

The Bulletin

RUAPEHU SKI CLUB

Volume 83, No. 4



December 2018



RSC welcomes everybody to the Haensli Cup. Photo: Stephen Payne.



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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The 2018 winter season has drawn to a close and we have all enjoyed the best snow in possibly more than a decade and more than our fair share of good weather.

However, for many of us, that enjoyment was tempered with the efforts of solving a continuous flow of issues that emerged through the season.

This is a difficult column for me to write. I don't want to appear grumpy but there are some things that need to be said.

The issue of people neglecting their duties has been a constant source of concern. So, why do we have duties? Mainly because employing personnel to do them would require substantial increases in accommodation fees.

We do understand that duties are probably the least appetising aspect of Club life. We are constantly working on making them easier and faster to perform, and seeking alternatives to the most onerous and minimising their impact.

One of the most onerous duties is rubbish and stores. Over the last few seasons, we have secured the assistance of RAL who provided cartage using their groomers.

Unfortunately, this service was not continued this year and is unlikely in the future. The main reason is the restriction of all heavy traffic movements on the lower slopes to essential grooming, thereby preserving the quality of snow. We are putting a great deal of effort into devising ways we can address the situation.

The assignment of Building Leaders caused issues for us this year. Taking on the building leadership is no different from any other duty. If you are asked to perform this duty, you will be expected to accept it.

We've put considerable thought into minimising the effort of being a building leader. I always thought that the worst part was compiling the duty roster. This process has now been automated with great success.

Our cooks have been another point of concern. While most members have a total aversion to the prospect of having no cook, many can never be satisfied with the selection of cook nor their performance.

The reality is that the working conditions are far from attractive. Isolation and separation from friends and family are big issues. It is very difficult to recruit this position and we sometimes have no other choice than to take what we can get.

The overall success of any club cook is as much up to us as up to them. It is in our own interest to treat our cooks with respect and in a considerate and friendly manner and definitely not seek confrontation.

In taking membership of Ruapehu Ski Club, we are not joining some VIP marketing program for cheap accommodation and meals. Club membership includes taking part ownership of all of the Club assets and all of its advantages and offerings.

Aside from great value accommodation, we offer the community of a broad spectrum of people that share the same love of skiing and the alpine environment, of camaraderie and of a strong sense of community.

Taking Club membership also involves taking ownership of the challenges we continually face. Many of those challenges are the same as those associated with batches and holiday homes. Let us apply the same sense of ownership to RSC.

Richard Nelson, President



Quite a slide in the valley during August. Photo: Tim Sharp.

THROUGH THE LODGE WINDOW

The ski season at **Whakapapa and Turoa** closed at Labour Weekend after a good skiing and snowboard season.

The winter was said to have the best snowfall since 2008 without ever matching the boom years of 1991-94 when skiing down to RSC Lodge was sometimes available at Christmas.

Visitors to Whakapapa doubled from 140,000 in the 2016 season to 280,000 this season.

At Turoa the snow was just as good but a fatal bus crash and a large avalanche brought challenges.

The Knoll Ridge Café building is being refurbished this summer while sightseeing is suspended due to construction of the gondola.

There will be a new deck overlooking the Pinnacles and expansion of the food offering.

Seating will jump from 350 to 700 by using the basement area.

Work began in September on construction of the new gondola at

Whakapapa. The lift is due to open in early June next year in time for the 2019 ski season.

It will have 50 cabins with floor to ceiling glass, internal ski racks, audio and individual leather seats. Each cabin will accommodate 10 passengers with more than 2 metres of internal clearance.

The gondola will run from the Top o' the Bruce base area directly to the Knoll Ridge Café.

It was with sadness that we learnt of the death on September 10th of John G. Harrison at the age of 88.

A graduate of Auckland's School of Architecture, he was a keen skier in the late 1950s and 1960s before settling in Toronto where, with his Dutch wife Karin, he was a generous and kind host to many RSC members.

Mike Willison

A climber died at Mt Ruapehu on September 22nd after falling into Crater Lake.

He was part of a group of five who were eating lunch on a slope below Pyramid Peak when he slipped and fell while retrieving a pack blown away by a wind gust.

THE RUAPEHU SKI CLUB

(inc) Founded 1913

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

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Treasurer: Heather Chao

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Vice-Captain: Nina Thomas

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

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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

The man, aged 32 from Lower Hutt, who was an experienced climber, died before a rescue helicopter and medics arrived.

Mountain guide Gary Dickson said the crater is easy to access but the terrain is genuine mountaineering, even if it is at the easier end of the scale.

Just 20 minutes before the Ruapehu fatality an American skier aged 35 died when he fell while skiing down Mt Aspiring in Otago.

In the wake of the fatal bus crash at Turoa this season, RAL has retired from its fleet any buses older than 10 years of age.

In their place it has purchased six brand new 4WD buses.

