

The Bulletin

RUAPEHU SKI CLUB

Volume 88, No. 1

March 2023



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Icicles on the Knoll Ridge Chalet. Photo: Alan Graham.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Happy New Year.

Hope you all got to take some time away with family over the Christmas New Year break.

Damon and I spent a week at Mount Cook avoiding the first lot of bad weather in Auckland.

One of the places we visited was the Sir Edmund Hillary Alpine Centre at the Hermitage.

We discovered that one of the first skifields to operate in New Zealand was on the Ball Glacier, where they even ran the NZ Ski Championships.

We also found connections to the Ruapehu District, as Rodolph Wigley, the managing director of the Mount Cook Tourist Company, had the vision to build The Chateau, which was completed in 1929.

Many will have heard of the closing of The Chateau, which is a great loss to Whakapapa Village. They also ran the Tussock Bar, where you could get a drink and a quick meal.

In 2013 RSC had its 100th celebrations in the Ruapehu Lounge at the Chateau, which Damon and I were fortunate to attend.

This year we celebrate the 100 year anniversary of Glacier Hut, built in 1923.

Glacier Hut is a category 1 heritage building. It is described on the Heritage NZ website as a well preserved example of a typically rudimentary mountain hut.

The walls and roof are timber framed and have corrugated iron sheathing. Walls are lined with malthoid.

I am glad we are fortunate these days to have more insulation and electric heating to keep us warm in our current buildings. If you would like to see the skiing memorabilia in the interior of

Glacier Hut the key hangs on the notice board in the Lodge.

I hope that you have all seen the RAL 2023 winter plan, if not go to <https://www.savemtruapehu.org.nz/post/2023-winter-season-update>.

It has some interesting information regarding snow falls and visitor numbers over the last five years. It also outlines what RAL are planning to run at each skifield this year. In particular to note are the reduced number of lifts operating at Turoa.

Reducing offerings are something that the RSC Committee needs to consider also. Last year we planned for a great year, but the snow coverage wasn't great, and members didn't use the buildings.

Financially it wasn't good for the Club. So this year we need to be more conservative in our planning for the season.

At the time of writing Cyclone Gabrielle has passed by and brought destruction to the Bay of Plenty and other regions around the country. I hope you have all managed to weather the storm.

Damon tells me that the power is still on at the Chalet and Lodge where we have remote monitoring so the buildings are still there, and hopefully there will be no major damage to them.

This brings me to work parties. It's that time of year to sign up and help the Club out with a bit of cleaning, painting, and restocking of the buildings.

This is how we keep our maintenance costs down and it's a great time to catch up with other members outside of the ski season.

We have at least one work party a month until the ski season. Check the member's area on the website for details.

Catherine Gafa
RSC President



NZ snow sports athletes won five Halberg prizes at the 60th awards, including the supreme award to Zoi Sadowski-Synnott (pictured). She also won sportswomen of the year. Other winners were Nico Porteous (sportsman), Corey Peters (para athlete) and Gustav Legnavsky (emerging talent). It was a fabulous night for snow sports in NZ.

THROUGH THE LODGE WINDOW

Whakapapa season will operate from June 3rd for sightseeing and sledding.

Whakapapa will open for skiing and snowboarding from July 1st October 15th.

Turoa will open on July 15th and close on October 15th.

To celebrate the centenary history of its iconic red shack, Glacier Hut, the Club is hosting a 1920s-themed party at the Lodge on Saturday April 1st.

It will be an opportunity to catch up with other members, explore the mountain and help support the club and RAL ahead of what will hopefully be a bumper season.

So, please hold the date, and reply to RSC Admin if you are keen to attend. Feel free to rustle up non-members to attend with you, the more the merrier!

*NZ has its third **Conservation Minister** in a year. Appointed at the latest ministerial reshuffle is **Willow-Jean Prime**.*

She replaces Poto Williams who earlier replaced Kiri Allen.

A small-tsunami at Lake Taupō destroyed some small boats and damaged the foreshore, following a 5.6 magnitude earthquake.

The shallow quake struck at 20km southwest of Taupō shortly before midnight, at a depth of 5km. The activity was consistent with ongoing minor volcanic unrest at Taupō volcano. The volcanic alert level remained at 1.

In Four Mile Bay the water surged 25 metres up the beach, ripping wooden bollards from a park area nearby and eroding 2 metres of soil away from the foreshore.

Niwa has confirmed that 2022 was the country's hottest year on record since meteorologists started to measure temperatures in 1909.

This is part of a global trend. Heatwaves in summer and winter meant 2022 was the hottest year for France, Spain and the UK.

NZ's average temperature was 13.8C, which was 1.2C hotter than the 1981-2010 average.

THE RUAPEHU SKI CLUB

(inc) Founded 1913

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Catherine Gafa, Phill Thomass

Fund Treasurer: Mike Wardle

Glacier Hut Custodian:

Bernard Smith

A new safety video was launched in time for summer, highlighting the beauty as well as the dangers of the Tongariro Alpine Crossing.

The 19.4km track is one of the most popular day hikes in the country but between 2010 and 2020 there were 300 incidents.

The video from the NZ Mountain Safety Council (MSC) is in partnership with Ngāti Hikairo ki Tongariro, the Department of Conservation, NZ Police, LandSAR, Tourism NZ and members of the local tourism industry.

It features key information a hiker needs to know before attempting the track including what to pack, hazards and decision-making points.

Ruapehu Civil Defence said no significant issues arose from Cyclone Gabrielle which caused massive damage to the top half of the North Island in February.

At Ruapehu there were gale force southeast winds gusting 130 km/h in exposed places but there was no major damage and only a few localised power cuts due to fallen trees.

A new tool for the fight against broom in the Ruapehu area has been introduced. It is the broom gall mite.

Broom is a major problem in the area, including along the Mangawhero River Trail at Ohakune.

The mite attacks growth on a broom plant, causing stunted growth and reduced flowering, and can kill whole bushes.

Landcare Research said it is extremely unlikely the mites will significantly damage any other plants, apart from old man's beard.

*The deadline for the June Bulletin will be **Friday May 19th.***

All items should be with the Editor in Wellington by then.

THE BULLETIN

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RSC BUNK BOOKINGS

Winter Bookings 2023.

