

## Newsletter 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2013

### ATC SnowSports Lodge News

The lodge has been busy in the last few weeks, but not so much with members. Feed back from the last Newsletter was predominantly around members wanting a room reserved for members. This is not really practical, especially when not that many members are using the lodge. If you want to use the lodge for a certain date then book it ahead. We would very much like that most of the lodge use is by members.

This year the lodge is being used by the Air Force for survival training on the first week (weekdays) of the September - October School Holidays ie nights of Mon 30th September to Thursday 3rd October. Detractors of this arrangement need to recognise that the Air Force pays us very well for the use of the Lodge and that the lodge needs to turn over around \$60,000.00 a year to break even. Also note that last year during the October holidays the lodge was not at all full.

Should the Air Force rent the lodge next year, the sub-committee has asked the booking officer, John Dalley, to try and have them stay outside the school holidays.

### In Praise of Whakapapa

The snow on Whakapapa has improved hugely in the last week or two with more snow forecast this week. I have skied at Turoa twice this season and really for me it is not a patch on Whakapapa. I love the interesting nooks and crannies of Whakapapa. There are bowls, chutes, ridges, round the back trails, steep drop offs and then there is 'Black Magic'. Turoa does not have a Broken Leg Gully, it does have a home run though, nearly as good as Whakapapa. The reason I go skiing though is for the views. The fabulous views at Whakapapa, whether from the lodge or from the top of the ski field will give anyone a lift. Stay at the Lodge, ski Whakapapa!

### Over the Mountain Trip

We are still planning a trip over the mountain to Turoa. This will be a tramp / ski trip or a tramp only trip. It is likely to happen at the end of September. It would be good to have a party going each way, one starting from Turoa and another from the Whakapapa side. This would help with transport.

If you are interested in being on this trip, then please register your interest by replying to this email. More information about this in the next newsletter.

Jim Morrow has said that he is willing to lead a trip to the summit, Tahurangi (2797 metres), mid / late November. The last part of the climb to the summit of Tahurangi is technical, so if you do not want to do that part that will be OK. As usual ATC will cater for all levels.

### The ATC Snow Sports Competition

We hope this will happen on the last weekend of the school holidays, Saturday 12th October. Assuming enough interest, I am hoping that our budget will stretch to an instructor to help develop our race technique.

If you would like to take part, please register an interest.

### Food at the Lodge

We have attempted to simplify the food situation at the lodge this season. We want to keep the food simple and plentiful as it has always been, but also consider the logistics of supplying food and then storing food at the mountain. That said, not much has changed with the food situation at the Lodge. We are still supplying fresh vegetables and bread for breakfast.

We would like to avoid supplying lunch food, but are flexible on this issue although it may not be possible during a school holiday period, for example.

We would like to *not* supply fresh milk, though we do supply milk powder. Milk is hard to get to mountain, then bulky to freeze. Milk that has been frozen does not keep well once thawed and is often thrown out. Distressing for the Catering Officer who has got it up there. Milk powder milk is good, contrary to the current brou haha about the stuff. Remember you are on a beautiful mountain, you cannot have everything, and the water there tastes great.

We are not supplying fresh fruit. It has been our experience that much of it is not eaten and is thrown out.

#### Car Pooling

If you want a trip to the mountain, then ask John Dalley if he can note this with other users. It may be possible to share a ride with someone else.

Feed back on any issues regarding ATC SnowSports Lodge is greatly appreciated.

Regards

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