



Newsletter

May 2014

WELCOME to the start of winter. Mt Ruapehu has just received its second dusting of snow.

AGM Minutes & financials attached - Please note, the position of Secretary is available. It is time the committee was joined by a few different members. We get together once a year at the AGM and the rest is managed by email. Contact Yvonne 021939003 or email president@otaihape.org.nz

SUBSCRIPTION invoices will be sent out by email shortly

NEW LIFE MEMBERS - CONGRATULATIONS to Kim & Alison Duncan who were surprised at the AGM with Life memberships. Their commitment to the club has been second to none and we are very grateful for their continued support.



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NEWS

Life membership honours stalwarts

By EMILY BEAUMONT
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A Taihape couple have been awarded life memberships to Otaihape Alpine Club despite neither having taken to the slopes in almost 20 years.

Kim and Alison Duncan's relationship with the club dates back decades and for the past 15 years they have dutifully taken bookings for its 20-bunk hut on Whakapapa ski-field.

Their dedication has been recognised with life memberships for the both of them.

"They kept it a secret somehow and kept it quiet because we had no inkling," Alison said. "It's an honour for both of us and a big surprise."

Both were keen skiers before they met, Alison first taking to the slopes in the Austrian Alps. "I wanted to get away from London during the Christmas period so I wasn't lonely.

"I went to Austria and learnt to ski with a whole lot of other Kiwis and Aussies," she said.

Kim's foray into skiing began on Mount Ruapehu and he joined the Otaihape Alpine Club in the 1970s.

In 1987, now married to Kim, Alison joined the club and the two have given up much of their personal time for the club.

"We answer the phone for them every day of the year and have done for 15 years."

But it's been many years since they actually skied at Ruapehu.

One of the last times was when their son Richard, now 22, whizzed down the slopes between their legs as a 4-year-old.

Losing all their ski equipment in a house fire in 2000 put paid to any plans to revisit the pastime as "there were other things we needed to replace".

"We stay involved because we want the club to continue in Taihape and we want the club to remain successful," Kim, who enjoys the small, family feel of the 75-year-old club, said.

"It's definitely a family-orientated club and we want to keep it affordable so New Zealand families can still go skiing," she said.

The club suffered a drop in membership after the opening of Turoa in 1978 when locals opted for the nearer ski-field.

Presently about 20 families hold memberships, as well as many individuals, and the club can rely on the Duncans' support for some time yet.

"We need to keep it going. I don't think we'll be giving it up soon."

Into the white: The stunning location of the Otaihape Alpine Club's hut on Whakapapa ski field.

Devoted: Kim and Alison Duncan have given much of their spare time to the wellbeing of the Otaihape Alpine Club and have now been recognised with life memberships.

NEW MEMBERS - Welcome Tisch Family who have stayed previously and now joined.

WORKING BEE – some of the jobs completed - New exterior gas bottle box built, interior of building wired for electricity load shifting, snow boards on roof removed, repainted & replaced with new bolts & new silicone for extra waterproofing, general cleaning & painting.

A couple of weekends ago, it was nice of Iwikau Ski Club members to help Neil, Lorraine & Yvonne remove the old windows outside to be weighed first, then strapped up ready for flying out by helicopter.



We also took the opportunity on that day to bring out the couch from the end bunkroom.

TWO NEW SNOWBOARD TROPHIES Snowboarders are now catered for on Club Race Day.



Ashton Dempsey and Jos McKenzie donated the Adult trophy and will no doubt be competing between themselves to be first winner. Shea Holcombe won the junior boarder last year so Yvonne and Paul donated the junior trophy. Boarders compete on the same slalom course as skiers and winner is fastest over 3 runs.