Bookings for the 2023 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.

The Committee will be looking at changing the rules for the July School holidays and will advise members when the changes have been made.

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.

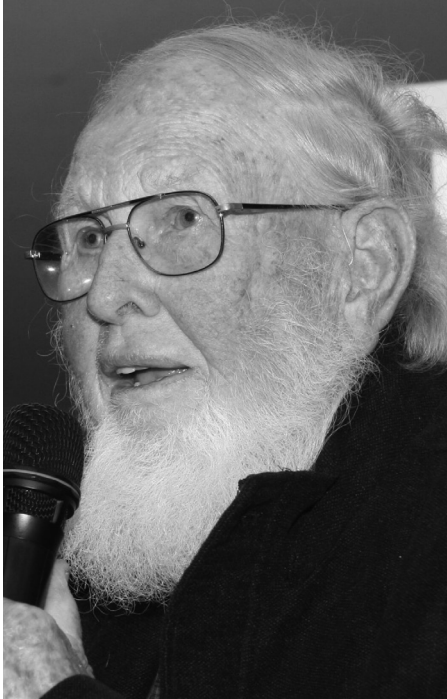
These will again be emailed or posted at the end of March for payment in April.

Please remember to contact us if you have changed your email or postal contact.

NO SKIING HOLIDAY

King Charles has cancelled his annual ski trip to Klosters so he doesn't injure himself ahead of his coronation in May.

The King has taken a skiing trip to Klosters in Switzerland in February or March for 45 years but wants to make sure he's in top shape for the ceremony in May.



Sandy Mill

SANDY MILL

Alain Barry (Sandy) Mill who has died aged 90, was a President of RSC, and as an architect he designed RSC Turoa.

Following his term as President of the Club, Sandy and his wife Joan embarked on a seven year round the world voyage in their yacht Zeferin, and wrote stories of their travels for the Bulletin.

Sandy was on the RSC Committee in 1976-80. He was a Vice-President in 1980-87, President in 1989-92 and Immediate Past President in 1992-95. He was elected as a Life member in 1995.

His profession as an architect was invaluable to the Club when repairs and upgrades to the buildings were needed, and he was the designer in 1984 when RSC Turoa was built.

Another task he handled for the Club with great interest was drawing up of plans

for Glacier Hut, 60 years after it was built in 1923.

This was to support RSC's successful bid to have the hut declared a Category 1 (highest category) Historic Place.

Joan and Sandy were regular members Winter Party and appeared in the Bulletin skiing down the Yankee at Christmas in 1991.

Sandy sported a large beard which made him a good choice as "Sandy Claus" during the RSC mid-winter Christmas functions at the Lodge.

The Bulletin published a photo of Joan and Sandy riding the Far West T-bar, with a note that a beard like that was right at home "Out West".

Sandy was an Associate Member of the Royal Institution of Naval Architects and was a member of the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron for more than 60 years.

With contributions from a son, Daniel, a boatbuilder by trade, Joan and Sandy designed and launched Zeferin in 1994.

Following a cruise around the far south of New Zealand and several winter escapes to the islands of the South Pacific, they set off in June 1999 to sail around the world.

They returned to New Zealand more or less annually (without the yacht which they laid up) to retain ties with their family, and finally completed their circumnavigation in 2006 after seven and a half years.

Over the years Sandy was a good friend of Noel Pierre, a fellow architect in Auckland and an RSC member who designed the Lodge, Hut and Chalet. If you have access to Google, you will see some of the innovative houses designed by Sandy.

We offer the condolences of the Club to Joan and her family.

AG

*** RSC Turoa was built in Ohakune in 1984 as a 38-bed chalet, including four double bedrooms. This differs from the other buildings in that it is located within a town, and not within the Tongariro National Park.



RAL Administrators John Fisk (left) and Richard Nacey (right).

RAL WILL OPERATE

RAL has told staff that its ski areas will operate in winter 2023, but with a spine offering at Tūroa, centred on the Movenpick, the Giant and the High Noon Express chairlifts as well as the Sunkid beginner carpet lift.

The Tūroa season will start July 15 and close on October 15.

The Giant will only operate on eight peak season weekends between August 5 and September 30.

The later start for Tūroa means that the field won't be open for the first winter school holidays, apart from the last weekend.

Whakapapa will operate some lifts and facilities from June 3 to October 15.

Tūroa commercial facilities such as cafés and rentals are intended to be more basic than at Whakapapa, and not all cafes will be operating.

RAL aims for 200,000 visitors to Whakapapa and 85,000 visitors to Turoa.

FUNDING FOR RAL

The Government in December gave a further \$6 million in bridging funding to help stave off the liquidation of Ruapehu Alpine Lifts.

RAL needed \$9 million to survive until the 2023 ski season begins but had received only \$4.5 million from the Crown and ANZ.

Voluntary administrator John Fisk said he was delighted about the extra funding, as the company could now proceed with a season pass campaign in February to raise further capital.

“It doesn't mean that we're completely out of the woods. There's obviously a lot of work that still needs to be done, and we still need to just clarify exactly what is going to be done over the next few months as well.”

It also meant the Sky Waka could open for sightseeing during the Christmas period.

RSC Technology and Building Automation Projects Part 2

In Part 1 (published in the Dec 2022 RSC Bulletin) I highlighted some of the initiatives that the Club undertook from 2016 to 2018 to reduce its electricity costs by a total of \$179,000 over the years 2016-2021.

Below are additional projects from 2019-2022 that we have undertaken.

The Hut

In 2019 the Club installed a heat pump in the Hut drying room, and also installed a load management system in the Hut (thanks to Richard Horton for designing the custom load management system)

The load management system manages our peak energy demand (keeping it below 30 kWatts) which helped us reduce our fixed electricity costs and the heat pump in the drying room reduces our energy consumption. Both these devices resulted in us saving money.

The Chalet

In 2021 the Club installed a heat pump in the Chalet drying room (to replace the old heating unit which had failed) and a new dehumidifier to reduce the energy costs running the drying room and improving its drying efficiency.

