will replace the West Ridge Kiosk.

Snowmaking.

Snowmaking reticulation will be extended to cover trails on Knoll Ridge below 2000m, the Yankee slopes and the West Ridge trails.

Top O' the Bruce Plaza.

There will be redevelopment of the Top O' the Bruce Plaza to provide enhanced facilities and services. Five or six existing buildings will be demolished and replaced with one larger facility and parking building.

Valley T-bar.

This is under engineering review to determine whether it would be practical to reduce the length of the lift to take it outside of the Tuku (gift) area. RAL says it remains an important lift for ski racing in particular.

Hut Flat sledding.

A magic carpet to be installed at approx the altitude of RSC Hut.

Knoll Ridge Snow Play.

A snow play zone with a magic carpet will be established in the vicinity of Knoll Ridge Cafe which will offer tobogganing, snow fun and, for some periods of the year, beginner ski and snowboard experiences. A second Snow Factory is proposed for the snow play zone adjoining Knoll Ridge Café.

Nose Dive.

RAL intends to widen and lower the Nose Dive trail and create an extra trail immediately below the Nose Dive trail.

Source: Whakapapa Facility Management Plan, March 2018.

HOUSE COMMITTEE

At this time we are happy to report a successful if demonic truck weekend.

All the stores are in the Lodge and Hut and a mountain of other work was done as well. Grateful thanks to all who attended and worked so hard; without you we couldn't do it.

We are still searching and interviewing for two new cooks. We are happy to say that Donna and Mike are back on board with us.

The Chalet bunk rooms have had a bit of a spruce up, we hope you like them.

On a Health and Safety note: would all members visiting the buildings out of season please make a quick phone call to Sheryl to let her know.

You falling down the Lodge stairs in the dark will come back to bite us in these days of compliance and compliance and more compliance.....

Don't forget your towels, sheets and pillowcases when you go to the mountain and please bring fresh ones each time. We still remember the job to get rid of the bed bugs.

MQ



Sereina Michel from Davos is our resident Swiss ski instructor for this season.



Sereina Michel.

INSTRUCTOR FOR 2018 SEREINA MICHEL

I am very glad to inform you that the ski instructor for winter season 2018 is selected. Sereina Michel is a real Davoserin who grew up here and made her education in Davos.

I know her personally and I am very sure that Sereina will fit perfectly into the RSC family. She is looking forward very much to meeting you all.

I was very happy to see Richard Nelson a week ago during his skiing stay in Davos. Richard also had the chance to meet Sereina.

And of course I was very interested to hear from what RAL is planning on Mt Ruapehu. Big changes.

I do hope personally that RSC and all the other ski clubs close by will find a solution which suits them for their future.

I wish you all the skill and good luck in these discussions with RAL and their responsibilities.

Although it is snowing heavily at the moment, the skiing season 2017/18 is past. We still have an incredible lot of snow.

They say double as much as in an average year, so it will be perfect for ski touring.

I wish you all the best.

Hanspeter Angerer

Hi everybody, my name is Sereina Michel. I'm a 23-year-old Swiss girl, born and raised up in the small mountain village in Switzerland.

I started skiing when I was three years-old. In my childhood I skied a lot with the Ski Club Davos. I've got a younger sister who is a ski racer and goes to the sports high school in Davos.

In the last four winter seasons I've been working for the ski school in Davos and I was also coaching the kids in the ski club. My education is in ski area administration.

Apart from skiing, I like mountain biking, trail running and travelling.

For me personally it's a fantastic opportunity to work in your country. I've never been to New Zealand and can't wait to see your wonderful country.

I've heard so much about the Ruapehu Ski Club and I'm really looking forward to meeting you all. See you soon!

Sereina



RSC working party in March 2018. **Upper left:** On the Hut deck. **Upper right:** Dave Watt overhauling the escape doors in the Lodge. **Lower:** Plank and paint with Marie. Photos: Tim Sharp.



RSC Swiss instructor Ollie Froelicher has a class in Te Heuheu Valley. Photo: Stephen Payne.

HELICOPTER SAVED

The announced plans to cancel the Greenlea Rescue helicopter based at Taupo have been reversed after widespread public objection.

Rescue choppers based at both Taupo and Rotorua were among those planned to be eliminated by the government's ambulance funding organisation.

But after several big rallies – 1000 people marched in Taupo – and a delegation to Wellington by the mayors of Taupo, Rotorua and Ruapehu, the two choppers were revived.

The cancelled plan called for rescues at

Tongariro to be made from Hamilton, but that is 55 minutes flying from the base to Ruapehu as against 20 minutes or less from Taupo.

The Taupo aircraft was the first rescue helicopter in the country and came about after pioneering helicopter pilot John Funnell and local emergency services recognised that people in the isolated back country of the Central Plateau were not getting the help they needed.

Taupo district mayor David Trewavas said the service was set up because the topography and the geography of the Central Plateau meant that help was often slow to arrive.



Damon Forsyth and Catherine Gafa on their way down the Whanganui River. Photo: Bernhard Spörl.

THE RSC TRIP ON THE WHANGANUI RIVER

It was raining when we assembled at the Turoa lodge on Friday March 23rd, making our Whanganui River trip the next day a bit doubtful.