The North Island Schools Snowboard jury at Turoa lays down the law:

“It is the intent of these rules to be in the spirit of fair competition so that each school has an equal chance of enjoying the racing, improving their snowboarding standards, gaining prizes and fostering snowboarding as a sport.

“Any loophole that is exploited by schools for their own ends will be viewed with disfavour by the race jury.”

Owen King won the Peak to Powderkeg multi-sports race for the fifth time, while Annabel Dekker won the women’s section for the second time.

The race involves skiing or snowboarding at Turoa, some running legs and a cycle ride to finish at the Powderkeg hotel in Ohakune.

RSC entered a team and a couple of individuals.

The deadline for the March Bulletin will be Friday February 15th. All items should be with the Editor in Wellington by then.

THE BULLETIN

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WHAKAPAPA CLOSURE

RSC members visiting the Lodge and Hut this summer will need to walk up Tennant's Valley, due to construction of the gondola.

The Rockgarden was fenced off as from November 12th and only approved vehicles were allowed drive up.

Access to Hut Flat will be via Tennant's Valley to the Wanganui Ski Club track. RSC members can then access the Club buildings from the top of Hut Flat.

Access to the upper mountain will be from the Wanganui Ski Club and up the Yankee. There is no access up the Waterfall Express line.

Keep your eye on the RSC Facebook page for any update on the gondola project, and maybe check out RAL's website www.mtruapehu.com.

OFFICE NOTES

Being able to work remotely means that my last day in the Office will be December 17th and I will be back on January 14th 2019.

Emails, phone calls and banking will still be attended to daily as necessary.

If you are planning to book a stay at the Chalet and Turoa Lodges over this time, please book as early as possible.

The door codes will be changed in late November and bunk authorities will have the new codes.

Deposit accounts are required to have sufficient funds available before bookings can be confirmed.

Thank you to all Building Leaders (sometimes at very short notice) who

assisted during the season. Your help and attention to detail is much appreciated.

Duty rosters, online reporting suggestions or other issues can still be forwarded to the Office, meaning hopefully next season the whole process is even more streamlined.

Wishing all members a relaxing Christmas break with safe travel as we look forward to another great winter season with as much snow as we had this year.

Sheryl

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members:

Stanley Browne (Auckland).

Douglas Browne (Auckland).

Kyden Chan (Auckland).

Nevin Chan (Auckland).

Kevin Chan (Auckland).

Juliette De Klerk (Wellington).

Caitlin De Klerk (Wellington).

Marochette De Klerk (Wellington).

Adriaan De Klerk (Wellington).

Georgia Doyds-Needham (New Plymouth).

Samuel Doyds-Needham (New Plymouth).

Marc England (Tauranga).

Jason Gannon (Auckland).

Francis Larkin (Rotorua).

Gabriel Larkin (Rotorua).

Andie Quinn (Auckland).

Jane Riddell (Auckland).

Sam Wimsett (Auckland).



Barbecue time on the RSC Lodge balcony. Photo: Stephen Payne.

WORK PARTIES 2018

The work party dates for this summer have been set. They are

January 19-20

February 23-24

March 16-17

April 20-21 (Easter) truck weekend

April 27-28

The upper level work parties will have to fit in with the construction of the gondola and there is a possibility that a helicopter may have to be used truck weekend.

So members, please sign up. We need a lot of people for fast load/unload to defray costs.

All members: work parties can be a lot of fun and leave you with a sense of achievement, ownership and comradeship. We look forward to your company.

THE IKON PASS

Skiers and snowboarders can now access three South Island skifields using an international season pass which grants access to 36 resorts worldwide.

Coronet Peak, The Remarkables and Mt Hutt have joined Ikon Pass, which offers multi-resort skiing at destinations in the US, Canada, Chile, Japan, Australia and now New Zealand.

Other member resorts include Mammoth Mountain and Squaw Valley Meadows (California), Aspen Snowmass (Colorado), Revelstoke Mountain, Cypress Mountain and CMH Heli-skiing plus summer adventures (British Columbia) and SkiBig3 (Alberta).

Southern hemisphere destinations include Thredbo (Australia) and Valle Nevado (Chile.)

The full Ikon Pass costs \$US1049 and affords unlimited access to 14 resorts and seven-day access to 22 others.

LODGE GIVEN AWAY

The Auckland Tramping Club has gifted its Mt Ruapehu ski lodge to a school group.

The club has operated the SnowSport lodge on Whakapapa since 1948 when it was first built in honour of members who gave their lives in World War II.

President Tony Walton said soaring costs, as well as dwindling users, had forced the club to spend 18 months searching for a new owner. They were now giving it away for free.

Five central North Island schools from the Taupo-Turangi area have formed a trust and they have taken over the lodge.

CRATER RAHUI

A four-day rahui was placed on the Te Wai ā-moe (Crater Lake) area in September after a climber died when he fell into the lake.

