



The 2026 ski season is shaping up to be an exciting one, with events on the calendar, and plenty of opportunities to connect both on and off the slopes. The RMCA Council has been hard at work behind the scenes, meeting with key stakeholders and commencing license negotiations with the Department of Conservation. These discussions are an important part of securing the future of clubs in the Tongariro National Park.

Kings Birthday Weekend – Saturday 30th May, Sunday 31st May

(Monday 1st June is a public holiday)

Mountain Clean Up – Club Event

This King's Birthday weekend we will celebrate the long weekend with great food, warm drinks, and plenty of laughs. We'll also be working to support local iwi and the Department of Conservation with a mountain clean-up initiative. This is a great opportunity for our clubs to give back, show our commitment to kaitiakitanga, and help care for the alpine environment we're privileged to enjoy. We encourage members to get involved and be part of this positive, hands-on effort to keep our maunga in great shape for future generations. All while soaking up the natural surroundings that make our clubs so special. It's the perfect way to unwind, reconnect, and toast to the season in true mountain style.

Saturday 30th May – 11 am

- **Fine weather option** - walk the Water Fall Express and Far West for those that are fit
- **Poor weather option** – walk the Top of the Bruce down to carpark 5.
- **Refreshments** will be **provided** by the RMCA to clubbies before and after the cleanup.
- **4pm Car Boot Party** – Platinum Carpark

It would be outstanding if clubs could ensure that there are **2 members per club** at the cleanup.

Fire Wood Lift – 2026

Bagged firewood will be lifted from the Top of the Bruce to your club door

Using our collective buying power, we can secure better rates on firewood and share the transport costs. Coordinating orders will cut down on duplicate helicopter flights and ferry time, making the whole process more efficient and affordable for everyone involved.

The RMCA is partnering with Helicopter Services in Taupō to source the best deal for clubs. Seasoned pine/Douglas fir will be sourced from Taupō, bagged in approved lifting bags, transported to Mount Ruapehu, and flown from the Top of the Bruce to individual lodges, with DoC permits managed on your behalf. Lifts will take place in suitable weather before King's Birthday weekend (targeting around Easter, weather dependent).



Clubs will pay a fixed firewood supply cost (\$185 + GST per bag, minimum two cubes) plus shared ferry time and actual flying time to their lodge.

If interested, please email secretary@rmca.org.nz within 14 days with your club details, estimated cubes required, and a contact number. Gordon Horsley (Wanganui Ski Club) will then be in touch to confirm pricing and details before you commit.

Key Points

- You will be only billed for flying time to your lodge from the Top of the Bruce Car Park
- Plus a share in the cost of the ferry time to Whakapapa with other clubs taking advantage of this offer.
- Cost on flying time are conservative and hopefully should be less
- We will notify you just before lift will take place.
- Your club will be responsible for paying the invoice to Helicopter Services when you are billed.
- Payment will be in two parts: (1) Firewood supply to the Top of the Bruce (fixed cost per \$185 per bag ext GST) minimum of 2 cubes per load. (2) Lift (flying) time to your lodge and share of ferry time costs.

This is a great opportunity to work together and secure a very good rate for firewood for the 2026 season. If you wish to chat about the offer, please feel free to call Gordon Horsley 027 431-6348. The map of the fly zones and more details on the cost breakdown are included at end of this newsletter.

Once we have the confirmed numbers from the clubs we will come back you with the final pricing options, proposed delivery date window and arrange the approvals with DOC.

New World Ohakune



We are delighted to introduce Sam Fletcher, the owner of New World Ohakune. Sam is passionate about supporting local clubs and organizations that make our community strong (and keeps dollars in the Ohakune community).

NW Ohakune has an offer that is extremely price competitive, with goods delivered to the RMCA grocery room.

The ordering process is simple: use the New World on line ordering facility and pay by debit or credit card. Orders will be picked, labelled and then delivered to The Top of the Bruce. Clubs already using NW Ohakune have shared that it more cost efficient than Bidfoods.

The RMCA encourages all clubs to step up and support local in 2026.

Sam needs to have all clubs on board, to make his trip to the Iwikau Village worthwhile. More info on the weekly delivery schedule will be shared. Sam hopes to meet many of you over Kings Birthday weekend on the maunga.

