

The Bulletin

RUAPEHU SKI CLUB

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RSC Club Captain Catherine Gafa skiing in Te Heuheu Valley. Photo: Tim Sharp.



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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

It is now the middle of this year's ski season and we have been blessed with the best snow in a decade. All of the gullies are filled with terrific coverage everywhere and no rocks in sight.

There is an abundance of natural snow and the entire snow making system is on the go at every occasion. I cannot remember the slopes being groomed as beautifully as they are this winter, with the groomed trails wider than I have ever seen before. Make the most of it!

Had the pleasure of attending this year's Club Week and Winter Party. Club Week has an immensely long tradition that dates all the way back to the beginning of the Club. For many decades it was called Winter Party and has a rich history.

The theme this year was the letter P. In attendance were a professor, several pirates, a couple of pilots and even a penguin. There was fortunately no need for the intrusion of either police or priests. It was a great party with a marvellous atmosphere, scrumptious food and awesome company. Massive thanks to organising team and our amazing team of chefs.

The party provided the perfect opportunity for the investiture of Barbara Scelly as our new Patroness. She was unfortunately not able to attend the AGM this year. Barbara has been a long-standing committee member and a Vice-President for many years, specifically as Hut Officer.

We have a long tradition of hosting the RAL staff to drinks and nibbles on the Thursday evening of Club Week each year and this year was no exception. Those present included lifties, instructors, engineers, groomer operators, snow making specialists, cafe staff and management. This is a great opportunity to meet staff members that we would usually never have any contact with. I never cease to be amazed by how many moving parts there are in a ski area.

Everyone had a great time and I think the party did a lot to further develop the relationship between RSC and RAL. I cannot overemphasise the importance of that relationship and how vital it is to always treat RAL staff with friendship, cooperation and

respect. They have to work in sometimes appalling conditions.

Club Week also provided the opportunity to present Mike Brown with the Life membership elected to him at the AGM. Another long-standing member, Mike has served as Club Captain and Vice-President.

As Club Captain, Mike was responsible for the establishment of our Ski Squad programme and for the re-establishment of the Haensli Cup as an inter-club team event. As Vice-President and Lodge Officer, Mike oversaw the restoration of the Lodge after the sprinkler system pump malfunctioned and filled the entire building with diesel exhaust.

The Haensli Cup was held on the Saturday concluding Club Week with phenomenal snow conditions and tremendous weather.

I would personally like to offer massive thanks to all those members who volunteered their time to the event, especially our Club Captain, Catherine Gafa, and to Ray Goff and the rest of the RAL Events Team. Also to all of our sponsors especially Paul Crosby from Kaimai Sports for the Elan skis and to RAL for the 2019 season pass, Finally to the more than 180 participants.

I have recently noticed an alarming increase in the number of members declining to be building leader. This is an important role and the duty of every single RSC member to perform when asked. We have put great effort into making the job as easy as possible and the duties of a building leader should not take any longer each day than any other duty.

All of the resources required to carry out the role are available on our website. Automation of the duty roster has even been achieved. This is great, given that the duty roster was always the worst part of being a building leader.

It is also important to remember that if a problem emerges that you, as building leader, cannot immediately resolve, the matter can be passed back to the RSC Executive. This would normally occur through the building leader report which is also available on our website. When an issue requires urgent attention, an Executive member is usually on the premises or can be reached by phone.

The building leader has absolute authority but can always count on the total support of the RSC Executive. Have a go! It's not so bad.

Richard Nelson, President



Riding the 6-seater High Noon Express chairlift at Turoa. This lift was damaged by an avalanche on August 6th and was unable to be used for the rest of the season. Photo: RAL.

THROUGH THE LODGE WINDOW

RAL opened its Happy Valley beginner runs a day early, for free, on June 1st, following heavy snowfalls.

More than 500 skiers or snowboarders turned out to enjoy the opening day.

The Rockgarden opened on June 2nd, **Turoa** on June 29th and the **Whakapapa** upper mountain (Delta chairlift) also on June 29th.

Manganui (Mt Taranaki) won the race to be the first skifield to open in the southern hemisphere. It turned on its T-bar for 200 customers a day before the Happy Valley opening.

Among the Taranaki skiers was Peter Quinn, aged 81, a former NZ ski champion.

Manganui just beat traditional rivals Afriski (Leostho) and Tiffindell (South Africa), as well as Happy Valley.

More than 80,000 skiers and snowboarders visited Whakapapa and Turoa during the July school holidays, up by 50 percent on 2017 numbers.

Another 25,000 enjoyed non-ski activities such as sledding or building snowmen on the Chateau golf course.

RSC resident cooks this year included Donna O'Hanlon (Chalet) and Mike Anderson (Turoa), both returning for another season.

Newcomers were Paul Jenkinson (Lodge) and Jimmi Bertinshaw (Hut).

A 21-year-old man from Tauranga was rescued in July following a cold, wet

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President: Richard Nelson

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

Secretary: Kate Paul

Treasurer: Heather Chao

Immediate Past President: Adrian Adriaansen

Captain: Catherine Gafa

Vice-Captain: Nina Thomas

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

Patron: Peter Brady

Patroness: Barbara Scelly

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

night on Mt Ruapehu. Police were called at 5pm on a Saturday night after the man did not return from a day hike up the mountain.

A search base was set up at Turangi and four search teams, about 12 people, operated overnight until 4am. The search resumed at 7am on the Sunday and the man was found above Tukino skifield.

