



Whanganui Ski and Snowboard Club Inc

Minutes of the 76th Annual General Meeting

of the Whanganui Ski and Snowboard Club Inc

held on Saturday 30 August 2025 on Zoom meetings, commencing at 5:07 pm.

Attendees: Gordon Horsley (President and Chair), Bill Nichol, Lisa Reid (Minutes), Mark Gilberd, David Dyer, Trevor Fowler, David Taylor, David Lazelle, Trevor Reid, Glynn Sinclair.

Apologies: Craig Percy, Pru Nichol, Ross Hamilton, Fi and Alex Dalgetty, Andy Bourne, Wally Bourne, Brenda Lazelle, Mike Miller, Vanessa and Marc Higgie, Rex Mathieson, Dougal McIntosh, Jamie Keen, Chris Ford, Ross and Christine Hamilton, Bernie Whelan, Peter and Philip Brown, Becs Gilberd, Denis Gilberd, Richard Taylor, Zara Francis, Racheal Bettie, Gabriel Johnson, Alex Winlove, Todd Winlove, Gus McIntosh, Nicky Peters, Amelia McIntosh, Katherine and Dave Brabham, Yann Robert, Chris and Raechel Ford, Donald & Joc Walkington.

Obituary's:

None that the club is aware of.

Executive Summary:

The 2024/25 year has been one of the most challenging for the Whanganui Ski & Snowboard Club. A late start to the season, uncertainty around mountain operations, and limited snow have significantly impacted revenue and membership retention. With rising costs and declining income, the Club faces financial pressure and must prioritise income generation and new membership recruitment to remain sustainable.

Despite these challenges, there are positive signs. Whakapapa Holdings has stepped in to manage the mountain, providing stability and support. Recent weekends delivered positive skiing experiences, and upcoming events such as the annual dinner will help strengthen community engagement.

Key priorities identified include:

- Growing membership and bookings, including from schools and overnight visitors.
- Securing volunteers and potentially a custodian to help manage lodge maintenance.
- Addressing key maintenance issues, particularly plumbing and insulation.
- Continuing fundraising initiatives and building stronger community connections.
- Completing the new Club constitution in line with legislative requirements by April 2026.

The Club must also carefully manage its financial position, with a target of raising \$30,000 to 35,000 per season break even. Thanks were extended to Whakapapa Holdings, the committee, and all members who have contributed time and effort to keeping the Club running.

While challenges remain, there is strong commitment to ensuring the Club's future and maintaining its unique place on Whakapapa.

1 Welcome Gordon Horsley

The President welcomed people to the meeting, the 76th AGM of Whanganui Ski and Snowboard Club Inc. This is the fifth online meeting.

2 Previous Minutes

The minutes of the 2025 AGM have been circulated.

Note: David Taylors name was missing from the attendees in the 2024 AGM meeting notes. (This has been amended).

Moved Gordon Horsley that the minutes are a true and correct record of the previous meeting, and they are to be taken as read.

Seconded by Bill Nichol

Motion – carried.

Matters Arising

No matters arising

3 President's Report –

Gordon Horsley provided an overview of the challenging year for the club.

Ski Season Review – 2024/2025

This past year has been one of the most challenging for the Club. Revenue was down, costs continue to rise, and financially, we must improve this year if we are to remain sustainable. The lack of snow during the holiday period in 2024 had a significant impact.

Key Highlights & Challenges:

- The 2024 season had a late start due to uncertainty around mountain operations. However, with the new operator now in place, we have seen a more solid start in 2025.
- Public sentiment re Whakapapa has been mixed, with negative feedback circulating on social media people think skiing and snow boarding is no longer available at Ruapehu, the Ruapehu Ski Field Stakeholders Ass with 5.5K membership of life pass holders on Facebook has been incredibly destructive for skiing at Ruapehu. Encouragingly, recent weekends received positive feedback on the skiing experience, even with limited trails open.
- With RAL now gone, Whakapapa Holdings has taken over. This is a positive step, with Travis Donaghue as CEO working closely with the Chair and showing strong support for club activity. We can now ride the Rangatira chair lift up and down with no restrictions.
- Financially, if we do not increase income, the Club will run out of money by May 2026. We need to prioritise income generation and explore all opportunities.
- Gordon will serve as hut leader for two weeks over the school holidays, providing additional on-site support.
- We recognise the wider economic climate: many households are doing it tough, and skiing is not always seen as a priority spend.

