

RMCA Newsletter May 2017-05-26

Greetings to All Clubs.

Thank you to all those members who attended and participated in the April 29th Forum. The Council considered it was our most successful Forum to date and we hope that you did too. If you look at the Mt Ruapehu Website and cams you will see what is happening up on the Mountain. I have just received some photos today from the Head of Snowmaking showing more new snow machines going into place at Whakapapa, and the new machine in Happy Valley is pumping out the white stuff, and the season will be starting on the 10th of June.

We were very fortunate that so many of the local Stakeholders were keen to come along to the Forum and share the changes going on at our Mountain and in the National Park. Meeting the new CEO of RAL, Ross Copland was particularly interesting given the momentous changes which are happening at Whakapapa at the moment, and currently being planned for both sides of the Mountain. Ross is clearly a person with great dynamism and vision, also with the ability to translate vision into plans and action. See No 9 of the Forum minutes for the update. In terms of the update we are attaching Ross' original email to RMCA setting out solutions for Electricity generation and accommodation. Please read this if you have not already done so and we urge you to respond to him as soon as possible. We understand that Club's Committees are made up of volunteers and everyone is busy these days, but the issues are so important they need urgent consideration.

For those who did not attend the Forum the very full minutes prepared by our Secretary, Julie are being sent out along with this newsletter so you can all be informed, as mentioned above. Please try to disseminate this and all the other information being supplied, to all your Club members so that as many people as possible are made aware of recent developments. I say this as when I am skiing around the Mountain as a Mountain Host I find a lot of Club members are unaware of what is going on. So, wide dissemination of information is helpful.

One of the key things that all members will be interested in is the progress of the Resource Consent for the Wastewater Scheme. That is mentioned in number 3 of the minutes. Further news as far as that is concerned is that RMCA has just received notice of the Resource Consent Application from Horizons Regional Council. RMCA intends to make a Submission in support. If Clubs and their members wish to make submissions in support, the submission form can be downloaded at www.horizons.govt.nz. The date for submissions to be in by is 16th June 2017 they can be emailed to, consent.submissions@horizons.govt.nz, or posted to Manawatu-Wanganui Regional Council Attn; Regulatory Administrator, Pte Bag 11025, Manawatu Mail Centre, Palmerston North 4442.

Also we ask if Clubs could inform us if any of their members are experts in Waste Water engineering who could assist with this issue in the future as it is an ongoing concern for all of us. If there are any could you please contact our secretary Julie at secretary@rmca.org.nz

You will be aware that the apportionment of payments has been thus far allocated under the 2004 Memorandum of Agreement. Many of the current Stakeholders including the businesses who are affected are unhappy about this allocation and are seeking to change it. Some submissions have been received from various parties and there are moves afoot to see if a variation of the allocations are feasible. The current indicative costs are being sent along with this newsletter.

Health and Safety was another key topic of the Forum. The Health and Safety Template by Andy Hoyle has been forwarded to Clubs previously. It can be re forwarded if lost. Ideally it should be printed out and be part of the standard documentation held at any Club. It is also being loaded on to the RMCA Website so all can see it.

The next most important Item on the Forum Agenda was the Food Act 2014. This came as a nasty surprise to most Clubs. The paper I prepared will also be loaded on to the website, but if anyone wants a copy now just email me and I will forward it. There has been some correspondence from some Clubs who do not think it applies to them, please see the paper for the Forum for Application to Clubs. I say Clubs ignore the Act at their peril, and see in particular what is said about the powers of Inspectors being greater than Police in some situations! Also there is an email from Mike Jones advising about temperature monitors for fridges and freezers which can be purchased, to comply with the Act being forwarded to you as well

Just after the forum I received an approach from Michelle McGill, former Head Snowmaker at Whakapapa, and now working for the Taupo Council in a Health and Safety Role. Michelle is available to assist Clubs with the requirements of the Act. Also being sent with this newsletter is her email setting out the practical basic steps of what needs to be done. Michelle is an independent person, not contracted to RMCA to provide this information and will need to be paid, if Clubs wish to engage her to assist in what is a fairly complex process. Alternatively there is the possibility that RMCA could commission her to do a template, but that would have to be decided by members.

You will also see from the minutes that parking is going to be changing. The overnight parks will be STRICTLY enforced by RAL and anyone who remains in them will be towed away. There will be shuttle services free of charge to enable people to get up the Mountain. Those shuttles will be from Taupo, National Park and the transport base at the bottom of the Mountain in Whakapapa Village. All of the explanation for transport and parking will be on RAL's website. The corollary to that is DOC are putting in parking restrictions to ease congestion in Whakapapa Village, and there will be no chain hire, but people can still put on their own chains in the DOC yard.

Parking charges may be possible in the future.

The Ruapehu District Council Mayor, and Warren Furner from the Council attended to let us know what the Council was trying to do to gain further funding for infrastructure. You will have heard the recent Government announcement about further funding to DOC. We are unaware thus far how this will impact on money filtering through to our area, so it will be a case of watch this space.

The Council is keen to grow tourism and to support businesses in the area.

There is a destination Management Plan being formulated and any Club who would like to put forward a representative to assist with that should let us know.

So it looks as though it will be an exciting season this year. Let's hope that the snow stays after coming, and that there is a great season this year.