

# *The Bulletin*

**RUAPEHU SKI CLUB**

Volume 84, No. 1

March 2019



*Jennifer and EJ Moffat outside the RSC Lodge.  
Moffat photo.*



## **CONTENTS**

- 2 President's column
- 3 Ruapehu news
- 5 Ski season bookings
- 6 House committee
- 7 Snow squads/Academy
- 8 Amazing ski run
- 8 New members
- 8 RSC obituaries
- 9 Dunny trouble
- 11 Julien Temm
- 14 Zoi wins world title
- 15 Zoi wins X Games
- 16 World ski champs
- 17 RSC calendar
- 19 Record numbers
- 19 Home made lava
- 21 Piera wins points
- 25 Adriaansen travels
- 28 Tussock traverse
- 30 World snow news
- 32 RSC info page

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Welcome back from the holidays. Hoping everyone had a joyous festive season and an enjoyable break.

While we have been savouring the fabulous stretch of fine weather and the beach, RAL have been toiling away with the construction of the Whakapapa Gondola. I'm sure we are all wish RAL best of luck for a pre-season completion.

Now that holiday times are over and the kids are back at school we can think about work parties and other mountain activities.

Every year the number of summer activities in the Ruapehu region increases and our buildings are in the perfect place to take advantage of them.

There is a great web site, [visitruapehu.com](http://visitruapehu.com), that has lots of information about everything the region has to offer.

A vital summer activity for the Ski Club is of course, working parties.

Our strategic planning includes a programme of improvement designed to follow the expectations of our members, future-proof our offerings and lower our cost of maintenance.

A shift from the one size fits all eight-bunk bunk-rooms to a model more closely aligned with family and booking sizes is a prime example.

Club member participation in the projects included in this programme so far have been fundamental to the successful completion of them. Future projects will be equally dependent on your participation.

In the meantime, there is a constant demand for on-going maintenance. If it becomes necessary for us to engage tradesmen for tasks that can be fulfilled by Club members, our maintenance budgets

will be consumed by maintenance, instead of the improvements we all seek.

Work parties also provide a vital role in on-boarding new members into mountain and Club life. At the same time, they give the rest of us an opportunity to meet other members and socialise with them.

Your Committee deserves mention, as we move forward into a new year. Their dedication and efforts benefit all club members, both present and future.

We have a relatively large Committee, with 21 members in all. This may seem like a lot but many hands makes light work.

This is important, given that we are all volunteers. We are lucky to have a broad spectrum of people on Committee, both in terms of age and professional background.

Many of the offices within the Committee are quite specific. Examples of this are the Treasurer and the Club Captain. Despite this, we are all general legislators and all have influence over every aspect of Club life. For this reason, we constantly need new faces in Committee.

**So, in regard to both work parties and the Committee, the message is: Get involved! Your Club needs you!**

I would like to make mention of Julien Temm (1918-2019). As our oldest member, he celebrated 100 years in the beginning of December last year, then slipped away peacefully in the evening of January 23rd.

Uncle Julien was a long serving active member and a director of Ruapehu Alpine Lifts for many years. He was Club President between 1968 and 1971, preceded by a long period on the Committee which included terms as Club Captain. He has been a Life member since 1973.

Rest in peace.

**Richard Nelson, President**



The 2018 season was the best for snow since 2008. Photo: Peter Otway.

## THROUGH THE LODGE WINDOW

**Happy Valley** is scheduled to open on June 1st and run through to October 13th.

**The new gondola** running from the Top o' the Bruce to the Knoll Café is set to open on June 1st.

The rest of Whakapapa is scheduled to open on June 22nd and to run through to October 28th.

**Turoa** is set to open on June 29th and to close on October 28th.

*Sereina Michel will not be returning to RSC this season as she has taken an administration job with the Swiss ski team in Bern.*

*However, we understand she is planning a trip to New Zealand at some time this winter.*

*A new Swiss instructor will be appointed to stay with RSC this season.*

*However, no details were available when this issue of the Bulletin went to the printer.*

**RAL has spelled out possible developments at Turoa.**

Lifts proposed include the Movenpick Gondola to Blyth Flat, replacing the Movenpick quad and the Parklane triple chair which is now 40 years old.

The Sunset Express detachable chairlift is planned for the old Jumbo T-bar line; the Giant triple chair will become an express and new beginner lifts are planned for the Wintergarden.

A new 400 seat chalet at Blyth Flat would replace the Giant Café. The Alpine Café would be extended while the Snowflake Café would be extended or replaced.

*Ruapehu Alpine Lifts chief executive Ross Copland said RAL saw total revenue growth of 23.3 percent during the 2018 ski season.*

*Total visitor numbers grew by 27.4 percent to 471,000.*

*"This was RAL's biggest season since the record 2009 winter," he said.*

More than 100 people representing Ruapehu tourism operators and other

## THE RUAPEHU SKI CLUB

(inc) Founded 1913

P.O.Box 8064, Symonds St.,  
Auckland, New Zealand 1150

Telephone: 0-9-377 3856

Facsimile: 0-9-377 3859

Email: admin@rsc.org.nz

Website: www.rsc.org.nz  
c/o McConnell Properties

Level 2

204 Quay St

Auckland CBD 1010



**President:** Richard Nelson

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

**Secretary:** Kate Paul

**Treasurer:** Heather Chao

**Immediate Past President:** Adrian Adriaansen

**Captain:** Catherine Gafa

**Vice-Captain:** Nina Thomas

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

**Patron:** Peter Brady

**Patroness:** Barbara Scelly

**Auditors:** Hart and Co

**Admin Officer:** Sheryl Brownlee

**Lodge Officer:** Carl Burling

**Hut Officer:** John Benn

**Chalet Officer:** Phill Thomass

**Turoa Officer:** Donald Webster

**Heritage Fund Guardians:** Richard Nelson, Adrian Adriaansen, Robin Dallas, Bernard Smith.

**Fund Treasurer:** Mike Wardle

**Glacier Hut Custodian:** Joe Gabriel

businesses benefiting from the visitor sector filled the conference venue at the Chateau Tongariro for the **Visit Ruapehu Forum**, the Ruapehu Bulletin reported.

