

Editors Note



Temple Basin Ski Club Inc is now in its 80th year. The milestones overleaf summarise some of the major events in the Club's history. The last surviving member of the party celebrating the opening of the CSC Hut in 1933 has now passed away. However both TBSC and CUSSC Clubs

still have members who can recall events of historical significance. Their experiences will be related in later newsletters.

During the 75th Anniversary Celebrations in 2004, John Charles presented a very informative illustrated evening at the Arthur's Pass Visitor Centre, recalling his experiences as a Ranger with the Park Board. John's address covered 40 plus years of history of the Club and the National Park to a very appreciative audience.

More recently John and Keith Cross provided great assistance with the major maintenance projects on the field. These two long serving volunteers certainly have set a great example for the younger generation to aspire to. Their skills, enthusiasm and experience are invaluable when it comes to leading the way with the wide variety of difficult tasks.

Over the years, Club members have developed wide ranging skills and valuable work experience from participating in some of the both demanding, and enjoyable work party weekends. A number of successful management and recreational careers have been formulated by these members in their early years at Temple Basin.

More recently the Department Of Conservation appointed Chris Stewart as their Manager at Arthur's Pass. Chris was a very valued member of the University Club for many years. Chris's enthusiasm for the Club and his wide ranging experience is already resulting in a great working partnership with the Department.

Temple Basin has been recognised for a long time as providing a great classroom environment for Christchurch primary and secondary schools. The accommodation and lecture room facilities are continually being developed to cater for this important education work. During last autumn four Christchurch secondary schools participated in week long camps at Temple Basin and good use was made of both huts. The experiences that most of these pupils have when they carry out the various activities on offer are a first.

More recently one of our older members, Dr Norman Walker sadly passed away and I was recently approached by family and friends (some of them of a similar vintage) to express their gratification for the various functions that the Club organised for the 75th celebration, which included the transporting onto the field by helicopter. This illustrates what a precious part the Club has played in many of these peoples lives.

Temple Basin has long been recognised as a special mountain playground. There have been many publications over a number of years with photos capturing its beauty. A recent example is the full colour front page photograph on the 50th edition of the "New Zealand Snowboarder" magazine showing a snowboarder jumping over the Cassidy Bridge.

Experienced international staff are invariably sourced by word of mouth, with some staying for three seasons consecutively. We have a very exciting member of the winter team - Todd Windle, coming back to Temple Basin for 2009. His extreme skiing passion was developed during his early years with the University Club. Todd has a huge international following, with his main claim to fame in NZ being the Epic Ski of Mt Cook in 2005.

I trust that as many of you as possible make the journey onto the field during this season to partake in the many activities on offer.

Cheers,

Basil Pettigrew

Presidents Report



We have just completed the summer work program which was made possible by a huge effort from TBSC and CUSSC Club members.

The following outstanding work has been completed during recent months.

Ferrier Lodge: Removal and replacement of the cladding and windows from the west side of the accommodation wing. This has been

necessary to rectify serious ongoing leaking problems. Much internal bunkroom work is now complete, including painting and bunk rebuilding.

Page Hut: Removal and replacement of end wall and window to rectify an urgent maintenance issue. Fitting of a lockable door between the foyer and main area. Installation of new fire place, means we now have a wonderfully warm hut.

Downhill Tow Shed and Fuel Tank: Rebuild of both and extreme makeover of the inside of the shed. The fuel supply to the shed is now secure.

Downhill Toilet: Rebuild of original structure and replacement of door.

Downhill Tow Line: Complete rebuild of entire tow line. The steel footings and poles were originally installed in 1976, but had been moving off line due to scree movement over time.

Temple Tow Shed: The removal and replacement of the roof is now complete.

Main Temple Power Lines: Orion has carried out important field maintenance work.

Telephone – Country Set: Telecom contractors have carried out field service work to improve the functionality.

Rope Tows: Running gear of all three rope tows checked and ropes run out and spiced.

General: A lot of work has been going on behind the scenes with marketing, staff employment, web site development, publicity and communication with friends of Temple Basin.

There is an extremely positive feeling going into our 2009 season with a good snow base already present. Our Mountain Manager for the second year is Ben Peet and we have a wonderful team supporting him on and off the field. We now hope that as many of you as possible have another great season on the snow at Temple Basin in 2009.

Twin Creek Bridge

Out of the blue, the Upper Twin Creek Bridge that connects visitors to Temple Lodges blew off its foundation late 2007.

Initially DOC wanted to remove the bridge and transport to Christchurch in order to fix it, however with the help of some enthusiastic Club members, university students, and the assistance of DOC the bridge was restored in time for the 2008 season.

This was a super successful project that meant for minimal disruption to visitors. Without the willing help of Club members it wouldn't have been possible - so thanks heaps guys!



Hugo Young...



needs special mention as a driving force behind all the major on field projects at Temple Basin over recent months.

