



18.08.2026

Whakapapa Bruce Road access and winter driving

Hi Clubbies, the RMCA recommends that all club members carry chains as part of their winter driving kit, including those travelling in four-wheel-drive vehicles. Many of us also carry a shovel. It is essential that we follow all advice about road conditions and fit chains whenever directed. The Bruce road is owned by DOC, and TPP is subcontracted to manage the safe usage of the road.

This season, the RMCA has been working hard with DOC and TPP and advocating for the road to stay open on Friday and Saturday evenings. A Friday night road closure at 4pm impacts clubbies who must then find alternative accommodation.

Earlier this season, several two-wheel-drive vehicles travelled up late on a Friday night and became stuck. Although the drivers had chains, they chose not to fit them despite the advice given and the blizzard-like conditions. The police were called and the friendly local policeman Conrad at Waimarino towed out 4 cars that evening. DOC subsequently became involved. This has reflected poorly on clubbies. The RMCA has met with TPP following this incident. We have assured TPP that this was a "one off event".

The RMCA has once again committed to DOC to educate clubbies on safe usage of the road. If there are any further large-scale strandings, late access could become considerably more restricted, which would be unfortunate for everyone.

Please also ensure that your guests clearly understand this protocol before travelling. We do not want to lose the late access currently available, and, most importantly, we all need to keep ourselves and others safe.

As part of the RMCA commitment to safety, all Whakapapa Bruce road updates communicated by TPP are posted on the RMCA Facebook Page. Conditions can change quickly, so please check out the latest advice before setting out and be prepared for what you may wake up to.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/1DTMQJMkU3/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

Daily road information is available in the WHL snow report:

<https://www.whakapapa.com/report>

Take care,
Debbie