The Forum heard from speakers including Ruapehu mayor Don Cameron, council staff, key operators and township businesses about the impact of Ruapehu's growing visitor economy and their confidence for the future.

Mr Cameron said that the overwhelming message was that the Ruapehu visitor sector is performing strongly and is expected to continue to do so.

*Aussie visitors are venturing deeper into New Zealand's heartland, with the Ruapehu District seeing a 20 percent increase in Australian visitors during the 2018 ski season.*

*Compared with 2017, visitor spending increased by \$19 million dollars (22 percent) in the district during the four-month ski season.*

The annual trail run known as **The Goat** attracted 830 athletes who ran from Ohakune Junction to the Turoa.

Usually the race starts at Whakapapa and goes to Turoa via the Round the Mountain Track, but this route was ruled out this summer by bad weather.

**Calum Sutherland** won the race in 1:31:12. The first woman home was **Olivia Burne** in 1:49:04.

*The deadline for the June Bulletin will be **Friday May 17th**.*

*All items should be with the Editor by then.*

## THE BULLETIN

Founded in 1936 by Jock and Fitzie Graham.

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

Telephone: 04-476 4598.

Email: alanjograham@xtra.co.nz

**Advertising:** RSC Administration  
PO Box 8064, Symonds St.

## RSC BUNK BOOKINGS

### Summer Bookings 2019.

It is great to see members and guests booking accommodation over the summer months. Both buildings offer excellent venues for groups and individuals wanting a “stopover” or time to explore the many and varied excursions available in the surrounding areas.

It is also encouraging to get positive feedback from members saying how clean and tidy the last members have left the buildings; thank you all.

Make your bookings in the usual manner on the website and have funds in your deposit accounts to cover your accommodation.

### Winter Bookings 2019.

Bookings for the 2019 ski season will open on May 1st. Any bookings before then will not be confirmed or processed until later in the month. As in past years all bookings should be confirmed by the last week in May.

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

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

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

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

### School holiday bookings.

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

If the number who have done an extra

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

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

School holiday weeks are for the member families with school aged children.

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

### Bookings with guests.

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

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

### Cancellation Policy.

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

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

All alterations to bookings incur a \$5 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.

**Sheryl**

## HOUSE COMMITTEE

HC is working on stores for the coming season and seeing to the housekeeping matters that arise.

If any members have noticed something in this area that needs doing, or have had thoughts about a food item that is not always there and you think that it should be, drop an email to Sheryl and she will pass it on.

After hearing adverse comment about the pillows in the Lodge, we are endeavoring to improve that this season. It may be a two stage project; it is a lot of pillows and funds are not endless.

**Work parties are how we prepare the buildings for the season. Truck weekend in particular needs people.**

**This work party is on Easter Saturday and Sunday so that travel to the mountain will hopefully avoid the traffic problems that holidays present.**

We have had to hire a helicopter this year to get the supplies up the mountain. This will require people to load / unload quickly to contain the high cost of this operation.

Please sign up and be part of what keeps the club running.

MQ

## RSC COMMITTEE NEW VENUE FOR AGM

Nominations for the RSC Committee will close on April 12th, ahead of our AGM on June 12th.

The AGM venue this year will be the Royal NZ Yacht Squadron at Westhaven.

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

Any Notices of Motion must be with the Secretary (email to Sheryl) by April 26th.



*This is a cabin for the Whakapapa gondola being inspected in February by RAL chief executive Ross Copland and board chairman Murray Gribben at the Leitner factory in Italy. There will be 50 of these 10-seater cabins when the gondola opens in June. It will travel 1.8km from Whakapapa's Base Area (1630 metres) to the Knoll Ridge Café (2020 metres), taking just 5 minutes at full speed.*

## SNOW SQUADS RAL ACADEMY

The snow is a long way off but if you have children I am guessing you will be planning their activities for the year.

**This year our snow squads will be fully integrated into the RAL Academy programme.**

This gives our members the same learning outcomes as our snow squads did, and more options as more people are involved. There are more possibilities to have full groups of snow boarders, and children learning with those of the same age and abilities.

We are able to arrange to keep RSC members together if we have the numbers to form groups. To do this please contact Paula Cooper [skiactivities@rsc.org.nz](mailto:skiactivities@rsc.org.nz)

To book the Academy you will need to go to the RAL website <https://www.mtruapehu.com/whakapapa/programmes/academy>

### Academy Details for 4-17 year olds

**Dates:** 10 days across alternating weekends.

Academy 1 starting July 20 2019.

Academy 2 starting July 27 2019.

Programme times: 9am to 3pm daily with supervised lunch.

Closed day sessions: off-mountain activities will be arranged for any closed days during the programme.

**Requirements:** Must have a valid lift pass and own equipment to join the programme.

**Ability Level:** All levels.

Free Academy hoodie at the end of the season.

Acceptance to the programme is at the discretion of the Mt Ruapehu programme head coach and subject to terms and conditions.

### Pricing

\$899.99. This is training for \$90.00 per day.

If you want to do the Holiday programme this can be added on for \$399.00, usually \$499.00.

### Signing up for The Academy Programme

Go to: <https://www.mtruapehu.com/whakapapa/programmes/academy>

Click on “buy now” and follow instructions.

Register – If you have not already and sign in.

Read the terms.

You will need a photo of the athlete and a copy of their birth certificate that you can upload.

Once you have done this email Paula Cooper [skiactivities@rsc.org.nz](mailto:skiactivities@rsc.org.nz) with the athlete’s name, age and programme that you have signed them up for.

Please put email subject as SNOW SQUAD 2019.

### ADULT 1 DAY SQUAD

Prices and details to be confirmed early March 2019. Please let Paula know if you are interested.

**Catherine Gafa, Club Captain**

## AMAZING SKI RUN

Kiwi racer Alice Robinson stunned the skiing community in February when she made the fastest second run in the giant slalom at the world alpine ski championships in Åre (Sweden).

On aggregate time for two runs the 17-year-old finished 17th overall and took first place amongst the Under-21 junior racers.

