



# COLD FACTS

NEWSLETTER OF THE ILLAWARRA ALPINE CLUB LIMITED  
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Cover Photo: Mt Blue Cow from the Summit Chair – Sept 2006

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

A new year brings a new hope... fresh snow!  
(Well, maybe ANY snow will do)  
This year will see more snowmaking guns operating at Blue Cow on the lower Rollercoaster which is welcome news to Alpine riders. It's official – adult lift tickets are \$95 this season, with Perisher Blue uploading new rates on the website now. PB reports the new Village Concept Plan has cleared planning approval, although works will

not be seen until the Summer of 08/09. So for the moment, the Perisher carpark stays. Talking of infrastructure, the old dirt road winding up from the Hotel and behind the Lodge will be re-worked next summer. (See article this issue) It won't bring our mini-carpark back but it will give us a concrete surfaced road and remove the hairpin turn. Just when I was getting my dirt drift technique sorted too ..oh well..back to the fire trails! Please note the new phone hours to chat with our charming Booking Officer (7pm – 8pm Monday-Friday) *Got news? Email [coldfacts@iacski.com](mailto:coldfacts@iacski.com)*  
Ed

#### **From the President**

I hope you have had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year, and those of you who escaped the summer to ski somewhere north found good skiing.

This issue of Cold Facts includes the 2007 season program and booking forms. Bookings open 1 March for members and 1 April for non members. Please send your bookings to the PO Box or book on-line via the web site as per usual. Take note of the phone number that we have for booking enquiries - you will find this on the booking form and also on the front page of Cold Facts

In the last edition of Cold Facts, I updated you on the results of the Members questionnaire. Since then we have put detailed plans together for some of the lodge improvement options and they are currently out for pricing. I am hoping that we will be able to send out Part B of the questionnaire to members in the near future so that responses and feedback can be obtained from members before the AGM in April.

We have our lodge managers Kirk Donkin and Melanie Golby looking after us this year again. Based on last year, I am sure that everyone will enjoy their stay and the meals at the lodge this year.....let's hope that the snow comes this year!!

#### Club Person of the Year

Each year at the AGM, we announce the Club Person of the Year award. This award is given to someone who has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to the Club and has been a great Club member. I am calling for nominations now!

If you would like to nominate someone who you feel has been an outstanding Club member, I'd like to hear about it. You can email me at [president@iacski.com](mailto:president@iacski.com) – or call me on 0410 405 358 with the details.

#### Life Membership

Life Membership is an honour that can be bestowed on a member at the AGM if the members feel that they have made a significant contribution to the Club over many years.

If you would like to formally nominate a member to be awarded Life Membership, you would do this by proposing a motion that the person be awarded life membership at the 2006 AGM. Please send their name and a short explanation as to why you have nominated them detailing their achievements and contribution to the Club.

The motion nominating someone for Life Membership must have a "second" – someone else that is prepared to support the nomination.

All nominations must be received by the Committee by 31 March 2007 in order that the notice be included with the other AGM papers sent out in advance of the meeting. Ideally, we would like you to be present at the AGM so that you can speak to the nomination at the meeting before it is put to the vote.

I look forward to seeing you at the AGM in April.

*Fiona Montgomery*

#### **Vale Hans Klages – 1940-2007**

*Members will be saddened to learn of the untimely loss of one of the Club's early Alpine champions, former Club Captain and ever-competitive personalities.*

*The Committee wish to express their deepest sympathy and support to Lesley, Jessica, Ashleigh and the entire extended Klages family.*

*We will all miss your lightning pace down the Excelerator, your well supplied rucksack, the scorn for unlucky snowboarders who crossed your line and the Jagermeister 'Prosts' in the Lodge bar at days' end. Thanks for the great mateship through the years, Hans!*

I first met Hans in Wollongong.

I worked at the Water Board in Crown St and we bought our milkshakes and lunches at the shop next door. Hans and his first wife Ingrid had taken over the shop and set about raising a family.

Hans became an early and enthusiastic member of IAC and took part in Club events, racing and came to training sessions at our home at Mt Pleasant.

When the Smiggin's Ski Patrol was formed in 1965, Hans was quickly on the Committee. I recall that we left Wollongong early one morning and travelled down to Smiggins in Hans' Jaguar to attend a meeting.

Coming in to Jindabyne we were held up by 'Busrangers' on the old Snowy River bridge! It was 'saga' day – the last day of traffic on the old road.

Returning from the meeting we stopped in to Jindabyne and attended a beard competition in the Memorial Hall. (It was unusual to have a beard back then, but I didn't win out with mine that day.)