*Wellington's morning newspaper on August 4th invited readers to visit the **Christiania Derby** race at Whakapapa and "once you're done skiing or spectating, it's to Christiania Lodge for apres ski".*

However, Christie's website made it clear that entry to the after race party was by ticket only, and you were eligible for a ticket only if you raced.

A plan to set up a temporary ice skating rink Ohakune did not happen this winter, but it may be revived next year.

The promoter Daniel Schlumpf of Ohakune said the rink took too much planning for this year.

However, he wants the 240 square metre rink to be running next year, as there is not much for visitors to do in the town when Turoa is closed or in the evenings.

*The deadline for the December Bulletin will be **Friday November 16th.***

All items should be with the Editor by then.

THE BULLETIN

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Upper: Swiss instructor Sereina Michel. Photo: Tony Bonetti. **Lower:** Ski squad (from left): Madeline Moffat, Claudia Burling, Abby Hunt, EJ Moffat, Austrian instructor Andi. This quartet also came second while representing RSC in the Christie Derby. Photo: Jenn Moffat.

GOVT BACKS GONDOLA

The Government will provide Ruapehu Alpine Lifts with a \$10 million loan for the construction of a high-speed gondola on the Whakapapa skifield.

Regional Economic Development Minister Shane Jones said the development would provide a significant boost for tourism across the central North Island.

Building and operating the gondola would generate 150 direct jobs and had the potential for an additional 400 through associated activities.

“The project is estimated to attract 500,000 additional visitor days by 2025, and significantly increase the number of non-skiers visiting and using the mountain’s facilities,” Jones said.

The total cost of the project is \$25 million and other loans are coming from Taupo District Council (\$1 million) and Ruapehu District Council (\$500,000).

The minister’s office said the deal is a commercial partnership, not a straight grant, and is a key project in the regional action plan.

RAL plans to install the gondola in time for it to operate next winter. It will run 1.8km from a new base terminal at the Top O’ the Bruce to a new top terminal beside the Knoll Ridge Café.

There will be 50 gondola cabins, each with space for 10 passengers, plus internal ski racks, leather seats and wi-fi.

The 1.8km ride will take 6 minutes and will pass between RSC Lodge and RSC Hut.

FAR WEST REFURBISHED

RAL has this past summer spent \$1.4-million refurbishing the Far-West T-bar at Whakapapa.

The foundations are original but everything else including the towers have been replaced or upgraded.

Ice during the past 30 years had bent

the towers which affected the running of the T-bar.

This T-bar was opened in 1983 on the spot where the West Ridge quad is located now. It was relocated to its current site in 1989 when the quad was built.

RUAPEHU SMOKEFREE

Mt Ruapehu officially went smokefree from the start of June. Indoor areas of the skifields were already covered by smokefree laws, but the new policy extended to all outdoor public use areas of Whakapapa and Turoa.

Mt Ruapehu people and performance general manager Andy Hoyle said there were many reasons the time was right to make the mountain smokefree, one of which is the government’s goal of a Smokefree Aotearoa by 2025.

“That is something we as an organisation support and believe in. We’re in the business of sports and leisure and as part of that it’s important to promote and support healthy lifestyles, not just for our staff but for the public as well,” he said.

All visitors to the mountain lighting up this season will be politely asked not to by staff.

MEANING OF NEVE

The Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and her partner Clarke Gayford have named their baby girl Neve and said it means snow.

Névé pronounced “nay-vay” is indeed a word that is often used in alpine circles in New Zealand to mean the new snow at the top of a glacier that next year becomes ice and joins the glacier.

However, Neve pronounced “neave” is the less common spelling of the common Irish name Naimh which can mean snow, as well as radiance.



Upper: RSC cooks this season were (from left): Donna, Jimmi, Paul, Mike. Photo: Marion Quinn. **Lower:** Champion slalom racer Noslen Riccardo assisted by Prahs Mit gets ready for the Haensli Cup.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members:

Ben Archer (Auckland).
 Isla Bell (Auckland).
 Kate Bell (Auckland).
 Angus Birchenough (Auckland).
 Chris Blunden (Auckland).
 Nikolai Bouzaid (Auckland).
 Rachel Bouzaid (Auckland).
 Lana Bouzaid (Auckland).
 Leo Bouzaid (Auckland).
 Clare Brien (Huntly).
 Amy Cameron (Auckland).
 Tully Cook (Auckland).
 Sherridan Cook (Auckland).
 Fernanda Crozeta (Auckland).
 Alata Culpán (Auckland).
 Veronica Culpán (Auckland).
 Angus Dale-Jones (Auckland).
 Segolene de Fontenay (Auckland).
 Flynn Featherstone (Auckland).
 Cole Frazer (Tauranga).
 Jason Gannon (Auckland).
 Catriona Gordon (Rotorua).
 Emma Goombidge (Wellington).
 Christian Kennedy (Waiheke).
 Ursula Lawrence (Auckland).
 Jonathan Leyland (Wellington).
 Kate Littler (Auckland).
 Phil Loizou (Wellington).
 Steven March (Helensville).
 Tim McEwan (Auckland).
 George McGuinness (Auckland).
 Ross McKellar (Palmerston North).
 Liz McKissock (Wellington).
 Helen Mihajlovic (Auckland).
 Peter Mills (Auckland).
 Ferguson Muthu (Auckland).
 Forrester Muthu (Auckland).
 Alexandra Muthu (Auckland).
 Sheridan Raynes (Cambridge).
 Chris Robinson (Auckland).
 Lucas Rodrigues (Auckland).
 Oscar Ronberg (NSW).
 Rosa Ronberg (NSW).
 Matheus Rosario (Auckland).