Robinson was placed 30th after run one which meant that she would be first out of the gate on the second run.

Making the most of the opportunity, Robinson set a blistering time of 1:00.57 that even the overall race winner Petra Vlhova (Slovakia) could not beat.

The silver medal went to Viktoria Rebensburg (Germany) with world number one Mikaela Shiffrin (US) third.



*Alice Robinson*

## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members:

Darcy Armstrong (Auckland).

Conrad Armstrong (Auckland).

David Forster (Auckland).

Michelle Forster (Auckland).

Simon Millward (Auckland).

Lynda Millward (Auckland).

Jack Want (Auckland).

Sarah Want (Auckland).

Nicholas Want (Auckland).

Victor Williams (Wellington).

Nicholas Williams (Wellington).

## NIGHT SKIING

Night skiing on the Rockgarden at Whakapapa is included on 2019 season passes.

It is planned to operate on Friday and Saturday nights from July 5th until September 28th and every night during the July school holidays (July 5-21) from

4:30pm to 8pm, subject to snow and weather conditions.

## RSC OBITUARIES

### TIM DOBBIE.

Timothy Dobbie, an RSC member since 1970, died in February while body surfing at Hahei Beach, aged 77.

Tim and his wife Gay (nee Blyth) were regular RSC skiers in the school holidays and later at Winter Party.

We offer our condolences to Gay and her family.

### MIKE HORWOOD.

Michael Horwood, a long-time member of RSC, died in late December aged 84.

Mike skied with RSC for many years and joined members in several overseas ski trips, as well as cycling tours.

He ran shops in Remuera starting with his father's grocery store. His gift shop named Peppercorn was popular for many years.

## D-#@%!'s DUNNY DILEMMA

The time had come to visit the slopes  
To stay at the Lodge with other folks  
A delightful time skiing he was intending  
Quite unaware of a situation impending  
The upstairs public toilet was backed up solid  
After several uses was looking quite squalid  
An attempt had been made to resolve the issue  
But gave up in disgust, the filth, smell and tissue  
Now what was he thinking, no one dare ask  
He thought it would be easy to tackle the task  
Suitably attired, maybe bearing a grudge  
Everything he tried, nothing would budge  
Having exhausted all options and could do no more  
He decided to unscrew the pan off the floor  
The cause of the back up was quickly revealed  
Which to this point had been completely concealed  
The Ladies' hair dryer, that piece off the end  
Had managed to find itself stuck round the bend  
How it got there is anyone's guess  
It certainly created an unpleasant mess  
The piece now removed and everything clear  
Not the kind of job that one would endear  
The pan was put back, pipes reconnected  
With all work done, duly inspected  
To conclude with words not those of a snob  
His final remark, "It was a shitty job"

The end fitting for the hair dryer was cleaned and returned to its rightful place, much to the delight of the ladies.

That person wasn't me. He was to delightfully enlighten me of the event sometime later. We've both shared an intimate relationship with this toilet.

PLEASE! Only human waste, tissue, flushing water and maybe cleaning slops down the toilets, nothing else.

**Thank you. Dave Watt.**

## SNOW SPORTS FUNDING

Snow sports was the big winner when High Performance Sport NZ announced a \$36 million core investment programme for 2019.

Following New Zealand's most successful Winter Olympics campaign,

snow sports has been elevated to a tier two sport, receiving a \$250,000 increase to \$2.25 million.

Teenagers Zoi Sadowski-Synnott (women's snowboarding big air) and Nico Porteous (men's ski halfpipe) both claimed Olympic bronze medals at Pyeongchang in 2018.

## IT'S YOUR BULLETIN

All members are invited to contribute items for the Bulletin. This includes both text and photos.

While the Bulletin is edited by an ex-professional, it is the Club's magazine and is for all members.

It is a while now since we had something from a junior member in the way of a project or a story about their time at Ruapehu, so please do send something in.

The address of the Editor and the Bulletin deadline are printed on page 4 of each issue.

Please send photos at the best available resolution. Straight from the camera is good.

Thanks.

**Alan, Editor**



**Upper:** Julien Temm with RSC President Richard Nelson and Patroness Barbara Scelly on the occasion of his 100th birthday. AG photo. **Lower:** Julien has some help while working on RSC Hut renovations.

## JULIEN TEMM

RSC'S oldest member Julien Temm has died at Paraparaumu, aged 100. He joined the Club in 1939 and was thus a Club member for 80 years which is easily a record and is quite remarkable.

His passing came a month after a 100th birthday party was held for him by 80 people including an RSC group who flew in from Auckland to Kapiti airport on a charter flight arranged by the family.

Officially he was Francis Julien Temm but I never heard anyone call him Francis or Frank.

**He had a long stint in RSC service and if that was not enough he had another long career as a director of RAL and as an advisor to that company on new lifts.**

Julien joined the RSC Committee as Vice-Captain in 1956-60. He was Club Captain in 1960-63, Vice-President in 1963-1968, President in 1968-71 and Immediate Past President in 1971-74. That is 18 years in all on the Executive and he was elected as a Life member in 1973.

He was also for a while a member of the New Zealand Ski Association's national council and then came his long term as a director of RAL.

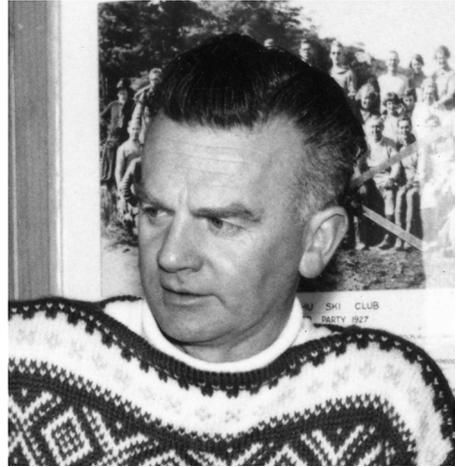
Julien served in the Air Force during World War 2. On the skifield he was a strong and very neat skier, and easily passed his T2 test.