Driving back that night, the Jag's alternator went. We slept in the car while the battery was charged. We made it back in the 'Gong in the early hours of the next morning – it had been a long day.

At one of our organised cross-country weeks, Hans took off his alpine skis for an XC tour with us to the 'Plains of Heaven'.

As we gingerly started the descent to Wraggs Creek in rotten snow, Hans took it straight all the way, taking a spectacular 10 point fall at the bottom.

Fortunately for Hans, the only thing broken was his sunglasses.

Following Herb Koshemakin, Hans was our next Club Captain and made a most enthusiastic leader for our teams.

Regrettably it has been some time since I saw Hans in person, but he was a good friend and I shall miss him.

*Pat Edmondson*

#### **From the Webchief**

A new year's broom sweeps clean! Our website – and all the fresh info you need to plan your year is loaded and up to date. The only date on the Club Calendar that isn't yet confirmed is the Smiggins Bowl, which will be shown once the organisers confirm. Plenty of room for your contributions to sell on the 'Trading Post' page pre-season - just email me at [webchief@iacski.com](mailto:webchief@iacski.com)

*Viola & Paul Hallahan*

#### **Lodge Maintenance**



The last working bee in November 2006 I was joined by Tim Lee, Bob Davis, Mike Di Leva, Geoff Mettam, Geoff and Linley Sturday, Alexis Dengate and Carrin DiMilia.

Although there were only 9 of us we got a lot of work done.

General maintenance carried out including cutting the grass, cleaning the interior of the lodge, painting the halls and fixing the front door. The girls cleaned every single stinking bed by washing the mattress protectors and vacuuming all the bunks. Thanks to Linley and Geoff Sturday for their cooking including a great BBQ lunch, followed by a great dinner and dessert. Next working bee will be the food weekend, May 26-27. Hopefully we get a few starters to improve the appearance of the lodge. It's a great chance to get to know other members while having a 4pm drink on the balcony.

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

### **From The Booking Officer**

Hello to all and welcome to a new season. My new hours to be contacted on the phone are 7pm – 8pm Monday to Friday Ph: 0424 61 7707. You can ring the phone anytime and leave a voice message and I will return your call as soon as I can. I would prefer if you have any questions or bookings to contact me via email (bookings@iacski.com) as I have the computer on most days and can answer your questions quicker and easier.

Just a reminder of some of the current requirements:

With your bookings, please consider no booking will be accepted/confirmed until a deposit is made. In our rules you have 7 days to pay a 25% deposit. Your booking will be on hold (not confirmed) until a deposit is received, so if another booking comes in (after your 7 days are up) with a deposit, it will jump ahead of your booking.

There are two ways to pay your money. Cheque to our mail box or direct deposit into the IAC account. If you pay by direct deposit, can you please put in a reference e.g your surname or/as well as your guest's name. If you require the IAC account details, please email me and I will be happy to forward you the information.

One of the hardest parts of the job last year was changing bookings. Each change requires more work than a new booking. Please take the time to consider your booking before submitting your booking request. Vacancies can be checked on the web site allowing you to plan your bookings (or check by phone for those without web access).

Don't forget if you have a food allergy (coeliac etc), or require lunch on the day of arrival, or no dinner etc, please advise me at the time of your booking and I will forward the information onto the managers.

New casual meals pricing are shown in the updated Club Rules on the reverse of the Booking Form. They are: Breakfast \$10, Lunch \$5 and dinner \$20.

I also had a few declines to being Hut Captain. I was really surprised. Its not a hard job and I would really like to spread it around this year instead of giving it to the

same people year in year out. If you would like to give it a go, please put it on your booking form.

If we stick to our booking rules it will make my job a lot easier. Thankyou for your co-operation and understanding.

Kind Regards  
Julie Irvine

### **From the Club Captain**

This year will see a continuation of the successful IAC Junior Race Squad program aimed at developing the racing skills and general technique of our promising junior athletes from within the Club membership. This is by no means a 'closed shop', but rather an opportunity open to all junior members and families to consider. It does involve a reciprocal understanding for the Training and support our Club provides, however the program co-incides with one week of the July NSW school holiday. The second week of training culminates in the Junior Interclub championships, which is always a highlight and a lot of fun.

The three disciplines of Alpine skiing, XC and Snowboarding are covered in the training plan. It's fair to say that the team spirit and sportsmanship led by the senior members of the Squad entuses everyone! If you would like more information, just email or call Jonathan Mandl c/o *Cold Facts* for details. This year's program dates can be seen on the website under 'Club Program' – current team please note!

