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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

*Cardrona Alpine Resort*

*Wanaka, NZ*

*August 22, 2016*

**RE: A MASSIVE COMPETITOR TURNOUT FOR THE INAUGURAL BILLABONG BANKED SLALOM**

The inaugural Billabong Banked Slalom attracted a massive competitor turnout on Saturday at Cardrona Alpine Resort. A field of 140 snowboarders from New Zealand and around the world took on the snowboard-only race against the clock down the purpose-built course under McDougall’s Quad.

Athletes from Sweden, USA, Austria, Korea, Australia and Spain joined a strong Kiwi field to race down the specialised course built into Cardrona’s existing Gravity Cross. The course was both fun and challenging, with wide banks and berms as well as a “spine” transition feature that caught out many of the competitors.

Snowboarders raced in 3 age categories – Under 18, Masters (35+) and Open, with men’s and women’s divisions. Competitors had 2 runs to put down their best time, with only their quickest time counting towards their overall rankings.

“It’s incredible to see such a good turnout at this event,” says Billabong’s Keone Campbell. “We’re going to be back bigger and better next year.”

In the end, the Open Men’s podium was an entirely local affair, with Stef Zeestraten in first, Tim Herbert in second, and Richie Johnston in third. The Open Women’s event was taken out by Nelson’s Adele Walker, with Cardrona instructor Barbora Bobulova in second and Ellie Saulter in third place.

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The Under 18 Men’s category was topped by 14 year-old Cardrona HPC athlete Lachie Blackmore. Makayl Kellogg represented as the only Under 18 woman, with many of the junior girls choosing to compete in the Open category.

The fastest time of the day was a blistering 48.351 seconds by Men’s Masters champ Deni Bevin of Queenstown. The Women’s Masters division was led by Wanaka local Alex Brady.

The event also saw some of Wanaka’s high profile skiers switch codes for the day, with skiers represented two of the male categories – Nico Porteous in Under 18, and Jossi Wells in Open. Shapeshifter’s P Digsss competed in the Masters division.

The Billabong Banked Slalom is set to become an annual event on the Cardrona GoldX winter calendar.

**ENDS**

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**About Cardrona Alpine Resort**

Cardrona Alpine Resort is New Zealand’s most popular ski area, attracting all kinds of snow enthusiasts – from beginners & families, to Olympic & X Games athletes. Cardrona’s 3 vast basins are home to the Southern Hemisphere’s most extensive terrain parks & pipes, & NZ’s most qualified ski & snowboard school. Wide, open trails offer some of NZ’s best snow conditions, groomed to perfection by a modern & innovative snow management system. Take a short drive from Queenstown Airport over the spectacular Crown Range & be welcomed with genuine Kiwi hospitality to NZ’s ultimate winter playground. In the summer months Cardrona is open for mountain biking, conferences & other alpine adventure activities. Cardrona is a wholly owned subsidiary of Real Journeys Ltd.