He was a ski test judge for Ruapehu for many years, as well as organising ski races from children's events up to the national championships.

With his wife Jean he was always an attendee at RSC social events and they organised Winter Party on a couple of occasions.

One famous day saw the "picnic at the crater" which Julien organised. Everybody at Winter Party including the cook and instructor went up to the crater rim.

Organised like a military event, the



strongest folk set off first and walked from the Knoll to the top. Others went all the way, or part of it, aboard the 18-seater cat that was running at that time. The cat also carried all the food and beverages for the picnic.

Later everyone skied down in groups organised by Julien, with a strong skier in charge of each group.

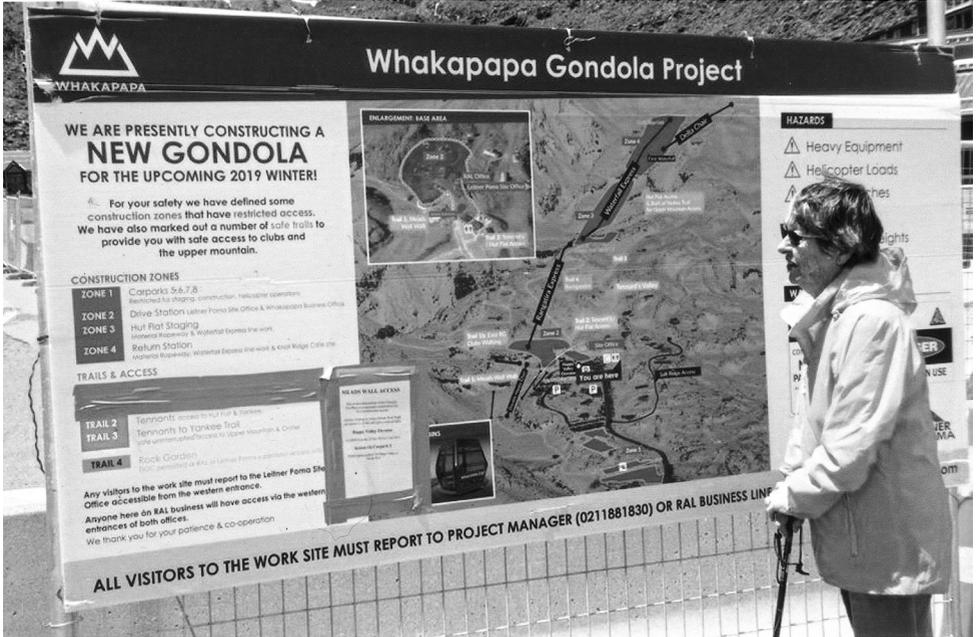
His term as President saw the renovation of the RSC Lodge and in particular a new wing which extended the kitchen and created the large bedroom for the cook, who previously had been located downstairs.

In later years he spent hours trying to decide the best place to put RAL's new lifts, and how to tap into water supplies to enable the start of snowmaking.

Julien and Jean lived in Wellington for many years and always made RSC members welcome at their lifestyle block on the fringes of the city at Johnsonville. In later years they lived in retirement near the beach at Paraparaumu on the Kapiti coast.

**AG**

**NOTE: Julien Temm in his service for RSC and RAL was always known as Julian but it has been revealed that his name is Julien.**



Ruth Minhinnick viewing the new gondola project at Whakapapa. She has seen some changes since her beginning days of skiing in 1941 when she was eight! Foundation member of Whanganui Ski Club 1950, ski patroller in the 50s, member of Christiania 1958, RSC member since 1967. Photo: Alison Minhinnick.



Ruth Minhinnick skiing at St Anton (Austria), dated January 29th 1958, which is 61 years ago this year.



**Upper:** The ski squads and their families bid farewell to Swiss instructor Sereina Michel. Photo: Carl Burling. **Lower:** Sereina at RSC Lodge. Photo from Sereina.

## ZOI IS WORLD CHAMPION

Heavy snowfalls and high winds disrupted the world championships for freeskiers and snowboarders which were held at Park City (Utah, US) in February.

**New Zealand's snowboard star Zoi Sadowski-Synnott** won the gold medal and became world champion in the slopestyle event after the final was cancelled due to high wind and she won the gold as top qualifier.

**Silje Norendal (Norway)** was second and two-time Olympic gold medallist **Jamie Anderson (US)** was third.

Earlier Zoi was not able to contest her main event, the big air, which was cancelled due to ongoing snow storms. In this case no qualifying jumps could be held so there were no placings.

**Veteran NZ snowboarder Christy Prior** was unable to make her comeback in the big air event. She came 22nd later in the week in the slopestyle.

**New Zealand freeskiier Finn Bilous** was fifth in the big air event at the world freeski championships. He was third after two runs but dropped back on the third attempt.

**NZ freeskiier Margaux Hackett** was 13th in the women's big air.

In the slopestyle event a few days later Finn was 17th out of 47 starters while Margaux's slopestyle event was cancelled.

**NZ's best skier Nico Porteous** had a bad day at the office, landing only one of his three runs in the freeski halfpipe and finishing ninth in a field of 24.

### Snowboard big air men

Cancelled due to weather.

### Snowboard big air women

Cancelled due to weather.

### Snowboard slopestyle men

Chris Corning (US)	93.25
Mark McMorris (Canada)	93.00
Judd Henkes (US)	90.50

### Snowboard slopestyle women

Zoi Sadowski-Synnott (NZ)	91.75
Silje Norendal (Norway)	88.75
Jamie Anderson (US)	87.25

### Snowboard halfpipe men

Scotty James (Australia)	97.50
Yuto Totsuka (Japan)	91.25
Patrick Burgener (Switz)	91.25

### Snowboard halfpipe women

Chloe Kim, (US)	93.50
Xuetong Cai (China)	84.00
Maddie Mastro (US)	82.00

### Freeski big air men

Fabian Boesch (Switzerland)	186.00
Henrik Karlaut (Sweden)	184.00
Alex Marchand (Canada)	183.25

### Freeski big air women

Tess Ledeux (France)	184.75
Julia Krass (US)	173.75
Isabel Atkin (GB)	168.75

### Freeski slopestyle men

James Woods (GB)	86.68
Birk Ruud (Norway)	85.40
Nicholas Goepper (US)	85.18

### Freeski slopestyle women

Cancelled due to weather.