We're waiting on final notice of the date of this year's Smiggins Bowl, which will be an Illawarra defence postponed by last year's cancellation through lack of snow. Stay tuned for an update on the Club Program and consider being a part of the fun at this year's Bowl.

### **Hallahan's Hit Europe!!!**

Well, you'd think we'd getting plenty of skiing in spending 8 weeks in Europe over December and January.....WRONG.... no snow!!!

We got 4 days in Hemsedal Norway in the week before Christmas. It was hard packed and icy and the snow had not fallen since November. As it turns out, it was something..... which was better than nothing! We had planned to ski with John and Beata Philman in January in Austria, but that wasn't to be either! Both John and Bea are well and send their best wishes to the membership!

The weather was fabulous for driving and sightseeing, but non existent for skiing. We travelled far and wide in search of the ski-able snow, Austria, Switzerland, Italy. But it was not to be. In fact, we drove through and had lunch in Cortina, Italy the day before the world champs were supposed to commence. It was 5 degrees and sunny. We were able to walk around in T-shirts!

We left Europe on January 20<sup>th</sup> and in those 8 weeks prior, no snow had fallen anywhere below 2000m. One might call it climate change, but who really knows. Certainly season 2006/7 has so far been a freaky one for the northern hemisphere!

We did however have a wonderful trip. We picked up a new Citroen C5 in Paris and drove (and sailed over in Ferries) through England, Holland, Denmark, Sweden, Norway Germany, Italy, Austria and Switzerland. Among the many notable memories were our climbing visits to Le Mont St Michel on the Normandy coast of France and the leaning tower of Pisa in Italy. Being the off season for tourists, we managed to do both climbs with just the 4 of us. It made it all the more special as we were able to experience them in serenity and peace, maybe the way they were meant to be experienced.

As one would imagine, in 8 weeks with no snow, we managed to see and enjoy most of the main sights of Europe. We particularly loved Northern Germany, Florence, Venice and the Tirol region of Austria. Paul and John did a football pilgrimage to Manchester United, Arsenal and West Ham.

All in all it was a great trip but it was still nice to get home!

*Viola, Paul & Family*

### **Post Card from the U.S.A. - Stuart Brown**

#### **What a difference a year makes!**

After a record snow season across North America last season, this season can only be described as average with many people talking about the "D" word. Of course global warming is receiving prominence on the air waves, but for us mountain folk, we all know it just snows when it wants to!

After a whopping (and record) 668 inches (17 metres) of snow last year in Mammoth, the snow gods are 'keeping it real' with only a moderate 78" falling from above. Fortunately, we're not the only ones being subtly reminded what business we're in, and how much Tourism drives local economies. All resorts across North America (except our Northern neighbors) are pounding through the green-backs blowing out the man-made snow. Surfing the web, only one major resort in North America has a base depth above 100" (2.5 metres) and yes, you guessed it, it's Whistler Blackcomb. Analyzing the one year trend, it's evident that across the border they're on a completely different cycle (and wave length) and no amount of meteorology study or tea leaf analysis can realistically predict how much snow you'll get. The only other city – yes city, not resort - in the continental U.S. that received almost as much snow as Whistler is... Denver. Does this mean that we all should move to Denver? My Marketing boss moved there three years ago and he has used his snowblower in Downtown Denver more than I have - and I'm at 7,500 feet, go figure!

Regardless of the snow depth, skiing and riding is still a blast with killer early morning corduroy and crystal blue skies. This season I have been coaching on the ski team with the 'Mighty Mite' program and if you want to know where to ski in a lean snow year just follow the 6-8 yr olds. I've found so many new tree runs that I had no idea existed. Of course the only problem is you have to be 4 feet or less to enjoy them – thank heavens for the helmet!

You will all be pleased (and relieved) to know that The IAC 'El Presidente' will be chauffeured in style on

February 23 from LAX to Mammoth compliments of yours truly. Yes, Fiona is finally taking the plunge and making tracks to Mammoth (sounds like a marketing line – actually it is!) and will be sampling the world famous resort for two weeks. Actually I have to confess, Mum and Dad are coming in the day before on their annual pilgrimage and as Fiona is the BIG boss at S8 Travel Group, she was able to pull a few strings and come in on Friday to hitch a ride. I just hope we can fit Fi's entire luggage in the Explorer as I'm sure she is bringing a ton of snow!

Anyway folks, that's if for me. Hopefully, if your web editor – the infamous Jon Mandl - likes what he reads then I might be asked again. It has been a pleasure conversing with you all and if you need the REAL low-down on conditions across North America (except Canada) then I'm your guy!

