

# *The Bulletin*

## **RUAPEHU SKI CLUB**

Volume 90, No. 1

March 2025



## **CONTENTS**



*Icy conditions at Mt Ruapehu.*

- 2 President's column
- 3 Ruapehu news
- 5 Ski season bookings
- 6 Whakapapa bid
- 7 Working parties
- 8 Luca wins medals
- 9 Alice wins medals
- 10 David Heap
- 11 Ruapehu book
- 12 Taupo book
- 12 Cycle trail
- 16 T-bar 90 years
- 17 RSC calendar
- 17 Winter Games NZ
- 19 Aluminium skis
- 21 The difference
- 22 Soho trail open
- 24 Fateful duo
- 25 A life of Zoi
- 26 Snowy scoreboard
- 28 World ski news
- 30-31 Skiing roundup
- 32 Club info page

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Hi all,

Hope you have all had a rejuvenating summer so far.

Damon and I finally got ourselves some electric bikes and have managed to do a few trails around the central North Island.

We finally rode the Old Coach Road – there and back. It is still cobbled, so rather bumpy, but interesting with all the information points along the way, and the old viaducts to view.

We also rode Phase One of Te Ara Mangawhero, which goes up the mountain near the Turoa road. It did come to an abrupt end after about 8km.

Both of these rides are easily accessible from our Ohakune building, and if you don't have bikes they can easily be hired in the village.

Whakapapa Holdings Ltd put in its concession application on December 17th and the closing date for submissions was February 7th.

We wrote a submission in support of the concession, reminding WHL that the assets they are purchasing were funded by Ski Clubs and locals, and that as such we would like to have continued access up the Rockgarden and parking for our vehicles.

Michael Webb-Speight (our secretary) is going to speak to our submission at the hearing which will start on February 17th.

A decision will be made regarding the concession by the end of April 2025.

Damon and I attended an online presentation and Q&A with RAL/WHL, set up by RMCA in January.

We have attended the Whakapapa stake holders meeting in Whakapapa. There was a big focus by those around the table on reinvigorating Whakapapa Village, staff accommodation in

the village, the removal of Kristin Lodge which could be used for staff accommodation instead of removing it, and Tawhai Falls carpark.

We have followed that up with a meeting with Travis Donoghue (CEO Whakapapa skifield) and with DoC.

From our meetings we feel there is a positive vibe about the upcoming season.

The team at Whakapapa plan to start snow making earlier than usual, and are investing in \$1 million worth of new snow guns to cover the Rockgarden and Tennants Valley, as they see these areas quite pivotal in supporting skiers at the next level from Happy Valley.

Work party season is upon us, and as they say “many hands make light work”.

So please check out the dates, if you could make just one of the work parties that would greatly help in getting the necessary work done, and also in avoiding the costs of having to get outside contractors in.

At Easter there will be a work party at the Chalet and Lodge (Friday and Saturday).

Don't forget our club joining special of \$49.00, this year. Bring your friends along to the work parties to try out Club life.

We have Committee elections coming up and nominations are opening soon. Please consider if you are able to help out with the Committee.

We have one online Zoom meeting each month, except January, and fulfil many of the tasks that help keep it affordable for everyone to use the Club.

Nomination forms are on the website in the members area under Club documents. Please email to [secretary@rsc.org.nz](mailto:secretary@rsc.org.nz) when completed.

Hope to see you on the mountain.

**Catherine  
President**



RSC members skiing at Whakapapa in 2024. Photo: Chris Woudenberg.

## THROUGH THE LODGE WINDOW

**Whakapapa Holdings is interested in operating the Chateau Tongariro which has been closed since February 2023 due to earthquake risk.**

WHL director Tom Elworthy said the hotel is an integral part of the tourism offering around the Whakapapa Village and the national park area.

“We have seen some structural drawings, we have had some of our guys look at it, and we aren’t too confronted by it.”

Elworthy said the agreement would need to be a long term lease at a peppercorn rental rate.

***An iwi bid to have the central North Island village of National Park renamed Waimarino has been successful.***

*A second iwi proposal to change the name of the village railway station from National Park Station to Waimarino Railway Station has been declined.*

*The Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa New Zealand Geographic Board announced*

*the decisions after 2500 submissions were received.*

*Land Information NZ said Waimarino is the original Māori name for the area and refers to calm waters pooling on the plains as they come down from the mountain.*

**The Department of Conservation** has cracked down on illegal motorised dirt biking following an incident on the Mountain to Sea trail where park rangers were abused.

DoC stated that although the incident was isolated, any motorised vehicle users on these tracks were putting other trail users and wildlife at risk.

It is an offence under the Tongariro National Park bylaws to drive a vehicle, including dirt bikes and quad bikes, on walking and mountain biking tracks.

There is some public conservation land where dirt biking and off-roading is legal which can be found on the DoC website.

**Former RSC member Emma Humphries** is returning to New Zealand to head football’s Wellington Phoenix academy.

*Humphries, a Football Fern, has been*

**THE  
RUAPEHU SKI CLUB  
(inc) Founded 1913**

P.O.Box 8064, Newmarket,  
Auckland 1149  
Telephone: 0-9-377 3856  
Email: admin@rsc.org.nz  
Website: www.rsc.org.nz



**President:** Catherine Gafa.

**Vice-Presidents:** Carl Burling,  
Damon Forsyth, Donald Webster.

**Immediate Past President:**  
Phill Thomass.

**Secretary:** Michael Webb-Speight.

**Treasurer:** Sonia Quinn.

**Captain:** vacant.

**Committee:** Drew Blair,  
Ron Bonfrer, Sam Hood,  
Simon Hunt, Pip McNaughton,  
Fiona Lovelock.

**Patron:** Peter Brady.

**Patroness:** Barbara Scelly.

**Auditors:** Hart and Co.

**Heritage Fund Guardians:**  
Robin Dallas, Phill Thomass,  
Bernard Smith, Catherine Gafa.

**Fund Treasurer:** Mike Wardle.

**Glacier Hut Custodian:**  
Bernard Smith.

*coaching soccer in England and Canada.*

*Having grown up in Karori, Wellington, she joined RSC with her family and attended RSC Lodge in the school holidays.*

As at late February, Te Wai ā-moe (Ruapehu Crater Lake) has been slowly heating to 20 °C from a low of 8 °C in early October. There has been a low level of volcanic tremor. An eruption remains unlikely and the volcanic alert remains at level 1 on a scale of 0-5.

Whakaari/White Island has been emitting weak-to-moderate steam and gas plumes. Occasionally the activity changes to contain volcanic ash in the plume. The volcanic alert level remains at 2.

*Whakapapa launched a dedicated Snow Zone for December and January at the top of the gondola, giving visitors the chance to play in the snow in the middle of summer.*

*The Snow Zone was a 6 x 6 metre space where Whakapapa encouraged guests to experience snow at 2020 metres above sea level.*

The newest section of the **Mountains to Sea Ngā Ara Tūhono Great Ride** is a ray of hope for the Ruapehu District, its mayor says.

Weston Kirton said the first stage of the hiking and cycling trail Te Ara Mangawhero, on Mt Ruapehu, would help transform the district's embattled tourism industry.