However, in the morning the weather had cleared, so our group of 20 people drove our cars along the winding and scenic road to Pipiriki.

There we paid our fares at Whanganui River Adventures and were fitted out with life vests for the ride upriver by jet boat, but not before clambering down a more than 5m high mud bank plastered along the side of the river in the last flood.

In these mid reaches the river is already impressively wide. The water had the colour of a latte coffee and the forest was only interrupted by a few isolated signs of human habitation.

Vertical “papa” cliffs along the river always show a very high trim line from the maximum flood events, with picturesque waterfalls cascading over them.

Our guide Sean showed us the holes Maori had dug in the walls to pole their canoes upriver.

After about three quarters of an hour, we disembarked over a slippery rock at the historic Mangapurua Landing, which used to be the end of the road over the “Bridge to Nowhere” (there are old photos of ladies in long skirts and dainty shoes delicately balancing over a plank to reach the river steamer).

Everyone now walked for another three quarters of an hour to the disconnected bridge, mostly through regenerating forest on former farm land, with incredibly deep and steep gullies carved into the soft papa, like crevasses in a glacier.

We had lunch at the bridge, while Sean delivered an excellent presentation on the history of this failed farming experiment.

Then back to the landing, from where we were taken downriver to Ramanui, with the jet boat doing a few high speed 360° spins on the way, getting some of us a bit wet.

Once there, we let ourselves down on a rope over some more slippery rocks to our canoes and after some instruction, everyone was sent off.

One group immediately got stuck on the rocks in the gentle rapid, but even they were soon paddling down the river.

We then had a leisurely two-hour’s trip enjoying the occasional gentle rapids and exploring nooks and crannies.

Our final landing was just downstream of the junction with the narrow gorge of the Manganuioteao River. From there we were taken back to Pipiriki by jet boat.

Our long day ended with a nice dinner together in the Clyde Pub back in Ohakune.

Next day, everyone went their own way, either directly home or on other trips in the area.

We are all grateful to Liza Fitzsimmons for her faultless organisation of this outing. It was not only enjoyable because of the river, but also because of the company and what we learned about the history of the region.

Bernhard Spörl



Upper: Ready for the Whanganui River trip. **Lower:** Paddling down the river. Note the trim lines. Photos: Bernhard Spörli.



New Zealand's medallists at the 2018 Paralympic Winter Games. **Upper:** Corey Peters. **Lower:** Adam Hall.

PARALYMPIC MEDALS GOLD FOR ADAM HALL

New Zealand won three medals including a gold medal for skier Adam Hall at the Winter Paralympics held at PyeongChang (South Korea) in March.

New Zealand skier Corey Peters won a bronze medal in the men's (sitting) alpine ski downhill. His time of 1 min 26 sec was 2 seconds behind the winner Andre Kurka (US).

His fellow NZ skier Adam Hall then won a bronze medal in the men's (standing) super combined made up of a super-g run plus a slalom run. His time for the two runs of 2 min 25 sec was 4.76sec behind the winner Aleksei Bugaev (Neutral Paralympic Athletes).

Adam Hall then surged from third place after the first run to score a wonderful second run which gave him the gold medal in the men's (standing) slalom. He was 0.39 sec ahead of the silver medallist Arthur Bauchet (France).

It was his second Paralympic gold medal after his win in the slalom at Vancouver eight years ago. Aged 30, from Dunedin, he has contested four Paralympics. His disability is spina bifida.

Hall dedicated his win to his mother who was killed in a motor vehicle accident shortly after his gold medal win at Vancouver.

Adam Hall was named as a winner of the Winter Paralympics top honour, the Whang Youn Dai achievement award.

The award is named after South Korean doctor Whang Youn-dai, who has advocated for those with disabilities for over 50 years. It is awarded to those who best represent the spirit of the Games.

Organisers said Hall was selected for his passion giving back to the disabled

community; encouraging and supporting people into para-sport so they can enjoy the same benefits he has, and to ensure that the future of the Paralympic movement remains strong.

Hall is one of two athletes from this year's Paralympics to win the award, with Finnish para nordic skier Sini Pyy the female recipient.

New Zealand results were:

Corey Peters (skiing, sitting): bronze medal in DH, 11th in SG, 10th in GS.

Adam Hall (skiing, standing): fifth in DH, 10th in SG, bronze medal in SC, gold medal in SL.

Carl Murphy (snowboard) fifth in snowboard cross, fifth in banked slalom.

Aaron Ewen (skiing, sitting) withdrew due to injury.

The Winter Paralympics 2018 hosted 670 athletes across 80 events and six sports in 10 days. These were alpine skiing, biathlon, cross-country skiing, ice hockey, snowboard and wheelchair curling.

Of the 49 delegations 26 won at least one medal with 20 taking gold.

The US topped the medals table with 36 medals (13 gold). Then came Canada 28 medals (8 gold), Neutral Athletes 24 medals (8 gold), Ukraine 22 medals (7 gold), France 20 medals (7 gold) and Germany 19 medals (7 gold).

Australia just pipped NZ on the medals table with four medals (one gold).