Abby Schluter (Auckland).
 Karen Tribbe (Wellington).
 Kim Turner (Auckland).
 Tonia Williams (Auckland).
 Nichola Wilson (Auckland).
 Jo Wyatt (New Plymouth).
 Shane Wyatt (New Plymouth).

NZ SKI CHAMPS

Adam Barwood (Queenstown) and Piera Hudson (Havelock North) won the national titles at the New Zealand alpine skiing national championships held at Coronet Peak.

Barwood and Hudson claimed both the slalom championship titles and the giant slalom national champs.

Men's slalom: Sam Maes (Belgium) 1.35.64, Adam Zampa (Slovakia) 1.35.65, Tobias Windingstad (Norway) 1.36.71. Best NZ: Adam Barwood seventh.

Men's GS: Sam Maes (Belgium) 1.49.27, Andreas Zampa (Slovakia) 1.49.71, Adam Zampa (Slovakia) 1.49.78. Best NZ: Adam Barwood eleventh.

Women's slalom: Tuva Norbye (Norway) 1.43.19, Andrea Komsic (Croatia) 1.43.21, Charlotte Chable (Switzerland) 1.43.53. Best NZ: Piera Hudson sixth.

Women's GS: Piera Hudson (NZ) 1.52.70, Andrea Komsic (Croatia) 1.53.30, Tuva Norbye (Norway) 54.84.





The top tower on the High Noon Express six-seater chairlift at Turoa after it was hit by an avalanche in August. Photo: RAL.

TUROA AVALANCHE

An early morning avalanche on August 6th badly damaged the High Noon Express chairlift at Turoa and carried away a snow groomer.

It meant the six-seater chairlift was out of action for the rest of the season.

The 8.30am avo occurred on an upper slope just as an RAL crew worked on an adjacent slope. This crew was not caught in the slide. A separate two-man groomer crew took shelter in the High Noon Express behind a door designed to withhold a Crater Lake lahar, and they were shaken but not injured. The lift's top tower which was badly bent but a new tower could have been installed quite quickly. Unfortunately some 200 metres of the main haul cable was damaged and RAL said this would take some months to fix.

Loik Lassueur of the Mountain Safety Council said the avalanche was about size four, which means it was enough to destroy a train or a small town.

"It's about 10,000 tonnes in snow. In terms of New Zealand scale, that's very big."

A girl aged 11 died and 18 adults were injured when an RAL bus with 31 passengers rolled over while descending the Ohakune Mountain Road from Turoa skifield on July 28th.

Survivors said the bus picked up speed when its brakes failed. Passengers were urged to move to the back of the bus and to put on their helmets.

The girl, from West Auckland, died while being flown by helicopter to hospital, and two paramedics on board were unable to save her. The bus was towed to Wanganui.



RSC Committee members. Back row: Jeff Davies, Richard Horton, John Benn, Richard Nelson (President), Nils Johannessen, Carl Burling, Arran Birchenough. Front row: Kate Paul, Fiona Willison, Marion Quinn, Catherine Gafa, Nina Thomas. Photo: Deane Tetley.



The scene at the AGM in June. Photo: Deane Tetley.

AGM TOPICS

After the usual social hour and light refreshments, the AGM got under way with President Richard Nelson welcoming everybody.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Heather Chao noted that the operation of the buildings provided a profit of \$36,000 with building maintenance being a lot lower than the previous year.

William Meeks asked about grant applications. It was answered in that we applied for grants where we can, but opportunities were limited.

RETIREMENT OF PATRON AND PATRONESS

Richard Nelson expressed the regret of the Club in losing Kath Harrison and Bill Speight as patrons. Bernard Smith and Robin Dallas spoke about Kath and Bill.

Bernard noted that they had been members for 72 and 69 years respectively. Bill had been one of the members that built the Lodge and had stayed in Glacier Hut when skiing.

Kath had been involved in not only the Lodge, Hut and Chalet constructions but also the making and compiling of food parcels during the war.

Kath responded that she has been left with a lifetime of memories of wonderful people and wished the Club all the best for the future.

Bill spoke about the need to hold fast to what is good in the Club and we needed people to keep coming in and contributing to the Club. What he had got out of the Club was an enormous number of friendships.

APPOINTMENT OF PATRON AND PATRONESS

Barbara Scelly was nominated as Patroness and Peter Brady as Patron. Bernard Smith gave Barbara's apologies for not being able to be here and informed the meeting that a formal presentation would be made to Barbara at Club Week.

Peter addressed the meeting reflecting

on how much a large part of his life RSC has been and the family it has been. He spoke about the history of the Club and how fortunate we are that our history has been chronicled, in a large part by the Graham family.

We were the first club on Ruapehu and the first in NZ. He also spoke about the objectives of the Club, Objective C, the building of character in the young.

APPOINTMENT OF HERITAGE FUND GUARDIANS

Bernard Smith, Robin Dallas, Richard Nelson and Adrian Adriaansen were re-appointed as Guardians of the Heritage Fund, and Mike Wardle as Treasurer of the fund.

NOMINATION OF LIFE MEMBERS

Tjebbe Bruin and Mike Brown were awarded Life memberships. Bernard Smith gave their apologies as both were overseas at this time. They will be presented with their awards at Club Week.

