The Bulletin RUAPEHU SKI CLUB

Volume 85, No. 2

June 2020



Thick rime ice on a chairlift at Mt Ruapehu. Our mountain's ice is said to be as thick as any in the world of ski resorts.



CONTENTS

- 2 President's column
- 3 Ruapehu news
- 5 2020 ski season
- 7 RAL plans
- 7 AGM notice
- 7 RSC hygiene
- 8 Virus pandemic
- 10 No snow overseas
- 10 Zoi wins again
- 11 Drone seized
- 11 Rahui problems
- 12 Rules for skiing
- 14 Taupo volcano
- 16 Seniors salvation
- 17 RSC calendar
- 18 Jake Burton
- 19 Golden NZ snow run
- 20-21 Alice in wonderland
- 23 McGregor qualifies
- 26 Grass skiing
- 27 The Ski Slope
- 30 World snow news
- 32 RSC info page

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

At this point, my Presidential term is coming to an end and this will most likely be my last Presidential column. Despite a comparatively turbulent passage, it has been a privilege and a genuine pleasure for me to serve you all in this role.

There have been many challenges that have emerged during these three years, the most recent being Covid-19.

At the same time, there have been many opportunities we have been able to realise. For instance, reducing electricity costs significantly and conducting Committee meetings remotely, through the Internet.

I am incredibly thankful to have been surrounded by such a positive, enthusiastic and committed team. I have enjoyed working with them so much.

I am also very grateful to mentors like our patron Peter, past presidents, Adrian, John, Bernard and Robin and past Committee members like Mike Wardle and Hamish Bell.

I am writing this on the day of our transition from Level-3 to Level-2. My celebratory ritual included getting a haircut. Emerging from lockdown now allows us to resolve the real challenges before us.

One of the fundamental principles of business is that fixed costs should be funded by fixed income and operational costs with operational income. Our fixed income is essentially subscription fees and our operational income is accommodation fees.

Unfortunately, the recent decades have seen our fixed costs exceed fixed income. These costs include insurance, electricity, rates, Department of Conservation levies and numerous costs of compliance.

It is probable that we will have to reduce the capacity of our buildings to comply with social distancing recommendations and to ensure the safety of us all. With the impact of this on our booking numbers, the importance of subscription fees has never been greater.

Fortunately, our maintenance spend has been well below the usual. It has been impossible to ascend the Bruce Road throughout the lock-down.

In the interest of saving costs, we have resisted employing a new Administration Officer. This means that many Committee members are sharing duties that were previously performed by Sheryl.

Our office landlords, McConnell Group, have graciously offered us a rent holiday during the lock-down and through the ensuing months. This also helps contain our fixed costs.

RAL have firmly indicated that Government restrictions have been lifted sufficiently for them to prepare for the season and then to operate. The closure of our borders limits the number of skilled staff they can second from overseas and it is unknown what impact that will have.

The key message though, is that Ruapehu will be open for business. Pray for snow

In closing, I urge you to hold fast to your membership and to look toward the long term future. At the same time, I invite you to make all possible use of the Club facilities. All this will minimise the potential loss we are predicting for the coming year.

The century plus history of the Club has seen two World Wars, the great depression and many other financial crises, the Spanish Flu and other epidemics, and has prevailed.

Our love of skiing and the mountain, our sense of community and our critical mass all help. But it is up to us all to ensure that RSC survives what is now upon us and thrives beyond.

> Richard Nelson, President



Work on the roof of the RSC's mountain museum Glacier Hut. This shot was taken before the Covid-19 lockdown. Photo: Catherine Gafa.

THROUGH THE LODGE WINDOW

Due to the Covid-19 virus pandemic, RAL has advised that its skifields will have scaled back services when the winter season goes ahead.

"One thing is certain, if we do manage to open for winter 2020, our operations will be significantly different to what our guests have experienced in the past," RAL said.

RSC members should keep an eye out on the Club's Facebook page and RAL's site (mtruapehu.com) for updates.

The Ring of Fire trail run event at *Mt Ruapehu, scheduled for March, was cancelled due to the Covid-19 virus.*

The 100th rodeo for Waimarino was also cancelled as it usually draws well over 1000 spectators.

Folks around Ruapehu have welcomed the announcement of \$6 million of Government funding toward the upgrading and expansion of Taupo Airport.

Jo Kennedy, the Visit Ruapehu General Manager, said the upgrade will allow for bigger planes bringing in more people and will significantly enhance the allimportant visitor experience.

However, Air NZ has left Taupo off its first airports for service when post-Covid flights resume, and it will not return until demand increases.

Ken Gledhill has retired after a long career with GNS Science, the government body that deals with volcanoes, earthquakes and landslips.

Ken, a research scientist, was with GNS for 38 years. He had 12 years as the Director of GeoNet and four years as the GeoNet Network Manager.

He led GNS through many geohazard events including multiple severe earthquakes like the Canterbury sequence, the Cook Strait quakes and the Kaikōura earthquake, tsunami threats and several volcanic eruptions.

THE RUAPEHU SKI CLUB

(inc) Founded 1913 P.O.Box 8064, Symonds St., Auckland, New Zealand 1150 Telephone: 0-9-377 3856 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: Carl Burling, Marion Quinn, Phill Thomass, Donald Webster, Fiona Willison Secretary: Louise Blair Treasurer: Heather Chao Immediate Past President: Adrian Adriaansen Captain: Catherine Gafa Vice-Captain: Paula Cooper Committee: Arran Birchenough, Jeff Davies, Damon Forsyth, Sam Hood, Richard Horton, Simon Hunt, Nils Johannessen, Nina Thomas, William Geddes Patron: Peter Brady Patroness: Barbara Scelly Auditors: Hart and Co. Admin Officer: To be advised Lodge Officer: Carl Burling Hut Officer: Simon Hunt 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

Whakaari/White Island remains in an elevated state of unrest. No significant changes in the amount of volcanic gas emitted or seismic activity were recorded in March or April. The volcanic alert level at mid-May remained at Level 2.

During the pandemic lockdown GEONET continued the monitoring of the island with instruments that automatically send data. These are primarily the seismic and gas sensors and images from web cameras.

The volcano continues to emit SO2 gas, which is derived from magma (molten rock at shallow depth), and is one of the main indicators of volcanic unrest.

Although the web cameras are still partially covered by ash from the December eruption, and in need of a clean, the recent rain has helped.

