

The Bulletin

RUAPEHU SKI CLUB

Volume 87, No. 1

March 2022



CONTENTS



Zoi Sadowski-Synnott (NZ) aged 20 won two medals, one gold and one silver, in women's snowboarding at the 2022 Olympic Winter Games in Beijing. Nico Porteous (NZ) aged 20 won a gold medal in the men's freeski halfpipe. Photo: FIS.

- 2 President's column
- 3 Ruapehu news
- 5 Ski season bookings
- 6 AGM notice
- 6 Committee 2022
- 6 House committee
- 7 X-Games wins
- 7 Allister Scott
- 8 Winter Olympic gold
- 10 Olympic medallists
- 13 Snow World Cup
- 14 Roadshow cancelled
- 14 Golden oldies
- 16 Ruapehu photo saga
- 17 RSC calendar
- 18 Pandemic issues
- 24 Remembering Roy
- 25 How I passed Q2
- 26 Bring them back
- 27 Tonga volcano
- 28 Zoi's family
- 30 World snow news
- 32 RSC info page

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Kia ora koutou, hello everyone.

With everyone able to travel around New Zealand again I hope everyone has had a good summer.

Where I live we had our hottest summer in a while, and likely our busiest summer in 10 or 20 years! I think after that second half of last year we were all looking forward to, and due, a bit of R&R.

While for most of us winter is a long way away, for Committee our thoughts are already turning to preparations for that season.

Significantly there is a lot of work needed on our buildings, so please do try and find the time to join a work party. We really need your help to maintain and improve our buildings.

There is another way you can contribute to the Club. The publishing of this Bulletin also signals the opening of nominations for Committee.

The last two years have been hard on us all, including Committee, and sadly over the last year a number have had to step down, while some of us have been on Committee for many years and are approaching the time we would normally step away.

That means that going forward we will be looking for at least four new Committee members this year.

Your Club is facing increasing pressures every year, from climate change, RAL's need for a better financial footing, increasing compliance costs and simply a changing world.

We need to be able to adapt to this new world we find ourselves in, and to do that we need to continue gaining new people on committee with new ideas and ways of looking at things.

We need a wide range of talents on Committee from all walks of life, building, industry, I.T., accountancy and law.

Every season around the dinner tables in our buildings there are passionate discussions around our future, so if you think you could contribute to steering your Club, please consider standing for Committee.

The process of nomination is explained elsewhere in this Bulletin, but please feel free to call (0275 47 44 55) or email (president@rsc.org.nz) me with any questions or for a chat around what being on Committee entails. All our Committee members would also be happy to talk to you about standing.

After 18 years on Committee I can honestly say that although there are frustrations there are also huge rewards and satisfactions in the things we achieve for the Club, even the simple things.

We have had our first preliminary look at where the books are at after our last season. In spite of having lost practically all our bookings (we fell to approximately a quarter of the bookings we aimed for) we will come out around something close to being financially neutral.

This is a fantastic result which wouldn't have been possible without your Committee who worked so hard all year to protect the Club, in all senses of the word. Thank you team, it has been a privilege and pleasure working with you!

Thank you also to all of you, our members, who paid your subs the last two years even without hope of seeing snow for some. Your commitment to RSC is what makes us such a fantastic Club.

Noho ora mai.

Phill Thomass
RSC President



How come this canine avoided the ban on dogs in Tongariro National Park? Answer: Archie is a trainee avalanche rescue dog. Photo: LSAR.

THROUGH THE LODGE WINDOW

Happy Valley is due to open on June 23rd. **Whakapapa's** upper mountain is scheduled to open on July 8th.

Turoa will follow on June 9th.

The Downhill Ski Club which had lodges at Whakapapa and National Park has gone into liquidation.

The club found it difficult to attract members to use the lodge on the National Downhill once the Downhill Chairlift was removed by RAL.

Covid-19 was a main factor in closing the National Park lodge.

Last year 2021 was officially New Zealand's hottest year on record, Niwa said.

NZ saw an average temperature of 13.56 degrees Celsius, almost an entire degree above the 1981-2010 average. Records began in 1908 and the previous hottest year was 2016.

All six main centres recorded above-

average temperatures. Auckland was the warmest, recording an average temperature of 16.5 degrees.

Dunedin was the coolest and driest, Wellington was the wettest and Tauranga was the sunniest.

A cluster of earthquakes occurred beneath Ruapehu's summit in January but all monitoring data indicated that volcanic unrest remained at minor levels. The volcanic alert level at Mt Ruapehu stayed at Level 1.

Geonet said there has been no observable response from other continuous monitoring data such as Crater Lake (Te Wai ā-moe) temperature, lake level or volcanic tremor.

Swedish tramper David Halberg and his fiancée were descending Mt Ngauruhoe in January when they found two rings in a box on the mountain.

The wedding and engagement rings were in a black and gray box that was hard to see in the gravel slide of the same colours.

The pair had climbed Ngauruhoe as part of a four day trek around the Northern Circuit and were descending the slide about

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



President: Phill Thomass

Vice-Presidents: Carl Burling,
Liza Fitzsimmons, Damon Forsyth,
Marion Quinn, Donald Webster

Secretary:

Treasurer: Sonia Quinn

Immediate Past President:

Richard Nelson

Captain: Catherine Gafa

Vice-Captain: Paula Cooper

Committee: Adrian Adriaansen,

Ron Bonfrer, Heather Chao,

Sam Hood, Richard Horton,

Simon Hunt, John Payne

Patron: Peter Brady

Patroness: Barbara Scelly

Auditors: Hart and Co

Admin Officer: Ceana Priest

Lodge Officer: Carl Burling

Hut Officer: Simon Hunt

Chalet Officer: Ron Bonfrer

Turoa Officer: Donald Webster

Heritage Fund Guardians: Robin

Dallas, Richard Nelson, Bernard

Smith, Phill Thomass

Fund Treasurer: Mike Wardle

Glacier Hut Custodian:

Bernard Smith

halfway down the mountain when they saw the box. One ring contained an enscription which may help identify the owner.

Ngauruhoe stood in for Mt Doom in the Lord of the Rings movies where a key moment was the throwing of a ring into a crater.

***Ryan Carr**, a shepherd from Queenstown, won the Goat run from Whakapapa to Tūroa via the Round the Mountain Track. Last summer he was second. This year his time was 2 hours 2 minutes and 18 seconds.*

*The fastest woman was 18-year-old **Maia Flint** who was 20th overall in 2 hours 37 minutes 48 seconds.*

All told 560 runners contested the race.

**** The Ring of Fire and the Tussock Traverse trail events scheduled for March were cancelled due to Covid-19 red light restrictions.*

AJ Hackett and Chris Allum, who organised the world's first commercial bungy jump in 1988 at the Hapuawhenua Viaduct near Ohakune, have visited the scene for the first time in 30 years.

The pair had started a business next to the Ohakune railway station to promote monoskiing, mountain biking, speed skiing, parapenting and snowboarding, along with bungy jumping.

On the first day of commercial bungy in September 1988, approx 45 people paid to jump. It is estimated that 4 million people have paid to bungy jump since then.

The bungy site closed in 1990 due to competition in Taupo. It reopened in 1992 before closing for good in 1993.

*The deadline for the June Bulletin will be **Friday May 13th**.*

All items should be with the Editor in Wellington by that date.

THE BULLETIN

Founded in 1936 by Jock and Fizzie Graham.

