



The RMCA Forum

Lorenz's Café

24th May 2025

The journey from surviving to thriving

The 2025 Forum was held at Lorenz's café at Whakapapa. The forum was attended by 40 delegates. This included representatives from WHL, DoC and representatives from the 49 member clubs of the RMCA. The forum was opened with a Karakia led by Libby O'Brien from DoC. We were delighted to have WHL and DoC join us for the whole session.

Thank you to WHL for supporting the event with complimentary barista coffee. And a warm thank you to Marisa and the team at Lorenz's for the freshly made morning tea and superb hot lunch that we enjoyed together.

Ruapehu Mountain Clubs Association

Speaker: Debbie Evans

Celebration of Certainty with the WHL 10 year operating concession:

- commitment to the longer term
- contribution to the local community
- expansion of activities and events
- improved snow making with water easement

Our role as custodians on the Maunga

- Step up and show up
- Keep the Maunga in pristine condition
- For our Rangitahi and future generations
- Show gratitude to Iwi & hapu
- Demonstrate host responsibility on the slopes
- Work with DoC & meet all standards required

Working together to generate savings

Saving money on operating expenses is something the RMCA can ... and will facilitate. The council team is working on the key points raised in the forum. This kicks off with the fire safety compliance checks and finding a supplier that will work with a group of clubs on a day. Eg. charging travel time for that day, and splitting this travel cost evenly between clubs.

Building club members engagement: Through club events, community events and WHL Events

Communicating with a mix of media to expand reach: RMCA Website, Newsletters, Emails, Face Book and Instagram

The RMCA Website – was totally upgraded in 2024. Ongoing updates are welcome
Email secretary@rmca.org.nz

The RMCA 2025 Plan: Collaborate, Plan to succeed, share with pride the WHL events, communicate with our members, grow young family memberships, embrace aging memberships, mid week offers

Thank you to all who attended the forum. The vibe in the room was pure enthusiasm, and the ideas flowed. Promoting events and engaging club members is key in 2025. Working together we move from surviving, to thriving in 2025.

Whakapapa Holdings Limited

Speakers: Travis Donnoghue, Phil Lemalu, Chris Bashforth

WHL presented the plans and activity for the 2025 season and beyond. Clubbies welcomed the positive vibe and commitment to partnership shared by WHL.

- Special Season Pass Price for RMCA Member Clubs
- Three year pass for Life Pass Holders
- Vibrant WHL events calendar for the 2025 season
- Ten new superior snow making guns

The WHL initiative of commissioning a sketch of each club was gratefully acknowledged by club members. If you wish to receive the digital image of your club, email Phil Lemalu directly: marketing@whakapapa.com

Upper Mountain Access for clubs. WHL have started 2025 with the best news. Access for these clubs with uphill and down hill loading. This is available in the first 30 minutes and last 30 minutes of each day. Whether you are on foot, or on skis, this is the time allocated to give you access to load yourself and your gear. Please be courteous and observe the window of time for loading.

Department of Conservation

Speaker: Libby O'Brien

Key Points

- Working together
- Raising mana
- Partnerships
- Making decisions that are befitting of a dual World Heritage National Park.
- Whakapapa Village

Basic maintenance of ski clubs does now **not require a works approval application**. Instead, a notification form must be completed for each undertaking of basic maintenance at least 5 days before the planned work. Basic maintenance includes like-for-like repair or replacement of:

Painting, Cladding, Roofing, Deck repair, Wall repair, Guttering, Window repair or replacement, Door repair or replacement, Heating system repair (that does not require additional outdoor units).

For **work beyond basic maintenance** 'like for like', ski clubs still need to apply for a **works approval**. To ensure your application process goes smoothly, you can contact us for advice. The application should be received at least **25 working days before the planned work**.

Any work undertaken in Tongariro National Park requires consultation with our local iwi partners.

We allow iwi at least 20 working days to give feedback on any works occurring in Tongariro National Park and then require 5 working days to process the application after receiving feedback from iwi.

Basic maintenance 'Like for Like' notification forms, Works approval application and other notification /permits can be accessed in the following link.

[Tongariro National Park Community Procedures: Our procedures and SOPs \(doc.govt.nz\)](#)

Club Insurance: alternate arrangements on Ski Club insurance can be discussed with DOC's National Transaction Centre team. Clubs can send alternate insurance proposals directly to: Transactioncentre@doc.govt.nz

Self-Insurance is assessed on a case-by-case basis, through the transaction centre.

Salt Ridge Track: this is a topic that is really important to clubbies as an access point to some huts. The track was inspected by our team at the end of 2024 and the 'cutting' section had a rock pinnacle in the centre and the sewer pipe had been exposed due to vehicles. We completed some minor work to protect the sewer pipe using gravel from the existing site and we will continue to monitor the track. The track is unsuitable for 2WD or low profile 4WD or AWD vehicles, and we would love to see this route protected as much as possible.

Grease trap cleaning was completed over summer. Mere is working with some clubs to investigate repairs/maintenance or replacement of their traps which were not considered to require upgrading in the 2004 WWTP upgrade. However, some will require remediation or replacement works.

Site visits are planned for early June 2025 and we'll get some advice on what we need to do.

TPP will manage the Bruce Road for 2025. Overnight road closures of the Bruce Road will be notified on the NZTA Waka Kotahi website as per previous years.

The software on the Variable Message Signs (VMS) at the golf course and Bruce Road barrier are being upgraded.

Key point of contact for any issues or concerns this coming winter is our wonderful Mere – email: mmokoraka@doc.govt.nz.

Questions and Answers from the forum:

1. Can the ski club rebuild their lodge, if destroyed by any event such as a fire.
Yes, the lodge can be rebuilt on the existing lodge site or an alternative site agreed with the Department. Any construction work is subject to written approval of the Department. Refer to clauses 7(c)(i) – (viii) of your concession document for further details.
2. Who is responsible for removal of the copper wires, once the copper phone services are withdrawn by Chorus in June 2025?
The ski club for which the copper wire services is responsible for removal.
3. Can we have an update on the potential water ingress into the sewer main from Aorangi Ski Club?
Smoke testing and visual inspections of the sewer main were carried out approximately 18 months ago. Unable to locate any ingress issues from the ski club.
4. Does DOC have guidelines e.g. working at heights, use of scaffolding etc?
The most up-to-date guidelines are available on Worksafe's website at www.worksafe.govt.nz
5. Will there be any changes to responsibilities for Ski Clubs as a result of the eruption at White Island in 2019?
Unknown at this stage. As at May 2025, the coroner's final report for the 2019 White Island (Whakaari) eruption has not yet been publicly released, which will include findings and recommendations.
6. Can an APP be developed for Communications, Road closures etc?
The Department is unable to develop an APP for external use due to IT security protocols

The link to the DoC presentation is:

<https://rmca.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/RMCA-Forum-Saturday-24th-May.pdf>