The discovery of fragments of an ancient tree has proved the Mt Eden erupted 28,000 years ago, a volcanologist said.

Workers building Auckland's city rail link found the fragments 15 metres below ground while excavating a new stormwater drain.

The age of the tree was confirmed following radiocarbon analysis by scientists and researchers.

Vocanologist Elaine Smid said it was an exciting time as it confirmed that Maungawhau Mt Eden erupted around 28,000 years ago.

The deadline for the September Bulletin will be **Friday August 24th.**

All items should be with the Editor 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.

Support our Haensli Cup sponsors



2020 SKI SEASON RSC ACTIVITIES

Hi everyone,

By the time you read this we should be well into level 2 and have some relaxation of the stay at home rules of level 4 and 3.

I hope you are all well and looking forward to some skiing, I know I am!

As you can imagine things are going to be a lot different this year and I'll try and explain the changes I know so far with regards to Ski Activities.

We will not be hosting a Swiss instructor this year due to the fact that he won't be able to get into the country.

We had Manuel Fischer, ready to come over, before our borders were closed.

The closing of our borders has had an impact on the number of instructors that RAL will have this year.

There will be no overseas instructors, unless they were already living here prior to the lockdown.

This will have an impact on members being able to get lessons with instructors. Holiday lessons and any other lessons will need to be arranged directly with RAL.

We have made the decision to cancel the Haensli Cup race.

There is a lot of organisation with sponsors that should have been started already, and as many of our sponsors are small businesses, it seems better that we support them instead this year.

Our sponsors are Elan, Tussock Bar, RAL, Giro, Snowplanet, Skinnies, Dirty Dog, Picture jackets, Marsh Insurance, Scott and Le Bent.

Christiania Club has cancelled their Derby, as are the Tongariro Juniors and Rangatira races. At this point I have not heard from Ngauruhoe and assume their race is on hold.

There are some plans being made to arrange some apres skiing events between the race clubs to keep the camaraderie between us going.

I will let people know what is happening closer to the event. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates. Catherine Gafa



The RSC Committee's monthly meeting in April was held under virtual conditions, with the members uniting electronically by way of Zoom. Screen shot from Catherine Gafa.



Laundry duty. Photo: Catherine Gafa.

RSC SUBSCRIPTIONS

While we are all uncertain what the coming ski season offers us, your Committee is working hard to develop plans enabling us to utilise the Club buildings safely, in whatever mode the Government permits RAL and RSC to operate.

However, it is certain that the Club faces many fixed costs, no matter what shape the season takes.

Although your Committee is also working hard to reduce those costs, there is limited scope to do so. The costs include lease payments and levies to DOC, council rates, insurance and electricity lines charges. They must all be covered even before we open our buildings.

The contribution of everyone's subscriptions go a long way to covering the fixed costs. It is an investment in the future, ensuring that RSC will be in a good position to continue supplying us all with the accommodation, catering and activities we all expect.

Without the support of its members, through the payment of annual subscriptions, the Club will instead, like many business around New Zealand, face a considerably weakened financial position.

RAL REOPENING

RAL has indicated that both Whakapapa and Turoa will open this season.

However, there will be reduced facilities, and the dates for opening were not to hand when this Bulletin went to the printer.

Members should check the RSC Facebook page and the RAL website (mtruapehu.com) for updates.

AGM NOTICE

Change of date: July 1st.

Hello to our RSC members at the beginning of what is set to be an unusual season.

Traditionally we've held our AGM in mid-June. However, Covid-19 presented multiple uncertainties for the Club and the ski season as we headed into March and April.

Our constitution requires that we hold an AGM every calendar year, and not more than 15 months after the last AGM.

We have set the date for this year at July 1st at RNZYS. We are looking into the possibility of having the AGM hosted both in person and via video conference, and will update the membership as we learn more.

Unfortunately, owing to the implications for the Club of Covid-19 this season, the Committee has taken the decision not to provide pre-meeting refreshments. It will be a different AGM this year.

Let's look forward to a return to the traditional fellowship for RSC AGMs in 2021.

Thank you,

Louise Blair, Secretary.

ADMINISTRATION

The conditions under which we may open and operate our buildings are constantly changing and the Committee is working hard to achieve this safely. Please consult our Facebook page and the RSC website for any further information closer to the season opening.

RULES FOR 2020

This is a season with a difference, and at time of writing full of uncertainty.

There are a couple of certainties which come under the House Committee umbrella.

Our health and safety protocols will have to be amped up and adhered to. Sanitising of surfaces will be built into the duties, frequent hand washing strongly encouraged and bringing your own duvet covers with your sheets and towels a requirement.

We anticipate being able to consider opening our buildings for the season at level 2. But, a whole lot of the Government required health and safety guidelines will require your compliance.

The booking lists will provide a contact tracing start point, but we will probably be asked to get members to sign in and out of our buildings.

Communal living in these times demands care and consideration for others. That means any hint of sickness keeps you and yours at home. If you become symptomatic while staying with us, you and yours all leave.

Members not adhering to this last year spread norovirus around one of our buildings. That was messy. Covid-19 is so much worse, if not for you, then someone else's grandparent.

Please consult our Facebook page and the RSC website for any further updates closer to the season opening. The parameters under which we are trying to operate are continually changing. We still have a lot to work out.

Stay safe, stay well, hopefully we will eventually be able to see you on the slopes. MQ

NZ IN RECESSION VIRUS PANDEMIC REDUCED SKIING

Almost all sports and cultural events around New Zealand and around the world were cancelled or postponed from March 16th due to the worldwide spread of the coronavirus Covid-19.

Government restrictions caused almost all of NZ to go into lockdown amid scenes of difficulty not seen since World War 2.

For the first time ever, the NZ borders were closed to all but returning Kiwi citizens and essential visitors.

Worldwide to mid-May, 300,000 people died from the virus which infected almost every country and territory. (Notable exceptions were NZ territories the Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau).

In NZ to mid-May 1500 people were infected by the virus and 300,000 lost their jobs but 1430 NZ people had recovered from the infection and by mid-May there were only 21 deaths. mostly of elderly folk who were already ill.

NZ was praised internationally by moving quickly to close its borders and asking people to stay at home for five weeks unless going out for very essential reasons.

The Government announced \$40 billion of welfare, tax and business assistance packages to meet the emergency. The cash would come from borrowing. A further \$16 billion was later announced in the Budget.

Schools, cafes, restaurants, bars, gyms, cinemas, churches, funerals, playgrounds, building sites and all non-essential businesses were closed, initially for five weeks.

