

The Bulletin

RUAPEHU SKI CLUB

Volume 86, No. 3

September 2021



Ski trails in the snow at Turoa in 2021. Photo: Mike Anderson.



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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Kia ora koutou, hello everyone.

Each year as the start of the July School holidays approaches Committee holds its collective breath, wondering when the snow will arrive. This year we were pleased to see it falling in time for the second week of the holidays, and then to see it continue to fall later in the month.

With snow comes bookings, the lifeblood of your Club, and by the time of the Haensli Cup we had busy weeks and full weekends ahead. After not being able to run it last year the Haensli Cup was especially important to us this season and was a great success.

Thank you to Catherine Gafa and everyone working towards the race beforehand and on the day, and to Club members who stepped up to fill positions at the racing.

Many months of work go into the organisation of the race, effort rewarded by the smiles, laughter, and accomplishment expressed on the day.

We had got one day into Club Week which follows the Cup, when Covid disrupted our plans and meant we had to evacuate our buildings. RAL once again showed their friendship to RSC, getting everyone off Hut Flat via groomer once it was safe.

Thanks also to DOC who worked with clubs to ensure that common sense prevailed around evacuation plans, and time was available to act safely, not hastily.

Lockdown is a huge stress financially and emotionally on everyone, and while it is of lesser importance it also will have a large impact on RSC.

Your Committee acted with caution and prudence this season, although we didn't continue the Covid surcharge on bookings this year we did decide to keep

the Hut closed and only employ three cooks to reduce our financial exposure.

We will lose at minimum two busy weeks' and two full weekends' worth of bookings as well as school income, earnings we simply will not be able to make up going forward. Even this will mean the difference between breaking even and a loss.

On more pleasant matters, at the AGM this year it was recommended to members – and passed by acclamation – that Mike Wardle be granted a well-deserved Life membership.

Mike exemplifies Club spirit, and while having a very demanding professional career he has also worked tirelessly for RSC in his many roles over the years as Committee member, Building Officer (for Chalet and then Hut), as Treasurer and Vice-President to name a few. Congratulations Mike!

It was also my great pleasure prior to the AGM to recommend to, and to receive unanimous support from, Committee that we make Sue Gunning an Honorary member of RSC.

Many of you will remember Sue as our long serving Administration Officer prior to Sheryl joining us. I worked closely with Sue over many years and I am thrilled to be able to acknowledge and honour her commitment and dedication to the Club in this way.

When you receive this Bulletin we will be out of lockdown (it can't be printed until we are!). Hopefully the mountain will be open and you'll be enjoying life again on the slopes at RSC. I look forward to seeing you there.

Noho ora mai.

Stay well, look after yourselves.

Phill Thomass.
President Ruapehu Ski Club



RAL's groomer evacuated Lodge residents, and our custodians, after a Covid-19 pandemic lockdown was declared in August, Photo: Will Geddes.

THROUGH THE LODGE WINDOW

Happy Valley opened for skiing and snowboarding on June 5th at the start of Queen's Birthday weekend.

The Sky Waka gondola opened for sightseeing on the same date but there was not enough snow for upper mountain skiing.

Alpine Meadow at Turoa opened on July 3th and the first upper mountain lift opened on July 10th.

Whakapapa opened the Rangatira on the Rockgarden on July 12th at the start of the school holidays.

Both ski fields were closed from August 25th due to a Covid-19 nationwide lockdown.

Club Week unfortunately lasted just two days before a nationwide Covid-19 pandemic lockdown forced members to pack up and go home.

Thanks to RAL for giving folk and their packs and our rubbish a ride down the Rockgarden aboard a groomer and to a kind gent helping them dig their cars out.

RAL chief executive officer Jono Dean said that getting expert staff has been a struggle this winter, not helped by delays in extending working holiday visas.

"We're experiencing challenges with Immigration New Zealand in terms of processing through these visa applications," he said.

Ohakune experienced similar problems. Antika Wood from Powderhorn Chateau said the hotel had to offer incentives such as lift passes to attract staff.

Nick Geon Bang is staying with us at the RSC Lodge this year, in the absence of our Swiss instructor.

He is a L3 snowboard instructor, and L1 ski instructor.

RSC Club Captain. Catherine Gafa posted on Facebook that she heard kiwi calling outside the RSC Chalet.

Chalet cook Donna O'Hanlon replied that she had also heard calls.

The calls would have come from the North Island brown kiwi that lives in forests in the Tongariro National Park and the adjacent Tongariro Forest Conservation

**THE
RUAPEHU SKI CLUB**

(inc) Founded 1913

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President: Phill Thomass
Vice-Presidents: Carl Burling,
Liza Fitzsimmons, Damon Forsyth,
Marion Quinn, Donald Webster
Secretary: Louise Blair
Treasurer: Sonia Quinn
Immediate Past President:
Richard Nelson
Captain: Catherine Gafa
Vice-Captain: Paula Cooper
Committee: Adrian Adriaansen,
Ron Bonfrer, Heather Chao,
Sam Hood, Richard Horton,
Simon Hunt, John Payne
Patron: Peter Brady
Patroness: Barbara Scelly
Auditors: Hart and Co
Admin Officer: Ceana Priest
Lodge Officer: Carl Burling
Hut Officer: Simon Hunt
Chalet Officer:
Turoa Officer: Donald Webster
Heritage Fund Guardians: Robin
Dallas, Richard Nelson, Bernard
Smith, Phill Thomass
Fund Treasurer: Mike Wardle
Glacier Hut Custodian:
Bernard Smith

Area which has a kiwi sanctuary monitored by DOC rangers.

(*Apteryx mantelli*) is the only kiwi found in the North Island and is smaller than most subspecies in the South Island.

There are signs on the road below The Chateau warning motorists to beware of kiwi, but some have been killed over the years.

Chateau Tongariro in June hosted a roaring 1920s mid-winter extravaganza.

Guests spent the evening immersed in the revelry of this famous era while enjoying a three-course dinner and drinks and dancing the night away in the Ruapehu Lounge to 1920s classic music.

The Four Peaks Alleyway is the downstairs area of the Knoll Ridge Chalet. There are shipping containers in the alley area outside the seating area and each of the containers serves something different.

The area is to assist with the large numbers at the Knoll Ridge Chalet. The menu changes daily and offers different meals to those at the Pataka restaurant.

New Zealand this year experienced its warmest June and July period since records began in 1909.

The combined temperature for the two months was 1.53C above the long-term average.

The previous record was 1.15C above average in June and July 2016.

The deadline for the December Bulletin will be **Friday November 19th.**

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

Merry Christmas.

THE BULLETIN

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NEW ADMIN OFFICER

The Club welcomes Ceaná Priest as its new administrator.