The 11.4-kilometre loop will eventually become a 21.4 km section of the Great Ride, connecting the town of Ohakune to the volcanic slopes.

*Tūroa skifield was open for 90 days last season, which was around the average.*

*There were 74,000 skier or snowboarder days, plus 6000 sightseers.*

The deadline for the June Bulletin will be **Friday May 16th.**

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



## **SKI SEASON BUNK BOOKINGS FOR 2025**

Bookings for the 2025 ski season will open on May 1st.

Your bookings will be confirmed as soon as possible, as long as your 2024 subscription fees are paid and there are sufficient funds in your account to cover.

If funds are not available, an invoice will be sent and the booking will be confirmed once payment has been received.

The bunk authority with bunk numbers and the door code will be sent out 48 hours prior to the first night booked.

This is to better manage the bunk allocations after cancellations have been processed. We do not give out the door code until the booking is confirmed (paid).

Please take your bunk authority with you or on your phone, as the bunk sheets are not always on the notice board at the buildings.

It is important to stay in your allocated bunk as members can arrive late and expect their bunks to be unoccupied.

If you have a favourite bunk, please make a request in the notes on the booking page and where possible we will cater to your request (not guaranteed).

### **School Holiday Bookings.**

School holidays are popular so get your bookings in early.

If demand is high, preference will be given to families with school aged children and members who have completed a work party over summer.

### **Bookings with guests.**

Senior members can take up to three guests with them to the club at non-member rates. This is a good way to introduce friends and family.

Priority will always be given to members and if bookings are looking full, confirmation may be two weeks prior to the start of booking.

A reminder that if your subs are paid before May 1st each senior member will receive two vouchers which can be used for guests.

### **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.

**New summer member:-**Mark Rampant. Welcome to RSC.

## **SNOWY BONANZA**

NZ sport sports athletes have done wonders in recent weeks, on the various World Cup tours and at the Winter X-Games. Record numbers on podiums and top-10 results. See pages 26-27 for details.

## WHAKAPAPA SKI BID SUBMISSIONS CALLED

DoC has been seeking public feedback on an application by Whakapapa Holdings Ltd (WHL) for a concession to operate Whakapapa.

WHL has applied for a 10-year lease which will allow it to take over RAL operations at Whakapapa as well as six low level accommodation buildings.

The public submission period ended on February 7th.

## MAZEY IS CONFIDENT

Whakapapa Holdings leader Dave Mazezy told radio that he is confident his company can operate the skifield from April 1st.

In the meantime RAL (in receivership) is continuing to prepare Whakapapa for the coming ski season.

\*\*\* Cabinet has approved a \$5 million loan to Whakapapa Holdings which seeks to operate Whakapapa from April, pending conservation approvals.

## TWO EXCLUSIONS

The WHL bid does not seek to retain the West Ridge Kiosk nor the Schuss Haus and it is proposed that these be demolished. One news report said DoC will pay for this remediation.

WHL also does not wish to own the Old Stone Workshop at the foot of the Staircase. This is a heritage listed building and WHL asks it to be owned by DoC or Project Tongariro.

WHL is seeking a maximum of 6500 visitors per day. This is up from 5500 under RAL.

## ONLINE SEMINAR

WHL directors Dave Mazezy, Tom Elworthy and Travis Donoghue in January



*Dave Mazezy addresses RSC Winter Party.*

held a one-hour online question and answer seminar watched by 100 people, including a dozen or so RSC members.

Some interesting issues were:

\*\*\* Bridget Legnavsky, formerly manager of Cardrona and Treble Cone skifields, has joined the company as an independent director.

\*\*\* WHL will work closely with iwi and (though the RMCA) with ski clubs. It will encourage people to join clubs.

\*\*\* Overnight parking for clubs will again be available. WHL will assist clubs to have access via the Rangatira lift.

\*\*\* WHL will buy new snowmaking machinery to replace "old kit". It will annually buy one new groomer to replace its aging machines.

\*\*\* It is introducing new protocols allowing the West lifts to open earlier.

\*\*\* Interclub racing should be available this year after missing the past two years. WHL will also support the return of NIPS racing for children.

## **WORKING PARTIES**

The work party season is now on and your Club needs members and prospective members to help maintain our buildings.

Yes that time of year again where we spruce up the buildings so they are ready for when the 6 metre base hits us in July.

Any help is appreciated, even if you can just come for a day, and remember the accommodation is FREE for the work party weekend.

March 15-16

April 18-19

May 17-18

June 14-15

## **RACING THIS YEAR**

Interclub racing and NIPS (primary schools racing) are back on the agenda for Whakapapa this season.

So give it a go. Have a ski or snowboard race. Dates to be advised.

## **HIGH PERFORMANCE**

Snow Sports NZ has done very well from the latest grants made by High Performance NZ. SSNZ has been awarded \$3.36 million.

This places it sixth behind rowing, cycling, yachting, athletics and canoeing, and well ahead of sports such as hockey and swimming which have not done so well recently.

## **TITANIUM KNEE**

US veteran ski racer Lindsey Vonn thinks her new titanium knee could start a trend in skiing and pro sports in general.

“I’m a lot stronger than I once was. Titanium knee replacement surgery could be a new frontier for the sport.”

Vonn had a robot-assisted replacement performed by Martin Roche, a Florida-based orthopaedic surgeon specializing in complex knee disorders.

Part of the bone in her right knee was cut off and replaced by two titanium pieces. A month later, she was planning her comeback.

“It’s a lot better than my non-existent cartilage,” said Vonn. “I’ve talked to a lot of skiers already about it and I really think that it could be something that should be considered.”

## **OHAKUNE MUSEUM**

For a more relaxed outing, visit the Ohakune Railway Museum.

Established in 2010, it showcases the town’s role in the construction of the 1908 Main Trunk Railway.

Situated on upper Thames St, the museum occupies a 1930s railway shed relocated here in 1990.

Discover a wealth of exhibits on the region’s railway history, including a tribute to the 1953 Tangiwai disaster, which claimed 151 lives.

## LUCA WINS TWO GOLDS AND A SILVER

New Zealand skier Luca Harrington aged 21 from Wanaka won gold medals in two consecutive freeski World Cup big air events. Later in the season he added a silver.

First he won big air Klagenfurt (Austria) at Christmas where he impressed judges with a high-scoring first run of 94.80.

There 49 starters and this was NZ's first freestyle skiing World Cup gold medal.

He said: "I have been working really hard for the past few years, making finals has been huge. To put down these two tricks tonight and walk away with the win is just the most insane thing ever, the biggest dream come true, and I am just so grateful."

Two weeks later Harrington won big air Kreischberg (Austria) with a total of 187.75 points.

Luca locked down one of the highest big air World Cup scores of all-time and finishing the competition nearly 10 points clear of his closest competitor.

He was so far in front after two jumps that he did not need to score a third jump and instead made a lap of honour.

Harrington took an early lead after a massive first run score of 95.75 for what has become his signature trick - a switch right triple 1620 esco.

He then followed that up with a second run score of 92.00 for his right triple cork 1800 safety.

Finally Luca placed second in a World Cup big air at Aspen (US).

He had two good jumps but was beaten by Matej Svancer (Austria).