Fairs, festivals, rodeos and all Anzac Day parades were cancelled. Swimming, surfing, fishing and boating were out.

Only supermarkets, dairies, pharmacies and service stations stayed open, while sacked airline pilots got new jobs stacking supermarket shelves.

People were allowed to go out for exercise alone or in small family groups, but only close to where they lived. Police roadblocks turned back hundreds of people trying to drive too far, and 500 repeat offenders were prosecuted.

RAL closed autumn operations of the Ski Waka gondola.

DOC temporarily closed all its huts, tracks and visitor centres, and closed the Bruce Road.

The Olympic Games which were due to open in Tokyo in July were postponed for one year.

LOCKDOWN EASED. Restrictions on work and play were eased after five weeks of severe lockdown and were further eased two weeks after that. By now only one or zero new infections per day were being reported NZ-wide.

REDUCED RAL SERVICES

RAL advised on April 9th that Mt Ruapehu's skifields would have scaled back services.

"One thing is certain, if we do manage to open for winter 2020, our operations will be significantly different to what our guests have experienced in the past.

"The lockdown put us behind in our scheduled maintenance and with the closure of borders and some of the skill sets we were going to engage from overseas, it is likely that not all facilities will be operational for winter 2020."

RAL said that because of the lockdown, it had paused as much expenditure as was practical. Some staff were working reduced hours from home, or had taken discretionary leave or had pay reductions.

RAL was granted the Government's wage subsidy which had allowed it to keep all its current staff.

<u>SALTY DOGS</u>: RAL is going to "tap some old salty dogs on the shoulder to see if they want to take some lessons or do

some patrols," RAL chief executive Jono Dean said.

RAL normally used international visitors to make up almost half its staff and with many of them being unlikely to travel, the company will try to use locals.

100 PERSONS LIMIT: Jono Dean said on April 30th that RAL was talking to Government agencies about the conditions under which Mt Ruapehu could enjoy a partial opening. In particular the issue was whether the nationwide limit of 100 people at a gathering should apply to a skifield where the 100 customers would be well spread out.

<u>RAL UPDATE:</u> Later, RAL said it worked with SAANZ (Ski Areas Assn) and the Government about rules for reopening and there would be no limit on the numbers of people allowed on a skifield, subject to managing physical distancing, ensuring contact tracing and increased cleaning and sanitation requirements.

Hospitality facilities and restaurants at the ski resorts would be subject to the nationwide hospitality requirements, which limited 100 people indoors who must be seated and served separately.

SOUTHERN SKIFIELDS. Operators said they remained optimistic they could open at least partially at the end of June. Opening at some areas would be for fewer than seven days a week. Skifields would move to cashless operations and social distancing rules would be implemented on all chairlifts and indoor facilities.

Electronic ticketing systems would allow staff to keep track of where customers had been on the mountains, which would help with any potential contact tracing.

VIRUS HITS SNOW

Hundreds of ski and snowboard events across the northern hemisphere were cancelled, and ski resorts were closed in March due to the spread of Covid-19. In Italy all skiing facilities nationwide were closed from March 10th, by order of the Government.

Austria, France, Switzerland, Scandinavia, the rest of Europe and regions in Canada, the US and Asia soon followed. The alpine skiing World Cup finals at Cortina d'Ampezzo (Italy) were cancelled.

The last snowboard slopestyle World Cup event in Špindlerův Mlýn (Czech) was called off. As a result Tiarn Collins (NZ) finished second in the season's rankings.

Switzerland's largest sporting event, the annual Engadin ski marathon with 14,000 participants, was cancelled.

Norway's favourite ski event the Birkebeinerrennet ski marathon was cancelled. Held since 1932, the race recalls a ski trip made by loyalists in 1206 to save the infant heir to the Norwegian throne.

The early closure of US ski resorts triggered a rush to buy or rent uphill touring and backcountry ski equipment.

In Colorado the Forest Service blocked access to some snowfields but thousands of skiers were walking uphill at places which stayed open,

No back country skiing was allowed in Austria after the skifields were closed.

Light on the horizon: By the end of March some of the indoor ski slopes in China, which were closed in January when the virus first emerged, began to reopen. This came after the number of new domestic infections dropped dramatically.

See the Himalayas. Pollution levels in India dropped dramatically after lockdown measures were been enforced. As a result the snow-capped Himalayas could be seen from more than 200 kilometres away in parts of northern India where the mountains had been hidden for 40 years.

*** To this Bulletin's deadline time, no one had climbed Mt Everest this year.

SKIFIELDS LACK SNOW

Unseasonably warm and dry winters are forcing northern hemisphere ski resorts to close during what should be their busiest times.

Many resorts in Europe, North America, Japan and elsewhere are relying on snow from snow guns while French ski resort Luchon-Superbagnères helicoptered in fresh snow in order to stay open.

January 2020 was the hottest recorded January. The four warmest Januaries on record were in the past four years.

Photos of ski resorts around the world show them barren of snow and, consequently, of people as the ski season shrinks.

Some ski resorts are offering outdoor recreation activities that don't rely on snow, like downhill scooters.

In Norway an indoor ski resort opened in February. The facility was originally intended for use only during bad winter weather and in summer months.

Norway, with 5.4 million residents, routinely dominates Olympic skiing competitions.

The sport is an inextricable part of Norwegian history and the word ski can be traced back to the Old Norse word skið, which roughly translates as "stick of wood".

But whereas from 1900 to 1980 Norway experienced about 140 days of winter each year, now it has just 100 days.

According to a website called weathertoski, it has been the mildest winter on record in some parts of the Alps.

For most of the season snow has been patchy, especially on the lower slopes, leading some people to spend more time in the pubs and bars than on the pistes.

As conditions in the Alps have become less predictable in recent years, an insurance technology company called Setoo has come up with a new form of ski insurance which pays out when snow conditions are poor.

SNOW SAVES VASA

Sweden's oldest and most famous crosscountry ski race, the 90km Vasaloppet, was rescued at the last minute by a snowstorm which coated the track just hours before the start.

With an unusually warm winter leaving much of Sweden practically snowless, racers were fearing they would end up skiing through rain, surrounded by snowless forest and fields.

The race, which was first held in 1922, follows the path of a young nobleman Gustav Vasa as he fled on skis from King Christian II.

This year there were 15,000 starters in the main race and 45,000 more in associated minor events.

