

Christiania Ski Club  
68<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting  
24 November 2022

## **President's Report**

I'm pleased to present the annual report for 2022 to members of the CSC in what has been another trying year given the lack of snow, and the recent uncertainty around RAL's future.

### More Bad News

My last report noted a lack of snow for the previous three years, and unfortunately this year was worse with no "Ski-in Ski-out" from the lodge at any time during the season.

While this hasn't been great for any of us, spare a thought for our now-septuagenarian custodian Pedro, whose knees aren't in the best shape but still managed to get him up and down the track, to and from the lodge, allegedly on more days than Dallas was prepared to endure.

Those who attended the pre-season lodge cleaning work party in May saw RAL's snow guns working hard to prepare the lower mountain slopes for the season. It was tough to see their efforts being washed away every few weeks with warm northerly rain that came regularly for much of the season.

RAL going into voluntary administration in October was a surprise but almost seemed inevitable after several years of La Niña winters and Covid restrictions on top of its Sky Waka debt.

Christie's finances rely on members paying subscriptions, school groups, and the number of nights we have folks paying for a bed in the lodge during the season. In 2019 we had 1,900 bed nights, in 2020 it was 1500, and last year it was 900. This year we again had 900-member bed nights, but a deficit of \$10,000, down from \$20,000 last year, thanks to our school groups. Read more about this in our Treasurer's report.

### Some Good News

The skiing was great! For those prepared to make the walk to and from the gondola and ride T-bars all day, the upper mountain offered excellent skiing for much of the season. The school groups we hosted had a blast and are penciled in to return next year.

The mountain wasn't closed for three weeks like it was at the peak of the season last year, and events that were previously cancelled were back.

We had an enormously successful Derby this year with Christie teams placing highly, and a huge after party partnered with Bootleg Brewery. Many thanks to Club Captain Rachel Ward whose persistence with RAL allowed us to hold Derby two weeks later than normal when there was good snow, and whose efforts from last year's cancelled racing finally paid off with an outstanding Derby, the first since 2018.

After eleven seasons at Christie, Dallas and Pedro are tentatively penciled in to return next year for a twelfth depending on the outcome of RAL's situation. This news will not only be well received by members but the school groups who this year reported Pedro's food was "the best we've ever had on a school trip"!

### RAL's Future

RAL's future will be known in December after the administrators' watershed meeting has been held. While there is a lot of speculation and conjecture going around, the creditors' committee members are bound by confidentiality. We will know more before the end of the year and be in a position to respond then. In the meantime, we should seek comfort in the knowledge that a large number of highly motivated stakeholders are working hard to secure the future of the mountain, especially the Whakapapa ski field where the greatest amount of investment has been made in recent years.

### In Memoriam

Neil Meltzer was a founding member of Christie, past president and life member. Neil died on 3<sup>rd</sup> January this year, eight days after his 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday, at Shalom Court Rest Home, Meadowbank, Auckland. The committee and members of Christie extend our deepest condolences to Gary, Murray, Paul and Missy, Carmel and Simon, and his many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Alav hashalom (may peace be upon him).

### Bookings, Membership and Bunkum

As always, an enormous thank you must go to the two hardest working members of the Christie team, 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.

Thanks also to your committee for its work during the year.

Best wishes,



Steve McLennan  
President

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