

Christmas on the slopes

TEKAPO tourism promoters know how to make the most of their winter wonderland in an unconventional way — hold a midwinter Christmas dinner on the local skifield.

The Roundhill field and its spectacular backdrops were an appropriate weekend venue to celebrate Tekapo's potential as an outdoor playground.

Tekapo Tourism's Greg and Bridgit Knowles and friends had a four-course meal of scallops, soup, beef casserole and a leg of ham, finished off with brandy snaps, Christmas pudding and fruit salad.

Mr Knowles said the company

held a "non-conventional event" each year to emphasise the Mackenzie being a natural adventure playground.

Two years ago the group of friends stayed in a snow cave on Mt Dobson and listened to a rugby match on radio.

The company promotes the Mackenzie Country through websites, including the Mt John webcam.

The friends did some preparation at home and carried out the final cooking by using gas and a portable generator on the field. The day was topped off with a relaxing evening soak in hot pools.



MIDWINTER CHRISTMAS: Guests enjoy dinner at Roundhill Ski Area. From left are Kane Pottinger, Bridgit Knowles, Kathleen O'Conner, Scott Hay, Carolyn Lauren, Greg Knowles and Jim Webster.