COMMITTEE 2018/2019

Richard Nelson thanked retirees Brent Moffat and Catherine Hegley for their work on the committee, and John Payne for his support this year.

Richard then thanked those members outside Committee who have worked behind the scenes and gave special thanks to Damon Forsyth for his work in sourcing and implementing a new hot water system for the Lodge as well as Simon Hunt for his invaluable contribution and advice in respect of the gondola issue.

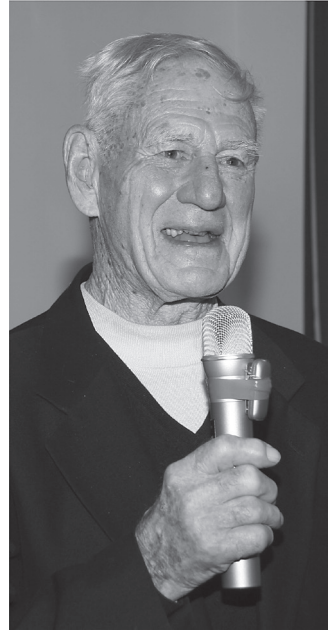
John Payne announced the new Committee which has the following changes: Catherine Gafa as Club Captain, and new members Kate Paul as Secretary, Nina Thomas Vice-Captain and Richard Horton general committee.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Colin Upchurch thanked Richard, the Committee and their advisors for the work done on the resolution of the gondola issue. Michael Speight spoke about the benefits of Ski for Life and the fulfilment it brings.



Seen at the AGM. Upper. Martin Round, Liz Smith, Jim Mutch, Murray Smith. Lower: Kim Turner, Nichola Wilson and Alexandra Muthu talking with Mike Lowery about Ski for Life. Photos: Deane Tetley.



Left: Ex-President Robin Dallas and retiring Patroness Kath Harrison. **Right:** Retiring Patron Bill Speight. Photos: Deane Tetley.



Left: Our new Patroness Barbara Scelly. **Right:** The new Patron Peter Brady.



Left: Another fine RSC dinner. Photo: Liza Fitzsimmons. **Right:** Toby McCusker and his snow robot. Photo: Colin Upchurch. **Lower:** Race day at Turoa.





Show biz promoter Harry M Miller, who has died aged 84, is seen shirtless at the far right of this 1962 picture of RSC's picnic at the crater. There are five RSC Presidents in this scene, plus seven others who are or have been Life members. Photo: Graham collection.

HARRY M MILLER

Australian music promotor and celebrity agent Harry M Miller, who has died aged 84, was a member of RSC in the 1950s and 1960s. He regularly attended Winter Party and joined in all the RSC activities.

Harry took a substantial run of home movies while with RSC including the famous mass picnic at the crater, but efforts to locate these during the RSC centenary were not successful.

Harry lived a rich and colourful life including three marriages and 10 months in prison for fraud.

There was one substantial ruckus when his wife or girlfriend of the day turned up the RSC Lodge with a small dog and refused to leave.

Born in Auckland, Harry shifted his show biz empire from NZ to Australia in 1963 and we saw little of him after that.

AG

MARION PRITCHARD

The death has been reported at Wanganui of Marion Pritchard, wife of

the late Barry Pritchard who was an RSC ex-President and Life member.

Marion was not a skier but regularly attended Winter Party and other RSC events with Barry.

Marion was Lt Commander RNZN and before that chief Wren, which means she was the top female officer in our Navy.

I recall that she and Barry met on a blind date organised by Barry's mates at our local rugby club here in Karori.

AG

Canadian ski pioneer Lisa Korthals, who tackled descents that women never skied before, was killed in avalanche in back country at Whistler, aged 49.

Originally a ski instructor, Kortals made descents in Alaska, Europe and Mexico that had never been skied by a woman, at a time in the early 2000s when skiing harrowing mountain steepes was the macho preserve of men.

She also had a Hollywood credit for being a stunt double in a ski sequence in the movie *Fantastic Four*.



Tjebbe Bruin (left) and Michael Brown (right), seen here with Adrian Adriaansen, have been elected as **Life members of RSC**. Tjebbe has done wonders in the maintenance of our buildings and in organising functions. Mike has had long terms as Club Captain and as Lodge Officer.



The lads went window shopping. Photo: Tim Sharp.

RSC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 2018	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
Nov 2018		
Dec 2018		DOC summer activities
Jan 2019		
Feb 2019		RSC work parties



Skiers and snowboarders riding chairlift at the Nevados de Chillán resort in the Andes in Chilean got some in-flight entertainment last month when the mountain erupted.



Scenes from the Club Week dress-up party. **Upper:** Margie and DOC O'Connor. **Lower:** The Pied Piper and Pocohontas, Truby Gravatt, and Sonia Quinn. Photos: Marion Quinn.



Scenes from the Club Week dress-up party. **Upper:** Pirates, Maja and Roland Heiniger, John Payne. **Lower:** Pilots and Physician - Ross Hore, Elaine Andrews, Dorothy Hore. Photos: Marion Quinn.



The Haensli Cup winners for 2018 were Monique Oosterbaan and John Knowles.
Photos: Stephen Payne.



RSC racers Liza Fitzsimmons and Sereina Michel at the Haensli Cup. Photo from Liza.

HAENSLI CUP 2018

Monique Oosterbaan (Rangatira Ski Club) won the women's Haensli Cup for the fourth year in succession and the fifth time in the past six years. Well done Monique.

