

## Information Sheet 2018

### What to expect at New Zealand's best ski field in 2018

Mt Hutt has once again been voted New Zealand's best ski resort at the World Ski Awards, for the third consecutive year!!

Nothing has changed when it comes to the awesome customer service and big mountain ski terrain at Mt Hutt – two of many reasons why it's been voted New Zealand's best ski resort three years in a row – but behind the scenes there's a lot happening ahead of the 2018 ski season.

Mt Hutt Ski Area Manager James McKenzie says, "Behind that great natural terrain is a lot of technical work that makes sure we get the best out of the mountain during the ski season for guests!"

The 365ha ski field, which is 30 minutes from the ski town of Methven in Canterbury, is improving safety systems, transport and renovating the popular Ski High Café.

**Snowmaking** is key to the mountain, and investments will increase capacity and snow management capability to improve coverage in season. It may allow more of the mountain to open in early June 2018 – the team at Hutt hope to have Triple chair spinning on opening day alongside Summit, Quad and the Magic Carpet.

- The mountain gains another fully-automated tower-mounted fan gun on *Fascination* trail.
- The upgraded snowmaking system will pump 50% more water to the expanding fleet of guns.

Summit 6 chairlift gets a wee makeover too. This is the highest point on the mountain, which on a good day has unrivalled views across the Canterbury Plains to the Pacific Ocean.

- A robust new tower safety system at Summit 6 looks to shave off an hour of de-icing, helping the lift take guests sooner on big snow days.
- While a new unload ramp will also make the experience safer.

The popular Sky High Café is being renovated to speed up food and coffee service and create more space.

- There is an entire new food servery for hotter, faster bigger, better meals and with a more logical layout.
- A new seating area for groups.
- Extended Sixteen10 coffee bar doubling coffee output and accommodating more seating.

Other developments include:

- SNOWsat (a super-accurate GPS/snow depth system) installed in groomers.
- A new call centre to deal with sales and enquiries even more efficiently.
- In terms of **parking**, a new 44-seater 4WD bus will make car park shuttling more efficient, and toilet facilities will be provided at the lower carparks.

James says, "Kids and families still get great value at our mountain."

Kids 10 and under ski free at Mt Hutt, while children up to 17 years of age also benefit with huge discounts on passes. For example, a 4-day multi-day pass is NZ\$144 total, which is a saving of \$48 compared to paying as you go. That's the price of a yummy on-mountain lunch.

## Significant developments in recent years

- Awarded New Zealand's best ski resort again for 2017 at the annual World Ski Awards. Mt Hutt also holds the 2015 and 2016 title.
- Fully automatic snowmaking guns were added on the upper mountain that with widespread terrain modifications improved our ability to retain and farm snow
- A conveniently located toilet block was built at the café level of the base lodge beneath Huber's deck and the existing toilets at the car park level are being refurbished
- The grooming fleet benefited from a state-of-the-art Pisten Bully winch groomer to help maintain even snow coverage on key trails in at lift load/unload zones

## Other key features and facts

- Home of the South Island's highest chair lift and largest lift accessible terrain
- Ongoing facility, road and trail development in recent years has added new trails, seen the completion of a comprehensive road edge barrier programme and increased snowmaking capacity
- Exceptional snow record – total snowfall and snow quality for one of the longest snow seasons in NZ
- A choice of four freestyle terrain parks
- Exclusive Kids 4 Free deal – every child 10 years and under gets free lift pass every day at Mt Hutt (with a paying adult), as part of the [www.kids4free.co.nz](http://www.kids4free.co.nz) programme that also provides free accommodation, transport and meals in Methven.
- Upgrades to on-mountain rental fleet of skis, boards, boots and helmets
- 35-minute drive from Methven village; 90-minutes from Christchurch International Airport
- Breathtaking views across the Canterbury Plains to the Pacific Ocean
- A member of NZSki offering discounts across Mt Hutt, The Remarkables and Coronet Peak.

## Mountain stats, dates and times

**Targeted opening date:** Friday June 08  
**Anticipated Closing Date:** Sunday October 14  
*(Subject to weather conditions)*  
**Elevation:** 2086m, 683m vertical drop  
**Skiable Area:** 365 hectares  
**Lifts:** 1 six-seater detachable chair, 1 quad chair, 1 triple chair, 2 learner conveyors  
**Groomed Terrain:** 11% beginner / 37% intermediate / 27% adv. intermediate / 20% advanced / 5% park  
**Average Snowfall:** 4m per annum (excl. snowmaking)  
**Snowmaking:** 27 hectares  
**Operating Hours:** 9am to 4pm  
(First Tracks 8am to 9am Sat/Sun from 1<sup>st</sup> July)  
**Access:** 26km/35 minutes from Methven  
**Shuttles:** Daily services to/from Methven and Christchurch. Chain hire & fitting service available on the access road for most 2 or 4 wheel drive vehicles

## Contact details

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