Looking Ahead:

- There is an opportunity to leverage the overnight visitor market – families and groups who want the full mountain experience.
- We need to consider whether to ask Club members for financial contributions to help support operations (if required income is not generated).
- Volunteer support is critical – we need more hands to spread the workload and strengthen our community spirit.
- A clear strategy is required to guide us through the coming months and ensure we don't end up in a position where the Club's future is handed back to DOC.

Club Activities & Fundraising

- Our annual dinner did not take place in 2025 due to the lack of snow, but it is confirmed to go ahead this year – with Yann leading the cooking.
- We need a reliable custodian to support ongoing operations. The Club will need to consider appointing someone for this role in the coming year.
- Some plumbing issues remain, particularly air pockets in the pipes at the back of the dishwasher, and these need to be resolved.

Priorities moving forward:

- Actively pursue more bookings to increase income.
- Strengthen engagement with schools to encourage more group visits.
- Market to other groups for revenue building

Moved: Gordon Horsley that his report is accepted

Seconded by Dave Lazelle

Motion – carried.

Committee

Gordon Horsley thanked the whole committee for their excellent work, including Bill Nichol, Gus McIntosh, Peter Brown, Lisa Reid, Alex Winlove, David Dyer, Craig Percy, Dave Taylor and Dave Lazelle. It was noted that clubs can only thrive on the works volunteers and their good work. More people need to contribute in this way.

Special thankyou to:

- Bill Nichol for the running of the club, preparing the monthly financial statements, the booking, the food. Bill does an amazing job.
- Gus McIntosh for all online work
- Peter Brown with legal advice
- Dave Taylor our Treasurer, accountancy services appreciated, and we acknowledge his services.
- Lisa Reid (marketing) and Alex Winlove (fundraising)
- Dave Dwyer for advice on insurance and general business interests
- Craig Percy for RAL involvement, finances, fire safety plan
- David Lazelle – constitutional work and previous works are the food planning and his guiding hand on the maintenance, ensuring we do not waste funding.

4 2023 Financial Statements – Dave Taylor

Dave Taylor presented the financial report, noting the ongoing challenges facing the Club:

- 2025 has been another very difficult year, making it two poor years in a row. As Gordy highlighted, the financial forecast remains dire.
- Membership retention is proving difficult, with uncertainty over snow conditions and who was operating the field both contributing to the decline.
- To remain sustainable, we need to focus on attracting new members. Ideas to explore include:
 - Developing “cold leads” into active members, pushing the existing membership base to talk to friends.
 - Offering incentives such as extended free stays for new members, potentially from 2027, to make membership more attractive (e.g., Gabrielle’s suggestion).
- Financially, the Club requires around **\$30,000 to 35,000 to break even**. Achieving **\$10,000 in hut fees this September** would be a strong contribution toward that goal.
- DOC levies remain static for the time being.

Dave Taylor also extended thanks to Doyle and Associates for their ongoing accounting support:

- They do not charge the Club for their services.
- Dave himself prepares much of the reporting and GST returns.
- Dave confirmed he is happy with the services provided by Cullen.

*Moved: David Taylor that the financial statements be accepted as tabled
Seconded by Bill Nichol.*

The financial statements and report were accepted.

Gordon Horsley reiterated his offer for Callum or the team free use of his Taupo Bach for Doyle & Associates services.

Insurance

- The Club’s insurance has been renewed for 2025/26, covering **Third Party Demolition** (the minimum required cover) and **indemnity for Club officers**. Note: We need to confirm with DOC that the Club is insured.
- The invoice for this cover is due in August/September 2026 and has not yet been paid. At this stage, we will continue with the compulsory minimum insurance until the Club is in a financial position to afford full cover.

Moved by David Taylor that the insurance position be accepted as tabled

Seconded by Gordon Horsley.

Motion – carried.

5 Election of Officers and Life Members

Nomination of Club Patron - Ross Hamilton

President: Gordon Horsley – *Nominated by Lisa Reid and Bill Nichol.*

Gordon has stated he will do this for one more year (and would like someone to step in next year)

The following nominations for other club positions were received:

Vice President: Bill Nichol *Nominated by Gordon Horsley and seconded by Mark Gilberd.*

Gordon has acknowledged the brilliant job Bill does and the attendees agree.

Secretary: Lisa Reid *Nominated by Gordon Horsley and seconded by Dave Taylor.*

Treasurer: Dave Taylor *Nominated by Gordon Horsley and seconded by Trevor Fowler.*

Lodge Booking Officer: Bill Nichol *Nominated by Gordon Horsley and seconded by David Taylor.*

Committee: Dave Lazelle, Gus McIntosh, Alex Winlove, Lisa Reid, Craig Percy, Peter Brown, David Dyer.