RSC junior EJ Moffat was second, a fine performance, while our Swiss visitor Sereina Michel missed the podium by just one-hundredth of a second.

John Knowles (Auckland University) was the fastest man of the day, after coming second last year.

The race was run in good conditions on the Pinnacle Valley course and there were more 180 starters.

The Haensli Cup is organised by RSC with timing and other assistance from RAL. It is named after the 1940s Swiss instructor the late Walter Haensli whose dream of an all-Ruapehu pro-am is continued in the current race.

Teams open: Auckland University (John Knowles, George FitzGerald, Andrew Drummond, Jonti Cullen) 190.08, Rangatira

(Monique Oosterbaan, Anthony Strevens, Maria Eves, Christina Coulam) 200.67, RSC (Sereina Michel, Ben Tapper, Claudia Burling, Conor Barr) 201.39.

Teams Masters: Rangatira (Jason Platt, Anton Haueter, Richard Neeson, Shirley Kennett) 214.46, RSC (Joe Feltham, Mark Tapper, Trent Archer, Liza Fitzsimmons) 227.59, RSC (Richard Nelson, Roland Heiniger, Truby Gravatt, Jennifer Moffat) 238.88.

Teams junior: Rangatira (Josh Pope, Blake Platt, Logan Cailliau, Cassidy Bailey) 194.33, RSC (Emily Moffat, Tasmin Thomas, Oceane Anfosso, Louis Burling) 202.52, RSC (Madeline Moffat, Abby Hunt, Anna Cory-Wright, Lucy Oliver) 216.59.

Men fastest times: John Knowles (Auckland University) 43.68 55, Cole Scott (Taupo) 45.11, Nick Moss (Taupo) 45.58.

Women fastest times: Monique Oosterbaan (Rangatira) 47.34, Emily Moffat (RSC) 48.73, Haley Thomason (Whakapapa) 49.53.

Snowboards: Tom Grant (Auckland University) 60.46, Michael Cranfield (individual) 62.23, James Thompson (individual) 63.83.



Upper: Auckland University won the open team prize at the Haensli Cup. **Lower:** Ben Platt won a spot prize. Photos: Stephen Payne.



Upper: RSC junior EJ Moffat ran second overall for women in the Haensli Cup. **Lower:** The scene at the start of the Haensli Cup. Photos: Stephen Payne.

THE 4 O'CLOCK RACES

When RSC Vice-President Liza Fitzsimmons posted on Facebook that 4 o'clock racing is "still going strong after all these years!!" a young member was surprised to hear that they were started way back in 1957 – by me.

That is 61 years, and as Liza says, the racers have enjoyed "Dedication in all weathers".

Back in the 1950s after RSC Lodge was opened, families were allowed only one week of the (then) August school holidays at the Lodge.

The old RSC tin Hut was used by school parties such as Auckland Grammar, while the Chalet had not yet been built.

There was pressure on the Lodge, therefore, and holiday bookings were limited to one week. Indeed some RSC families founded Pinnacle Ski Club in order to get a second week.

As for me, I was 16 in 1957 when I offered to run 4.30pm races in return for a second week at the Lodge. Somewhat to my surprise RSC agreed to this and I inaugurated the races in both 1957 and 1958.

I set all the courses (we had no Swiss instructor until 1960) and I ran the races with the help of parents.

Those first 4.30 races were for Lodge residents only. The Hut joined in when it was rebuilt in 1960. The Wangos came in some time later.

Alan Graham

NEW OLYMPIC EVENTS

New on-snow events have been added to the programme for the next Olympic Winter Games to be held at Beijing (China) in 2022.

They are ski big air (men and women), mixed gender team ski aerials, snowboard

cross mixed teams and ski jumping mixed teams.

Non-snow events to be added are one-woman monobob and short track ice skating mixed relay.

Surprisingly the IOC has rejected a bid by skiing to add telemark skiing, saying this discipline lacks the profile required for the Olympics.

Telemark is the world's oldest winter sports discipline and has been contested as a ski race in Norway for 150 years.

The addition of the new events mean that the female quota has gone from 41 percent to 45.5 percent of the events at the Winter Olympics.

New bids for telemarks will be made ahead of the 2026 Winter Olympics.

A decision on who will host these games will be made in September 2019 with Calgary (Canada), Cortina (Italy), Sapporo (Japan), Stockholm (Sweden) and Erzurum (Turkey) all in the running.

OK FOR BIKES

The New Zealand Conservation Authority has approved amendments to the Tongariro National Park management plan which will allow for mountain biking.

This will allow for the construction of three new tracks and for the use of existing and historic tracks.

These must be compatible with the protection of the cultural and natural values of the park and enjoyment of it by other recreation users.

Authority chair Warren Parker said: "This will allow for the establishment of new family friendly cycle recreation opportunities in the park, but only where they cannot be more appropriately located outside the park."



The RSC team which came second in the Masters division of the Christiania Derby. From left: Liza Fitzsimmons, Joe Feltham, Nina Thomas, Richard Nelson. Photo: Catherine Gafa.

CHRISTIE DERBY

The 61st running of the Christiania Derby interclub teams ski race was held on August 4th in good conditions.

RSC came second in both the Masters and the Women, and was fifth in both the Men's and the Junior.

Men: Auckland University 137.18, Ngauruhoe, 141.33, Rangatira 141.97.