Hugo's maintenance, leadership and building skills have been absolutely extraordinary. He is carrying on the great tradition of the Young family that is now into its third generation at Temple Basin.

Staff Update

Ben Peet returns as manager for the 2009 season, so make sure you all say g'day when you get up to the field!

Trevor Carter will be the Head of Snow Safety/Avalanche Forecaster, following on from Matt Penner's excellent contribution to the programme last year. We've heard great things about Trev, and look forward to introducing another highly skilled person to Temple Basin's wonderful ways.

Ross Thomas returns as patroller, continuing his invaluable work for the field. Ross brings a great work ethic, focused problem solving skills, and an attitude that enables those around him. Ross is amped to get back knee-deep in grease and to clamber all over the workings in the tow-sheds, as well as rescuing any fair maidens that require assistance!

Harry Young is our voluntary patroller for the 2009 season, and having spent time up at TB as a member, he joins the staff with a solid knowledge of the workings of the field, as well as having experience in the best places to drop off and place a kicker! Harry will be a very welcome addition to the patrol with his enthusiastic and competent outlook, and we look forward to continuing his rise to the top of his chosen profession.

Duncan Keenan is our Goodslifter and general gopher for the 2009 season. Another member that has spent a lot of time up the hill, Duncan has proven he's a capable and motivated dude that will go far in the industry....as long as he doesn't cane another body part on the mincer known as Monsieur Rock....

Todd Windle takes over the rental department, and will organize many of the competitions/events that we have going on.... We're really excited about the higher level of - especially - Big Mountain skiers that will flock to listen to the Master give the many Grasshopper's tips on the best line for the win!

In the Custodian role we have **Aoife** (pron. Eva) Moylan. Coming from a marketing/ legal/clerical background she comes to the role with a sharp wit and a reputation as a hard worker. We look forward to her professional ethic, and as she "loves kids", we'll have to test her!!!

And, arguably the most important person on the field, **Jo Kennedy** is our chef for the season. She's had a lot of experience in catering for large numbers in respected kitchens. Not just cooking colcannon, champ and Irish stew, we look forward to tasting her dishes that will wow and make our taste buds salivate! Oh, and we have made sure that she knows that Irish Moss is a cough syrup, not a dessert...

We're now looking for a ski/snowboard instructor as our "confirmed" applicant decided not to take up our offer after all....SO if anyone knows someone with tickets in both skiing and boarding, can you please get them to contact Ben Peet ASAP. All the staff look forward to meeting you again for some great fun this season, so take care and we'll see you soon!



Temple staff enjoy having the mountain to themselves the day before opening

DOC Report

Below is the latest inspection report from Chris Stewart - Arthurs Pass DOC officer.

Downhill Basin:

- Good to see the new fuel tank in place and the clean up of the tow shed. It will be good to keep an eye on the new system and ensure there is no fuel spillage. I support Hugo's plan to have a good fuel filling area set up.
- The toilet looks good.
- Discussed the plans to upgrade Page Shelter and it is starting to look like it is coming together. Hugo showed me where the sump is.
- Agree with Hugo's plans to remove all redundant poles, strainers, waratahs, etc.



Temple Basin and Cassidy Basin

- Noted work on upgrading buildings. All Ski Club buildings in good condition.
- Sewerage system working well.
- It would be good to see all extraneous timber, etc removed from under the huts and tow sheds.
- Generally field in very tidy condition with no rubbish visible.

Temple Basin Car Park

- We note your concerns over the height of the fill in the bottom car park. Fergusons have agreed to remove another metre off the top of the fill. Hopefully this will happen in the next couple of weeks but if it is looking as though it might make too much mess/mud we may postpone until next spring.
- Also noted was the need to upgrade the signposting at the car park and ensure cars are directed to the goods lift. I will not be able to get new signs down until the spring/summer but will liaise with you to ensure we are all happy with the wording.
- Noted your concerns over the lack of parking spaces particularly if we get a big snow again. I will be having some discussions with Fergusons about snow clearing and will attempt to ensure that as much area as possible is cleared in the car park.

Goods lift

- The Club's concerns with the safety of buses entering and exiting the goods lift area is noted. I will follow up with NZTA and OPUS.
- It would be good to tidy up this area as time permits and I will follow up with Hugo.

General

- Good to hear that you have snow safety staff organised for this year. It would be good to meet up with these staff as soon as they are on board to discuss notification of avalanche control, etc.
- I note that we have been talking about notification of the possibility of avalanche control work at the foot of Cons Track on Mt Cassidy. I believe this is still a good idea and it would be good to get this instigated.
- Discussed with Hugo the issue of mountaineering courses depositing waste in Bills Basin. It would be good to get the Club's support in keeping an eye on these groups and letting us know who is around.
- Discussed with Hugo the need for an annual maintenance programme to be given to the Department as per your concession and Hugo is going to arrange this for us.
- Over all it is good to see the Club taking a very positive approach to keeping the area tidy and upgrading the facilities.



