

Christiania Ski Club  
66<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting  
26 November 2020

## **President's Report**

I'm pleased to present the 2020 annual report to members of the CSC in what has been a trying but ultimately successful year given the circumstances.

### Covid-19

Earlier this year it was decided to hold the provisioning work party in autumn rather than summer, to reduce the time dry and frozen foods spend in storage by several months. By late-March that looked like either a bad decision or an excellent choice, given that it was then unclear whether we'd have a ski season or not. (Our annual pre-season food and firewood order costs \$10,000 so a lot was at stake.)

By mid-May we decided to push ahead despite lingering uncertainties, and with the Rock Garden access road closed by DOC, a helicopter was used to deliver firewood and the new steriliser. In early-June, a small group loaded the firewood and food in half a day—testimony to the effectiveness of using a helicopter to deliver goods to the lodge door.

Bookings were strong when they were opened, and remained so throughout the season, but in the end, total bed nights were 20% down on last year, not just because of the virus pandemic.

### RAL and Snow

Last year's president's report noted the poor weather not being great for skiing, and sadly this year was worse. We can only hope for an improvement next year.

The lack of snow wasn't helped by the western ski fields, with some of the best snow, remaining closed as a result of RAL's financial problems.

Having completed a significant capital upgrade building the gondola last year, RAL was clearly behind on maintenance spending before the pandemic hit, a matter later made public by their regular references to the restrictions being placed on it by its bank.

Fortunately, RAL has secured bank funding for the coming year so fingers crossed all lifts will be operational next season. With the restrictions on car parking looking to be a permanent issue, there has never been a better time to belong to a club on the mountain.

### Maintenance

In addition to the new steriliser mentioned above, this year we have replaced all window seals with a thicker new product, as well as all broken stays and handles. No more duct tape on the sashes.

The drying room has an excellent new timber glove rack built by our resident master tradesman and cook—many thanks to Pedro.

The center tank has been losing water this season so it will be lined in the coming summer months, as well as continuing with improvements to the roof and other planned maintenance.

### Bookings, Membership and Bunkum

As always, a huge thanks to the two hardest working committee members, Jenny Muir and Gary Verberne, whose efforts in managing bookings, membership and publishing Bunkum make the most valuable parts of Christie run like clockwork year after year, and especially this year given the trying conditions and uncertainty around government guidance. Membership numbers remain healthy and are growing.

Implementation of the proposed new booking system was delayed this year but should be operational by next season. Thanks to Rik Fisk, Jenny and Gary for their efforts on this exciting improvement.

### Events

Sadly, Derby was cancelled for the second year in a row, but Christie certainly didn't lack for fun events this winter.

The Mid-Winter Christmas party made a welcome return with Christie stalwart Bob Buckley standing in for Santa who was under lockdown. Pedro and Dallas prepared a beautifully cooked ham with all the trimmings and Christmas pudding, and there were after dinner games.

The Junior's Weekend was also a huge success, with a full lodge and kids upskilling thanks to our in-house instructors Matt, Ella, Hamish and Rachel. Thanks to our club captains Rachel and Ella for organising, promoting and revitalising these events.

Men's Few Days was a roaring success, but the reports were thin on details. In stark contrast, Women's Few Days—I'm told the first since the 90's—saw impeccable behaviour, perfect weather, record numbers and a great camaraderie amongst participants.

The Christie Club Races was also a great success with a fun prizegiving. The fastest skiers were Ella Buckley, Hamish Paris and Zoe Jones in that order.

### Finances

Despite the 20% fall in bed nights, Christie broke even this year. More in the treasurers' report but, as an aside, there is a proposal to slightly increase annual subscriptions to keep up with costs and reduce our reliance on school groups to turn a profit. Thanks to our treasurer Kerry Jones for his meticulous work this year. I hope you will support him in this proposal.

### In Memoriam

Dr Alan Thomas Perry (Tom) Patterson. Tom was a founding member of Christie, past president, club captain and life member. Having died in August during Auckland's lockdown, a family service was held at the time. Members wishing to pay their respects can attend Tom's memorial at 11am Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November at the Hamilton Lake Domain Verandah Café & Function Centre. Christie extends its condolences to Andrew, Joanna and Roger.

### Committee

A huge thank you to your committee for their hard work in what has been a difficult year. Assuming we have no volcanic eruptions, next season should be a significant improvement!

Best wishes,



Steve McLennan

President

[president@skichristie.co.nz](mailto:president@skichristie.co.nz)

021-727 850

November 2020