Promising signs of progress for the proposed shared trail, from Turoa to Ohakune and to Horopito, are in the New Zealand Conservation Authority’s agenda from their 3 October meeting.

Following a positive recommendation from the Tongariro Taupo Conservation Board (TTCB) for the park management plan change, the NZCA was asked to consider the plan changes.

The NZCA did not make a final decision at that meeting – the purpose was for them to receive the proposed amendments and hear from the Department and the Conservation Board.

The NZCA have provided some feedback, they have asked for some minor amendments and some further information.

“Once they are in receipt of this and they are satisfied with what has been provided, they will then refer the proposed amendments to the Minister of Conservation for their comment,” said Deidre Ewart, Department of Conservation business support manager.

She said once they have received the Minister’s comments, the NZCA will then be in a position to make a formal decision.

The NZCA’s next meeting is scheduled for the beginning of December.

In her report to the Authority, Deidre Ewart said “an amendment to the Tongariro National Park Management Plan was carried out to provide for three new shared walking/cycling tracks and provide for the use of mountain bikes and E bikes on those tracks. The Tongariro Taupo Conservation Board recommend the NZCA approve the amendment.”

A “staggered approach” to track construction has been suggested, which has the support of the Director-General of Conservation, following submissions and hearings.

The TTCB agreed with this recommendation, along with some other related changes and actions.

The amendment process then saw the TTCB send the revised draft amendment for the Authority’s approval.

Information provided to the Authority included:

- a Certificate of Compliance from the

Turn to Page 4

Two Muriwai girls were very happy to don their bikinis for the Downhill at Turoa on Saturday, raising funds for the Breast Cancer Foundation. See inside for details.

Triathlete takes out P2K

Semi-professional triathlete Jai Davies-Campbell took out the Peak to Keg race on Saturday, extending the out-of-towners two-year hold on the open prize.

The Hamilton masters student said it was his first time in the event. He thanked his many sponsors who make it possible for him to train while he is studying, rather than having to work part time as well.

He said he finished the ski in 7th place and managed to catch Danny Garrett before the bike changeover, then hold the lead to the finish.

Before 2016, the race had been won five times in a row by Ohakune athletes – three years in a row by Kurt Eves and then twice by Owen King.

Fantastic clear conditions turned on for Saturday’s iconic Peak 2 Powderkeg adventure race, attracting around 115 competitors.

Now in its 26th year, it’s a race steeped in history, fun and competition. The event starts at the top of Turoa Ski Area finishing at the Powderkeg at the foot of Mt Ruapehu with competitors skiing from top to bottom of the ski area, followed by a 3.8km downhill run on the

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Triathlete takes out ski, run, bike, run, skull

From Page 1

Ohakune Mountain Road, 12.5km downhill road bike, finishing with a short 300m dash run and then a beer/lemonade skull.

“This is an iconic event and it’s fantastic to see it continue to attract fantastic support across every category,” said Mt Ruapehu marketing executive Shannon Clements.

“We had a good youth contingent this year and our oldest competitor, Julian Warren, is a regular at the age of 64.

“We saw all levels of competitor from triathletes to just those giving multisport a go for the very first time, some even in fancy costumes.”

“Mt Ruapehu and the Powderkeg love partnering in this event. It’s fantastic to see people out enjoying many aspects of our beautiful maunga.”

Unlike most years, locals were noticeable by their absence, with only a couple of familiar names in the results.

Regular competitor Emma Rowe finished fourth in the open women’s division, in 40:55.6.

Ex-local and past women’s winner Annabel Dekker also competed, coming in second at 37:17.8.

Results
Open Men: 1st Jai Davies-Campbell 30:05.7; 2nd Danny Garrett 31:46.7; 3rd Mathew Haworth 32:59.6.


Ohakune Mountain Road, 12.5km downhill road bike, finishing with a short 300m dash run and then a beer. Jai Davies-Campbell heads for a beer.

Amber Morrison finishes the bike ride.

Ohakune Mountain Road, 12.5km downhill road bike, finishing with a short 300m dash run and then a beer. Jai Davies-Campbell heads to the end of the cycle stage, checking for cars from Railway Row.

Amber Morrison is congratulated on coming home second woman.

Jai Davies-Campbell heads for a beer.

Annabel Dekker is congratulated on coming home second woman.