We also installed a Building Management System in the Chalet, this time using open-source software called “Home Assistant”. (Many thanks to Matt Lamb, our in-house IT Guru, for his endless hours behind the scenes in implementing and maintaining this system)

This has been programmed to manage our peak energy demand, and automatically control and regulate the heating throughout the building. (With the exception of the pellet fire in lounge). With the system managing our peak energy demand, by keeping it below 15 kWatts, we have reduced our fixed electricity costs at the Chalet.

The description below explains how it controls the heating in the Chalet.

Whenever the mains power switch is turned on, the system automatically maintains the Chalet bathrooms at 22° C from 6.00am to 10.30pm and then turns off the bathroom heating from 10.30pm to 6.00am.

It automatically manages the bunkrooms and hallway temperature at 22° C from 6.00am to 10.00pm and then at 19° C from 10.00pm to 6.00am.

The heater in the kitchen is also controlled automatically and turns on at 6.00am and off at 11.00pm and the system tries to maintain a temperature of between 22° C during those hours.

As this heater is not very big for the size of the kitchen and lounge, it often won't be able to heat up the room sufficiently in winter without the help of the pellet fire as well. Once the room temperature exceeds 22 degrees, which it often does when the pellet fire is in operation, the kitchen heater will remain off until the temperature drops back below 21.5° C.

Manually turning on the heat pump switch for the drying room is all that is required to be done if you want to dry clothing in the drying room. Once switched on, the system will automatically control the drying room temperature, fans and dehumidifier settings for efficient drying and energy consumption. Please remember to turn the drying room off when it is not required.

Very occasionally, the load management system at the Chalet, may briefly turn off some heaters around the building for 5-10 minutes to keep our peak load below 15kWatts. These will automatically come back on once we are under the 15kWatt threshold.

The Lodge

In 2022 the “Home Assistant” building management system was also installed in the Lodge and it controls all the heating and ventilation systems in the upstairs areas of

the building, as well as the drying room and instructor's room.

The system automatically maintains the Lodge's bathrooms at 22°C from 6.00am to 10.30pm and then ensures they don't go below 5°C from 10.30pm to 6.00am to prevent any plumbing from freezing

It automatically manages bunkrooms 1 to 6, the cook's room and the instructor's room at a temperature of 21°C from 6.00am to 10.00pm and then at 18.0° C from 10.00pm to 6.00am.

Because of the small heaters in bunkrooms 1,2,3 and 4, these rooms will often not get to 21°C during the day (or even 18.0° C during the night) in cold and or stormy weather, or when there is low occupancy in these bunkrooms.

The lounge and library heating is also controlled automatically and turns on at 6.00am and off at 11.00pm with the system trying to maintain a temperature of 22°C during those hours.

There are times when the heating in these areas is not able to achieve 22°C and this is generally when there is stormy weather, and sometimes when there is low occupancy in the building.

The ventilation/extraction fans in the men's and women's bathrooms and the kitchen should automatically come on when steam or high humidity is detected in these rooms, and then turn off automatically afterwards when not required. They will only operate automatically on and off between 7.00am and 10.30pm (as required), and shut down completely at 11.00pm.

The drying room in the Lodge is fully automated and runs 24/7 during the season, with the room temperature and humidity settings controlled automatically depending on how wet the clothing is in the room.

Members WiFi

2022 also was the year of members Wi-Fi being available in the Lodge,

Hut and Chalet. Our historical copper lines providing broadband to the Club's buildings was very slow and unreliable, and the bandwidth was insufficient to provide multiple internet connections to our members without it grinding to a halt.

We then trialed a microwave system in the Lodge and Hut (to a site approx. 20km away) and this proved to be reliable with much greater bandwidth.

We then also installed a microwave link in the Chalet in June 2022 and set up the members Wi-Fi connection for these three buildings. Feedback from members has been good, but it is not intended for members to use it for streaming video as this will slow it all down for everyone.

In Closing

The initiatives above have saved a further \$45,687 in electricity costs for the 2022 financial year (compared to 2015) with our annual power bill for all our four buildings being \$28,837 (it was \$74,524 in 2015)

We will continue to make similar savings each subsequent year from the work we have done so far, and we have the potential to make further savings and also improve the comfort levels at or buildings as we tweak and refine the systems, and with additional initiatives introduced in the future.

While the initial aim of these projects was to reduce the costs for the Club (as these were increasing each year with inflation and becoming ever more unaffordable) it has also allowed us to manage our buildings better, and help improve overall comfort levels for our members.

If anyone is interested in knowing more about RSC's Building Automation technology, or wants to be part of the team, then please contact myself, Damon Forsyth diver_damon@hotmail.com or Matt Lamb matt@rsc.org.nz

If anyone has any ideas or feedback about the systems then please also contact me.

Damon Forsyth



Mikaela Shiffrin scores her record breaking 83rd alpine World Cup skiing win at Kronplatz (Italy) in January.

SHIFFRIN IS NO 1

US alpine ski racer Mikaela Shiffrin aged 27 has won 11 World Cup races this season, bringing her career total to 85 wins.

This breaks the women's record of 82 wins set by Lindsey Vonn (US), and keeps her in touch with the men's record of 86 wins set by Ingemar Stenmark (Sweden).

Shiffrin is a two-time Olympic gold medalist, four-time overall World Cup champion and a four-time world champion in slalom.

She is the youngest slalom champion in Olympic history, at 18 years and 345 days.

Oddly she had no luck at last year's Olympic Winter Games in Beijing. While she skied in six races, she failed to make a single podium.

Shiffrin's partner Aleksander Aamodt Kilde (Norway) is also a top ski racer, ranked No 2 in the world.

She was born in Vail (Colorado) and both her parents were ski racers. She lived for a while in New Hampshire before the family moved back to Colorado.

She raced internationally from age 14 and entered her first World Cup race at age 16, shortly before winning her first podium.

Shiffrin specialises in slalom and giant slalom, but in recent years has also raced and won in the faster events.

Mikaela has recently launched her YouTube video series, Moving Right Along, where she shares her passions and principles.

- 85: Mikaela Shiffrin, United States (2012-23)
- 82: Lindsey Vonn, United States (2001-19)
- 62: Annemarie Moser-Pröll, Austria (1969-80)
- 55: Vreni Schneider, Switzerland (1984-95)
- 46: Renate Gotschl, Austria (1993-2009)
- 42: Anja Pearson, Sweden (1998-2012)
- 37: Marlies Schild, Austria (2001-14)
- 36: Katja Seizinger, Germany (1989-98)



The Chateau Tongariro.

