



**canterbury snowsports association (inc)**

NEWSLETTER

August 2010

Prepared by Jane Clifford

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*Robin our President using his trusty all terrain vehicle.*

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## WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

The season started with a very successful CSA Ski Sale and Snow Show run by Hanmer Springs Ski Club. There were over 5,000 visitors. For a while on Sunday Morning it was a bit like being in the London Underground during rush hour.

This year at the Show, for the first time, we had a -

- (a) CSA Brochure;
- (b) CSA Stand.

The CSA stand was manned by my son and me. Our main emphasis was in introducing the CSA website ([www.skisouth.org.nz](http://www.skisouth.org.nz)) and showing people how to surf the different club and club ski areas. To demonstrate we had a lap top set up and linked to wireless Internet. This year Jane, our Executive Officer, had arranged for wireless Internet to be available for all exhibitors.

Later I manned a CSA stand at Lincoln University Club Day. I was surprised by the number of exchange students that I met and the concept of Ski Clubs and Club Ski Areas was quite novel to them. Again I had wireless Internet connection and was able to show them how to surf the club sites and I stressed, as part of their New Zealand experience, they should try and visit some of the Canterbury Club Ski Areas.

Since taking up the position of President I have been endeavouring to visit every Club Ski Area in Canterbury. I now have only three left to visit. One of the things that has impressed me is the uniqueness of each one of our Club Ski Areas. It has also been great to see so many young people up on our Club Ski Areas. To support these young people and encourage their enjoyment we have re-instigated the "Junior Development Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee is actively working at improving communications between member clubs in order to facilitated inter-club competitions between skiers and snowboarders and the possibility of re-introducing the "ski camp" (including snowboarders) for elected juniors from each club. The current thinking is the possibility of running three weekend camps on three different Club Ski Areas and I hope that member clubs will be able to give the subcommittee full support in this initiative.

As part of our constitution CSA is responsible for the Canterbury Champs. Authorisation was given to Mount Hutt Ski Club to host the Champs on our behalf. Unfortunately last season Mount Hutt was unable to host a separate venue for the Canterbury Champs so they were run in conjunction with the South Island Champs. So far, after persistent inquiry we have still been unable to obtain any official results for the Canterbury Champs so we are now looking at the hosting of the Canterbury Champs at another Ski Area.

Finally, one of the main roles of CSA is the effective marketing of the Canterbury Ski Clubs and Club Ski Areas. Currently our main marketing strategies are the—

- (a) CSA Ski Sale and Snow Show.
- (b) CSA Snow phone.
- (c) CSA Website.

The CSA Ski Sale and Snow Show is over for this year, however the CSA Snow phone is in full swing and we are getting fantastic coverage for the Club Ski Areas in the radio promotion. We have also been distributing laminated copies of the Snow phone codes to a number of commercial ski and snowboard outlets. However it is important that we back this up by getting the message across:

"For an exciting alternative  
visit CSA on  
[www.skisouth.org.nz](http://www.skisouth.org.nz)  
and Surf the

Ski Clubs and Ski Areas of Canterbury."

## INDUSTRY NEWS – SAANZ

### SAANZ CONFERENCE 2010

Monday 1 –  
Wednesday 3  
November 2010.  
Mt Ruapehu

#### Ski Area Management Safety Strategy (SAMSS)

Here is the executive summary from the proposal by Steve Schriber who has been commissioned by SAANZ to facilitate the update. The full proposal and other communications are available to club members with a remit or interest in this process as it develops.

“Health & Safety requirements have become increasingly significant to adventure tourism operators since the review of Guidelines for a Ski Area Management Safety Strategy produced by SAANZ and the New Zealand Mountain Safety Council, Inc. After discussion at the 2009 meeting SAANZ has asked for a proposal to update the document to reflect:

Current best practice

Changes in legal requirements

Areas that require development of standards or codes of practice

Operational differences between large and small commercial operations and/or clubs

A staged approach, i.e. priorities for 2010; recommendations for updates annually

Publication on a website or cd,

Cost efficiency

This proposal is structured to identify the needs for the update; a time plan for work to be undertaken; and a budget for the project through 2010.”

**Ben Saville will be representing the Club Ski Areas** on the working group. All consultation and updates will be communicated to those people who clubs have requested to be on this mailing list and involved in this process. I am still awaiting a few clubs to give me names for the mailing list for these updates. Also if anyone has a burning desire to accompany Ben on this working party, please let me know. Ben and myself will communicate all developments as they occur.

#### Code of Practice for Explosives Use

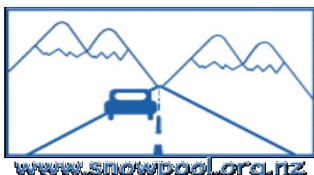
At the October 2009 meeting the Snow Safety Directors recommended to SAANZ that a specific code of practice be developed for Explosives before next winter (2010). At the November meeting SAANZ agreed to proceed with this initiative and fund it in 2010.

Update – Progress has been steady and an explosives safety industry expert (STR8 2U Systems & Solutions) has been engaged to bring the current Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) up to a standard that is required before development of the Code of Practice. Considerable work is required in respect of the SOP's to bring them up to an acceptable standard.

