RMCA 2026 Annual General Meeting held at Happy Valley Bistro 3rd October 2026

Date: 3 October 2026 at 2.15pm
Chair: Debbie Evans.

Debbie welcomed those who were attending those in person and online- via a zoom link including:

Meeting Attendees

Bruce Jackson, Ru Oakley, (Aorangi Ski), Shelley Bruce (Hutt Valley Tramping), Brian Pike (Aorangi Ski), Dale Thompson Levin Waiopehu,Mark Trower, (Matamata Ski), Lee Sinkinson, Jodi Pretscherer, Sam Patten, Jacqui de Heer, (Ngauruhoe Ski Club), Madeline Taylor, Darien Warburton (Puketoi), Trish Oosterbaan (Rangatira), Michael Webb-Speight (Ruapehu Ski Club), Adrian Kerr (Serac), Alistair Cattanach (Skyline), Kevin Mason (Tararua Tramping), Vicki Moss, Hendon Gillies (Taupo Ski), Laura McGinty (Tauwira), Sharon Redpath (Te Horonuku), Wayne Peterson (Tokoroa Ski). Stephen Haylett-Petty (Waitomo), Matthew Gallagher**,** Nathan Brooking, (Whakapapa Mountain Club), Karl Stephen (Wellington Tramping & Mountain)

Zoom Attendees
Andy Schulz (Levin Waiopehu Tramping), Steve McLennan, Nick Plant (Christiania), Linda McCullagh (Havelock Ski), Pete Richards (Hawkes Bay), Sheldon Bruce (Hutt Valley), Judy Hayes (Rotorua Tramping), Denise Cohen (Ski Racers), John Vanweerd (Snowline), Blair Simonsen, Ryan Hunt, Liane Valentine, Elise Taikato (Tauranga Ski) Matt Turbull, (Tauwira Ski), Russell Turnbull (Te Horonuku), Sally Woodford (Tokoroa Ski) Vanessa Folley (Tongariro Ski), Gordon Horsley, Craig Percy, Bill Nicol, Gus McIntosh, Lisa Reid (Whanganui),

Apologies Tony McKenna – Rotorua

1 Minutes of the 2025 AGM -

The Minutes of the 2025 had been posted on the website- the President- Debbie asked that the Minutes be taken as read. – Agreed.

Moved Debbie Evans, seconded – Jacqui De Heer (NSC) " That they were a true and correct record of the meeting" - Carried.

Any matters arising will be dealt with during this Meeting.

2 President report and promotional activities

The President outlined the key stakeholders that the RMCA works with. These include all 47 Mountain Clubs, The Department of Conservation, WHL, PT, Ruapehu District Council, New World Ohakune, National Park Business Association

The President shared the key achievements and actions from 2026. These included supporting the 47 member clubs of the RMCA, to accelerate the visibility and usage of lodges on the mountain. The RMCA works to promote mountain clubs and strengthen stakeholder engagement. Achievements this year included:

1. Kings Birthday Weekend – Big Mountain Clean Up with 111 clubbies attending.
2. RMCA Map of Clubs
3. Stakeholder Engagement
4. Supporting Local eg. The Tussock Bar, NW Ohakune Supply to Clubs
5. Ruapehu District Council Rates
6. Department of Conservation Rent Review
7. Bruce Road Access - Hui November 2027
8. Clubs Bookings Websites
9. RMCA Website

10. Whakapapa Adaptive Sports

Debbie - RMCA shared the Map of Mountain Clubs artwork that WHL will utilize. And offered posters and jigsaw puzzles for clubs to purchase. Posters were available for purchase at the meeting. Posters and Jig Saw Puzzles could also be ordered online additional charges for postage. All orders were to be emailed to secretary@rmca.org.nz

The President shared the support of Whakapapa Adaptive Sports and the raffle tickets that were for sale. All proceeds from the sale of tickets would support Whakapapa Adaptive Sports. Prizes were donated by sponsors Gordons Outdoor Sports Taupō, NW Ohakune and the RMCA merchandise.

3 Stakeholder relationships and support for local businesses

The President reported strong engagement with the Department of Conservation (DOC) and Whakapapa Holdings Limited (WHL). Members were encouraged to support local businesses, including the mountain coffee cart and New World Ohakune. Regional tourism recovery remained slower than national growth. Grocery supply arrangements and potential savings for clubs were highlighted. At the conclusion of the RMCA AGM, detailed stakeholder presentations from DOC, WHL and NW Ohakune were shared with attendees.

4 RDC Rates Update

The RMCA President and Treasurer Kevin Mason reported on the continuing dispute over rates charged through DOC. Kevin explained RMCA's concerns about the legal basis for rating national park land, the valuations used and DOC's allocation of charges to concession holders. These were reported positions, with the issue still unresolved. Information requests have been made to Ruapehu District Council and the Valuer General. Clubs had received legal correspondence asking them to pause paying the disputed rates. A meeting of club representatives with DOC was anticipated, with arbitration as a possible further step. Legal assistance with no charge to the RMCA was arranged through a member at RSC and this was acknowledged.