Big air for skiers is an Olympic Winter



*Luca Harrington*

Games event and Milan Cortina 2026 is less than a year away.

In big air events the skiers or snowboarders have three attempts to jump as high as possible and do as many twists and flips as possible.

The two best jumps count and they must be from opposite sides.

## MORE X-GAMES GOLD

Luca Harrington won a gold medal in slopestyle at the Winter X-Games in Aspen (Colorado).

He became only the second X Games rookie to ever win gold.

Luca initially was only an alternate at the invitation only event, but he got a start at one day's notice.

He followed up with a silver medal in big air at the X-Games.





NZ ski racer Alice Robinson celebrates after winning an alpine ski World Cup race at Kronplatz (Italy) in January. Photo: FIS.

## **Alice in Wonderland**

Alice Robinson (NZ) won a gold medal in an alpine skiing World Cup giant slalom at Kronplatz (Italy) in January.

It was her fourth career win and her first for four years.

This is the big time, folks, the famous White Circus, watched live by thousands of spectators and seen by millions on live TV.

Lara Gut-Behrami (Swiss) was second and Paula Moltzan (US) was third.

The win followed a string of silver and bronze medals for Alice on the World Cup circuit over the past two seasons.

Claudia Riegler (four wins) and Annelise Coberger (one) are the only other Kiwis to win an alpine skiing World Cup race. No NZ men have come even close.

Robinson won the race with a near faultless second run after being fifth on the first run.

“I’m really quite speechless,” said an emotional Robinson, 23, from Queenstown, who last won as a teenager.

“I knew on the first run that I had made a little mistake. On the second run I took a lot of risks. It wasn’t perfect, but it was fast. My family was here to watch.”

Federica Brignone (Italy) and Sara Hector (Sweden), who each won two of the previous four GS races this season, were unplaced this time behind Alice. There were 65 starters.

## **WORLD CHAMPS SILVER**

Alice Robinson from Queenstown has won the silver medal in the giant slalom at the world alpine skiing champs in Austria.

It is NZ’s first ever medal at the world champs. The winner by 0.90 sec was Federica Brignone (Italy) while Paula Moltzan (US) was third.

Well done Alice. A great result from someone who has no team mates and is competing against the big teams. There were 109 starters from 51 nations and 15,000 spectators.

Alice also came 11th in the super-g, her backup event.



*David Heap dressed up for Winter Party.*

## DAVID HEAP

David Heap, who was Secretary of RSC in 1997-1999, died at Auckland just before Christmas, aged 86.

David and his wife Sue were long-time members of the Club and often attended Winter Party.

David Heap was born in England and arrived in New Zealand aged 10 in 1948.

He was a prominent book and magazine publisher and was helpful in the production of the RSC Bulletin.

He designed the layout of the front cover of The Bulletin as you see it today.

David's publishing company specialised in books for the education sector.

His other interests included sailing, and he was a member of the MG Car Club.

He was a regular walker at RSC's summer rambles around the Tongariro region.

We offer our condolences to Sue and her family.

\*\*\* David accused me of being a Luddite because I was editing The Bulletin by hand. I tried to explain that I was looking

for a good computer and that I already did professional word processing on screen at my work.

AG

## LAUBERHORN DOWNHILL

Marco Odermatt (Swiss), the 27-year-old superstar of men's alpine skiing, raced down the longest and quirkiest World Cup downhill course to edge teammate Franjo von Allmen for victory in the classic Lauberhorn downhill.

This race covers 4.5km as against 2.5km for most downhills. It was attended this year by a noisy crowd of 40,000, all of whom had to travel uphill by mountain railway or helicopter.

The Lauberhorn downhill is now in its 95th year. It is a standout event in Switzerland's sports and social calendar.

## THE GOAT RUAPEHU

David Haunschmidt won the annual Tongariro Goat run from Whakapapa to Turoa, taking 2h 06.34. Nick Tipling was second in 2h 14.15.

Maia Flint was fourth home overall and first woman in 2h 19.35. Jessie Speedy was seventh overall and second woman in 2h.19.35.

There were 445 finishers.

Originally from Scotland, Dr Haunschmidt came to NZ in 2016. He specialises in ultra distance running and adult and paediatric emergency care.

The Goat is an exhilarating adventure run from Whakapapa to Turoa skifields on the Round the Mountain track, traversing the western slopes of Ruapehu. The 20 km course has 1000 metres of vertical ascent.

## FROZEN SKI RACES

The first-ever timed cross-country skiing events in Antarctica were held in January.

The inaugural Antarctic Loppet races over 10k and 20k were contested by participants representing 11 different nationalities.



## NEW RUAPEHU BOOK

One woman's quest to uncover secrets in a mountain world.

What lies off-track in Tongariro National Park?

**Fire and Ice** is an engrossing book containing stories of ghosts, fires, avalanches, plane wrecks, sly grogging, secret spots and more from around Ngāuruhoe, Tongariro and Ruapehu, a place of wild and chaotic grandeur.

This well-illustrated and lively exploration of the history of Ruapehu is told by Hazel Phillips, a self-confessed Ruapehu addict who has an uncanny talent for persuading a cast of great characters to join her on her explorations and investigations.

With over 200 historic and present-day images and 25 maps, it's a gift for all who loving skiing, climbing and tramping around this mighty mountain.

The book is huge, her magnum opus. There are plenty of references to RSC.

Order now from: Massey University Press website (delivery in May):

<https://www.masseypress.ac.nz/books/fire-and-ice>



Hazel Phillips



## NEW TAUPO BOOK

Veteran RSC member and retired volcanologist Peter Otway has just published a new 50-page book devoted to his many years of studying Lake Taupo.

Its title is *Keeping Watch on Taupo, Our Super Lake and Supervolcano*.

Its subtitle is “Monitoring the restless giant over four decades as its reputation grew.”

Peter has been an RSC member since 1951 and has regularly stayed at RSC Hut, entertaining us with his volcanic experiences, plus a term in Antarctica working with 60 polar dogs.

Peter has also been a strong skier and has circumnavigated Ruapehu while skiing on all the glaciers.

He introduces his book by saying that Taupo has now been classified as one of just 10 supervolcanoes around the world, thanks to its gigantic Oruahu eruption, 25,600 years ago.

Peter started out as a surveyor and his association with Taupo goes back to 1966.

This book is available for \$25 plus postage from [otwayl@xtra.co.nz](mailto:otwayl@xtra.co.nz).

## INVICTUS GAMES HELP

The Invictus Games for disabled military people are helping to heal a former NZ soldier three decades after a Mt Ruapehu tragedy.

Sonny Tavake was one of 13 soldiers who set out on an alpine training course on Mt Ruapehu. The men were caught in a blizzard at the crater and only seven returned.

Recently he was one of a 19-strong NZ team at the Invictus Games in Canada. As well as the core Invictus sports there were adaptive winter sports such as alpine skiing and snowboarding, skeleton and wheelchair curling.

Sonny took part in skeleton and biathlon plus and the core Invictus sports of indoor rowing and wheelchair rugby.

## NEW TRAIL PRAISED

The new section of the Mountains to Sea trail is stunning, according to writer Cean Priest.