Nominated by Gordon Horsley and Seconded by Lisa Reid.

The meeting resolved that the officers nominated above be declared elected by unanimous approval.

Life Memberships

The President *nominated*: Dave Gilberd *seconded by David Taylor*

All were in favour of this nomination.

Gordy will notify Dave directly

(Note: Can Gus please double-check the records re who are life members – the plaque has been misplaced so we will need to replace this, and this will need to be done in time for the life members lunch.)

6 General Business

Maintenance Issues

- Ongoing leaks noted in copper pipes. At the next working bee, insulation will need to be stripped back and pipes checked for joints and repairs. A plumber will be needed to complete the work and rewrap pipes with new insulation.
- The Club will offer a **free membership** to a plumber and an electrician if we can secure their services for maintenance support.
- Phil Brown will complete the **roof painting** over the 2026/27 summer.
- The dishwasher remains out of order due to a plumbing airlock. Funds will be required to resolve the plumbing issues and get it back into service.
- A **custodian** would help manage ongoing wear and tear on the lodge, which reflects the realities of maintaining an older building.
- Gordy noted that the custodian role could be club members looking to stay for lengthy periods ie 1-2 weeks, and would not be charged if they are fulfilling this role.
- **Antifreeze usage:**
 - A reminder of the importance of using antifreeze, especially in toilets.
 - Members are advised to use more antifreeze than usual due to reduced snow insulation this season.
- **Mice prevention:**
 - Prevention measures have been effective; traps are now loaded and the problem appears to be resolved.
- The **men's bathrooms** remain on the agenda for future improvements.

Historical Items

- Heinrich Schmidt tribute on the wall has been completed.

Fundraising Ideas

- Kuratau prints sold well in 2025.
- Club Dinner is booked for **20 September 2026** – invitations have been sent out.

- Potential new marketing initiatives include:
 - “A Night on the Snow” tour package for visitors to the mountain.
 - Increased community posting on social channels.
 - Packages targeting universities and tertiary groups.
 - Industry passes (e.g., for ski instructors at Snowplanet).
 - Lisa invited members to contribute to marketing ideas at any time.

Membership Fees – 2027

Membership costs will remain unchanged from 2023–2026:

- Family rate: \$495
- Seniors: \$250
- Juniors: \$130
- Social or non-active member: \$30

Additional notes:

- No early bird discount will be offered due to financial constraints.
- The **rejoining fee will be waived** for the coming year to encourage member retention.
- Acknowledged that with current unfavourable/ unpredictable snow conditions, building membership numbers is tough.

Motion: Membership fees for 2027 to remain at current rates.

Moved: Mark Gilbert

Seconded: David Taylor

Carried unanimously.

Custodian Role

- The need for a custodian will be reassessed depending on how the 2025 season develops.

Motion: To review the custodian role closer to the 2027 season.

Moved: David Taylor

Seconded: Gordon Horsley

Carried unanimously.

7 Constitution

- A new constitution must be created in line with the **new Incorporated Societies Act 2022**, which replaced the 1908 Act. This must be completed by **1st of April 2026**.
- David Lazelle has prepared a draft, currently under review by Peter Brown. This remains a work in progress.
- A **special AGM** will be required before April 2026 for the committee to approve the new constitution.
- Members were reminded of the changes to officer term limits under the new Act.

Motion: To proceed with the development of the new constitution.

Moved: David Lazelle

Seconded: Bill Nichol

Carried unanimously.

Closing Statements

Gordy acknowledged that this has been a very challenging year, with climate change impacts and the lack of snow affecting both operations and member engagement. He extended his thanks to **Whakapapa Holdings** for their efforts in managing the mountain, and expressed deep appreciation to the **committee members** for their energy, commitment, and support throughout the year.

He emphasised that we do not want to give up on the Club, and that it is important we continue working together to secure its future.

Special thanks were also extended to **Gordon Horsley** for his leadership as President, and to the full committee for their dedication.

With no further business, the meeting was declared closed at **6.56pm**.



Gordon Horsley
President Whanganui Ski and Snowboard Club
30 August 2025

The elements of the word Whakapapa (the name of our ski field) are kinship, connection, identity, knowledge, purpose and responsibility....it would be a shame if we lost the ability to generate those memories for future generations...