Danny Garrett finishes the ride for second place. Photos: Robert Milne.
Raupehu District property ratings values up

Taumarumuri residential property has increased by the most in the recent revaluations across the Raupehu District, with an increase of 25.7% since the 2014 reluctantly valuing with Ohura close behind at 24.7%. In dollar value for residential properties, Ohura’s average capital value is highest across the Raupehu District, at $265,981, which is up 11.6% on 2014 values.

Raeithi’s average capital value is $129,291, up 16.8%, while Rangataua and Tongariro are up 14% and 24% respectively.

The Raupehu District Rating Revaluation for 2017 is now confirmed and property owners will soon receive a 2017 Notice of Rating Valuation with an updated rating value for their property.

The new rating valuations have been prepared for 9805 properties on behalf of the Raupehu District Council by Quotable Value Limited (QV). Rating valuations are carried out on all properties in New Zealand, usually once every three years, to specifically help local councils set rates for the following three-year period. Rating values are just one of a number of factors councils use to allocate rates. Council rates will not be based on the new 2017 rating valuations until 1 July 2018.

The updated rating valuations should reflect the likely selling price of a property at the effective revaluation date, which was 1 July, 2017, but do not include chattels.

The rating revaluation figures compiled by QV show the total rateable value of the 9805 properties within the Raupehu District is now $4,778 billion, with the land value of those properties now valued at $2,539 billion.

“Strong demand for residential properties has pushed prices up beyond the levels established in 2014,” QV Senior Consultant, Simon Willocks said.

“Taumarumuri residential values have increased the most, with lower priced properties noticeably in high demand and driving up these levels beyond the averages. Ohwango Township and some ageing and poorly maintained property types have bulked these increases.”

“Commercial and industrial properties have also seen improved values across the District although property type and quality are main criteria for value changes. The average capital value for developed commercial property is $222,000 increasing by 5.0% since the last rating revaluation in 2014, and the average capital value for developed industrial property is $232,000 increasing by 7.7% over the past three years.”

“Lifestyle properties have increased since 2014 with the average improvement in lifestyle property capital value increasing by 13.3% to $560,000 with the corresponding average land value for a lifestyle property increasing by 9% to $317,000.

“The rural market has also seen a 15% increase across most farming types although traditionally poor performing manuka land has seen an upsurge in demand from apiarists,” said Mr Willocks.

He said any changes in the market since 1 July won’t be included in the new rating valuations. This means in many cases a safe price achieved in the market today may be different to the new rating valuation set at 1 July 2017 and that rating valuations are not designed to be used as market valuations for raising finance with banks or as insurance valuations.

The updated rating valuations are independently audited by the Office of the Valuer General, and need to meet rigorous quality standards before the new rating valuations are certified. If owners do not agree with the rating value they have the right to object. The objection close-off date is 17 November, 2017. To find out more about objection, or to lodge an objection online, go to www.ratingvalues.co.nz.

Plenty of Waimarino spuds, but prices up

Earlier reports on a national potato shortage turn out to be not quite “take news” – the supply is down 20% – but not to the extent quoted in some news reports.

Potatoes are hard to come by for the processing industry, and supermarkets are also seeing a drop in stocks due to some ageing and poorly maintained spuds in the ground in the Waimarino, reports Ohakune Growers Association Ron Frew. Waimarino potatoes are sold on the “fresh market”, not usually for processing.

He told the Bulletin that bad weather, flooding, and affected crops around the country, are contributing in the Waimarino.

But at least one packing shed was still very busy supplying potatoes and fetching high prices Mr Frew said there has been only one other season in the last 50 years where supplies were short and prices high.

“It’s just one of those years,” said Mr Frew. There was another 6-8 weeks of crop harvest in the Waimarino.

He was difficult to grow unblemished potatoes for the fresh market and that they need “new ground all the time”. Other crops such as carrots, parsnips, Brussels sprouts and swedes had all finished, as usual for this time of the year.

Meanwhile, both supermarket chains are busy supplying potatoes and fetching high prices.

A Foodstuffs spokesman said its chip supplier to New World and Pak ‘n Save was not affected, despite a statement and some stores on Sunday posting notices warning customers of “trouble stocking potato chips”.

Mr Clarridge said the supply issue was affecting crisp manufacturers as they had a smaller percentage of the total crop in New Zealand.

