

# *The Bulletin*

**RUAPEHU SKI CLUB**

Volume 84, No. 3

September 2019



*The changing scene at Whakapapa. Phone: Dan Paine.*



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## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The Haensli Cup was held recently. Although the race took place in horrendous weather conditions, it was well attended.

Once again, Ray and the rest of the RAL Events Team prevailed, making the most of the conditions and the facilities available.

Thanks to our Club Captain, Catherine, Club Vice-Captain, Paula, and to Liza, Jenn and everyone else involved. The race and prizegiving event were a great success.

You are all probably aware of the resignation of Ross Copland from his position as Chief Executive of RAL.

We understand he will become CEO of the Remarkables Park Group in Queenstown. I'm sure we all wish Ross the best in his future endeavours.

With the Sky Waka gondola in full operation, we already see clear evidence of the number of tourists embarking.

This enforces our view that the Sky Waka is essential to the financial future of RAL and therefore of ourselves.

While the Sky Waka is an obvious asset for us all, I cannot help missing the Waterfall Express.

The Haensli Cup weekend illustrated the importance of the Waterfall Express and of uphill access from Hut Flat.

There is often limited access to the upper slopes of Whakapapa. This could be caused by inclement weather or by delays in deciding or avalanche control.

Whenever this happened in the past, the Waterfall Express became the star attraction. Now, that role has been taken by the Sky Waka.

The big difference is that to use the Sky Waka, it is necessary to ski all the way down to the Top o' the Bruce.

As we predicted, this causes massive congestion on the Rockgarden and Tennants Valley slopes. We also predict that

snow conditions on these lower slopes will deteriorate as the ski season progresses.

The new usage patterns also add excessive demand on the Sky Waka and Rangatira Express, resulting in enormous queues.

This is something that not only affects us as RSC members. It affects all Whakapapa skiers.

I believe that uphill access from Hut Flat is vital to Whakapapa for providing mid-field access on marginal days when the upper mountain cannot be opened and to provide more effective passage to the upper mountain slopes and lifts on optimal days.

It seems that the influence of the latest health and safety legislation knows no bounds.

The intention of the legislation is admirable as we have the highest rates of industrial accidents in the OECD. We have a long history of workers putting themselves in danger under the intimidation of losing their livelihood.

While the events of last year at Turoa were tragic, I cannot help feeling that RAL has attracted more attention in matters of health and safety than it deserves.

RAL have amply demonstrated how seriously they take the matter, in my opinion, to a point going beyond what could be deemed reasonable.

The whole ski industry seems to be affected. In the South Island it is now necessary to divulge one's date of birth to purchase a day pass.

It seems to me that a better outcome could be achieved by attending to Lime scooters than harassing the ski industry.

Let us hope that a sensible balance can be achieved that can keep us safe without taking all the fun away.

**Richard Nelson,  
President**



RSC Vice-Captain Paula Cooper, ex-Captain Liza Fitzsimmons and Swiss instructor Loris Keiser try out the new Sky Waka gondola at Whakapapa. Photo from Paula.

## THROUGH THE LODGE WINDOW

**Happy Valley (Whakapapa)** opened for skiing, snowboarding and sledding on June 3rd and the **Alpine Meadow (Turoa)** learner slopes followed on June 28th.

The Sky Waka gondola at Whakapapa opened for sightseeing on July 3rd but the lack of a big early snowfall meant the upper mountain lifts on both skifields did not open until late July.

Then there were several big snowfalls during a big 15-day storm in August which set the Ruapehu skifields up for a good season.

**Our visiting Swiss ski instructor Loris Keiser** has bought himself a camper van Mitsubishi L300.

*He is intending to stay in New Zealand until the end of January and plans to travel*

*around the country after the ski season.*

**Wairarapa Lodge**, which is next to RSC Turoa at Ohakune, suffered extensive damage and was made uninhabitable in a mid-morning fire on July 10th.

They had 20 people staying and all were safe as most were at Turoa or in Ohakune and only one person was in the lodge when the fire broke out.

The blaze was extinguished in about 45 minutes by four pumping appliances. A specialist command unit and support vehicles were sent from Whanganui to assist.

