

May
2018

cheeseman CHAT



Winner
Ski Area
Service Award

2007, 2008
& 2010

AND 2011



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FROM THE PRESIDENT



A few months have passed since our last Cheeseman Chat but we haven't been sitting still! The last time I wrote we were just getting into the swing of springtime, so I trust everyone had an enjoyable summer period but with the days growing ever shorter the depths of

winter is looming! For some, winter is not an especially enjoyable time of year but for all the skiers and boarders out there it can't come quick enough!! Well not long to go now – opening day is locked for Saturday 7 July, so the countdown is very much all go. There has been a couple of reasonable storms that have passed through in recent weeks and deposited some snow on the hill – this has got some enthusiasm going but in other ways has hampered the finishing stages of some projects. As I sit here today looking out the Snowline office window it's a very summery looking scene again with only a few small patches of snow on skiers right of the Ridge T Bar, I'm sure that

will all change again very soon though!

It's been a busy summer / autumn so far and the major projects are nearly all wrapped up. We have carried on with one of the final stages of the diesel tank project which involved removal of the 2 bulk supply tanks at the workshop. This was followed by a heap of site work and then the subsequent installation of a new 4800 litre tank on this site along with another 4800 litre tank to the south side of the snowline containers that will be the filling point for the groomer fleet. The final stage next summer will be the installation of another 4800 tank at Forest Lodge which will see all our obligations in this area met. See pages 4-6 for photos.

Along with the tanks we have installed a new haul rope on the Main T Bar to replace the 39 season veteran haul rope! This again was a substantial project and gave us a few headaches along the way with weather, equipment issues and re-tensioning the new rope. However, with both these projects nearly behind us we can look back on a job well-done that should see good service for many years to come.

The AGM was held on Monday 19 March and was a straightforward meeting with just enough members present to meet the minimum quorum number. At the meeting we reviewed the Annual report and accounts, adopted a new membership category to meet operational requirements and farewelled Dean Johnston & Sue Alexander who both stepped down from the Management Committee after many years of service. At last year's AGM Rob Gibson agreed to one more year in the patron's role and after 15 years of

continual service as the Club's Patron Rob has retired from the position. Unfortunately, his health has deteriorated in recent months, so our thoughts are with both Rob and Anne. Thank you Rob for the tremendous work over such a long period – words can't express our gratitude!

The Committee then had the tricky task of replacing Rob and worked hard in search of a new Patron. After shortlisting, Dave Hinman was approached and subsequently recommended to the AGM for voting in as the new Club Patron which duly happened. Dave has been an active member of the club since the early 1980s and has served on the Committee, which included a stint as President from 2001 – 2004, and he is a Life Member. We have no doubt Dave will make an excellent Patron and we look forward to Dave's continued support and enthusiasm for the Club for many years to come.

2019 will be our 90th year of operation and the Committee has agreed that this occasion should be celebrated. The subject was touched on at the AGM with the plan to establish a small working group to get planning underway. We would like to hear from anyone who would be interested in helping with this project – see more elsewhere in Chat. The club celebrated its 75 Anniversary back in 2004 and this was a great event held over 2 nights in Christchurch and a mountain visit for those who hadn't been to the hill for a while.

Staff recruitment has been underway since the New Year commenced and is now well advanced with only a couple of positions left to finalise. Brad is returning again to head up the team along with a number of new familiar faces. This year we have a new recruit in the form of a furry 4 legged helper – Rossco the avalanche dog (in training) will be on the hill under the watchful eye of owner and trainer Cait. I'm pretty sure we'll be able to claim this is the first Avalanche dog to be based in the Craigieburn Range!

Workparties have been chugging away over the last 3 months and have included building, culverts/road potholing, building, lodges, firewood, mechanical, Terrain Park, cushion sewing etc. Some great progress has been made on various projects but time has now just about run out to meet your two day requirement.

We will get the weekly E-News fired up again once the season gets closer and some more update posts on Facebook will start occurring too. The webcams are getting sorted at present with a new camera to be installed on the Daylodge which will replace a very old unit there that belongs to a third party. Lunch Rock webcam is operating a couple of times a day at present and we should have that updating more regularly within the next fortnight. We are hoping to have a second webcam installed at Lunch Rock, via an outside provider, that will look down to the base area and over to the Torlesse Range – watch this space.