She takes over from Paula and Sheryl who have expertly gotten us through a challenging 12 months.

Ceaná comes to us with a background in marketing, journalism and has published guidebooks for families to explore outdoors.

While she happily admits to not being a skiing fanatic, she is a keen trail runner and is often at the mountain during the summer months.

As a child Ceaná lived in Whakapapa Village and National Park, and later was a hut warden on the Northern Circuit, so is very familiar with Tongariro National Park.

Just before starting in the role in July, she had the opportunity to check out the buildings at Whakapapa Village and Ohakune with her son Finn (5 yo) and is looking forward to heading back down again after the mad rush of winter bookings has been completed.

She's based in Hamilton and is available between 9am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday.



WIN A CREATISTA PRO

Good news for caffeine addicts, we now have Nespresso machines in all our buildings, even two in the Lodge! (You need to take your own pods of course!).

To help fund the on-mountain machines, we are raffling a really fancy Nespresso machine - the Creatista Pro.

The prize will be drawn on the Club Champs weekend, so get your tickets, support your Club, and enjoy a coffee at home.

Tickets are 1 for \$10, 2 for \$20 or 8 for \$50.

Buy your tickets here: <https://go.rallyup.com/rsccoffee/Campaign/Details>.

Phill Thomass

CUSTODIANS EVACUATED

With the August pandemic lockdown we were able to have our Whakapapa custodians Donna, Stephanie and Ben join Mike at our Ohakune building.

We also offered shelter to some other club custodians who had nowhere to go when leaving Whakapapa.

MASSIVE NZ FLOODS

Half a metre of rain fell on Canterbury in two days in June, causing massive floods across the province.

The good news was excellent early snow for Canterbury skifields, and Hanmer Springs was the first skifield in New Zealand to open for the season after receiving a big snow dump in the storm.

The rain caused a large slip on the road to the Mt Olympus skifield in Canterbury, leaving the local club with a \$50,000 repair bill and no other way to access the slopes.

It was much the same at Fox Peak skifield in South Canterbury where the local club had to raise \$20,000 to repair a slip on its access road.

The early snow in Canterbury was not replicated in Otago where the skifields were slow to open, nor in the North Island which had no early natural snow.

**** People in Alberta province (Canada) were offered outdoor prizes in a lottery if they agreed to be vaccinated against Covid-19. Prizes included ski passes and camping trips, or lifetime hunting and fishing licences.

COVID-19 UPDATE

The Covid-19 virus pandemic had infected 210 million people worldwide by August and 4.4 million people had died.

New Zealand remained well isolated from the worst effects of Covid-19 and only three people died in the last 15 months.

By August 1 million New Zealanders had been inoculated with two doses of vaccine and all people over-12 nationwide will soon have access to the vaccine.

FIFTH BEST SEASON

The US ski industry logged its fifth-best season ever in 2020-21, with 59 million skier and snowboarder visits, despite restrictions imposed by Covid-19.

Many resorts were able to capitalise on the desire of people to get outside during the pandemic. Most people skied at the resorts nearest to them.

Skiers and riders hit the slopes more frequently on weekdays when visitation was responsible for 48 percent of total visits, up from 36 percent the season before.

However, ski and snowboard lessons fell by 30 percent over the season. Public health orders prohibited large groups, so ski areas had to offer smaller classes.

RED SNOW STUDIED

Researchers are trying to find out why alpine algal blooms are turning snow in the Alps to deep red, rusty orange or lemonade pink.

Locals call this “sang de glacier,” or “glacier blood.” Visitors sometimes go with “watermelon snow”.

These blushes come from an embarrassment of algae. The researchers are surveying the algae of the Alps to better grasp what species live there, how they survive and what might be pushing them over the edge.

Thanks to their photosynthetic prowess, algae produce a large amount of the world’s oxygen and form the foundation of most food webs. But they sometimes overdo it, multiplying until they throw things out of balance.

Researchers believe the colour, often red, but sometimes green, grey or yellow, comes from pigments and other molecules that the snow algae use to protect themselves from ultraviolet light.



Upper: Riding the Te Heuheu Valley T-bar at Whakapapa. **Lower:** Skiing on Mt Ruapehu. Photos: RAL.

NEW RAL CHAIRMAN

Geoff Taylor is the new chairman of RAL. He replaces Murray Gribben.

Taylor told the annual meeting in May that shareholders will be asked for a change in corporate structure so that new investors could access profits.

However, he told news media last month that he had no updates on RAL plans to sell \$30 million of new shares.

That would require a change to the constitution under which RAL pays no dividends, no tax, and reinvests any profits back into the mountain.

RAL is 45 percent owned by many skiers and 55 percent by a trust formed in 1983 with the aim preserving RAL from a takeover.

Geoff Taylor joined the board of RAL in 2015. He is a professional director with experience in corporate finance and investment management.

He began skiing on the rope tows of Whakapapa and was a member of Christiania Ski Club. He has also been prominent in Rowing NZ.

SNOW INJURIES COST

There were 12,539 claims to ACC by skiers and snowboarders due to accidents and injuries last season, down by 1241 on the previous year.

Of those 7871 were skiers and 4668 were snowboarders.

A spokesman for ACC said all claims were down in 2020 due to Covid-19.

The 45-54 age-group had the greatest number of skiing injuries (1686) in 2020, while the 20-29 age-group was the most prominent for snowboarding injuries (1765).

Soft tissue injuries were the most common issue for both skiers (6392) and snowboarders (3431), followed

by fracture and dislocation (1404) and concussion/brain injury (437).

The most prevalent injury for skiers was to the knee (2082) while for snowboarders it was the shoulder (750).

The costs for 2020 were:

Skiing \$21,341,879.

Snowboarding \$10,380,164.

SKI WARMING THREAT

Global warming is continuing to put skiing under threat with the Olympic Winter Games and recreational snow sport at risk.

A study in Canada has found that of the 21 sites that have previously held the Winter Olympics, nine may be unreliable to host the Games again by 2050.

While artificial snow is useful in continuing the use of ski slopes, it carries a climate impact since it uses large amounts of water and energy in its creation.

Good news: There are newer snow-creating alternatives, such as vacuum freezing, which can be used in any air temperature and use significantly less energy.

However, lowering or maintaining global temperatures is key to saving skifield snow, and the global problem requires a global response.

DERBY IS CANCELLED

The first interclub ski race of the season at Whakapapa, the annual Christiania (Christie) Derby, was cancelled this year.

The late snowfall this season meant the club was unable to prepare a suitable course in time for the race.



Bill and Elizabeth Chrystall at home on their farm. Chrystall family photo.

BILL CHRYSTALL

Bill Chrystall, who has died aged 87, was a Taihape farmer who spent 27 years on the RSC Committee from 1971 to 1998 and was an ex-President.