### Freeski halfpipe men

Aaron Blunck (US)	94.20
Kelvin Rolland (France)	93.50
Noah Bowman (Canada)	91.6

### Freeski halfpipe women

Kelly Sildaru (Estonia)	95.00
Cassie Sharpe (Canada)	94.40
Brita Sigourney (US)	90.60

## X GAMES GOLD FOR ZOI

New Zealand snowboarder **Zoi Sadowski Synnott** won the gold medal in the women's snowboard slopestyle at the Winter X Games at Aspen (Colorado) only after being added to the field on the morning of the event.

The gold backed up a silver medal she won in the snowboard big air two days earlier.

Zoi, aged 17, from Wanaka, was originally named as first reserve (alternate) for the prestigious invitation-only event.

She got a start when two snowboarders withdrew due to injury. Hailey Langland (US) was second and Enni Rukajarvi (Finland) was third.

Zoi said the win was beyond her wildest dreams as she went to Aspen to concentrate on the big air event. On the day she woke up not expecting to get a slopestyle start.

Earlier Sadowski-Synnott was second in the snowboard big air, almost winning gold but losing to Laurie Blouin (Canada) on a tiebreak. Olympic gold medallist Jamie Anderson (US) was third.

Her gold medal in slopestyle was the second ever won by a New Zealander at the X Games. The other was won by **Jossi Wells** in the freeski slopestyle in 2016.

**NZ snowboarder Christy Prior** scored a slopestyle bronze in 2015, becoming the first female from New Zealand to medal in an X Games winter event, and then scored a big air silver in 2016.

Many people regard the Olympic Winter Games as the top competition in snow sports, but many feel the Winter X Games are equal or close behind.

**NZ freeskiier Nico Porteous** won a bronze medal at the 2019 X Games.

Porteous came third in the men's freeski superpipe behind US skiers Alex Ferreira and David Wise.

"This comes close to the feeling of an Olympic medal. X Games is such a prestigious event in skiers' eyes. This is



*Zoi Sadowski-Synnott*

definitely up there," Porteous said.

**NZ freeskiier Finn Bilous** finished in 10th place in the men's freeski slopestyle.

**NZ snowboarder Carlos Garcia Knight** was injured in a crash in practice and did not compete.

## SILVERS FOR BROTHERS

**New Zealand freeskiier Miguel Porteous** upstaged his younger brother Nico to clinch a breakthrough silver medal at a World Cup event in Colorado.

Miguel finished second in the freeski halfpipe final behind Aaron Blunck (US) with two-time Olympic champion David Wise (US) third and Olympic bronze medallist **Nico Porteous** fourth.

**Beau-James Wells (NZ)**, who qualified third in his heat, suffered a bad knee injury in training and will be out of skiing for 6-9 months.

The brothers were in action a few weeks later in a World Cup event at Secret Garden (China). This time Nico won the silver medal while Miguel was sixth. The winner was Simon d'Artois (Canada).

## WORLD SKI CHAMPS

The world alpine skiing championships were held at Åre (Sweden) in February.

**Aksel Lund Svindal (Norway)** who has been one of the most dominant men's skiers of his generation, retired after winning the silver medal in the men's downhill. He was beaten by his countryman Kjetil Janstrud.

Svindal retires with 36 World Cup wins, four Olympic medals (two gold) and nine world championship medals (five gold). He has often visited New Zealand for off-season training.

**US racer Lindsey Vonn**, aged 34, retired after winning the bronze medal in the downhill.

Vonn won 82 races on the World Cup circuit, as well as four Olympic medals (one gold) and eight world championship medals (two gold). She has regularly trained in New Zealand.

The new star of women's skiing **Mikaela Shiffrin (US)** won two gold medals and a bronze but surprisingly lost the giant slalom. She won the world slalom gold for the fourth time. **Petra Vlhova (Slovakia)** also won three medals, one of each colour.

Among the men **Marcel Hirscher (Austria)** won his seventh world championship gold medal when he won the slalom, which equals the seven wins in the 1950s by Toni Sailer (Austria).

**Alice Robinson (NZ)** came 17th in the GS while **Eliza Grigg (NZ)** was 41th. **Piera Hudson (NZ)** did not finish the slalom or GS.

**Willis Feasey (NZ)** was 34th in the GS while **Adam Barwood (NZ)** was 36th in a field of 140 skiers.

Barwood did not finish the slalom while but Feasey did not survive the qualifying round.

### Men's downhill

Kjetil Janstrud (Norway)	1.19.98
Aksel Svindal (Norway)	1.20.00
V Kriechmayr (Austria)	1.20.31

### Men's super-g

Dominik Paris (Italy)	1.24.20
Johan Clary (France)	1.24.29
V Kriechmayr (Austria)	1.24.29

### Men's combined

Alexis Pinturault (France)	1.47.71
Stefan Hadalin (Slovenia)	1.47.94
Marco Schwarz (Austria)	1.48.17

### Men's giant slalom

Henrik Kristoffersen (Nor)	2.20.24
Marcel Hircher (Austria)	2.20.44
Alexis Pinturault (France)	2.20.66

### Men's slalom

Marcel Hirscher (Austria)	2.05.86
Michael Matt (Austria)	2.06.51
Marco Schwarz (Austria)	2.06.62

### Women's downhill

Ilka Stuhec (Slovenia)	1.01.74
Corinne Suter (Switzerland)	1.01.97
Lindsey Vonn (US)	1.02.23

### Women's super-g

Mikaela Shiffrin (US)	1.04.89
Sofia Goggia (Italy)	1.04.91
Corinne Suter (Switzerland)	1.04.94

### Women's combined

Wendy Holdener (Switz)	2.02.13
Petra Vlhova (Slovakia)	2.02.16
R Mowinckel (Norway)	2.02.58