The rahui was supported by the Department of Conservation and Ruapehu Alpine Lifts.

To show respect, all climbers, trampers and skiers were asked not to go above the boundaries of the ski areas at Whakapapa, Turoa and Tukino or above a line 2300 metres above sea level on the mountain.

A rahui is a physical and spiritual protection mechanism designed to manage human activity around a site where there has been loss of life.

** A week later a three day rāhui was placed on the Tongariro Alpine Crossing after a 53 year-old man died while doing the 17km walk.

CHOPPER IS SAVED

Taupō will keep its rescue helicopter base, the Government has announced.

Earlier it was proposed that Taupō should lose its chopper and people injured at Ruapehu and Tongariro should be flown to Hamilton.

The frequency of rescues including many on the Tongariro Alpine Crossing was given as a reason for retaining the Taupō helicopter.

BRING BACK THE KEA

Once the scourge of skifield carparks, kea are now being encouraged back to the mountains.

NZ Ski is giving \$250,000 over five years toward finding and protecting the nationally endangered bird at The Remarkables and Coronet Peak skifields, in Queenstown, and Mt Hutt, in Canterbury.

Kea were once in abundance at the skifields but numbers have dwindled lately.

In the first year NZ Ski will focus on The Remarkables skifield where researcher Tom Goodman will attempt to catch the kea, test for lead poisoning (and rehabilitate as needed), tag the birds and if possible attach a \$350 transmitter.

NEW GEOLOGY MAP

A new geological map of the Tongariro National Park is the first of its kind as it brings new insights to the geological formation and volcanic history of this World Heritage Area.

A collaboration involving GNS Science, the Department of Conservation, and Victoria University of Wellington, the publication consists of a large 1:60,000 scale geological map and an illustrated 109-page companion book.

The map and book describe the geological history and structure of all the volcanoes in the park in detail.

VOLCANO DRONES

Researchers from Victoria University of Wellington are using drones to take samples from deep inside the crater of White Island.

Until now the toxic plume from the highly volcanic island off the Bay of Plenty coast has prevented scientists from taking samples.

They said that until now they have not been able to get within a few hundred metres of White Island's plume because the air is so toxic.

NELSON'S GONDOLA

Plans are under way to build a tourist gondola just outside central Nelson. It would cover 1.5 kilometres to a point 550 metres above sea level on Fringed Hill.

This project was initially aimed at mountain bikers but scope has widened to encompass a broader group including walkers and sightseers.

There are tourist gondola rides already at Christchurch, Rotorua and Queenstown. Others have been proposed for Porirua and Franz Josef.

KOOREY REMEMBERED

Pat Koorey, a former member of RSC and a founder of the Wanganui Ski Club, is remembered in a book about soldiers on skis during World War II.

Dog in the Snow, by James Riddell, is essentially a story about a man and his dog during the war.

Rex is a large Alsatian who roams free in the mountains of Lebanon and adopts a British soldier and skier sent there to set up a ski school.

Riddell joined the Australian Imperial Forces in the rank of Major as chief

instructor to the Australian Corps Ski School.

He was in the Middle East Ski School in 1942-1943, covering all aspects of mountain warfare, including both ski and rock climbing. It became the Mountaineer Wing in 1943.

Several New Zealanders were at the ski school for varying periods including Pat Koorey whose menswear shop in Wanganui stocked ski equipment.

BUNGY SKI JUMP

If you fancy yourself as a bit of an Eddie the Eagle or you're a straight up thrill seeker then you need to get yourself over to Tignes in France this season to try out their Bun J Ride.

This provides a hair raising ski jump and bungee in one.

Travel down the 30 metre runway into a 40 metre abyss and then down the zip wire to the ground for perhaps the ultimate winter sports thrill.

HIGH TECH ON SNOW

Club Med said: "Technology associated with skiing and snowboarding is a fast-growing sector with new innovations and start-ups appearing almost daily."

In its report *The Changing Landscape of the Ski Market 2018/19*, it said snow sports enthusiasts may carry an action camera such as a GoPro, an activity tracker such as a Fitbit, an avalanche air bag or a drone on their ski holiday.

Smartphones are the favourite bit of tech in the alps and 86 percent of skiers said they carry one on the slopes. A wide range of snow-based apps is available.

One dealer said the rise in sales of high-tech gear is linked to the increased participation off-piste.



An RSC group climbed to the crater during the October school holidays. They are seen on the Summit Plateau (upper) and at the Whakapapa Col (lower). Photos: Joe Feltham.

HELP OUR VISITORS

After a tragic death on the Tongariro Alpine Crossing, DOC and New Zealand Police are encouraging people to help our visitors stay safe in the outdoors.

Senior Constable Barry Shepherd of Taupo Police is encouraging all Kiwis to “step up, help by reaching out and talking to our visitors, to our guests, our customers and people you meet on your travels.