“The serious issue here is that Kiwis take food security as a given, and I think it’s a luxury that we can’t guarantee. Land availability and climate change are impacting this staple commodity.”

A Countdown spokesman said the supermarket chain was not experiencing any shortages of potato chips in its stores.

Ruapehu Residential Property Values

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RUAPEHU BULLETIN
Mountain trail plan passes another waypoint

From Page 1

TTCB, with information on compliance with the relevant statutory provisions;

• a submissions response report;
• a planner’s report; and
• the revised draft Plan amendment, with and without changed clauses.

The Authority was then required to consider the revised draft Plan amendment and, if necessary, modify the Plan and refer it to the Minister of Conservation.

The TTCB adopted the partial plan change on 7 September 2017.

The proposal has the support of iwi – Ngāti Rangi submitted to the hearings process and has recently reaffirmed its support for the proposal to the Board. Also, Ngāti Rangi and Uenuku are members of the advisory board for the track project, alongside other community stakeholders.

Of other iwi, Ngāti Haua formally responded to the proposal and the Department considered the amendments sufficiently addressed concerns expressed by the iwi. Ngāti Toiwharaato said they would be guided by Ngāti Rangi.

Plan change assessment

In his Planning Assessment Report, August 2017, Greg Carter stated his view that DOC should provide for a staged development of tracks on existing disturbed sites.

He says that as tracks are developed lower down, DOC has the time to assess the ecological and recreational impacts and “work with tangata whenua to develop an agreed framework for next stage decision-making”.

The Board states that track development stages should be: 1° Old Coach Road Loop track; 2° Maungatūrurumit Link track; 3° Waitonga Falls-Bllyth track; and 4° Turoa-Waitonga Falls trail.

He writes that in respect of the road safety aspect (removing bikes from the Ohakune Mountain Road) the “benefits have not been thoroughly assessed”.

“In my view, it cannot be considered the primary driver for the track. The proposal must stand on the basis that it provides an experience consistent with park values.”

DOC’s Ohakune ranger Stacey Fair says the NZ Conservation Authority is the decision-maker on the partial review.

“There is no timeframe for NZCA to make their decision nor restriction on what, if any, changes they may make.”

Partial Review

The focus of the partial review is on whether the management plan should be changed to provide for additional shared-use walking and mountain biking tracks in the following locations:

• Turoa to Ohakune: 20km using a mixture of existing, historic and new trails to provide Round the Mountain walks.

The proposal route extends from the Turoa Skillfield base area, follows the Mangawhero Valley down to the Waitonga Falls Track then along the historic Blyth Track and Bennett and Punch Tramway, finishing near the Ohakune Field Centre/Ngāti Rangi office.

• Mountain Road through to Horopito, creating a loop with the Old Coach Road: this 11 km track will connect the proposed Mountains to the Sea Trail extension above and use sections of the historic Cowan’s and Punch and Mountain tramlines.

• Horopito to National Park (the Missing Link) includes a 600m section linking with the Mountains to Sea Trail – the short section of the proposed route that is within the National Park.

The Missing Link is a trail being proposed by Ruapehu District Council as part of the Mountains to the Sea Cycle Trail and is proposed to extend from Horopito to National Park Village.

The proposal also includes a “Serpentine Loop” – a trail that would use old logging tram tracks in the general area below the Ohakune water catchment.

Submissions

53 submissions received, 20 were from organisations and 33 from individuals.

There were 12 submissions in opposition to the changes, with many opposed to allowing e-bikes. Others were opposed to mountain bikes in the dual world heritage site; concerned about safety risks; concerned that shared use tracks would detract from other users’ experience; concerned about funding issues; and concerned about destruction of vegetation.

Ten submitters were fully supportive of the change.

Thirty one submissions supported parts of the review: some supported e-bikes; others opposed e-bikes but supported other parts. Some supported all tracks; others some only tracks.

Some supporters were also concerned about funding. Some stressed that the national park is free for all individual users, while others felt bikers should pay a concession to use the track.

Two people supported allowing events on tracks.

