RMCA Newsletter – 5th July 2026



After a slow start to the winter, we are now mesmerised by our weather apps. Clubbies eagerly await the approaching southerly dump to kick-start our 2026 ski season. WHL have maximised the snow making in the cold temperatures. We are excited for the 2026 season.

Ruapehu District Council Rates

There has been a 2year delay from the RDC with charges of rates to RMCA clubs. Some clubs have now received the 2024 and 2025 RDC rates charges. These RDC rates have been on charged by DOC to clubs.

The RMCA is currently discussing the validity of the Ruapehu District Council (RDC) rates with the Department of Conservation (DOC). Clubs are invited to please hold off on paying your recent rates invoice for the 2024 and 205 period.

Rates bills are due for payment by the 20th July 2026. **The RMCA is requesting to DOC to extend the payment deadline.** This gives us time to clarify the legal position for the clubs. We will email all clubs with an update as soon as we hear back.

Open-source lodge booking system

The Zoom session on Wednesday 1st July was attended by 80+ clubbies. Jordan introduced us to the new Tokoroa Alpine Club website and booking system. The system combines a public club website, member portal, lodge booking calendar, membership application process, payments, admin tools, lodge operations support, email notifications, and optional accounting integrations. Members can log in, book stays, add guests, view bed availability, pay online, and manage their details. Admin users can manage bookings, members, payments, policies, reports, hut leader information, waitlists, chores, issue reporting, and related lodge operations.

The project has been released publicly as AlpineClubBookingsNZ and is free/open source under the MIT licence. This means any RMCA member club with suitable technical support can copy the system, adapt it for its own lodge, rules, rates, branding, and processes, and host its own website and booking system.

Please note this meeting was not recorded as Jordan was demonstrating the active Tokoroa Alpine Clubs website. Information from the session will be provided to clubs in the next RMCA newsletter.

Andy from Levin Waiupehu Lodge has offered support and clubs wanting to install and switch over to the new system. If you have any questions from the demonstration, or need further assistance accessing the Open-Source Site,

please contact Andy: bookings@lwtc.org.nz

The Tussock Bar, Whakapapa Village

The Tussock Bar and Restaurant has historically been a popular pub and restaurant within Whakapapa Village. For many decades, the Bar has been more than simply a hospitality venue. It has served as a welcoming gathering place for skiers, snowboarders, trampers, club members, day visitors, international tourists and the staff that live and work within the Tongariro National Park.

The Tussock Bar and Restaurant building currently sits within the legal framework of the Chateau Tongariro Buildings. It is subject to the same timelines that will see the Chateau Tongariro refurbished and opened or not reopened again. The RMCA would like to support the application to have The Tussock Bar removed from the current Chateau Tongariro operation. And allow The Tussock Bar and Restaurant to resume operations. We hope that The Tussock Bar can reopen and deliver the distinctive character and vibrancy of Whakapapa Village. Its absence has left a noticeable gap in the village experience. The availability of a warm, welcoming venue where visitors can relax after a day on the mountain contributes significantly to the appeal of the ski area and the broader tourism offering of the Central Plateau.

The RMCA has written a letter of support for the opening of the Tussock Bar and Restaurant for the upcoming ski season to Libby O'Brien, Regional Operations Manager, DOC. This letter of support with be submitted by DOC to the Honorable Tama Potaka, Minister of Conservation.

The Grocery Room – 2026

Just a reminder on the changes to the grocery room. For clubs with custodians, your supplies will be in the from the first room on the left - hand side as you enter the building. A separate newsletter has been shared to all clubs with custodians. This explains the second door code to access this custodian's grocery room.

Clubs with Custodians Using Grocery Room 1:

Alpine, Christie, Graduates, Iwikau, Levin Waiopehu, Matamata, Ngauruhoe, Rangatira, Rotorua, RSC, Ski Racers, Snowline, Tongariro

Please note this room will have a new freezer installed in Matariki Weekend

All Other Clubs:

Nothing has changed – please use the grocery room at the rear of the building

New World Ohakune

Sam has commenced deliveries to the Grocery Room. A big thank you to Grads and Rangatira for supporting New World Ohakune before the ski season has even started. We look forward to seeing **all other clubs step up and support local in 2026.** It is a more cost-effective option, gives immediacy in terms of your orders, and is an excellent system for clubs working within a grocery budget.

All goods are ordered through the NW online system and are labelled. Dry goods will be delivered in a banana box / crate. Frozen goods will be packed together in a bag, labelled for your club and placed in the freezer.

To order, simply use the New World online ordering website. Paying for groceries is easy using a debit card from a Ski Club bank account that is designated for groceries in 2026.



DOC Rent Review Proposal

Just a reminder that the timeline for the DOC rent review is now a late October / November delivery to clubs. With clubs having a 3 month right of reply. Rent reviews will now be effective in early 2027.

Nga mihi,

Debbie Evans

Chair Ruapehu Mountain Clubs Association

Email **president@rmca.org.nz**

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