“Intervene. Talk to visitors who are in your shops, petrol stations or hotels. Ask them their plans, tell them about the New Zealand weather, what cold really means here, what rain really means here.

“Tell them that jeans are not acceptable in any hiking situation. Let them know a torch can help save their lives.

“If we all take the time to reach out, tell them at different points in time, at different places, then maybe safety messages will get through. We have a collective responsibility to help care for our visitors.

“We need our visitors to thrive in our country not just survive.”

DOC Tongariro community relations senior supervisor Stacey Faire said the memory of the search and rescue, then body recovery, lingers with all those who were involved – LandSAR, Police, DOC, Ruapehu Alpine Lifts and Hillary Outdoors.

“After such a tragedy we ask what can we do prevent this happening again? People talk about duty of care or more warning signs or gates, but it’s well known that people listen to recommendations from other people.”

Avalanches can occur in any season, DOC advises.

“Any time that snow and steep slopes are combined there is potential for an avalanche. You need to understand the risks before you

visit avalanche prone country.

“Avalanches are part of life in the mountains. They can occur in any season, but are more common in winter and spring. Any time that snow and steep slopes are combined there is potential for an avalanche.”

DOC said that if you travel through back country terrain exposed to avalanches, you must accept that you are taking a risk. You need to understand these risks before setting out.

It said the best way to understand avalanche danger in the area you’ll be visiting is through the New Zealand Avalanche Advisory (NZAA).

It provides daily assessments of avalanche likelihood to 12 alpine regions throughout New Zealand.

However, the NZAA is provided by the Mountain Safety Council (MSC) as an advisory only. DOC recommends you check the mountain weather forecast as part of your trip planning.

Avalanches can occur in Tongariro National Park in any season, but are most common from July through to October.

On the Tongariro Alpine Crossing during periods when there is snow present people should not venture past either the Ketetahi or Mangatepopo car parks without the right avalanche expertise and equipment, or should be accompanied by an experienced guide.

A PDF file advising on avalanche terrain on the Tongariro Alpine Crossing is available.

At the Ruapehu crater some routes on simple terrain exist on the northern side up to the Summit Plateau area.

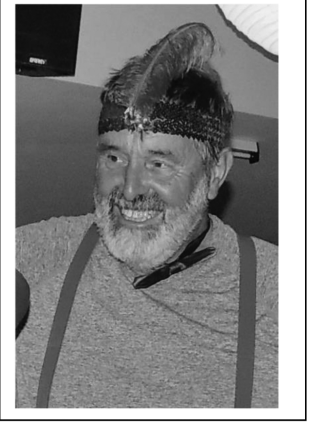
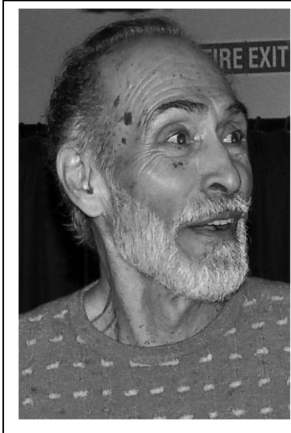
Approaches from all other directions and onto the summit of Ruapehu involve travel through challenging and complex terrain.



Upper: Evie Newman (aged 6) and Phoebe Paine (aged 4) with Sereina Michel dressed as Snoopy. Photo: Dan Paine. **Lower:** RSC Vice-President Liza Fitzsimmons snapped this photo of the Waterfall Express chairlift on her last ever ride. The lift is due to be demolished this summer.



Upper: Delta Corner and the top of the Delta chairlift. **Lower:** Looking west from RSC. Photos: Peter Otway.



Snapshots of revellers at RSC's dress-up night. At the top right is our instructor Sereina Michel dressed as a penguin. Photos: Peter Otway.



RSC's dress up night during Club Week (aka Winter Party). The theme this year was the letter P. Photos: Peter Otway.



*Plenty of pirates, penguins, pied pipers, purple people, pilots and polar explorers.
Photos: Peter Otway.*



Upper: Mischa Thomas snowboarding. **Lower:** Tasmin and Mischa Thomas scanning the drop off into Aeroplane Gully. Photos: Tim Sharp.



RSC racer Reese Thomas in the starting gate at Whakapapa. Photo: TSC.

RSC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec 2018		DOC summer activities
Jan 2019	19-20	RSC work parties
Feb 2019	23-24	RSC work parties
		Tongariro Alpine Crossing
Mar 2019	16-17	RSC work parties
Apr 2019	20-21	(Easter) RSC working parties (truck weekend)
	27-28	RSC working parties
May 2019	1	RSC winter bookings open
June 2019	3	Ski season opens
	3	Whakapapa gondola opens
July 2019	6-21	School holidays
Aug 2019		
Sept 2019	28-Oct 13	School holidays



The start and finish of the RSC Club champs on the Lower Gut course. Photos: Tim Sharp.



Racing in the Club champs. Photos: Tim Sharp.