### Women's giant slalom

Petra Vlhova (Slovakia)	2.01.97
Viktoria Rebernsburg (Ger)	2.02.11
Mikaela Shiffrin (US)	2.02.35

### Women's slalom

Mikaela Shiffrin (US)	1.57.05
Anna Larsson (Sweden)	1.57.63
Petra Vlhova (Slovakia)	1.58.08

## RSC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mar 2019	16-17	RSC work parties
Apr 2019	20-21 27-28	(Easter) RSC working parties (truck weekend) RSC working parties
May 2019	1	RSC winter bookings open
June 2019	1 1 12 22 29	Whakapapa gondola opens Happy Valley opens. RSC AGM at the Royal NZ Yacht Squadron Whakapapa opens Turoa opens
July 2019	6-21 20 27	School holidays Academy 1 Academy 2
Aug 2019	3 3 10 12-16 17 17 24 26-29 31 31	Christiania Derby Academy 1 Academy 2 Winter Party Haensli Cup Academy 1 Academy 2 NIPS week one at Whakapapa Rangatira Alpine Trophy Academy 1
Sept 2019	2-5 7 7 14 14 21 28 28-Oct	NIPS week two at Whakapapa Tongariro Juniors Academy 2 Ngauruhoe Trophy Academy 1 Academy 2 RSC Club champs (provisional date) School holidays
Oct 2019	28	Ski season closes

## EXTREME GOLD MEDAL

New Zealand extreme skier **Craig Murray** aged 20 from Wanaka stunned commentators and spectators with his crazy performance to win a Freeride World Tour event in Canada.

Murray is the son of former Coast to

Coast multi-sport winners Keith and Andrea.

Initially onlookers thought he had lost his way but then he produced a spectacular jump.

The five-event freeride tour challenges skiers and snowboarders to navigate spectacular steep powder slopes.



Skis outside and lovely eats inside, at the Haensli Cup in 2018. Photos: Stephen Payne.

## RECORD SKIFIELD NUMBERS

A record number of skiers and snowboarders hit New Zealand slopes in 2018, clocking up 1.9 million days. That was a 16 percent increase on 2017, the previously highest year.

Ski Areas Association NZ chairman Marty Toomey said a phenomenal snow year ensured the season was longer than usual. Intense marketing, sales and investment contributed significantly also.

Cardrona recorded the highest numbers of any skifield in the country with 325,000 skier or snowboarder days.

The Queenstown skifields Coronet Peak and The Remarkables had a 20 percent increase with 550,000 visitor days.

Whakapapa and Turoa skifields grew to 471,000 visitors, a 27 percent year-on-year growth.

## HOME MADE LAVA

Canterbury University scientists are using a high-temperature furnace to turn volcanic rock back into liquid form, to help predict what might happen in an eruption.

The scientists place crushed volcanic rock into an oven and heat it for several hours at 1350 degrees Celsius before removing it when it melts.

Volcanologist Ben Kennedy said: "I discovered this furnace existed in Canterbury and I got very excited because it was a bit of a dream that we could melt rocks."

The team use volcanic rocks from New Zealand volcanoes such as Mt Ruapehu and White Island and have also used rocks from Hawaii and Iceland.

The outcome is that the group can watch how hot lava behaves and apply the

findings to real volcanoes.

The furnace has been used by fine arts students to melt bronze for statues. They are also interested in using the leftover lava to create art pieces.

## SKI TOURING PROPOSED

Arrowtown adventurer Erik Bradshaw has announced plans to create a 60km winter-time cross-country ski route along the backbone of the Harris Mountains from Coronet Peak to Treble Cone.

Bradshaw, who was the first person to make a ski traverse the length of the Southern Alps, said the Mahu Whenua Traverse would be an alpine route "the likes of which doesn't currently exist in the southern hemisphere".

It would be similar to world-renowned ski touring journeys such as the French-Swiss Haute Route and Canada's Wapta Traverse.

It would have five four-bunk Turk huts of his own design along the route.

Bradshaw said the route would suit a wide range of abilities, and offered a once-in-a-lifetime experience of staying in high mountain huts away from human complexity.

Although most ski tourers would complete the route in three to four days, having five huts provided flexibility about pace of travel, and meant safe shelter was never far away, should the weather deteriorate.

Bradshaw said the terrain is suited to back country skiing because it is surprisingly easy going along much of the route and it provides enough excitement without excessive risk from steep country and glacier travel.



**Upper:** Peter Otway aged 82 took this selfie at the crater. **Lower:** Snowing at RSC.  
Photos: Peter Otway.



**Left:** NZ skiing champion Piera Hudson with the Collins Trophy which was presented in the 1950s by RSC President Leo Collins. **Right:** A giant icicle on RSC Hut. Photo: Stephen Payne.

## PIERA WINS POINTS

**Hawke's Bay ski racer Piera Hudson** became the first New Zealander to win alpine ski World Cup points for 15 years when she picked up five points in the slalom at Killington (Vermont, USA).

Hudson, 22, missed selection for the 2018 Olympic Winter Games and now aims to ski at the next Olympics at Beijing 2022.

She spends New Zealand winters training

at the High Performance Centre at Cardrona Alpine Resort before travelling to the Northern Hemisphere to train and compete in Europe and North America. Piera has been coached by Jonny Rice since her first year of top racing.

Piera subsequently won a Far East Cup slalom at Taiwoo ski resort (China). She beat Hedda Martelleur (Sweden) with Agnese Aboltina (Latvia) third.



**Upper:** Padded seats for the Whakapapa gondola. **Lower:** Work on foundations for the gondola. RAL photos.



**Upper:** A snowball factory at the RSC Hut. **Lower:** A wave cloud over the Pinnacles.  
*Photos: Hanni Spörli.*



*Summer scenes at the Listvyanka ski area in Siberia which was visited by the Adriaansen family. Photos: JGA.*



*The ski facility at the Emirates Mall in Dubai. Ski Dubai is the world's third largest indoor ski slope and the first to open in the Middle East. It has a chairlift and a T-bar and 6,000 tons of snow. Photo: JGA.*

## **ADRIAANSENS VISIT TWO SKI AREAS**

While traveling last year we visited two ski areas very much on the opposite sides of the world.

