



MEDIA RELEASE

Mt Ruapehu to donate half of proceeds from its 'Locals' Weekend' to the Greenlea Rescue Helicopter.

Mt Ruapehu, 9 December 2022:

To celebrate the opening of Mt Ruapehu's summer season and give back to one of the region's most critical resources – the Greenlea Rescue Helicopter – the weekend of the 18-19 of December has been confirmed as a "Locals' Weekend" at Mt Ruapehu, where locals can enjoy discounted Sky Waka gondola sightseeing passes, and know that half of the proceeds from the weekend will go to the Greenlea Rescue Helicopter.

The Greenlea Rescue Helicopter was founded in 1985 and has touched the lives of more than 5,000 patients since. It serves the Central Plateau and Lakes region across the Central North Island, providing 24-hour emergency service, 365 days a year. The Greenlea Rescue Helicopter is partially funded by a government contract but relies heavily on the generosity of the community to help fund the shortfall.

Each winter, the Greenlea Rescue Helicopter undertakes missions at Mt Ruapehu's two ski areas, performing medical evacuations when required, alongside its wider Central North Island rescue helicopter network. The Greenlea Rescue Helicopter also plays a critical role in partnering with both Mt Ruapehu and other organisations, including the Ruapehu Alpine Rescue Organisation (RARO), on many technical search and rescue missions within the Ruapehu area.

Steve Manunui, Whakapapa Ski Area Manager, says "The Mt Ruapehu team greatly appreciate the importance of life-saving equipment and Intensive Care Paramedics reaching a patient without delay, and therefore how important the Greenlea Rescue Helicopter is to the region. We hope that locals come out in support of this fundraising effort for the Greenlea Rescue Helicopter, while also getting to experience the heights of our Sky Waka gondola and unique dining experiences."

The Mt Ruapehu summer season, which is open through to 1 May 2022, includes the Sky Waka gondola sightseeing experience and dining experiences at the award-winning Knoll Ridge Chalet. Short walks, varying from just 15 minutes to up to four hours, from both the base of the Sky Waka gondola and from the Knoll Ridge Chalet, also give guests the opportunity to explore the unique volcanic terrain, on foot.

For the duration of the Locals' Weekend, return Sky Waka gondola sightseeing passes will be \$20 an adult and \$10 youth (aged 5-17 years), normally \$39 and \$19 respectively. A local is considered a resident residing anywhere within a 1hr 30 radius of the maunga, stretching from Taupō down to Waiouru. The team also welcomes residents of Whanganui as locals.

The Sky Waka gondola runs daily, 10am – 4pm. The Pinnacles restaurant and buffet lunch operates daily, 11am – 2pm. Adults can dine at the buffet for \$25, and youth (aged 5-17 years) for \$19. Bookings are recommended. A coffee corner will be open from 10am – 3pm each day



Proof of address will be required to redeem the Locals' Weekend rate. Passes can be purchased on the day on mountain. Vaccine certificates will be required to access all facilities, in line with the government's move to the Covid-19 Protection Framework, and the introduction of the My Vaccine Pass.

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