The new SOP's will form the basis of not only the operational details of explosive use but also provide a training document to be used with new and existing staff within an industry driven training scheme. This shift in focus will put the timeline of having a draft Code of Practice developed back by at least 12 months. Submitting the SOP's now would fail to meet DOL and ERMA requirements.

The financial commitment by SAANZ members for this initiative in 2010 is \$16,530.

[CSA is currently applying for a grant from a pub charity to meet the costs of Club Ski Area participation in the above two projects]



## Economic Impact Survey

SAANZ is investigating potential funders such as Regional Tourism Organisations who may help fund economic Impact studies for the regions. Members supported this type of work to be undertaken due to the benefits reports such as these provide members' when planning future developments and investment, resource consent applications, joint marketing campaigns (national and regional), local and central government advocacy and business case development

The proposals from providers of these studies were discussed, and members agreed to develop the NZTRI's proposal supporting the concept that this organisation has completed three studies in the past on behalf of SAANZ and members. The next SAANZ meeting will update on progress with funding for this project. at other skifield.

## NID National Incident data base -Loading Incident forms online

At the SAANZ Safety meeting in March this year it was reported that most Club Ski Areas are not using the Mountain safety Council's NID to load their incident forms. Annie Dignan from Mountain Safety sent the following information for me to pass to Club Ski Areas.

*"There are a number of incentives as to why Ski Areas would enter their data.*

- \* *They can track and report upon their incidents and begin to understand any trends etc*
- \* *It is a part of their wider obligation as part of the ski field fraternity*
- \* *They are required by HSE act to take all practical steps to avoid incidents – not having a system for understanding what is going on would not be defensible. And just because they can see, or talk about every incident during a season this does not give them an understanding of what is going on, as they are not able to share this amongst other workers/volunteers etc.*
- \* *This system will enable them to gather long term incident data*
- \* *Safety campaigns, preventive messaging and staff/volunteer training can be targeted at where the incidents are occurring.*
- \* *Unsafe features/obstacles can be identified.*
- \* *Their incident data can be compared against the national data and provide a benchmark."*

Below are links to the NID site and to last year's public report. I have been working with Ski areas individually to discuss their use of the Database.

The feeling at the Safety meeting comprising reps from all the commercial Ski Areas, was that it would be good for Club Ski Areas to be participating as a National Standard. At our last CSA meeting we felt we should be looking at participating in this as it is a proactive safety measure, but we may want to consider a combined log-in for Club data in the future.

**Please pass your thoughts on this back to me or your CSA rep for our next meeting.**

Pete Wakefield and myself were present on the Safety Committee, please let me know if you would like to discuss with Pete or myself. Annie at Mountain safety is also happy to talk to Clubs about the use of this site. (see her details above, right)

For the Mountain Safety incident reporting (IPP) logon page [click here](#)  
Here is 2009 Ski Area report <http://www.incidentreport.org.nz/reports.php>  
As far as I am aware any future Public report will be Club & Commercial areas combined.

### Annie Dignan

Programme Manager  
Research & Evaluation  
Mountain Safety Council

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[www.snowpool.org.nz](http://www.snowpool.org.nz)

## OTHER INDUSTRY NEWS

### **Kathryn Russell**

Health Protection Officer,  
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Community and Public  
Health  
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### **Drinking water samples** (email from Kathryn Russell)

If any field within the Canterbury / South Canterbury might be interested in having me visit to run a workshop, let me know. I would be able to take a sample and arrange for it to be sent to ESR laboratory for analysis.

It would probably take around 10 – 15 minutes to do the workshop showing how to take a drinking water sample and complete associated paperwork etc.

Please invite any fields that might be interested to contact me to arrange a date and time (my contact details are below).

Kind regards

Kathryn

*(Kathryn would need transport)*

### **ACC resources**

I can arrange these from Ceri at ACC if you require:

Smart Tips

Snow responsibility code posters

## MARKETING

We have been using email, twitter and facebook to promote our member clubs ' Ski Areas and club lodges.

### **Here is the twitter link**

<http://twitter.com/skicanterbury>

**Click below for the latest update we are emailing to or database and have online on our website [www.skisouth.org.nz](http://www.skisouth.org.nz)**

[Latest update](#)

**Our facebook page is “Canterbury Club Ski Areas”**

### **Christchurch and Canterbury Tourism (CCT)**

Don't forget to encourage your ski visitors to post recommendations and photos on our website page. CCT is working as a true marketing partner this year, promoting the uniqueness and variety of our Ski Areas.

Our [Christchurch & Canterbury Tourism webpage](#)



## PROFILE OF ONE OF OUR MEMBERS **TEKAPO SKI CLUB**

The Tekapo Ski Club Inc. held its annual Fun Day and Ski Races at the Roundhill Ski Area near Lake Tekapo on Saturday 10 July 2010. There was a free sausage sizzle, mulled wine and loads of fun at the races. Nearly 60 members took part in this activity, either helping out at the event or taking part in the races. In addition, several non-members took part in the races. We would like to extend our thanks to the Roundhill Ski Area for their support and help in organising this fun day.