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

Telephone: 04-476 4598.

Email: alanjograham@xtra.co.nz

Advertising: admin@rsc.org.nz or 09 377 3856

RSC BUNK BOOKINGS

Winter Bookings 2022.

Bookings for the 2022 ski season will open on May 1st. Any bookings before then will not be confirmed or processed until later in the month. As in past years all bookings should be confirmed by the last week in May.

Your bookings will be confirmed as soon as possible after receiving your request, as long as subscriptions for all those on the booking have been paid and there are sufficient funds in your deposit account to cover the requested accommodation.

The actual bunk authority with bunk numbers will not be sent until 48 hours prior to the first night booked.

This has shown that we can better manage the allocation of bunks, after the cancellations have been processed.

Please ensure you have your bunk authority with you, even if on your mobile device.

School holiday bookings.

Due to the usual high demands for school holiday bookings, preference will be given to members who have completed an extra work party this season.

If the number who have done an extra work party and therefore qualify for a priority exceeds the accommodation available, a ballot may be held. If there are any remaining bunks these may also be balloted.

Any bunks available after June 10th may be booked for shorter stays.

Preference is given during school holiday weeks for member families with school aged children.

Bookings may not be for more than seven nights at the upper level and any extra nights maybe reallocated to the Chalet.

Bookings with guests.

Our booking rules state that non-members guests are not able to have their accommodation confirmed until two weeks prior to staying. This has meant in some cases that members have not wanted to make bookings with such short lead times.

Where possible these bookings can be confirmed at the Chalet and then once the two week period comes up and there is space at the upper mountain we will endeavour to move the booking to the Hut or Lodge.

Cancellation Policy.

All bookings are in effect from noon on the day of the first night of residence until noon of the day following the last night of residence.

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

A cancellation fee will apply to all cancellations regardless of notice unless done through the website. The cancellation fee is \$5.00, and all alterations to bookings will incur this administration fee per person affected, irrespective of the date of alteration. School holiday cancellations have a two week cancellation time-as per the booking rules.

Subscriptions.

These will again be emailed or posted at the end of March for payment in April. Please remember to contact us if you have changed your email or postal contact.

AGM NOTICE

Nominations for the RSC Committee will close on April 14th ahead of our AGM on June 15th.

The venue will once again be the Royal NZ Yacht Squadron at Westhaven.

Nomination and proxy forms are available to download from Club documents on the website.

Any Notices of Motion must be with the Secretary (email to the Administration Officer) by April 28th.

COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

It is that time of the year again when we call for nominations for the Committee.

We have had in the past couple of years only met our minimum required numbers for the Committee and we always welcome new faces.

To be eligible to stand as a Committee member, to nominate or second someone for the Committee you must be a senior member of the Club, must be financial and must be eligible as per section 15 of the Constitution (available on the website for more details. Nomination and Election).

Nomination forms can be obtained from the website - look under Club documents.

Nominations close on April 14th.

Please forward the completed nomination form to the Administration Officer (admin@rsc.org.nz) by this date.

Nominations can be emailed in as a PDF but **must be signed by the proposer, seconder and candidate** who must also give a short summary of why they want to be on the Committee.

Being a Committee member requires some commitment from the person

nominated. Committee meetings are usually held **via zoom the second Tuesday** of every **month except for January**. The May and **November meetings** are held at the mountain and **will be in the weekend** closest to the **second Tuesday** of the month.

The type of work on the Committee is wide ranging so if you have building skills, financial abilities, house-keeping skills, an interest in ski activities, legal expertise, marketing or good old plain common sense, then please look to stand.

In order to facilitate our communications with you, or you with us, please make sure that your current email address is the one we have. A quick email to the Admin Officer if you have made changes in the last couple of years would be appreciated.

HOUSE COMMITTEE

This is the time of year for HC to work on stores lists and any housekeeping matters that may have arisen over the previous season.

If any members have noticed something in this area that requires attention eg vacuum cleaners not working, curtains with broken hooks, or a food item that you consider should be a staple – please let the Administration Officer know and it will be passed on.

Work parties are how we prepare our buildings for the season. Whether it is a grand construction or counting the cutlery, we need you.

This is a great way to meet other members and appreciate the mountain in its other persona.

Please sign up and be part of keeping our Club running. Work party dates are elsewhere in this Bulletin.

ZOI X-GAMES DOUBLE

Wānaka snowboarder Zoi Sadowski-Synnott won both the slopestyle gold medal and the big air gold medal at the Winter X Games in Aspen (Colorado).

In her second slopestyle run she landed her frontside double 1080 into her backside double 1080, becoming the first woman to land this combination in competition.

Two-time Winter Olympic slopestyle gold medallist Jamie Anderson (USA) was second.

Next Zoi won the big air with a backside 1080 and a backside 1260 to claim her first gold in that discipline, having taken silver in 2019 and bronze last year. Jamie Anderson again was second.

Sadowski-Synnott was named the best athlete at the 2022 winter X-Games.

She said she was stoked to win the award, and also praised Nico Porteous for having what she called the best performance of his life.

NICO WINS X-GAMES

Nico Porteous (NZ) has defended his X Games freeski halfpipe crown, winning gold for the second year running thanks to a thrilling and faultless final run.

Porteous was in third place as he started the last run of the competition but delivered under pressure with double 1620s to either side and a switch 1440.

Miguel Porteous (NZ) was seventh and **Ben Harrington (NZ)** was eighth.

*** Scotty James (Australia) won the men's snowboard halfpipe gold medal.

HALL WINS SILVER

Adam Hall (NZ) won the silver medal in the slalom (standing) race in the world para skiing championships at Lillehammer (Norway).

Arthur Bauchet (France) took the gold medal, maintaining a convincing lead right from the start.

Corey Peters (NZ) finished fourth in his giant slalom (sitting) race. The conditions were challenging, with heavy snow falling throughout the second run.

Aaron Ewen (NZ) finished seventh in the downhill (sitting).

The trio will now contest the Winter Paralympics at Beijing.



ALLISTER SCOTT

Allister Scott, who has died at Auckland, was the RSC Club Captain in 1978-81.

Allister and his wife the late Moira were regular attendees at Winter Party and were prominent at many RSC activities.

Their son David was also an RSC Committee man and after winning many Club championships represented NZ in speed skiing at the Olympic Winter Games.

We extend the Club's condolences to David and Martin and their families.

OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES ZOI WINS TWO MEDALS

Zoi Sadowski-Synnott became the first New Zealander ever to win a gold medal at the Olympic Winter Games when she won the snowboard slopestyle at Beijing 2022.

She was in the lead after one run, then dropped to second in the next run, but as the top qualifier she was last to compete on the third run.

Guaranteed at least a silver medal, the 20 year-old had a wonderful last run to win.

Julia Marino (US) won the silver medal while Tess Coady (Australia) was third.

The two times champion in his event, Jamie Anderson (US) aged 31, finished ninth.

Marino was ahead after two runs but crashed on her third run and could not improve her score.

Zoi then nailed the gold medal with back-to-back 1080s in her near-perfect final run. The air she achieved on her last jump was greater than anything seen later in the day during the men's qualifiers on the same course.

It was a watershed moment for NZ sport. After sending 141 athletes to 16 Winter Olympics since 1952, they finally struck gold.

"I'm super proud of where my snowboarding has come in the last few years. And I'm super proud to be Kiwi and show the world what Kiwis are made of," Zoi said.