Petter Eliassen passed Stian Hoelgaard in the last few metres to win the 90km race by one second in a time of 4h 25m 14s.

Lina Korsgren won the women's race in 4.41.02. She was 57th overall, the best ever result by a woman.

ZOI WINS AGAIN

NZ snowboarder Zoi Sadowski-Synnott won a gold medal in the women's slopestyle at the European X Games in Norway.

The 19-year-old from Wanaka claimed the third X Games medal of her career after an impressive first run on the slopes of Hafjell Alpinsenter.

Kokomo Murase (Japan) won silver and Brooke Voigt (Canada) won bronze.

Last year Sadowski-Synnott became New Zealand's first snowboarding X Games gold medallist when she won the slopestyle event in Aspen (Colorado).

DRONE SEIZED

A tourist left New Zealand without their drone after it was confiscated in Tongariro National Park.

It crash-landed near Emerald Lakes after a group of hikers threw rocks at it.

A DOC ranger located the drone. Next day the unidentified owner inquired at the Whakapapa Visitor Centre but was told the drone had been seized.

Drones are not allowed within Tongariro National Park and the operator had ignored warnings, staff said.

Operations Manager Connie Norgate said: "With helicopter operations taking place almost daily, drone use puts these aircraft and their pilots at risk.

"This incident also shows how they disturb other people's privacy and quiet enjoyment of the outdoors."

Footnote: Drone pictures of RSC buildings published two years ago were taken before the ban on drones in Tongariro National Park was imposed.

INJURY ON CROSSING

A hiker received second-degree burns after walking off the marked track on the Tongariro Alpine Crossing and into a steamed vent.

The man walked off the track near the top Emerald Lake after spotting a steam vent, and decided to get closer to take a photo.

About two metres from the top of the vent, one of the hiker's legs dropped through the surface crust, causing burns up to his knee.

He was airlifted to Waikato Hospital by the Greenlea Rescue Helicopter and received treatment for second-degree burns.

Department of Conservation senior public safety ranger Theo Chapman said steam vents should not be approached as they can be very hot and the ground unstable.

"The track traverses an active volcanic landscape. There is always some risk from volcanic hazards."

CROSSING WORRIES

Radio NZ said trampers have been ignoring rāhui in the Tongariro National Park which could threaten its World Heritage status.

The park was under the temporary restriction or rāhui twice in the past year following the deaths of two trampers on the Tongariro Alpine Crossing, but DOC Tongariro operations manager Connie Norgate said people were not adhering to the rāhui.

"We do get challenged on it mostly by New Zealanders. They really struggle to understand the concept of it."

Ngāti Hikairo spokesman Te Ngaehe Wanikau said it broke the hearts of his people that some trampers were not respecting the rāhui.

"It was for the reason of cultural significance that Tongariro was made the first dual heritage National Park in the world."

Park rangers endeavour to stop people walking the crossing when a rāhui is in place.

BEACON RESCUE

A personal GPS locator beacon helped police and a helicopter crew quickly find an 18-year-old United States tramper lost in the Tongariro National Park.

The teenager, on holidaying in NZ, set out at 6.30 am to hike the 43km Tongariro Northern Circuit.

He walked from Whakapapa Village to Mangatepopo, over Red Crater and into the Oturere Valley, but then got lost.

RULES OF SKIING

The International Ski Federation (ISF) has published new rules for the correct conduct of skiers and snowboarders.

- Respect for others on skis and snowboards: A skier or snowboarder must behave in such a way that he does not endanger or prejudice others.
- **Control of speed and behaviour:** A skier or snowboarder must move in control. They must adapt their speed and manner of skiing or snowboarding to their personal ability and to the prevailing conditions of terrain, snow, and weather, as well as to the density of traffic.
- Choice of ski or snowboarding route: A skier or snowboarder coming from behind (who are higher up the slope) must choose his or her route in such a way that he or she does not endanger skiers or snowboarders ahead.
- Overtaking during skiing or snowboarding exercise: A skier or snowboarder may overtake another skier or snowboarder above or below, and to the right or to the left, provided that he or she leaves enough space for the overtaken skier or snowboarder to make any voluntary or involuntary movement.
- Entering, starting and moving upwards: A skier or snowboarder either: entering a marked run, starting again after stopping, or moving upwards or crossing on the slopes, must look up and down the slopes so that he or she can move without endangering themselves or others.

- Stopping on the piste: Unless absolutely necessary, a skier or snowboarder must avoid stopping on the piste in narrow places or where visibility is restricted. After a fall in such a place, a skier or snowboarder must move clear of the piste as soon as possible.
- Walking up or downhill for skiing or snowboarding: A skier or snowboarder either climbing or descending on foot must keep to the side of the piste.
- **Respect for signs and markings:** A skier or snowboarder must respect all signs and markings. This includes slope information, weather conditions, and the conditions of the slopes and snow.
- Assistance following ski or snowboarding accidents: At accidents, every skier or snowboarder is duty-bound to assist.
- Identification after a ski or snowboarding accident: Any witness, whether a responsible party or not, must exchange names and addresses following an accident. They must identify themselves to Piste Control, as well as to any others involved in the ski or snowboarding accident.

COMMENT BY ALAN GRAHAM

These rules are basically not new. They have been around for many years. However, they spell out in much greater detail just what is expected of skiers and snowboarders.

In particular they emphasise the basic rule of snowfield etiquette: That is, the lower skier or snowboarder has a total right of way and the overtaker must stay clear.



cancellation. check out our website at <u>www.escapebycycle.com</u>



Upper: RSC Hut at 1775 metres on Whakapapa skifield. **Lower:** Lake Taupo. Photos: Peter Otway.

TAUPO VOLCANO

Veteran RSC member Peter Otway is writing a detailed appreciation of the Taupo Volcano.

A retired volcanologist who now lives near Tauranga, he previously lived at Taupo.

"It is actually a Super Volcano. I knew it was big when I first started working there,

but surely not that big? Apparently it is!"

Peter has sent some RSC members his draft findings which include 58 attachments – photos, maps, graphs, diagrams.

"I have written it rather unscientifically to prevent it becoming too boring, but have stuck to the facts, to keep it accurate."

If you would like to see Peter's work, email him on otway1@xtra.co.nz.



Upper: Peter and Anne Feltham, Colin Upchurch and Peter Otway at RSC Hut. **Lower:** Skiing in Te Heuheu Valley last season. Photos from Peter Otway.