The Tekapo Ski Club (TSC) will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2011. TSC was founded on 25 May 1961 to bring together skiing enthusiasts from within the wider Lake Tekapo community. Previously, a group of McKenzie Young Farmers had assessed snow conditions in the area, safety, access and run-holder co-operation, with a view to establish a ski field. Roundhill was eventually chosen as the best site, and a road was built in 1961 with generous support from the local land owners. The club built an A-frame hut for accommodation on the slopes in 1967, again with money raised locally, donated material, borrowed equipment and many hours of volunteer effort.

The club sold the ski field to the owner of Richmond Station Don Waters in late 1960s, who in turn sold the station to Karl and Audrey Burtscher in mid 1970s. They further developed the field and it became a very popular commercial venture with much improved runs and facilities. The Club "A" frame, however, remained and was often filled to overflowing. The membership grew, largely with local and wider Canterbury skiers. Numerous children from the Timaru and Christchurch areas signed up for the famous ski weeks in the school holidays. Hundreds were taught to ski and joined in the fun days and Club races, some going on to become instructors and many returning now with their children.

In 1986 the "A" frame was completely destroyed in an avalanche. DOC rules prevented rebuilding at this site and to take up insurance money, it was decided to build again. The 36-bed Albert Town Lodge was opened in the Wanaka area for the 1992 ski season. In 2001 Roundhill Ski Area, the home of Tekapo Ski Club reopened with new runs, numerous snow makers and enthusiasm from the next generation of the Burtscher family running the field. Club members have re-joined and come back to ski in large numbers and we now have third generation skiers of the founding member families, as well as new families, enjoying the relaxed family-oriented atmosphere of Roundhill Ski Area. The Tekapo Ski Club is now actively pursuing to re-establish itself at the Tekapo area.

We would love to hear from past members or those who had an association with club to contribute memories, photos etc for our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

Suvi Viljanen-Rollinson  
Secretary

Tekapo Ski Club Inc.  
[secretary@tekaposkiclub.com](mailto:secretary@tekaposkiclub.com)



*Fun Day and Ski Races held at Roundhill Ski Area on 10 July 2010*

## SKI SALE 2010

It was Hanmer Springs (Amuri) Ski Club's turn to run the event this year.

We had around 5000 visitors, a record number for the 6 years I have been involved in the event. Retailers exhibiting at the event reported significant increases in sales on both days, some 40% up.

Interest in Clubs and Club Ski Areas was good with lift passes available at 'Show special' rates.

It was good to see the big crowds at the event despite the recession.

Around \$30,000 was fund raised from the event. Thank you to all those that volunteered your time. I hope you are taking advantage of your vouchers for Hanmer Ski Area...they have been having good snow.

It is usually an enjoyable weekend for Volunteers and for the Clubbies working the Club Stands. I hear Clubbies tell me there are few opportunities for members of different clubs to be in one place at the same time to chew the fat, and see what each other is up to. Everyone is pretty busy these days, that goes without saying.

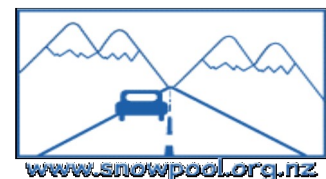
Next year it is the turn of Tekapo Ski Club. They were on board this year learning the ropes and are looking forward to next year's event going as smoothly.

Thankyou to our sponsors Pakworld for printing, Wayne Saville for Shipping containers, Radio Network (ZM), Telecom Teamtalk for radios, and to suppliers discounting for our event, Brazier Scaffolding, Events NZ for Panels and Fahey Fencing.

### SKI SALE PICS



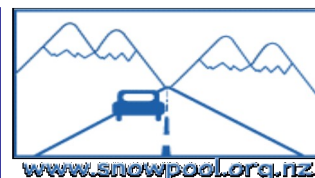
Photos courtesy of David  
Scott snow.co.nz



## Club Skiers Café Hour Ned's Café SPRINGFIELD

Come along between 4-6pm, the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, and get to meet other 'clubbies' from Olympus, Cheeseman, Broken River, Temple Basin, and Craigieburn!

(Bring your membership card for a bit of a discount on the food and coffee!)



## YOUTH DEVELOPMENT / RACING SUB COMMITTEE

This year we resurrected our committee of the above name.

Thanks to Roz Service (Cheeseman), Andrea Murray (Temple Basin & Olympus) and Kate Askew (Broken River) for their commitment to this. The first flurry of meetings earlier this season has demonstrated that the needs and wants of our Members in the area of Youth development are variable. There is agreement that we need to have an interclub competition and interclub activities again. We would also like to make use of any opportunities of coaching support from Snow Sports New Zealand, and we are looking into this.

The Sub -committee have asked me to conduct a survey of members to help them with future planning.

Calling all our Ski Clubs and members!

We would appreciate your participation in the....

**[Youth Development Survey click here](#)**

Please click above to complete

If you would like to talk to a member of the sub committee please let me know and I will put you in touch with them.



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