**RSC QUIZ:** *Which acclaimed NZ sportsman played the piano at RSC Lodge and led Club members in a singalong?*

*See the answer on the next page.*

**A woman mountaineer** in her 20s was lucky to be rescued after falling 10 metres

**THE  
RUAPEHU SKI CLUB**

**(inc) Founded 1913**

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**President:** Richard Nelson  
**Vice-Presidents:** Carl Burling,  
Marion Quinn, Phill Thomass,  
Donald Webster, Fiona Willison  
**Secretary:** Louise Blair  
**Treasurer:** Heather Chao  
**Immediate Past President:** Adrian  
Adriaansen  
**Captain:** Catherine Gafa  
**Vice-Captain:** Paula Cooper  
**Committee:** Arran Birchenough, Jeff  
Davies, Damon Forsyth, Sam Hood,  
Richard Horton, Simon Hunt, Nils  
Johannessen, Nina Thomas, William  
Geddes  
**Patron:** Peter Brady  
**Patroness:** Barbara Scelly  
**Auditors:** Hart and Co.  
**Admin Officer:** Sheryl Brownlee  
**Lodge Officer:** Carl Burling  
**Hut Officer:** Simon Hunt  
**Chalet Officer:** Phill Thomass  
**Turoa Officer:** Donald Webster  
**Heritage Fund Guardians:** Richard  
Nelson, Adrian Adriaansen, Robin  
Dallas, Bernard Smith  
**Fund Treasurer:** Mike Wardle  
**Glacier Hut Custodian:** Joe Gabriel

down a crevasse in the Whangaehu Glacier on the eastern side of Mt Ruapehu.

Her companions could not see the woman but they could communicate with her.

Police and the Ruapehu Alpine Rescue Organisation (RARO) flew in by helicopter to use ropes and harness equipment to lift the woman out.

*Volcano monitoring staff used a drone to collect water samples from Crater Lake on **White Island (Whakaari)** when conditions made it impossible to approach the lake safely.*

*The volcano's lake is a brew of bubbling, hot and acidic fluid that is far more acidic than battery acid, and has a lake temperature of around 60-70C.*

The number of buildings in the **Tongariro National Park** is being reduced as local iwi and the Department of Conservation want to see fewer buildings in the park out of respect for its cultural values.

RAL is reducing the number of structures it has on Mt Ruapehu and will be removing six old buildings at Whakapapa, replacing them with a single, fit-for-purpose structure at the top of Bruce Road.

**QUIZ ANSWER:** NZ cricketer Bert Sutcliffe.

The opening interclub ski race of the season at Whakapapa, the Christiania Derby, was cancelled due to adverse weather conditions.

There was also poor weather for RSC's big event the Haensli Cup two weeks later, but a race was able to be held on a reduced course on K Road underneath the gondola.

*The deadline for the December Bulletin will be **Friday November 15th.***

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

**THE BULLETIN**

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## **SICK? STAY HOME**

We had sick members in the Chalet during July. Then we had a sick chef.

Our Accommodation Rules require sick members to evacuate or stay home in the interest of not passing on their bugs.

Please be aware that ours is a community environment and retreat rapidly to the comfort of your own homes if you are afflicted.

## **RAL CEO DEPARTS**

RAL's chief executive officer Ross Copland is to move on, as from September 30th.

He is to be the CEO of the Remarkables Park Group in Queenstown.

No replacement CEO had been named when this Bulletin went to the printer.

## **NO DOWNLOADING**

RAL advised in late June that except in emergencies there will be no downloading this season on the Rangatira quad chairlift which runs from the Top O' The Bruce to Hut Flat.

Furthermore, the uploading of passengers not on skis or a snowboard, or with a large bag or pack, will be allowed on this lift only once a day for a few minutes at 4pm, or at 8pm on night skiing days.

RAL said it preferred to have no uploading of foot traffic at all, but after discussions with clubs including RSC it had reached a compromise and would allow a trial of the 4pm (or 8pm) uploading.

RSC Committee has since then

sought ways to handle stores and rubbish to and from the Lodge and the Hut.

## **RSC OBITUARIES**

### **ELIZABETH SOMERVILLE**

Sadly we have lost another fine ex-member in Liz Somerville, wife of former Club champion and ex-Club Captain Graham Somerville.

Liz served RSC in several capacities including the furnishing of our buildings and caring for the welfare of the visiting Swiss instructors.

We send the Club's condolences.

### **MARY BLAMPIED**

We note the passing in August of long-time RSC member Mary Blampied, daughter of the late Bob Murie who had a long spell as Club Captain.

Bob was noted for unsuccessfully trying to pass a rule that members must pass a fitness test before booking in for skiing.

Mary's daughter Rachael is a well known NZ actress.

We send the Club's condolences.

## **NZ SKI RACING TEAM**

Snow Sports NZ has named the national ski racing team for 2019.

One feature is the elevation of Piera Hudson to the A team

A Team: Alice Robinson, Piera Hudson.

B Team: Adam Barwood, Willis Feasey.

C Team: Colbey Derwin, Eliza Grigg.

Development Squad: Alex Hull, Georgia Bushell, Amelia Gillard..

## VEHICLE CHARGING

### RSC Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Policy.

With the increasing Electric Vehicles ownership by Club members the Committee has decided an EV Charging Policy is necessary for the Club.

Due to the factors below, the current policy is that there is to be NO EV CHARGING at either the Chalet or the Turoa Lodge.