SALVATION FOR SENIOR SKIERS

By Jim Mutch

For dedicated skiers who have sore joints or are of an age whereby they are fearful of getting them if they continue to ski, the good news is that **Salvation is At Hand.**

Roam Robotics of San Francisco is scheduled to go into commercial production of its *Elevate Ski Exoskeleton* device in 12 months or so. See it at roamrobotics.com.

I had the privilege of trying out Roam's prototype over four days in early March at Big Sky, Montana, a favourite ski area in the Rockies. *See it above*.

Roam claims that *Elevate* reduces shock and vibrations by about one third.

The device consists of a small backpack containing computer, sensors, batteries and a pneumatic compressor, connected to lightweight, carbon fibre leg braces.

They act like sophisticated shock absorbers. It worked remarkably well; not at all restricting.

It allowed me to go faster with confidence; through rough/icy patches; down Big Sky's long runs non-stop from top to bottom without fatigue, where I would normally have taken two or three rests; to drive into ungroomed snow without apprehension; all the time providing the skier with a minutely accurate feeling of the snow.

That is quite comforting for a 91+ year old skier.

I threw every valid ski movement at it that I knew. It responded to them all instantly, with calm equanimity.

Elevate fulfilled its promotional claims in performance. It needs just a few minor tidy ups before going into commercial production.

My best analogy: It was like the contrast between driving an old jalopy over an unsealed corrugated road compared with doing it in a well suspended modern sports saloon.

At the end of the day I felt pleasantly exercised but not unduly fatigued.



Jim Mutch trying out the prototype Exoskeleton device at Big Sky, Montana, March 2020.

RSC CALENDAR OF EVENTS (Academy dates are provisional)

June 2020		Whakapa opening, to be advised. Turoa opening, to be advised.
July 2020	1	RSC AGM at the RNZYS Westhaven. AMENDED.
	4-19	School holidays
	18	Academy 1
	25	Academy 2
Aug 2020	1	Christiania Derby. CANCELLED.
	1	Academy 1
	8	Academy 2
	8	Waimarino Trophy. ON HOLD.
	15	Haensli Cup. CANCELLED.
	15	Academy 1
	16-21	Club Week (aka Winter Party). ON HOLD.
	22	Academy 2
	22	Junior interfield ski race. ON HOLD.
	24	NIPS Week One. ON HOLD.
	29	Academy 1
	29	Rangatira Alpine. CANCELLED.
	31	NIPS Week Two. ON HOLD.
Sept 2020	5	Tongariro Juniors. CANCELLED.
	5	Academy 2
	12	Ngauruhoe Trophy. ON HOLD.
	12	Academy 1
	19	Academy 2
	19	Masters champs (contingency Sept 20). ON HOLD.
	26	RSC Club champs. ON HOLD.
26	5-Oct 11	School holidays
Oct 2020	18	Turoa closes
	26	Whakapapa closes

TOP SKIING MOMENTS

A newspaper in Colorado asked ski veterans for their view on the most important developments in skiing. Among the answers were:

Big chairs: In 1985 Vail opened three detachable quad chairs. It rocked the ski world and people were stunned to be able to ski 500 vertical metres in three hours.

Snow grooming: This has dramatically changed the ski experience. With grooming and shaped skis, you have people skiing

faster, and you can put more people on the slopes.

Ski passes: Probably the most innovative thing in recent years is the Epic Pass technology that is being used by Vail Resorts. They have done a masterful job of giving information to the skier.

Technology: The greatest innovation is the ski technology with the wider skis and the shaped skis for all conditions. This has been so important for keeping people in the game longer and easing the introduction of skiing to new people.



Jake Burton
JAKE BURTON

Jake Burton, whose actual name was Jake Burton Carpenter, and who has died aged 65, is regarded worldwide as the man who turned snowboarding into a mainline Olympic Winter Games event.

A self-described punk who became the multimillionaire owner of Burton Snowboards, a company he founded in a Vermont barn in 1977, he is credited with transforming snowboarding from a renegade diversion into one of the most popular winter sports.

Carpenter (he went by Jake Burton professionally) did not invent the snowboard. That distinction is credited to Sherm Poppen, a Michigan tinkerer who in 1965 put two skis together.

It was called the Snurfer, a name combining snow and surf. Carpenter received one when he was 14 and indulged in Snurfing on a golf course.

"It was almost like a rodeo ride standing up. I got passionate about it right away," he said.

Selling his first snowboards for \$88, Carpenter marketed his products through mail orders and at trade shows.

While bartending at night, he worked in

a barn while experimenting with various woods and plastics and other materials to make a superior snowboard.

He ran up tens of thousands of dollars in debt but by 1984 his sales had hit \$1 million and by 1995 his company was worth more than \$100 million. Estimated sales today exceed \$500 million a year.

The company has now expanded to do business around the world, selling boots, helmets, goggles, winter apparel and luggage, in addition to snowboards.

Ski resorts around the globe offered free lift passes on March 13th in honour of the life and legacy of Jake Burton Carpenter.

Places that participated in "A Day For Jake" included Stratton Mountain Resort in Vermont which in 1983 due in part to Carpenter's petitioning became the first major resort to allow snowboarders on chairlifts.

ZOI FINISHES SIXTH

Defending women's snowboard slopestyle champion Zoi Sadowski-Synnott (NZ) finished sixth this year in the 38th annual Burton US open.

Zoi was top qualifier in the semifinal round and seemed to be heading for first place in the final, but could not rein in her final trick, a technical 1080 double cork mute.

Jamie Anderson (US) won the event at Vail Mountain Resort (Colorado) for the eighth time in 13 attempts.

The annual championships are respected as the world's longest-running snowboard event.

Its humble beginnings date back to 1982, a time when the sport was in its infancy.

Today the event attracts the world's best male and female riders with a \$US373,000 overall prize purse.

This year's Burton open was dedicated to the memory of Jake Burton who died in November last year.

The men's event was won by Yuki Kadano (Japan).

GOLDEN SNOW RUN

While Alice Robinson has gained most of the headlines for her stellar performances in Alpine ski racing, it is in freeski, snowboarding and freeride that many other NZ skiers and snowboarders have excelled.

Freeksi and snowboarding have half a dozen disciplines, of which slopestyle, big air and halfpipe are the Kiwi standouts. Freeride is a form of extreme skiing.

The golden run began some 10 years ago when the four Wells brothers from Wanaka all made podiums on the freeski world stage, culminating in gold medals at the Winter X-Games plus a fourth and a sixth at the Olympic Winter Games.

