

Wanaka Snowsports Club Presidents Report 2023.

What an exciting year for Snowsports and such a privilege to be involved.

The club has changed its financial year. Reporting is now 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023. This year we had over 550 members comprising 72 Single memberships and over 160 family memberships.

Thank you to Cardrona /Treble Cone for supplying great membership benefits. Included in the benefits were discounted Ski Improvement classes and Master's training at Cardrona and Treble Cone. On Saturdays Cardrona held an on piste improvement/confidence building and an on-piste technique, preparing participants for Treble Cone . On Wednesdays and Saturdays Treble Cone held advanced piste skill development and advanced off -piste terrain explore programs. Masters training was supplied by Wanaka Ski Team coaches leading up to the NZ Masters races. These were the initiative of Bonny Teat who worked with the mountains and the members to help put the groups together. Everyone I talked to had an absolute blast and was thrilled with their technical improvements and meeting new ski mates.

Grants and Grassroots

We have a committee of 4 who represent Grants and Grassroots. They give recommendations to the Executive Committee. Bonny makes our life very easy as she tirelessly communicates with all 38 Northern Hemisphere and 53 Grassroots recipients. The athlete reports are then shared by our social media gem, Kim Anderson. I hope you've all enjoyed the newsletters and media posts keeping us all up to date with our athlete's highs and lows.

The Club gave out over \$45,000 in Grants this year to help our member athletes with their training costs.

We were delighted to have our member athletes achieve recognition at the 2022 Central Otago and Otago Sports Awards and to have Gustav Legnavsky recognised as the Emerging Talent in the 2023 Halberg Awards. It is particularly pleasing to see many of our previous grant recipients are now employed as coaches which demonstrates snow sports passion can lead into a career pathway.

We congratulate our 2022-23 Nth Hemisphere Grants recipients, members and coaches who have achieved outstanding results.

Events

We had a fantastic events committee this year lead by Lucy Weatherall.

The events season started out in late May with a gear sale at the Presbyterian Church Hall. A gold coin donation for entry and a small fee for selling your items. Huge success,

especially the kids gear which sold out first. A huge thank you to Claire Arkell who leads the charge on this, with her team of helpers.

Welcome to Winter/ Grassroots Presentation night was held mid-June at Apres. Our older athletes presented the Grassroots certificates followed by pizza and chips for the recipients and the favourite for the night for the young athletes, gelato ice cream donated by Black Peak. Athlete videos ran throughout the night. After a brief presentation from the retailers that support the club and RealNZ we retreated out of the cold for a fireside chat with some of our NH Grant recipients.

Race Yr Mate was held early July on All Nations at Cardrona. Always a fun event with lots of banter between family and mates and many people trying a race for the first time.

Probably my favourite event was an epic BBQ held at in the Water sports building, held at the end of July. Great turn out with a strong club spirit. Tom Willmott welcomed everyone and made our members feel at ease and a quick fun game giving everyone the opportunity to get to know each other.

Mid August was the clubs 80's Party at the Taproom, B Social. Great music, great costumes, great company and some of us had far too much fun.

Thank you to Lucy Weatherall and Rod Grant for leading the organisation of those.

The final event was Snowmelt held at the end of October. Last minute venue change to Hello Ranger, which gave the evening a more relaxed approach. The main aim for this event was to raise money for our grants pool. There were Raffle tickets, Online Auction, Live Auction, thanks to Duncan Good, auctioneer from Ray White for working the room. A Huge success with over \$27,000 raised for the grants pool. Thank you to Matt Laming and the Dropping Inn Group for the fantastic venue. And to all the sponsors and the people that rocked up to support this event. Great work from Juliette Richards and her dedicated team.

Friday night drinks at Apres were well attended throughout the season and a chance for the newer out of town members to form club connections.

WSC/MAC Academy

We are very excited for this coming year with the implementation of WSC/MAC academy. Thanks to the initiative of Toby and Lani Arnott. Keeping the balance between Academic and Athletic. This academy will run after training for the WSC athletes who are enrolled in full time Alpine, Park & Pipe and Freeride programs at Cardrona and Treble Cone. There has already been a huge expression of interest.

Race Organising Committee (ROC)

Congratulations to our ROC for another successful season.

1,925 athlete starts, approximately 1,080 volunteer hours on snow and over 200 hours off snow. The ROC ran the Cardrona and Treble Cone Interfields for U8-U16 athletes, the FIS Tech Series and FIS Para National Championships, Mike Greer Homes Upper Clutha Primary and Intermediate Schools race for 262 enthusiastic young athletes and the biggest Snowsports event for the year in NZ and the last races of the season, the Alpine Youth National Champs. These were all held at Cardrona apart from the TC Interfield .

The ROC would like to thank the club's Alpine sponsors Mike Greer Homes and Body fit for their ongoing support, Robyn Millar our coordinator for the schools race, our TD's , referees, timers, coaches, athletes and the ongoing support from Snowsports NZ.

As always a special thank you to all of our volunteers, without you none of these events would happen.

Caterer extraordinaire Lucy Weatherall , Chair of our Events Committee and Executive Committee member has resigned. Lucy, thank you for your dedication and support. Big shoes to fill. Thrilled your business has picked up again after COVID but our loss. We'll miss you and your thorough organisational skills, but we look forward to seeing you on the mountains.

Will Radford resigned from the Committee halfway through the season because of time limitations. Will was Bonny's backup IT guy for Grassroots 22. He set up systems for Grassroots applications and created each individual recipients notes for our MC Tom Willmott for our Grassroots evening. He also organised the online Travel Fund applications. Will's enthusiasm is infectious and we do hope to have him back when his time allows.

And last, but not least, thank you to our Executive Committee, Karen Melville Ives, Rod Grant, Bonny Teat, Lucy Weatherall, Joanne Watterson, Grant Winsloe and Tom Willmott, for all your enthusiasm, hard work and ongoing support.

All the best everyone for 2023.

Flick Wallace, President.