WHL School Bookings 2026

Chris Bashforth, Snow Sports Manager, Whakapapa will be sharing opportunities for school group bookings in 2026. Chris will post on the RMCA facebook page, stating the size and age of the group, with the dates of the booking. Clubs are invited to respond to Chris if they had availability. Please follow the RMCA Whakapapa Clubs Community Notice Board page.

RCMA Whakapapa Clubs Community

Notice Board

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/686406651905645/>



Stakeholder Meeting updates

Special General Meeting – 19th February 2026

Representatives attended from the following organisations: Havelock Ski Club, Forest & Bird, Boomerang, Tongariro, Alpine Sports Club (ASC), Serac, Central Plateau Schools Alpine Charitable Trust, Ruapehu Ski Club, Whakapapa, WSSC, Ngauruhoe Ski Club, Rangatira Ski Club, and Taupo Ski Club.

Thanks to all who attended the SGM and voted for the RMCA Constitution to be accepted and adopted. The RMCA SGM presentation deck is available on the RMCA website

Stakeholder Update

Department of Conservation – Charging of outstanding / overdue rates by RDC

Clubs Impacted are those clubs within Tongariro National Park falling within the RDC area. Clubs with lodges in Ohakune will have already received the rates for the 2024/25 Financial Year. Clubs with lodges in Ohakune will with the 2025/26 rates bills are on their way. - Clubs who have lodges outside of Tongariro National Park, ie in Waimarino or Ohakune, may have observed a variance in their rates from previous years as well, but will have not had delays in their charges as DOC does not administer them.

An issue has arisen because Ruapehu District Council have instituted a new system from a new rating provider. This has lumped all Tongariro National Park rates under a single code with no indication or breakdown of which buildings this is for. This has been provided this to the DoC to on-charge.

This is to be resolved. With this new process, DoC cannot be sure each club has been charged accurately for their rates. Or that the overall rates bill is the total amount that the clubs should be paying.

Department of Conservation – Redundant Infrastructure

The Downhill Ski Club Downhill Chair lift is currently being removed. Naylor Love is the substantive supplier with a subcontractor TPP. The term is next 2 years to get the work complete. The Schuass House and Waterfall Express Drive and Westridge café are also deemed as redundant infrastructure. However there is no funding yet for the removal of these structures. The Number 2 chairlift has a community initiative to save the stone structure that housed the wheel house. The future of this asset is to be determined.

Turoa represents 35% of the redundant structures. The Nga Waheke, The Jumbo and the Moro T need to be removed.

License Negotiation and Insurance Requirements

At present indemnity cover of at least \$250,000, irrespective of any excess or cover exclusions, is being accepted as compliant by DOC. This could change with the upcoming license negotiations. If clubs wish to hold indemnity cover, to comply with clause 8, they need to get an insurance indemnity valuation of at least \$250,000 from a registered valuer.

Copper Wire Update

In 2017, Spark announced that it was beginning to withdraw support for its PSTN (Public Switched Telephone Network) due to the age of the network and the emergence of cheaper and more effective services in New Zealand. This network utilises Copper line services. Advice to clubs is Copper-based business lines will be impacted and will no longer work from 31st March 2026. The good news is there is a range of alternative solutions to help keep clubs connected.

A big thank you to all our clubs for the time, energy, and passion you bring to our community. And thank you to the RMCA council and the contributions you make for the benefit of all clubs - here's to a fantastic season ahead!