Janina Kuzma had a freeski fifth at the Olympics while her sister Maria Kuzma scored well in snowboard freeride.

The 16 year-olds Zoi Sadowski-Synnott in snowboarding and Nico Porteous in freeski both won bronze medals at the Winter Olympics and starred at the X-Games.

Miguel Porteous placed in freeski events while Margaux Hackett had a fourth.

In freeride Jess Hotter, Craig Murray, Hank Bilous, Blake Marshall and Claire McGregor have all won international tour events.

Tiarn Collins won a World Cup snowboard competition in Canada.

It is quite remarkable that so many New Zealanders have starred on the world's snow stage, not to mention the Winter Paralympics win by Adam Hall and a bronze to Corey Peters.

AG

KIWIS WIN FREERIDE

New Zealand skiers filled three of the first four placings in a freeride world tour ski event at Fieberbrunn (Austria). Craig Murray was first with 96.67 points. Then came Isaac Freeland (US) with 94.67, Hank Bilous (NZ) with 91.67 and Blake Marshall (NZ) with 85.00.

This was an amazing performance considering that their world rankings at the time were Murray 13th, Bilous eighth and Marshall tenth.

Murray, 20, now from Wanaka, is the son of former Coast to Coast multisport winners Keith and Andrea Murray, and is the youngest competitor on the freeride tour.

Originally from Christchurch, Murray began to ski aged two as his family visited Canterbury skifields.

After success in junior freeride, he become the youngest person to qualify for the freeride world tour, aged 18.

HOTTER IS FOURTH

NZ skier Jess Hotter came fourth in a freeride world tour competition in Andorra.

The placegetters were Hedvig Wessel (Norway), Jaclyn Paso (US) and Elisabeth Gerritzen (Switzerland).

Hotter ran first and set a high standard with five jumps, but it was not enough to make the podium.

** Local Andorra policeman Daniel Fornell-Prat had a strong run but began to celebrate too early and fell, taking, a heavy hit on his score from the judges.

WORLD CUP WINNERS

Aleksander Aamodt Kilde and Federica Brignone are the Alpine skiing World Cup champions for 2020.

Men : A A Kilde (Norway) 1202 points, Alexis Pinturault (France) 1148, Henrik Kristoffersen (Norway) 1041.

Women: Federica Brignone (Italy) 1378 points, Mikaela Shiffrin (US) 1225, Petra Vhlova (Slovakia) 1189.



NZ ski racer Alice Robinson (second from left) atop the World Cup giant slalom podium in Slovenia. There are four skiers in the photo because there was a tie for third.

ROBINSON BIO

Alice Robinson now 18 was born in Sydney but her parents moved to Queenstown permanently when she was aged four.

She started her racing career at Coronet Peak with the Queenstown Alpine Ski Team and later also trained with the Sugar Bowl academy based in Tahoe (California).

Alice was coached for eight years by former New Zealand Olympian Tim Cafe but in 2019 she switched to Chris Knight and Jeff Fergus who had previously coached the United States women's team.

She had her first international win aged 14 in Canada and had further wins in Slovenia and the US.

Alice at 16 was the youngest member of the New Zealand team for the PyeongChang 2018 Olympic Winter Games where she came 35th out of 81 skiers in the giant slalom.

At the 2019 World Championships at Åre (Sweden) she won the Under-21 category and finished 17th in the giant slalom.

Less than a week later at the Junior World Championships in Val di Fassa (Italy) she won the giant slalom gold medal by more than a second and also came 15th in the super-g.

Graduating to the elite World Cup circuit, she scored her first podium with a second place in a giant slalom at Grandvalira Soldeu (Andorra).

This race ended the 2018-19 season and the silver medal was the first podium at a FIS alpine World Cup for a New Zealand athlete since Claudia Riegler in slalom in 2002.

Her breakthrough win came in October 2019 when she won the season opening giant slalom on the Rettenbach glacier in Sölden (Austria). It was the first Kiwi win since Riegler in a slalom in 1997.

It was later revealed that Alice won this race while suffering from bone bruising to the knee following a training crash.

After three top-10 results in following races, Alice won her second World Cup victory in February 2020 when she took the gold medal at Kransjska Gora (Slovenia).

In the meantime she has tried a few races in the faster super-g discipline and is tipped as a future winner in this event as well as giant slalom.



Alice Robinson racing in the alpine skiing World Cup.

ALICE IN WONDERLAND

NZ ski racer Alice Robinson finished fifth in the alpine skiing World Cup giant slalom rankings for the season after her last three events were cancelled.

A race at Ofterschwang (Germany) was abandoned due to a lack of snow.

Later races at Are (Sweden) and Cortina d'Ampezzo (Italy) were cancelled because of the Covid-19 virus outbreak.

During the season Alice had two wins in World Cup giant slalom races and three other results in the top 10.

Kiwi women had previously won only five World Cup ski races in all while Kiwi men have won none at all.

The winner of the FIS golden globe for the women's giant slalom was Federica Brignone (Italy) with 407 points.

Then came Petra Vhlova (Slovakia) 333, Mikaela Shiffrin (US) 314, Marto

Bassino (Italy) 309 and Alice Robinson (NZ) 300.

Robinson's two wins matched those of Brignone. "My skiing has been good, but it's about gaining more consistency," Alice said.

****** Alice Robinson might enter blue riband downhill races next season.

Her coach Chris Knight said: "She just embraces the speed and never backs off from the speed unless you tell her she needs to in a situation.

"That is a special young talent and something very exciting to have. So far she hasn't even got a pair of downhill skis, but it is the plan this summer to bring in downhill.

"If she picks it up as quickly as she picked up super-g last summer, I imagine she will be trying a few downhills next year. That's where her talent lies."



New Zealand's star snowboarders and skiers. Zoi Sadowski-Synnott, Nico Porteous, Alice Robinson and Tiarn Collins.



Claire McGregor. McGREGOR QUALIFIES

New Zealand snowboarder Claire McGregor won three successive events on the Freeride World Qualifier tour. This assured McGregor of a place on the full tour next year.

Her wins were at Les Arc (France), La Rosière (France) and Silvretta-Monatfon (Austria).

She also came second at the 2019 Winter Games NZ freeride event at The Remarkables skifield, the competition which started her qualifying tour.

McGregor at 30 is somewhat older than most of her opponents but has scored high marks with her freeride runs.