CHATEAU HAS CLOSED

The Grand Chateau Tongariro closed for good on February 5th.

The Chateau's 30-year lease expired in April 2020 and the building owner, Kah NZ, a subsidiary of the Singapore-based Kah Motor, has been in negotiations with the Crown to determine its future.

There were plans to extensively renovate the building and surrounding infrastructure. However, a seismic assessment found underground shifts over time meant some of the hotel infrastructure no longer meets safety standard.

RSC's lobbying in the 1900s for a large hostel at Whakapapa met success on November 4th 1929 when the Chateau Tongariro was opened.

The £80,000 (\$160,000) hostel was built by private enterprise in the form of the Tongariro Park Tourist Company, chaired by Rodoph Wigley of Timaru who was better known for his Mount Cook coach line. The Chateau had full central heating and offered three storeys of luxury bedrooms.

The Chateau was designed by Timaru-based architect Herbert Hall (1880–1939), who modelled his design on a hostel at the Canadian Resort of Lake Louise.

Influenced by the hotels built by the Canadian Pacific Railway, such as the Chateau Frontenac, he designed a neo-

Georgian structure of four stories and basement.

The foundation stone was laid on January 10 1929. Fletchers used a workforce of 120 carpenters and labourers, offering an incentive of free accommodation to workers who stayed until the completion of the project.

RSC members attending Winter Party were offered a choice of staying at the Chateau or staying at a lower tariff in the old cluster of huts just up the road, by then known as "The Lodge".

Winter Party was held at The Chateau until RSC Lodge was opened in 1953. Perversely since RSC had lobbied so hard for the hostel, some RSC members now bewailed the loss of the club hut atmosphere. They were in the minority as most members loved the Chateau.

Unfortunately The Chateau went broke as construction costs had been underestimated. Ownership switched to the Tourist Department which ran the hotel for many years.

Over that time The Chateau managed ski school, ski hire, rope tows and cafeterias, and the Chateau manager was effectively the skifield manager.

RSC in 2013 held a centennial ball at The Chateau. It was a glittering occasion attended by more than 300 revellers.

The fate of The Chateau is now in the hands of DOC.



Glacier Hut. Photo: Alan Graham.

GLACIER HUT 100

RSC is delighted to celebrate this year the centenary of its wonderful mountain museum Glacier Hut which was built in 1923.

Located at a height of 1740 metres, behind RSC Lodge, it is a small, one-roomed, timber framed hut clad in corrugated iron, with a porch attached.

The interior has six bunks and a stove and is lined with malthoid. The hut contains skiing memorabilia, interpretative panels and a glass viewing screen. People staying at the Lodge are invited to visit.

In 1923 it was at it was the only building on Ruapehu above Chateau level, and was the first ski club building anywhere in NZ.

It was enlarged in 1946 and used as a storeroom from 1949. It was later cleaned out in 1961 to display club memorabilia. In 1989 it was converted to a skiing museum.

The hut was registered as a Category One (top category) historic place in 1993. That means it cannot be demolished.

RSC members who erected the hut carried all the materials up the hill on their backs or by pack horse.

It was hard work, especially when the hut builders were hit by unseasonal summer blizzards and they had to huddle in a freezing cave in Skippers Canyon until the gale passed.

Glacier Hut from 1923 enjoyed 13 years in magnificent isolation until RSC built a larger Hut nearby in 1936.

It was later leased for a while to the Auckland University Tramping Club who extended it slightly. Then it was used to store explosives during the Lodge building and at one time was the ski patrol HQ.

Today one half of the hut is furnished as it was in the 1920s. The other half is maintained by RSC as a skiing museum containing vintage ski clothing and ski equipment, most of it pre-war.

*** To celebrate the centenary history of Glacier Hut, the Club is hosting a 1920s-themed party at the Lodge on Saturday April 1st. Please contact RSC Admin if you can attend.

GLACIER HUT MEMORIES

Nestling in the lee of the Lodge is a much older Ruapehu Ski Club building, the Glacier Hut built in 1923.

It is now preserved as a memorial to the pioneers and as a ski museum, with a collection of early ski equipment which becomes more valuable each year.

It has been accepted by the Historic Places Trust as a building of historic interest and the trust has made representations to DOC over its preservation.

A plaque has been installed at the front of the hut in an effort to combat the efforts of vandals who would wipe out anything of historic value.

The Golden Jubilee history of the Auckland University Tramping Club gives some interesting details of a period when Glacier Hut was leased for a nominal sum to the AUTC.

Allan Odell approached RSC in 1943 to allow the university to use Glacier Hut, little used by RSC because of the construction of our much more palatial 1936 Hut.

AUTC renovated Glacier Hut during 1944, a five-foot extension and snow porch were added, plus a stove, primus and three more bunks.

The first issue of *Footprints*, publication of AUTC, issued in April 1944, announced that Glacier Hut had a capacity of nine.

“It is definitely an alpine hut and trips undertaken from it are definitely alpine trips. They should not be undertaken without the leadership of someone experienced in mountain technique.”

AUTC occupied the hut until 1949. After that RSC ended the lease and resumed direct control while the university enthusiasts formed a ski club.

Meanwhile Glacier Hut was urgently needed by RSC as a storage hut for materials in the building of the War Memorial Lodge.

When that major undertaking was completed, Glacier Hut was used for storage of members' boxes

These were, in effect, the predecessors of the present extensive locker system; wooden cases or tin trunks in which ski gear, clothing, food, first aid supplies and the like were stored from one year to the next.

In the course of time conditions became chaotic. Members resigned, died, or lost interest and boxes were piled up high, often untouched from one year to the next. Rats and mice proliferated. It was a major effort to dig down to find one's box.

After lengthy notice and warnings, a great clean-out working party was held to clear Glacier Hut, salvage anything of value and dispose of the rest.

In one of Ruapehu's biggest bonfires, the debris of years was reduced to ashes. Superannuated tins of meat, beans and the like made a particularly spectacular display, exploding with all the vigour of napalm.

With the hut cleared, deterioration was evident. The floor had rotted in places, windows were broken, the stove rusted away.