Reunion

Geraldine Cricket Club reunion, 3-4 November in Geraldine. Contacts: admin@geraldinenews.co.nz or phone 0800-693-801.
Learning about what is a good measure of your blood pressure and keeping it low is the aim of a regular activity run by Rotary, St John Ambulance New World. “Be in the Know to Keep it Low” yet another successful day on 7 October for the Big Blood Pressure Check organised by the Stroke Foundation NZ.

Over 120 people, visitors and locals to Ohakune, stopped to have their blood pressure checked and there were 12 referrals to GPs from those tested. These referrals are extremely busy and Rotarian Marlene Castle said there was a steady flow of people lining up for the tests. Assisted by several St John volunteers, Ms Castle said the day was very successful and a great asset to the community’s health. It will be available again next year in October and Rotary were extremely grateful to New World Ohakune for the use of their premises as a venue.

What's on round Ruapehu

- Wairarapa Pony Club Opening Rally 21 October
- Wairarapa Pony Club Open Ribbon Day 5 November
- Wairarapa Pony Club Open Dressage Day 9 December
- Raetihi Christmas Parade 9 December
- Wairarapa Pony Club Open Show Jumping Day 10 December

Tollfree 0800 808 658

Lisa Douglas has joined the TG Team!

Lisa joined the firm as a partner in July 2017. She brings with her a wealth of experience as a civil litigator, whose practise has spanned a significant range of dispute areas over more than 20 years. Lisa takes a pragmatic approach to disputes. As well as having considerable experience in dealing with complex legal and factual issues in the context of court proceedings, she is a strong supporter of alternative dispute resolution processes. She has been involved in countless mediations, and has a strong record of successfully resolving disputes through negotiation and the mediation process, in particular.

Key practice areas:
- Civil and commercial litigation
- Alternative dispute resolution processes.

What's on

- Creative Communities Grant Funding
- Total Track Services
- Track Gear for Excavators/ Bulldozers
- Our Region, Our People

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Total Track Services

Total Track Services

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Creative Communities

Creative Communities

Grant Funding Ruapehu District Council on behalf of Creative New Zealand is pleased to announce a new round of grant funding for the Creative Communities Scheme. If you are involved with any activity or project, that increases participation in the arts or culture at a local level, you may be eligible for funding. This includes such things as increasing the range and diversity of arts and culture available to local communities, or any project that enhances or strengthens the local arts sector. We also need two new Assessment Committee Members, one from the North and one from the South. If you are interested please contact us.

Applications close Friday 3rd November

Application forms are available from all Council offices and libraries or via the web on: www.ruapehucap.govt.nz/our-district/Grants

Call us now!
Local newspaper advertising is alive and well right here in Ruapehu

There is a lot of talk about the demise of newspapers, following the explosion of on-line media. But local community newspapers like the Ruapehu Bulletin reach as many people as they always did. With the cacophony of information through electronic media, our readers like to pick up their Bulletin and read about the people and places in their community.

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Misleading reports upset Crossing folk

Some national media reports have got it wrong about changes to parking rules at the Tongariro Alpine Crossing, says a National Park group.

Last week, the Department of Conservation announced new parking rules at the Mangatepopo end of the track. Parking would be limited to four hours, despite what some media says!” reports the New Zealand Herald, have reininterpreted the DOC press release.

“They have all got it wrong with "hikers can alternatively park at the Mangatepopo car park and then pay for a shuttle to the start, at a cost of $30 per adult and $25 per child". They also got it wrong with "hikers can alternatively park at the Mangatepopo car park and then pay for a shuttle to the start, at a cost of $30 per adult and $25 per child". The Mangatepopo car park is at the start of the track, so not only should you not park there for the Crossing, there would be a little point catching a shuttle from there, to there.

“The National Park Village business website has tried to correct the reports, posting information on how people can get to the track.

“Now, you’re not expected to walk 19km in 4 hours, despite what some media says!" reports National Park Village.

“We welcome the fact that DOC will now better resource management of visitors to the Park. It will be a huge help,” says Murray Wilson, chairman of the National Park Villages Business Association.

“Local tourism operators have long advocated for improving visitor flows, visitor experience and impacts on the environment, as well as better opportunities for visitors to understand the cultural significance of the Park.”

The group reiterated that the changes have been made “in a bid to improve people’s enjoyment of the Tongariro Alpine Crossing”.

Vehicle crowding at both ends of the Tongariro Alpine Crossing has adversely impacted on people’s enjoyment of this world-famous day hike.