In the case of alpine skiing the competitors were divided into three events: visually impaired, sitting and standing. Race times were adjusted to take account of the degree of disability of each skier.

*** To answer an inquiry from a member, "para" in this case stands for "parallel" and not "paraplegic".



The Manganui skifield on Mt Taranaki, as seen from the Stratford Mountain Club's lodge.

SKIING IN TARANAKI

Taranaki in days gone by had three skifields but today it has just one, the Manganui field operated by the Stratford Mountain Club.

Access is via a good sealed road from Stratford to the car park at 1260 metres, followed by a 25-30 minute walk to the ski slopes where the club has a large lodge. There is a goods lift to carry your gear while you walk in.

The lodge is at 1260 metres and the skifield has vertical drop above that of 420 metres.

Manganui has an intermediate T-bar and a small learners tow in front of the lodge, plus an access tow to the top slopes and a big "nutcracker" main rope tow.

The average snowfall is 300cm. Manganui has a groomer but no snowmaking.

The T-bar is intermediate level. A major renovation of the T-bar was done earlier this year when all the towers were replaced.

The Top Tow is a lot steeper (25-30deg average gradient). It is mostly rated expert, but strong intermediates can ski here with fun and confidence in favorable snow conditions.

The club says: "No ski area in NZ has quite the same type of terrain as found on Manganui's Top Tow. If you hit it on a good day it will be a truly memorable experience."

You can hire tow belts for \$10 from the ticket office. And if you are new to nutcrackers the crew will show you what to do and maybe slow the tow down.

Accommodation: The public can book into the ski club's Lodge on the skifield. Alternatively the Stratford Mountain House is a luxury year-round commercial hotel on the access road.

Other areas: There is good road access to North Egmont and Dawson Falls, both of which once had "skifields". Today there are no ski tows there but there plenty of hiking tracks.

RSC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 2018	2	Happy Valley ski season opens
	13	AGM, Parnell Community Centre, 6.30 for 7.30
	16	Whakapapa ski season opens
	29	Turoa ski season opens
July 2018	6-22	School holidays
	21	Snow squads option 1
	28	Snow squads option 2
August 2018	4	Christiania Derby
	4	Snow squads option 1
	11	Snow squads option 2
	11	Waimarino Trophy
	13-17	Winter Party
	18	Haensli Cup
	18	Snow squads option 1
	20-23	NI Primary School skiing (week one) Whakapapa
	25	Snow squads option 2
27-30	NI Primary School skiing (week two) Whakapapa	
Sept 2018	1	Rangatira Trophy
	1	Snow squads option 1
	3-6	NI Primary School snowboards Whakapapa
	8	Tongariro Junior Races
	8	Snow squads option 2
	15	Ngauruhoe Trophy
	15	Snow squads option 1
	17-19	NI Secondary School skiing (Turoa)
	22	RSC Club champs
	22	North Island masters
	22	Snow squads option 2
24-26	NI Secondary School snowboards (Turoa)	
29-Oct 4	School holiday	
Oct 2018	29	Ruapehu ski season ends

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members. This includes members who have changed from Associate to Senior memberships and a welcome back to those who have previously been members and have now renewed their association with RSC.

Dominic Campbell (Auckland)
 Anna Disbury (Auckland)
 Angelika Freeman (Auckland)
 Gordon Neve (Auckland)

Robert MacCulloch (Auckland)
 Jocelyn Moore (Auckland)
 William Muir (Auckland)
 Victoria Margaret Newman (Auckland)
 Daniel Paine (Auckland)
 Carlos Perez (Auckland)
 Jason Reward (Auckland)
 James Rouppe van der Voort (Porirua)
 Andrew Rouppe van der Voort (Poritua)
 Isaac Stewart (Auckland)

LONGEST SKIING RACE

The longest cross-country ski race in the world, the 220km Nordenskiöldsløppet in the Swedish Arctic, came down to a sprint for the gold medal in the last 200 metres.

Some 400 skiers lined-up for the start at dawn in the Swedish wilderness and attempted to double-pole for more than 13 hours in a heavy snowfall.

Andreas Nygaard (Norway) won the race for the second year, taking 13 hours 25 min 22 sec. Emilia Lindstedt (Sweden) won the women's class with a time of 14:01:13.

The race was revived in 2016 after a 132 year hibernation.

It dates back to 1884 when the Swedish polar explorer Adolf Erik Nordenskiöld created the challenge to show his team's ability to cover long distances in short time after being accused of exaggerating their accomplishments during a Greenland expedition.

NO TEENIE RACING

A ski school in Davos has pulled the plug on the traditional end-of-course races for its youngest participants, saying the beginner events are proving too stressful.

Teachers of five-to-seven-year-olds were being forced to act as “psychiatrists” in the run-up to such races while “the losers cried after the events”, ski school director Claudio Rupp said.

Rupp said the races held at the end of skiing holidays had been increasingly less popular in recent years with “overtaxed” school-aged children simply not showing up in a bid to avoid the sort of sort of stress they already had to deal with at school.

Instead, the academy has opted for a performance. “The kids put on the show together and have a lot of fun,” Rupp said, adding that higher-level students could still participate in races.