Upper: Snowboarding in the Club champs. Photo: Tim Sharp. **Lower:** Patroness Barbara Scelly with the Club Masters placegetters: Deane Tetley, Guy Pilkington, Chris Blomfield. Photo: Catherine Gafa.



Upper: Deane Tetley at the finish of the RSC Club champs course. **Lower:** Ready to run in the Club champs. Photos: Tim Sharp.

THE RACING SEASON CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Club champs, Saturday September 22nd.

The day was bright and clear with a cool wind blowing. Sereina Michel (our Swiss ski instructor), Remy Campbell and David Blomfield headed off to set the GS course in the Lower Gut.

Racing started about 9.30am. The first course had been completed by 10.30am and was reset for the slalom.

The wind was slightly stronger than at Hut Flat and it was quite cold for those timing, marshalling and gate keeping, although the visibility was good.

All the racing was over by 12.30pm and the course removed. We all retired to the Lodge and Hut for some warm refreshments and lunch.

The prizegiving was at 5.30pm after nibbles and gluhwein. It was a delight and pleasure to have Barbara Scelly our Patroness there to hand out the prizes and congratulate everyone.

We had 43 entrants enter Club champs. This is not a big number for a Club our size. I would encourage everyone to have a go.

We have two intermediate cups that have exclusion lists, which mean previous winners or anyone who has come 1st, 2nd or 3rd in an RSC championship, or who have won these cups previously, can't win them again.

These are the men's and women's Wilson Trophies, which are very beautiful trophies complete with a skier on top, and the Wathen intermediate trophies.

Thank you to all those that helped out on the race course and setting up for prize giving, without you all it wouldn't be possible.

Catherine Gafa, Club Captain.

RSC CLUB CHAMPS

Sarah Hamilton for the sixth time and Remy Campbell for the first time are the

RSC Club champions for 2018.

The junior champions are Madeline Moffat and Louis Burling.

SENIOR MEN. Slalom: Remy Campbell 21.31, Blake Taylor 22.28, Conor Barr 22.84. GS: Remy Campbell 19.22, Guy Pilkington 19.50, Blake Taylor 19.94. Combined: Remy Campbell, Blake Taylor, Guy Pilkington.

SENIOR WOMEN. Slalom: Sarah Hamilton 23.06, Liza Fitzsimmons 26.13, Mandy Burling 35.97. GS: Sarah Hamilton 20.75, Nina Thomas 22.78. Liza Fitzsimmons 23.78. Combined: Sarah Hamilton, Liza Fitzsimmons, Mandy Burling.

JUNIOR BOYS. Slalom: George Pilkington 24.94, Louis Burling 25.00, Brook Thomas 25.15. GS: Louis Burling 20.40, George Pilkington 22.47, Brook Thomas 22.78. Combined: Louis Burling, George Pilkington, Brook Thomas.

JUNIOR GIRLS. Slalom: Claudia Burling 22.47, Madeline Moffat 23.15, Emily Moffat 23.35. GS: Madeline Moffat 20.35, Claudia Burling 20.66, Abby Hunt 21.13. Combined: Madeline Moffat, Claudia Burling, Abby Hunt.

MASTERS (on age based handicap. Men: Guy Pilkington, Chris Blomfield, Deane Tetley. Women: Liza Fitzsimmons, Mandy Burling, Fiona Lovelock.

SNOWBOARD: Matt Thomson 29.06, Toby Davies 31.12, Brent Moffat 32.84.

INTERMEDIATE. Men: Jake Featherstone 48.69, Daniel Thomas 55.32, Damon Forsyth 58.12. Women: Mandy Burling 69.44, Fiona Lovelock 77.35. Claudia Dawkins 160.50.

ROY WILSON MEMORIAL. Men: Louis Burling 45.40, George Pilkington 47.41, Brook Thomas 47.53. Women: Abby Hunt 21.13, Anna Hamilton 22.03 and Emily Moffat 22.03.

SUB-JUNIOR. Boys: Louis Burling 45.40, George Pilkington 47.41, Brook Thomas 47.93. Girls: Emily Moffat 45.41, Mischa

Thomas 50.62.

UNDER-10. Boys: Tom Pilkington 47.46, Ruben Dawkins 73.37. Girls: Lucia Dawkins 82.88.

VETERANS (on handicap): Chris Blomfield.

WINTER GAMES NZ

More than 820 athletes from 35 countries took part in the sixth Winter Games NZ at Queenstown, Wanaka and Naseby.

This was the first year of the Winter Games NZ being held annually. Previously they were held every two years.

New Zealand skier **Nico Porteous** capped off a memorable 2018 season by winning the FIS world junior championship freeski halfpipe, which was part of the Winter Games NZ at Cardrona.

The 16-year-old Olympic bronze-medallist justified his ranking as the top qualifier, executing two clinical final runs to secure victory.