It starts at the bottom of the Ohakune Mountain Road and winds its way uphill in bush lined with ferns before crossing the road and continuing upwards to where they are still extending it.

It took us about 2.5 hours return because we absolutely dawdled and picnicked etc.

If doing a steady pace you could knock it out easily under two hours. There is a way to make it shorter by looping back to the Mangawhero Campsite without doing the extra out and back as well.

The trail is so well graded that kids starting out on trails will be fine on this (although little legs might get a bit tired with the steady uphill). Phase II is expected to be completed in 2026.

## JUDGING REVOLUTION

Ski and snowboard judges are moving towards using artificial intelligent (AI) robots to ensure more accurate scoring.

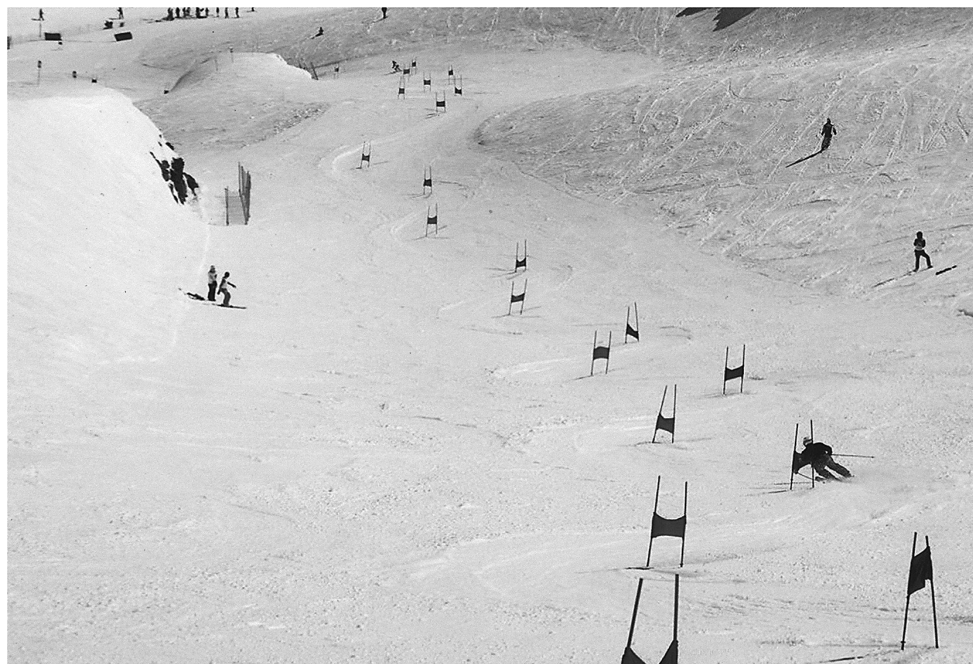
This year's Winter X Games at Aspen in Colorado were scored with AI help in the judging of the superpipe competition.

Medals were not given out based on that AI tally, but the scores were visible so fans could compare the AI score with those of the human judges.

The hope is that this will bring more objectivity and clarity to the judging process.

It is planned to use the technology to judge skateboarding and surfing.





*Snow sports at Ruapehu.*



*Giant slalom practice at Saas Fee (Switzerland).*



*The Tour de Ski, now its 20th edition, is a cross-country event for men and women based on cycling's Tour de France. It consists of seven competitions over nine days in the Czech Republic, Germany, Italy and Switzerland.*





**Upper:** Walking the Tongariro Alpine Crossing. Photo: Visit Ruapehu. **Lower:** You used to be able to drive a car from the Desert Road to Waihohonu Hut. Not any more. Photo: RSC Collection.



*Australia had a J-bar at Charlotte Pass (NSW) in 1938, four years after this lift was invented. It was unreliable and often broke down.*

## T-BAR 90 YEARS ON

Christmas marked 90 years since the world's first T-bar ski lift went into service at Davos in Switzerland.

The lift was invented by Zurich engineer Ernst Gustav Constam. Initially it was shaped like a J and carried only one person at a time.

The lift was 270 metres long on the Bolgen slope in Davos, and recorded 70,000 lifts in its first season of operation.

Vertical height was 60 metres with five supports. The lift was driven by a 24 hp electric motor.

A year later Davos ski instructor Jack Ettinger had the idea of replacing the J-shaped bar with a T-shaped one that could pull two people.

Constam liked the idea and soon T-bar ski lifts were in place at several Swiss locations, including Murren and Davos.

Using the T-bar takes practice and beginners often find it challenging. For

children, the hardest part is getting rid of the bar at the finish line.

For snowboarders, the lift is a quite challenge as they have to take one foot off the bindings.

As more and more snowboarders took to the slopes in the 1990s, ski resorts replaced many T-bar lifts with chairlifts.

Long haulers have almost completely disappeared from major ski areas but traditional T-bar ski lifts still account for 44 percent of Switzerland's 1650 lift installations.

Most of these are in low-altitude resorts, where it's not worth investing in a chairlift because of the uncertainty of snow cover.

New Zealand's first T-bar was built on the Staircase at Whakapapa in 1954.

It was withdrawn in the 1990s, after which a visiting Swiss instructor said what RSC needed was a T-bar on the Staircase to allow for skiing on poor weather days.



## RSC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mar 2025	15-16	Working parties
April 2025	18-19	Working parties (Easter)
May 2025	1 17-18	RSC bunk bookings open Working parties
June 2025	11 ? 14-15	RSC AGM at Auckland Ski season opens (lower mountain) Working parties
July 2025	?	Upper mountain opens
Aug 2025 to be advised		Haensli Cup (RSC)
Sept 2025 to be advised		RSC Club champs
Oct 2025	?	Ski season ends

## NZ GAMES NO MORE

The Winter Games NZ will no longer be held in its current format due to economic challenges.

The event faced rising costs, challenging sponsorship markets and high international fees, making it untenable.

Since 2009, Winter Games NZ hosted 11 editions, benefiting skiers, snowboarders and others.

It was the largest snow sports event in the Southern Hemisphere, attracting 600 athletes from 40-plus nations,

Events have included FIS Australia New Zealand Cups, Freeride World Tour qualifying events, FIS junior world Championships and FIS freeski and snowboard World Cups.

“The chairman of Winter Games NZ Dr Sam Hazledine said: “While it is with a heavy heart that we share this news, we are immensely proud of what has been achieved over the last 15 years and we are grateful for each and every person who has contributed to the legacy that Winter

Games NZ will leave behind”.

Winter Games NZ was the initiative of businessman and philanthropist the late Sir Eion Edgar, who dedicated himself tirelessly to the development of sport, education, business and the arts in the Otago region.

## LINDSEY HELPED ALICE

Without teammates to speak to, NZ champion ski racer Alice Robinson often relied on the advice of older colleagues, including Lindsey Vonn, who, through her Foundation supported Alice in the early stages of her career.

“Lindsey’s always been my biggest idol growing up,” she remembers.

“If I sent her a message, she’d always reply. She offered so many words of advice. I said she didn’t have to at all, but she was just willing to help, which was really special.

“And that’s why it’s cool now to see her back at it, doing it again.”