Shuttle services operate from Whakapapa Village, National Park Village, Turangi, Taupo, Ohakune and Raetihi. They take visitors to the start, at Mangatepopo Road end, and pick them up at the end of the hike from Ketetahi Road end.

Information on all approved operators is available from i-sites around the region and on the DOC website.

Outraged trampers

Some are angry at the decision, saying that having to use a shuttle is inconvenient and costly.

“When my husband and I did it, our shuttle bus ran 45 minutes to one hour late leaving and we vowed the next time to drive so that we could start our tramp on time. A big shame this is where it’s heading,” hiker Katie Kalaniak told Stuff.

Another hiker Jenni Funnel, whose family walk the trail through the national park as parking restrictions come into force, “the Herald misreported the trail through the national park as parking restrictions and certificate.

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Watch Rookies, support Sam

Rookies, a film following extreme skier Sam Lee (pictured at left), who cut his edges as a youngster at Turangi, is screening at Kings on Saturday night, with funds from the night going to the 26-year-old skier and the maker of the film, Charlotte Pecile.

The unique snow film follows Sam and three other athletes as they get into world freeride skiing.

Rookies follows the trails blazed by three Verbier locals – Elisabeth Gerritsen, Carl Renvall, Yann Rausis “and one mad Kiwi” – Sam Lee.

It explores the stress and simultaneous euphoria the athletes experience during their premier season on the Freeride World Tour.

Sam ‘The Ibex’ Lee, originally from Auckland and now at Wanaka, has been riding around Verbier for the past four winters.

"Sam is a hard-charging “mountain ibex” that is most comfortable in steep exposed terrain with minimal snow coverage," states the film's publicity.

He is now a freestyle coach and ski instructor at Cardrona and will now work on fitness, ready for the world tour that kicks off in Japan in January.

Next up is Kicking Horse, Canada; Valnord-Arcalis, Austria; Fieberbrunn, Austria; and Venner, Switzerland.

He thanks his sponsors who make it possible for him to travel and compete and stay in the black, and his parents who “put him up in Wanaka” so he can save money.

Raetihi scholars do well

Zoe Wallace Southall, Maina Gray, Wikura Wallace, Jorja von Pein and Sam Rowe – their scholarship has been rewarded.

Ekahua pupils have had success in the Education Assessment Australia ICAS tests.

Wikura Wallace scored in the top 1% in English for her age level. This is the second year in a row that she has achieved this high distinction result and certificate.

Jorja von Pein and Zoe Wallace Southall received a credit in English. Sam Rowe and Jorja von Pein received a credit in Maths and Maina Gray received a merit in Maths.

Over one million student entries are accepted from over 6300 schools in Australasia.
Waimarino hosts one of the oldest golf tournaments

One of the oldest golf tournaments in New Zealand, the King Country Championships, was hosted at the Waimarino Golf Course on 6-8 October, with 10 clubs converging on the area for the three-day event.

The event consists of teams of four women playing 36 holes on the Friday, followed by teams of six men playing 36 holes on the Saturday, followed by 18 holes on the Sunday.

“Running an event of this size requires some organising and a huge input from club volunteers, not only over the weekend but in the lead up with preparation,” said Club representative Andy Entwistle.

“The Club wishes to thank all the volunteers and the greenkeeper for the massive effort to make this event so successful. This event was a wonderful way to showcase what a wonderful asset we have.”

In three weeks the Club hosts their annual Ruapehu Open “so we look forward to seeing you all out there,” invites Andy.

Results


Pittams Trophy (ladies and mens teams score Combined) - Stewart Alexander.

Ruapehu report

After the excitement of the King Country Champs earlier in the month, the Waimarino Golf Club had a quiet Sunday. Bamey Warbrick won the competition and Tom Spill was third. There were no twos scored and the $300 Jackpot was not struck.

The next big event for the club is the 2017 Ruapehu Open on 3-5 November. Next Sunday is a normal club day, tee off from 12.30pm.