New Zealand's Olympic snowboard medallist **Zoi Sadowski-Synnott** qualified second in her event but crashed heavily in the final and finished eighth.

Selected results were:

ALPINE SKIING:

Alice Robinson (NZ) aged 16 scored a home town win in the giant slalom at Coronet Peak.

Women's GS: Alice Robinson (NZ) 1.48.36, Alex Tilley (GB) 1.49.11, Lena Duerr (Germany) 1.29.21. **Men's GS:** Adam Zampa (Slovakia) 1.46.41, Sam Maes (Belgium) 1.46.93, Steffan Winkelhorst (Netherlands) and Maarten Meiners (Netherlands) both 1.47.72. Best NZ: Adam Barwood 19th.

SX AND SBDX

The FIS junior world championships for skier cross and snowboard cross were held at Cardrona.

Skier cross women: Mikayla Martin (Canada) 1, Mazie Hayden (US) 2, Ellaine

Hall (GB) 3. **Skier cross men:** Oliver Davies (GB) 1, Sandro Siebenhofer (Austria) 2, Maxim Vikhrov (Russia) 3.

Snowboard cross women: Kristina Paul (Russia) 1, Livia Molodyh (US) 2, Sophie Hediger (Switzerland) 3. **Snowboard cross men:** Jade Vedder (US) 1, Eliot Grondin (Canada) 2, Mike Lacroix (US) 3.

SNOWBOARDING:

Kokomo Murase (Japan) and Takeru Otsuka (Japan) both won two gold medals in the FIS junior world championships at Cardrona.

Big air women: Kokomo Murase (Japan) 181.00, Sommer Gendron (Canada) 136.40, Ziyang Ren (China) 125.60. **Slopesyle women:** Kokomo Murase (Japan) 90.20, Annika Morgan (Germany) 84.40, Sommer Gendron (Canada) 84.40.

Big air men: Takeru Otsuka (Japan) 188.20, Luke Winkelmann (US) 182.40, William Buffey (Canada) 166.20. **Slopestyle men:** Takeru Otsuka (Japan) 95.40, Velden van der Niek (Netherlands) 92.40, Casper Wolf (Netherlands) 82.60.

FREESTYLE SKIING:

FIS junior world championships, at Cardrona.

Slopestyle men: Oliver Magnussen (Sweden) 87.20, Sebastian Schjerve (Norway) 84.80, Kim Guber (Switzerland) 83.80. **Slopestyle women:** Kelly Sildara (Estonia) 95.20, Anastasia Tatalina (Russia) 90.00, Kokone Kondo (Japan) 87.00.

Halfpipe men: Nico Porteous (NZ) 93.80, Dylan Ladd (US) 92.80, Birk Ruud (Norway) 91.80. **Halfpipe women:** Kelly Sildara (Estonia) 92.20, Valeriya Demidova (Russia) 84.80, Kexin Zyang (China) 80.60.

FREESKI WORLD CUP:

Finn Bilous (NZ) who was 13th in the Winter Olympics this year, won a bronze medal in a World Cup big air at Cardrona.

Men's freeski big air: Andri Ragatelli (Switzerland) 182.00, Evan McEachran



North Island Masters winners. From left: Nina Thomas, Sarah Hamilton, Jodi Pretscherer.

(Canada) 180.40, Finn Bilous (NZ) 180.20. Jackson Wells (NZ) was 10th. **Women freeski big air:** Elena Gaskell (Canada) 170.40, Caroline Claire (US) 147.80, Yuki Tsobota (Canada) 146.00.

CURLING.

Mixed doubles final: Canada 9 Scotland 5. Bronze medal: US 8 Norway 1.

MERINO MUSTER

There were 150 starters from 20 countries in the annual Merino Muster long distance (42km) cross-country ski race held at the Snow Farm skifield near Wanaka. Another 180 skiers raced over shorter distances at 21km and 7km, and there was also a Mini Muster for children.

US Olympic gold medallist Jessie Diggins was the star of the day, winning the women's race.

Men: Simi Hamilton (US) 52.45, Adam Martin (US) 52.46, Kyle Batrud (US) 53.07.

Women: Jessie Diggins (US) 59.47, Aurelie Dabudyk (France) 61.09, Alayna Sonnesyn (US) 64.38.

RANGATIRA ALPINE TROPHY

The grand prize, the Rangatira Alpine Trophy, is awarded to the fastest club, determined by the five fastest times of members including at least one junior, one master (or veteran) and one female.

This year RSC came third, with a team of Conor Barr, Madeline Moffat, EJ Moffat, Louis Burling and Roland Heiniger.

Rangatira Alpine Trophy: Taupo 220.30, Rangatira 221.90, RSC 236.20.

The RSC Junior team of Madeline Moffat, EJ Moffat, Oceane Anfosso and Abby Hunt finished second among the Junior teams.

The RSC Masters quartet Roland Heiniger, Liza Fitzsimmons, Carl Burling and Nico Anfosso also came second in their division.

