

COLD FACTS



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NEWSLETTER OF THE ILLAWARRA ALPINE CLUB LIMITED

Volume 49 - October 2009 - Number 4

Cover Photo: Susi Eager, Andrea Wilson, Tracey Fairweather and Carrin DiMilia display the 2009 Smiggins Bowl Ladies Shield. Congratulations ladies!

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Messages from the Editor

Hello everyone. I hope you have all enjoyed another year on the slopes and have had that chance to sit in the lodge lounge room and catch up with friends around the fireplace.

Enclosed in the President's report, Geoff outlines some financial issues which could have been avoided if members had paid their annual subscriptions. Your committee works for you in a voluntary capacity, so please, if your fees are outstanding resolve this now and reduce the amount of time and effort the committee must put in to resolve such matters.

Please continue to contribute to cold facts by sending your snippets to coldfacts@iacski.com

From the President

Fellow Illawarra members, an important issue to discuss & for you all to ensure you follow thru on. At the time of our last Committee meeting we had some 60 members who have, as yet, not paid their 2009 annual subscription fee, \$175. This amounts approximately, to a \$10,000 hole in our 2009 cash flow. In an annual subscription income of approximately \$60K this represents 16% of our expected subscriptions. This has a major impact of our financial viability. Having not paid this fee these members cannot make bookings & this may suit them. However, the issue we as your Committee must deal with is we are \$10K short on our 2009 cash flow. We make budgetary decisions based on our financial position, most importantly we set next years subs & accommodation rates. A "black hole" in our budget such as this is significant.

Historically, Committees, as long as I have been involved with them, have aimed for a small operating surplus of around \$10K each season. This ensures we have money available for on-going maintenance, ever increasing NPWS costs & the odd "special (eg. sewerage) levy" we have been subject to. Season 2009 hasn't been "great" snow wise, & right now we are "sailing (skiing) close to the financial bone". In the short term we are looking at an overdraft facility to get us thru the immediate problem.

Longer term options available to Committee are of course, the aforementioned subs & accommodation rate rises. Committee also have the option of inviting new members into our Club, just as we did when we built the new ladies & mens bathrooms back in 2000 – DiMilias & Fairweathers are two of the families we invited in then, both proving worthy members of our Club. What I am saying here folks is "pay ya fees".

Those who are in the "red" will have recently received a reminder notice. For the financial viability of your Club it is vital you deal with this ASAP.

See you at our lodge & on the slopes

Geoff Mettam



Photo: Members enjoy another chat around the bar

From the Booking Officer

Despite having good snow cover for most of the season, bookings were down about 7% against the average for the last few years at 2412 beds booked (62% occupancy).

Summer bookings offer good value accommodation with plenty of mountain activities on offer so get a group together and head to Kosciuszko.

Kosciuszko Today, the seasonal Kosciuszko National Park Guide, provides up-to-date information about cross-country camping and picnic areas, cave tours, walking and cycling trails, ski trails and snow-shoeing, heritage accommodation and more. You can request a free printed copy:

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/parkinfo/KosciTodayRequestForm.htm>

, or you can read Kosciuszko Today online

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/parks/08448.pdf>

All the best for the summer and I'll see you next season.

Kind Regards

Julie Irvine

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From the Club Captain

As Winston Churchill said... "Never in the field of snowsports was so much owed by so many to so few"

The 46th annual 2009 Smiggins Bowl was held under near perfect Spring conditions - cool breeze, blue skies - on an Alpine course at Center Valley, Perisher that held up as if it was July - hard, icy and crisp - thanks to about 50kg of salt and a lot of TLC from BC Race Dept. You couldn't have asked for better, and the comments from all Clubs were unanimous. We were very lucky. The XC course was the last remaining option for a strip of white snow (not vertical and up high) on some sort of trail. We eventually settled for the access trail between the lift line of Eyre and International T-bars on the side of Mt Perisher.

5 Clubs competed - Muniong, IMBAC, Snow Country, Caloola and Illawarra Alpine Club. Two apologies were noted - Windarra and Fellowship Committees tried hard to construct a team, however were unable as at Fri 18th. It was a real family affair, loads of kids from 4 years up, parents and grandparents all together having a great day out. The event attracted 99 competitors in total.

A fantastic presentation ceremony in the cleanest lounge-room in Smiggs (thanks to Julie Irvine) topped things off, with everyone chipping in from our juniors welcoming and guiding guests in, parents and teens hosting and waiting/waitressing to guests with Kirk's gourmet snacks and savouries led by able Hut Captain Tony DiMilia. We put on a great show - take a bow Illawarra! A real family scene and no child competitor

went home empty handed - a commemorative Smiggins Bowl competitor medallion as is custom. Smiles all round.



Photo: IAC junior team

'The few' from Illawarra were the mighty Junior Team of 10 giant slayers, our dedicated 3 VETS, our skilled 4 LADIES victorious in their SHIELD events, plus the many stand-out individual efforts that kept Illawarra in the chase and on the podium in ski and snowboard events. All along the way the whole team competed their hearts out and never gave up the goal of retaining the 46th annual Smiggins Bowl. Our BOWL SL, GS, SB and XC Teams rose to the challenge and held their heads high - 110% was asked and given by all!