The Graham and Stewart families held working parties for several years to restore the hut and install the nucleus of the present ski collection.

Bob Murie, Jim McComish, Dick Duncan, Archie Campbell, Rene Rowe, Barry Winter, are just a few of those who have contributed equipment or labour in restoring the hut and building its collection.

JCG

SNOWY SCOREBOARD

FIVE HALBERGS WON

Snow Sports NZ had seven snow sports athletes and coaches as finalists at the 60th Halberg awards.

Para Athlete of the Year: Adam Hall.

Para Athlete of the Year: Corey Peters.

Sportswoman of the Year: Zoi Sadowski-Synnott

Sportsman of the year: Nico Porteous.

Emerging Talent: Gustav Legnavsky.

Coach of the Year: Sean Thompson.

Coach of the Year: Tommy Pyatt.

Zoi won the supreme award, as well as sportswoman of the year. Other winners were Nico (sportsman), Corey (para athlete) and Gustav (emerging talent).

Women's rugby won the four other prime awards.

ASPEN X-GAMES GOLD

Zoi Sadowski-Synnott (NZ) has defended her Aspen X-Games freeski slopestyle gold medal.

In challenging conditions, with fresh snow on jump landings, she was in second spot going into her fourth run, but surged past Tess Coady (Australia) who came second, with Kokomo Murase (Japan) third.

The event has an unusual judging format where riders are ranked, not scored, in a 30-minute window to take as many runs as possible.

*** **Nico Porteous (NZ)** did not defend his freeski halfpipe gold medal at the X-Games as he was still working up to strength after knee surgery.

*** **Scotty James (Australia)** won his fifth X-Games snowboard halfpipe gold medal.

*** **Valentino Guseli (Australia)** aged 17 won silver medals in the snowboard

halfpipe and slopestyle.

ZOI SILVER MEDAL

Zoi Sadowski-Synnott won a silver medal in the Aspen Games freeski big air.

It was her ninth X Games medal including five gold (four slopestyle, one big air).

The winner was Reira Iwabuchi (Japan) with Laurie Blouin (Canada) third.

The big air course at Aspen is 100 metres long with a single 25 metre jump. Snowboarders contest a jam session format whereby their two best jumps in a 30 minute jam are counted.

This was Zoi's 23rd consecutive podium.

ZOI WINS GOLD

Zoi Sadowski-Synnott (NZ) won the gold medal in a snowboard World Cup slopestyle event at Laax (Switzerland).

She scored 81.30 to beat Mia Brookes (GB) 79.01 and Anna Gasser (Austria) 77.05.

Sadowski-Synnott laced together a solid first run, including a front 450 out of the second rail, which impressed the judges.

She showed her class and experience, making trick decisions mid run to manage the speed, opting for a backside 720 instead of her planned 1080 on the third jump.

*** Tiarn Collins (NZ) was 10th in the men's event.

ZOI WINS SILVER

Zoi Sadowski-Synnott (NZ) recovered from a crash on her first run to claim silver at a snowboard World Cup big air event.

Sadowski-Synnott finished second in between Anna Gasser (Austria) and Kokomo Murase (Japan) in Kreischberg (Austria). The same trio were on the podium in the same order at the Beijing Winter Olympics.

PARA WORLD CHAMPS

Adam Hall (NZ) crashed out of contention five gates from the finish of the alpine slalom when possibly headed for a medal at the para world skiing champs.

Hall, 35, contested only the one event at Espot (Spain). He was skiing confidently on the second run when he fell and missed a gate.

ROBINSON'S SEASON

New Zealand's top alpine ski racer Alice Robinson has had a tidy season without reaching the sparkling form she showed in 2019 to 2021. In those years she won three World Cup giant slalom races and took two second placings.

Her World Cup circuit form this season is:

14th Killington GS.

18th Lake Louise super-g.

16th Sestriere GS.

14th St Moritz super-g.

9th Semmering first GS.

DNF Semmering second GS.

19th Kranjska Gora first GS

DNF Kranjska Gora second GS

12th St Anton first super-g.

DNF St Anton second super-g.

22nd Cortina super-g

8th first Kronplatz GS.

9th second Kronplatz GS.

7th in world champs super-g.

15th in world champs GS.

LAUBERHORN REDUCED

Aleksander Kilde (Norway) won the 93rd running of the world's best annual alpine ski race, the Lauberhorn downhill at Wengen (Switzerland).

Bad weather conditions forced the longest World Cup downhill race to be cut short, from 4.48 km down to 2.9 km, but

that didn't affect Kilde, who had the fastest time on almost every section of the race.

He won in 1.43.14 seconds to beat Marco Odermatt (Switzerland) by 0.88 seconds.

FREERIDE IS ANNEXED

The International Ski and Snowboard Federation (FIS) has acquired the Freeride World Tour (FWT) and the two organisations have joined forces for the 2022-2023 season.

The FWT is the worldwide circuit of freeride snowboarding and skiing that features the best riders in the world competing on the most challenging alpine faces.

FWT currently includes more than 6000 licensed athletes from the junior level to the elite. NZ skier Jess Hotter is ranked No 1 in women's freeride.

Freeriding has experienced massive growth during the last few years. Based in Verbier (Switzerland), the FWT was established in 1996 and has since grown to include a full circuit with competitions in Europe, North America, South America and Oceania.

MAMMOTH WORLD CUP

NZ sent a handful of elite freeskiers and snowboarders to a World Cup meeting at Mammoth Mountain (California) in February. They did not include Zoi who gave this one a miss.

Those who made their finals (top 10) were:

Ruby Andrews won a bronze medal in the freeski women's slopestyle.

Tiarn Collins was fourth and Lyon Farrell was fifth in the snowboard men's slopestyle.

Finley Melville Ives was ninth in the freeski men's halfpipe.



Jasmine Flury (Switzerland) winning the alpine skiing world championship downhill.

ALPINE WORLD CHAMPS

NZ sent a team of three skiers to the alpine world ski championships held at Courchevel and Meribel (France) in February. They were Alice Robinson, Mikayla Smith and Jack Adams.

Alice opened up with an excellent seventh place in the super-g, her second best discipline. She was only 0.64 seconds behind the winner.

