



# COLD FACTS

NEWSLETTER OF THE ILLAWARRA ALPINE CLUB LIMITED

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Cover Photo: From the Lodge balcony to the Duplex in Spring

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#### **Message from the Editor**

After being served up Winter in Autumn and Spring in Winter this year, I suppose it was no surprise to have Summer in Spring and all runs not supported by the snowmaking network 'dry up' by mid-September!

As far as XC went, well, anything close to Perisher Blue including the Nordic Trails were lost around the same time, if not sooner.

Still, the après-ski tradition at the Lodge never suffered, and if the snow was dodgy, then an early exit for refreshments and maybe a nanna-nap in the warmth of the lounge room was de rigueur.

Side effects from Mel and Kirk's haute cuisine were some loosening of belts for generations X and senior, while generation Y had trouble coping with jeans that stayed up and didn't drag the dining room parquetry.

*Cold Facts* send well wishes for quick recovery to **Sue Brown** and **Julian Condon**, both injured in freak accidents while enjoying their favourite runs. Sue's season ended abruptly early in July but is very philosophical as ever - ' *We 'oldies' don't stop skiing because we are old ... we grow old only if we stop skiing.* ' Sue sends thanks to all who phoned and emailed with concern, stoically reassuring us she's OK. Julian reported in this week from Figtree Private and is in steady recovery mode with good support from close mate Atta. X-rays of his right heel might "look like a meccano set", but he hasn't lost that fanatical passion for skiing! Any tougher and he'd rust – fair dink! Another Brown – young '**Ralph**' (Stuart) – our foreign correspondent in Mammoth USA sends greetings from their short summer spent on the golf course and bike trails. Stu has snared a new role as Community Relations Manager for the Town of Mammoth Lakes – he reckons it's the best gig yet - Good luck Stu! **John and Beata** have been kept busy in the vineyards and wine keller of Beata's fathers' on a hill overlooking Stuttgart. All is going well for them, amongst all the hard work John is getting around on a Harley Davidson. No ponytail or cowboy boots to match...yet... A safe Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

Got news? Email [coldfacts@iacski.com](mailto:coldfacts@iacski.com)

Ed

## From the President

Hello everyone,

I'd like to take this opportunity to give you an update on the results of the questionnaire that was sent to members in October. We are still working through all the detailed comments that were made by members, but I can give you a high level overview of the results to date.

The questionnaire that was sent out in October was Part A in a 2 part process being undertaken to determine the priorities of members in relation to lodge accommodation, and establish the criteria to assess the various options available to improve the accommodation.

There were 370 questionnaires sent to members, and we have had a good response with almost 200 sent back. By all standards, a response rate over 50% is actually very good, so thank you to all of the members that took the time to respond.

Below are the questions that were asked in the questionnaire, and the overall response from members:

1) How important is bedroom privacy?  
(Meaning that there is no need to share a room with people other than your immediate family? )

79% of members responded this was Very Important or Fairly Important

2) If you are a couple, how important is it for you to be able to share a bed / bunk?  
(ie: rather than sleep in separate bunks)

64% of members responded that this was Very Important or Fairly Important

3) How important is bedroom floor space & storage?  
(If you come to the Lodge for a week, how important is it for you to be able to unpack and hang / store all your clothes and store your bags away?)

68% of members responded that this was Very Important or Fairly Important

4) Do you think the quality of the mattress is adequate?

83% of members responded that the current mattress quality was adequate

5) How important is the mattress quality?

88% of members responded that this was Very Important or Fairly Important

6) How important is it to have a bed at floor level?  
(For Example: Is it difficult or inconvenient for you to climb into a top bunk?)

46% of members responded that this was Very Important or Fairly Important

7) How important is it for you to be able to control bedroom temperature?

79% of members responded that this was Very Important or Fairly Important

8) How important is the camaraderie of the communal lounge area?

96% of members responded that this was Very Important or Fairly Important

9) How important is it that the bedroom is near or adjacent to a toilet?

44% of members responded that this was Very Important or Fairly Important

10) How important is it that the bedroom is near or adjacent to the shower?

29% of members responded that this was Very Important or Fairly Important

11) How important is it that the shower is near or adjacent to a toilet?

41% of members responded that this was Very Important or Fairly Important

12) If the improvements were beyond the Club's existing financial capacity, how would you prefer the improvements to be funded?

59% of members responded that they would be prepared to pay a special levy and / or pay higher accommodation rates to fund the improvements.

13) Would you be willing to spend 1-2 weeks as voluntary labour on a building project?

