



# COLD FACTS



## NEWSLETTER OF THE ILLAWARRA ALPINE CLUB LIMITED

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Cover Photo: "Team Spirit" - Brittany Ainge, Alexis Dengate (2005 Jnr Female Champion), Gavan Fletcher (2005 Snr Mens Champion & Top Gun), Carrin DiMilia and Andrew Dengate (2005 Jnr Male Champion) at the 2005 IAC Junior/Senior Championships at Guthega, August 13

### In this Issue:

- [Message from the Editor](#)
- [From the President](#)
- [From the Club Captain](#)

### Message from the Editor

The peak month of the season has once again lived up to its' reputation of highest activity at the Lodge, hectic Training & Competition schedules and most apres-ski shenanigans in the Lounge with Members and guests enjoying themselves thoroughly.

It's good to see that Illawarra's traditional values aren't flagging!

Congratulations to all XC and Alpine competitors this month, which saw the Club Championships and Interclub races held, with strong results and great camaraderie. Standby for the defence of the Smiggins Bowl on the 24<sup>th</sup> September! This season has seen a superhuman effort by Geoff Sturday as Club Captain in a very busy year – well done and thank you Geoff!

Special international visitors this month were Stuart and Julie Brown, with young daughter Katherine (6) spending a week at Smiggins with Ian and Sue. For those who find the 1980's hard to remember, Stuart was arguably our Club's most gifted Alpine racer and one of the best blokes you could ever get to know. Back in his hometown of Mammoth, California, Stuart is the Development Manager for the Mammoth Lakes

Foundation, an organisation whose aim is to support higher education and cultural enrichment in the Eastern Sierra. Stuart has kindly promised a few words and reminiscences in the next issue of *Cold Facts*. Start scribing now Stu! Plenty of XC Spring skiing opportunities coming up later this month – so pack a T-shirt and sun-block and enjoy the mountains!

Editor



Photo: Brown family re-union – Stuart, Katherine, Julie, Sue and Ian on the Lodge balcony, August 2005.

## From the President

Hello all,

I am writing this report from the corner lounge at the lodge in the middle of August. The wind is blowing and it a pretty miserable looking day - it is trying hard to snow but is just isn't cold enough yet! Let's hope the snow comes in for a good finish to the season.

### Bookings

This year we have implemented some new systems around the bookings. Anyone who has been involved with new systems knows that there are always "teething" problems and we have had our fair share of them this year. So firstly I would like to thank everyone for their patience in dealing with the various booking issues, and I can assure that we are striving to improve things for the next season.

The booking officer's role is the most difficult and onerous of any job on Committee, and anyone who puts their hand up to take it on should be thanked and congratulated for volunteering. So thank you Robert for all your hard work so far this season!

This year we implemented a new mobile phone number for bookings with a message bank to enable messages to be left. The phone is actually a very good idea, however we used a prepaid phone plan and the phone kept running out of credit, sometimes in the middle of phone call. This was very inconvenient and frustrating for the members and the booking officer. I think this may also have caused problems in retrieving messages and we may have lost messages as a result of running out of credit. We have now put the phone onto a capped monthly plan, which won't run out of money and we won't lose messages. I'm sure that this will alleviate many of the problems that we had this season.

### Club Rules

As you are all aware, fire is our biggest threat in the lodge and fire procedures are part of the weekly Hut Captains speech. Fire risk is the main reason that the loft is off limits for anyone after 10:30pm. So I would just like to remind everyone of that rule and say that at no time should anyone be sleeping in the loft as there is no reasonable exit and we would hate to see anyone attempt to jump out the small window if they become trapped by a fire.

### Racing

The Club Captains report will have all the detailed results from the recent IAC Championships and also the Illawarra Senior Interclub races.

Unfortunately I was not able to attend our Club Championships this year, so I would just like to congratulate our 2005 senior champions Gavan Fletcher and Narelle DiMilia, our junior champions Andrew and Alexis Dengate and of course the 'Top Gun', Gavan Fletcher.