- 1) The club has no suitable outdoor electrical outlets for vehicles to be plugged into.
- 2) For Health and Safety reasons the Club does not want electrical cords coming out of windows or doors.
- 3) Both buildings currently run very close to the maximum peak load limit for the “line charge bracket” they are in. The additional load from EV charging has the real possibility of pushing us to the next more expensive bracket. This could then cost the club and additional \$4100 per year in Lines Charges for the two buildings.
- 4) We currently have no method to measure the power used by EV charging and therefore no way to determine the appropriate charges for anybody EV charging.

Until the Club is able to adequately resolve all of the above issues, there is to be NO EV CHARGING at its buildings.

**RSC Committee**

## OFFICE NOTES

Thank you to all those members who agree to be our Building Leaders. With so many Health and Safety concerns,

we must do all we can to ensure the well being of our members and actually the buildings as well.

Your accommodation requests can only be confirmed once there are sufficient funds in your deposit account to cover the booking, regardless of when your original booking was made.

A big thank you to Mike at Turoa and our members who have been so welcoming to the people from the Wairarapa Lodge after the recent fire.

The problem of who belongs to which Locker continues. Please if a locker is open it does not mean you can place your gear or skis in that locker, and then lock and use it as your own.

Please check first with the Office about the availability.

Name badges have been ordered, though these will be few weeks away.

For those members who decide at the last minute, or on the day, to make an overnight trip to the mountain, consider please our chefs in the upper lodges.

They are ordering stores a week or more ahead of time and actually getting the stores up is a real task this year, not like calling into the local supermarket on your way home from work.

We have the North Island Primary School champs soon, spread over two weeks, and Club Championships followed by school holidays.

Now that the snow has arrived a good number of bookings are coming in. We will process these as quickly as possible and get confirmation notices back to you.

**Sheryl**

## WAIRARAPA FIRE

Dear Ruapehu Ski Club,

I'd like to take the opportunity to thank you, your Committee and your Club members for your wonderful support during, and post our devastating fire at the Wairarapa Ski Club in the Ohakune Ski Village.

We wish to extend our warmest thanks to those who were able to lend help, support and accommodation on the day of the fire, and those whom have offered generous accommodation privileges thereafter.

We acknowledge that this fire, although tragic, has made us aware of the value of fostering good reciprocal relationships within the ski village. These well established contacts and relationships have made it possible to survive this event.

We, the committee, would like to formally accept your offers of accommodation for our members for the season and have circulated booking information and contacts to our membership via our booking website.

Due to the fact that we have no accommodation to offer we have closed our own bookings and encouraged members to contact your booking officers directly.

This means that as a committee we may focus on the impending rebuild and the insurance claim process ahead of us.

We appreciate this may create more work for your committee and thank you in advance for this inconvenience.

In our communications we have

reiterated to our members that they should regard themselves as guests at your Club, and to make sure that they familiarise themselves with the rules and the workings of the Club that they are staying with.

Once again we thank you and wish you a good ski season.

Kind Regards

Rupert Bunny

The Wairarapa Ski Club.

## NO JULY ERUPTION

A "perfect storm" of earthquakes and high winds triggered Mt Ruapehu's eruption alarms on July 14th.

The Eruption Detection System (EDS) was activated after a cluster of 20 small earthquakes near Turangi.

GeoNet said: "For the alarm to sound, the system needs to see earthquakes and airwaves together. This morning we have had both.

"Thank you to those on the mountain for staying indoors and out of danger until you received the stand-down message."

## LORD NELSON

Congratulations and thanks those members who noted the use of the term Nelson's Column in the last Bulletin.

This was a reference in the Contents list to the President's Column written by Richard Nelson.

Most of you got the joke but a couple were bamboozled by the reference to one of the world's best known monuments, situated in London.

## AGM TOPICS

The 106th annual general meeting of RSC was held on Wednesday June 12th 2019 at the Royal NZ Yacht Squadron at Westhaven Marina after convivial drinks and finger food.

President Richard Nelson called the meeting to order with a warm welcome to all 103 attendees and asked for a minutes silence for those Club members who had passed away during the year.

The Treasurer Heather Chao talked through the annual accounts for the year ending December 2018.

Total bunk nights for the winter season 2018 were 6858 with a bumper snow season. Membership declined with the subscriptions declining by 14 percent.

The upgrade of the Lodge heating and water system to save energy costs gave an actual cost of 96K with a return of 12 percent. This included upgrading the plumbing.

Sheryl Brownlee was thanked for all her work over the past 12 months and presented with a beautiful bouquet of flowers from Past President Robin Dallas.

She received with a standing ovation from the floor and it was noted that Sheryl goes above and beyond in her role as Administration Officer.

A short presentation was made from a past participant of Ski for Life which is now in its ninth year.

William Tupou a past participant thanked RSC for opening our home and giving him an experience that will stay with him for life.

Mike Jarvis the Headmaster from St Paul's commented that this programme was making a difference in these young men's lives and we need good men.

Richard Nelson spoke of the establishment of the Heritage Fund

in 2009 with four guardians: two Life members, the President and the Immediate Past President.