The final results came down to a tied 1st place between Snow Country and Illawarra on 17pts apiece.

Applying the FIS countback system, Snow Country won by a nose - but congrats to them for giving us solid competition as always. Great to also see a competitive Muniong Club back again.

Some of the stand-out results have to be acknowledged:

SHIELD GS

U9 - 1st Jeremy Eager

U13B - 2nd Max Mandl

U13G - 1st Brooke Eager, 3rd Iris Simpson

U17B - 1st Blythe Fairweather

U17G - 2nd Whimbrel Wilson

OVERALL JUNIORS RESULTS WIN JUNIOR SHIELD FROM Snow Country (2008)

JNR XC - 1st Blythe Fairweather, 3rd Whimbrel Wilson

VETS - 1st John Dengate and 3rd Timmy Lee - with Shauna Dengate *IAC RETAIN VETS SHIELD*

MENS - 1st Tom Edmondson

LADIES - 2nd Susi Eager - with team-mates Carrin DiMilia, Tracey Fairweather and Andrea Wilson *RETAIN LADIES SHIELD*

BOWL

SL - 2nd Alexis Dengate, 3rd Craig Fairweather

GS - 2nd Craig Fairweather, 3rd J Mandl

SB - 3rd Blythe Fairweather

XC - 2nd Tom Edmondson

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKS TO ALL COMPETITORS AND FAMILIES FOR AN EFFORT THAT HAD TO BE EXPERIENCED TO BE BELIEVED!

Special thanks to Sue West and Sandra for their multi-hour processing task of sorting results and data-entry - we could not have hosted as succesful an event without their hard work getting it right. Kirk and Shannon also delivered a brilliant menu - thank you for coping with 67 extra guests at presentation!

Look for next year's Smiggins Bowl date announced by February, and book the family in!



Photo: Eric Mandl - 2009 Junior Boys Champion

We were also able to settle the IAC Junior Club Championships in 2009, on the basis of results taken from the GS ski and snowboard events of the Illawarra Junior Interclub Championships on the 5th September, plus a special single run down the Smiggins Bowl Slalom course after the Bowl teams.

I'm pleased to announce that the results for the Slalom event were:

Girls: 1st, Whimbrel Wilson - 2nd, Brooke Eager and 3rd, Iris Simpson

Boys - 1st, Tyler Irvine - 2nd, Eric Mandl and 3rd Max Mandl

This allowed us to complete the overall Championship results, with Whimbrel Wilson once again retaining the Girl's Champion title and Eric Mandl achieving the Boy's Champion title for the first time.



Photo: Whimbrel Wilson – 2009 Junior Girls Champion

Congratulations to all our junior team, and please remember that the Club Championships are YOUR Championships as Members - and all IAC children are always very welcome to take part for fun and experience. Please book ahead in February 2010 and join us next year!

Jonathan Mandl
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Noticeboard

New Baby!

Congratulations to Brett and Gaye Tarrant who have recently had a baby girl – Addison Meg ☺

Pam Coleman returns to visit IAC Lodge after 40 years

Pam, with son Alan and friend Deborah made a special visit to the Lodge on the Sunday of the seasons' closing weekend.



Photo: Jonathan Mandl plays host to Pam and Alan Coleman

Admitting that since 1969, she hadn't been inside the newest version of her former winter 'home', it was a big

surprise for her to see the extensions and renovations to the original humble design.

Pam remarked that although the Lodge today was much bigger and better equipped, she had a lot of affection for the 1960's version, which she remembers well.

On meeting Kirk and seeing the current kitchen and Manager's flat, she said this was a far cry from the small kitchen she worked from, hers more like a small home kitchen with just the essentials.

Kirk and Pam discussed meals served, again in Pam's time meals were hearty but simple - and this was an important factor in keeping Club costs to a minimum in the fledgling days when every cent counted.

I felt a bit guilty about the lavish three course meal I had shared with eight others in the Lodge the evening before - and comparison to what was on the menu in 1967.

Delicious I'm certain - but very different I'm sure.

Alan and Deborah had travelled from Campbelltown to attend an Island Bend School reunion the previous day, and were keen to bring Pam to see the Lodge and all the changes at Smiggin Holes and Perisher over 40 years. Pam remembers how she was given a complimentary ticket for use on the Smiggins rope tow, and how it was validated with a single hole by the tow-operator's hole-punch. With each ride, the operator would punch through the same hole, being seen to check every ticket. Pam would share the ticket with Members staying at the Lodge, so that by the day's end - the single hole would be fairly shaggy and frayed!

If only we could do this with a modern Perisher season-pass.

Well before the linking of Guthega, Blue Cow, Perisher and Smiggin Holes - Pam and Alan were interested to know how it all worked, and the way we move around the mountains we take for granted today.

The costs of equipment, and new technologies driving the sport were compared to simpler times, where your skis were always well above head height - long, straight and stiff.