The first slope we visited was in Dubai in the world renowned Emirates Mall. The whole set up is quite impressive with restaurants viewing the slope similar to the Silverdale Snow Planet but then Dubai is a lot larger from the outside it looks like a space craft.

There is a 400 metre slope, a snow park and kiddies play area and a four seater lift.

When we were there it was Ramadan time so there were not that many visitors in town but the ski slope was totally empty apart from a couple of kids playing in the playground.

They had all sorts of specials, starting at

about \$NZ100 for the first two hours.

To hire a full kit will cost you another \$60. Outside was 420C while inside was minus 20C.

The second ski slope we visited was in Listvyanka by Lake Baikal in Siberia.

As it was summer time there was no snow although the lift operated to a little café up top.

Talking to the operators as best as we could we found out that the intermediate slope is about 700 metres long and has an elevation of about 600 metres above sea level. It gets about 1.5 metres of snow and has a four seater lift.

Lift passes are about \$22 per day or \$35 for a three day pass. They are currently building a whole new restaurant and ski hire place so it must be a popular place.

Not so sure about the groomer though.

**AA, photos by JGA**



*An RSC group visiting Steamboat (Colorado). From left: Catherine Hegley, Nina Thomas, Kirsty and Steve Ross, Louise and Drew Blair, Richard Horton and Rhys Hegley. Photo from Richard.*



*E J Moffat racing in the Tongariro junior event. Photo TSC.*



**Upper:** A last climb to the Te Heuheu saddle for Sereina, pictured third from left and accompanied by Phil, Liza, Hamish Bell, Al Yates (from Ngauruhoe Ski Club) and Richard Horton. **Lower:** Oliver Horton climbs to the crater for the first time, with his dad and uncle Jem. Horton photos.

## TUSSOCK TRAVERSE

More than 900 runners and walkers took on the Tussock Traverse, choosing from six options for the event that celebrated its 15th year, the Ruapehu Bulletin reported.

The previous top number of entries was 660 people. With the extra numbers, plus a successful barbecue, Project Tongariro gained \$16,000 for their conservation activities.

Traverse organiser Jason Cameron said the event works well along with The Goat and the Ring of Fire events, with people using the Tussock Traverse as a training run or as a stepping stone to the other, more challenging runs.

The 26km course was again switched to the alternative course, starting from the Waihohonu Track, because damage to the Tukino Road.

Matt Ogden won the 26km run in 1:59:09 from Rhys Johnston 2:00:20 and Nathan Foley 2:01:57. The first woman home was Caroline Higgins in 2:21:20.

## CROSSING ADVISORY

The Mountain Safety Council is setting up an advisory group to oversee the Tongariro Alpine Crossing.

MSC said the crossing has the highest recorded Search and Rescue incidents per year for any trip in New Zealand.

It also has high-risk potential for severe weather events combined with the significant number of under-prepared walkers.

MSC chief executive Mike Daisley said critical analysis of the incident data would enable the advisory group to make informed decisions about interventions.

The Department of Conservation has given its backing to the advisory group and says it looks forward to collaborating on solutions to improve visitor safety to the area.

## NEW HAZARDS CENTRE

GNS Science has opened the National Geohazards Monitoring Centre which will provide rapid and robust geohazards monitoring and advisory services to decision makers in New Zealand.

It is a world-leading centre that monitors four perils that New Zealanders face: earthquakes, tsunamis, volcano-related events and landslides.

It is the first time a single centre such as this has monitored these four geohazards.

The new centre is staffed by Geohazards Analysts who have their eyes on the screen around the clock.

## SNOW TYRE DANGER

NZ motorists have been warned that snow tyres on some Japanese imports are not suitable for summer driving here and may be dangerous.

The Motor Trade Association (MTA) spokesman Graeme Swan said it should be compulsory for car dealers to tell buyers snow tyres were fitted because New Zealand temperatures, particularly in summer, are well beyond the maximum 7 degrees Celsius recommended for their use.

“When you’re running around the Coromandel, Hawkes Bay or the Bay of Islands and it is 20-plus degrees, these tyres are well outside their operating temperature. The reality is that if you’re not living near a mountain, or in Queenstown or Wanaka, you don’t need a car with snow tyres.”

According to the NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) snow or winter tyres are usually marked with a snowflake and mountain symbol, or the word “studless” on the sidewall.



**Upper:** Louis Burling at the top of Ruapehu's second highest peak Paretetaitonga. Photo: Carl Burling. **Lower:** Ondine helps to clear the Hut deck. Photo: Stephen Payne.

## ACROSS THE SKIING WORLD

**World tennis No 1 Novak Djokovic of Serbia** says skiing has always been his passion and he went skiing before he ever picked up a tennis racket.

He nearly became a full time skier but at age 10 he had to choose between skiing and tennis.

“My biggest passion of all sports is skiing. There is no better feeling than when you are on skis and you go down the mountain,” he said in an interview.

Djokovic followed up his recent win in the Australian open with a ski holiday alongside his wife Jelena and their four year-old son Stefan.

*Rainbow Ski Area, 90 minutes drive from either Blenheim or Nelson, wants to set up New Zealand's highest summer freedom campsite at 1760 metres, with the goal of having it run through winter.*

*Rainbow Sports Club general manager James Lazor said: “Long-term, maybe we'd have a partner or find someone financially to help us with a permanent structure, but in the initial stage it would be self-contained camper vans.”*

On offer at **Cardrona skifield** over this past summer has been a new activity named **mountain carting**.

You hire a buggy that is something like a go cart without an engine and after riding up on a chairlift, you roar down the mountain for up to 2.1km at speeds of up to 50 km/h.

The buggy has three grunty offroad tyres and a low metal frame with a seat on it. There is an hydraulic brake on each handlebar.

Mountain carting at Cardrona costs \$100 per person for a 2-hour cart and lift session. You can stay right there on the skifield at the Alpine Apartments.