Women: Rangatira 147.77, RSC 158.52, Auckland University 169.34.

Masters: Rangatira 155.06, RSC 167.44, Christie 168.16.

Junior: Taupo 140.85, Rangatira 145.03, Tongariro 153.01.

RSC Women's team was Abby Hunt, EJ Moffat, Claudia Burling, Maddie Moffat.

The RSC Masters team was Joe Feltham, Liza Fitzsimmons, Nina Thomas, Richard Nelson.

The Christiania Ski Club was founded in 1954 by three Waikato families. It was named after Norway's capital Christiania (now Oslo).

Its lodge at Whakapapa skifield is situated just off the Rockgarden's main runs, and is about 50 metres above the bottom station of the Rangatira Express chairlift.

The club at one time owned a second lodge at the small Tukino skifield on the Desert Road side of Ruapehu, but in 1999 this was gifted to the Edmund Hillary Outdoor Pursuits Centre. It was then in 2010 passed on to the Tukino Alpine Sports Club.

GLACIER HUT PLANS

Glacier Hut Conservator, Joseph Gabriel, thought that with the centenary of Glacier Hut approaching it would be a good idea if we could document a set of plans for the building.

Club member and architect Michael Fisher has completed a set of drawings and these have now been uploaded, along with photos, to the Club's website.

When you are next down at the mountain take time out to have a look at Glacier Hut and the way our pioneer members used to live and ski nearly 100 years ago.

Thought is already being given as to how we will mark the centenary in 2023.

JG, MF and BS

GLACIER HUT HISTORY

Glacier Hut is of great significance in the history of New Zealand skiing as it is the earliest extant purpose-built ski hut in New Zealand.

The hut is single-roomed, six bunked, modest and utilitarian. It was at one stage a nine bunker but three were removed to provide for a display of historic of skis.

Glacier Hut is overshadowed by the larger scale of the surrounding buildings at Iwikau Village, yet its bright red colour has a bold impact on the landscape.

Glacier Hut was named after the Whakapapa Glacier which in the 1920s was a lot lower than it is now.

The Hut was built by RSC members led by Bill Salt and Maurice Lennard who initially camped in a cave in Skipper's Canyon.

The use of timber framing and corrugated iron sheathing reflects the difficulties imposed by the remote location.

Materials were carried up by packhorse and the foundations were laid at Christmas 1922 using rocks found close to the site.

It was completed at Easter 1923 despite a snowstorm which stopped work for a while.

Maurice Lennard: "It was no joke to climb out of the head of the gorge with our fingers frozen, and then to stretch wire netting over frames covered with snow and nail sheets of iron into place at a temperature at which our breath froze on the iron."

Although rudimentary Glacier Hut served the Club well until it was superseded by larger and better huts starting with a building known simply as Hut, a 12, later 24, bunk hut completed in 1936. Glacier Hut was used mainly as overflow accommodation from then on.

From 1944 to 1949 the Auckland University College Tramping Club leased and maintained Glacier Hut.

It was also responsible for the small extension to the hut during this time. Following the Auckland University College Tramping Club's lease the hut was used mainly for storage.

During construction of RSC Lodge the small hut was used as a depot for explosives and safety warnings were posted.

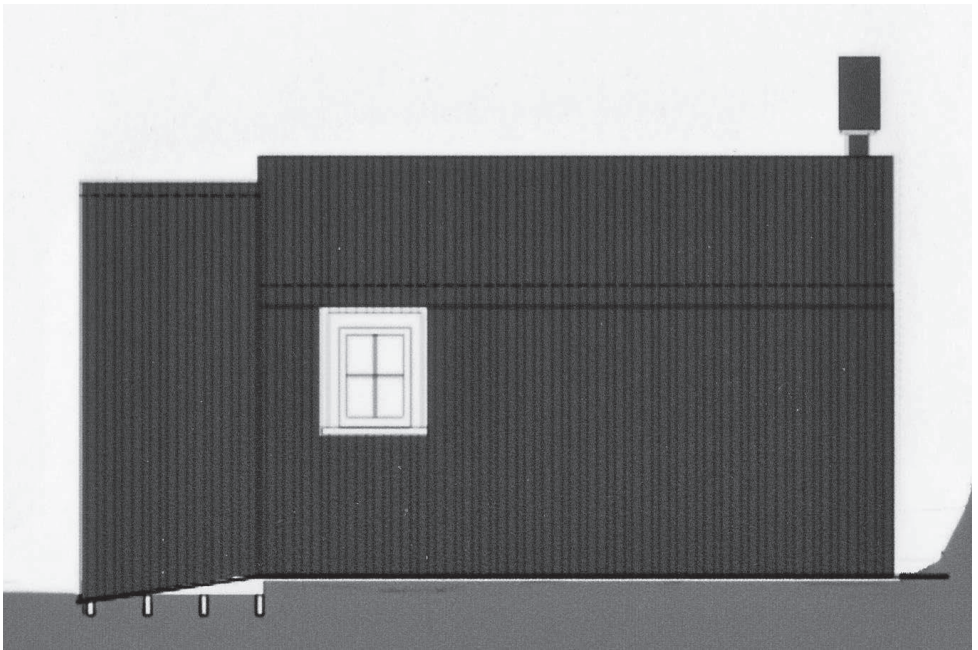
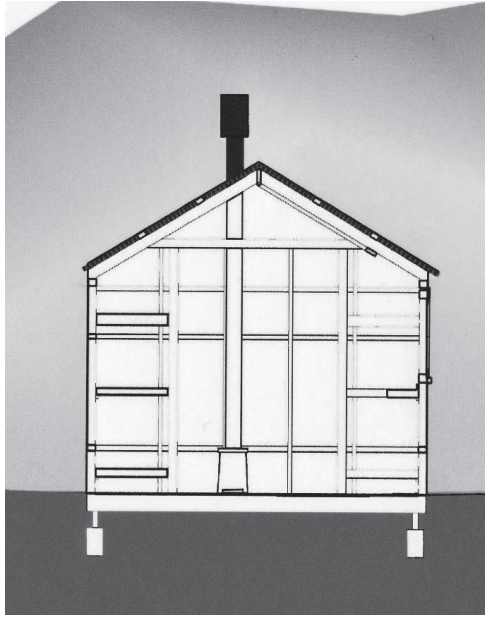
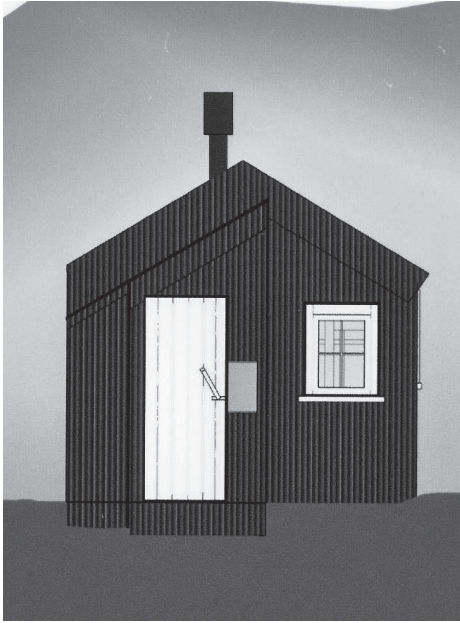
Later for a couple of years in the 1950s Glacier Hut was the ski patrol HQ until the patrol's big home Bridge Hut (now demolished) was built at the top of the Rockgarden.