It was Waitangi Day at home and her family watched the performance from an Olympics fan zone set up by Snow Sports NZ in Wanaka.

Zoi is coached by Sean Thompson.

Zoi Sadowski-Synnott (NZ) followed

up with a silver medal in the women's big air. This added to her bronze medal in the same event four years ago.

She qualified in first place and in the final she was in first place with one jump to go.

Then the defending champion Anna Gasser (Austria) won the gold medal with a brilliant third run which Zoi could not equal or surpass. Kokomo Murase (Japan) was third.

Zoi now has a complete set of Olympic medals, gold, silver and bronze. She said she aims to compete again in the next Olympics at Cortina d'Ampezzo in 2026.

Zoi's teammate Cool Wakushima was injured during the slopestyle and did not contest the big air.

NICO WINS GOLD MEDAL

Nico Porteous (NZ) won a gold medal in the men's freeski halfpipe.

The 20 year-old from Wanaka, who won a bronze medal in this event at the previous Olympics, stormed to victory with back-to-back double cork 1620s (four-and-a-half full rotations).

After 70 years of no New Zealand gold at the Winter Olympics, there were two in 13 days in China.

Nico's elder brother, 22-year-old Miguel, made the final and finished 11th at his second Olympics. He was alongside Nico at the finish when he clinched gold.

The New Zealand contingent at Zhangjiakou's Genting Snow Park paid tribute to Porteous by performing a celebratory haka on the snow.

Nico scored 93.00 on his first jump and was never headed. Two-time halfpipe champion David Wise (US) was second with 90.75 and Alex Ferreira (US) won bronze with 86.75.

Wise crashed on his second run and another highly ranked skier Aaron Blunck (US) also crashed heavily.

Porteous is New Zealand's youngest individual Olympic champion. Only 17-year-old Simon Dickie, the cox of the men's rowing four who won gold in Mexico in 1968, has claimed Olympic gold at a younger age.

A British newspaper noted that only 12 of the 91 nations competing at Beijing won more gold medals than two Kiwi athletes from Wanaka.

"We both come from a town of 10 thousand people and skiing and snowboarding are our passion. We just absolutely love it," Porteous said.

Alice Robinson (NZ) had a disappointing Olympics in alpine skiing.

In the GS she messed up the early gates, lost a lot of time, and was 22nd. In the SG she started well but crashed heavily in mid-race.

Alice then raced in the high speed downhill, finishing 25th.

NZ RESULTS AT BEIJING

Snowboarding

Zoi Sadowski-Synnott: GOLD MEDAL in snowboard slopestyle. SILVER MEDAL in big air.

Cool Wakushima: 23rd in women's snowboard slopestyle. Injured and did not contest big air.

Tiarn Collins: 18th in men's snowboard slopestyle. 23rd in snowboard big air.

Skiing

Nico Porteous GOLD MEDAL in freeski halfpipe.

Miguel Porteous 11th in freeski halfpipe.

Ben Harrington 13th in freeski halfpipe.

Gustav Legnavsky 19th in freeski

halfpipe.

Chloe McMillan 18th in women's freeski halfpipe.

Anja Barugh 19th in women's freeski halfpipe.

Alice Robinson: 22nd in alpine skiing GS. Did not finish super-g. 25th in downhill.

Margaux Hackett: 16th in women's freeski slopestyle. 22nd in freeski big air.

Ben Barclay: 10th in freeski slopestyle. 16th in freeski big air.

Finn Bilous: 15th in freeski slopestyle. 18th in freeski big air.

Biathlon

Campbell Wright: 32nd in 20km. 75th in 10km sprint.

Speed skating

Peter Michael: 26th in 1500m. 12th in 10 km. 17th in mass start.

NZ OLYMPIC MEDALS

NZ athletes have now won six medals at the Olympic Winter Games.

1992: Annelise Coberger (alpine skiing) silver in women's slalom in Albertville, France.

2018: Zoi Sadowski-Synnott (snowboarding) bronze in women's big air in PyeongChang, South Korea.

2018: Nico Porteous (freeskiing) bronze in men's halfpipe in PyeongChang, South Korea.

2022: Zoi Sadowski-Synnott (snowboarding) gold in women's slopestyle in Beijing, China.

2022: Zoi Sadowski-Synnott (snowboarding) silver in women's big air in Beijing, China.

2022: Nico Porteous (freeskiing) gold in men's halfpipe at Beijing, China.

OLYMPIC MEDALISTS

Men's downhill

Beat Feux (Switzerland)	1.42.69
Johan Clary (France)	1.42.79
Matthias Mayer (Austria)	1.42.85

Men's super-g

Matthias Mayer (Austria)	1.14.94
Ryan Cochran-Siegle (US)	1.15.98
A A Kilde (Norwa)	1.20.36

Men's combined

Johannes Strolz (Austria)	2.31.43
A A Kilde (Norway)	2.32.02
James Crawford (Canada)	2.32.11

Men's GS

Marco Odermatt (Switz)	2.09.35
Zan Kranjec (Slovenia)	2.09.54
Mathieu Faivre (France)	2.10.69

Men's slalom

Clement Noel (France)	1.44.09
Johannes Strolz (Austria)	1.44.70
Seb Foss-Solevaag (Norway)	1.44.79

Men's snowboard slopestyle

Max Parrot (Canada)	90.96
Su Yuming (China)	88.70
Mark McMorris (Canada)	88.53

Men's snowboard big air

Su Yming (China)	182.50
Mons Roisland (Norway)	171.75
Max Parrot (Canada)	170.25

Men's freeski halfpipe

Nico Porteous (NZ)	93.00
David Wise (US)	90.75
Alex Ferriera (US)	88.75

Men's freeski slopestyle

Alexander Hall (US)	90.01
Nicholas Goepper (US)	86.48
Jasper Tjader (Sweden)	85.48

Men's freeski big air

Birk Ruud (Norway)	187.75
Colby Stevenson (US)	183.00
Henrik Harlaut (Sweden)	181.00

Women's downhill

Corrinne Suter (Switz)	1.31.87
Sofia Goggia (Italy)	1.32.03
Nadia Delago (Italy)	1.32.44

Women's super-g

Lara Gut Behrami (Switz)	1.13.51
Mirjam Puchner (Austria)	1.13.73
Michelle Gisin (Switz)	1.13.51

Women's combined

Michelle Gisin (Switz)	2.25.67
Wendy Holdener (Switz)	2.26.72
Federica Brignone (Italy)	2.27.52

Women's GS

Sara Hector (Sweden)	1.55.69
Federica Brignone (Italy)	1.55.97
Lara Gut-Behrami (Switz)	1.56.41

Women's slalom

Petra Vhlova (Slovakia)	1.44.98
Kath Liensberger (Austria)	1.45.06
Wendy Holdener (Switz)	1.45.10

Women's snowboard slopestyle

Zoi Sadowski-Synnott (NZ)	92.88
Julia Marino (US)	87.68
Tess Coady (Australia)	84.15

Women's snowboard big air

Anna Gasser (Austria)	85.50
Zoi Sadowski-Synnott (NZ)	177.00
Kokomo Murase (Japan)	171.50

Women's freeski halfpipe

Ailing Eileen Gu (China)	95.25
Cassie Sharpe (Canada)	90.75
Rachel Karker (Canada)	87.75

Women's freeski slopestyle

Matilde Gremond (Switz)	86.50
Ailing Eileen Gu (China)	86.25
Kelly Sildaru (Estonia)	82.00

Women's freeski big air

Ailing Eileen Gu (China)	188.24
Tess Ledeux (France)	187.50
Mathilde Gremaud (Switz)	182.50

OLYMPIC SIDELIGHTS

Beat Feux (Switzerland) won the blue riband event, the men's downhill. He was one tenth of a second ahead of **Johan Clarey (France)** who became the oldest Olympic medallist in alpine skiing, aged 41 years and 29 days.