That's enough from me – enjoy the read and we'll be back in touch soon.

Cheers Cam

THE FUTURE OF CHAT?

Our last published Chat (October-November 2017) raised the issue of its already reduced frequency and indicating that due to an apparent lack of interest in anyone taking over as editor the options would seem to be *“either to cease publication entirely or to further reduce frequency to say, three issues per year. These might be for example - pre- season, mid-season and post-season, focussing on recording what the club has been doing and a longer view of times ahead and relying on our other media for more immediate messaging, advertising upcoming events etc. Your present editor could manage this reduced role for a while longer. We would be interested in hearing members' views on this (plus any offers of assistance), between now and the AGM next March.!”* No such offers have been made and your present editor who in his new role as Patron shall (in terms of the Constitution) “not have any duties” will endeavour to produce three issues per year, of which this is the first for 2018. Such production is of course dependent on others also providing reports and photographs and my thanks to Cam and others for doing so this time.

Enjoy our “pre-season” edition, which largely focuses on the work parties and other achievements over the summer period.

Cheers Dave

Shirley Nichols



Shirley Nichols sadly passed away on the 5th February 2018 in her 91st year. Ed and Shirl have been Cheeseman members since 1949 and active in the club for many years as their five children all grew up, becoming good skiers. Shirl was frequently Hutt Mum and in her typical organising way ran a tight ship. Ed and Shirl spent a great deal of their time building and developing the ice skating rink and hut. Ed was an accomplished skater and they loved the fun and companionship around the fire on the edge of the rink.]

Shirl and Ed led a full and active life. Together they had many sailing adventures on "Solveig" even though Shirl was prone to sea sickness.

I first met Ed and Shirl through Skiing for the Disabled and feel privileged to have a continuing strong friendship. They lived their later years at Wainui, with a "bach" in Christchurch. Shirl led a busy life involved in a wide variety of clubs and groups as well as regularly attending the Wainui Church.

Shirl loved people and built strong friendships. She spent a great deal of time with her family, five children, 15 grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren. Shirl was loving, caring and forthright. I will miss her optimism and energy.

The donation of their family piano, offered by Shirley in 2016 and now in Snowline and ready to be played this coming season will be a lasting memorial to her and the family's long association with the Club .

Ros Service

90th ANNIVERSARY NEXT YEAR!

Hard to believe that it's almost 15 years since our very successful 75th Anniversary celebrations in 2004. And next year the Club will be 90. While the big one (100th!) will still be 10 years away, the start of our 10th decade needs to be recognised and we are looking for a few willing helpers to plan and put the event together. We need to decide when and where – should it include a mountain visit during the ski season?

It would be great to have some help/advice from some of our more senior members who have been involved in organising these commemorations in the past and may have connections with former members no longer in the Club. We propose to have an initial meeting about this next month and Dave Hinman has agreed to "get the ball rolling". If you would like to be involved please let Dave know. Ph. 027 431 4778 or d.hinman@kinect.co.nz

SKI SALES

The weekend of 5-6 May was busy with a Cheeseman stand at both the Annual Canterbury Snow Sale and the Annual Snow and Surf Sale. The Canterbury sale held at the University is a two day event with people bringing in their gear to sell on the Saturday.

GOLD COIN ENTRY

**ANNUAL CANTERBURY
SNOW SALE**

9-4 PM 6TH MAY 2018

10-3 PM 7TH MAY (GEAR DROP OFF)
UCSA EVENTS CENTRE (90 ILAM ROAD)

WWW.CANTERBURYSNOWSALE.COM

 **bivouac/outdoor**
COMMITTED TO ADVENTURE

Sunday is the busy day with public lining up outside from 7.30am for the 9am start to buy the second hand skis, boots, snowboards, clothing and plenty of other snow equipment. The Cheeseman stand was popular with questions about what Cheeseman offers and

sales for half price lift tickets. Over the two days we sold \$17,820 worth of tickets. A huge and wonderful effort of all the Club members who helped. A Big "Thank you" as it is hard work approaching people and quickly building a rapport talking about the positives of Cheeseman. As a result of some of these conversations there were a few season passes bought on line during the weekend. The other big plus is that over 2000 people walked out of the sale with a Cheeseman 2018 brochure.