RSC eventually cleaned and restored the hut and affixed a plaque to the front. This work was led by the Graham family, editors of *The Bulletin*.

Then in 1989 with Barry Winter leading the way the interior was adapted for use as a ski museum.

Displays of skis, poles, bindings, clothed mannequins and interpretative panels were installed, and in its role as a museum it is opened for visitors throughout the year.

It is preserved as an official Category 1 Historic Place – the highest possible category.



New metric drawings of RSC's museum Glacier Hut, done by Club member and architect Michael Fisher.

SKI TOURING UPDATE

Changes to the way we recreate in the mountains has prompted the New Zealand Alpine Club (NZAC) to rewrite its popular title, Backcountry Ski-Touring in New Zealand.

“People are busier now than they have ever been”, said NZAC General Manager, Karen Leacock.

“There aren’t many people now who can take a full week off and go on some expedition-style winter trip in the mountains.

“However, fast and light trips that involve covering greater distances over one or two days are becoming more popular.”

The book, authored by backcountry explorer Shane Orchard, covers more than 200 routes and mountains across the North and South Islands.

Leacock cautions that while ski-touring is marvellous fun, it does need to be taken seriously and preparation is the key to enjoyment.

Having the right gear and but knowing how to correctly use that gear is important and every tourer should have an avalanche transceiver, shovel and probe.

The New Zealand Alpine Club was formed in 1891 and aims to promote and support climbing at all levels within New Zealand.

The club has 4000 members, 12 regional sections and five full-time staff based at its headquarters in Christchurch.

It has 17 alpine huts and base lodges, including a hut high on Whakapapa skifield.

MT RUAPEHU STUDIED

A new joint-research project from Massey University, University of Canterbury and GNS Science is looking to forecast, for the first time, the hazards associated with collapsing volcanoes.

Mt Ruapehu has been chosen by the research team as a case study, for its well-developed hydrothermal alteration zones, which make it prone to instabilities across a range of scales.

However, the research methodology can then be applied on a national scale to Mt Taranaki, Mt Tongariro, Mt Tarawera, White Island and at geothermal areas like Hipaua near Lake Taupo.

Project leader Dr Gabor Kereszturi from Massey University said New Zealand currently does not have a model in place to forecast these complex events.

“Volcanoes progressively weaken and may collapse without warning through hydrothermal alteration.

“These dangerous mass wasting processes occur less-frequently than eruptions or lahars but the resultant mass flows can be large in size, posing risk to local residents, and businesses.”

He added: “Collapses are often multi-hazard events, with even small-scale landslides capable of triggering eruptions or creating break-out lahars.

“Consider the Mount St Helens eruption in 1980 which caused the entire weakened north face to slide away, creating a large landslide.

“Or the eruptions on the Upper Te Maari Craters on the northern side of Mt Tongariro in 2012, which caused small lahar/debris flow from near the eruption site down to State Highway 46.

“These kind of events demonstrated the greater need to understand and assess this process and its role in the volcanic hazard scape.”



*Alpine flowers next to the path between RSC Lodge and RSC Hut.
Photo: Deane Tetley.*



Crater Lake in summer. Photo: DOC.

ACROSS THE SKIING WORLD

Cardrona is set to become the country's largest alpine resort after a new Soho Basin ski area is added to the existing Cardrona skifield.

The development will see Cardrona more than double in size to 900 hectares of skiable terrain.

