

Brilliant conditions prevailed atop Mt Dobson whilst the lowlands were bathed in fog and rain when the Mt. Dobson Ski & Snowboard Club hosted the Ski Shack Fairlie – Dynastar Aoraki Secondary Schools Ski & Snowboard champs during the week.

New Zealand age group representative Tim Bowman (Tbhs) eventually won through to claim the Giant Slalom title along with the Best G.S. overall and led his team (Charlie Rieder, Ben and Billy Morgan) to take out the Boys Teams title for good measure. Bowman appreciated that his good friend, training companion and defending champion, Willis Feasey (Twiz) was away competing at Coronet Peak trying to gain FIF points to qualify into the New Zealand team for 1 of 4 places in next year's Junior World Champs. Bowman was also gracious enough to accept that Momotaro Magasaki's (Mtht) fall in the second round may well have cost him the title for Momo's first run was a clear 3 seconds faster than his own best time. Be that as it may that's racing and Bowman can reflect proudly upon his successes.

Penny Wood (Mtht) retained her champion status but was pushed all the way by some slick ski work by Rachel Rollerston (Crai) with Sophie Rieder (Crai) in third place. Reward came for this Craighead pair, who joined by Emma Morgan and Lucy Evans took out the Teams title from their Craighead # 2 and # 3 teams.

Wood along with her schoolmates Joe Dole, Nick Wackwitz and Momotaro Magasaki combined to blitz all comers for the Mixed Team title a staggering 12 seconds faster than the winning Boys Team.

In the Junior section (Yr 7 &) Waihi School were dominant with Wilbur Morrison being crowned Junior Boy Champion ahead of Ashar Wallace (Waihi) and Gareth McKerchar (Mack). Morrison and Wallace then combined with Harry Davis and Hamish Rowley to take out the Junior Teams Title from their # 2 and # 3 teams.

In the Junior Girls it was Gleniti School's Kate Weith who prevailed over Isobel Clarke (Mack) and Estelle Arundell (Crai). Clarke along with Megan Gallagher, Amber Midgley and Jessica Blair won the Junior Girls Teams title for Mackenzie College.

The Snowboard competition was thrilling to watch with a lesser skill level meaning more spills and upset results. The Timaru Boys High School # 1 team of Tom Schrader, Tim Hawkey, Dylan Hunt and Jamall Sim-Brooking were clearly deserving of their Teams Title as was Tom Schrader his second placing in the Individual category. Hayden MacAskill (Mtht) took the Individual Title with some very consistent racing losing just once but benefitted as that winner was disqualified for inappropriate language as he celebrated his rare victory over his schoolmate. Matt Jopson (ASHB) was third. Jopson's Ashbuton College team including Ben Wild, Michael Adams and David Bell were runners up to Tbhs.

Hannah Ashton (Mtht) was clearly superior in a small Girls field to deservedly win the title from a Yr 8 schoolmate in Fiona Brunton. Not surprisingly Brunton took out the Junior Girls title.

The first and second place getters in each Teams Event category qualify to race in the upcoming SISS champs at Cardrona, September 11th.