Snow and Surf are very supportive allowing Cheeseman to have a stand at their sale, held at the former Horticultural Hall over the same weekend. Cheeseman was the only ski area represented and again used the opportunity to get public to think "Ski Cheeseman" and to take away a brochure. Instead of selling the half price tickets during the weekend flyers are given out and put into the carry bags with purchases advertising that the half price tickets are able to be bought from Snow and Surf on Tuam Street until Sunday 20th May. Cheeseman appreciates the partnership with Snow and Surf and thanks them for selling our tickets.

From these two events Cheeseman gains some pre-season income that helps to set the club up for the winter season.

Again a big "THANK YOU" to all that gave their time and energy.

Ros Service

MERCHANDISE ANYONE?



We are proposing to offer more of the popular Cheeseman T shirts this season, but only if pre-ordered. Pricing is likely to be \$30 (for all sizes) depending on quantity. Expressions of interest to Alan Hinman - alan@awesome.kiwi

OUR NEW DIESEL FUEL TANKS



December 2017 - out with the Old!



Cheeseman Chat is edited and produced by Dave Hinman
Ph. 0274 314 778 E. dave.hinman@ccc.govt.nz or
chat@mtcheeseman.co.nz for the Management Committee of the
Mt Cheeseman Ski Club Inc.



FB 12 April "The polar blast was a reminder that winter is fast approaching!! Even getting up the road proved a little more difficult than what we've been used to over recent months, but never fear the mighty Pisten Bully was fired into action and access was regained!!"



And in with the New!

"Before the snow arrives we've made some more progress around the new fuel tank site. A great effort by clubbies planting tussocks over the weekend followed today by Tony & Cam pouring a concrete retaining wall. And yes it started to snow this afternoon!!" **(Facebook 9 April 2018)**

"After fighting a few battles with snow, wind and other mountain dynamics it was great to finally get one of the last pieces of the puzzle on site. This pre-loved fuel tank is another part of a large fuel storage upgrade plan we've been working through over the last 3 years and was delivered to the mountain followed on by a swift bolting down to the concrete pad.." **(Facebook 20 April 2018)**



April 26 - Pre-season fuel delivery done!



And our second 21st century diesel tank – for the groomer fleet and located beside the containers, following site preparation and another concrete base.

FITTING & SPLICING THE NEW MAIN T BAR CABLE

As advised following last year's inspection of the main tow haul rope, it has finally had to be replaced after 39 years of use since installation when the T Bar was built in 1978.



Jan & Graham from Bridon Cookes working on the 24 metre splice (the big join), March 2018.

WORK PARTIES – FIREWOOD

Two organised firewood work parties, led by Alan Hinman, have seen a good supply of wood filling up the Snowline container and the equivalent of 2 of the 3 bays at Forest Lodge. The first on 18 - 19 November saw a team of about 12, including a number of young but willing helpers focussed on cutting existing logs into rounds and transporting previously split (and dry) wood up to the Snowline firewood container.



The second in the cooler weather of 12-13 May, the final pre-season formal work party, spent Saturday at Forest Lodge with around 18 present (including some energetic and hardworking children) as well as some new members, available to cut up remaining logs and then to split them – using both Alan H's small mechanical splitter plus hand axes and splitters. A second theme for the weekend which emerged was all about making water flow and an early challenge was restoring the FL water supply – a disconnected pipe was discovered above the holding tanks which were then treated to a well-deserved flush out. The result – delicious pure mountain water with none of the smell of chloride currently being experienced in Christchurch! Meanwhile another team had sorted out some drainage/ponding issues at the back of the lodge beside the gas tanks with a temporary repair (open) drain, to ensure water flowed away, pending the future replacement of old novaflow and a shingle base.





After a night at Snowline which included a sumptuous collective roast dinner, we woke to a rather damp second day. Some of the team stayed up top assisting the mechanical team with T bar spring box maintenance, helping to ensure that there will not be a repeat of the over wound springs issue on opening day this year!

Down at Forest Lodge “making water flow” became the major challenge of the day. Wet weather had reminded us of a drainage problem outside the firewood shelter, where water flowing down the access road water table was ponding and making the ground soggy. Some hole digging rediscovered the (concrete) pipe at both ends but water wasn’t getting through. Eventually a makeshift cleaning rod made from several pieces of alkathene pipe of various diameters joined together with gib screws and duct tape succeeded in clearing the blockage. Then with the aid of some fire hoses, overflow water from the holding tanks was diverted into the access road water table. It was most

satisfying to see a strong flow of initially very muddy, and finally clean water emerging from the end of the pipe. With the rain having stopped by lunch time, some additional water channel diversion together with final tidying of the area around the firewood shelter completed another successful work party weekend.

