

Otaihape Alpine Club

PO Box 180
Taihape 4742
www.otaihape.org.nz



April/May 2012

After the summer that wasn't, let's hope winter is all that it is expected to be – snowy and cold! Ruapehu has already had a few dustings of snow – while they soon melted, hopefully they are a sign of more to come.



Snow at the Top o' the Bruce in February.

President's piece

Goodbye from Yvonne....(as President)

In line with our recent change of lifestyle, I have stepped down from the presidency and am really pleased to welcome Jude as our new president.

New position holders bring in new energies and skills and I know we are in good hands. We have a great bunch of people in our club committee. Certainly, not only just for me, we are as a family and getting together is such a highlight for me.

I have really enjoyed the experience and benefited from learning much about the management and activities of Ruapehu and the ski fields.

I remain as membership officer and encourage you all to lend a hand where you can and especially look after new members. Our club's history, atmosphere and lack of structure make it unique amongst other clubs.

Have a great season everyone and I hope to catch up with you on the mountain. – Yvonne Holcombe, Immediate Past/Vice President and Membership Officer

Hello from Jude...

I'm honoured to be voted in as President of one of the oldest clubs on Ruapehu.

Yvonne's shoes will be big ones to fill but I am looking forward to the challenge and bedding in some of the improvements Yvonne brought to the club - in particular revamping our webpage and streamlining administration procedures. Yvonne was also instrumental to bring new members to the club who are vital to our future and she will be continuing in that capacity as membership officer.

I'm pleased to welcome Hamish Bell as Club Captain. It's great to have some "young blood" coming through on the committee. Hamish will be organizing the club races, which usually take place in September. The emphasis is on fun and participation and it's a great way to meet other club members. Watch this space!

I'm honoured to be leading the club into its 75th year in 2013. I'm looking for volunteers for an anniversary celebrations sub-committee, so if you are interested in helping with this important event please email me on president@otaihape.org.nz

Look forward to seeing you on 'the hill' this season.

Work party and AGM

This year's work party and AGM took place on the weekend of 31 March/1 April. The minutes of the AGM are attached with this newsletter along with the latest financials.

Yvonne Holcombe has stepped down as President. Judith Hamblyn was voted in as new President.

2011/12 office holders are:

President: Jude Hamblyn
Vice/Immediate Past President: Yvonne Holcombe
Treasurer: Jenny Mower
Club Captain: Hamish Bell
Vice Club Captain: Don Stratton

Secretary: Jon Torgersen
Booking Officers: Alison & Kim Duncan
Membership Officer: Yvonne Holcombe
Maintenance Officer: Neil Ranford
Patron: Johan Bonnevie
Committee: Garry Hawkins, Neil Ranford, Blair Muter,
Philip Oliver, Barry Evans, Geoff Sawyer, Don
Stratton.

Maintenance report

We have spent quite a bit of time and money on maintenance over the past few years to catch up on the jobs that didn't get done while we were paying off the sewerage scheme.

As we have caught up on the backlog of work now, and in consideration of the small financial loss made last year, we decided to go easy on the maintenance spend this year to help us show a profit again. A lot of the work done at this year's work party used labour only or materials purchased last year for work that was not completed.

Geoff carried out further repair work on the leaky lounge window and we also finished the sewer replacement under the building to provide a roding point outside the building for use in case of blockages.

Last year two members donated a bale of pink batts each to increase the insulation in the ceiling. These were spread out and now cover the ladies' toilet and the end bunkroom ceilings. Two more bales have been donated by members this year, which will help keep more heat in the middle bunkroom when they are installed. We could still do with more bales to cover the ceiling in the L shape bunk room and the mens' toilet, so if anyone feels the urge to contribute directly to our energy efficiency drive then the gesture will be much appreciated. You can add this donation when paying your subs.

All the work that has been carried out over the past few years to make the hut more energy efficient is starting to pay off. We used 25% less electricity in 2011 (12,000kWh) than we did in 2008 (16,000kWh). This is reflected in a 10% decrease in our line charges for the coming year.

Last year we put in an application to Pub Charity for funding to replace the old electric stove with a gas hob/oven. As this was unsuccessful we have resubmitted the application again this year. Fingers crossed that we will be successful this time and have a nice new gas stove installed before the winter.

There is a lot of wood and carbonettes in the ceiling which is stored there for using in the kitchen fire. Feel free to light the fire and use some of this up over

winter. The less electricity we use heating the hut, the less we will have to pay in line charges the following year, and the easier it will be to clear the ceiling to install more insulation.

Hut fees and subscriptions

There has been a modest increase to annual subscriptions, maintenance levy and hut fees to cover annual inflation. Subs have gone up \$3 for a single, \$5 a family; hut fees by \$1 for adult members and \$0.50 per night for under 18s. Maintenance levy has gone up by \$5 per year. Invoices for subs will be sent out soon via email or mail for those without email.

Mid-week fees decreased

To increase midweek usage we are trialling a new winter midweek adult fee. Hut fees for adults will be \$20 for members and \$30 for non-members – that's a saving of \$4 and \$8 per night respectively. These rates are available Monday to Thursday nights inclusive; excluded are school holidays, long weekends, public holidays and when used by school groups. Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights at normal rates.

No joining fee!

To attract new members we will continue to offer a "no joining fee special". For more information see the website www.otaihape.org.nz

Join us on Facebook

Otaihape has joined the social networking age with its own [Facebook](#) page. To join, click link above, or search Otaihape Alpine Club on Facebook and become our friend. Look forward to seeing your photos and comments up there.

Auckland University Ski sale

The annual Auckland University Ski and Board Sale is on at the Snow Centre, 19 Mahuru Street, Newmarket, Auckland on 26/27 of May. Ski club members are invited the University Sale VIP Evening 3-9pm Friday 25 May. Ski club members who want to sell second hand gear at the AUSC sale should get it to the Snow Centre no later than 18 May.

The Snow Centre is offering 10% discount on all new, non discounted products and services in either of their two stores (Auckland and Ohakune) throughout the season. For more information contact emma@snowcentre.co.nz

Contributions welcome

Please contact Jude Hamblyn at president@otaihape.org.nz if you'd like to contribute to this newsletter.