Zurich-based child psychologist Selina Luchsinger welcomed the proposal and said she was seeing an increasing number of

primary schools who had “signs of burnout”. Holidays should be a time for recreation, she said.

Psychologists also noted that most children liked competition with the peers and in an ideal world, children would be able to choose whether they wanted to participate in a race.

Riet Campell, the director of the ski school industry body Swiss Snowsports, said he was not aware of any other schools having decided to scrap ski races.

AUSSIES SOUGHT

For the first time Tourism New Zealand is promoting all major ski regions (Ruapehu, Canterbury and the Southern Lakes) together to the Australian ski and snowboard market.

Visit Ruapehu trade and marketing manager Jo Kennedy said that the \$900,000 campaign is promoting New Zealand as a winter holiday destination built around a skiing experience.

Some statistics:

Australians make up the majority (64 percent) of international visitors who ski while they are in New Zealand.

Ski visitors tend to stay a little longer (18 days) than the average visitor (16 days).

Skiers that visit New Zealand tend to come back - with 54 percent returning.

Skiers have an excellent visitor experience with strong satisfaction (9.1 out of 10) and are likely to recommend New Zealand as a destination.

RECORDS SMASHED

Records were smashed with 1.6 million visitors to the New Zealand snow slopes in 2017, and a bumper ski season is predicted for 2018.

Ski Areas Association of New Zealand (SAANZ) chairman Marty Toomey said the industry reported 8 percent growth in 2017 which added to steady growth over the past four years, averaging 5 percent per year.



RSC's famous race the Haensli Cup will be held at Whakapapa on August 18th. Everyone is welcome to have a run. Photos by Tim Sharp and Melanie Adriaansen.

RUAPEHU ALPINE LIFTS LIMITED

P.O. Box 1990.
Phone 41-120

39 Johnston Street,
WELLINGTON, C.1.

14 OCT 1953

ALLOTMENT LETTER

No 112

MR. ALAN CAMPBELL GRAHAM,
15 COTTER AVENUE,
REMUERA,
AUCKLAND.

ISSUE OF 5000 MEMBERS' SHARES OF 10/- EACH
and
ISSUE OF 5000 MORTGAGE DEBENTURES OF £10 EACH.

Dear Sir (or Madam),

In response to your application you have been allotted:

2 Members' Shares of 10/- each.
2 Mortgage Debentures of £10 each.

The amount payable on Application and Allotment	(10/- per Share)	is	£	11:0:0
	(£5 per Debenture)			
You have already paid			£	6:0:0
Making the amount due from you on allotment			£	5:0:0
or				
Making the amount paid by you in respect of the First and Final Call			£	
or				
Making the amount due to you for which a cheque is enclosed			£	
Payment of the amount due by you as above, namely should be made at the above address on or before			£	5:0:0

By Order of the Board,
WATKINS, HULL, WHEELER & JOHNSTON,
Per _____ Secretaries.

RAL (see article opposite) in 1953 made its initial allocation of two shares and two debentures to RSC youngster Alan Graham aged 12. The debentures were later turned into shares in lieu of repayments. Alan has since inherited 8 more shares from his deceased parents, making a total holding of 12 shares.

THE FUNDING OF RAL

When the Government in 1953 declined to pay for the first chairlift at Mt Ruapehu, Swiss instructor Walter Haensli and RSC member Bryan Todd formed RAL and issued a prospectus for the issue of shares.

They travelled around New Zealand urging skiers to invest in \$1 shares and \$20 debentures (loans).

Above is the allocation letter for one young skier whose family subscribed.

Each \$1 A share was payable \$1 on application while the debentures were payable \$5 on application, \$5 on allocation and \$10 on call.

The debentures (a form of mortgage) were replaced after 21 years in 1974 by the issue of \$20 C shares in lieu of interest and seven-year \$20 notes in lieu of immediate repayment.

In addition the company's capital was increased by the issue of 1400 B shares at \$40 each.

Further operating cash was obtained by the issue from 1960 of RAL life passes to shareholders at \$200 each.

These sold slowly at first but zoomed from 1962 when the first Poma, which was expensive to ride, was installed in Te Heuheu Valley.

WHO OWNS RAL?

Who owns RAL? We have covered this before, but as several members have asked the question, here is the answer:

RAL is owned by everyone and no-one.

RAL is a public unlisted company with 4065 shareholders of whom 3661 hold five or fewer shares.

RAL has no address for 48 percent of its shareholders, though some recent detective work has cut this number by 10 percent.

The shares can be sold and the company secretary facilitates sales at \$1 for A shares and \$20 for both B and C shares.

Since 1998 the company constitution precludes any shareholder holding, in aggregate, more than 100 shares.

However, the RAL Ltd Trust was created in 1983 to protect the interests of the company and its shareholders, and to preserve the company's integrity for future generations.

The Trust has 10,000 D shares, with the aim of deflecting any hostile takeover.

So how did RAL acquire so many shareholders?

When the Government in 1953 declined a request by RAL founder Walter Haensli to fund the first chair, Haensli joined with Wellington businessman and RSC member Bryan Todd to form RAL.