Robin Dallas, Bernard Smith, Richard Nelson and Adrian Adriaansen will continue as Guardians of the Heritage Fund and Mike Wardle will continue as Treasurer of the Heritage Fund.

Tjebbe Bruin and Adrian Adriaansen on the nomination of the Honours Committee were elected as Life members in recognition of their tireless contribution to the Club. Between them there is over 40 years of service.

Robin Dallas spoke of the Tjebbe Bruin's pragmatic can do attitude and what a pleasure it was to have him on the Committee when she held Presidency in 2005-2008.

Bill Speight, Past President 1999-2002, took to the floor to tell the story of how he convinced Adrian Adriaansen to become a Committee member and reminisced on the projects that Adrian was involved in.

Both Tjebbe and Adrian were presented with a celebratory silver tray.

Those Committee members who have stepped down were thanked for their work by Richard and the incoming Committee was announced.

Richard was presented with the President's ice axe and the incoming new Committee members were presented with their badges.

Annual subscriptions were proposed to be increased by 4 percent to Seniors \$269, Veterans and Juniors \$98.

Pip Bates questioned if these increases were necessary considering the cost to some of the current members. The motion to increase annual subscriptions was passed.

Under general business Hanish Bell spoke of the changes that have occurred at Whakapapa with gaining access to Hut Flat via the Rangatira chair.



*Adrian Adriaansen has been elected a Life member of RSC. Here he receives a presentation from Mike Wardle on behalf of the Club. Photo: Dean Tetley.*

There will be no uploading without skis during the day and no downloading. You will be able to gain access without skis when RAL will allow a window of 15 minutes at 4pm for foot traffic. You are required to attend at safety briefing at 3.55pm prior to loading.

There has been a working group formed including Hamish Bell, Robin Dallas, Bernard Smith and Mike Wardle to liaise with RAL to build trust and rebuild relationships.

Hamish asked for restraint around emotional responses and once they reach a landing they will communicate to the members.

Richard asked that the members exercise patience and look to the long game. Mike Geddes questioned the legality of the limitation of access and Tracey Meek questioned the safety of walking up the Rockgarden.

Sandy Mill, Past President 1989-1992, presented to the Club a painting by Michael Fowler, a past Mayor of Wellington, which belonged to Club member the late Roger Kiddle, of the RSC Hut which is actually the Lodge.

The meeting concluded at 9.15pm with coffee, tea and sweet treats.

**FW**



*Seen the AGM: Colin De Freyne, Hamish Bell, Mike Wardle, Jim Mutch.*



*Hanni Sporli, Jim Frankham, Bernhard Sporli, Bev Frankham.*



*Ski for Life. From left: William Tupou (student leader), Michael Jarvis (PE teacher at St Paul's College), Mike Lowery (RSC), Kieran Fouhy (Headmaster at St Paul's). All photos: Deane Tetley.*



**RSC Committee 2019:** Damon Forsyth, Donald Webster, Jeff Davies, Catherine Gafa, Sam Hood, Marion Quinn, Arran Birchenough, Nina Thomas, Fiona Willison, Adrian Adriaansen, Simon Hunt, Richard Horton, Carl Burling, Richard Nelson, Nils Johannessen, Heather Chao. Photo: Deane Tetley.



**Members gathered for the 2019 AGM.** Photo: Deane Tetley.



**Seen at the AGM:** John and Deane Tetley with Life member Bill Speight who invited them to join RSC more than 15 years ago.



*Life member Robin Dallas*



*President Richard Nelson*



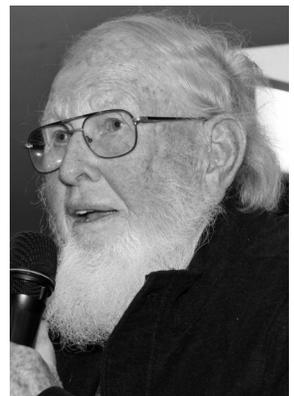
*Treasurer Heather Chao*



*Sam Hood*



*Life member Tjebbe Bruin*



*Life member Sandy Mill*



**Hot August Night.** The Tararua Tramping Club lodge at Whakapapa burned down at night in August 1954. A new lodge was then built on the same site west of RSC Lodge. We have printed this photo several times over the years to remind RSC members why we have fire talks.

## TARARUA CENTENARY

RSC congratulates the Tararua Tramping Club of Wellington which has reached 100 years-old.

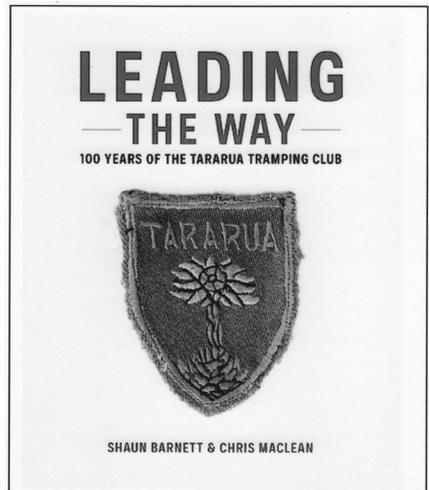
While RSC was the first club to operate at Ruapehu (1913), the TTC (1919) was the second just six years later and in the early years the two clubs often shared facilities and events.