Switzerland won five of the 10 individual alpine skiing races. The Swiss also came first and second in the skier cross.

All told Norway with 16 gold medals was the most successful nation, followed by Germany with 11 and China with 9.

Australia won four medals including gold to Jakara Anthony in the women's freeski moguls. Australia has now won six Winter Olympic gold medals.

Ailing Eileen Gu (China) lived up to massive expectations to win the both the freeeeski big air and the freeski halfpipe, as well as winning a silver medal in the freeski slopesyle. Gu told reporters that she ate meat pies every day for two months while training at Cardrona and now bakes her own meat pies.

The Beijing Olympics were the first to rely completely on artificial snow. This was the culmination of a six-year effort to turn Zhangjiakou into China's version of the Alps, creating an upscale winter holiday destination in the hopes of lifting an agricultural region out of poverty.

Ester Ledecka (Czech), who four years ago won gold in two sports, snowboard racing and alpine skiing, was at it again. This time she won gold in the snowboard parallel GS and

then came fourth in the alpine skiing combined and fifth in the super-g.

Dutch speed skater Ireen Wust became the first summer or winter Olympian to win an individual gold medal at a fifth separate Games. She now has six Olympic gold medals, five silver and one bronze.

Shaun White aged 35, an American snowboarding icon and triple Olympic champion, known as the Flying Tomato, finished fourth in the halfpipe. Ayumu Hirano (Japan) was first and Scotty James (Australia) won silver.

Nick Baumgartner (US) aged 40 in his fourth Olympics finally won a medal, a gold in the snowboard cross mixed team relay. **Lindsey Jacobellis (US)** won two gold medals, one in the snowboard cross singles and one in the mixed team relay. She is the athlete who once lost a gold medal by showboating short of the finish line and falling.

Marte Olsbu Roiesland (Norway) won three gold medals and two bronze medals in the winter biathlon, which is a mixture of cross-country skiing and rifle shooting.

Mikaela Shiffrin (US), who has won 73 alpine skiing World Cup races, was out of form at Beijing. She contested six races including the team parallel GS but won no medals.

Did you hear the Aussie commentators referring to ski sticks (poles) as "stocks"?

That is a common term used in Australia, but maybe not anywhere else in the world.



Upper: Zoi Sadowski-Synnott jumps to win the gold medal in the snowboard slopestyle at the Olympic Winter Games. Photo: FIS. **Lower:** Nico Porteous wins the freeski halfpipe gold medal. Photo: FIS.

WORLD CUP SKIING

WONDERFUL KIWI SKI RESULT

This was a great day for NZ skiing.

In a World Cup freeski halfpipe event at Mammoth Mountain in California, elimination runs for 34 entrants resulted in **four** NZ skiers going through to the 12-man final.

In the final **Nico Porteous** was first (gold medal), **Miguel Porteous** was fifth, **Ben Harrington** was sixth and teenager **Gustav Legnavsky** was eighth.

Nico's main rival Alex Ferreira (US) fell on his first hit in both of his qualification runs to finish last in 34th place.

Nico Porteous (NZ) won a silver medal in the opening freestyle skiing halfpipe World Cup event at Copper Mountain (Colorado). He qualified in first place but was narrowly beaten in the final by Alex Ferreira (US).

Miguel Porteous (NZ) finished 13th while **Ben Harrington (NZ)** was 14th and **Gustav Legnavsky (NZ)** was 20th.

Ben Harrington (NZ) was 12th and seventh in two halfpipe events at Calgary (Canada). The Porteous brothers did not start after contracting Covid-19. Gustav Legnavsky (NZ) was 13th in one event.

Ben Barclay (NZ) aged 19 came a career best second in a freeski slopestyle World Cup event at Font Romeu (France). Earlier he was seventh and 18th in two big air contests.

Margaux Hackett (NZ) was 15th in the women's slopestyle at Font Romeu.

Alice Robinson (NZ), after missing two races at Christmas due to Covid-19, failed to finish an alpine World Cup giant slalom at Lienz (Australia).

She was fifth after the first run but straddled the fourth to last gate on the second run when heading for a fast time.

BEST EVER: Alice Robinson came fourth in an alpine skiing World Cup super-g at St Moritz (Switzerland), missing the podium by just 0.09 seconds. This is her second discipline and she has not raced it regularly.

Alice Robinson then finished seventh in an alpine skiing World Cup super-g at Zauchensee (Austria) and finished ninth in another World Cup super-g at Cortina d'Ampezzo (Italy).

SNOWBOARDING

Zoi Sadowski-Synnott (NZ) won the silver medal in a snowboard slopestyle World Cup contest at Mammoth Mountain (US) in January. She was narrowly beaten by veteran Jamie Anderson (US). **Cool Wakushima (NZ)** was 15th.

Tiarn Collins (NZ) was third in the men's snowboard slopestyle.

Cool Wakushima (NZ) achieved a career best result when she finished in fifth in a slopestyle World Cup at Laax (Switzerland). Zoi did not enter. Tiarn Collins was 11th in the men's slopestyle.

Cool Wakushima was 18th in a women's snowboard World Cup big air at Steamboat (US) and 10th in a snowboard slopestyle event at Calgary (Canada). Tiarn Collins was 16th in the men's snowboard.

ROADSHOW CANCELLED

RAL cancelled its planned roadshow, due to the new Covid-19 rules.

Meetings were scheduled for February in Wellington, Ohakune, Taupō, Hamilton and Auckland.

RAL hopes to reinstate the meetings before its AGM in May.

The company said it qualified for the wage subsidy and also had relief from paying the DOC licence fees.

OLD GOLD CHALLENGE

Mike Lowery has sent the Bulletin a detailed treatise which says older sports athletes are challenging age stereotypes.

It says the stereotype of action sports as the domain of the young and the cool is long out of date.

The demographics of these sports - surfing, skateboarding, snowboarding, climbing, mountain biking - have been expanding to include more girls and women, queer and non-binary people and older participants.

These demographic and cultural shifts have been highlighted recently by the remarkable achievements and career highlights of some of these sports' greatest exponents.

Legendary American surfer Kelly Slater won the prestigious Pipeline contest in Hawaii, a few days shy of his 50th birthday.

US snowboarder Lindsey Jacobellis won the Olympic snowboard cross gold medal at the age of 36.

In 2018, professional skateboarder Tony Hawk, perhaps the most recognised

skateboarder of all time, celebrated his 50th birthday by releasing his "50 tricks at age 50" video.

OTURERE HUT REBUILD

Oturere hut, on the eastern side of the Northern Circuit in Tongariro National Park, is to be rebuilt.

DoC has decided that the 51-year-old hut is not up to Great Walks standard. It is planned to start work in March 2023.

The new hut will sleep 30, up from the current 26. It is to have solar panels, LED lighting and a sheltered deck.