Shares were offered at \$1 and in addition the buyer had to take out a \$20 debenture (loan) per share. Many skiers in RSC and other clubs brought half a dozen shares or as many as they could afford.

Then came the member's queue.

RAL instituted a regime whereby at each lift there were two queues, one for members (shareholders) and one for the public.

Lifties were asked to make sure the member's queue moved twice as fast as the general queue, say 20 minutes as against 40 minutes.

An original shareholder who had six shares now found it beneficial to sell (or give) one share each of his/her four kids and one to the spouse. RAL now had zillions of shareholders, many of them with just one share.

Today 65 years down the line, RAL (as stated above) has no idea where 48 percent of its shareholders have found their home.

The company has a board of directors who have enough proxies at the AGM to re-elect themselves and/or to add a suitable new director of their choice.

A very detailed annual report is published and is available online.

RAL has never paid dividends on its shares, which is why they are rarely sold. In return RAL is exempt from paying tax on its profits.

AG

SUMMER SKIING WAS PLANNED

RAL in its original prospectus planned summer skiing by extending its chairlift network to the Crater.

The original second chair was built to the top of the Knoll and extensions were proposed to Restful Rocks and Crater Lake.

RAL told prospective investors: "When the full extensions of lift facilities permitted under the licence are made, Mt Ruapehu will offer to skiers one of the most accessible and finest skiing terrains in the world with skiing available for most months in the year."

In real life the extension from the Knoll to Restful Rocks would have been very difficult to build due to a lack of anchor points, and a massive span would be needed.



Royal skiers. Prince Edward and Sophie Countess of Wessex took their children to St Moritz, while Princess Sofia of Sweden skied in a 20-mile cross-country race.

CHARLES CELEBRATES

Prince Charles in March celebrated 40 years of skiing at Klosters with a party at the Swiss town.

Over the decades, he has transformed himself into an accomplished, fast, fearless, skier, unafraid to tackle anything, pushing himself to the limit and taking many guests

In a speech he spoke of the bewitching solitude of the mountains that has drawn him back year after year.

Charles, 64, learned to ski as a 14 year-old and his early trips were to Scuol (Switzerland) and Vaduz (Liechtenstein).

He taught his sons to ski at Klosters but does not ski with his wife Camilla. She does not like heights and does not like the cold.



Prince Charles at Klosters.

OBITUARIES

Ted Crawford, who has died at Kerikeri aged 79, was a popular member the Club around the 1980s and was often seen at the Lodge and on the slopes wearing his distinctive ski hat that looked like a possum skin.

Ted was on the Club Committee during 1980-86 and was Chalet Maintenance Officer.

His best known activity was to head a small team who installed lockup cupboards in every bunk in the Lodge, Hut and Chalet. Prior to that there had been some complaints about stealing.

Ted enjoyed Club racing and won the Veterans Cup. The Club offers its condolences to Ted's family.

David Charlesworth. We regret to advise the death at Auckland aged 80 of David Charlesworth who with his wife Bronwen was a regular attendee at Winter Party.

An engineer by training, David had more than 50 years in the telecommunications business and headed the Comworth Group of companies.

He was a past Commodore of the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron and was the squadron's representative on the International Council of Yacht Clubs.

Our condolences go to Bronwen and all the Charlesworth family.

Monica Cairney: We regret to advise the death at Wellington aged 93 of Monica Cairney, wife of the late Ian who died some years ago in a car crash.

Monica was prominent in real estate and did much charity work. She was among the RSC skiers booted off the mountain by DOC, RAL and the police after the big eruption in 1995.

We offer condolences to her family.

Willie Grey, a much-loved Queenstown character who introduced Masters ski racing to New Zealand, has died aged 69.

A Mossburn deer farmer, Willie Grey started the NZ Skiing Masters at Coronet Peak as a way for former ski racers to get together again.

Fellow aviator Louisa "Choppy" Patterson said Grey's after-match ceremonies were famous and she describes him as a great raconteur.

Les Brough QSM of Queenstown, a co-founder One Ski in the Grave Club, has died aged 90. He skied at Coronet Peak from when it opened in 1947 until three years ago, and helped install Coronet's double chairlift in 1964.

Coronet's One Ski in the Grave Club for over-55 year-olds now includes members from around the world, many personally recruited by Les.

In 1959, he won the New Zealand cross-country skiing title, and later he regularly won gold medals in the NZ Skiing Masters.

Les was awarded the Queen's Service Medal in the 1990s for his service to search and rescue, skiing and building backcountry huts.

US ski promoter Bob Beattie, a pioneer of ski racing who launched the first edition of the Alpine World Cup in 1965, has died at his home in Colorado aged 85.

Beattie coached the US ski team at the 1964 Olympics in Innsbruck when they won a record four medals.

Along with journalist Serge Lang he was able to schedule the top alpine race fixtures across the world for the first alpine ski World Cup in 1966. Then in 1970 he formed the World Pro Ski Tour, which lasted until 1982.

He was often a controversial figure and has been called ski racing's biggest and most outspoken critic.



Winter Biathlon.

WINTER BIATHLON

The winter biathlon is an Olympic Winter Games sport that involves a mix of cross-country skiing and rifle shooting.