At times both clubs booked the huts at Whakapapa and from 1929 booked The Chateau. Sometimes they staged joint sports events including ski races and ski jumping, as well as fancy dress parties.

The TTC operates mainly in the ranges north of Wellington, and the capital is a tramping town.

The TTC has a clubrooms in the city and there are regular club nights where tramps all over New Zealand are planned and discussed.

However, the TTC also has a club lodge at Whakapapa at the same altitude as RSC



Lodge and a couple of ridges to the west, and its members enjoy skiing as well as climbing and summer tramping.

To celebrate its centenary the TTC has published an excellent book about the same size as RSC's 2013 book and full of photos and history.



**Upper:** On the rock, Ralph Paine aged 8. **Lower:** Unpacking stores. Back: L-R Claudia Burling, Abby Hunt, Madeline Moffat. Front: Fiona Lovelock. Photos: Dan Paine.



**Upper:** The six-seater High Noon Express chairlift at Turoa. This tower needed repairs after being hit by an avalanche last season. **Lower:** Big icicles on the Schuss Haus. Photos: RAL.



RSC families enjoy a first ride in the new Sky Waka gondola at Whakapapa.

## RSC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Aug 2019	12-16	Winter Party
	17	Haensli Cup
	17	Academy 1
	24	Academy 2
	26-29	NIPS week one at Whakapapa
	31	Rangatira Alpine Trophy
Sept 2019	31	Academy 1
	2-5	NIPS week two at Whakapapa
	7	Tongariro Juniors
	7	Academy 2
	14	Ngauruhoe Trophy
	14	Academy 1
	16-18	NISSSC at Turoa
	21	Academy 2
	23-25	NISSSB at Turoa
	28	RSC Club champs
28-Oct	13	School holidays
Oct 2019	28	Ski season closes

## NEW MEMBERS

We wish a warm welcome to RSC to the following new members:

Lakshman Anadanayagam (Auckland)  
 Mark Barclay (Auckland)  
 Gina Barry (Tauranga)  
 Annie Budd (Paraparaumu)  
 Cordelia Caplen (Auckland)  
 Christine Coulter-Heron (Paraparaumu)  
 Benjamin Culpan (Auckland)  
 Toby Dunn (Auckland)  
 Mila Dunn (Auckland)  
 Cameron Dunn (Auckland)  
 Sam Dunn (Auckland)  
 Ben Evans (Whangarei)  
 Haishan Gao (Auckland)  
 Michael Heron (Paraparaumu)  
 Alina Hoheisel (Auckland)  
 Han Han Hoheisel (Auckland)  
 Jin Jin Hoheisel (Auckland)  
 Gregor Hoheisel (Auckland)  
 Maite Irurzón-Lopez (Wellington)

Ryder Lawson (Auckland)  
 Shelley Lawson (Auckland)  
 Rachel Lee (Auckland)  
 Fergus McKellar (Palmerston North)  
 Nicholas Milojevic (Auckland)  
 Sheree Morgan (Auckland)  
 Laura Redondo (Wellington)  
 Luis Redondo (Wellington)  
 Luis Redondo (Wellington)  
 Andrew Reid (Auckland)  
 Felicity Reid (Auckland)  
 Frances Reid (Auckland)  
 Hamish Reid (Auckland)  
 Justine Reid (Auckland)  
 Mike Reid (Auckland)  
 Amy Robens (Auckland)  
 Max Stewart (Auckland)  
 Setareh Stienstra (Auckland)  
 Arjen Stienstra (Auckland)  
 Stephen Tonks (Whanganui)  
 Taya Walsh-McDonnell (Auckland)  
 Kelly Woods (Auckland)



*Seen at the Promenade in Davos: Tjebbe Bruin, Florian Emmenegger, Fiona Laird, Bruno Burger and Saemi Balsinger. Photo from Fiona.*



*The Nga Wai Heke chairlift at Turoa. Photo: RAL.*



**Upper:** Thick ice at Turoa. **Lower:** The Alpine Meadow beginner area at Turoa.

## **PQ STILL SKIING**

Former New Zealand ski champion and Stratford Mountain Club life member Peter Quinn, aged 82, is still captivated by the alpine environment after 64 years of skiing.

His ambition is to be skiing when he reaches 90.

In his day PQ was New Zealand's best slalom skier but in 1963 he did well enough in the high speed downhill on the famous Coronet Park course to take the national overall title based on slalom, giant slalom and downhill.

As a youngster Quinn always played sport, such as rugby, squash, surfing or horse riding. Now he skis in winter and plays golf and cycles in summer.

He has skied from Mt Taranaki's 2518m high summit more than 100 times.