Oturere Hut lies in the shadow of Ngauruhoe and is a waypoint on the Tongariro Northern Circuit.

Perhaps the best access is from the Desert Road, on the track to Waihohonu Hut, then north along the poled route that leads across high, barren ground to the Oturere Valley.

The hut makes an excellent base from which to explore the nearby waterfalls and lava formations of the valley.

Access to Oturere Hut from the Waihohonu car park is three hours. Snowshoes and/or crampons and ice-axe may be necessary in winter.

SNOW RECYCLED

A new study in Colorado says that 80 percent of the water used in snowmaking returns to the watershed when the snow melts in the spring. The rest is lost through evaporation.

The study says snowmaking in Colorado diverts 1.5 billion gallons (6.8 billion litres) of water per year.

It sounds like a lot, but snowmaking accounts for less than one-tenth of 1 percent of the water that is diverted in the state, with agriculture drawing 85 percent.



Upper: Bumps and jumps in Turoa's terrain park. **Lower:** Our ancestors gave the name *Gliding Gladys* to this slope at Turoa. Photos: RAL.

RUAPEHU PHOTO SAGA

Craig Andrew Madsen of Ruapehu Photography woke up before sunrise every single day last year (2021) and took a photograph of Mt Ruapehu.

The project is named Te Ata Pūao, which translates to The Early Dawn or First Light.

He began by travelling each day from Ohakune to Waiouru, where he would be taking the photographs. Madsen and his family then sold their house in Ohakune and moved to Waiouru.

First light on the lower slopes was chosen as the best time to get the photo each day, providing good light and shape from where the photographs would be taken. That meant 4am starts every day.

After 366 days, 1100km of hiking and 36,000m of climbing, Madsen's mission was finished.

ATHLETE SNOW DEVICE

A small piece of cutting edge wearable technology helped the NZ team on their efforts to win medals at the Olympic Winter Games.

They utilised an inertial measuring unit (IMU) in their training, which provides a raft of useful, objective data for their coaches.

In 2014, Snow Sports NZ and High Performance Sports NZ got together and identified the need for greater objective measures on the snow.

The result has been the smart device which functions like a complicated Fitbit and is worn on the front of an athlete's hip while training.

The data is specifically designed for the slopestyle and big air snowboard

events and monitors the stress on the athletes' bodies to ensure they remain fit and healthy.

While athletes are able to access the information, it is predominantly a tool for coaches.

KEA MAKES STAR VIDEO

TV in NZ in February showed a wonderful video made by a kea which stole a GoPro camera from a tourist family on a balcony at the Kepler Track in Fiordland and took it on an 8 minute ride.

The video shows the family watching on in the background and some stunning mid-flight backdrops of Fiordland National Park.

The original unedited footage was 8 minutes long. The public version was edited down to 2 minutes of highlights.

The kea flew several kilometres towards the mountains before flying back and the camera was found 300 metres from the hut on some rocks. The family was able to track the kea because it was very vocal.

HOTTER GOLD MEDAL

Ohakune freeride skier Jess Hotter won the gold medal in a freeride World Tour event in Andorra. Hotter linked several large airs with flawless skiing.

Hotter then came second in her next event at Kicking Horse (Canada).

Freeride competition includes extreme skiing on steep slopes, with drops off cliffs where the athletes choose their own line between the start and the finish.

Freeride is not an Olympic discipline.

RSC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mar 2022	12-13	Tongariro Alpine Crossing
	19-20	Working parties
Apr 2022	1-2	Waihothonu Hut walk
	15-16	Working parties (Easter, truck weekend)
May 2022	1	RSC ski season bookings open
	7	T42 trail run, bike, walk
	21-22	Working parties
June 2022	15	RSC AGM at Auckland
	23	Ski season opens (Happy Valley)
	18-19	Working parties
July 2022	8	Whakapapa ski season opens (upper mountain).
	9	Turoa opens
	9-24	School holidays
Aug 2022	13	Christiania Derby
	15-19	Club Week
	20	Haensli Cup
	29-Sept 1	NIPS week one Year 1-6
Sept 2022	3	Rangatira Trophy
	12-15	NIPS week two Year 7-8
	17	Ngauruhoe Trophy
	19-20	NI secondary school champs
Oct 2022	1	RSC Club Champs
	1-6	School holidays

NEW MEMBERS

RSC welcomes these new members:

Senior

Nanette Wood (Taupo)

Junior

Amelie Wood (Taupo)

Aurelia Wood (Taupo)

MEXICAN CABLEWAY

Skifield technology is being used in Mexico to carry 1000 tonnes of crushed iron ore per hour to a processing facility 1.3 kilometres away.

It is cheaper and safer than using

trucks to transport the ore 380 metres down the very steep mountain.

There is a bonus benefit. The system generates electricity through regenerative braking, the way electric vehicles and flywheels do.

Cableways for mines are hardly new and have been used in NZ at places like Denniston and Meremere.

This one, however, has been built by the Doppelmayr Garaventa Group, an Austrian ropeway company that makes gondola lifts, T-bars, chairlifts and cable cars.

PANDEMIC ISSUES

NZ ended the four-level Covid-19 pandemic control system at the start of December and moved to the less intrusive “traffic light” system.

Half of the country including Auckland initially started at red with everyone else on orange and no one on green.

This enabled RAL to reopen the Sky Waka gondola at Whakapapa on December 3rd as scheduled, even though Ruapehu District was in red.

All of NZ except Northland then moved to orange on December 31st.

Next, all of NZ moved to traffic light code red on January 24th after the Omicron variety spread around the country. The Prime Minister postponed her wedding as a result.

Worldwide 410 million people have contracted Covid-19, and there have been 6 million deaths.

In NZ 19,500 people have tested positive, and there have been 55 deaths.

Alpine skier Alice Robinson (NZ) missed two World Cup giant slalom races and one super-g start after contracting Covid-19 before Christmas. She said she contracted the virus in Italy but was feeling well and was racing again soon after.

Swiss skier Lara Gut-Behrami contracted Covid-19 at about the same time and two weeks later **US star Mikaela Shiffrin** also tested positive.

Three of New Zealand’s top snowsport athletes tested positive for Covid-19 in Canada at the end of December

Zoi Sadowski-Synnott, Nico Porteous and his older brother Miguel caught the virus when preparing for World Cup events in Calgary. The trio reported mild symptoms and were competing again within three weeks.

An Auckland lawyer, 26, who pleaded guilty to breaching lockdown rules to travel from Auckland to ski at Wānaka, was discharged without conviction if she paid \$500 to charity.

Her male partner was convicted and fined \$750.

A court was told they got through the Auckland-Waikato checkpoint unlawfully by using essential worker exemptions and saying they were delivering hay.

They drove to Hamilton Airport, took a commercial flight to Queenstown via Wellington, rented a vehicle and drove to a holiday home in Wānaka.

Switzerland in December became the first country to ease travel restrictions imposed after the world first learned of the new Omicron virus variant.

The Swiss government ended the 10-day quarantine requirement it had placed on some foreign visitors.

But visitors faced more Covid-19 testing and mask-wearing, and additional places required clients to show their vaccination passport.

Austria and Germany are seeing a disappointing season, but in Switzerland visitor numbers are exceeding pre-pandemic levels.

International guests from France, the United Kingdom, Germany and the United States visited Zermatt over Christmas and New Year.