No helmets in Pam's time at IAC - just woollen caps and strange little peaked caps she recalled from the old country like Hans Mandl used to wear. Fortunately, Dad didn't hand this down to me.

Alan asked where the 'camber' in modern skis had gone, while examining a couple of pairs of current models - they were indeed flat with barely noticeable camber from tip to tail. Also gone from today's Alpine skis was the centre groove - flat bases now replace the need to always 'scrape the wax out the groove' running down the ski base as Alan remembered well.

We talked about the way Skiers and Boarders mix on the slopes, after Pam suggested that maybe there should be separate zones around the resort so that collisions and injuries would be avoided.

A fair point I thought, knowing the often very different 'line' that a Skier may take down a piste compared to a Boarder - maybe like the beaches we could be riding 'between the flags' one day and separated like boarders and swimmers?

It was a rare treat to see Pam, and meet Alan and Deborah - making them feel welcome to visit our Lodge. I hope we can expect return visits in coming years for return hospitality and to share a yarn or two in good company.

Jonathan Mandl

Planned Cascades Hut – Tin Mines Hut working bee weekend program: Sat 7th – Mon 9th November

It was agreed the program for the 3 day weekend would be as follows:

- Fri 06 November: Ranger Ron Gibbs, Pat Ed & the Nankervis party (Ken Nankervis, who built Cascade, and family will probably be coming in for a 1 day visit) and the Jindabyne party would meet at Dead Horse Gap at approx 8:30 am and proceed to Cascade where some restoration work would be done and information on the history of the hut exchanged.
- The group would then proceed to Tin Mines for an inspection etc. after which the Jindabyne group would set up camp while the others return to Dead Horse Gap.
- Sat 07 November: Ranger Ron and other vehicles required to meet the rest of the work party at Dead Horse Gap at 8:30 am and proceed to Tin Mines.
- Mon 09 November: 12 noon. The Wollongong/Sydney group leave. The Jindabyne group leave later [possibly the next day] after a handover to the KNP.

If possible a KNP work party will continue with work the same week, and complete it.

WORK TO BE DONE ON CASCADE HUT BY WORK PARTY

1. Exterior chimney frame - replace one post and refit frame.
2. Replace several wall slabs 1450 long.
3. Free new door latch.

WORK TO BE DONE BY WORK PARTY ON THE MESS HUT

1. ROOF BRACING
 - The existing roof braces are to be securely screwed at each end.
 - 4 new braces [as per Cascade Hut] are to be fitted.
 - (This work will be done by the KNP carpenter)
2. CHIMNEY AND NORTH END WALL
 - The existing 4 tall chimney posts, together with the frame and iron, are to be dismantled. If in good condition the posts are to be re erected using steel support brackets.
 - The stone fireplace is to be dismantled to the extent considered necessary.
 - The 4 posts in the north end wall to be cut off, straightened and re-stumped using steel brackets set in a concrete foundation.
 - A new foundation for the fire place and the chimney post support brackets is to be constructed.
 - The chimney to be re erected and a new fireplace built.

WORK TO BE DONE BY FUTURE WORK PARTIES THE MESS HUT

1. Four more posts, which have rotted off and have temporary supports, are to be re-stumped with steel brackets and concrete.

2. Drainage improvements [PE's sketch of 10-12-08] will be done when volunteer labour is not required for other work and or when the KNP road crew are available.

THE MANAGERS HUT

The fireplace requires a new steel surround. Stonework could be used to make a temporary repair.

Random shots



Photo: Boarders and Skiers - Harmony on the slopes.



Photo: Iris Wilson – 2009 Interclub GS



Photo: Kirk and Shannon in the kitchen recently



Photo: 2009 Pub to Pub. Tracey Fairweather, Andrea Wilson, Craig Fairweather, Sandra Mandl, Gerald Davies and David Irvine.



Photo: Julian Condon - 2009 Senior Interclub GS



Photo: Phil Warren - 2009 Senior Interclub GS

Last Run

For the Lexophiles: Acupuncture: a job well done.



Rhythm Snowsports Cooma - OPEN 24 hours, 7 days during Winter

<http://www.rhythm.net.au>

Ph: (02) 6452 2303

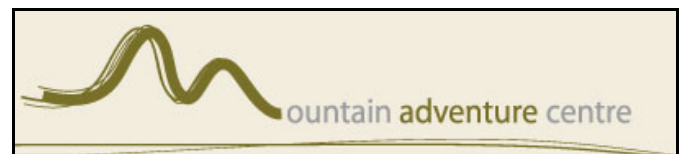
Email: info@rhythm.net.au

8 Sharp St, top of northern end of the main street.

Rhythm are proud sponsors of the 2009 IAC Club Championship



A D V E N T U R E



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Opening Hours – Winter (June to Oct)

Monday to Sunday 7:00 - 7:00pm

Friday nights open till Midnight when snow falling

Opening Hours – Summer (Nov. to May)

Mon-Sun 9am to 4pm

*Paddy Pallin are the suppliers of Cross Country hire equipment to the Illawarra Alpine Club Junior Development Squad