After that he continued to serve as RSC Turoa Officer and as President of the Ruapehu Mountain Clubs Association (RMCA).

Bill was on the Club Committee 1971-80, was a Vice-President 1980-92, was President 1992-95 and was Immediate Past President 1995-98.

In his younger days he was a prominent member of the Ruapehu volunteer ski patrol and regularly patrolled Whakapapa at weekends.

At that time the Park Rangers provided a basic weekday ski patrol at Whakapapa while at the weekends teams of volunteers from the ski clubs offered a stronger presence.

Bill's wife-to-be Elizabeth was also a ski patroller, as was his brother John.

Once Bill joined the RSC Committee, the Club soon found that as he lived close

to the mountain he was a useful person who could be asked to fix whatever needed fixing in a hurry. He was the Chalet Officer for a while.

There was a time when Club's hut lease rights and rent for the Lodge, Hut and Chalet were under hot negotiation with DOC. Bill played a major role over four years of talks in obtaining a deal that Whakapapa clubs could accept.

In later years as President of the RMCA, his task was to ensure that the sewerage scheme was a fair deal for clubs -- not a glamorous task, but someone had to do it.

At one stage in his term as President, Bill detected a reluctance of some members to give up an hour of skiing to help with the 3pm stores drop.

So would RSC members be happy to pay more in bunk fees to have stores delivered? The answer was a very firm NO.

On another occasion Bill delivered a firm message from the President: The daily duties in Club buildings are mandatory, not optional.

RSC offers its condolences to Elizabeth and her family.

NEW MEMBERS

We wish a warm welcome to the following new members:

Senior

Joseph Siaoasi (Waikanae).
 Jenny Siaoasi (Waikanae).
 Levi Siaoasi (Auckland).
 Matthew Rowe (Auckland).
 Gretchen Rowe (Auckland).
 Caroline Noordijk (Auckland).
 Amy Hacker (Hamilton).
 Cary Craig (Hamilton).
 Niki Platt (Auckland).
 Peter Dautermann (Auckland).
 Rebecca Dautermann (Auckland).
 Georgina Cervin (Auckland).
 Ian Kelso (Wellington).
 Antony Freeman (Auckland).
 Melissa Laver (Auckland).
 Sean Connelly (Auckland).
 Howard Pilgrim (Napier).
 Viviani De Moura (Auckland).
 Les Duncan (Auckland).
 Fabricio Crema (Auckland).
 Willem Buckley (Auckland).
 Hilary Longhurst (Auckland).
 Jane Browne (Auckland).
 Doug Browne (Auckland).
 Cagatay Ozkan (Levin).
 Tanje Ozkan (Levin).
 Katherine Krueger (Auckland).
 Sharon Cullwick (Napier).
 Chris de Lautour (Auckland).
 Debbie de Lautour (Auckland).
 David Bates (Auckland).
 Matt Bain (Auckland).

Teen

Annie Platt (Auckland).
 Emmerson Platt (Auckland).
 Ruby Dautermann (Auckland).
 Erik Revfeim (Auckland).

Junior

Stanley Browne (Auckland).
 Tyler Siaoasi (Waikanae).
 Beatrix Rowe (Auckland).
 Alice Rowe (Auckland).
 Lucia Leith (Hamilton).
 Poppy Platt (Auckland).
 Logan Morse (Waiuku).

Oliver Freeman (Auckland).
 Nina Freeman (Auckland).
 Zavier Leith (Hamilton).
 Daisy Dautermann (Auckland).
 Samuel Irving (Auckland).
 Farah Stienstra (Auckland).
 Lucia Dawkins (Auckland).
 Ruben Dawkins (Auckland).
 Nathan Sims (Auckland).
 Martin Redondo (Wellington).
 Obi Ozkan (Levin).
 Jude Davidson (Auckland).
 Brooke Krueger (Auckland).
 Monty Cullwick (Napier).
 Isla Frazer (Mt Maunganui).
 Sofia Bates (Auckland).
 Joel Sinclair (Rotorua)



OBITUARY ELLEN FALKENHAHN

Ellen Falkenhahn who has died aged 99 was a larger than life lady of Finnish ancestry who worked as a scientist at the sugar refinery at Auckland and was prominent in RSC in the 1960s and 1970s.

One day she turned up at the Lodge during a howling blizzard in Winter Party week and after a warm meal decided she liked us so much she would join.

Then then threw herself into all sorts of RSC activities including redesigning the Lodge lounge decor.

She was on the RSC Committee from 1968 to 1976

RSC LODGE VISITORS

Here is a list of some well known people who have visited the RSC Lodge.

Governors-General Sir Bernard Freyberg and Sir Willoughby Norrie.

RSC Patroness Lady Barbara Freyberg.

Governor-General Sir Denis Blundell.

Speakers of Parliament Sir Ron Algie and Sir Roy Jack.

Eye surgeon Sir Randall Elliott.

Pioneer mountaineer Sir Edmund Hillary.

Judge Sir Graham Speight.

Olympic slalom silver medallist Annelise Coberger.

All Black captain Fred Allen.

All Black vice-captain Mick Bremner.

All Black lock Keith Nelson.

Ruapehu school teaching legend Peg McMahon.

Test cricketer Bert Sutcliffe.

Miss Germany Ingrun Moeckel.

Austrian ski star Toni Spiss.

Popular instructors Walter Haensli, Harvey Clifford, Karl Burtscher and Dec Daly.

Aspen ski school manager Georgie Bremner.

US ski movie makers Warren Miller, John Jay and Dick Barrymore.

Music promoter Harry M Miller.

Popular chef Dorothy Crockford.

Ski guides Dora Davis and Tui Keiha.

RAL leaders Sir Bryan Todd, Sir Roy McKenzie, Roger Manthel and Lorenz Rieser.

Aviator and skier Sir Harry Wigley.

Four-time Olympic skier Simon Wi Rutene.

Three time Olympic skier Claudia Riegler.

Six-time NZ ski champion Bill Hunt.

Swiss ski team 1964.

Springbok rugby seven 1956.

Aussie interdom ski team 1958.

And the winner is:

Your Editor's favourite:

Jean-Claude Killy.



Miss Germany 1960



Georgie Bremner



JC Killy at Ruapehu



Upper: The RSC Committee for 2021-22. **Lower:** Members at the AGM. Photos: Deane Tetley.

AGM TOPICS

The 108th AGM of RSC was held on Wednesday June 30th. After an unusual 2020, it was good to gather and look forward to the 2021 season.

Our President Phill Thomass welcomed the members, and as is our convention, we had a moment's silence to honour RSC members who had passed away over the last year.

The 2020 accounts we covered off by John Payne, on behalf of outgoing Treasurer Heather Chao.