What might have been? Alice finished 15th in the giant slalom. Alice brilliantly won the second run after being 28th in the first run.

Jack finished 41st in the giant slalom, a bit short of the podium but a good showing in a field of 150 skiers. Jack also contested the slalom, finishing 50th.

Mikayla raced in the women's slalom. She was 59th out of 120 on the first run but did not finish the second run.

Event winners:

Women's downhill: Jasmine Flury (Switzerland).

Women's super-g: Marta Bassino (Italy).

Women's a/c: Federica Brigone (Italy).

Women's gs: Mikaela Shiffrin (US).

Women's slalom: Laurence St Germain (Canada)

Men's downhill: Marco Odermatt (Switzerland).

Men's super-g: James Crawford (Canada).

Men's a/c: Alexis Pinturault (France).

Men's gs: Marco Odermatt (Switzerland).

Men's slalom: Henrik Kristoffersen (Norway).

A brother and sister both won bronze medals in the same event, the alpine combined. They were Raphael Haaser and Ricarda Haaser of Austria.

RSC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mar 2023	25-26	Working parties
April 2023	1	1920s theme party at RSC Lodge.
	8-9	Working parties (Easter)
	29-30	42 Traverse, run/bike, Club trip
May 2023	1	Ski season bookings open
	27-28	Working parties
June 2023		AGM at Auckland
	3	Whakapapa opens for sledding and sightseeing
TBC.....Tupapakuraa Falls Track walk, Club trip.		
July 2023	1	Whakapapa opens for skiing and snowboarding
	1-16	School holidays
	15	Turoa opens
Aug 2023		
Sept 2023	Oct 8	School holidays
October 2023	15	Turoa and Whakapapa close.



NZ international ski racer Mikayla Smyth.



Australia had a cable ski lift in 1938, many years before the first such lift in NZ. It was called a J-Bar and was erected at the Charlotte Pass (NSW) skifield. It was erratic and often broke down.



Ruapehu scenes. Ski patrol (upper) and Turoa snow vista (lower). Photos: RAL.



Norwegian alpine ski racing stars Aleksander Aamodt Kilde (upper) and Ragnhild Mowinckel (lower). Photos: FIS.



Canadian singer Shania Twain had a carriage named after her when she helped launch the new Golden Pass Express train in Switzerland. Shania, who lives in Switzerland, co-launched the train at Gstaad with former Swiss alpine ski racer Michael von Grünigen.

CLEVER SWISS TRAIN

A train that can jump tracks and grow taller has been launched in the Swiss mountains, 150 years after engineers first dreamed it up.

The new Golden Pass Express took its first journey from Montreux on Lake Geneva to Interlaken in central Switzerland.

Passengers no longer need to change at Zweisimmen and can enjoy an uninterrupted route between the two tourist towns.

The new trains can change the gauge of their wheels and the height of their coach. Carriages are raised in seconds to adjust to the different heights of platforms along the route.

Currently the Montreux Oberland

Bernois (MOB) Railway, the company behind the new trains, has a narrow rail gauge (1000mm) that differs from the Swiss standard (1435mm).

It is hoped the Golden Pass Express will become an attraction in its own right, like the Glacier Express or the Bernina Express.

Swiss train builder Stadler and French multinational transport giant Alstom partnered to create 23 vehicles costing €88.8 million in total.

The Golden Pass Express has been desired for 150 years, says MOB, dating the idea back to 1873.

The dream was revived at numerous points throughout the 20th century, but was stalled by technical and financial obstacles.



Zoi with Lonsdale Cup

ZOI WINS LONSDALE

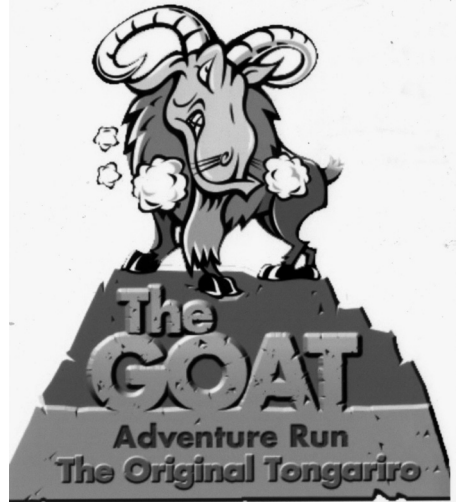
Snowboarder Zoi Sadowski-Synnott has won the New Zealand Olympic Committee's top award for achievements in 2022.

The Lonsdale Cup is the NZ Olympic Committee's most prestigious award and is presented annually by the NZ Olympic Committee to the athlete or team that has made the most outstanding contribution to an Olympic or Commonwealth Sport. Sadowski-Synnott is the first winter sport athlete to win the award.

The Lonsdale Cup was first awarded in 1961, with Sir Murray Halberg the inaugural recipient.

Since then it has been won by a host of inspirational New Zealanders who have represented our country with pride and passion.

Past winners include Dame Valerie Adams, Dame Lisa Carrington, Sir John Walker, Barbara Kendall, Sir Peter Snell, Sarah Ulmer and Lydia Ko.



The Goat run at Ruapehu

TONGARIRO GOAT

Matthew Ogden won the Goat Tongariro 20 km adventure run from Whakapapa to Turoa which has more than 1000 metres of vertical ascent. He took 2h 01.18.

Toby Batchelor was second in 2h 01.57 while David Haunschmitt was third in 2h 02.08.

Hannah Lund was 24th overall and was the best woman in 2h 33.20.

The race had 598 finishers, the last home being a lady in her 50s who took 6h 58.19.

Next year will be the 20th running of the Goat and special events are planned. The race sets off at the top of Bruce Road, and starts in six waves (six groups of runners) so there are not 600 people all in one place.

Wave allocation is based on both times submitted by athletes and stats held on previous Goat finish times. The athletes predicted to be the fastest and have a chance of winning the event will be in wave 1A.



Upper: Zoi Sadowski-Sinnott (NZ) wins her gold medal at the Olympic Winter Games.
Lower: Skiing in Scotland is all on really easy slopes? Nope. This is Glencoe.



Upper: Skiers at the top of the Far West T-Bar. This spot is higher than Mt Ngauruhoe. Photo: RAL. **Lower:** Snowboard cross racing in the Winter Games NZ at Cardrona. Photo: WGNZ.