In 2018 he skied 43 days, the majority of those on the top slope at the Manganui skifield with its challenging 26 degree average gradient.

In the 1960s he raced in 200cm-205cm performance skis, but now he uses 155cm carver skis.

## **BOB STOKES**

One of Taranaki's finest and pioneer skiers Bob Stokes has died, aged 92.

With Mt Taranaki a short distance away from his Stratford home, he joined the Stratford Mountain Club in his late teens soon after World War II and went on, over the next 70 years, to become one of the club's most dedicated members.

He learned to ski from reading books and watching others on the slopes. In the early days facilities were primitive, tows were non-existent and equipment was limited.

The Policeman slope at 1420m altitude was a favourite area which provided a testing steep downhill run of 260m on a gradient averaging 26 degrees.

His group would often do six runs a day, walking up and skiing down.

In 1953 Stokes and others spent 38 days lugging tow ropes and heavy bags of cement to build the Top Tow below the Policeman.

Stokes became national long distance champion in 1952 but he specialised in high speed downhill racing, winning many titles at provincial level.

He was selected twice for the New Zealand team in 1953 and 1961 to compete against Australia in the Inter-Dominion races.

He was also a council member of the New Zealand Ski Association and led ski trips to the South Island, Austria and Switzerland.

Stokes holds the fastest time of 71 seconds for the Crater to Fantham Peak race on Mt Taranaki, a vertical drop of 550m.

Stokes celebrated his 80th birthday in the club lodge at Manganui and continued to ski the Top Tow into his early 80s.

He was buried with his "new" 35 year-old ski jacket.

## **TOURIST LEVY**

Investment projects to be funded by visitors to New Zealand have been announced by Tourism Minister Kelvin Davis and Conservation Minister Eugenie Sage.

\$18 million will be invested across 10 tourism and conservation projects, funded from the International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy.

These include \$600,000 on a programme to enhance visitor safety at the Tongariro National Park.

Conservation Minister Eugenie Sage said tourism can play a role in protecting, restoring and championing the natural environment, and cultural and historic heritage upon which tourism is based.

## VOLCANO SAFETY

### **Government scientists tell you what you should know about the volcano.**

The snow at Mt Ruapehu attracts excited skiers and boarders, some of whom may not know that it is one of New Zealand's most active volcanoes!

As you make your checks before heading up the mountain, consider what volcanic hazards you need to be aware of and how you can stay safe.

**The most important thing: If there is an eruption or if the siren sounds on the ski area, move sideways out of the valleys immediately.**

What are the volcanic hazards? How do I prepare for them?

Active volcanoes can pose a threat to safety if they are not understood and people don't take action to protect themselves.

**Eruptions:** Small eruptions only affect the summit plateau around Crater Lake. Larger eruptions can produce hazards that extend beyond the mountain top and could include: lahars, flying rocks, pyroclastic flows (hot ash and gas), lava flows, ashfall, and earthquakes.

Ruapehu's vent is located under Crater Lake (Te Wai ā-moe) and the volcano makes itself known every decade or so with an eruption. Ruapehu last erupted in September 2007, producing a lahar.

**An eruption could occur without warning.** We continuously monitor the volcano for signs of activity and will update you using a Volcanic Alert Bulletin if there are any significant changes at the volcano.

On the mountain, Department of Conservation and Ruapehu Alpine Lifts have a world-class Eruption Detection System (EDS) to alert people on the mountain to immediately move to safety.

**Lahars** – Lahars are mudflows that are a mixture of volcanic ash and debris that move swiftly down mountain slopes, usually in valleys.

Lahars could be generated by eruptions, or by a failure of the Crater Lake dam wall. Lahars are very fast-moving.

**You will not be able to ski or board your way out of its path. If you hear an alarm that instructs you to get out of a valley, do so immediately.**

**Move sideways out of the valleys quickly; don't ski down the valley.**

## NZ SKI CHAMPS

Alice Robinson and Willis Feasey both scored double wins at the NZ ski championships which were raced at Coronet Peak.

They were the fastest Kiwi skiers in both the slalom and giant slalom. Alice was at her best in the GS, winning the race against international competition.

**Men's slalom:** Dries van den Broecke (Belgium) 1.31.88, Simon Fournier (Canada) 1.32.63, Armand Marchant (Belgium) 1.32.94. Best NZ: Willis Feasey 14th.

**Men's GS:** Magnus Walch (Austria) 1.46.60, Stefano Baruffaldi (Italy) 1.47.59, Daniele Sorio (Italy) 1.47.75. Best NZ: Willis Feasey eighth.

**Women's slalom:** Tuva Norbye (Norway) 1.32.88, Barbara Kantorova (Slovakia) 1.34.01, Storm Klomhaus (US) 1.34.70. Best NZ: Alice Robinson 11th.

**Women's GS:** Alice Robinson (NZ) 1.56.13, Cara Brown (GB) 1.59.47, Carole Bissig (Switzerland) 2.00.24.



Winter Party dress-up night at RSC Lodge. Photos: Kate Paul.