In a year of ongoing Covid-19 challenges, your Committee was pleased to have the accounts presented as they were. Initially, it had looked like RSC would have a significant shortfall, but this wasn't the case.

It was noted that the deferred maintenance alluded to from last year was not able to be addressed.

There were some questions about lines charges and sewerage levies that haven't been itemised separately before, but are now being invoiced to RSC in that way. It was noted that Damon Forsyth has reduced the lines charges significantly for the Club.

John also noted that the Auditor's report again came back as the cleanest he's seen in 30 years. The membership gave around of applause for Heather's hard work.

The membership was then delighted to vote for there to be no increase in our annual subscriptions in 2022.

Next up we thanked Paula Cooper for stepping in to help the Club as our temporary Admin Assistant. Paula brought help wonderful admin skills and calm manner to ensure that our members were well looked after.

Sheryl Brownlee was also acknowledged for jumping in again to help us for a couple of months after Easter. Ceana Priest, your new Administration Officer, was introduced to the meeting

Our Patron and Patroness, Peter Brady

and Barbara Scelly, were confirmed as continuing in these roles, which they acknowledged as an honour and privilege to hold.

The Guardians of the Heritage Fund were confirmed as Bernard Smith, Robin Dallas, Richard Nelson and Phill Thomass, and Mike Wardle continues as Treasurer.

Sue Gunning was confirmed as an Honorary member in recognition of her years of service to RSC.

Next up, we had the privilege of hearing the story of Mike Wardle's contributions to RSC.

The members in attendance unanimously confirmed Life membership for Mike.

Mike then shared his RSC journey from joining in 1995, being part of the Committee from 1997 and ultimately being Chalet Officer.

As we moved to the new Committee, it was time to thank retiring Committee members – Nils Johannsenn, who has been the Chalet Officer, Will Geddes, who's contributed to the Events team and all the new Summer events and finally Arran Birchenough, who's been responsible for Membership.

Of note is that in a year of uncertainty, RSC gained 90+ new members, in no small way attributable to Arran's hard work

General business included questions in regards to the House Committee's preparation for future Covid outbreaks, the Club's change to using Xero for accounting, would the Hut be opening in 2021 and also if the Club had considered family memberships or a racing only membership. This last question generated significant and impassioned discussion.

The final comment of the meeting was Alice Willison giving a vote of thanks to Alan Graham for his commitment to The Bulletin. The meeting enthusiastically supported this!

The meeting concluded at 9:15pm and members stayed for tea, coffee and donuts.

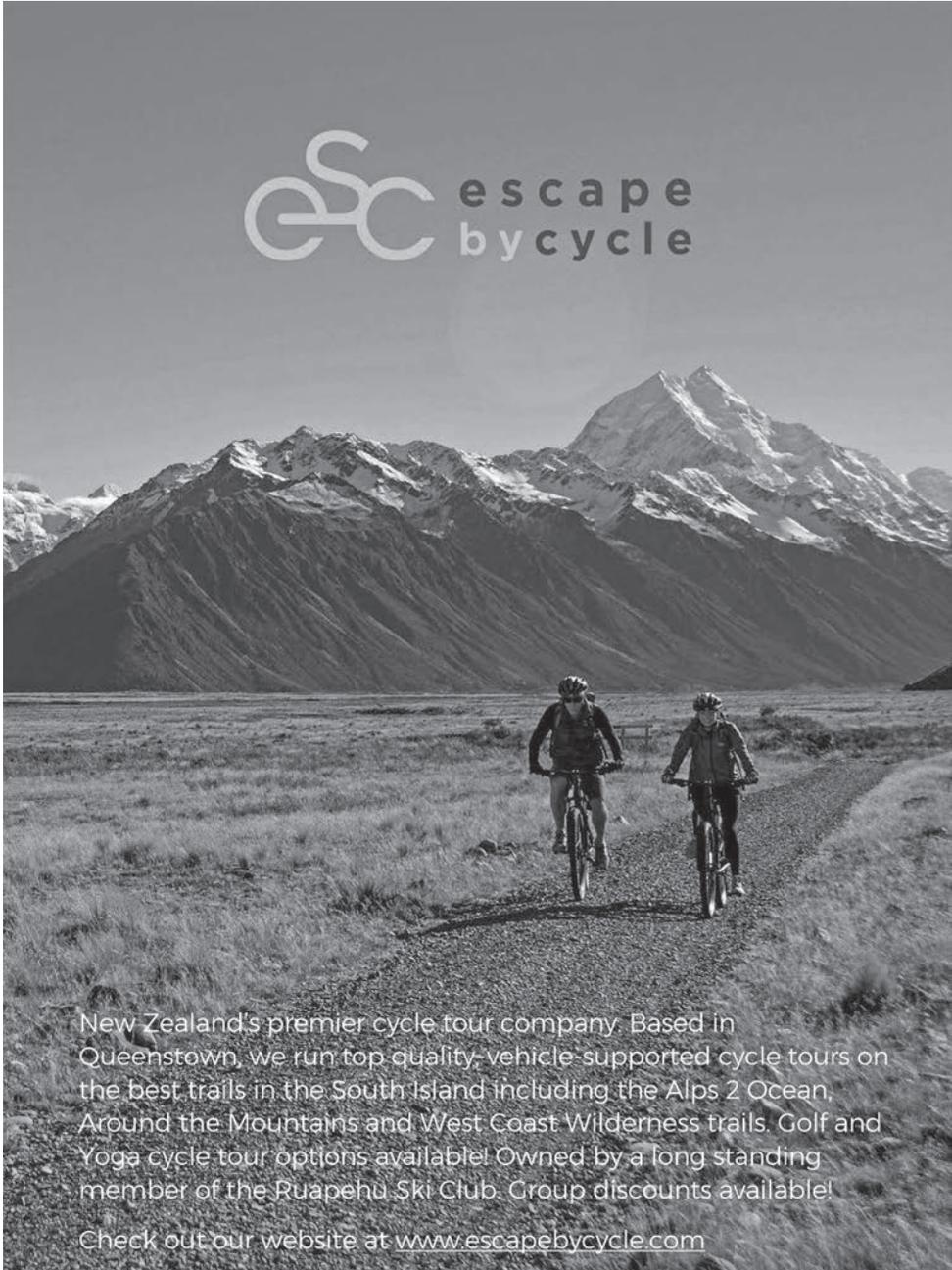
Louise Blair



Upper left: RSC President Phill Thomass at the AGM. **Upper right:** Mike Wardle is elected as a Life member of RSC. **Lower:** Committee members at the AGM. Photos: Deane Tetley.



Phill Thomass is with new Committee member Ron Bonfrer (upper) and retiring Committee members Will Geddes (middle) and Nils Joannessen (lower).