61% of members responded that they would be Fairly Willing or Very Willing to volunteer on a building project.

The above represents an initial overview of the responses. We are still analyzing the responses by demographic (male / female / age etc) and also the written comments that many of you made. Once we have done that, we will then have our criteria for assessing the options for accommodation improvements.

While this is going on, we have started working on Part B of the questionnaire. At the December working bee, we have arranged to meet with the Department of Planning to talk to them about the different options – particularly the ones that require significant work (ie an extension or a reconfiguration of the downstairs area). Once we understand their requirements, we will then be in a position to have detailed plans drawn up and to have the jobs quoted. Part B of the questionnaire will then be sent out to members.

In the meantime, I would like to wish you and your families a safe and happy Christmas and New Year. For those of you heading to the northern winter, safe travels and good skiing – hopefully better than Smiggin Holes 2006!

*Best wishes,  
Fiona Montgomery*

## From the Webchief

The website and email system has proven to be a very effective tool in communicating with the membership. Many of you have regularly visited the site throughout the year where you find updates and news changing all the time, as well as the latest editions of Cold Facts and access to the archives for the last few years. If you have not already tried this service, the committee encourages you to do so, especially for online bookings and vacancies information.

There may not be many changes over the Holiday break as our family will be enjoying a Swedish Christmas this year, but look out for February where a lot of new material is expected to be online.

A happy and safe time to all for the Season and hope to see you at the lodge next year!

*Viola & Paul Hallahan*

## Lodge Maintenance

**ALL WELCOME** to join us in the first three days of Summer – December 1, 2 & 3 at the Lodge. This working bee will cover general post-season maintenance – no special skills required. Good company and high quality refreshments at day's end assured by your host and taskmaster, TD. Make the most of daylight saving with a short hike or wander in the early evening, or pull up a chair and relax alpine-style with a coldie at days' end. Come for a day – or two. Why not bring a friend or family member? (Teenager-power always appreciated!)

*per Tony DiMilia – 0418423091 or maintenance @iacski.com*

## From The Booking Officer

Despite a very poor snow season the lodge did reasonably well in the occupancy department. 2536 beds filled out of a possible 3680 (69% occupancy) for the season. Must have been Mel and Kirk's cooking! Next year will be better.

As of the date of this issue of cold facts, my hours of availability on the phone will have changed. My new hours are as follows; Monday – Friday 7pm – 8pm. It is still best and quicker to contact me via email.

I have taken a couple of summer booking already. It is a fantastic idea for a cheap family summer holiday \$15 Member/Guest Adult & \$10 Member/Guest Child. Please contact me if you have any question regarding a summer holiday.

My best wishes to everyone for a happy and safe Christmas period.

Until next year, take care.  
*Julie Irvine*

## From the Club Captain : Club Racing Report

*This summary of season 2006 by Jonathan Mandl - roaming assistant to Geoff Sturday*

Season 2006 might have lacked snow cover but was overflowing with outstanding team and individual results from our Racers in the IAC Racing Development squad.

Six Junior athletes made up the squad this year with the three 'veterans' – Alexis Dengate, Carrin DiMilia and Brittany Ainge leading the way for the new wave of speed junkies – Whimbrell Wilson, Blythe Fairweather and Eric Mandl - (these 3 a.k.a. "Team Grommet") This min. depth is important to our Racing competitiveness as a Club, as we need a constant stream of younger athletes coming through from age 10 through to the teens.

Other Clubs are fielding more and more well trained Junior racers in the Interclub events and IAC's proud longstanding competitive excellence in Alpine and XC is under some threat year by year.

Training was held over two weeks where both groups were out early each day to Perisher or Blue Cow carving fresh tracks with their instructors. A few warm up runs then straight onto the SL or GS courses. Lack of snow at Blue Cow and Guthega in July meant training was on front valley only, but fortunately these areas opened up again later in August and September.

Afternoons were loaded up with XC training courtesy of Mike Edmondson, who generously gave his time again to take the squad through the fundamentals of skating technique broken up with snow soccer, games of tag and follow the leader. Many laughs and good fun. Snowboarding training became the focus in afternoons of the second week, and this paid off with good results and no DQ's in the Junior Interclub later.

Results across the '06 Interclub events show a brilliant team effort for Illawarra – although a team of only six, racer for racer their performance was gutsy and extra competitive – support and morale so important. Each gave their best, and this brought up some outstanding individual results that had a 'shock and awe' effect on our rivals.

