2025 AGM Ruapehu Mountain Clubs Association

Date: 4 October 2025 - 3pm
Location: Happy Valley Bistro and via Teams on line

Debbie Evans (Vice President) welcomed all

Delegates: included, but not limited to:

Jacqui de Heer (Ngauruhoe Ski), Kevin Mason (Tararua), Will Shakespear (NZ Scouts), Peter Thornley (Otaihape), Tim Winstone (Tongariro Ski), Bruce Jackson (Havelock Ski), Judy Clark (Levin Waiopehi), Matt Turnbull (Tauwira), Steve McLennan (Christiania), Gordon Horsley (Whanganui), Trish Oosterbann (Rangatira), John Cuthbert (Skyline), Matt Munroe (Graduates), Catherine Gafa (RSC)

Council members: Tony McKenna, Russell Turnbull, Ian Chamberlain, Darien Warburton, Simon Hunt.

Attendees: Jodi Pretchserer (Ngauruhoe), Sam Patten (Ngauruhoe), Joseph Clark (Levin Waiopehi Tramping), Anna Dine (Graduates), Carol Anderson & Brian Pike (Aorangi), Clare Mason, Damon Forsyth (Ruapehu Ski) Hendon Gillies (Taupo), Paul Bruce (NSC), Mike Trower (Matamata), Samuel and Michelle Kempthorne (Wellington Tramping), Rob Rea (Tauranga), Ryan Hunt (Tauranga) Sally Woodfield, Sheryl Brownlee (Secretary).

Apologies:

Phill Thomass

It is with deep sadness that we share the news of the passing of our President Phill Thomas. Phill passed away peacefully at home on Tuesday 23rd September. We remember Phill for his unwavering dedication to RSC and the RMCA.

His passion for Mt Ruapehu was at the heart of his leadership. He saw the mountain not just as a place, but as a living connection between all of us. Phill's connection to Mt Ruapehu was one of aroha and whakapapa. This was a bond that ran deep and shaped his leadership.

We also celebrate a life generously given in service, friendship, and unity. We look forward to celebrating Phill's love for Mt Ruapehu at the RMCA AGM. Please do join us at the AGM at 3pm and a share a complimentary drink with fellow clubbies at 4pm to celebrate Phill's life.

Minutes of 2024 AGM

Moved: That the Minutes as posted on the web site- were a true and correct record of the meeting
Proposed – Debbie Evans
Seconded by Jacqui de Heer (Ngauruhoe Ski),
Carried.
There were no matters arising.

Ski Field Operations in 2025 - Whakapapa Ski Field

The 10 year concession granted to Whakapapa Holdings on April 30th 2025 has helped to restore confidence in the wider Tongariro National Park region. For the 49 member clubs of the RMCA, this 10 year concession allows us to move on from the 2023 and 2024 seasons.

For clubs with lodges in the Iwikau Village This concession was a critical milestone. It gives us the opportunity to plan for the future.

Season passes are a commitment to a season of skiing at Whakapapa. Season passes remain a key driver for lodge occupancy during the season. Whakapapa Ski Field delivered season passes earlier in the season - in May 2025.

Whakapapa Ski Field also brought back the magic in 2025 by acknowledging the contribution of RAL Life Pass Holders to the development of the Ski Field. Former Life Pass Holders were offered a Three Year Pass priced at $999. With a 2 year payment plan. And If your magic days were behind you, you could nominate a person and transfer your pass for free.

Rejuvenating the ski field relies on getting kids into skiing and boarding. Whakapapa also offered children under 10 to ski and ride free. And the popular buddy pass was offered again. .

The RMCA would like to acknowledge the stellar effort from the Whakapapa Ski Field Team in 2025. The staff have been super friendly and engaging. The 10 new snow guns and snow making capability has enabled top to bottom skiing on the gondola. On behalf of all clubs, we thank you.

RMCA report- Debbie Evans

The RMCA has had a very active year. Huge thanks to the passionate team that make up the RMCA council. We have councillors with specific skills and these are utilised in specific areas
RMCA Website has been rebuilt over the last year. To update your clubs information , please email this to the RMCA secretary Sheryl.
Stakeholder Engagement: Department of Conservation. The RMCA has met with DoC in the Taupo regional office and the Whakapapa Village office.
Stakeholder Engagement: WHL. The RMCA has regularly engaged with key members of the Whakapapa Ski Field - Travis Donoghue, Chris Bashforth and Phil Lemalu
RMCA Forum – 24th May 2025. This was attended by 49 members and stakeholders. Our key partners WHL and DOC joined us for the whole session.

