

Wanaka Snowsports Club Presidents Report 2024.

2023 was another exciting year for Snowsports and such a privilege once again to be involved.

This year we had 440 members which was a much more manageable number for our volunteer team to facilitate.

Thank you to Cardrona /Treble Cone for supplying great membership benefits. Included in the benefits were discounted Ski Improvement classes at Treble Cone. Thank you to Bonny who worked with Rach and Cardrona /TC Snowsports school and our members to help put this together. Our ski improvement format for 2024 has changed slightly but it looks like another amazing opportunity for our members. Watch this space.

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 36 Northern Hemisphere and 25 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 \$48,000 in Grants this year to help our member athletes with their training costs.

The club has distributed in excess of \$125,000 to primary school aged children through the Grassroots Program alone since the program was initiated with 5 children in 2013.

We were delighted to have our member athletes achieve recognition at the 2023 Central Otago Awards and to have Lucia Georgalli recognised as the Emerging Talent in the 2024 Halberg Awards. It is particularly pleasing to see many of our previous grant recipients are now employed as coaches in their chosen disciplines which demonstrates how snow sports passion can lead into a career pathway.

We congratulate our 2023-24 Nth Hemisphere Grants recipients, members and coaches who have achieved outstanding results at the Youth Olympic Games, on the Freeride World Tour, and Freeride World Tour qualifiers, World Cups, Europa Cups, Far East Cup, FIS races and FIS International Children's Races and the list goes on. It is wonderful seeing Wanaka, New Zealand on the map for Snowsports.

Events

We had a fantastic team this year who took ownership of their own events rather than having an Events Committee. The Executive Committee felt this was a very successful way to enable us to plan for a club event each month.

The events season started out in late May with a Gear Sale at the Presbyterian Church Hall. A huge thank you to Claire Arkell who leads the charge on this event, and to her wonderful team of parent and athlete helpers.

With a gold coin donation for entry and a small fee for selling items it gave families a chance to grab fantastic deals on quality recycled Snowsports gear.

It was a huge success, especially the kids gear which sells out first.

Our WSC Winter Warmup Welcome held mid-June at Apres was well attended with a very informative Avalanche education hour. Our older Northern Hemisphere athletes spoke wonderfully about their experiences. This is a valuable public speaking opportunity for our athletes.

Our WSC Grassroots recipients awards evening was also at Apres. Past Grassroots members were interviewed and their footage on the big screen. The evening is always a highlight with pizza and chips for the recipients and their favourite gelato ice cream donated by Black Peak. Athlete videos ran throughout both events. Thanks to Joanne Watterson and her daughter Mathilda for putting all the athletes' videos on Canva and showing it for their presentations. Thanks also to our knowledgeable MCs and interviewers Tom Willmott and Ed Leigh.

Our annual family BBQ was held at in the Watersports building at the end of July. It was a great turn out with a strong club and community spirit. Thanks to Lucy Weatherall for leading the charge with her great team of parent helpers.

Caitlyn Harvey and Anna Speedy took ownership of the movie night in late August. PJ's were the dress theme, pizza's, chips, lollies and raffles made it fun. The children loved "Eddie the Eagle" at Rubys. What more can a child ask for on a winter's Sunday night. The parents and older family members remained around the Apres fire with Northern Hemisphere Grants athlete Craig Murray and enjoyed his inspirational film presentation and chat.

2023's final event "Snowmelt" was held in late October at Hello Ranger. The main aim for this event was to support our rising stars and raise money for our Northern Hemisphere grants pool. There were Raffle tickets, an Online Auction plus a Live Auction. It was a great success with over \$15,000 raised.

Special thanks to Matt Laming and the Dropping Inn Group for the fantastic venue. Thanks to all the donor sponsors and the people that rocked up to support this live event. Thank you to Juliette Richards, Karen Melville Ives and their dedicated team who organized Snowmelt 2023.

Friday night drinks at Apres were well attended earlier in the season and they give a chance for the newer /out of town members to form club connections. Athletes were invited to mix and mingle on these Fridays as an opportunity to share what they were striving towards.

WSC/MAC Academy

2023 was the inaugural year for WSC/MAC academy with a goal of maintaining the balance between Academic and Athletic learning. The Mount Aspiring College Academy provided academic assistance at the college after their mountain training for WSC athletes who were in fulltime Alpine, Park and Pipe and Freeride programs at Cardrona/Treble Cone. There are always teething problems with new ventures, but we've heard some positive feedback and have already received a lot of enquiries for this year. Grateful thanks to the initiative of members Toby and Lani Arnott for initiating this opportunity and a huge thanks to Southern Land for their MAC Academy Sponsorship.

Race Organising Committee (ROC)

Congratulations to our ROC for another successful season. The ROC put in long hours and early mornings to make this happen once again with over 1,000 volunteer hours on snow and approximately 200 hours off snow for the ROC and helpers.

The ROC started with Race Yr Mate which was used as a training day with 70 starts through a fun course on All Nations early July. It is always a fun event with lots of banter between family and mates and many people experimenting with racing in gates for the first time. Cardrona Interfield was the first formal event for 137 participants, followed by Treble Cone Interfield for 89. Both days we enjoyed fun, sun, music and bbqs for the younger athlete participants.

There were 4 days of races for FIS Tech Series at Cardrona, 2 days of FIS National Junior Champs at Cardrona and the Mike Greer Homes Upper Clutha Primary and Intermediate Schools race for 185 enthusiastic young athletes.

One highlight for the ROC was in mid August when they traveled up to Tekapo to help run the National Points SL race at Dobson.

It was an honor for the ROC to run the Thai National Championships SL race at Cardrona. 31 Women and 76 Men, 30+ Europa Cup Athletes from 29 Nations. Thank you to Thailand Ski and Snowboard for this opportunity.

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

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

And last, but not least, thank you to our Executive Committee Members. To Rod Grant who has resigned as treasurer from the Executive Committee but will stay with us as our financial reviewer, Karen Melville Ives, Bonny Teat, Joanne Watterson, Grant Winsloe, Tom Willmott and Robbie Bryant for all your enthusiasm, hard work and ongoing support.

All the best everyone for 2024.

Flick Wallace, President.