Jungfrau Railways around Grindelwald and Wengen called it the best start to the winter season in 10 years.

Chinese organizers said a total of 97,000 spectators attended medal events at the Beijing Winter Olympics. That is less than two-thirds of the 150,000 predicted on the eve of the Games. Spectators were banned at many events.



Riding the Sky Waka gondola at Whakapapa. It carries up to 2400 people an hour on a 1800 metre ride. Photos: RAL.



Secondary schools ski racing at Whakapapa.



More secondary schools competitions.



School snowboard competitions at Turoa.



More snowboard events at Turoa.



The Roy Turner Memorial Playground is opened at National Park. Photo: Lisa Jaggi.

REMEMBERING ROY

Roy Turner, known usually as Scruffy for his shambolic appearance, was quite a character at Whakakapa skifield in the 1950s and beyond.

Born in England he came to New Zealand as a ski instructor and found work at Whakapapa.

Then in 1958 he built for the Manawatu Tramping Club a 200 metre rope tow that was gentle at first and then quite steep for the top 100 metres.

Next year he used a flying fox to transport materials from road end to the National Downhill where he established Ski Enterprises Ltd and built a full length 1 km Hamilton nutcracker rope tow.

For several years Roy then ran a massive war with RAL, the Park Board, the electricity people, the local council, and others.

At one stage he unsuccessfully petitioned

Parliament, asking it to abolish RAL. He was much loved by some, and castigated by others.

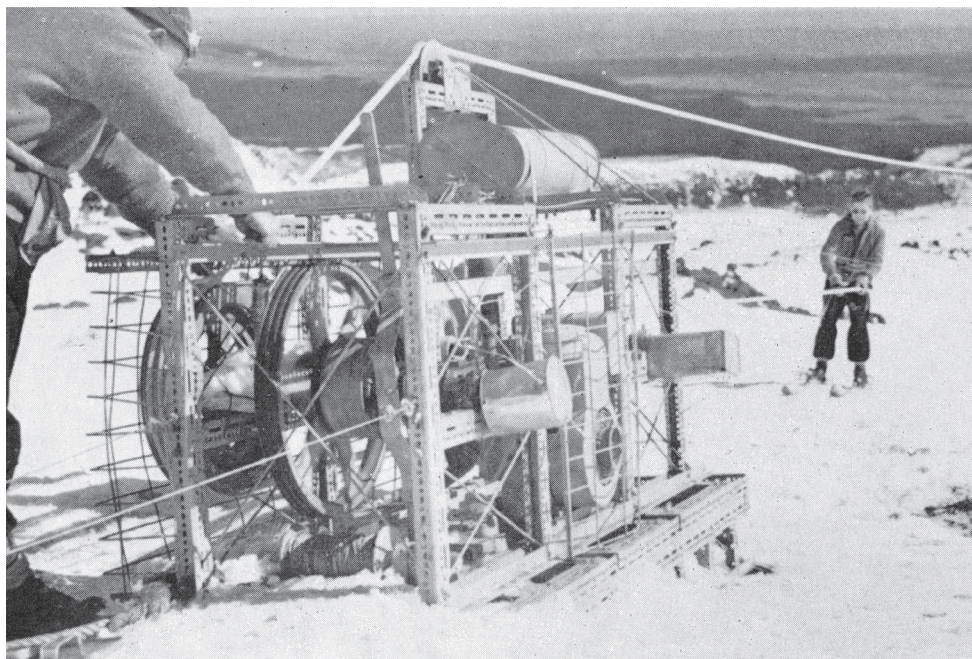
Roy eventually quit the Downhill over plans by his new partners to expand the operation, and he set up his ski shop in National Park Village that is still there today.

Scruffy got into flying through a neighbour Marshall Gebbie who operated the Buttercup Lodge at National Park. Roy's wife was also a pilot.

Roy died in 1983 when he and his wife and two children disappeared in a light aircraft which Roy was flying from Lake Tekapo to Fox Glacier in the South Island.

No trace of them has ever been found despite wide searches.

**** In 1965 Roy drove a Landrover which came round to pick up half a dozen of us who had skied from the crater down to Tukino Village.



Roy Turner works on his first rope tow at Whakapapa. Photo: Manawatu Tramping Club.

HOW I PASSED Q2

RSC'S list of Q2 ski test passes for 1958 contains some fine names.

There are Barry Winter, Julien Temm, Stan Blakely, Gill McComish. Jacky McComish, Anne Mail, Mary-Pat Gamble, Jim Frankham and Graham Alpe.

And me!

So how did I manage to join such a fine group?

My aim that year was to pass the easiest test, known as T3, as I had failed it the previous year. The aim was successful and I was happy.

Then one morning at 8am two young men from another club, one of whom I knew, came into the RSC Lodge and said they wanted to sit the Q2 test. They had lined up two judges, but they would judge only if there were four or more candidates.

So, they asked, is there anyone here who has T3 and would like to have a shot at Q2?

I was in, and so was another lad. Then we learned the names of the high profile judges and the unusual venue for the tests.

The judges were the veteran Hudson (Hud) Salter, who was the chief test judge for all Ruapehu clubs, and Roy Turner, an English-born ski instructor known widely as Scruffy because of his large straggly beard.

The venue was to be a new 200 metre quite steep rope tow that Roy had just built for the Manawatu Tramping Club next to its lodge well down Whakapapa.

We all turned up. The two young men easily passed. Candidate No 4 failed. I passed three of the five parts of the test, even though I had not practised them.

Then Hud and Roy very kindly said: "Go away and practise for two days. Come back here at noon and we will rejudge the two missing bits."

I practised, and I passed.



The 1936 NZ interdominion ski team. Five were RSC members. From left: Dot Jackson, Sandy Wigley, Pat Murphy, Brian Murphy, Joyce Beale, Harry Wigley, Joan Murphy, Brian McMillan. Photo: Weekly News.

BRING THEM BACK

OPINION, BY ALAN GRAHAM

I would really like skiing in Australia and New Zealand to bring back the interdominion alpine skiing contests that were popular in the 1930s to the 1960s.

Over the years 10 interdoms were held, with each country fielding four to six men and four women. There were always two contests, one for men and one for women.

The first interdom was held at Whakapapa in 1936. Then came 1937 at Charlotte's Pass (NSW), 1949 at Whakapapa, 1951 at Falls Creek (Victoria), 1954 at Coronet Peak, 1957 at Mt Hotham (Victoria), 1958 at Whakapapa, 1961 at Thredbo (NSW), 1965 at Coronet Peak and 1969 at Falls Creek.

The NZ women had seven wins and Australia had three.

The NZ men had four wins and Australia had six.

Reading the NZ Ski Year Book from days past it is clear that skiers in both countries put the teamwork nature of the interdoms very high in their career memories.

The main feature of the interdoms was that the skiers had to curb their usual desire to go flat out to win in order to ensure that at least some team members reached the finish.

These days ski racers go solely for FIS events whereby the first three make the podium and the others mostly are nowhere.

I reported the 1965 interdom meeting at Coronet Peak and it was clear that the teams from both countries rated that event more highly than the NZ nationals held the previous week.

Footnote: In 1954 there was a move to have Canada included in the interdoms. It got bogged down in bureaucratic goings-on and the Canadians never arrived.

TONGA ERUPTION

A massive volcanic eruption near Tonga on January 15th was said to be the world's biggest eruption for 30 years.