Snowline ‘Spring Cleaning’ work party – 24 – 25 March 2018

Sue Alexander, Work Party Leader

A huge amount of work was completed by a small group of people. In addition to Sue Alexander and Dean Johnston, there were 2 families plus two other women i.e. 8 people and 15 people-days worked (of which 9 people-days were doing Lodges cleaning). It was good to find that the lodge was generally looking clean and tidy probably due to a couple of reasons: cleaning tasks had been completed by extra Club members helping out during the pack down and the lodge has not had high usage over summer.

Completed tasks:

- Snowline lounge ceiling clean and thorough vacuum. Note that the scaffold needs to be easily accessible for summer as part of it was ‘buried’ under snow fences in the skidoo shed.
- Games area and books were sorted and rationalised.
- Kitchen clean – racks in oven were cleaned but not stovetop and oven itself (ran out of cleaning materials and time).
- Thorough clean of all bunkrooms including minor repairs to bunks etc.
- Thorough clean of all staff bedrooms and other staff areas.
- Bathroom cleaning – including repairs to wooden mats.
- Vacuuming foyers, Drying Room.
- Replenishment of bait stations (two dead mice – one in the kitchen and one in the café).
- Replacement of smoke alarms.
- Plus many other miscellaneous tasks that needed attention.

Forest Lodge 'Spring cleaning' work party – 28 & 29 April

By Sue Alexander, Work Party Leader

Winter is on its way!! It rained all weekend during the 'spring clean' at Forest Lodge so it was a productive way to spend time inside and keep warm. There were nine adults, one youth and three children booked to help out so we had a total of 14.5 people days worked. There was additional help from the team who had come up to work on the terrain park. With the cold wet weather their leader, Richie decided on Saturday afternoon to retreat down to warmth and activity at Forest Lodge. This meant we had the bonus of additional help from another adult and some more youth members. Plenty was achieved and there were places cleaned that haven't had any attention for some time. We cleaned high and low and could definitely see where we had been! Along the way we found things that needed repairs - some were able to be fixed there and then, whereas other things needed a bit more effort to sort out and have been passed on to another 'To Do' list. It was great to welcome new families on their first work party and initiate them into the Club camaraderie. Thanks everyone for your enthusiastic help. Look forward to catching up again on the slopes!



Nick and Matt 'high cleaning'



Nick, Brian and Taylor 'behind & under the oven'



Josh 'in the bunkrooms'



Isabel 'in the sink'



**CLUB CONTACTS
2018-19**

Patron
Dave Hinman
Ph 366 4903
d.hinman@kinect.co.nz

**Management
Committee**

**Office and
Website**

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:	
President Cameron Lill Ph. 021 104 0599 cam@mtcheeseman.co.nz	Vice President William Fulton Ph. 0272 692 759 william@frta.co.nz
Vice President	Treasurer David Gibbons Ph. 021 676 347 treasurer@mtcheeseman.co.nz
Committee	Anthony Bown Ph: 027 452 2047 anthonybown@gmail.com
Mat Darling Ph. 021 204 3798 mat.darling@gmail.com	Ana Haase Ph. (H) 03 981 3067 marketing@mtcheeseman.co.nz
Alan Hinman Ph. 022 604 0894 alan@awesome.kiwi	Gini McIntosh Ph. (H) 942 9942 gini.mcintosh@canterbury.ac.nz
Immediate Past President Paul Rogers Ph. 0274 400 867 paul.rogers@spireconsulting.co.nz	Office Administrator Charlotte Bryden Ph. (03) 344 3247 office@mtcheeseman.co.nz

Mt Cheeseman Ski Club Inc	P O Box 22178 Christchurch 8140
Mountain Phone (03) 318 8794 Office Phone (03) 344 3247	
Office Fax (03) 344 3300	
E-mail: office@mtcheeseman.co.nz	
Mountain E-Mail: ski@mtcheeseman.co.nz	
Website: http://www.mtcheeseman.co.nz	
FaceBook: https://www.facebook.com/MtCheesemanSkiArea	

Mt Cheeseman Ski Club
P O Box 22178
Christchurch 8140