NGAURUHOE TROPHY

RSC snowboarder Max McQuoid took first place in the snowboard event at the Ngauruhoe Trophy Race. There was a field of 16 riders. Well done Max.

The RSC junior girls took on all the boys

and came home second behind Rangatira Ski Club in the race for junior teams.

The team was Grace Johnstone, Madeline Moffat, EJ Moffat, Oceane Anfosso and Abby Hunt.

TONGARIRO JUNIORS

This is an annual race run by the Tongariro Ski Club for skiers and snowboarders under-18 on race day.

This year the RSC team (Madeline and EJ Moffat, Tasmin Thomas) finished third out of 22 teams.

Tongariro Juniors: Tongariro 137.50, Taupo 139.32, RSC 141.17.

Madeline was second in the girls under-16 and third overall out of 60 girls. EJ was second in the girls under-14 and sixth overall. Tasmin was second in the girls under-12 and ninth overall.

NORTH ISLAND MASTERS

Men (on age based handicap): Paul Wood, Heinz Wieser, Richard Neeson. Also: Roland Heinger of RSC was fourth and Guy Pilkington of RSC was sixth.

Women (on age based handicap): Sarah Hamilton (RSC), Jodi Pretschner, Nina Thomas (RSC). Also: Jenn Moffat of RSC was eighth.

NORTH ISLAND PRIMARY AND INTERMEDIATE SNOW SPORTS

This event (known as NIPS) is held at Whakapapa.

Skiers, years 7-8: Cancelled due to adverse weather.

Skiers, years 1-6: Ponsonby School from Auckland came both first and second out of 110 entered teams. An outstanding double.

Placings: Ponsonby Arctic Wolves, 1, Ponsonby Gate Busters 2, Bayfield Ballistics 3, King's School 4, Westmere Warriors 5.

Snowboards: Now held at Turoa and not part of NIPS.

NORTH ISLAND SECONDARY SCHOOLS SKIING

This massive event for 600 skiers is run by Ruapehu College, usually at Turoa. This year due to the demise of the High Noon Express, the ski champs were moved to Whakapapa while the snowboarders stayed at Turoa.

The events were giant slalom and slopestyle, and a tiebreak was needed to separate some schools.

Giant slalom: Kristin School 67 (first), St Cuthbert's College 67, St Kentigern 66, Tauhara College 66, Diocesan School 65, Auckland Grammar 65, Waikato Diocesan 65.

Slopestyle: Tauhara College 130, St Kentigern 97, Sacred Heart Auckland 77, Auckland Grammar 77, Tauranga Boys 77, Napier Boys 65.

Individual champions.

GS Junior Women: Mikayla Smyth (Kristin School).

GS Junior Men: James Stanfield (St Kentigern).

GS Senior Women: Mia Callingham (Mount Maunganui).

GS Senior Men: James Bennett (John Paul College).

Slopestyle Junior Women: Ella Lankshear (Tauranga Girls).

Slopestyle Junior Men: Fynn Powell (Tauhara).

Slopestyle Senior Women: Jess Moffett (Napier Girls).

Slopestyle Senior Men: Ben Barclay (Auckland Grammar).

NORTH ISLAND SECONDARY SCHOOLS SNOWBOARDS

This event is run by Ruapehu College at Turoa. This year due to bad weather only half a day of competition was allowed, and no results were published.



Upper: Skier cross racing at Whakapapa. Photo: NIPS. **Lower:** Snowboard cross at Turoa. Photo: NISSSB.



Tongariro Juniors race. RSC entrants Madeline Moffat (upper) ran third among 60 girls and and Tasmin Thomas (lower), though under-12, ran ninth overall. Photo: TSC.



Chateau ski school instructor Stan Kinder with an RSC class in 1954. Stan spent several weeks each autumn working for the Wisemans sports store in Queen St, Auckland, advising shoppers on ski gear. His wife Audrey was also an instructor and taught the RSC kids how to ride a T-bar. Photo: RSC collection.



An RSC group heads off for some skiing in 1948 at the back of the old RSC Hut. Photo: Graham collection.



Ski trails in Grand Gully at Whakapapa. Photo: NIPS.



Icicles on RSC Hut. Photo: Stephen Payne.

ACROSS THE SKIING WORLD

A massive indoor ski arena known as the **Wintastar Shanghai indoor ski park** is set to open in China in 2022.

The arena, said to be the largest in the world, will be built by Majid Al Futtaim, the Dubai-based operator of Ski Dubai and Ski Egypt.

Wintastar Shanghai expects to attract an estimated 3.2 million visitors annually.

The arena will have a total floor area of 227,000 square metres of which 90,000 square metres will be the ski park. Four hotels offering 1000 rooms will also feature in the project.

Swiss tennis star Roger Federer said he has not skied for 10 years in order to avoid injury, but he will ski again once he retires from tennis.