Waimarino hosts one of the oldest golf tournaments

Checking their scores are visiting golfers at the Waimarino course.
RAETIHI COUNTRY MARKET
this Saturday 21 October
at The Centre, Seddon St 9.30am until 1pm
Great coffee, baking, ham sandwiches, crafts and much, much more.
See you there!
For stall info phone Joy 385 3100
Survey shows positive views for Ruapehu College

The Ruapehu College Board of Trustees have been running some comprehensive surveys in the last two months to get feedback on school performance from the community, students, teachers and parents. We are now collating the feedback so that this can inform a strategic plan for the College moving forward. The BoT were delighted with the responses and felt that the school had come a long way in the last five years when community support was not as it should have been. Things are much better now and here is the data to prove it. There were 44 parent submissions and 68 community submissions.

As per question 1, parents and community generally agree that Ruapehu College is performing above average academically and the students at the College get a good education. This is pleasing to see. The comments also said (among other things) they wanted their child to get more homework.

The school uniform is also generally well received. Most parents are supportive of a school uniform and want it enforced. There were some comments regarding summer and winter options.

Attendance is seen as very important by the parents.

Some quotes from the questionnaire:
- Online learning programmes/apps for after school and weekends.
- Personal programmes and learning that is engaging.
- Set nightly homework and get parents to sign it off, it requires self discipline to make time to get it done which is a great skill for later years.
- Set up after school study for 1 hour to go over the days notes or complete any revision.
- Foster and encourage a student environment where academic excellence is ‘cool’.
- Take learning outside of school at least once a term.
- Great to see the college results ranked highly in the Whanganui region. Well done teachers.
- Doing well for the size of the school. Offer more subjects to entice students/sports people to want to go to the school instead of going away to college.
- Great to see 3 rugby teams up and running in the last 2 years.
- I think it is going from strength to strength. Congrats to the coaches for putting in the effort.
- Our students are very physical and love doing sports. Our teams aren’t the best but there is a lot of dedication.
- I think the cultural areas are well covered, you just have to look at your staff to see that.
- I’ve only heard positives from the kids.
- My daughter loves college she has had no trouble socially or otherwise at school and has found some really positive role models at school to look up to.
- A great education combined with sporting and cultural opportunities making use of our amazing environment!
- Career guidance, thriving numbers, modern learning environment and inspiring passionate teachers.
- I hope Cactus becomes permanent and that every child gets the opportunity to participate.
- Te Pae Tata is a real asset to the school – greater use of technology utilising our beautiful natural resources to make it a school of difference – outdoor education opportunities.

As per questions 3 and 5 – although school culture is better perceived by the parents, it is not as well perceived by the community. Many parents and people in the community said they would like more time for kapa haka practice.

The school sporting endeavours are perceived to be good too and the College does offer a lot of sport in such a small school.

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There were lots of comments about Ruapehu College for the future. These included more interaction with the community around business enterprise, iwi liaison and international cultures. There was also suggestions around utilisation of technology, the hub and the beautiful environment we live in especially in relation to outdoor activities.

Thank you to our parents and community for completing our survey. The BoT will work towards making our school the best it can be as we forge ahead into the future.

For a comprehensive list of all questions and answers, please go to www.ruapehucollege.school.nz
Ski-kini downhill for breast cancer funds

Skiers and snowboarders donned bikinis and took to the slopes of Turoa on Saturday, for fun and for a great cause.

The annual Turoa Bikini Downhill race raised more than $650 for the New Zealand Breast Cancer Foundation with guys also joining in the fun in their shorts.

More than 75 skiers and snowboarders took a run down the downhill slalom course located next to Turoa’s terrain parks, in superb spring snow conditions with blue skies and light winds.

“It was truly amazing to see how many people got in the spirit of the event and took a run down the course for such a good cause,” said Matt McIvor, Mt Ruapehu marketing manager.

“We couldn’t have asked for better weather and look forward to turning the slopes pink again next year with this event.”

Breast Cancer Foundation NZ chief executive Evangelia Henderson said they are always amazed at the creative ways in which our community supports them.

“The bikini downhill ski event is a wonderful way to raise both money and awareness. We wish all the participants well.”

Donations were taken at the start of the course and throughout the day. Collection buckets and NZBCF awareness information was distributed at customer services, rentals and food and beverage outlets.

Spot prizes were awarded to best-dressed, fastest times and the most runs, with thanks to Icebreaker and Dragon Alliance support with prizes.

Anyone who couldn’t make it, or dare’t don a bikini in the snow, can still donate at https://www.breastcancerfoundation.org.nz/donate/donate-now