*Jasná Nízke Tatry ski resort in Slovakia is varying its cost of day passes according to how many people are likely to turn up.*

*Resort director Matej Hulej said the cost of passes will not be fixed anymore and a programme is discounting prices daily according to the likely utilisation of the resort.*

*“The aim is to spread skiers out in the resort during the entire season,” he said.*

The name for the new choldola to replace the Coronet Express chairlift at Coronet Peak will be ..... **the Coronet Express**.

Locals voting on Facebook had five options: Wakatipu View Express, Sunrise to Sunset, Peak Express, Good Times Express and Coronet Express. They played it safe, sticking with the existing Coronet Express name.

The new high-speed Telemix from Leitner Ropeways of Italy combines a six-seat chairlift with gondola cabins.

The Coronet Express quad chairlift had a 25-year legacy and transported 5 million passengers up to the peak.

*German ski racer Stefan Luitz was stripped of his first World Cup win for using an oxygen mask.*

*Racing in a giant slalom in Beaver Creek (Colorado) which started at an altitude of 3152 metres, Luitz was seen using an oxygen tank between runs.*

*FIS anti-doping rules state oxygen tanks cannot be brought to race venues, and competition results achieved after the use of the equipment shall be automatically disqualified.*

**Vail Resorts (US)** is planning to buy **Mount Hotham and Falls Creek** ski resorts in Victoria (Australia) for \$US120 million.

Vail already owns 15 skifields across the US, Canada and Australia. These include Perisher in NSW, Australia's largest skifield.

The expensive deal is not just about

Australian skiers. Vail Resorts wants to tap the fast-growing market of Chinese skiers that has the potential to supercharge the global skiing industry.

**The US now has 55 million skier and snowboarder visits per season, the vast majority of whom (51.6 million) are US based.**

France comes a close second with 54 million visits per season with 15 million of them visiting from abroad. Austria comes third with 52 million visits per season.

Then are listed Japan 32 million, Italy 27 million, Switzerland 23 million, Canada 18 million, Germany 15 million, China 13 million and Sweden 9 million.

Despite a record numbers of skiers and snow boarders on New Zealand skifields in 2018, the rate of **snow injuries** appears to be steady or falling.

Skier and snowboarder show some 15,000 were recorded, a 9 percent increase on the previous year but only a 2 percent increase on 2015.

Knees are the most common skier injury whereas shoulders and wrists are the most common snowboarding injuries.

**New Zealand's fast growing ski industry is aiming to continue its uphill trend with a goal of reaching 2 million skier or boarder days by 2020.**

Ski Areas Association of New Zealand chairman Marty Toomey said the steady growth over the past four years averaging 5 percent per year followed on from substantial industry investment in new lifts, facilities and snow making.

**A London schoolboy aged 12** spent almost an hour buried under an avalanche before he was rescued alive by a rescue dog.

He defied the odds to survive because his life expectancy surrounded by thick snow and ice was just 15 minutes.

The boy was in a group of seven who were skiing on a closed black run at

La Plagne (France) with no off-piste equipment.

**There are four ski destinations in the world where homes consistently sell for over \$US25 million, and only one of them is in the US. That is Aspen (Colorado).**

According to real estate consultancy Knight Frank, the other three are in Europe and they are St. Moritz and Gstaad (both Switzerland) plus Courchevel (France).

**Australian Olympic bronze medal skier Zali Steggall** is running for Parliament and she hopes to beat former Prime Minister Tony Abbott in the Sydney seat Warringah.

Running as an independent candidate she is promoting environmental values and is given a chance of winning the seat.

Steggall aged 44 is a lawyer. In skiing she won a bronze medal in the slalom at the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano (Japan) and a gold medal in slalom at the 1999 world championships at Vail (Colorado).

Her grandfather Jack Stegall played 10 rugby tests as a fullback or wing and her father played senior club rugby in Sydney.

**Katherine Clarke, aged 39, a New Zealand woman based in London** was one of four skiers killed in an avalanche in the Italian Alps, in February.

They were hit by a large wall of snow on a steep slope in a valley near the resort of Courmayeur.

The alarm was raised when the group failed to return to their hotels and alpine rescuers found their bodies in 2 metres of snow.

**Vincent Kriechmayr (Austria)** won the famous Lauberhorn downhill alpine ski race before a crowd of 35,000 at Wengen (Switzerland).

Defending champion Beat Feuz (Switzerland) was second, 0.14 seconds behind, and Aleksander Kilde (Norway) was third at 0.26 seconds.



## CLUB ITEMS & SERVICES FOR SALE

RSC Administration Office, P.O. Box 8064, Symonds Street, Auckland 1150

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

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

### Lockers

Lockers are available for hire in the Hut at Turoa and occasionally in the Lodge.

email - [admin@rsc.org.nz](mailto:admin@rsc.org.nz) to find out what is available.

**Annual Locker Rental Rates-** applicable from when you are allocated a locker-

Ski- \$57.50

Gear \$28.75

### Club Items

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

Name Badge (free to new members) \$12

\*\*\*\*\*

## PHONE NUMBERS

RSC Office 09-377-3856

RSC Fax 09-377-3859

Lodge 07-892-3824

Hut 07-892-3822

Chalet 07-892-3823

Turoa 06-385-8767

## NEW MEMBERS COSTS

Two working parties.

Senior joining fee \$199

Junior joining fee \$99

Annual senior subs \$258.75 incl GST (\$225 plus GST)

Annual junior subs \$95 incl GST (\$82.61 plus GST)

## ACCOMMODATION FEES (Effective May 1st 2019)

Members Senior 18 years and over \$47

Members Teen 14-17 years \$41

Members Junior 13 years and under \$30

Members' children 7 years and under \$25

Non-members 14 years and over \$92

Non-members 13 years and under \$60

Life members \$27

School group children \$57

School group parents \$77

### Off season rates (Chalet and Turoa)

Members Senior and Junior \$27

Non-members Senior and Junior \$32

**Groups of 20 or more: please apply to Administration Officer for possible discounted rates.  
MEMBERS' CHILDREN AGED 8 YEARS AND OVER WHO ARE NOT YET MEMBERS  
PAY NON-MEMBER RATES.**