Great Work Team!

It is great that Mark Blundell has taken the initiative to tell you about this difficult project. I will not get into any detail as Mark is much better placed to review this. However he has completely underplayed his huge effort and commitment to seeing this project completed.

There were many setbacks along the way for Mark and his great team. It was a very character building exercise. Mark was a champion at getting a great team of varsity students to follow on from the first two weekends where myself, Keith and Anthony Hamilton were involved.

From what I observed, they were enjoying the heavy and difficult tasks that Mark was setting them. Yes, we do have a true mountain goat in Kerry Mulligan, seen at one stage abseiling down the old cable into Upper Twin Creek.

"During the first weekend we were assisted by Connetics with their equipment, but unfortunately their involvement did not work out and very little was achieved on a very cold wet day. It was a huge disappointment, as we had all been enthusiastically expecting to achieve a lot more. However it was an important learning experience for all parties.

During the following week Connetics tried without success to find equipment from various other power supply authorities that was more suited to the task. One of the photos below shows one such piece of equipment, that had been used for the installation of high voltage transmission lines in central South Island. A decision was therefore made to push on without their help.

The second weekend was all about man instead of machinery and various students can be seen in one of the photos below scrambling through scrub up the hill below the first tower. Keith was a master at ascertaining the heritage of the various varsity students and taking the mickey out of them as they turned up to help".

During the following weekends Mark and his team finalised the installation. A trial run of the lift was made by Martin Hamer and myself when we arrived to pick up the last of the Connetics equipment last weekend and everything was running sweet.

In summary, Mark made the comment that we now have a new Goods lift with all major components having been replaced during the last few years. This is indeed a good position to be in and reflects the exceptional work of some key people.

Regards,

Basil



Obituary - Dr Norman Walker



Norman Walker, who had a holiday cottage at Arthur's Pass for many years, died peacefully at his home in Christchurch on Monday 14 May 2009. He was in his eighty-ninth year, and until recently had enjoyed robust good health. His wife, Dr Noeline Walker, had died about two years earlier.

Norman grew up in Christchurch and as a teenager he became friendly with members of the Ernest Adams family, who lived nearby, and was soon invited to join them in their holidays at Arthur's Pass. Thus began a lifelong interest in 'the Pass' for Norman, with the skiing and climbing that was so much a part of it.

Hugh Adams recalls many happy days skiing with Norman at Temple Basin under the guidance of Oscar Coberger, who supplied most of the skis and all the instruction. Initially the skis, were long, heavy wooden ones, without modern luxuries like safety bindings or metal edges!

Hugh remembers they also climbed most of the surrounding mountains, tramped the valleys and passes, and had other adventures, such as the bicycle trip they made as fourteen year olds from 'the Pass' to Christchurch. The rivers, at this time, were mostly unbridged, and the road was unsealed to Springfield, so this ride was quite an event. Hugh also recalled the happy social times they enjoyed later at the numerous dances in the School and the Railway halls.

Norman acquired his own cottage at 'the Pass' while still a medical student. It was a very small one on the Rough Creek fan, but later, about 1957, he bought the cottage originally owned by the Park Board's first Ranger, Charlie Warden. Norman and Noeline and their family made much use of this cottage for many years, and their children learnt to ski at Temple Basin. Norman celebrated these good times by attending the Club's 75th Anniversary with Noeline and his family. Norman was also the driving force behind many community schemes and projects, including the setting up of the Mountain Radio Service.

Norman will be sadly missed by his family and his wide circle of friends.



2009 Price List



2009 PRICE LIST

SEASON PASS

(early rates available before 01/06/09)

Early Adult \$300

Late Adult \$400

Early Under 18 & Student \$250

Late Under 18 & Student \$350

LIFT PASS

Adult \$60

Students & CSA \$45

Under 18 \$35

Under 13 \$20

ACCOMMODATION

	Adult	Student	<13
Dinner, Bed & Breakfast	\$75	\$65	\$50
Accommodation Only	\$45	\$40	\$30
Lunch	\$10	\$10	\$10
1 Night/ 2 Days*	\$190	\$155	\$110
2 Nights/3 Days*	\$320	\$280	\$170

*includes accommodation, meals and lift pass

SKI-WEEKS

Adult	\$650	\$550	\$450
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RENTAL SHOP

	Day	Weekend	Week
Ski Set	\$45	\$80	\$160
Junior Ski Set	\$25	\$35	\$100
Snowboard Set	\$45	\$80	\$160
Skis Only	\$35	\$60	\$110
Ski Boots Only	\$20	\$30	\$70
Poles Only	\$5	\$5	\$10
Board Only	\$35	\$60	\$110
Snowboard Boots	\$30	\$40	\$80
Tow-belt Only	\$5	\$10	\$15

All Prices Include GST



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photo - Steve Eastwood

TEMPLE BASIN



Temple Basin Ski Area 2009

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