Have a great summer and drop me a line at sbrown@visitmammoth.com anytime – literally!

***\*Hold the press – we just picked up 3+ feet of snow!***

*www.mammothmountain.com/*

*Our snowfall for the season just eclipsed 100 inches so at least for the moment we're back in business.*

Stu

### **Update on West Smiggins Rd**

*SLOPES have alerted the IAC Committee to this new NPWS project. "A new road is planned from the Smiggins car-park, crossing the creek near the hotel car-park with the permanent closure of the present unsealed road up past the workshops, and improving with concrete the full length of the road up to the turning circle adjacent to Muniong and Smugglers. Because it is such a major project, still in its early stages, there will be no significant changes to the road before the 2007 snow season."*

*(Thanks to) Don Gowing (S.L.O.P.E.S.)*

### **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.



### **Award for faster, higher, fitter ski star**

*Elizabeth Bellamy CT 29/11/06*

It's been a big year, Canberra's Michael Milton admits.

In the short space of 11 months, he has smashed the Australian speed-skiing record, clocking a blood-curdling 213.65km/h down an almost vertical French mountain, conquered Tanzania's Mount Kilimanjaro, hauled his body through the mud and jungle of Papua New Guinea's Kokoda Track, and, most life-changingly of all, embraced fatherhood, with the birth of daughter Matilda. The speed demon, who lost a leg to cancer at age nine, added another accomplishment to his long list of achievements last night when he was named the ACT's Australian of the Year.

But like many of his endeavours, success didn't come first time.

The decorated athlete, whose medal haul numbers a staggering 22 from Winter Paralympic Games and world championships, has been a finalist in the ACT awards for the last two years.

"To actually walk away with it ... Now that I've won I can cross it off my list," he joked.

Milton was one of four Canberrans to be named ACT Australians of the Year at a gala ceremony at the National Gallery of Australia.

### **Weed Spraying in the Perisher Range Resorts**

Weed spraying will commence across the Perisher Range Resorts on Monday 5th February and will cease by Friday 23rd February. The work will be undertaken by Mark Agricultural Services for NPWS and Perisher Blue.

The Chemical registered as Grazon DS (Triclopyr and Picloram) will be used to control Milfoil (also known as Yarrow). Other species such as Wintercress, St. John's Wort, Viper's Bugloss and Russell Lupins will also be targeted. In damper areas, the rush *Juncus effusus* will be controlled by the herbicide Round-up Biactive (Glyphosate). A pink dye (Herbidyde) will be used within the herbicide that will allow people to identify where a chemical application has been applied. The above mentioned herbicides will breakdown within 48 hours of application. The herbidyde may last up to a week and will breakdown by sunlight.

All herbicides used are poisonous and people should avoid contact with eyes and skin. In the event that contact is made, wash affected areas with water.

Signs will be located at major visitor nodes leading into the park and across the Perisher Range.

For further information please contact Dave Woods - Environmental Liaison Officer on 0418 689 250 or Dr Glenn Sanecki - Research and Monitoring Officer 0428 118498

### **Safety Measures to avoid 'Cold Injuries'**

*When exercising in the cold ensure you wear sufficient clothing for the conditions, and layer clothing as follows:*

Layer closest to skin: Polypropylene, close fitting (wicking effect)

Second layer: Fleece or wool, slight room between first layer and second layer for "trapped air" effect

Third layer: Wind-breaking, water repellent, breathable layer

*Additional precautions:*

When it is very cold, ensure exposed surfaces are kept to a minimum.

Once the body has warmed up, and if the temperature is not too cold, consider removal of the second layer of clothes during exercise to avoid excessive sweating. Add a layer to keep warm during breaks or pauses.

Apply anti-perspirant on feet before exercising to lessen sweating of the feet (which is usually followed by cooling of the feet). Doing the same on the palm of the hands may reduce the feeling of cold for people who tend to sweat a lot in their gloves or mitts.

Ensure you hydrate when exercising in the cold.

Bring children inside when they say they are cold; it is not worth the risk to prolong exercise and have them suffer from exposure symptoms.

When the weather is very cold try to peak your activity between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. as these tend to be the warmest hours of the day.

Be aware that temperature drops quickly when the sun sets.

Always consider the combined effect of cold and wind (i.e. the wind chill factor) when making decisions about how to dress rather than simply looking at the thermometer.

If possible, choose runs that are protected from the wind

Ensure protective eyewear is worn to prevent snow reflection from damaging eyes, and protect from the cold and the wind.

Allow additional time for warming up for training and competition; it takes longer to get the body warmed up and ready for skiing in cold weather than it does in warm weather.