The image features a black and white photograph of two cyclists riding on a gravel path through a grassy field towards a range of large, snow-capped mountains. The sky is clear and light. In the upper left quadrant, the logo for 'Escape by Cycle' is displayed. The logo consists of a stylized 'ESC' symbol where the 'E' and 'S' are connected, and the 'C' is a simple circle. To the right of this symbol, the words 'escape' and 'by cycle' are stacked vertically in a lowercase, sans-serif font.

ESC escape
by cycle

New Zealand's premier cycle tour company. Based in Queenstown, we run top quality, vehicle-supported cycle tours on the best trails in the South Island including the Alps 2 Ocean, Around the Mountains and West Coast Wilderness trails. Golf and Yoga cycle tour options available! Owned by a long standing member of the Ruapehu Ski Club. Group discounts available!

Check out our website at www.escapebycycle.com



The winning RSC junior team at the Haensli Cup. Tom Pilkington, George Pilkington, Louis Burling, Madeline Moffat. Photo: Damon Forsyth.

RSC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| | | |
|-----------|------|---|
| Aug 2021 | 28 | Rangatira Trophy |
| Sept 2021 | 4 | Tongariro Juniors |
| | 18 | Ngauruhoe Trophy |
| | 25 | RSC Club champs |
| Oct 2021 | 2-17 | School holidays |
| | 25 | Ski season closes at Ruapehu |
| Nov 2021 | | |
| Dec 2021 | | DOC summer activities RSC summer walks and cycle rides |
| Jan 2022 | | Working parties |
| Feb 2022 | | Working parties |



Upper: This stockpile was made by the RAL Snow Factory and it enabled Happy Valley to open on time this winter. **Lower:** Snow blowers at Turoa. Photos: RAL.

BUSY GREAT WALKS

It took only 15 minutes on the DOC website for trampers to book out the Milford Track for the summer.

This was followed by a rush to book other Great Walk huts and the DOC website crashed for half an hour.

One customer said she missed out totally after logging-on early and easily booking huts in previous years.

Her misses included North Island huts as well as those on the popular South Island tracks.

THE GEONET APP

GeoNet in 2012 released its first smartphone and tablet-based app.

Now nine years later, more than a quarter of a million people have the app, and it continues to be the most authoritative source of geohazard information in New Zealand.

You can download it now on your Android and iOS devices.

Earthquakes: Details of all earthquakes located in and around New Zealand are available on the app within a few minutes of their occurrence.

Volcano information: As well as keeping tabs on the current status of volcanoes in New Zealand, GeoNet sends out Volcanic Alert Bulletins to the app.

GUTHEGA FANCIED

Australian writer Chris Hammer has named Guthega (NSW) as Australia's most exclusive and egalitarian ski resort.

Guthega is overshadowed by the fame of the nearby Perisher and Thredbo, but this little ski resort is a hidden treasure, he said.

There are only nine lodges, all with tightly held memberships. Many of them were built by European migrants who worked on the Snowy Mountains hydro scheme in the 1950s.

They formed themselves into clubs and built their own huts, the only way most of them could afford to holiday in the skifields.

SWISS TRIFECTA

Switzerland took all three placings in the women's mountain bike cross-country race at the recent Olympic Games at Tokyo.

Jolanda Neff (gold), Sina Frei (silver) and Linda Indergard (bronze) stood on the podium.

NZ has three times had two medallists in one Olympic event including two occasions of first and second, but has never won all three medals.

LESOTHO BISCUITS

The owners of Afriski, in Lesotho, one of only two skiing resorts in Africa, have come up with novel ways to survive mass cancellations due to Covid-19.

Afriski is 3200 metres above sea level, where sub-zero temperatures are normal, and it has a large snowmaking system. Opened in 2000, it usually hosts 27,000 foreign visitors a year.

This year its staff including waiters, receptionists, lifties, patrollers and security guards were trained in painting, sewing, silkscreen printing, baking and carpentry.

Biscuits are being sold to mines, garages and supermarkets as far away as the capital Maseru.



HAENSLI CUP 2021

The Haensli Cup was run on a short course on K Road at Whakapapa in marginal weather conditions. RSC thanks RAL for providing a course so soon after a substantial blizzard.

The Haensli Cup hosted by RSC is a race to find the fastest man and fastest woman on Mt Ruapehu. There are associated team events.

The Cup is named after Walter Haensli, a former Swiss ski champion and head ski instructor at Whakapapa, who helped set up Ruapehu Alpine Lifts.

Monique Moss (Rangatira) (nee Oosterbaan) won the women's race for the sixth time in succession and the seventh time overall.

Club Captain Catherine Gafa reports:

Once again our race was held on a shortened course on K Road due to poor weather on the day. I'm very thankful that RAL gave us a course as other courses were cancelled that day. All up 106 racers went through the course.

Our prizegiving was a great success again – lots of laughs, thanks to Jenn Moffat with her snow jokes and Walter Haensli trivia, and Liza Fitzsimmons organising (amongst other things) the spot prizes as we gave them out.

Thank you to all those members who stepped forward to help out, setting up and cleaning up on the day.

Also a big thank you to our sponsors – Elan for the 2 sets of skis, Momentum Sports in Christchurch for Le bent, socks, underwear, neck warmers, beanies, drink bottles and Komperdell poles, Giro for helmets and goggles, Colorado Traders in Wellington for Scott goggles, Chateau Tongariro for the \$100 food and beverage voucher, RAL for the midweek season pass, Snowplanet for the 3 Adult passes, and 3 child passes, Dirty dog for 3 sunglasses, and Skinnies for the 10 x 30mm sungel.

Please ensure you support our sponsors when you next buy ski gear, as they have supported us.

Women: Monique Moss (Rangatira) 16.23, Madeline Moffat (RSC) 16.85, Jorja von Pein (individual) 17.28.

Men: Andrew Drummond (Graduates) 16.04, Nick Moss (Taupo) 16.14, Nico Tamis (Rangatira) 16.65.

Snowboard: Arvid Ditchburn (RSC) 21.22, Chris Setter (Auckland University) 22.08, Harvey Watts (Auckland University) 22.70.

Open teams: Graduates 68.27, Rangatira 69.48, RSC 82.71.

Junior teams: RSC 68.26 52, RSC 74.82, Rangatira 84.60.

Masters teams: Rangatira 74.49, Taupo 77.17, RSC 78.86.

Snowboard teams: RSC 101.34, Christiania 107.47.