**Upper:** Big Air?? Rocco Jamieson (NZ) jumps over an aeroplane. **Lower:** Lyon Farrell (NZ) in slopesyle competition at Cardrona.

## ALL ALUMINIUM SKIS

**The world's first all-aluminium skis have arrived. Not only are they 100 percent recyclable, the innovative metallic construction makes this the most precise and environmentally friendly way to manufacture them.**

Howard Head in the 1950s put his aircraft manufacturing experience to use. He wrapped two sheets of aircraft-grade aluminium around a core of honeycomb plywood with plastic sidewalls.

That advantage lasted a little over a decade before advances in fiberglass technology inverted the formula. Today some skis have more than 50 parts sandwiched together in a big heated press.

It was again someone working in the aircraft manufacturing industry who hit upon the idea to mill the exact shape of ski desired from a solid block of aerospace-grade aluminium.

The edges will easily withstand hits on ice or rocks, and they'll never rust. Nor will any part of the M1 ski.

The idea for the monobloc construction came from Brian Rosenberger, an aerospace engineer for Lockheed Martin, who had a hypothesis that he could use the aluminium alloy he was working with on airplanes to create a snowboard.

Using a computer he shaped a snowboard from one piece of metal, tested it on snow, and was pleasantly surprised at the performance.

Moving to skis, the group took five years to make specific changes to ski flex and torsional rigidity that could optimize ski behaviour.

The skis use a standard Tyrolia binding.

M1 is set to have a limited stock for the fall of 2025 priced on par with equivalent high-end alpine skis.

## FULL SUSPENSION SKIS

US skiers Ken Nichols and Nick Foster have created the first and only full-suspension system for skis.

Inspired by the suspension technology on race cars and mountain bikes, the duo spent nearly a decade testing and perfecting their debut design to allow for greater fluidity and control while racing down the steepest slopes.

Six prototypes later, ShredShox has now been released to the public.

Similar to what you would find on a trail bike, ShredShox has two high performance shocks that suspend a platform for the bindings while also connecting it to the ski itself.

The whole system adds about 2.5 lbs to each foot, which is a significant difference; however, the weight will help accomplish a smoother, quieter experience.

The idea behind ShredShox is not meant to replace the original bindings. Instead, they are designed to add to the ski, working with most alpine bindings found on the market.

This new technology will undoubtedly take some getting used to for most skiers as the suspension could distort how the terrain beneath the ski is interpreted.

In other words, being able to tell if you are on snow, ice or rocks could all very well feel the same, which seems counterintuitive.

This technology is not for the faint of heart. However, ShredShox creates an innovative way to achieve more control when racing down the slopes.

Its makers say full suspension skis is the most significant advancement in ski equipment in decades.





*RSC members enjoying the snow at Whakapapa. Photos: Will Geddes and Paula Cooper.*



## WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE

Some winter sport disciplines may seem similar but a closer look shows the differences between them are extensive.

Read on to discover the differences between the slopestyle, halfpipe and big air events that will take place in the next Olympic Winter Games at Milan Cortina in 2026.

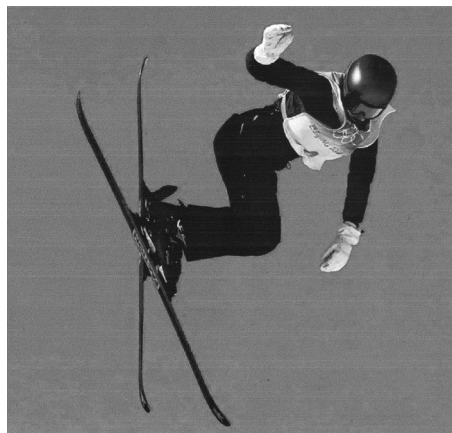
They are all part of freestyle skiing and snowboarding.

Tricks in slopestyle, halfpipe and big air aren't scored individually, such as seen in artistic gymnastics or figure skating, but are judged on the overall impression of the run.

The judges look for form in a variety of ways throughout the run including amplitude, a clean take-off, controlled flight path and landing on a sweet spot.

**Slopestyle** skiers and riders perform six tricks and jumps on a sloping course over multiple ramps, rails and other obstacles.

The top of the course features rails while the bottom section contains three huge jumps. The biggest jump comes at the end of the run.



**Halfpipe** skiers and snowboarders execute multiple tricks one after the other down a 22 foot-high (6.7 metre) halfpipe.

The key here is not only performing super high, difficult twisting flips and rotations, but landing them perfectly to maintain flow and momentum. Each landing leads directly into the next flip, leaving little room for error. The walls are super steep at 16-168 degrees.

**Big air** does what it says. Skiers and snowboarders launch themselves skyward from a steeply banked jump and complete as many twists, flips and grabs as they can in a breath-holding dynamic whirl of skis/boards, snow, limbs and usually baggy clothes.

Imagine an athlete coming down a ramp like a ski jumper, but instead of taking off at the end of the ramp, staying in a fixed-flying position and focusing on distance and form, the big air athletes pile in as many flips and twists as their time in the air allows.

\*\*\* NZ has gained five Olympic Winter Games medals in these events, three to Zoi Sadowski-Synnott and two to Nico Porteous.



*Eileen Gu (China) is the only athlete to win Olympic Winter Games medals in all three freestyle events mentioned on this page. She won a halfpipe World Cup event at Cardrona in NZ last year. Eileen has a Chinese mother and an American father. She spends part of each year in each country.*



*The Soho Basin at Cardrona.*

## SOHO SIX SEATER

Cardrona Alpine Resort in 2025 will open its new Doppelmayr six seater chairlift in the Soho Basin, making Cardrona the largest single ski area in New Zealand.

Currently skiers are sitting at 345ha of skiable terrain at Cardrona. With Soho Basin and other developments, we'll be using more than double that at 900ha of skiable terrain. The vertical drop in Soho is 380 metres.

Soho Basin is the land directly behind the existing Cardrona Alpine Resort. You're looking right at it as you ski down Queenstown Return.

It's mixed terrain, like the existing Captain's Basin. Some really steep stuff, lots of different aspects, great snow and good for intermediates too. There is an epic view of the Southern Alps and the Wakatipu Basin.

Soho has a south-westerly aspect so throughout winter the basin gets snow

accumulation. The snow also tends to stick around in the basin for a longer time, making it a spring skiing destination.