Freaks and Geeks – Winter Party dress-up night. Photos: Josie Adriaansen.



Winter Party "Freaks and Geeks" night. Photos: Josie Adriaansen.



The prizegiving at RSC Lodge for the 2019 Haensli Cup. Photo: Liza Fitzsimmons.

## HAENSLI CUP

**Monique Oosterbaan (Rangatira Ski Club)** won the women's Haensli Cup for the fifth year in succession and the sixth time in the past seven years. **Lachlan Powell (Taupo Ski Club)** was the fastest man.

The race was held on a reduced course on K Road due to poor weather on the day when the valley course was not available. There were 150 starters.

The RSC team of Guy Pilkington, Hamish Bell, Nina Thomas and Dave Reid won the Masters team race.

The RSC team of George Pilkington, Claudia Burling, EJ Moffat and Abby Hunt was second in the Junior team race.

**Women:** Monique Oosterbaan (Rangatira) 17.39, Isabelle Holley (Takapuna) 17.77, Jorja van Pein (individual) 18.53.

**Men:** Lachlan Powell (Taupo) 16.54, John Knowles (Auckland University) 17.62, Fynn Powell (Taupo) 17.85.

**Junior teams:** Taupo 73.98, RSC 74.61, RSC 79.46.

**Open teams:** Rangatira 77.23, Auckland University 79.93, Auckland University 86.34.

**Masters teams:** RSC 83.39, Rangatira 85.93, Taupo 93.56.

**Snowboards:** Auckland University 97.34.

### RSC Club Captain Catherine Gafa reports:

While the weather may not have been the best, we had a race and then a fantastic prizegiving party.

Thanks go to many people especially my co-host Jenn Moffat with all her skiing jokes and Walter Haensli trivia to entertain our guests.

It always amazes me how huge the task can seem at the beginning of the day, yet with the many people all helping out it is surprising how quickly everything can get done, which is the beauty of being in a club like RSC.

Thank you to all those members who stepped forward to help out and set up and clean up on the day.

Also let's not forget our sponsors Elan -- two sets of adult skis; RAL -- season pass; Giro -- six helmets, and six goggles; Tussock Bar -- \$200 voucher; Momentum Sports for the Picture jacket, and Le Bent socks and balaclavas, Scott -- six goggles; Dirty Dog -- sunglasses and goggles; Skinnies sun cream and Snowplanet with vouchers.

Please ensure you support our sponsors as they have supported us.



RSC President Richard Nelson salutes the winning RSC Masters team in the Haensli Cup: Guy Pilkington, Hamish Bell, Nina Thomas and Dave Reid.



The RSC team that came second in the Haensli Cup's Junior race: Abby Hunt, EJ Moffat, Claudia Burling, George Pilkington. Photos: Liza Fitzsimmons.



Monique Oosterbaan with the winning Rangatira Ski Club's Open team in the Haensli Cup.



Jenn Moffat and Catherine Gafa oversee the Haensli Cup prizegiving. Photos: Liza Fitzsimmons.



The 2019 Haensli Cup prizegiving at RSC Lodge, Photo: Catherine Gafa.



## ACROSS THE SKIING WORLD

**Northern Italy has been chosen as the site of the 2026 Olympic Winter Games.**

Hosting will be shared by the economic and fashion capital of Milan and the ski resort of Cortina d'Ampezzo.

Members of the international Olympic Committee gave 47 votes to the Italian bid and 34 to the rival bidder Stockholm-Are (Sweden).

Italy has twice hosted Winter Olympics in the past, Cortina in 1956 and Turin in 2006.

Meanwhile the 2022 Winter Olympics will be held at Beijing (China).

*On June 1st it was possible to ski in both Austria and Australia.*

*In Austria some resorts which had closed at the end of April reopened after a heavy snowfall, while as usual the first Australian skifields opened at the start of June with their best snowfall for 10 years.*

Negotiations are under way in a \$7 million deal to sell the assets of the **Treble Cone Ski Area** near Wanaka to Cardrona Alpine Resort, owned by southern tourism giant Real Journeys.

Cardrona in June made a conditional offer to buy Treble Cone, subject to a due diligence process.

Treble Cone is a 35-minute drive from Wanaka and is marketed as the largest ski area in the South Island.

It has a ski area of 550ha with a lifted vertical of 700m and a summit elevation of 2088m.

Beginner terrain is 10 percent, intermediate terrain 45 percent and advanced terrain 45 percent.

***There are changes afoot in Australia where for the 2019 season pass holders at Mt Buller (Victoria) have joined Thredbo (NSW) on the international Ikon Pass.***

*The purchase by Vail (US) of Falls Creek and Hotham (Both Victoria) puts those ski*

*resorts on the rival Epic Pass.*

*The passes give reciprocal rights to the resorts in Australia and also a range of destinations in New Zealand, Japan, North America and Europe.*

**Snowcat skiing** is available for two groups of 12 at the Soho Basin near Wanaka this winter.

With 264 hectares and more than 500 vertical metres, every run is different. The highest point is the 1936-metre Mt Cardrona and participants typically manage 12-15 runs per day.