Alexis Dengate shone in the GS and captured 1<sup>st</sup> place in the U17 female standings, and 2<sup>nd</sup> best time overall. Carrin DiMilia's XC technique and pace caught 1<sup>st</sup> place in the U17 female ranks, outperforming the race favourite, Maranatha's Jascinta Bartsch.

Proving their strength as all-rounders, Carrin, Alexis and Brittany all made the top 10 in the overall combined event standings.

Showing tons of promise, the younger three also posted strong valid runs in every event and all finished in the top 50% for combined points.

Special mention must go to young Iris Simpson (7) and Louis Fairweather for giving their best in their first Interclub! A top effort. These guys are shaping up as part of the next wave, with Brooke Eager and Max Mandl all in the U10's.

Overall, our final ranking as a Club was 4<sup>th</sup>, but not last. Maranatha, Imbac and Illabunda (PK) all fielded at least twice as many Juniors as IAC this year.

Sadly for all, the Smiggins Bowl was cancelled through lack of cover and safety reasons cited by Blue Cow's Race Dept, so we didn't get to defend the 2005 title. Still, it stays in our collection and we look now to 2007. Support was generally agreed by Club Captains that a program of 'other' events – possibly foot-races and other

challenges be on standby should future Smiggins Bowl's be cancelled.

This could keep the carnival atmosphere and make for fun and friendly competition between the dozens of gathered Juniors brought along that weekend.

It wouldn't be right to not mention the Senior and Junior Club Championships, held in perfect conditions at Blue Cow with a fun and competitive days' racing enjoyed by all. Full results for all races held this winter are available under the 'Racing' link at our website.

Lastly, the Senior Interclub races deserve recognition of IAC finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> overall in a tough battle with 1<sup>st</sup> placed Illabunda followed by Maranatha. Only a measly seven points edged us into 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Inspirational runs by Lucy Ainge secured 2<sup>nd</sup> place overall, and 1<sup>st</sup> in the women's rankings closely followed by Jarvis Fletcher less than 1 second behind, 2<sup>nd</sup> in the men's.

We struggled in our depth in XC, although led by Tim Edmondson who finished slick and strong in 5<sup>th</sup>, but as with Snowboarding, we have a shallow showing apart from a talented pacesetter!

Craig Mason snared 1<sup>st</sup> place in two sizzling runs on the board followed a tad behind in the field by the duelling Lodge-manager Kirk and young Alex Miller, having spilled over comically from the Club Championships!

Thanks to Geoff for his tireless work to get Illawarra Alpine Club Racing well-represented - and to all competitors, from 7 to 71 years of age in season 2006 – thank you and well done!

**NEW for 2007!** *Due to popular request*  
**Team IAC Polar Fleece Vests**

Made from snug 350gm fleece, these vests feature two outer zippered pockets and one inner lining chest pouch.

IAC logo embroidery colour is WHITE

Colour choices are NAVY or BLACK

Women's style is fitted cut and sized 8 to 18

[http://www.winningspirit.biz/product\\_info.php?cPath=4&products\\_id=61&osCsid=s4ldudgkm8cf33e53o45gpehj6](http://www.winningspirit.biz/product_info.php?cPath=4&products_id=61&osCsid=s4ldudgkm8cf33e53o45gpehj6)

Men's style is straight cut and sized Small to 5XL

[http://www.winningspirit.biz/product\\_info.php?cPath=4&products\\_id=60&osCsid=s4ldudgkm8cf33e53o45gpehj6](http://www.winningspirit.biz/product_info.php?cPath=4&products_id=60&osCsid=s4ldudgkm8cf33e53o45gpehj6)

(Follow links to see measurement & size chart details)

Priced at \$40.00 ea inc. postage to your door.

Email orders with quantity, style, size and colour selection with your postal address to:

[coldfacts@iacski.com](mailto:coldfacts@iacski.com)

Cheque or money order to IAC should be sent same day attention Mike Di Leva, Treasurer at our Figtree PO Box.

*NB: Enquiries on PF09K kids and PF07 & PF08 full zip fitted Polar Fleece jacket welcome – details to come.*

## Last Run

*Some sage facts of life:*

*It is said that if you lined up all the cars in the world end to end, a few IAC members would probably try to pass them... (to get into the Lodge just that bit quicker)*

*The things that come to those who wait may be the things left by those who got there first...not unlike an icy and skied-out piste...*

*The shin-bone is a device for finding low furniture...*

*A Fine is a tax for doing wrong.*

*A Tax is a fine for doing well...*