5 DOC financial questionnaire

DOC's commercial team released a document just 1 day earlier, and requested information on club membership, accommodation use, revenue, operating costs, assets and insurance. The President encouraged clubs to complete with accurate responses but also cautioned clubs that some information sat outside the legal requirements for information to be produced to DOC, in clubs license agreements. The president invited clubs to pause while legal advice was sought on questions concerning public accommodation and existing licence conditions. Kevin also noted that some information was required under club licenses.

6 Bruce Road access

Road closures and long queues have affected club members, visitors and grocery deliveries. RMCA's roading team had been sharing TPP road updates through the RMCA Facebook pages. Clubs were reminded to follow road rules. DOC had committed to organising a hui in November to consider improvements, including accelerating access on busy days for food deliveries and the possibility of priority access for season pass holders and Platinum Pass Carpark holders.

7 Club websites and accommodation bookings

Jordan Hartley -Smith from the Tokoroa Alpine Club shared a new open-source club website and booking platform during the season, this platform was offered for to clubs wider adoption, with zero cost. Features included bookings, guests, bed allocation, chores, administration and reporting, with accounting integration planned. Support was available to clubs considering the system, and clubs were encouraged to examine it before King's Birthday weekend in 2027.

The RMCA proposed that the addition of easily accessible accommodation, shared via the RMCA website would allow potential guests of clubs to compare location, facilities, food arrangements and nightly rates. The RMCA would reach out to seek each club's distinctive offering. A member requested a forum to enable clubs to engage again with the new booking platform development.

8 Adaptive sports and interclub events

The President encouraged clubs to consider = volunteering and training with the Whakapapa Adaptive Sports Program. Clubs were also encouraged to consider the opportunities for hosting volunteers and improving access at suitable lodges for people with disabilities.

Clubs were thanked for organizing events that involved all mountain clubs. Clubs were encouraged to continue building connections across the mountain community.

9 Treasurer report and annual accounts

Kevin Mason presented the annual accounts. A surplus of approximately $1,800 resulted partly from WHL waving grocery room rent of just under $5,000 in return for the RMCA continuing a program of promoting clubs on the mountain. It was noted that some RMCA Mountain Clubs Poster invoices had not yet been receipted by the RMCA. These invoices would therefore fall into the following financial year.

Outstanding club subscriptions shown in the accounts had since been paid. Cash increased by $79 over the year; $1,750 was spent replacing grocery room fridges. The accounts had been independently reviewed, rather than audited, by Safety in Numbers. Existing annual honoraria of $3,000 for the Secretary and $1,500 for the Treasurer were noted.

Motion: That RMCA continue to pay an annual honorarium of $3,000 to the President for the coming financial year.

Moved: Kevin Mason **Seconded:** Michael Webb-Speight, RSC.

Resolution: Carried.

Motion: That the annual accounts be accepted as presented.

Moved: Sharon Redpath, Te Horonuku. **Seconded:** Brian Pike, Aorangi.

Resolution: Carried

10 Subscriptions and grocery room fees

The Treasurer proposed restoring the annual club subscription from $165 to $180 plus GST, following reductions during COVID. The budget allowed for possible grocery room rent, deferred promotional invoices and contingencies. A possible loss of approximately $3,000 was discussed, although a break even result was also anticipated depending on costs. Available funds of slightly over $40,000 were reported. The grocery room fee was proposed to remain unchanged.

Motion: That the annual subscription per club for the coming year be $180 plus GST.

Moved: Kevin Mason, **Seconded:** Peter Thornley- Otaihape

Resolution: Carried.

Motion: That the grocery room fee for the coming year remain $10 plus GST per bunk.

Moved: Kevin Mason, **Seconded:** Dale Thompson Levin Waiopehu

Resolution: Carried.

11 Appointment of accounts reviewer

The Treasurer recommended retaining Sue Gwilliam of Safety in Numbers as reviewer for the coming year, noting the quality of her work and the convenience of her online access to the accounts.

Motion: That Sue Gwilliam of Safety in Numbers be retained as accounts reviewer for the coming year.

Moved: Kevin Mason, **Seconded:** Jackie de Heer, Ngauruhoe Ski, **Resolution: Carried**.

12 General business and ownership of poster artwork

In response to a request for the poster artwork, the President advised that a PDF or other full digital version would not be distributed because the artwork represented a substantial RMCA investment and remained an RMCA asset.

13 Priorities for 2027

The President outlined continued collaboration with WHL, DOC and iwi; advocacy for improved Whakapapa Village services and reopening the Tussock Bar; and work to reduce club costs, including electricity, rates, licence fees and insurance. A mountain clean up at King's Birthday weekend and the biennial RMCA forum were planned. Proposed forum topics included the open source website, insurance options, electricity line charges and rates. DOC rent reviews for 2027–2028 and 2028–2029, concession renewals in 2033 and participation in development of the Tongariro National Park management plan were identified as further priorities. RMCA had requested a seat at the table for the management plan process.

14 Final clarification and closure

The RMCA Treasurer Kevin Mason clarified that DOC was required under the licences to commence the license review by 30 September and had issued notice within that timeframe.

The RMCA Chair then formally closed the AGM at 3.15pm**.**