*Monique Moss (Rangatira Ski Club) won the women's race at the Haensli Cup.
Photo: Damon Forsyth.*



*Andrew Drummond (Graduates Ski Club) won the men's race at the Haensli Cup.
Photo: Damon Forsyth.*



Gian Franco Kasper

KASPER DIES AT 77

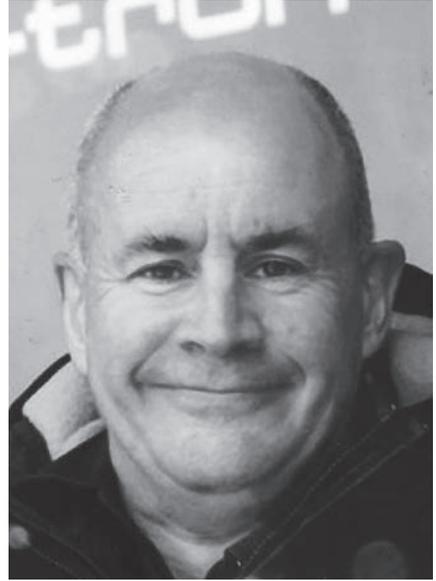
Gian Franco Kasper of Switzerland, who retired in June after 23 years as president of the International Ski Federation (FIS), has died aged 77.

Kasper was praised by the new president Johan Eliasch for guiding FIS “from a small federation to the undisputed leader in winter sports, a testament to his vision and work ethic.”

Kasper’s frank and sometimes indiscreet views made him stand out within the International Olympic Committee, where he was a member for 18 years and served in its executive.

A former journalist and tourism official from St. Moritz, he worked for FIS for almost five decades.

He was the world ski body’s general secretary from the 1970s until he was elected president in 1998.



Johan Eliasch

NEW FIS PRESIDENT

Billionaire businessman Johan Eliasch of Sweden has been elected president of the International Ski Federation (FIS).

London-based Eliasch, the long-time CEO of ski and tennis brand Head, garnered a majority 65 of the 119 votes from national ski federations in the first ballot.

He is just the fifth FIS president in its 97-year history and succeeds Gian Franco Kasper who held the office since 1998.

**** Johan Eliasch has resigned as CEO of Head. He had held the position since 1995.

**** Former world champion ski racer Michel Vion (France) has been named as the new Secretary General of the FIS. Vion was world champion in the alpine combined at the FIS world ski champs in 1982.



Upper: New Zealand's first eight seater chairlift is now operating at Mt Hutt. Photo: Mt Hutt skifield. **Lower:** Plenty of snow on the Staircase in August 2021. Photo: RAL.

THE SLALOM IS 100

It is almost 100 years since Sir Arnold Henry Moore Lunn (1888-1974) of the Ski Club of Great Britain set the world's first slalom at Mürren in Switzerland.

That was on January 1st 1922 when he wanted to replicate in a ski race the ability to ski through trees.

His father Sir Henry Simpson Lunn (1859-1939) had founded Lunn's Travel agency which supported tourism in the Swiss Alps, and he introduced Arnold to skiing.

Mathias Zdarsky had been running competitions through poles in the early years of the 20th century but they were style competitions.

In 1921 Lunn organised the first British national ski championship to include a national slalom race as well as jumping and cross-country. The 1921 slalom was decided on style, as Zdarsky's pole race had been.

By 1922 Lunn was convinced that there was a real need for a race designed to test a skier's ability to turn securely and rapidly on steep alpine ground, amid trees.

Speed was the essence and he wrote: "The object of a turn is to get round a given obstacle losing as little speed as possible. Therefore, a fast ugly turn is better than a slow pretty turn."

In 1922 the Alpine Ski Challenge Cup was transformed into a challenge cup for slalom racing when Lunn set pairs of flags on the practice slopes at Mürren.

The Ski Club circulated an appeal to all the national associations proposing ski races but not one of them agreed. Norway was hotly opposed. However, there was a breakthrough in 1928 when the International Ski Federation (FIS) approved the British rules for downhill and slalom.

The 1930s started with the first world championships in downhill and slalom at Mürren, organised by Lunn.

Lunn continued to promote all forms of skiing and through his efforts the downhill

and slalom races were introduced into the Olympic Winter Games in 1936 when he refereed the Olympic slalom at Garmisch-Partenkirchen in Germany.

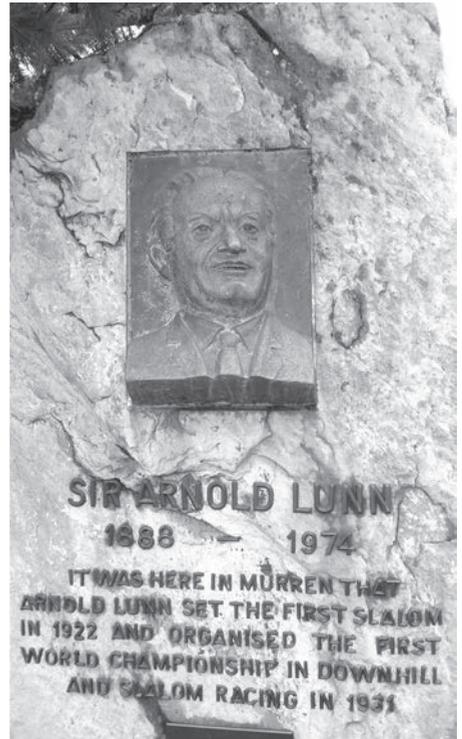
His son Peter was the captain of the British ski team but neither marched in the opening ceremony nor attended a lavish banquet organised by the Nazis.

Lunn was heavily involved in politics and wrote many books on assorted subjects.

In skiing he edited for 50 years both the magazine and the Year Book of the Ski Club of Great Britain, to which RSC subscribed.

Sir Arnold was a good friend of RSC President and NZ Ski Year Book editor Douglas Naish.

*** Slalom is a word of Norwegian origin and comes from *slålåm*.



This memorial to Sir Arnold Lunn is located in Mürren (Switzerland). Photo: Alan Graham.

TRULY HEROIC RESCUE

A 7.5-hour operation to rescue a climber and companions from a glacier in extreme weather conditions at Ruapehu in September last year has been called truly heroic.

Police sent the Ruapehu Alpine Rescue Organisation, LandSAR Tūrangi and Tūkino Ski Patrol in for a ground rescue after a climber fell 200 vertical metres and a weather bomb was due to arrive.

There were gale-force winds and rain as crews battled to retrieve Emma Langley but the 37-year-old Wellington resident died of her injuries.

This year their work was recognised in the New Zealand Search and Rescue Awards.

A citation said it epitomises the community spirit and goodwill of trained and skilled LandSAR volunteers in support of the SAR lead agency, NZ Police.

Five rescue teams, 22 people overall, were sent for a ground rescue on the Whangaehu Glacier when strong winds stopped a rescue helicopter from getting near the scene.

Getting Langley and her companions off the mountain took 7.5 hours, with many challenges and hurdles for rescue teams who got her eight companions back to Tūkino Village around midnight.