*Source: Canadian Ski Coaches Federation briefing, Feb 2007*

### **PYGMY POSSUM FACING EXTINCTION**

*Canberra Times, Feb 12, 2007*

Australia's mountain pygmy possum could be extinct within a decade, with climate change already pushing numbers to record critical lows, new research shows.

The tiny possums are facing starvation, as warming temperatures disrupt their winter hibernation, waking them before the arrival of their main food source - the bogong moth. Last year, Australia's warmest spring on record rapidly melted high-altitude snow in Kosciuszko National Park by the first week of September, waking the possums more than a month before the arrival of the bogongs.

NSW National Parks wildlife ecologist Dr Linda Broome said, "The situation is looking quite desperate, because normally the possums wake up in October or as late as November, when there are already plenty of moths about. "... Without a plentiful supply of this rich source of fat and protein to replenish their winter fat reserves, the possums can die from stress or starvation.



"They're also more vulnerable to predation by feral cats and foxes because they're forced to move out from their shelters in the cracks and crevices of boulders to look for seeds and berries." When the annual mass migration of bogong moths arrived in the Australian Alps in 2006, numbers were well down on previous years due to the severity of the drought in Queensland and western NSW where the moth larvae feed on grasses and crops, Dr Broome said. "There isn't much food about for the possums this year, so it's quite worrying. The situation is becoming steadily worse and we could lose them within 10 years if these warming trends continue. It's terribly disheartening." Trapping surveys last December in Kosciuszko National Park failed to locate any possums at Mount Townsend and only four males were recorded at Charlotte Pass. At Mount Blue Cow, the number of females recorded during field surveys had plummeted from 31 to two females, with only Mount Kosciuszko offering a glimmer of hope for the survival of the species, with 60 possums recorded. "It looks like there's one population hanging in there, but they were obviously very hungry because they were quite skinny and ate all the walnuts in the traps. That's never happened before."

The possums usually hibernate around May, doubling their body weight in late summer and autumn. During hibernation, they reduce their body temperatures from 36degrees to about 2 degrees. Air temperature strongly affects the duration and efficiency of hibernation, with warmer temperatures causing more frequent waking and loss of energy and fat reserves. "If they wake up too often, it uses an enormous amount of energy and really weakens their systems." Increased fire frequency and drought linked to climate change was also destroying the possum's secondary food source, the slow-growing mountain plum pine.

Dr Broome said after the 2003 fires burnt 80 per cent of possum habitat at Mount Blue Cow, volunteers planted 500 mountain plum pine seedlings, but drought killed about 50 per cent of these. "We raised another 400 from cuttings to replace them, but it was far too dry last spring to plant them out," she said.

Dr Broome, who has studied the critically endangered possums for more than 20 years, said "desperate measures" were being discussed, such as supplementary feeding with seeds and nuts to stop the possums starving. "You could scatter seeds and walnuts

to keep them going, but how long can you realistically do that for? There's also a risk that it could bring disease into the population." At first the 40g possums, which date back 20,000 years, were only known from fossil remains discovered in 1895 and were presumed extinct. A live animal was first found in 1966.

## Last Run



If you had travelled between Perisher Valley and Smiggin Holes over 30 years ago, the skyline may have looked a little different around Pipers Gap because of a wooden trestle-like structure known as the Pipers Gap Ski Jump. Approved by the then Kosciuszko State Park Trust in 1966, the 45 metre ski jump was built in 1967 by the Ski Council of New South Wales at a cost of \$12,000. No lease or rental was involved, although the Ski Council was responsible for the maintenance and safety of the structure, and a \$1,000 bank guarantee was held by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service against future soil restoration work.

In 1970 some modifications were carried out to provide a better sliding surface on the ski jump. However, the ski jump was not well patronised by the Australian skiing fraternity, being attractive to only a few dare-devils whose place of origin considered 'ski flying' a national sport. With an ongoing insurance and maintenance bill of \$500 (a lot of money back then), the ski jump was last used in 1972. Attempts in subsequent years to stimulate private and government interest did not succeed and the rickety and rusting structure was condemned into the annals of skiing history.

The Pipers Gap Ski Jump was demolished by a "Project Survival Group" from the Department of Corrective Services in 1976. This small group of prisoners nearing the end of their prison term were given the opportunity to engage in a few days actual work followed by a survival-type trek through the park. The restoration of a one kilometre access track to the ski jump was undertaken by the Soil Conservation Service at the request of the NPWS in the summer of 1977/78. The original \$1,000 bank guarantee was used to pay for restoration work.