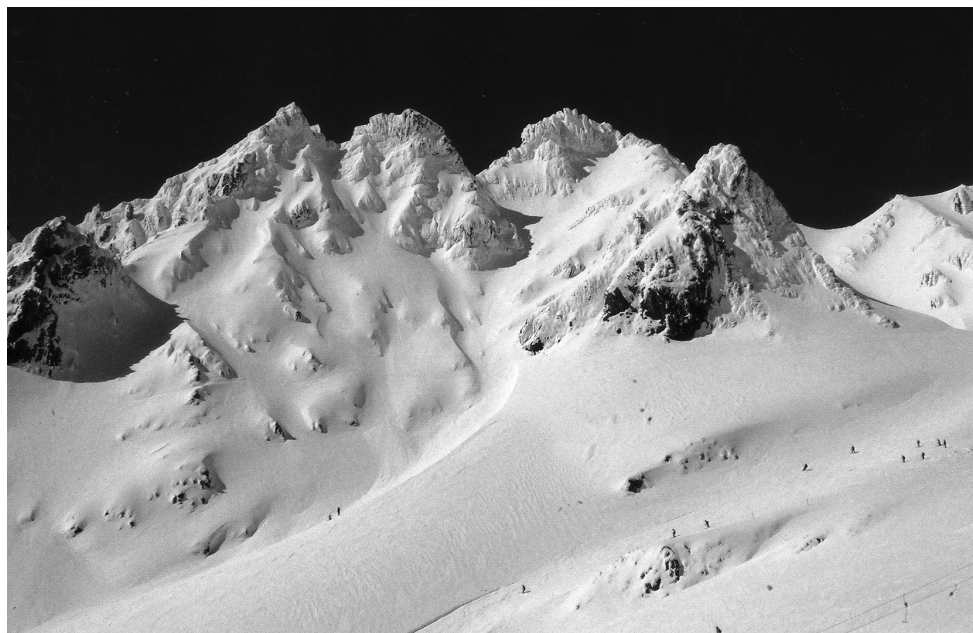
To meet demand the Valley View car park will be extended. The on-mountain rentals department, snowmaking, food and beverage, retail and other offerings are also being upgraded this summer.

Construction of the new lift began this summer and the top station was in place by Christmas. The bottom station and towers of the Soho Basin Express should be in place by May.

According to Cardrona, the Soho area will have "a mix of playful intermediate terrain alongside more technical, advanced lines, plenty for confident skiers and snowboarders to explore".

Cardrona said new skiable terrain in New Zealand is rare.

Extension into the Soho Basin was first flagged in 2018 when Cardrona announced a partnership between the resort and Queenstown developer John Darby.



**Upper:** The Chutes above the High Traverse at Whakapapa. Strictly for experts only. Photo: Alan Graham. **Lower:** The Frontstage ski run in Te Heuheu Valley. Photo: RSC Collection.





*Peter Goldstern at Whakapapa. Photo: Alan Graham.*

## FATEFUL SKIING DUO

Did you know that two NZ skiing champions, both members of RSC, were pilots of small aircraft which crashed at sea?

One, Robert Palmer, was lost without trace. The other, Peter Goldstern, was rescued.

Robert was the son of former RSC President Jim Palmer. He won many local races and was 42nd in the downhill at the 1968 Olympic Winter Games at Grenoble (France).

Robert and his fiancée Friedl Bohmer were missing after ditching at sea near Hawaii in 1981. He had clocked up 6000 hours as a pilot and had made several trips between NZ and the US.

At the time of his crash he was an air traffic controller at Invercargill and was delivering a twin engine aircraft from NZ to the US. A search by US coastguard failed to find any trace of Robert's plane.

Peter Goldstern was an NZ national who lived for a while in the US before returning to NZ in 1964 to become national

ski champion as well as a talented hydro engineer who did major work on mapping the flow of NZ rivers.

Peter, now 72 who makes his home in Switzerland, was in 1965 delivering a newly built Mooney M20 aircraft from Newfoundland to Ireland when the plane's oil pressure fitting blew out 1000km from land.

He was rescued by Don Zozosky of California who was on a US Air Force flight when he spotted Goldstern in the ocean in a survival suit 45 minutes after ditching.

Zozosky dropped an inflatable life raft to Goldstern who was picked up some hours later by a passing Russian ship.

The story didn't end there. Peter was dropped off in Italy by the Russians and at night was climbing over a wall to get into the NZ embassy when he fell and broke a leg.

Peter went on to have a long career in aviation including many years as pilot of the one plane air force of Tonga.

He had lunch at RSC Hut some 15 years ago while his twin engine aircraft was being overhauled at Palmerston North.



## A LIFE OF ZOI

Zoi Katherine Sadowski-Synnott MNZM aged 23 is a New Zealand snowboarder, specialising in slopestyle and big air freeski competitions.

At the 2022 Winter Olympics she won both the gold medal in the women's slopestyle and the silver medal in the big air

She previously won the bronze medal in the women's big air at the 2018 Winter Olympics, and won the women's slopestyle gold medal at the 2019 world championships.

Zoi was born in Sydney to a New Zealand father Sean Synnott and an American mother Robin Sadowski. She has three siblings.

She lived in Sydney before moving with her family to Wānaka when she was six. She was educated at Mount Aspiring College.

Zoi's mum was appointed as manager of the Snow Farm skifield at Cardrona near Wanaka which was a theme park for snowboarders and freestyle skiers. The young Zoi and her siblings were out on the snow most days and evenings practising their skills.

At age 16 years 353 days, Sadowski-Synnott briefly became New Zealand's youngest ever Olympic medallist. The record was broken later the same day by Nico Porteous at age 16 years 91 days.

Zoi was subsequently selected as New Zealand's flag bearer for the 2018 Winter Olympics closing ceremony, becoming the nation's youngest flag bearer.

In January 2019, Sadowski-Synnott claimed the gold medal in the slopestyle event and the silver in the big air at the Winter X Games in Aspen, Colorado. Five gold medals and three silvers followed at later X-Games.

In the New Year honours, Sadowski-Synnott was appointed a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit, for services to snow sports.

Unusually for an Olympic snowboarder she had a go at freeride extreme skiing where competitors choose their own lines and are judged for difficulty and choice of slope as well as execution.



*Zoi Sadowski-Synnott.*

She won freeride events, maybe getting tips from her boyfriend Ben Richards who is a world ranked freerider.

Back home Zoi was awarded both the Halberg award for sportswomen of the year, and the overall supreme Halberg.

On that night snow sports athletes won five of the top eight prizes, others going to Nico Porteous (sportsman), Corey Peters (para) and Gustav Legnavsky (emerging talent).

Only Corey was there on the night as the others were overseas, but Zoi's dad gave a memorable and down to earth acceptance speech.

The five were united at Wanaka in the NZ winter and a photo was taken of them with the five Halberg statuettes.

Zoi's career:

Olympics one gold, one silver, one bronze.

World champs two gold, three silver.

X-Games six gold, three silver, two bronze.

## **SNOWY SCOREBOARD**

### **RETURN OF ZOI S-S**

Zoi Sadowski-Synnott (NZ) returned to competition in January after taking a year off for treatment to an ankle injury. She started with a tenth in a snowboard World Cup big air at Kreischberg (Austria).

Zoi then won a silver medal in a slopestyle World Cup event at Laax (Switzerland).

Zoi next won a slopestyle gold medal at Aspen (Colorado) and doubled that by winning a big air gold medal at Aspen. It was Zoi's 12th career World Cup podium.

### **WINTER X-GAMES**

**NZ won two gold medals in one day at the prestigious Winter X-Games at Aspen (Colorado) in January.**

First, Zoi Sadowski-Synnott won the women's snowboard slopestyle and then Luca Harrington won the men's ski slopestyle.

Zoi in her comeback season after an ankle injury executed a backside triple corked 1440 on the third and final jump, making history as the first woman to land a triple cork in a slopestyle competition.

Zoi also won a bronze medal in big air, bringing her career X-Games podiums to 11, including six gold medals.

