

## Skål Te Taihu Newsletter

November 2023



### Note from the President

Kia ora all,

It has been wonderful to connect with you all this year. The value of networking, sharing ideas and discussing challenges can't be underestimated. And just getting to know your colleagues in the sector is always worthwhile. Now is the time to renew your Skål membership, so please look out for the email and invoice.

The committee work hard to bring you a valuable series of events with a mix of being both informative and fun. Your suggestions for future events and speakers are always welcome. And of course, if you would like to join the committee we would love to hear from you! We keep our meetings informal and practical, usually over a chilled local brew. Sharing the load makes it manageable for all, so please put up your hand if you would like to join us!

I attended the national committee meeting in September, and Christchurch have put in a bid to host the international conference next year. If successful, that would be a very exciting opportunity for the whole country.

We have all had a busy year and you will now be gearing up for an even busier summer season. I wish you all the best for coming months.

Nga mihi  
Gisela Purcell

## Upcoming Events

Mon 27 Nov 5.30 - 7.30pm Final drinks for the year at The Brick Eatery, Monaco  
Register by emailing [Gisela](#)

### 2024

Thurs 22 Feb	From 5.30pm	Networking Drinks
Mon 25 March	12 - 1.30pm	Lunch with guest speaker
Thurs 11 April	From 5.30pm	AGM and Networking Drinks
Mon 27 May	12 - 1.30pm	Lunch with guest speaker
Thurs 27 June	From 5.30pm	Networking Drinks
Mon 29 July	12 - 1.30pm	Lunch with guest speaker.

*Subject to change - Further details will be provided as they are confirmed.*

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## Membership Fees 2024

Please look out for the email and invoice which will be sent to you soon. Fees need to be paid before Christmas so that we can meet our commitments with the national and international bodies. Please note that these fees include the subs which pay to national and international Skål bodies. Skål Te Taiuhu retains a small margin to enable the running of the club.

Skål Te Taiuhu Membership Fees 2024:

1. For annual renewals the cost is \$200
2. For new members there is an additional admin fee of \$70



## Skål Te Taiuhu Turns 5!

Skål Te Taiuhu was founded on 22 October 2018 and many of the founding members are still closely involved. Huge thanks to Lynda Keene for her vision and initiative to get this club off the ground!

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## In Memorium

Doug Robinson, Founding member of Skāl Te Tauihu, passed away Monday 16 October 2023

For 15 years Doug along with his wife Dorothy ran the ASURE property in Blenheim as well as ASURE Head Office before selling the motel business in 2016 to concentrate solely on ASURE. The ASURE business was sold in September 2022 however Doug continued to follow with interest the activities of ASURE, the tourism sector and Skāl Te Tauihu members. A private cremation was held with his Skāl & ASURE badge placed in with him. A true gentleman, he will be sadly missed and fondly remembered.



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## Are you looking for summer staff?

**Whenua Iti Outdoors** would like to build a stronger pathway for [Manaaki Tapoi rangatahi graduates](#) into local tourism businesses. Once the school year has finished, these young people could be contributing to your business. Here's a short video profiling some of the graduates. Please contact Mark to find out more:

Mark Bruce-Miller, [Mark@whenuaiti.org.nz](mailto:Mark@whenuaiti.org.nz) +64 27 2981007



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## October Gathering

We had a fabulous evening at the Tree Top Cafe at Cable Bay Adventure Park. The views were incredible and we were treated to a stunning sunset while enjoying our BBQ dinner on the deck. We were even joined by tourism colleagues from Marlborough and Kaikoura! A few brave souls took a ride across the valley on the SkyWire - honestly a memorable experience. Once the initial rush is over, you float peacefully above the bush to the sound of birdsong! Thanks to all who journeyed up the hill to join us!





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## June 2023 - Review of the Last Season

- **Royce Lock**, Accents Hostel Nelson
- **Jane-Maree Holmes**, Abel Tasman Sailing Adventures
- **Ian Williams**, The Vic Public House & Burger Culture

All 3-panellist confirmed that they had had a good, busy summer season, but highlighted a need for more events throughout the whole year, rather than over the already busy summer.

Royce mentioned that his summer season had extended out through to Easter this year and had already taken some enquires for Summer next year. There is a bit of concern around the cost for internationals traveling to NZ, and Northern Africa and Asia may be a competitive market due to price.

Jane-Maree had changed up her offering and invested in their boat, and another crew person, resulting in great feedback and further demand.



Jane-Maree mentioned that seasonality is always a challenge, and although she has great staff now, it was difficult to find them at the beginning of summer. Income has remained on par, however the cost of doing business is increasing, and will need to look at pricing for next Summer.

Ian spoke about the hardships of post-covid times for the hospitality sector such as looming fair pay agreements, minimum wage increases and the ripple effects across all staff, increase cost of goods and services and staff shortages. Summer was great, but Winter is going to be make or break for some venues.

There was some general discussion around the lack of venues open on public holidays and certain weeknights - Royce and Ian spoke about the additional costs involved of operating on public holidays that needed to be taken into account, as well as giving some staff a break. Overall, it was a great, interactive session and while there are definitely tough times ahead, everyone was looking forward to another busy summer season welcoming guests.



## Skål Te Tau Ihu Committee 2023

President - Gisela Purcell

Secretary - Ian Greenslade

Treasurer - Chris McGeown

Membership - Jane-Maree Holmes & Renee Bennet- Shields

Events - Stuart Bean

Communications and Support - Kim Odendaal

Immediate Past President - Sharon McGuire

*We welcome new committee members for 2024 - please contact us if you are keen to join us!*



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You are receiving this email because you are a member of, or have shown interest in joining, Skal Te Tauihu - the networking group for tourism professionals in the Top of the South.

**Our mailing address is:**

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New Zealand