Federer said his children (two sets of twins aged four and nine) have started skiing but he has been content to go hiking with them not skiing.

Coronet Peak is to get a chondola (chairs and gondola cabins on the one wire) to replace the Coronet Express chairlift.

The Remarkables skifield meanwhile will get a six-seater express chairlift to replace the Sugar Bowl quad.

The developments will cost \$35 million and will include expansion of summer activities at Coronet Peak such as guided walks, sightseeing and mountain biking.

The boost takes NZ-Ski's total investment in Coronet Peak and The Remarkables to nearly a \$100 million dollars since 2014.

Colorado's first and only private ski resort has been launched in the San Juan Mountains.

Membership of the Cimarron Mountain Club is limited to just 13 families and includes access to more skiable terrain than Aspen Mountain.

The cost is \$US2.3 million per family, with yearly fees of \$60,000.

That will buy you a 35-acre parcel of land, upon which you can build the ski chalet of your dreams, as well as access to 60 ski runs.

Kitzbuhel in Austria has joined a small group of ski areas that offer snow sports for at least 200 days of the season. That is a season lasting almost seven months.

Most of the 20 resorts have glacier ski areas, but there are also a few resorts that manage to qualify due to their high altitude, northerly latitude or just the fact that they get a lot of snow.

Kitzbuhel has joined the club by snow farming, which means saving snow from the previous winter under cover and spreading it out on the slopes in early autumn the following year.

An Australian family's skiing trip to France turned foul when their teenage son slipped on ice, leaving him with devastating injuries and medical bills of \$NZ70,000.

The family had insurance which covered most of the cost including surgery and 11 days in hospital. Tom, 14, suffered a heavy fall after mistaking ice for snow.

US skier Steve Plummer has succeeded in his bid to ski 120 consecutive months solely in Summit County (Colorado).

Copper Mountain Resort's man-made snow enabled him to ski a decade straight. The part-time ski instructor now aged 67 skied only on one pair of Fischer RC giant slalom racing skis.

Plummer said years ago he was smitten with the movie *The Endless Summer*, a 1966 documentary that chronicled two

young surfers traveling the world in order to surf all seasons.

Princess Diana's dream of becoming a dance teacher ended after ski accident, a royal biographer has claimed.

Aged 18 she was on a family ski holiday in the French Alps when she fell badly, tearing all the tendons in her left ankle.

For three months she was in and out of plaster as the tendons slowly healed. It marked the end of her aspirations as a dance teacher.

The International Olympic Committee has approved three candidate bids for the **2026 Olympic Winter Games** and will pick a winner next June.

They are Calgary (Canada), Stockholm (Sweden) and the combined bid of Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo (Italy).

A fourth contender, Erzurum (Turkey), was not selected.

The next Winter Olympics will be held in 2022 in Beijing (China) which will become the first city to hold both the summer and winter Games.

Two American climbers have successfully skied down from the summit of the world's fourth-highest mountain, Mt Lhotse (8516-metres).

James Morrison of Tahoe, California, and Hilaree Nelson of Telluride, Colorado, climbed the mountain with two companions and three Nepalese Sherpa guides.

Morrison and Nelson then descended down the mountain on their skis. It was the first time anyone has skied down from Mount Lhotse, a sister peak of Mt Everest.

The proposed Russian, Israeli and Cyprus investor-backed revamp of the Porter Heights skifield in Canterbury is still on track, despite slow progress.

In 2015 Porters announced plans for a

\$60 million gondola and \$100 million on village developments, but they have yet to be built.

A spokesman said resource consents will soon be lodged for more facilities. The aim is a 365 day operation with summer operations including mountain biking, zip lines, hot pools, health and rejuvenation, hiking and tramping.

Lindsey Vonn, the most successful female ski racer, said she will retire at the end of the 2018-19 World Cup season.

The 33-year-old will call it a day even if she fails to break Ingemar Stenmark's record of 86 World Cup wins. Vonn already holds the women's record of 82 wins.

Since winning Olympic gold in Vancouver in 2010 she has suffered multiple injuries -- fractures, knee ligament tears, concussion -- and undergone surgery five times.

The small Fox Peak club skifield near Fairlie in South-Canterbury will continue to operate despite the land on which it sits being sold by US billionaire Ken Dart to NZ conservationists.

The skifield is included in the sale of the 4045 Lilydale Station to Warrick and Wendy Day of Te Anau.

Warrick Day said they had bought the area for a confidential price to develop the conservation aspect of it.

Natalie Urbani, aged 35, skied more than 1.3 million vertical metres at Queenstown's skifields this season while working full-time. She completed 3558 runs at Coronet Peak and The Remarkables.

Her tally was just behind that of Tomoyuki Imada who has skied 1.47 vertical metres in a season across Coronet Peak, The Remarkables and Mt Hutt, with a total of 1,437,886m.

A hotel employee, she says she aims at 2 million vertical metres in a season.



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.