*Skiing at Treble Cone skifield near Wanaka. Is this the best view from any NZ skifield?
Photo: Treble Cone*

GLACIERS ENDANGERED

Two-thirds of the world's glaciers are on track to disappear by 2100, a new study finds

Glaciers are shrinking and disappearing faster than scientists thought, according to a new study.

The study examined all of the globe's 215,000 land-based glaciers, not counting those on ice

The world is now on track for a 2.7C-degree temperature rise since pre-industrial times, which by the year 2100 means losing 32 percent of the world's glacier mass, or 48 trillion metric tons of ice as well as 68 percent of the glaciers disappearing.

The study calculates that all that melting ice will add anywhere from 90mm in the best case to 166mm in the worst case to the world's sea level, 4 per cent to 14 per cent more than previous projections.

"For places like the Alps or Iceland, glaciers are part of what makes these landscapes so special," said National Snow and Ice Data Centre director Mark Serreze. "As they lose their ice in a sense they also lose their soul."

His colleague Twila Moon said glaciers are crucial to people's lives in much of the world.

"Glaciers provide drinking water, agricultural water, hydropower and other services that support billions of people," Moon said.

RIDE AN OLD TRAMWAY

Appropriate for the whole family (children under 10 need to be confident riders), this loop trail follows the recovered Marton Sash and Door tramway route for an approximate 2-hour ride.

Starting and finishing in National Park Village you will bounce in and out of the pine plantation as you travel alongside the North Island main trunk railway Line.

You travel 18k through relics from the bush tramway era including the remains of log bridges, a small wood dam, pumice cuttings and rail irons.

This trail is a part of The Mountains To Sea (Ngā Ara Tuhono) trails.

WORLD SNOW DAY

The 12th edition of World Snow Day, designed to promote snow sports for children, was celebrated on January 15th.

There were 141 official events in 44 countries. Discounted or free lift passes, ski and snowboard rentals and lessons were commonly offered.

NZ has taken part in the event in the past, but not this year.

Oddly, since the word snow is used, Mexico and Peru joined in the day by offering sandboarding, which is riding snowboards down sand dunes.

CHASING SHANGRI-LA

A new story of adventure and discovery has been written by Peter Hillary with illustrations by Ant Sang.

4 Yaks and a Yeti follows the journey of a young Yak herder named Lhakpa.

The story introduces Himalayan characters such as Yaks, Yetis, Zopchocks and Snow Leopards, all while traversing the Himalayas in search of the mystical city of Shangri-La.

Peter Hillary has written one previous children's book, and has visited the Himalayas over 80 times, including climbing Mt Everest twice.

Ant Sang is an award-winning Auckland based cartoonist and illustrator.



Alpine ski racing star Mikaela Shiffrin with one of her reindeer herd. Winners of World Cup slalom races in Levi (Finland) win a reindeer and she has six. Skiers get to name their reindeer and to keep them but they don't take them away and they live on a farm. Photo: FIS.

CONSERVATION AWARDS

The Project Tongariro team are reflecting on a job well done after receiving the Community Group award at the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network Awards in Queenstown.

The award recognised the efforts of the local not-for-profit organisation in restoring and rejuvenating the Tongariro National Park area and beyond.

As the longest-running conservation group in the Central North Island, many in the Taupō and Tūrangi community are familiar with Project Tongariro's numerous endeavours.

These include Greening Taupō, replanting works on Mount Ruapehu and the restoration of Rotopounamu and Mount Pīhanga in Tongariro National Park.

Originally formed as the Tongariro Natural History Society, the group was founded in memory of five conservation workers who tragically lost their lives in a helicopter accident near Tūroa ski field in 1982.

From those tragic circumstances, the society was formed in 1984 to educate and involve the community in regenerating the natural world around them.

Driven largely by volunteers, Project Tongariro uses close links with communities, iwi and the Department of Conservation to increase native biodiversity and trap pests.

To date more than 330,000 trees have been planted and 60,000 pest animals eradicated through their work.

*** A separate award was given to Paul Green, honouring his many years of conservation work with DOC and Project Tongariro.

TONGARIRO 10 YEARS ON

It is a decade since Mt Tongariro erupted, firing out 13,000 ballistics.

When the Upper Te Maari Crater at Tongariro erupted for the first time in 123 years, it ejected 13,000 rocks, known as ballistics, the largest 3 metres in diameter.

No one was hurt in the eruption, which happened on a winter's night, but a section of the Tongariro Alpine Crossing was damaged.

Holes were punched in the roof and floor of the Ketetahi Hut at 1.5km from the crater.

Ash fell on the local community and as far away as Hawke's Bay, the first ashfall in NZ since 1996.

GNS Science volcanologist Brad Scott said the eruption was very complex.

The surface process started with a collapse and land sliding that exposed the hydrothermal system to the atmosphere, known as unroofing.

That initiated the expansion of the contained hydrothermal system – steam and water - producing violent activity.

That included production of pyroclastic density currents (PDCs), an eruption column and landslides.

PDC was a general term to cover a variety of collapse or landslide events at volcanos.

"The concept is around large volumes of debris flowing off or down the side of a volcano," he said.

Tongariro is a massive complex of volcanic cones and craters formed by eruptions from at least 12 vents over more than 275,000 years.

Erosion during the last Ice Age has worn away what was once a substantial mountain forming the world-famous hiking destination that it is today. (later) and 1975 (Ngauruhoe).

Research into historical eruptive activity at Tongariro shows eruptions also potentially occurred in 1846, 1855, 1886, and 1928, in addition to frequent eruptions from neighbouring Mt Ngauruhoe.



Upper: A frozen ski lift at Ruapehu. Photo: RAL. **Lower:** RSC Turoa. Photo: Tjebbe Bruin.

ACROSS THE SKIING WORLD

Zoi Sadowski-Synnott, Nico Porteous and Corey Peters were all awarded the MNZM in the New Year honours list for 2023.

Zoi and Nico have been appointed for services to snow sports. Corey has been appointed for services to sit-skiing.

Talented young NZ skier Will Cookson from Canterbury aged 17 was among six people killed in avalanches in the Tyrol and Vorarlberg (Austria) in February.