Luca Harrington was an alternate in his slopestyle event but got a start when someone withdrew. He made a flawless first run, including his switch triple corked 1620.

Luca, aged 20 from Wanaka, followed up with a silver medal in the ski big air. Miro Tabanelli (Italy) aged 20 won this with a 2340, that's six and a half rotations.

**All told NZ gained two gold, one**

**silver and two bronze at the Winter X-Games in Aspen.**

\*\*\* Rocco Jamieson aged 18 from Wanaka won a bronze medal in men's snowboard big air.

\*\*\* Ruby Star Andrews aged 20 from Wanaka came eighth in women's ski slopestyle.

\*\*\* Fin Melville Ives aged 18 from Wanaka was fourth in the men's ski halfpipe.

\*\*\* Luke Harrold aged 16 from Lake Hawea was sixth in the men's ski halfpipe.

### **MIKAELA SHIFFRIN**

US super skier Mikaela Shiffrin won her 99th alpine World Cup race in Finland and was within five gates of her 100th win at Vermont (US) when she fell and suffered a bad injury.

The 29 year old collided with a gate, hit another and slid into the protective fencing. She was stretchered off the course and taken to hospital for an operation to drain fluid from a puncture wound.

She returned to racing two months later but could only finish 10th in a World Cup slalom at Courchevel (France).

### **MARCO ODERMATT**

Marco Odermatt has made ski history for Switzerland by winning an alpine World Cup giant slalom at Alta Badia (Italy).

A 41st career win makes him the most successful Swiss male skier of all-time, moving one ahead of Pirmin Zurbriggen.

Vreni Schneider remains the most successful Swiss racer with 55 wins in women's alpine World Cup events.

\*\*\* Odermatt has since scored two

more World Cup wins, one of them the famous Lauberhorn downhill at Wengen (Switzerland).

## **LINDSEY VONN**

US alpine ski racer Lindsey Vonn made a surprise return to alpine World Cup ski racing at the age of 40.

Vonn retired five years ago after scoring 82 World Cup wins, complaining of too many injuries, but following successful surgery she decided to give it another go. She trained in NZ last year.

Vonn's best comeback results were sixth in downhill and fourth in super-g, both at St Anton (Austria).

## **WORLD CUP RESULTS**

Recent top 10 results by NZ snow sports competitors in recent World Cup events.

### **SNOWBOARDS**

Cam Melville Ives eighth in halfpipe at Beijing (China).

Lyon Farrell eighth in big air at Klagenfurt (Austria).

Zoi Sadowski-Synnott tenth in big air at Kreischberg (Austria).

Zoi Sadowski-Synnott SILVER MEDAL in slopestyle at Laax (Switzerland).

Dane Menzies seventh in slopestyle at Laax (Switzerland).

Lyon Farrell eighth in slopestyle at Laax (Switzerland).

Cam Melville Ives sixth in halfpipe at Laax (Switzerland).

Cam Melville Ives ninth in halfpipe at Aspen (US).

Zoi Sadowski-Synnott GOLD MEDAL in slopestyle at Aspen (US).

Dane Menzies fourth in slopestyle at Aspen (US).

Zoi Sadowski-Synnott GOLD MEDAL in big air at Aspen (US).

### **FREESKI**

Luca Harrington fifth in slopestyle at Stubai (Austria).

Madeleine Disbrowe tenth in slopestyle at Stubai (Austria).

Luca Harrington fourth in big air at Beijing (China).

Fin Melville Ives seventh in halfpipe at Beijing (China).

Ben Harrington eighth in halfpipe at Beijing (China).

Fin Melville Ives fourth in halfpipe at Copper Mountain (US).

Luke Harrold ninth in halfpipe at Copper Mountain (US).

Luca Harrington GOLD MEDAL in big air at Klagenfurt (Austria).

Luca Harrington GOLD MEDAL in big air at Kreischberg (Austria).

Ruby Star Andrews ninth in slopestyle at Aspen (US).

Luca Harrington tenth in slopestyle at Aspen (US).

Luke Harrold fifth in halfpipe at Aspen (US).

Fin Melville Ives sixth in halfpipe at Aspen (US).

Luca Harrington SILVER MEDAL in big air at Aspen (US).

### **ALPINE SKIING**

Alice Robinson BRONZE MEDAL in giant slalom at Semmering (Austria).

Alice Robinson BRONZE MEDAL in giant slalom at Kranjska Gora (Slovenia).

Alice Robinson tenth in super-g at St Anton (Austria).

Alice Robinson GOLD MEDAL in giant slalom at Kronplatz (Italy).

### **PARA ALPINE SKIING.**

Adam Hall SILVER MEDAL in para alpine World Cup slalom at Feldberg (Germany).



## WORLD SKI NEWS

A proposal to change Selwyn District Council's alcohol policy may mean a pint after a day on a Canterbury club skifield will become a thing of the past, something club members say would completely change the atmosphere.

The suite of proposed new rules includes one that, if passed, will require clubs to have rostered duty managers present during trading hours.

Temple Basin club secretary Richard Jack said skifield managers wear multiple hats and could be evacuating someone in a helicopter or fixing something that's broken.

As most club skifields are shoestring operations, the new rule would be too onerous to manage. Most people visiting Temple Basin stay overnight and there have never been any alcohol-related issues.

*Marcel Hirscher, who ended a five-year alpine skiing retirement to compete this season, underwent season-ending surgery just before Christmas after injuring a knee in training.*

*"Maybe I'm finally done with my journey," Hirscher, a 35-year-old with two 2018 Olympic gold medals, said.*

*Hirscher won eight consecutive World Cup overall titles, representing Austria, but for his comeback, he switched nationality to the Netherlands, his mother's country.*

*He trained in NZ last year while preparing to race again.*

**FlyTahoe** plans to use an electric ferry to link the 14 ski resorts that encircle Lake Tahoe in Utah.

Because Lake Tahoe does not freeze, the delays and disruptions caused by road closures due to heavy snow will be greatly reduced.

The ferry ride across the lake at 30 minutes will compare favourably with driving around the lake, which can take up to two hours in the winter.

The ferry seats 30 passengers, with plenty of room to stow skis and bikes. The first P-12 ferry is in service in Sweden among Stockholm's 14 islands.

*Rescuers took five hours to get 174 people down from a skifield gondola which broke down at **Winter Park Resort (Colorado).***

*People riding in the gondolas were lowered down by ropes equipped with a seat. There were no injuries and the resort still had 21 other lifts open.*

Confrontation is developing in Victoria (Australia) over plans to allow snow-clearing along a main alpine highway and the organisers of a world series ski marathon and Winter Olympic qualifying.

(A) Authorities have granted a permit for the Falls Creek Alpine Resort to clear a 1.2 km section of highway. The permit also allows a research shed to be converted to a café.

(B) Organisers of the Kangaroo Hoppet long distance mass cross-country ski race say they cannot continue as there is nowhere else with a trail wide enough house cater for 1000 runners.

The Kangaroo Hoppet is part of the Worldloppet series and you have to meet criteria in a race that is safe and fair. Organisers say overseas elite athletes will no longer travel to Falls Creek to train because of the decision.