It originated in warfare and has a long military history that stretches back several centuries.

Today strong skiers race around cross-country circuits, stopping occasionally at a rifle range to make some shots.

Every miss involves a penalty for the skier, sometimes one minute per miss added onto their time and on other occasions they have to ski an extra 150 metres per miss.

It all started in Scandinavia during the 19th century where a precursor to biathlon was a military drill that trained Norwegian soldiers to shoot rifles while skiing. As skiing grew in popularity, so did military applications of the sport.

By 1900 ski warfare tactics had spread from Norway across Europe. In World War I,

ski troops fought on both sides of the conflict and, once it ended, the modern Olympics gave ski troops a new avenue.

Ski warfare continued in World War 2 when Finnish troops used skis to help repel invaders.

Their success inspired other nations to improve and promote their own ski troops, which led to the biathlon when soldiers who had learned skiing for battle brought home a new love of the sport.

An event named military patrol was included in the Olympics from 1924 until 1948, and it returned into 1960 until now as the winter biathlon.

At the recent Olympics there were five biathlon events for men and five for women, including relays, over 7.5km to 20km courses, and there was also a mixed gender relay.

New Zealand has competed in winter biathlon but did not have anyone at the recent Winter Olympics.

TAUPO RUNNER UP IN THE VOLCANO CUP

Taupō was runner up in the Volcano Cup, a worldwide exercise in “volcano-geekery”. Taupō won four rounds of voting but lost in the grand final to Krakatau (Indonesia).

The event has been organised by New Zealand volcanologist Dr Janine Krippner, who is at Concord University in West Virginia (US).

She said she was running the Volcano Cup because there was a worldwide need for increased awareness of volcanic activity, hazards, risk and preparedness.

Taupō was chosen to represent New Zealand from a list that included Ruapehu, Tongariro and Auckland.

Then in the round of 16 it took 50 percent of 534 votes in a four-way contest against Erta Ale (Ethiopia), Masaya (Nicaragua) and Arenal (Costa Rica).

Next in its quarter-final it picked up 65 percent of 1013 votes against Mt St Helens (US) and went on to win its semifinal with 61 percent of 1359 votes against Teide (Canary Islands).

In the final Krakatau scored 59 percent of the 4223 votes cast.

The Oruanui eruption at Taupō some 26,500 years ago was one of the largest known eruptions in the world, and maybe the largest.

Taupō also had another blast 1800 years ago but the voters appear to have been swayed by more recent history.

The volcanic island of Krakatau, also known as Krakatoa, erupted violently in August 1883, and along with the tsunami that followed, it killed more than 36,000 people.

NZ volcanologist Brad Scott of GNS Science was philosophical. “The real winners on the day are the thousands of followers who have been bombarded with volcano facts, data, chatter, humour and even some sledging,” he said.

TONGARIRO POUWHENUA

The boundaries of the Tongariro National Park are soon to be marked with a dozen pouwhenua, the New Zealand Herald reported.

The 12 carved pouwhenua will be cast in concrete or steel and then placed in pairs on several roads leading into the World Heritage Park.

Meanwhile, the wooden originals will be displayed at the Cultural Hub in Whakapapa, out of the harsh elements.

It is an idea Whakapapa Village resident Shane Isherwood has had for more than 20 years and is finally becoming a reality at Whakapapa Village.

Isherwood said he wants people to understand and recognise the wairua -- the spirit or soul -- of Tongariro National Park.

** The Cultural Hub featuring carvers and other artists was opened by the Ngati Tuwharetoa paramount chief Sir Tumu Te Heuheu opposite the Chateau Tongariro a year ago.

The hub is a place for visitors to learn and hear about the significance of the area while also offering them the chance to buy locally made art pieces.

FOUR PEAKS CLIMBED

Trevor Kitson just failed on his 70th birthday to repeat the feats of his 50th and 60th birthdays – to climb the four highest North Island mountains in 24 hours.

This time he took 25 hours. Trevor, from Palmerston North, began at midnight from the Mangatepopo car park. He climbed Ngauruhoe by 2.46am and reached the top of Tongariro at 4.32am.

After driving to the Turoa skifield carpark he climbed Ruapehu at 10.31am. He then reached the North Egmont carpark by 5.02pm and was atop Taranaki at 8.28pm as the sun was disappearing.

Unfortunately poor visibility and the lack of clear trail markers slowed his descent and he made it back to his car at 1am.



North Island Primary School Skiing Champs in action at Whakapapa. Photo: NIPSSC.



More scenes from the North Island Primary School Skiing Champs in action at Whakapapa. Photo: NIPSSC.

SILVERS FOR MURRAY

Wanaka teenager Craig Murray won two silver medals in the last two events of the Freeride World Tour extreme skiing competition.

Murray, 19, impressed the judges in Andorra with a good mix of classic big mountain skiing and new school tricks, and then landed two massive 360s at the tour finals in Verbier (Switzerland.)

Murray finished in ninth place overall for the season. The winner was Kristofer Turdell (Sweden) while Sam Lee (NZ) was 13th. Murray and Lee both qualify for the 2018-19 tour.