She has also proved popular as a ski town disc jockey at both Treble Cone (Otago) and Verbier (Switzerland).

VICTORY FOR COLLINS

New Zealand snowboarder Tiarn Collins won a men's slopestyle Snowboard World Cup competition in Calgary (Canada).

The 20-year-old had a score of 80.50 points, beating Ruki Tobita (Japan) into second while the 16 year-old Liam Brearley (Canada) was third.

Collins sustained a shoulder injury just days before he was due to compete at the 2018 Olympic Winter Games and has been battling to make it back to top form ever since.

The field of 50 featured some of the world's best riders including X-Games Aspen gold and silver medallists Darcy Sharpe (Canada) and Mons Roisland (Norway).

Collins opted for a new competition run in the finals after qualifying in fourth.

"I almost over-rotated. I had to fight to hold on to it and was holding my breath right to the end," he said.

Collins had just one previous slopestyle World Cup podium, a third place at Aspen Snowmass (US) in January 2018, just before his injury.

WILKINS DOUBLE

Hawke's Bay brothers Aidan and Luke Wilkins scored placings in Europe as members of the New Zealand Snowsports Ski Youth team. They recorded top 15 finishes in all races completed.

Thirteen-year-old Luke's best finish was a win in the under-14 slalom in Bosnia where 15-year-old Aidan also had his best finish, a third in the under-16 slalom.

The Kiwi team finished third in Bosnia.

This event has been running for 45 years and NZ ski star Alice Robinson won it in 2017.

The NZ Youth team also finished fifth at a televised Croatia event which was staged in Zagreb on a slope with man made salted snow.



Skiing in the North Island Primary and Intermediate Ski Champs at Whakapapa. Photos: NIPS.



Skiing in the North Island Primary and Intermediate Ski Champs at Whakapapa. Photos: NIPS.

GRASS SKIING

Members have responded to a video about grass skiing to recall that there was skiing with wheeled "skis" on the slopes of Mt Hobson in Remuera in the 1980s.

Hamish Bell said he had a set in the mid-late 1980s and rentals were available.

"We used to meet every week. A young Rachel Hunter used to join in."

Alison and Jenny Minhinnick both recalled grass skiing on Mt Hobson.

Adrian Farnsworth said sessions were run by the Ski Your Heart snow sports store.

He said grass skiing resembles snow skiing but needs more steering as the rollers don't flex as a ski does. It still requires edging.

Kerry O'Neill said he and our current President Richard Nelson were among the Mt Hobson skiers. Kerry's sisters Rosie and Wendy were there too,

"Yes very hard landing," reported Rosie. "Grass burns," recalled Kerry.

*** Grass skiing is a full blooded international summer event recognised by the FIS which runs World champs, World Cup, Europa Cup and a host of junior events around the world.

Grass skiing was invented by Josef Kaiser and Richard Martin in Germany in 1963, initially for summer training, but it soon became a sport in its own right.

The skis are almost one metre long and there are two versions.

Wheeled models can be used in various terrains and for freestyle skiing and offpiste skiing.

Tracked models on the other hand are specifically designed to be used on cut grassy slopes.

*** There was a proposal in Wellington in the 1980s to build a grass skiing facility on a hillside in the city's southern suburbs.

It would have included a handle ski tow plus hire gear and instruction. Unfortunately the grass ski facility was never built.

OBITUARIES

NEIL HARRISON

NZ ski veteran Neil Harrison of Rangiora has died aged 89.

Neil was highly involved in alpine racing for many years and was on several FIS Alpine committees before he retired in 1994 after more than 20 years of service.

He was one of the driving forces in establishing FIS international alpine ski racing in the 1970s in New Zealand which lead to FIS World Cup races at Mt Hutt in 1990.

BRUCE ALLPRESS

Kiwi actor Bruce Allpress has died aged 89.

He appeared for 65 years in a wide range of movies, TV shows and adverts, including The Piano and Lord of the Rings.

In his later years he ran a popular antiques store at Albany, alongside his acting career.

In his younger days Bruce was a ski patroller at Whakapapa.

MAX MARTIN

Max Martin, who has died at Whanganui aged 83, served more than 50 years on the Ohakune Volunteer Fire Brigade, including 20 years as fire chief.

He was part of many large community projects including building the Ohakune baths and the Ohakune Mountain Road.

Max was also a founding member of Main Trunk Rail Ohakune whose projects included re-siting and restoring the railway turntable at the Junction.



The Ski Slope which operated at Albany north of Auckland in 1986. Photo: Alan Graham.

THE SKI SLOPE

A recent posting on the RSC Facebook page recalled The Ski Slope which operated on Spencer Road at Albany in 1986.

This was a 200 metre long ski run based on a surface of bristles, like an upturned hair brush.

It had tow made up of a wire with handles and there was a separate beginner slope which had a small rope tow.

The skiing surface was green plastic tiles and it felt exactly like snow, according to its director Gerald Fleckert.

He offered a complimentary first lesson to anyone who had not skied before.

Ski courses of instruction for 10 weeks were offered and during the May school holidays there was a 10-day academy.

Skiing cost \$6 an hour for adults and \$4.50 for a child. Boots, skis and poles

could be hired for \$4.

The slope was open from 10am to 10.30 pm in winter and it had floodlights for night skiing. In summer weekdays it opened at 2.30pm.

The capacity of the slope was said to be 1200 people per day.

There was a plan to build a more difficult slope with moguls in a nearby gully, but this was never achieved. A café was headed by a genuine Swiss chef.

Besides Gerald who was a qualified instructor, The Ski Slope had eight other ski instructors and the national coach Andreas Hefti gave occasional expert classes.

Skiers were advised to wear long trousers or jeans and long sleeves, plus gloves.

The Bulletin is not sure when The Ski Slope closed, but from memory it was not open for long.



Four RSC families made the pilgrimage to the land of deep powder in January 2020 and were lucky enough to get the deepest powder day of the season in Niseko with over 1 metre of snow falling overnight! Burlings,, Moffats, Hunts and Couch families. Photos taken at Furano and Niseko.



The North Face. Overlooking the ski slopes at Grindelwald in Switzerland is the famous North Face of the Eiger. A mountain railway climbs right through the inside of the Eiger and in the middle of the scene above is a window where train passengers disembark to take in the view below. Photo: Alan Graham.



This little funicular at Isenfluh in Switzerland contains a notice in English which says it is licensed to carry "eight people or one cow". Photo: Alan Graham.

