



THE PINNACLE SKI CLUB AND THE IMPORTANCE OF PLAY

The Pinnacle Ski Club was founded over 50 years ago by a group of people wishing to provide a special environment for the shared recreation of skiing for themselves and their friends and family.

The objects of the Club are stated in its Rules¹ as follows:

“THE PINNACLE SKI CLUB INCORPORATED

RULES

1. The name of the Club shall be "The Pinnacle Ski Club Incorporated" referred to in these rules as "the Club".
2. **Objects**
 - 2.1 The objects of the Club shall be:
 - (a) To encourage amateur skiing and good fellowship amongst skiers.
 - (b) To provide and administer facilities and accommodation for skiers.
 - (e) To use the funds of the Club for and to do all such things as may be incidental or conducive to the attainment of the foregoing objects of the Club.”

It is suggested that the proposition of the encouragement of “fellowship” in these Rules has the goal of friendliness amongst members in a way that is, as much as possible, companionable, neighbourly, amiable, cordial, well disposed, helpful, genial and benevolent.

In other words the Club was formed not only to provide a venue for sporting interest but also to encourage sociability amongst us.

In building the Clubhouses, initially at Whakapapa and then later at Ohakune, the Club founders provided accommodation which was thought conducive to these aims.

¹ A full copy of the Club Rules is on the Club’s website at www.pinnacleskiclub.co.nz.

The first Clubhouse, at Whakapapa, was constructed with shared bunkrooms, shared (albeit gender exclusive) washrooms, shared clothes washing and drying facilities, a shared kitchen, and one large shared lounge (now called the "Owen Cobb Lounge").

The newer Clubhouse at Ohakune repeated this communal pattern with the exception of *en suite* washrooms in each bunkroom, and, because (presumably because lockers for members were thought unnecessary) more space was available, a larger separate room for games.

The objects of the Club were not, therefore, thought to be best achievable through the provision of more detached and individual, and therefore more insular, hotel or motel type accommodation arrangements.

Sociability and fellowship was encouraged through the community of living together with a shared pastime.

There are those of us who have been with the Club for some time, some of us being the children of early or founding members.

Now that the Club is over 50 years old we are now only just entering our late youth phase.

Be that as it may, there are those of us who have been child members when our parents were adult members.

For us the Club has been special, and in particular the Whakapapa Clubhouse.

We have "grown up" sharing in the Clubhouse with other children and pursuing shared recreation.

During this time there was active socialisation of many kinds together in what is now the Owen Cobb Lounge where we met, interacted and played person to person with other children who were often from outside our usual school, sporting or recreational groups.

As adults and parents were immediately to hand this was both fun and safe.

It is suggested that the benefits of this play and the express socialisation of children in a safe environment (excepting, of course, some small danger of sporting injury) are far reaching.

It is also an example of the encouragement of fellowship.

It is pleasing to us to see new generations of members and their children interacting together in the same way.

The Club has not made provision for a TV or any movie player of any type at the Whakapapa Lodge with this goal of the encouragement of fellowship in mind, feeling that such a device would detract from the community and shared nature of the experience the Club offers, with particular importance here the special area of the "Owen Cobb Lounge".

A monitor type TV for the playing of DVDs, though, has been made available at the Ohakune Club in the games room and the room enclosed, providing an area as a separate facility to the upstairs lounge.

This was only realisable because of the extra space available at that Clubhouse and the Club was mindful of the smaller lounge area at Ohakune and the need to try and provide facilities that may address the underutilisation of that Clubhouse.

In recent times we have all experienced the introduction and effects of profound technological change, particularly in the electronic storage and retrieval of data of all types and in remote person to person communication.

This has been accompanied by the widespread adoption of various portable electronic devices such as video and other media players, mobile phones and laptop computers.

Members are, of course, free to bring any such device to the Clubhouses to use.

However, we request that members be mindful of the *ethos* of the encouragement of fellowship within the Club and we therefore ask members to bear in mind that the playing of electronic games or the watching of movies or TV on any device may be a little exclusive and may limit personal relations, most particularly amongst children, especially within the confines of the special area of the Owen Cobb Lounge at Whakapapa.

Instead we encourage members including, but not limited to, all the children, to play together.