Soho Basin will join Cardrona Alpine Resort in the next few years, so Cardrona will more than double in size to 900 hectares.

A day pass at Soho Basin costs \$785 including transport up the mountain. The entire field can be booked for the day for \$20,000 and the maximum number of guests on the mountain each day is 24.

***Snow groomer manufacturer PistenBully has unveiled what it claims is the world's first all-electric snow groomer.***

*The PistenBully 100 E is a zero-emissions machine which uses a 126 kWh, 400V battery.*

*It gets a 75 percent charge in 5 hours and a complete charge in 6.5 hours, giving a drive time of 3 hours.*

*The first 100 E is not available for sale but is being tested as part of a study.*

**A \$200 million Queenstown hotel complex has been approved. The project in Brecon St near the Queenstown CBD will have 393 guest rooms in four buildings.**

The complex will also contain 12 ground-floor commercial tenancies, on land which presently has a mini golf course on it.

The developer initially applied for consent last year for a larger development, which would have resulted in 468 rooms, but it later reduced the size of the project after this initial plan was knocked back by the district council.

***An American doctor will spend the next three Valentine's Days in county jail for attacking a boy at Mountain Creek (Vermont) ski resort.***

*It was on that date that he punched a 12-year-old snowboarder multiple times and hit him with a ski pole after the child crashed into the man's 10-year-old son.*

*The doctor, 47, will take an anger management program and perform 200 hours of community service work. He was also fined \$1455.*

**Jan Shearer** has been appointed as chief executive officer of Snow Sports NZ.

She contested three Olympic Games in yachting and (with Leslie Egnot) won an Olympic silver medal at Barcelona in 1992.

Shearer has worked for 20 years as an engineer and has held sporting jobs in both tennis and canoe racing.

She married yachtie Murray Jones, who was selected for five Olympic Games, and their daughter Gemma was fourth in sailing at the 2016 Rio Olympics.

***Canada's Kelsey Serwa has retired from ski cross as the reigning Olympic champion.***

*Serwa, aged 29, won two Olympic medals (a gold and a silver), one world title and two X Games gold medals.*

*She grew up skiing at the Big White Resort (British Columbia) which was co-founded by her grandfather Cliff and where there is a ski run named after her.*

**A twelve-year old skier who fell off a high-speed chairlift** at Wachusett Mountain (Massachusetts, US) in 2015 has been awarded \$3.3 million in damages.

The incident occurred when the young skier accidentally sat on the arm of the chair while loading. Improperly seated, he slipped through the chair and turned so that his back was to the mountain, as others on the chair called for the lift to be stopped.

In spite of the commotion, the lift continued up the mountain for three

minutes, as another person on the chairlift held onto the boy.

Eventually the dangling skier hit a snow gun and the other rider lost his grip, causing the 12-year-old to fall 10 metres to the ground. He suffered five fractured vertebrae, a fractured pelvis, and a severe concussion.

***Tasmania's biggest ski field, with seven lifts, is for sale with a price tag of \$1.75 million.***

*The family owning it for the last 46 years has decided to sell, rather than make the upgrade needed to turn it into a year-round tourism attraction.*

*Ben Lomond Ski Field, which has T-Bars and Pomas, focuses on the beginner and intermediate market, but could cater to summer hikers and mountain bike riders with the addition of a chairlift.*

**Sherman Poppen, known as the "grandfather of snowboarding," has died in Georgia (US) aged 89.**

It was in 1965 that he took a pair of skis belonging to one of his daughters and nailed them together so his children could ride the thin snow on local sand dunes

Manufacturer Brunswick Corp took over the Snurfer (snow surfer). Using the same laminated wood they used for bowling lanes, they sold more than a million Snurfers.

One of the kids who fell in love with Snurfing was Jake Burton Carpenter, later the founder of Burton Snowboards.

***LEGO in August released its LEGO City Ski Resort for folks aged six and upward.***

*The set has 806 pieces with a collection of 11 minifigures including three ski patrollers, a ski shop salesman, a helicopter pilot, a skier, a snowboarder and two children.*

*The set also comes with accessories including four pairs of skis, three pairs of ski poles, four snowboards, two ice axes, binoculars, radios, buckets, a first aid box, snowshoes, a helmet with ski goggles, a warm hat and a buildable snowman figure.*



## 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

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## 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 June 1st 2019)

Members Senior	18 years and over	\$52
Members Teen	14-17 years	\$45
Members Junior	13 years and under	\$34
Members' children	7 years and under	\$28
Non-members	14 years and over	\$100
Non-members	13 years and under	\$67
School group children		\$65
School group parents		\$87

### 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.**