RMCA Forum Topics:

Insurance requirements under the DOC license
Streamlining service providers to facilitate cost savings for clubs
Helping clubs recruit new members
Fire safety Compliance checks – frequency and cost for clubs
Grocery room operation,
Access on the Rangatira for Upper Mountain Clubs
RMCA activation of Events on the mountain. Through the use of social platforms to promote the content shared by the Whakapapa Ski Field.
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. The RMCA presentation is available on the website
RMCA Activation of Whakapapa Ski Field Events

Supplier Survey - Russell Turnbull

Supplier survey across clubs to gather costs and preferences for trades and services.
Findings showed large variances in pricing (e.g., electricians $65–$165/hr; plumbers $90–$200/hr; building compliance $540–$5,000).
Preferred suppliers will be listed on the RMCA website
Bidfoods rated poorly; all 13 clubs indicated willingness to change supplier.
Potential leverage for collective negotiation

Backcountry Training Programme (2026) – Simon Hunt

Training for club members venturing beyond ski boundaries.
Discussions ongoing with WHL, Mountain Safety Council, Rescue organisations, and others.
Proposed courses: avalanche awareness, weather interpretation, volcanic risk, alpine safety, summer mountaineering.
The programme objective would be to enhance safety, respect for the mountain, and engagement among clubs.

Clubs strongly supportive; highlighted need for education for visitors unfamiliar with risks
Future Actions:
Partner with WHL, Hillary Outdoor Centre, Mountain Safety Council, DoC, RARO to develop training modules for implementation in 2026.
This is a program for RMCA clubs to promote amongst their members. To drive enthusiasm for members to spend weekends at the mountain

Marketing & Activation – Debbie Evans

Whakapapa Map of Clubs on the Mountain, Using the new images of the clubs that are on the RMCA website. The map will be made into a large poster size. With a QR code that leads to the RMCA website and information on clubs
WHL / Travis agreed that they can be displayed in the three cafes (KRC, Lorenz's, HVB)
Club Open Day(s) in 2026. Facilitate
Club Apres Ski Tours
Mountain Safety Academy
WHL School Bookings – invite clubs to work with WHL. 2025 has been a huge success
Mountain Clean Up

Appointment of a new Councillor

With the passing of Phill Thomass only 2 weeks ago it was felt that an election at this time would not be appropriate. The Council would like to welcome Gordon Horsley from the Whanganui Club as a Council member.

Department of Conservation & Emergency Planning – Ian Chamberlain

RMCA - reminded DOC of the licence obligation requiring lodges to provide shelter in emergencies (eruption, lahars, etc.).
DOC staff were not fully aware; RMCA emphasised importance of clarity.
Future Actions- Formal follow-up with DOC to ensure mutual understanding.
Clubs to review emergency accommodation readiness.

Financial Report – Kevin Mason / Debbie Evans

Financial Report for year ending April 2025 posted on the RMCA website, along with the Reviewers report (Safety in Numbers- Sue Gwilliam).
The net position is + $5,000. Note this is not a profit (as RMCA is a non profit organisation)
The upside of $5k is a result of WHL not charging the RMCA for the Grocery room in 2025
The proviso for this is the funds are to be used to promote RMCA clubs on the mountain

Moved: That the Financials are a true and correct record of the last 12 months.
Proposed – Jacqui (Ngauruhoe Ski Club)
Seconded by Will Shakespear (NZ Scouts)
Carried
Moved: That Safety in Numbers be retained as the reviewer for this year
Proposed Jacqui (Ngauruhoe Ski Club)
Seconded Sam Patten (Ngauruhoe Ski Club)
Carried .

Subscriptions – Ian Chamberlain

Note that the grocery room subscriptions are an important source of revenue for the RMCA
These subscriptions finance all the activity for the RMCA
Propose 10% increase in the RMCA subscriptions to $165 per club
Grocery Room subs remain at $10 / bunk

Moved: That Subscriptions increase to $165 and – and that the grocery room charges per bunk will remain the same for the next season-

Proposed: Bruce Jackson (Havelock Ski)
Seconded: Peter Thornley (Otaihape)
Carried

Constitution:
This was the President Phill's passion. Due to his ill health, he had not been able to action the new constitution Kevin Mason (Treasurer) had posted the 2025 draft on the website.
Moved "That the draft Constitution is accepted on the condition that for one week, members are invited to view and tell us if there needs to be minor changes. If it is major then we will have to go to a Special General Meeting"-
Proposed Debbie Evans
Seconded: Jacqui de Heer (Ngauruhoe Ski Club)
Carried

Appointment of an Interim Chairperson:

Under the current constitution a Councillor must have served 2 years on Council before taking on the role of President.
New President to be elected at the bi annual AGM when elections of councillors are held. This will be at the 2027 AGM
Moved " That Debbie Evans be the new Chair of RMCA
Proposed - Ian Chamberlain
Seconded by Judy Clark (Levin Waiopehi),
Carried.

General Business:

School holiday bookings have been phenomenal this year reach out to Chris Bashbeth if your Club is keen on hosting.

It was discussed and agreed that a Mountain clean up need not sit at the end of a Forum- but rather part of the Clubs working bees. Debbie reiterated that we are custodians of the Mountain, please pick up rubbish and assist in keeping it in a pristine condition.

Meeting closed – 4.00pm.

Steve from WHL addressed the meeting outlining the past 12 months, and future plans for WHL.