ACROSS THE SKIING WORLD

Champion tennis player Novak Djokovic says that as a child he liked skiing so much that at age 10 he had to make a choice between skiing and tennis.

"Skiing, it kind of runs in my veins. I come from a professional skier's family. My dad used to compete. My uncle, my aunts.

"For us, it's kind of normal to be on the slopes. I grew up on the mountain.

"I think skiing has affected the flexibility I feel of my ankles, my joints."

A Swiss canton has decided that skiing will be part of the school curriculum and there will be three obligatory snow sports days a year.

Canton Valais which includes Zermatt and Verbier will spend 2.7 million Swiss francs a year on the project which is set to start next winter.

Third year pupils (8 year-olds) and onwards will spend three of their school sports days skiing.

A Scottish aristocrat is selling 4000 acres of his estate to be developed into a ski and mountain tourism resort.

The Duke of Buccleuch, Richard Scott, will retain the remaining 79,000 acres of the estate including his home at Drumlanrig Castle.

The deal will include rights to minerals in the Lowther Hills, a gold-panning and skiing area, and Scotland's highest village Wanlockhead which is 600 metres above sea level.

The community trust which has bought the land will open bike trails and zip lines. The Lowther Hills Ski Club which has 300 members will be upgraded to create new runs to rival the bigger neighbouring ski areas Glencoe and Aviemore.

Karl Geiger of Germany won the 1000th World Cup ski jumping competition which was held at in Lahti (Finland) in March.

He jumped 130 metres with a powerful final leap to beat Stefan Kraft and Michael Hayboeck (both Austria).

The Finnish ski resort of Levi, forced by Covid-19 to close in March where normally it would run into May, has moved to save its record 2019-20 snowfall.

It used groomers to bulldoze 15,000 truckloads of the snow into large piles and then covered these with plastic covers and an industrial insulating fabric.

It expects to lose only 5-10 percent of the snow in summer and to put the rest back on the slopes in September.

Levi is in the north of Finland and is 150kms inside the Arctic Circle.

Norway's Aukland brothers, Jørgen and Anders, both Olympic medallists in cross-country skiing, have claimed a world record for the longest distance skied in one trip.

Held at home by Covid-19, they made 86 trips of 6km round a local lake for 516km in 48 hours, beating the old record of 513km set in 1983.

Shaun White, the US Snowboard star who has won three Olympic gold medals, has given up on his bid to compete in both the summer and winter Olympics.

If he goes for the gold again, it will be as a snowboarder in Beijing in 2022, not as a skateboarder next year in Tokyo.

White, now 33, came 13th in the skateboarding world championships in Brazil, but decided that skating could cut across his bid for a fourth snowboard medal.

*** Two Kiwis have competed in both the winter and summer Olympics. They are Madonna Harris (skiing and cycling) and Chris Nicholson (cycling and speed skating).

Last month the retired track cyclist Eddie Dawkins, who won an Olympic silver medal, said he may try to make an NZ bobsleigh team.

Professional ski patroller Bruce McEwen has entered the Guinness Book of World Records by taking 15 years to become the first person to ski in all 50 states of the USA.

To qualify he had to ski on natural snow and had to make at least 30 turns, something that was difficult in Florida which rarely has snow.

In Kansas he found his snow on the sloped hill of an irrigation ditch. It was tough, but he got his 30 turns.

German outdoor and ski clothing company Schöffel will introduce a heated ski suit. Its heating system uses one millimetre thin carbon nanotubes.

The system gives a constant temperature at different heating stages and during rest phases it switches to stand-by automatically.

The clothing is designed for a better performance of the wearer because warm muscles are more powerful and ensure stability at higher travel speeds.

It also prevents injuries better because warm muscles and joints are less injuryprone.

Mark McMorris (Canada) is now the most decorated snowboarder in the history of the Winter X Games.

He won the gold medal in the men's big air competition in the European X-Games in Norway, giving him 19 career X Games medals, one more than Shaun White (US).

McMorris, 26, resumed snowboard events after recovering from massive injuries when he hit a tree while riding backcountry with friends.

Steamboat Resort will become the third largest ski area in Colorado when 400 acres are added.

It will expand north toward Pioneer Ridge, an area boasting expert terrain with nearly 2000 feet of vertical.

The expansion will bring Steamboat's

skiable acres to 3320. That will put the resort behind only Vail Mountain (5317 acres) and Aspen Snowmass (3342 acres).

Swedish skier Stina Nilsson has given up her career as a cross-country champion and has switched to the winter biathlon, which is a mixture of skiing and rifle shooting.

In 108 World Cup starts Nilsson won 41 podium spots with 23 victories. She won seven world champs medals and five Olympic Winter Games medals.

A \$400 tourist attraction with shops, restaurants and the largest artificial (dry) ski slope in the world is proposed for the Afan Valley in Wales.

The resort would be built on a 325acre former forestry plantation. Planning includes 600 lodges and a 100-bed hotel.

Besides skiing other activities could include scuba diving, canoeing, surfing, off-road biking and quad biking, zipwires and indoor skydiving.

Off duty ski patrollers who were called out to an emergency at **Big White in Canada** were angry that a 19-year-old man was seriously injured when the resort was closed because of Covid-19.

The man was treated for a serious back injury. Another skier advised a fire crew that the teenager needed rescue.

Atomic Skis are launching the first ever e.Ski, a battery powered ski that aids the skier with climbing. It uses lightweight batteries and caterpillar tracks.

You can cover up to 40km of uphill at an average slope angle of 30 degrees.

The motor has three power modes: Eco, Trail and Boost. Most skiers prefer Boost.

Climbing skins are replaced by the cat tracks that mount to the base of the skis. The rolling tracks are removed at the top of your climb and fold neatly into your backpack.

PS: This item was posted on April 1st.



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

Club Items

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

PHONE NUMBERS

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

NEW MEMBERS COSTS

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

Name Badge (free to new members) \$12

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 May 1st 2020)

	Members Senior	18 years and over	\$54		
Members Teen		14-17 years	\$47		
	Members Junior	13 years and under	\$36		
	Members' children	7 years and under	\$28		
	Non-members	14 years and over	\$100		
	Non-members	13 years and under	\$67		
	Life Members		\$27		
	School group children		\$67		
	School group parents		\$89		
Off season rates (Chalet and Turoa)					
Members Senior and Junior					
Non-members Senior and Junior					

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.