Soho Basin faces Queenstown and covers all the southern and south-west faces of Mt Cardrona. It includes the two Willow Basins that directly adjoin Cardrona's southern boundary.

The expansion also has implications on Cardrona's summer operations, with the opportunity to grow further as a mountain resort by offering mountain biking, mountain carting, dining, events and stargazing experiences.

Lars Erik Skjervheim, 37, a Norwegian ski mountaineer, has skied a world record 20,939 vertical metres in 24 hours. He beat the previous record of 18,644 metres set by Mike Foote (US) earlier this year.

Fellow Norwegian Malene Blikken Haukøy, 26, set a new women's world record at 15,440 metres.

Polish adventurer **Andrzej Bargiel** has become the first person to ski down the world's second highest mountain K2 (8611 metres).

K2 is part of the Karakoram mountain range and is located on the China–Pakistan border. He abseiled down one cliff but skied the rest of the way.

Bargiel, now aged 30, last year failed in his first attempt to ski down K2, saying the weather made it too risky to attempt the adventure.

*It all went wrong for a California man who proposed to his girlfriend while riding a chairlift at the **Big Bear skifield**. He dropped the ring into dense bush.*

The couple had been together for a year and the man chose to pop the question over Memorial Day weekend.

The story has a happy ending. Two searches by the couple were unsuccessful but when the lifts supervisor took time off to join the search he found the ring.

A hotel at the **Ben Lomond skifield in Tasmania** was destroyed by fire before the 2018 ski season opened.

The popular Ben Lomond Alpine Hotel was ablaze at 10pm in May. An adjoining toilet block and a boardwalk were also wrecked.

Northern Tasmanian Alpine Club President Greg Rowlings said the fire was a loss for the community.

"The hotel has been around for the past 30-plus years and is probably the heartbeat of the region," he said.

*NZ adventurers **Hollie Woodhouse and Brando Yelavich** joined two Australians in a 560km ski touring expedition across Greenland.*

The quartet each pulled 60kg sledges and took 28 days for the trek, skiing up to 21 hours a day to make for no-ski days during storms.

New Zealand freeskier Byron Wells aims to compete at the 2022 Olympic Winter Games in Beijing, despite being invalidated out of the last two Olympics at Sochi 2014 and PyeongChang 2018.

Wells, aged 26, qualified in fourth place for the freestyle halfpipe event at PyeongChang, only to suffer a serious knee injury during warmups for the final.

Back home he was tripped up by a dog and needed knee surgery all over again. He will be taking the rest of the year off to fully recover, but Beijing 2022 is still in his sights.

*Australia's best known alpine skifield, **Thredbo (NSW)**, has caused a surprise by banning toboggans.*

Thredbo's website declared: "We acknowledge that tobogganing is a favourite winter pastime. However, it also has inherent risk as there is limited ability to control the equipment being used. The safety of our guests is our number one concern."

The announcement was met with a host of objections. One skier said snow fights will be banned next.

Coronet Peak has opened a new interactive experience called **The Ice Slides** featuring tunnel slides, turrets, peep holes and a large throne.

The Ice Castle, which weighs 4000 tonnes, is the first of its kind in the southern hemisphere, and guests can race each other down winding slides encased entirely in ice.

The ice is illuminated at night with colour-changing LED lights. A crew of six ice artisans from across the US and Canada took 52 days to build the experience.

A 16 storey ramp was built in downtown Sydney last month for an international ski and snowboard big air competition.

The event was proposed by the two-time Olympic gold snowboard medallist Shaun White (US) who said: "I love this city. We brought the mountain to the city and took over the Domain."

Similar events were previously held in Beijing and Los Angeles.

The owners of **Loveland Ski Resort in Colorado** asked its customers to name a new six seater express chairlift. They were amazed to get 3000 suggestions.

Lifty McLiftFace was a common offering while many suggestions were based on the words Love or Loveland, and were some rock-themed names like Chairway to Heaven.

The winning name is Chet's Dream after long time skifield owner Chet Upham who died in 2008.

*The state of Colorado is denying half the workers compensation death benefits to a woman whose husband died while working on a **Loveland** ski lift because he had marijuana in his system. The man was crushed to death underneath a magic carpet in December.*

Colorado law allows companies to cut benefits by 50 percent if tests return positive for marijuana or any other controlled substance.

A high country station and skifield in South Canterbury is on the market after a promised "world-class mountain bike trail" failed to eventuate.

Lilydale near Fairlie is owned by US-born billionaire Ken Dart.

It has been leased since 1983 during winter months to the **Fox Peak club skifield**, paying a peppercorn rent of \$1 a year with rights of renewal until 2038.

The property also has an international reputation for game hunting, with tahr, red and fallow deer, chamois, pigs and wallaby available.

*Chilean skier and film director **Gonzalo Llamas Sebesta** captured a stunning video of a volcano eruption on his phone, while riding up the mountain on a chairlift.*

*He was skiing at the **Nevados de Chillán** resort in the Andes when the eruption hurled debris 1500 metres above the ground.*

Gian-Franco Kasper (Switzerland) has been re-elected unopposed as International Ski Federation (FIS) President until 2022.

Kasper was first elected in 1998, having previously served as the FIS secretary general under President Marc Hodler.

Founded in 1924, the FIS, has had just four Presidents. They were Ivar Holmquist (Sweden), Nicolai Ramm Østgaard (Norway), Marc Hodler (Switzerland) and Kasper.



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.**