Cookson, who attended Christchurch Boys' High School and was prominent in rugby as well as skiing, was having a ski holiday after competing in the freeride junior world championships in Kappl (Austria) in January.

He was alone an off-piste area at Kaltenbach ski resort, in Tyrol, when hit by a snowslide. He was ranked third in the freeride world junior tour for 2023.

American skiing legend Lindsey Vonn, for her first downhill in four years, took on the iconic Kitzbuhel (Austria) slope the Streif, at night, on borrowed skis.

Vonn, 38, described herself as "broken beyond repair" when she stepped away from ski racing but she took on the challenge of becoming the first person to ski the world's toughest alpine racing piste in the dark.

Namibia in Africa has some skiing – sand dune skiing. You never make the same run twice as the wind covers up your tracks in less than a minute.

Ski Namibia offers guided trips for downhillers, cross-country and telemark skiers.

The run is 400-foot vertical-in the middle of 31,000-square-mile desert. The

texture feels like fresh snow on a hard, icy track.

In 2010 the skifield owner Henrik May set a sand-skiing world record when he reached 57 miles per hour.

An all-electric snow bike is being tested in Europe and will be on sale soon.

The French-made "moonbike," which will retail at \$NZ18,000, can reach speeds of 42 km/h, has a battery life of three hours and weighs 87 kg.

Its makers say that riding it is similar to riding a motorbike.

Prince Andrew and the Duchess of York have sold their Swiss ski chalet to a British family for £19 million (\$NZ36 million).

The Duke of York, 62, had been attempting to sell the seven bedroom chalet in Verbier since 2020.

The chalet comes with an indoor swimming pool, sauna, sun terrace, bar and opulent entertainment area.

Australian snowboarder Josie Banf aged 18 said her training in often miserable weather in the NSW Snowy Mountains gave her the edge she needed to win her first World Cup gold medal.

Banf won the snowboard cross event in Les Deux Alpes in France and became just the second Australian woman to win a snowboard World Cup event.

Was American singer John Denver (1943-1997) a keen skier? He certainly was.

Denver lived in Aspen (Colorado), one of the world's best known ski towns, and often went skiing as well as playing golf.

In 1984 Denver was asked to compose and sing the theme song for the 1984 Winter Olympics in Sarajevo (Yugoslavia). He composed *The Gold and Beyond* and sang it for the Olympic Games athletes.

Denver was also well known during the

1980s for his gatherings of the rich and famous at John Denver's Celebrity Ski Classic at Heavenly Resort in Lake Tahoe.

He was videoed in 1987 skiing in Austria while singing Dancing With The Mountains.

Denver wrote his No 1 hit Annie's Song in 10 minutes while riding a ski chairlift at Aspen.

The FIS is talking about the idea of rotating the Olympic Winter Games among a small number of cities, by reusing old venues.

FIS President Johan Eliasch said this could start in 2030 and would have several clear benefits.

Olympics venues would be ripe for more long-term investment, allowing them to be modernised in a sustainable way.

German alpine ski racer Rosi Mittermaier, who won two gold medals and a silver at the 1976 Winter Olympics, has died at age 72.

Mittermaier won the downhill and slalom at the 1976 Olympics, and she remains the only woman to do that double.

She went into the closing giant slalom with a chance to match the triple gold feats of Toni Sailer and Jean-Claude Killy at previous Olympics, but she lost by 12 hundredths of a second.

Rosi married fellow German alpine ski racer Christian Neureuther. Her sisters Evi and Heidi were also Olympic skiers.

A ski resort worker in Utah (US) died after a tree fell onto a chairlift cable and he tumbled 8 metres to his death.

The on-duty ski patroller was riding the chairlift at the Park City Mountain ski resort when the tree knocked him out of his chair.

Ski patrol tried to save the employee's life but he died from his injuries.

Four ski trails at Kamloops (Canada)

were temporarily closed after an owl attacked skiers.

The Overlander Ski Club said its trails were closed because of a very aggressive great horned owl which was defending its nest during night skiing.

One skier said the owl hit his ski poles and then came back for another shot which scratched his ear. He decided to give night skiing a miss after that.

Former world champion halfpipe skier Kyle Smaine (US) has died after getting buried in an avalanche in Japan. He was thrown 50 metres by the air blast.

One other skier died and a third emerged unscathed. Smaine, 31, won the world championship in ski halfpipe in 2015.

Olympic gold medal downhill skiers Matthias Mayer (Austria) and Beat Feux (Switzerland) have both announced their retirements from ski racing.

Mayer, aged 32, won a gold medal at three consecutive Winter Olympics, and also won a bronze medal.

Feuz, aged 35, announced his retirement from skiing after 16 seasons, saying the classic events in Wengen and Kitzbuehel in January were his last races.

The Swiss skier won Olympic gold in Beijing last year, adding to the silver and bronze medals he won in Pyeongchang four years earlier.

A cross-country ski race in Colorado (US) which runs between two mountain communities has been moved entirely into one town to avoid moose now occupying an area of the race route.

The Owl Creek Chase 20km mass start race which normally runs from Snowmass to Aspen will now take place entirely in Aspen.

Moose have seriously injured people and killed pets in Colorado. When aggressive, moose pin their ears back and strike out with their front legs.



CLUB ITEMS & SERVICES FOR SALE

RSC Administration Office, P.O. Box 8064, Newmarket, Auckland 1149

Website: www.rsc.org.nz

email: admin@rsc.org.nz

Lockers

Ski and gear lockers are available in the Hut, Lodge and Turoa buildings.

Please email admin@rsc.org.nz for current availability.

Annual Locker Rental Rates:

Charged at the date of allocation.

Ski Locker \$63.25

Gear Locker \$32.62

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

Attend two working parties.

Joining fee senior and young adult \$99

Junior \$49

Annual senior subscription \$285

Annual sub young adult, junior,

associate, veteran \$103.50

ACCOMMODATION FEES

Accommodation fees will be updated before the 2023 season.

Senior member \$58

Teen member \$50

Junior member \$38

Member's child \$30

Senior non-member \$106

Junior non-member \$71

Summer

Senior members \$30

Junior members \$20

Senior non-members \$35

Junior non-members \$25