The underwater Hunga-Tonga-Hunga-Ha'apai volcano erupted with a loud boom sending ash, steam and gas 30km into the air.

Large parts of Tonga were covered with ash and many villages were substantially destroyed.

Some were hit by a tsunami which also sank a dozen small boats in Northland marinas when it reached NZ with a 1 metre headwall.

The sonic boom was heard thousands of kilometres away by people across New Zealand.

GNS said it was very rare unusual for a volcanic eruption to be heard from such a large distance.

VOLCANIC HISTORY

Two extensive catalogues of historic volcanic activity covering observed volcanic activity since the 1830s at Ruapehu and Tongariro have been compiled by GNS Science.

The files are in CSV format, so are easy to use by everyone. These online digital data sets sit alongside the lengthy science reports that document how the data were collected and its limitations.

You can look at:

GNS Science – Ruapehu Science Report

GNS Science – Tongariro Science Report

Who uses this data?

To estimate risk, volcano researchers need to know how often, how big and where volcanic activity occurs. For example, they consider 'do eruptions

occur at regular intervals? Or do they occur in clusters separated by long periods of inactivity?'

Ruapehu was very active in 1895, 1910, 1944-1946, 1982, 1987-1990 and 1995-1996. The period from 1964 to 1995 was marked by near constant high levels of volcanic unrest and numerous small eruptions.

The Tongariro catalogue highlights that historic volcanic activity has originated from several vents on the Tongariro massif.

Vents at Te Maari were known to have been repeatedly active, but the real surprise in the catalogue is how active the Red Crater area was, especially in the late-1800s.

The catalogues were compiled after a painstaking analysis of datasets like old newspapers, parliamentary records as well as published and unpublished scientific reports.

The Ruapehu data set, with over 600 observations, shows that the activity is strongly clustered.

Data of historic activity at Tongariro showing that Red Crater had 29 reports of activity, more than scientists knew about before collating data.

SLALOM 100 YEARS

A commemorative ski race was held at Murren (Switzerland) in January to mark 100 years since world's first slalom was held on the same slope.

William Lunn (great grandson of Sir Arnold Lunn) and slalom queen Erika Hess (41 world titles) unveiled a tribute to Sir Arnold who created the slalom.

William said his great grandfather operated despite opposition from Scandinavian skiers who considered the British too cowardly to jump and too weak to langlauf.

ZOI'S FAMILY

NZ snowboarding star Zoi Sadowski-Synnott is the fourth of five children of Sean Synnott and Robin Sadowski.

They have lived in Wanaka after they moved back to New Zealand from the United States.

Mr and Mrs Synnott have extensive and successful corporate careers in finance, marketing and computer information systems.

Sean Synnott was born in Papakura, Auckland, and grew up at Manapouri where his father worked on the hydro-electricity project.

Robin Sadowski is from New York and was educated in Boston. She went to university in Massachusetts and then became a business consultant, joining Dell in Texas.

She met Sean, a Hong Kong-based Auckland, while taking a sales incentive trip to the Whistler ski resort in Canada. A move to Dell's Sydney office followed, as did five children.

The family arrived in Wanaka in 2008 and took up residence at Snow Park, a snowboard and freeski resort at Cardrona which featured jumps, bumps, a quad chairlift, night skiing and on-snow accommodation.

"It was fantastic. The kids would stay up into the wee hours and build little jumps and go sledding," Sean said.

Robin became CEO of Snow Park, but it unexpectedly closed permanently in 2013.

Zoi was born in Sydney, settling in Wanaka at six. When she began to make a name for herself as an up-and-coming snowboarder, she had options as to which country she could represent.

Born in Australia to an American mother and Kiwi father, she had three choices. But, living in New Zealand for the majority of her life, when the time came it was an easy decision.

"There was no question in her mind," Sean Synnott said. "She just wanted to be with the New Zealand guys and compete for New Zealand. She's a very, very proud Kiwi."

COOL SNOWBOARDER

NZ Olympic snowboarder Cool Wakushima really is named Cool. It is on her passport and is the subject of many jokes.

Wakushima, aged 19, came to NZ from Japan aged 8 when her family settled in Queenstown.

She entered the World Cup circuit last year and with placings of seventh and eighth gave notice that she will be a good rival for NZ's world champion Zoi Sadowski-Synnott.

She finished Wakatipu High School last year and is taking psychology papers at Massey University.

Wakushima is coached by Mitch Brown who with his sister Kendall represented New Zealand at both the 2006 and 2010 Winter Olympics

MEXICAN DOG RESCUE

Mexican mountaineers rescued a dog which had somehow climbed to the top of the 5365 metre highest mountain in Mexico.

The rescue mission of 30 climbers, with help from the Mexican Alpine Club and a local animal shelter, found Canelo not far from the summit of Pico de Orizaba.

Remarkably calm, the hungry dog responded well to calls and food from a climber's pack.

The prominent Pico de Orizaba or Citlaltépetl is the third highest mountain in all of the Americas and a prestigious climb for alpine mountaineers.

RUAPEHU SKI CLUB CLUB MEMBERS' HANDBOOK

The guidelines and rules within this handbook reflect more than one hundred years of experience. They facilitate the smooth running of club life and many are safety-related. Therefore, the rules are mandatory and non-negotiable. The committee has the right to amend them from time to time.

Members and their guests are encouraged to read these rules, including the section on mountain safety, carefully and become familiar with them. Breach of these rules will attract disciplinary action as provided in the Club Constitution.

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
PO Box 8064,
Symonds Street, Auckland
Phone: (09) 377 3856
Mobile: 027 808 2163
Email: admin@rsc.org.nz
www.rsc.org.nz

R.S.C BUILDINGS
Lodge, Hut Hut, Whakapapa (07) 892 1824
Hut, Hut Hut, Whakapapa (07) 892 1822
Chutes, Renda Place, Hutau Village (07) 892 7823
Tirox, Alpine Village, Ohauwae (06) 385 6367

RSO: 9001-01 2321

STAYING OVERNIGHT

SCHOOL HOLIDAY

Bookings to the Lodge and the Hut for school holidays are required for members' families with school age children. Non-member bookings are not allowed in school holiday unless accepted in advance by the club. These are rare occasions and most people do not book. Bookings for school holidays are accepted on a first come, first served basis. Bookings are accepted for the first three weeks of May each year and are accepted on a first come, first served basis. Bookings are accepted for the first three weeks of May each year and are accepted on a first come, first served basis.

IN SUMMARY
Bookings will only be accepted from regular club members and payment must be made at the time of applying for a booking. Book fees will be refunded to the same member's account and no bookings are confirmed. Book fees for successful bookings are refundable in full and will remain in the account as the member's donation.

EXTENSIONS
If you are not sure of your date when a booking you must contact the Administration Office to confirm availability. Payment must be made immediately if you are successful. Payment must be made immediately if you are successful. Payment must be made immediately if you are successful.

3. STAYING OVERNIGHT

Our buildings reflect the family orientation of the Club. All of our buildings have large warm dining and common areas, which provide members of all ages the opportunity to meet and enjoy their stay together.

Our accommodation is in the form of communal living and it is important that members and their guests respect and tolerate others.

ACCESS

All buildings have a stepped lock. On payment of your booking, the carter code will be made available to you.

HUT FLAT

Getting to and from the Hut when the lifts are not operating gives you an additional risk. Usually this means it is dark, or the weather is severe.