Nga mihi,

Debbie Evans

Chair Ruapehu Mountain Clubs Association

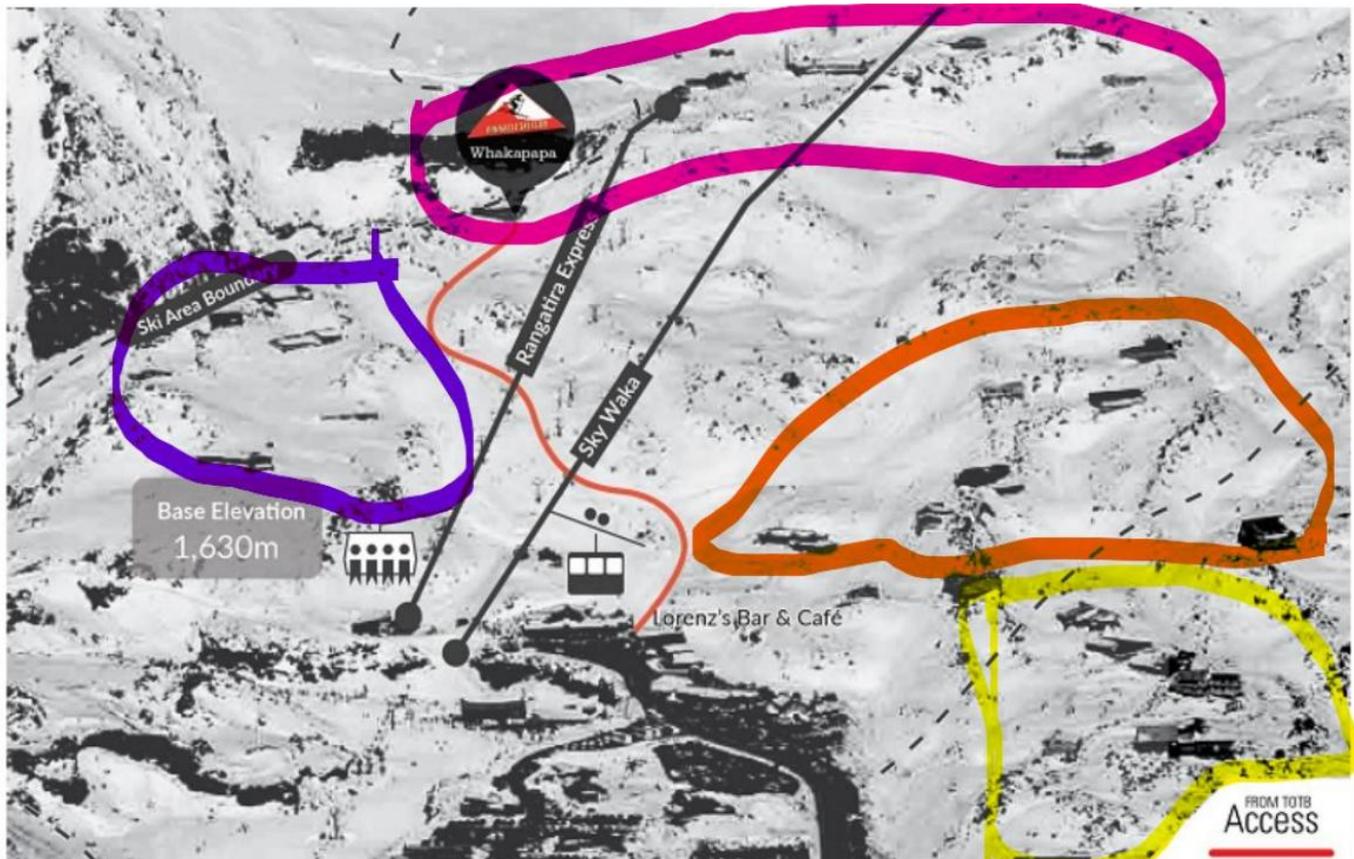
Email debbie.evans@rmca.org.nz



Fire Wood Cost

Prices exclude GST

Item	Cost	Minutes/ Unit	Total	Notes
1 Cube Fire wood, dried, packed in flight approved lifting bag, trucked from supplier to the Top of the Bruce lifting point, DOC permits and lift plan.	\$ 185.00	2	\$370.00	2 bags fit on the lifting frame (2 cube minium delivery each load)
It is 25 mins ferry (flying) time each way from Taupo Airport to the Top of the Bruce Whakapapa. However we intend to corrdinate this job with another job in the area and this could drop the ferry time by 15 mins each way depending on another work site location near Whakapapa.	\$58.34	50	\$2,917.00	Cost of flyting time spread over all clubs purchasing firewood. However, this will be completed when a helicopter is in the local area to reduce ferry time cost.
Helicopter lifting from Top Bruce lifing base to the hut door (return)	\$58.34	5	\$291.70	Yellow Zone return (ridge above car parks)
	\$58.34	6	\$350.04	Orange Zone retun (Back of Lorez's & bottom of Tennants)
	\$58.34	7	\$408.38	Purple Zone retun (mid way up Rangitira)
	\$58.34	8	\$466.72	Magenta Zone (Hut flat and outer ridges)





New World Ohakune

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