

Tukino Lodge

New “drive to” accommodation option for NZAC members

Collaboration between NZAC members, Tukino ski field clubs, and the OPC has opened a new accommodation option for alpine enthusiasts, families, and club courses on the “Wild side” of Mt Ruapehu.

Tukino Peak stands proud on the north eastern corner of the summit plateau of Mt Ruapehu looking down over the eastern side of the mountain towards the desert road. Known by many as the “wild side” (due to the lack of commercial activities and the relative isolated nature of the area) Tukino is also the name given to a collection of three base lodges and an “open to public” club ski field. The access is via a 14km gravel road from near the summit of the desert road.

Until recently one of these lodges was owned by OPC, and in July 2010, with OPC’s assistance, this 40 bed facility it was transferred to the Tukino Alpine Sports Club, a group set up by a collection of alpine club members and Tukino ski field people. Together they share a vision to upgrade the lodge and provide affordable on mountain accommodation to a wider range of alpine users. Part of making this happen has included a group of individual alpine members donating funds on behalf of NZAC to ensure the lodge can be incorporated into the NZAC lodge network, and be available to all NZAC members at member rates.

Why having access to a new Ruapehu lodge is great news for NZAC!

Despite a larger population base, and members with families, unlike the South Island, The North Island does not currently have any drive to base lodges. This initiative addresses this for North Island based members.



With 4x4 access (with no problems for Subaru’s in summer and light snow conditions), the family friendly lodge makes getting your alpine fix a bit easier for those with young ones. And once you add on big ticks for the loads of as yet relatively untouched new rock routes (at your doorstep), the remarkably close ice climbing opportunities, and wide range of uncrowded un-tracked ski touring routes, all with a hot shower and comfortable bed at the end of the day, the new lodge starts looking every inch a “must visit”. Also makes a great Friday night stop after the long drive for those on the way to Whangaehu Hut.



Wellington Section putting up new rock route - Nov 2010

In addition to using the lodge for their personal adventures (of course), volunteers focus for the next 6-24 months is on finishing work already commenced and progress tasks to set up the lodge for the next 20years. Donated funds, volunteer hours and proceeds from accommodation bookings are being applied to:

- Formally incorporate lodge into NZAC lodge and hut network.
- Complete an online booking tool.
- Run “lodge operator” training courses so more members can independently book and use lodge.
- Install black water tank in line with DOC new requirements.
- Replace indoor water tanks with underground tanks, which frees of space for additional bunk rooms.
- Replace inefficient diesel central heating (reduces running costs).
- Incorporate an emergency “winter” room into foyer similar to European lodges.
- Configure “lower level” of lodge into a smaller standalone summer lodge for flexibility and smaller minimum booking sizes.



Can I stay there now?

Yes! The lodge is fully equipped, operational and already available to NZAC members and sections for individual and club trips. There are 2 lounges, 2 bathrooms and showers, 4 toilets, oven, microwave, fridge, and full range of pots, pans, plates, glasses, cups and cutlery.



Auckland Section ice climbing 20mins from Lodge – July 2010

If you want to participate or help establish this facility, volunteer your skills, or merely book some bunk nights or room for you or your family’s summer and winter alpine adventures, visit www.tukinoalpinesportsclub.org.nz, or email inquires@tukinoalpinesportsclub.org.nz.