I was however able to participate in the Illawarra Senior Interclub event and IAC were once again the premier Alpine skiing club with our 3 fastest skiers – Nicholas Brown, Jarvis Fletcher and Andrew Brown, with our teams combined time being 7 seconds faster than the 2nd placed team in the Giant Slalom. Nicholas Brown was also the fastest competitor on the day – well done boys! Sadly this event is not won on alpine skiing alone, it is won by good participation in GS, Snowboard and Cross Country events – so all you snowboarders and cross country skiers out there, we want to see you come and participate in these events and help us get these trophies back on our lounge room wall!! These events are a lot of fun and all participants compete with great spirit.

IAC actually hosted the Senior Interclub, and I would like to acknowledge the efforts of Geoff Sturday in coordinating and facilitating this event. There are 6 clubs involved and Geoff

worked tirelessly to ensure that the day was successful. There are a lot of logistics and work behind the scenes to run these events and Geoff has done a sensational job.

We are also hosting the Junior Interclub early in September, so best of luck to all our juniors competing in that event. I look forward to hearing that we have retained this trophy in our collection (no pressure guys and girls!).

Well I hope you have managed to enjoy the season so far and those coming down for some spring skiing have plenty of snow to play with. Please stay tuned to our website and Cold Facts for details of our end-of-year party celebrations.

Bye for now.



Photo: Jnr Interclub XC team 2005

## From the Club Captain

Congratulations to all our Senior and Junior competitors in our own Club Championships and the hotly contested annual Illawarra Interclub races.

We still have a big finale to the racing season coming up with the Smiggins Bowl – this year in a new format with Boarder and Skier-Cross events planned alongside a traditional GS course. XC will follow in the afternoon before the Juniors presentation and a 'Beach Party' at Smiggins Pub for the Adults. Caloola is host club this year. For more information, contact me via email through our website!

### IAC Overall Championship 2005 results

Jnr (F)	Jnr (M)
1. Alexis Dengate	1. Andrew Dengate
2. Carrin DiMilia	2. Blythe Fairweather
3. Brittany Ainge	3. Eric Mandl

Snr (F)	Snr (M)
1. Narelle DiMilia	1. Gavan Fletcher
2. Shauna Dengate	2. Jarvis Fletcher
3. Andrea Wilson	3. Geoff Mettam

### 2005 Brian Donegan Memorial Junior Illawarra Interclub GS

U/13 M – 4th. Eric Mandl
U/13 F – 11th. Whimbrell Wilson
U/13 F – 18th. Iris Simpson
U/17 F – 1st. Alexis Dengate
U/17 F – 2nd. Brittany Ainge
U/17 F – 3rd. Carrin Di Milia
U/17 M – 3rd. Andrew Brown
<u>2005 Brian Donegan Memorial Junior Illawarra Interclub SB</u>
U/17 F – 3rd. Alexis Dengate
U/17 F – 4th. Brittany Ainge
U/17 F – 6th. Carrin Di Milia
U/17 M – 6th. Andrew Brown

### 2005 Brian Donegan Memorial Junior Illawarra Interclub XC

U/13 F – 6th. Whimbrell Wilson

U/13 M – 9th. Eric Mandl

U/17F – 3rd. Carrin Di Milia

U/17F – 4th. Alexis Dengate

U/17F – 6th. Brittany Ainge

U/17M – 5th. Andrew Brown

*Champion Club Overall : Port Kembla - (IAC 4<sup>th</sup>)*

### 2005 Brian Donegan Memorial Senior Illawarra Interclub GS

(M) 1. Nick Brown	(F) 5. Fiona Montgomery
2. Jarvis Fletcher	10. Narelle Irvine
8. Andrew Brown	
16. Geoff Mettam	
19. Jonathan Mandl	
24. Tim Lee	
27. Jonathan Walsh	

