



Auckland Tramping Club & SnowSports Lodge

ATC SnowSports Lodge Newsletter — Early Summer 2013 -2014

Winter

The winter season came with an abrupt and disappointing end with the snow being washed out. Reading the reports you would be forgiven for thinking that Whakapapa had a very poor season, but for me that was not really the case. Good snow was available all over the mountain for much of the season, though temperatures were definitely higher on the lower slopes which meant the snow went off earlier in the day at lower altitudes.

There was, of course, more snow at Turoa - but then you would have to ski over there, not the most attractive prospect.

ATC attended the Ruapehu Mountain Club Association meeting in October. This organisation acts for many of the clubs in matters of insurance, electricity charges, liaising with the R.A.L., operating a food storage facility and generally giving voice to the many issues that clubs have a collective interest in. ATC SnowSports Lodge is part of their insurance scheme. Check their website - <http://rmca.org.nz/>

Whakapapa is to get some new lifts, not this summer but in the 2014/15 summer ready for the following winter.

Have a look at the development plan - <http://www.mtruapehu.com/winter/ral-company/>

Lodge Occupancy.

Occupancy was bolstered substantially again this season by block bookings from the Air Force and Te Puke High School. Some people have been unhappy about this arrangement as they thought it displaced club members. However, both these groups stayed during the week and

rather than the weekend period, and without them we would have ended the season with a hefty loss.

Member occupancy this year has run at about 20% of the total. That is, 80% of the people staying were non members. In the early 1990s the figure was 80% members and 20% non members. This is not really a sustainable situation. For the Lodge's long term there needs to be a tracking back toward the 1990s occupancy profile. More members need to stay in the Lodge more often.

Annual SnowSports Lodge Pass.

It is proposed that ATC has an 'Annual Lodge Pass' for ATC members.
\$200 for Adult members.

\$100 for Junior members.

Stay as many nights as you wish for this price. Food is extra.

Food will be charged at approximately \$10 / person / night.

I think this is a very worthwhile initiative and it further emphasises the great value of a stay at the Lodge.

Catering/ Food.

The food over the winter season went through some changes but essentially stayed the same. Chris Burnett took over as the new Stores and Food Manager. Contact Chris by email burnett@eo.net.nz with feedback, suggestions and advice.

We tried to simplify buying by not catering for lunches and minimising fresh food and veges, though there was still plenty to eat. This initiative caused some confusion, however, so we reverted pretty much to the old system, with just a few changes.

Still good food and great value.

Ten dollars a day. Remarkable.

Keys.

The Club is going to install a combination lock on the main door of the lodge at the next working bee. This will eliminate the need for keys which are a lot of work to keep track of.

Summer.

Over the last summer season for the first time, the total number of summer visitors in the Ruapehu area exceeded those over the winter. This is testament to the number of things that you can do in the park and surrounds during the summer period. Summer is when the Central Plateau flora is at its best, the air is dry and cool and the views at their longest. For me it is the best time to be there. There is something for every level of fitness: base yourself at the Lodge, enjoy the cool, dry atmosphere, great views, fantastic tramps and have a look around. Club trips are planned for an extended Waitangi weekend and Anzac weekend - see the next Wanderlust or our website for details.

Take the whole family and a bunch of friends.

<http://www.visitruapehu.com>

Remember — when leaving the Lodge, the only electrical switch that really needs to be turned off is the big lever on the electrical board by the main door that isolates 'non essential power'.

Regards

Chris Burnett

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