The walk time from the Hut to the car park is about 15 minutes. Depending on the weather conditions, and the number of people, it may be longer.

Ring ahead and for the building. Lodge members are the only ones who can confirm your arrival. If you are going down to the building, please make sure you are going down to the building. Please make sure you are going down to the building. Please make sure you are going down to the building.

Don't make the trip alone unless you are sure of the weather. It can be late at the Top of The Hut and closed in between in the Hut.

All buildings are communal, and members are asked to respect the privacy of others. As a member, you are asked to respect the privacy of others.

The Club asks that if you are a member of your party, you are asked to respect the privacy of others. The Club asks that if you are a member of your party, you are asked to respect the privacy of others. The Club asks that if you are a member of your party, you are asked to respect the privacy of others.

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

Upper Hut Club | Member's Handbook 2021



Upper: RSC's new handbook. **Photo RSC.** **Lower:** Workers smoothing out the snow for the men's giant slalom at the Olympic Winter Games in Beijing. **Photo: FIS.**

ACROSS THE SKIING WORLD

New Zealand's first solar power hot pool spa has opened in Methven and hopes to attract skiers after their day on the slopes at nearby Mt Hutt.

Methven has no geothermal water so the Ōpuke Thermal Pools take water from the Rangitata River and heat it using a bank of 500 panels.

The hot pools aim to draw up to 150,000 visitors a year to Methven.

Promising teenage motor cycle racer Rene Hofer (Austria) was one of three people killed in a ski resort avalanche in December.

Hofer 19, was a world junior champion and considered to be a future star of motocross.

The trio were part of a group of 11 skiers, eight of whom were hit by a 200-metre wide slab of snow during a ski tour in Salzburg province.

Two skiers were partly buried and able to free themselves and rescuers saved some others.

Some of the alpine skiing courses used in the recent Olympic Winter Games in China were prepared by New Zealand snow designer Paul Kirkland.

From Timaru, he initially worked at local skifields Mt Dobson and Fox Peak, followed by Treble Cone at Wanaka. He was then invited to prepare race courses in the US and from 2019 in China.

His job entails making snow, pushing and shaping the course and making lines for safety nets.

Former NZ alpine skiing champion Peter Quinn of Taranaki has died, aged 84.

PQ joined the Stratford Mountain Club in 1956 and spent seven decades skiing the slopes of Taranaki Maunga. He skied from the 2518m high summit more than 100 times.

Quinn specialised in slalom with many top level wins. In 1963 at Coronet Peak he also won the high speed national downhill and the NZ championship.

A new record classification system has been adopted by Guinness World Records and polar explorers in an attempt to compare and certify record attempts in the polar regions.

The Polar Expedition Classification System (PECS) aims to “provide adventurers, media and the public guidance on how to accurately and equitably compare, promote and immortalise polar journeys”

It was devised by a group of 50 explorers in response to a series of controversial record claims.

French actor Gaspard Ulliel, known for appearing in Chanel perfume ads as well as film and television roles, has died after a skiing accident in the Alps. He was 37.

Ulliel collided with another skier in the Savoie region's Rosiere ski area. The other skier was not hospitalised.

Into mountain biking? Then try the Cardrona Bike Park which has 25km of lift-accessed downhill mountain bike trails.

This includes one of New Zealand's most iconic rides, the 1200m descending Cardrona Peak to Pub.

Lift passes cost \$59 (youth \$45) for morning and the same for afternoon. Multi passes are available.

Temperatures below minus 20 degrees centigrade saw Norway's cross-country ski team and Finnish star Iivo Niskanen, among others, withdraw from a World Cup 15km race at Christmas at Ruka in Finland.

With the Beijing Olympics on the horizon in February, many racers preferred to withdraw from the competition.

Niskanen, who won Olympic gold in Pyeongchang in 2018, said: “Minus 23 is too much for me. A simple choice.”

What is claimed to be the longest ski circuit in the world has been created in **Austria's Tirol region.**

The 88km (55 mile) long route follows the slopes above a dozen ski villages in the huge SkiWelt Wilder Kaiser-Brixental region and its near neighbour the KitzSki region.

The route incorporates 58 slopes, half of them blue, 28 red and one black and involves 17,232 metres of vertical ascent and descent, with 46 lift ascents.

Prince Andrew has sold his ski chalet at Verbier (Switzerland) for £17 million (\$NZ 34 million).

Andrew owned the chalet with his wife Sarah the Duchess of York but needed cash to pay off debts and legal fees,

Sarah recently had a holiday Verbier with her daughters Beatrice and Eugenie and their husbands, but Andrew was missing.

Verbier in Switzerland has been voted the world's best ski resort at the annual World Ski Awards.

Votes are cast by ski industry professionals, including tour operators and travel buyers, and the public. Verbier won for the first time.

Verbier is also home to the hotel voted the world's best ski hotel, W Verbier. It's the sixth consecutive year that the W has won this vote.

Another Swiss resort, Laax, which has the world's biggest halfpipe, has been named the world's best freestyle resort.

American pop star and actress Madonna took all six of her children, and her boyfriend, on a skiing holiday at Gstaad (Switzerland).

She posted a rare photo of all six at one place, together with a team of professional yodelers who performed for the family.

A crowd of 20,000 spectators attended the world's greatest annual alpine ski race, the **Lauberhorn downhill** at Wengen in Switzerland.

This was 12,000 fewer than attended two years ago when the race was last staged

before the pandemic. The spectators arrive by mountain railway and by mass flights of helicopters.

Vincent Kriechmayr (Austria) won the race from Beat Feuz and Marco Odermatt (both of Switzerland).

Lucas Braathen (Norway) won an alpine skiing World Cup slalom at Wengen (Switzerland) after coming 29th in the first run.

Only 30 skiers qualified for a second run and he made the cut by just 0.06 seconds.

Braathen then set a stunning second run time that none of the favourites could beat.

*The slalom drama did not stop there. In a World Cup race at Schladming (Austria) the unheralded **Linus Strasser (Germany)** came from 26th on the first run to win by 0.03s.*

MORE SLALOM DRAMA. BRIT WINS.

Dave Ryding made British skiing history with first his country's first win in an alpine World Cup ski race.

The 35 year-old Briton ended 55-year wait for World Cup race victory when he won the slalom at Kitzbühel (Austria).

He was sixth after his first run but earned victory with a final run of 49.86sec, becoming the oldest winner of a men's World Cup slalom. Lucas Braathen (Norway) finished 0.38sec behind.

Robin (Frosty) Foubister who was manager of Turoa skifield in the 1980s has died, aged 88.

Frosty spent a year at sea as officer in charge of the sub-Antarctic Campbell Island, followed by a year as leader at Scott Base.

In 1981 Robin became mountain manager at the Turoa Ski Field. The role lasted for eight years including building the Movenpick chairlift.



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

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 \$269.00 incl GST (\$233.91 plus GST)

Annual junior subs \$98 incl GST (\$85.22 plus GST)

ACCOMMODATION FEES (Effective May 1st 2022)

Winter 2022

Senior member \$58 (up from \$55)

Teen member \$50 (up from \$48)

Junior member \$38 (up from \$37)

Member's Child \$30 (up from \$29)

Senior non-member \$106 (up from \$101)

Junior non-member \$71 (up from \$68)

Summer 2022-23

Senior Members \$30

Junior Members \$20

Senior non-members \$35

Junior non-members \$25