Gale-force winds, rain and cloud descended at nightfall, meaning it was still impossible for a helicopter to get in.

The injured Langley was carried out of the Whangaehu Glacier on a stretcher, using a ropes and belay system.

Working in such extreme circumstances, it was vital to have had earlier collaboration and training, said Senior Constable Conrad Smith of National Park Police

“With risks present, such as a night-time alpine environment, very high winds, ice, cliffs, rope systems and stretchers, such as this was, you need to know and trust the people you are working with.”

The incident control point was at a ski

lodge in Tūkino Village, and the eight people who had been climbing with Langley arrived with rescuers just before midnight.

Rescuers brought Langley in soon after, but she was unable to survive her injuries.



Eileen Gu

NEXT SKIING STAR

Chinese freeskier Eileen Gu, also known as Ailing Eileen Gu, is set to be the next star of skiing.

Aged 17, she won two gold medals and one bronze medal at the Winter X-Games at Aspen this year.

Then she won two gold medals in the freeski slopestyle and halfpipe events at the world championships at Aspen, plus a bronze medal in the big air.

Eileen has an American father and a Chinese mother. She has lived most of her life in California but has chosen to ski for China at the Winter Olympics next year.

She speaks fluent Mandarin and makes yearly trips to China. She done some fashion modelling and is an accomplished piano player.

DOUBLE TROUBLE

Italian volcanoes Etna and Stromboli recently erupted within two hours of each other.

Sicilian volcano Mt Etna sent up a 500-metre high lava fountain after a bout of volcanic and seismic activity. There was an ash plume rising 5500 metres.

Stromboli, an island in the Tyrrhenian Sea north of Sicily, erupted two hours later and sent a pyroclastic flow down the side of the volcano to reach the sea along 1km of coastline. That produced a cloud of ash that reached 3000 metres above sea level.

AUCKLAND EVACUATION

More than 320,000 Aucklanders may need to evacuate the city in the event of a volcanic eruption, and it will take more than two days for them all to get safely away, new research has found.

The study was published in the *Journal of Volcanology and Geothermal Research*.

Lead author Alec Wild, from the University of Auckland, said his modelling showed residents would be able to evacuate in ample time – about 49 hours if the location of the eruption is known.

However, the less certain experts are about the location, the longer an evacuation would take and the more people would be affected.

TASMAN MIRACLE

In 1958 a party of skiers landed by ski plane at the Tasman Saddle (8000 feet) to ski 14 miles down the Tasman Glacier to the Ball Hut.

Soon after starting a skier lost a ski which quickly disappeared from sight. He had little option but to carry on with one ski.

On his next trip the pilot noted the man was in a spot of trouble and landed beside him with an offer to fly him back to the Hermitage.

Soon after they were airborne the ski was seen so the pilot landed again and the skier was able to ski his way to the Ball Hut.

The ski had gone round bends on a five mile journey and had avoided several crevasses.

CABLE CAR CRASH

A cable car taking visitors to a mountaintop view of Lake Maggoire in northern Italy crashed to the ground and then tumbled down the slope, killing 15 people.

A cable broke, sending the car down until it hit a pylon. It then fell to the ground and overturned three times before hitting some trees. Some of those who died were thrown from the cabin.

NZ ALPINE SKI TEAM

Snow Sports NZ has named the national ski team for 2021-22.

It is:

Alice Robinson - Queenstown Alpine

Piera Hudson - Wanaka Snowsports

Willis Feasey - Wanaka Snowsports

Colbey Derwin - Wanaka Snowsports

Jack Adams - Queenstown Alpine

Development Team

Will Cashmore - Queenstown Alpine



*NZ alpine ski team members Piera Hudson (upper) and Willis Feasey (lower).
Photos: Snow Sports NZ.*

FIRST CLASS TEST

In the NZ ski test system which existed from 1933 to 1977 only five people passed the first class test known as T1.

To reach T1 a skier had first to pass four on-snow tests which were T3, Q2, T2 and Q1.

Most club skiers could pass T3 and Q2. The speed tests T2 and Q1 were harder.

The fifth level T1 or first class test was not awarded on the snow but was conferred by the NZ Ski Council to skiers who had passed the four on-snow tests and who either had a strong career in ski racing or a strong record in ski touring.

Only one North Islander was ever awarded the first class test. He was Murray Laird who was on the RSC Committee for 17 years and was the Club's President in 1977-80.

Murray had a good record in ski racing as well as winning the NZ jump championship several times in the years it existed.

Three other RSC members passed the Q1 test which involved three runs on hard

snow, soft snow and variable snow.

They were Kerry Braden, Bill Ward and David Scott.

The hard snow and soft snow runs for T2 and Q1 were usually held over 300 metres vertical from the top of The Knoll to the bottom of Te Heuheu Valley.

The T2 hard snow run had to be completed in 2 minutes and the Q1 run had to be completed in 1m 15s which was quite fast.

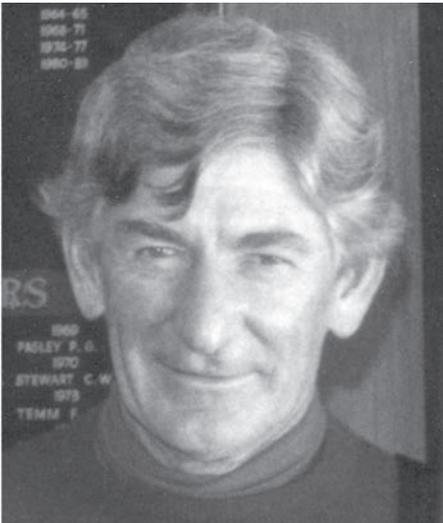
The variable or broken snow runs were usually held in Broken Leg Gully. Alternatively it was sometimes possible to ski from the Yankee down to Hut Flat via Egmont Ridge.

The Q in Q2 and Q1 stood for "qualifying" That is, a skier passing these tests qualified to have a go at the second class test (T2) or the first class test (T1).

Footnote:

If you passed a test you were awarded a badge. We heard of one man who passed three tests. Each morning he would have one run and would then don the badge co-relating to his performance on the day.

AG (T2 1966)



Left: Murray Laird who is only North Islander to pass the NZ first class ski test.
Right: The badge for the Q1 test.



Upper: All sorts of skiing and snowboarding around the world. **Lower:** This stunning photo of Mt Ruapehu drew 141 “likes” to the RSC Facebook page. Surely a Club record! Photo: Ian Collins.

ACROSS THE SKIING WORLD

Actor Tom Cruise has sold his Telluride (Colorado) estate, close to skifields, for \$US40 million.

Cruise had the property built in the 1990s while he was married to **Nicole Kidman**.

During construction of the 320-acre property, Cruise spent years lobbying the local airport to expand its runway so that larger private jets could land there. His wish was granted in 2010.