*Champion Club GS – Illawarra*

*Champion Club SB – Maranatha (IAC 4<sup>th</sup>)*



*Photo: Alexis Dengate on course - Junior Interclub*

### **“SAKE MOMENTS”**

#### **‘ILLAWARRA’ TOURS JAPAN in 2005 (continued)**

2nd evening, a beer in the Pow Pow bar apre' ski style, waiting for JD & Tim who have gone off to explore a couple of the ski shops after the Jarv lost ski experience they were looking for powder straps. Several beers & finally JD turns up ...“you wont believe what Tims done now”, “He’s lost his wallet & is at Snowave they’re helping him fill out a report”. Raucous laughter from the group...only Tim !!! He’d got a small calculator out to work out the price of a set of skis, somehow between then & walking back along the road he’d lost the wallet, cash & credit cards. He & JD had re-traced their steps, searching thru the snow, but to no avail.

The Snowave people are quite helpful; “Do this / go here / eat here / ski here” etc. “When your’e at Hanazono for lunch have the Crab Ramen (noodles), its excellent” & it was. Very tasty, albeit a bit salty. Post lunch, 1 lift / 2 lifts / 3 lifts / 4 lifts up... Geoff is thinking that thing feel a bit “loose”, the bump & rattle as you pass over the chair lift stanchion induces some “tightening of the cheeks”. A short ski down & the Team decide to head off-piste, at the back of Hanazono 3. Geoff decides discretion is more appropriate than powder skiing at this stage & indicates he’d better head straight to the nearest facility, post-haste; the “dose of salts” was having a very quick effect. Its certainly an interesting feeling / experience when nature is calling with some urgency & you have to negotiate a bump run, jump out of your skis, race as fast as you can into an unfamiliar building to find the nearest facility, & get out of your ski gear in time to save any greater embarrassment. The Japanese “Kanban – Just-In-Time” process was stretched to its very limit, but the feeling of absolute relief you cannot imagine !!

9pm Fri nite, Tim arrives back from trying to work out the phone system. “I’ve lost my pole” (he’d been using it as a walking stick) much laughter from those assembled. “You’ve got to be joking, how can you lose your pole??” He disappears, charging back off into the nite, & this time

success, he’s tracked down his pole, to the phone box he had been using. But additionally, he comes back vindicated, that he’s not the only one “losing it” along with his own pole, hes got both JD’s poles. Where’s JD?? – blissfully unaware, soaking himself in all his glory in the hot tub !!

Gearing up Saturday morning Alex asks “did anyone pick up my camera at Pow Pow last nite ??” ..nothing. So off he goes, re-tracing his steps. Andy, being the good mate, helps, various venues, but to no avail. To Snowave to report the loss & fill out an insurance form. Finally, closer to lunch-time, they get out, having missed first tracks. 4pm that afternoon, enjoying a beer at Pension Create, Alex comes in & sheepishly says “I have a confession” ...having searched town from top to bottom, caused Andy to miss fresh tracks, he lifted up a couple of shirts in his bag & guess what he found, skilfully hidden. There’s a pattern here I think !!

Toward the end of Sat Jarvis leads us across to a ridge below King 3, a bit slushy & sludgy in the late afternoon wet. Greg slides by Geoff. “I’ve got a bit more speed than you” he boasts. 10 metres on, a slight bump, head first flip / somersault, Greg / skis / snow everywhere & Geoff skis on by, lovely to watch !!

Dinner on Sun nite & Tim’s forgotten his glasses & asks to borrow a pair in order to look at the menu. “Wot good’s that going to be Tim, you cant read Japanese”, we say. Quick as a flash Raf comments “he’s not looking at the menu, he’s looking at the prices !!”

Monday, Day 5, on the lift with Scuffs Lee, a conversation between Tim & Fiona around the “logistics” of travel / packing / clothing / washing etc. “I only bought three pairs of undies” says Tim, “& I’m still on the first pair!!” Too much information Tim, perhaps we should change your name to “Skids Lee”.