New Zealanders won two of the four divisions in the qualifying tour and they both make the 2018-19 main tour. They are Hank Bilous (ski) and Maria Kuzma (snowboard).

Extreme skiing involves jumping off cliffs and taking the most difficult route down broken terrain.

SPEED SKIING CUP

New Zealand speed skier Tawny Wagstaff has finished sixth in the speed skiing World Cup after coming sixth with a run of 190.69km/h in the final race of the season at **Grandvalira** (Andorra) in April.

Skiers often top 200km/h in his event but the track in Andorra was soft and the winner and overall World Cup champion Simon Origone (Italy) managed only 192.56km/h.

Wagstaff, aged 39, was born in Methven and not surprisingly he learned to ski nearby at Mt Hutt.

He is a certified ski instructor and personal trainer and has been working as a heliski guide both in New Zealand and in Japan.

ALPINE CUP WINNERS

Marcel Hirscher (Austria) won the overall alpine skiing World Cup for a record seventh year in a row.

He won 13 races (out of 36) during the

season to equal the seasonal record tally set by Ingemar Stenmark (Sweden) and Hermann Maier (Austria).

Marcel Hirscher (Austria) 1620 points.

Henrik Kristoffersen (Norway) 1285 points.

Aksel Lund Svindal (Norway) 886 points.

Among the women, defending champion **Mikaela Shiffrin** (US) won 11 races to retain her title.

Mikaela Shiffrin (US) 1773 points.

Wendy Holdener (Switzerland) 1168 points.

Viktoria Rebensburg (Germany) 977 points.

WINTER OLYMPICS?

The possibility of New Zealand hosting the Olympic Winter Games has been raised again in the wake of the two medals won at this year's ski and snowboard events at PyeonChang.

A travel writer for The Guardian newspaper in Britain said the Olympic movement is supposed to cover all five continents represented in the Olympic rings logo, and it is time to consider an event in Australia and New Zealand.

Commenting on this, Paul Anderson who is CEO of NZ Ski, said it would be possible but massive investment would be needed in roads, a bob/luge run, ice rinks and ski jumps.

He also noted that the media centre in PyeonChang was enormous by Australian or New Zealand standards.

Bulletin Editor's comments: In the past the IOC has said that a Winter Olympics split between Christchurch, Queenstown and Wanaka might be possible.

However, it said the major objection to a southern hemisphere Winter Olympics is that they would clash with the FIFA World Cup (soccer) and the TV networks would never be able to cover both events.



Hanspeter Angerer, RSC's liaison in Davos, sent us this fine photo of his home town in spring.



The New Zealand ski team from the 1968 Olympic Winter Games at Grenoble (France) held a reunion at Arrowtown, 50 years down the line. From left: Mo Gardner, Margot Blakely, Tom Huppert, Chris Womersley, Michael Dennis, Anne Reid. Photo from Mountain Scene via Margot.

ACROSS THE SKIING WORLD

China has 703 ski areas, more than any other country. This tally at the end of 2017 was an increase of 56 on a year previously, and 50 more ski areas were under construction.

Most of the ski fields are small, however, and only 236 areas (just over a third) at year end had a chairlift or gondola.

China's ski industry is by far the fastest growing in the world, with support right up to china's president encouraging hundreds of millions of Chinese to try winter sports ahead of the country hosting the 2022 Winter Olympics.

Princess Sofia of Sweden finished her country's annual Tjeivasan cross-country ski race, a 20-mile event for women.

Tjeivasan is the largest women-only ski race in the world, with 7618 women taking part this year.

It starts in the tiny town of Oxberg and ends in the city of Mora, four hours away from Stockholm.

The Zugspitze cable car at Garmisch-Partenkirchen (Germany), which went into operation in December, covers the world's greatest overall height difference of 1945 vertical metres.

It also has the world's longest unsupported span, measuring 3213 metres (nearly two miles) between support towers.

A US woman aged 50 and her son aged 7 were killed when a load of snow crashed off a chalet roof and buried them as they walked home from a day's skiing.

The accident at Kirkwood Mountain Resort (California) occurred at about 5pm but it was two hours before friends out looking for the pair discovered them.

A New Zealand woman was killed in an avalanche while skiing in the Swiss Alps.

Jodie Pralong, 40, originally from Christchurch, and her Swiss husband were part of a group of four skiing near the Italian border on when they were caught in the snow. She was the only one completely buried and the others survived.

Jodie learned to ski at Mt Hutt and was an instructor there. She was also a keen runner, competing in marathons around the world. She had lived overseas for 15 years.

South Korea's skiing federation has banned for life two male mogul skiers who competed at the Pyeongchang Olympics for harassing and assaulting two female teammates at a World Cup event in Japan.

Choi Jae Woo and Kim Ji Hyun were alleged to have harassed and assaulted the women for refusing to have drinks with them on March 3rd.

US endurance skier Mike Foote has claimed a world record after skiing 18,653 metres vertical in 24 hours at Whitefish Mountain Resort (Montana, US).

Foote set out at 9.20 am to ski down the mountain 60 times, and he made it with 20 minutes to spare.

He used several pairs of skis and a groomer ran during the attempt to keep the ski hill in good condition.

