

APRIL 2019 NEWSLETTER - RMCA

Greetings.

This newsletter is being sent with the notes from the recent RMCA Forum held 6th April at the Dept of Conservation Visitor Center Auditorium and catered by Skotel.

We thank both organisations for helping the RMCA pull together a venue and catering suitable for our member clubs and presenters.

The key matters noted/arising from both the Forum and recent dialogue with Dept of Conservation include:

1. Potential changes to the Operation of the Rangatira Chair
 1. RAL indicated during the Forum that RAL will be limiting the Rangatira Chair to 'Uphill' traffic only and 'must have skis or snow board on' for the up-hill lift.
 2. The RMCA is seeking club feedback to the above information over the next week. We ask that feedback from clubs also provide solutions.
 3. The RMCA may run a workshop (of affected parties) after Easter with the purpose of determining sound feedback and solutions to be provided to RAL.
 4. If your club wants to be heard, please liaise directly with the RMCA president via linda.rmca@gmail.com and copy in secretary@rmca.org.nz
2. Food Act
 1. RDC have advised that Mountain Lodges do not fit perfectly into the MPI Tool for exemption or not. The majority of clubs do come under the Food Act. If unsure, your club needs to make contact with the RDC Environment Health Officer, who will take you systematically through what the club needs to do and better identify where the club fits in and thus what needs to be done to achieve compliance. Contact phoebe.harrison@ruapehudc.govt.nz
 2. Water testing - test at least once per 12 months.
3. User Pays - for allocating DoC Community Services Costs, DoC are considering taking up the recommendation of 'user pays' from the 2017 PWC Report for allocating the community services charges. This may result in water meters being installed close to the water pump for each lodge. Overall, this is a positive move for clubs as it means that clubs would be charged only for the services that they use. Currently, Clubs are charged on a % basis for services, based on capacity information gathered some 18 years ago. Since then, day visitors and summer visitors have increased dramatically. A user-pays method of allocating costs means moving to a more transparent method of charging for services.
 1. The RMCA are in dialogue with DoC regarding water meters. The RMCA position is that all facilities should be metered to ensure that costs are fairly and transparently allocated. More dialogue is required between RMCA and DoC plus the other community services users of Whakapapa and Iwikau.
 1. Note, although the water meters will measure water use, the clubs (users) will not be charged for water use. The

measurement will be used for allocating wastewater charges and potentially other community charges such as waste and re-cycling. It is well proven that waste-water is strongly related to potable water use.

2. Should any club have constructive input, we ask for your feedback.
3. The RMCA will not be signing-off on any change without majority of member clubs support.
4. Insurance
 1. At the Forum, our RMCA Treasurer, Warren, and Andrew from Boomerang spoke about the challenges for securing insurance for lodges at Iwikau and Whakapapa. The recommendation from the Forum is that Warren and Andrew will be sending out a survey soon about insurance matters. For those party to the RMCA Insurance Scheme, the survey will be sent from Crombie Lockwood; for others, it will be sent from either Andrew or Warren.
 1. Please do take the time to complete the survey and send it back. Although too late for significant changes this year, the RMCA is hoping to come up with viable options for 2020 and beyond.
 2. Clubs just can't keep spending upwards of \$20,000 per year per club on insurance; there has to be a better way. The RMCA has already advised DoC that we may request a variation to clause 8 of the license (Demolition Insurance), pending what we come up with.
5. Base Area Changes - eg access to Public Shelter and Car-parking for Clubs.
 1. The TNPMP (Tongariro National Park Management Plan) is one of the key over-arching documents for the how the users of the park should be operating. Recent dialogue between RMCA and DoC focused on clauses specific to the Base Area which includes the public shelter and the car-parks. RMCA will be taking a firm approach with the Ski-Field Operator and DoC to ensure the intent of the TNPMP is upheld on matters regarding access to our member clubs lodges.

Regards

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