***Qantas has launched a new seasonal service from Sydney to Japanese snow destination, Sapporo.***

It's the only non-stop connection between the two cities and is designed to cater to the growing demand for travel to Japan's snowfields such as Niseko, Rusutsu, Kiroro and Furano.

The region is famous for its powder skiing, thanks to the cold winds that come across from Siberia, dumping consistent dry snow on Hokkaido's mountains. Sapporo is become Qantas' 100th destination.



**Upper:** The first skier to win 99 alpine skiing World Cup races is Mikaela Shiffrin (US). **Lower:** Dual snowboard racing at Cortina (Italy). Photos: FIS.



## ACROSS THE SKIING WORLD

**King Charles** has told a Swiss engineer that his skiing days are behind him.

During a trip to a wind turbine factory in Middlesbrough (UK), the King, 76, was shown a calibration roll machine which smooths steel sheets into perfect cylinders.

He was chatting to Swiss engineer Avzi Jusufi and they discussed their joint love of the Swiss mountains.

Charles was once a frequent visitor to the Swiss Alps at this time of year for family ski trips, often pictured going down the slopes with his sons.

***Police in Turkey** said 78 people died and 50 were injured in a fire that engulfed a popular Turkish ski resort hotel, leaving some to jump out of windows.*

*The fire broke out in a restaurant at the wooden-clad 12-storey Grand Kartal Hotel during a busy holiday period in January. Nineteen people were arrested, including the owner.*

*Locals said the distance between the hotel and the centre of Bolu, paired with freezing weather conditions, meant it took more than an hour for fire engines to arrive.*

Several big ski and snowboard boot companies are selling the BOA fit system which uses dial and stainless steel wires to tighten and loosen the boot., doing away with buckles.

The wires that crisscross the front of the boot and wrap the leg, without the pressure points of buckles, and improves the power transfer to your ski.

It also allows for more precise micro adjustments of the boot.

BOA system is more expensive, harder for bootfitters to work around, and is impossible to fix in the field, but users BOA's fans say the fit and performance benefits are worth it.

*Two teenage women were admitted to*

*intensive care after a ski lift pulley broke at a northern Spanish ski resort, sending 17 riders plunging 15 metres from their chairs and another 15 were injured.*

*The incident at the Astún ski resort in Huesca. Ski patrol services and helicopters raced to rescue 80 people still on the quad chairlift.*

The just released E-Skimo system is claimed to make climbing mountain slopes up to 30 percent easier and 80 percent faster

The E-Skimo system, from Switzerland, draws inspiration from the e-bike revolution by putting motorised treads on the skis.

If the skier falls or lets go of either of their poles, a sensor in the hand grip of that pole triggers the motors to stop.

One charge of the batteries should be good for about three hours of run time, depending on factors such as snow conditions.

Once the skier reaches the summit, they remove the assistive components and put them in an included backpack. Doing so takes less than one minute.

***Cardrona** is getting a new Doppelmayr T-bar which will go between the existing McDougalls and Whitestar Express chairlifts.*

*The aim is to improve access to the resort's main basin area, transporting 1200 passengers per hour.*

Meanwhile Cardrona's main street which sports the historic Cardrona Hotel is getting a new development.

The aim is to build a two-storey, eight-unit market and visitor accommodation complex, on the opposite side of the road to the Cardrona Hotel.

Four units would be for food and beverage services or retail services such as ski or bike hire, while the remainder would be for accommodation.

*Cardrona has announced plans to*



*expand the Pines Carpark which is located 1km up the resort's mountain road.*

*It would replace the temporary buildings on-site with a permanent building. The expanded carpark will be able to accommodate 420 vehicles.*

**Sophie Hediger**, a member of Switzerland's snowboard cross team at the 2022 Beijing Olympics was killed in an avalanche in Arosa.

Hediger, 26, competed at the Beijing Games in the women's snowboard cross and the mixed team version of the same event.

She achieved her first two World Cup podium finishes in the 2023-24 season. Her best result was a second place in St Moritz.

***The world's smallest ski resort opened in St Gallen (Switzerland). It has one T-bar 20 metres long.***

*A group has transformed a residential building into a mountain lodge, complete with an Airbnb rental and a souvenir shop.*

*In the garden, a steep 20-metre slope connects the top and bottom stations of the ski lift. This slope includes the world's shortest black run.*

**Twelve people died of carbon monoxide poisoning in an accident at a ski station in Georgia.**

The bodies of 11 foreigners and one Georgian national were found in bedrooms on the second floor above an Indian restaurant at the ski station of Gudauri, in the north of the Caucasus country.

The problem was an electric power generator, located in an enclosed space near the bedrooms, which was switched on following a power outage.

*Base depths at some Japanese ski areas topped the 5 metre mark in February after a week of huge snowfalls.*

*The heaviest snowfalls and deepest snow were at the Arai ski resort which posted the world's deepest snow at 5.9 metres after 90cm of snowfall in the 24 hours.*

*That's almost double the deepest snow depths currently being reported in Europe and North America.*

*The Charmant Hiuchi ski area reached a 550 cm base after reporting 70cm of snowfall in 24 hours.*

**There were big queues and many closed lifts at the biggest US skifield, Park City in Utah, when ski patrollers went on strike in January, demanding more pay.**

Unionisation is rare but increasing at US ski resorts, including Park City which is owned by Vail Resorts. The 200 patrollers went on strike, alleging unfair bargaining by the company.

Many of them work as fly-fishing, mountain biking and whitewater rafting guides in the warmer months. Often they are young people starting in the workforce.

The strike ended after 12 days when Vail and the patrollers reached an agreement.

***World tennis No 1 Jannik Sinner of Italy has been named as ambassador for next year's Olympic Winter Games at Milan-Cortina.***

*Sinner was born in South Tyrol, one of Italy's most picturesque areas on the Austrian border, and as a youngster won ski races before deciding at age 13 to concentrate on tennis.*

**Scientists at Scott Base in Antarctica** have completed a 24-hour skiathon on their home made nutcracker rope tow.

Given 24 hours of daylight, the event brought together scientists and staff from multiple nations.

The Scott Base Ski Club, whose pioneers included RSC member Peter Otway, has been operating since 1961.

***Rosie Fordham has delivered Australia's first ever medal in an international cross-country skiing event.***

*Fordham won silver in the 10km interval skating race at the FIS junior under-23 ski World Championships in Bergamo-Schilpario (Italy).*



## CLUB ITEMS & SERVICES FOR SALE

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

**Website: [www.rsc.org.nz](http://www.rsc.org.nz)**

**email: [admin@rsc.org.nz](mailto:admin@rsc.org.nz)**

### Lockers

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

Please email [admin@rsc.org.nz](mailto: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   \$199

Junior            \$99

Annual senior subscription           \$310

Annual sub young adult, junior,  
associate, veteran                   \$130

## ACCOMMODATION FEES

### 2025 rates

Member type	Full winter	self cater
Senior	\$66.00	\$47.00
Young Adult	\$66.00	\$47.00
Teen	\$57.00	\$41.00
Junior	\$43.00	\$32.00
Member's Child	\$34.00	\$25.00
Senior non-member	\$120.00	\$84.00
Junior non-member	\$80.00	\$57.00