A freak weather incident in March turned snow orange at cities and skifields in Russia, Ukraine, Bulgaria and Romania.

The snow was turned into sand dunes after becoming blanketed by the dirty orange grit.

Some experts blamed the bizarre weather phenomenon on a mix of sand and pollen blown from the Sahara desert which fell as rain.

Czech billionaire Tomáš Němec has expanded his ski manufacturing business by acquiring a majority share in the Austrian ski maker company Kästle, and part of the Kastle's production will move to the Czech Republic.

Němec, a rubber industry businessman and a former top-level skier, already owns the Czech based ski manufacturer Sporten.

Kästle, which was founded in 1924, has been going through reorganisation since 2007. The company currently employs 46 people and its annual turnover is 17,000 pairs of skis.

*The popular French resort **La Rosière** will open a new ski area named **Mont-Valaisan** for the 2018-19 winter season.*

It will include five new red runs, two new six-seater chairlifts and will have easy access to a vast range of off piste skiing, with a highest point of 2800 metres.

La Rosière is known as a resort for families and beginners, and has wide, gentle pistes. You can also pop over the border for a few runs in Italy.

Toby Arnott has taken over as the new Ski Area General Manager at the Wanaka ski area Treble Cone.

Born and bred in Queenstown, he travelled the world as an international athlete before becoming a ski instructor in Queenstown.

In his previous role as General Manager of Snowsports at NZSki, he was been responsible for the strategic direction and overall operation of snow sports schools and management of more than 400 staff.

Treble Cone is about to open for its 50th winter season.

***Spanish mountain athlete Kilian Jornet** has become the first person to ski down the near vertical slope of the Troll Wall in Norway, the tallest rock face in Europe.*

Many believed to be an impossible descent as the route includes 1600 metres of descent, a 55-60 degree decline and two abseiling sections. Jornet spent two years planning the feat.

German billionaire Karl-Erivan Haub went missing while skiing at Zermatt (Switzerland) in April.

Haub, 58, head of the Tengelmann retail group, was training for the Patrouille, a ski mountaineering race organised by the Swiss army.

He was last seen at a height of 3800 metres (12,470 feet) on the Klein Matterhorn, a glacier-shrouded peak that is the highest in Europe reachable by cable car.

***Guests at a new Swiss hotel** at Vallée de Joux will be able to ski from the roof to the ground. The luxury hotel will feature a roof that slopes down to the ground, forming a series of grassy terraces during the summer months and a piste in winter.*

The hotel is being designed for luxury watchmakers Audemars Piguet who have a nearby museum devoted to Swiss watches.

A ski lift at Innsbruck (Austria) was shut down after two security researchers found its control panel open wide on the Internet, allowing anyone to take control of the lift's operational settings.

They said anyone could control the lift's speed, the distance between cable cars and the cable tension.

The duo made it clear that they did not interact with the lift at the time of the discovery, fearing they might put passengers at risk, as the ski lift was in use.

Instead they opted for the safe route and reported the issues to authorities who temporarily closed the lift once all the passengers were off.

***US alpine ski racer Lindsey Vonn, 33,** has brushed side speculation that she is about to retire.*

Vonn recently won her 82nd World Cup race which is easily a record for women, and said she is aiming beat the men's record of 86 wins set by Ingemar Stenmark (Sweden).

Vonn commonly trains in New Zealand in our winter and has been coming here since she was a teenager.



CLUB ITEMS & SERVICES FOR SALE

RSC Administration Office, P.O. Box 8064, Symonds Street, Auckland 1150

Website: www.rsc.org.nz

email: admin@rsc.org.nz

Lockers

Lockers are available for hire in the Hut at Turoa and occasionally in the Lodge.

email - admin@rsc.org.nz to find out what is available.

Annual Locker Rental Rates- applicable from when you are allocated a locker-

Ski- \$57.50

Gear \$28.75

Club Items

(Add \$3 for each order to be posted)

Name Badge (free to new members) \$12

PHONE NUMBERS

RSC Office	09-377-3856
RSC Fax	09-377-3859
Lodge	07-892-3824
Hut	07-892-3822
Chalet	07-892-3823
Turoa	06-385-8767

NEW MEMBERS COSTS

Two working parties.

Senior joining fee \$199

Junior joining fee \$99

Annual senior subs \$258.75 incl GST (\$225 plus GST)

Annual junior subs \$95 incl GST (\$82.61 plus GST)

ACCOMMODATION FEES (Effective April 1st 2018)

Winter season 2018

Members Senior	18 years and over	\$48
Members Teen	14-17 years	\$42
Members Junior	13 years and under	\$31
Members' Children	7 years and under	\$26
Non-members	14 years and over	\$96
Non-members	13 years and under	\$62
Life members		\$28
School group children		\$60
School group parents		\$80

Off Season Accommodation Fees for Chalet & Turoa

Members Senior and Junior	\$28
Non-members Senior and Junior	\$33

Groups of 20 or more: please apply to Administration Officer for possible discounted rates.
MEMBERS' CHILDREN AGED 8 YEARS AND OVER WHO ARE NOT YET MEMBERS
PAY NON-MEMBER RATES.