The main home sits at the end of a mile-long driveway. It has seven bedrooms, nine bathrooms, a private helipad and horse stables.

There is a dirt bike and snowmobile track, and a network of trails for hiking, snowshoeing or skiing

How fast do you ski?

One study says a downhill racer exceeds 100km/h and may hit 150 km/h.

A giant slalom skier does 60-80 km/h, a good recreational skier 40 km/h, an intermediate 25 km/h and a beginner 12 km/h.

Sydney's first major winter sports centre has been approved for construction at Penrith, to open in 2024.

Set to cost \$A300 million, the Winter Sports World will have a 300-metre run for skiers and snowboarders and a 4.5 star luxury hotel with 120 rooms.

It will be set over 2 hectares with an Olympic sized ice skating rink, both ice and rock climbing facilities, curling and a snow play area.

Wind turbines and solar panels in Alpine regions are the most effective way for Switzerland to become carbon neutral and energy self-sufficient, a new study has concluded.

Scientists say there should be a mix of

75 percent wind power and 25 percent solar power to supplement the country's existing hydro power.

Jura was found to be the region with the most potential for wind-power generation. The model suggests locating 40 percent of the country's new wind turbines there.

Historic alpine huts built off the backs of pioneering skiers in the Nelson Lakes National Park are being restored as a fundraising drive gathers speed.

The huts were built in the 1940s and 1960s by the Nelson Ski Club on Mt Robert, but the skifield was last used in 2003 as skiers moved to the nearby Rainbow skifield.

In its heyday in the 1970s and 1980s the Nelson Ski Club had up to 700 members and the Mt Robert ski basin was serviced by five rope tows and a snow groomer.

In the 1990s and early 2000s, lack of snow on the field and a change to a four term school year saw membership and finances drop.

Cardrona and Treble Cone are encouraging visitors to leave their cars at the foot of the mountain and catch a free bus from a shuttle car park.

To encourage driving guests to fill their cars, both skifields are limiting their top car parks to vehicles with three or more occupants, and assigning hitchhiking spots to both mountains."

The Chacaltaya ski resort in Bolivia, formerly the world's highest ski resort, today lies in ruins and is a ghost town.

In 2009, the mountain's glacier that was estimated to be 18,000 years old, had melted, leaving behind a ghost town.

Chacaltaya ski resort opened in the 1930s. Built on the Chacaltaya glacier, it sits 17,519 feet above sea level.

Its restaurant was also the highest restaurant in the world, and still is, since two brothers keep it open for passing trampers and climbers.

The United Arab Emirates has been ratified as an associate member of the International Ski Federation (FIS).

Attaining the membership is the culmination of a campaign spearheaded by Ski Dubai in collaboration with the UAE Winter Sports Federation.

The massive arena Ski Dubai has been named as the world's best indoor ski resort for the past five years

Ski mountaineering will make its Olympic Winter Games debut at Milan Cortina in 2026.

The number of sports contested at the Games rises to eight, with ski mountaineering given 48 athlete quota places. There would be men's and women's sprint and individual contests, plus a mixed-gender relay.

The sport involves climbing and descending mountain trails, either on or while carrying skis.

An Australian snowboarder, dressed as Star Wars character Chewbacca when he bashed a Thredbo (NSW) skifield manager with his board, has been jailed for 18 months.

The judge was told the attack by the 54-year-old was vicious and brutal, and followed staff warning him against frightening patrons, especially children.

Swiss ski resort Laax has opened the world's longest treetop walkway as a year-round attraction.

The walkway is 1.56km long and is perched between 2 and 28 metres above the ground. It will be open year-round, including during the ski season when it will be kept clear of snow.

Named Senda dil Dragun in the Romansh language, meaning Path of The Dragon, it is wheelchair and stroller accessible with lifts at both ends.

Laax hopes the \$10 million walkway will bring an extra 130,000 visitors per year to the mountains.

Shredders is the name of a new snowboarding game heading to Xbox consoles.

It will feature snowy vistas and beautiful snowboarding, as well as uncrowded slopes and carefully curated tracks that include ramps and rails.

Shredders will be available from December 2021.

Australia's oldest living Olympian, Frank Prihoda, celebrated his 100th birthday in his home town of Thredbo Village in the NSW Snowy Mountains.

Prihoda competed in the 1956 Winter Olympic Games in the slalom and giant slalom events. He last hit the slopes when he was 90.

He was born in Prague (Czechoslovakia) in 1921. When that country became communist, he fled the country on his skis, escaping across the border into Austria. He then emigrated to Australia, arriving in Melbourne in 1950.

Prihoda moved to Thredbo where he ran a gift store, Frank's Shop, for 27 years and only retired when he turned 80. He and his sister both have ski runs at Thredbo named after them.

Taranaki woman Danel Korb has fulfilled her dream to ride her surfboard, snowboard and skateboard in one day.

The 32-year-old took to the waves along Surf Highway 45 in the morning, rode her skateboard at lunchtime and snowboarded on Taranaki Maunga skifield in the afternoon.

Primož Roglič of Slovenia is a former international ski jumper who switched to road cycling in 2012.

Nine years later in 2021 he won an Olympic Games gold medal in the road cycling time trial at Tokyo.

Patrick Bevin (NZ) came 10th in this event.



CLUB ITEMS & SERVICES FOR SALE

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

Website: www.rsc.org.nz

email: admin@rsc.org.nz

Lockers

Lockers are available for hire in the Hut at Turoa and occasionally in the Lodge.
email - admin@rsc.org.nz to find out what is available.

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

Ski- \$57.50
Gear \$28.75

Club Items

(Add \$3 for each order to be posted)
Name Badge (free to new members) \$12

PHONE NUMBERS

RSC Office 09-377-3856
Lodge 07-892-3824
Hut 07-892-3822
Chalet 07-892-3823
Turoa 06-385-8767

NEW MEMBERS COSTS

Two working parties.
Senior joining fee \$199
Junior joining fee \$99
Annual senior subs \$269.00 incl GST (\$233.91 plus GST)
Annual junior subs \$98 incl GST (\$85.22 plus GST)

ACCOMMODATION FEES (Effective May 1st 2021)

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-------|
| Members Senior | 18 years and over | \$55 |
| Members Teen | 14-17 years | \$48 |
| Members Junior | 13 years and under | \$37 |
| Members' children | 7 years and under | \$29 |
| Non-members | 14 years and over | \$101 |
| Non-members | 13 years and under | \$68 |
| Life Members | | \$0 |
| School group children | | \$68 |
| School group parents | | \$90 |

Off season rates (Chalet and Turoa) 2020/2021 summer

| | |
|-------------------------------|------|
| Members Senior and Junior | \$28 |
| Non-members Senior and Junior | \$33 |