

Hello everyone

Welcome to the 2015 /16 ski season.

At last count we had 38 participants signed up with deposit paid for the ski weeks! Such an efficient start and with this significant number booked so early; a testament to the efficiency, drive and enthusiasm of the committee in recent years led by Janine Rauber as President. This success is further quantified by a positive bank balance of \$36,000. Janine's retirement has not been an easy decision as her drive and enthusiasm has always conquered any obstacles in the past, but she has at last recognised that self is first! I wish her well as she re-adjusts to her new "norm."

At our first committee meeting since the AGM we welcomed the new office bearers as well as defining their roles. We must never forget that the office bearers and committee give up their time for the club and without them the club cannot function. Our committee is similar to a board of directors, where diversity is essential to sound decision-making as the club progresses into the 21st century.

The focus each year are the two weeks of the NZ Ski schools program, where individuals from across Southland from any school can participate. The club exists as a result of this youth participation but we must also be mindful of threading this period of their lives into later adulthood, where they themselves may have children participating in the program. The uniqueness of this situation is the result of the most beautiful scenery in the world, the cabin environment on the mountain and the skills learned over an intensive 5 days!

The responsibility taken by the club and the hut custodians and Hut parents for each week has never been underestimated. I have often likened the ski weeks to a social experiment with the youth and parents integrating with each other for five full-on days!

This short term camaraderie is a consequence of a lot of hard work from everyone involved at every level essentially demanding respect of each other with a passion of creating enjoyment for all involved on the mountain. As the incoming president I would like to take up the challenge of trying to nurture this camaraderie beyond just this one week, be it promoting participation at the committee level throughout the year as well as some thoughts as to how we can function outside of these two weeks in a similar manner.

Hut maintenance and capital which the club will require over the next 3 to 5 years is continually been discussed by the committee. Currently we are looking at the use of gas to heat water.

In the past the equipment/materials and labour have often been supplied at tremendously discounted rates by a few local supportive companies whose ongoing help is invaluable. So; whilst at risk of forgetting someone, I think a reminder for all of us to support these businesses as they have supported us is only right!

These being:

- Winton Resene Colour Shop - Julie and Kevin Dyer
- Phil Stirling Building Ltd, Winton - Phil & Karne Stirling

- Millars Plumbing, Otautau - Graham and Debbie Millar
- B J Carter Ltd (Builders), Waianiwa – James & Nicole Carter

Over the last 15 years the committee has done well to remember the past as well as looking forward with the dynamic requirements of 21st century society. This must continue.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and I look forward to meeting you and your children on the mountain over the next few years. I would also welcome any feedback as it is your voice that decides the future.

Gordon Platfoot

President Southland Ski Club