Tuesday we took a side trip to the resort of Rututsu, renowned for its power, & lots of it. Fresh tracks all day. Randy Weiman, one of the Snowave guides / photographers, starts off with the “Expert / Powder Group” . “All those who are experienced / strong skiers & can ski powder push forward” 20+ move forward... “OOKK” says Randy, “a bit bigger than perhaps I had wanted, but follow me” - a speed run, down to the next lift, with a sharp drop off onto a steep / cruddy / bumpy last pitch, where several “experts” bite the dust. No waiting. Randys next comment “so, this is who’s left in the powder group” ...all Illawarra present & accounted for !!

Wednesday, our first sunny day in 8 or 9. We have been skiing extensively at Hanazono, Strawberry Fields, but today we make it over to Annapuri for the first time & the back bowls. Absolutely fabulous. We met up with Jim & Meg, fellow “Creators”, who showed us over their knowledge of this expanse of fresh stuff. After lunch we hiked up to the peak on this side of the mountain – in full sun, & there was the volcano, in all its glory. It does exist, at last Geoff & Jarv are believers, & we hike up to the top of the mountain to get the full view. Best run of the day, coming down from the top, Geoff & Jarv in sync, making turns down a huge un-tracked expanse....fantastic !!

Fellow Illawarran’s, sad to report, the fall of a legend... or at least a “legend in his own lunch-box”. Jarvis, “lets get out there early, I’ve gotta be first, we’re not waiting, surely you’re not going in now” Fletcher, has turned it up. He’s stayed “in lodge” on not 1, but 2 days, in a row, of the best powder days we had. Now Gav was legitimately crook, bought down by the dreaded Japanese lurgi, & Jarvs’ excuse was “quality time with Gav”, but we could all see he’d “gone soft”. No matter, more powder for us & Thursday was one of the best powder days we had, fresh tracks on Rob Roy & Strawberry Fields in the morning, followed by the opening of Ace 3 just after lunch (lucky Geoff insisted that we wait) & superb un-tracked, then, last run of the day, under Hanazono 3 (which was wind closed all day) & magnificent, knee deep, un-tracked.

The expense of Japan. Tim's favourite eatery, the 100Yen noodle bar - that's a bit over a AUD\$1. Tuesday nite we go out with Andrew Dunlop & his wife Moon, a bit more expensive than Tim might've normally paid so far, but verry nice !! Tim's comment at breakfast the next morning "the most expensive fish fingers I've ever had". Bob refused to venture back to the 100Y noodle shop, went down the road & spent 2000Y, but felt a whole lot better for it. Other friends, Jim & Meg were a little over-awed by one of the lunch venues - the Annapuri Hilton. Waiters, black-ties, table-cloths, they got spooked by the look of the place & left without checking out the menu, only to have a sandwich from a vending machine for 1000Y. The pricing for lunch at the Hilton, average 1000-1200Y, basically the same for the fancy venue.

Tim Lee ... "Sake" (MasterCard) Moments"

1. Tim hiking down the hill, determined not to miss his free beer, in the snow in his sandals & sox - NO CHARGE
2. A Japanese feast sitting on the floor - 1600Y
3. "Fish fingers" for dinner at the Alpen Hotel - 3000Y
4. The look on Tims face as he munched into the raw squid - PRICELESS !!!

Jim & Megs final comments; We have had the ski holiday of a life-time. The snow was a huge contributing factor, untracked, somewhere, every day. Experiencing a bit of Japanese culture was a treat too. Visually, Niseko was a feast on the eyes. The over-riding factor however, was meeting up with a mob of characters from Illawarra Alpine Club. We have whooped, yahoo-ed, bounced & ducked under fences all over the mountain, never on-piste. We are extremely grateful to have experienced their adventurous spirit & friendship. Thank-you everyone, we will cherish the memories.

Geoff Mettam



Photo: Ezo Fuji Mount Yotei-san, Hokkaido

**NEW - Photo Caption Competition:**

Submit your entry for the photo below to [coldfacts@iacski.com](mailto:coldfacts@iacski.com) to win an Ocean & Earth retractable cable combination-lock to secure your valuable Skis or Snowboard valued at \$49.00. Entries close September 30. Prize donated by Wetspot Watersports, 68 Wollongong St Fyshwick ACT



**Snowy Precipitation Enhancement Research Project**

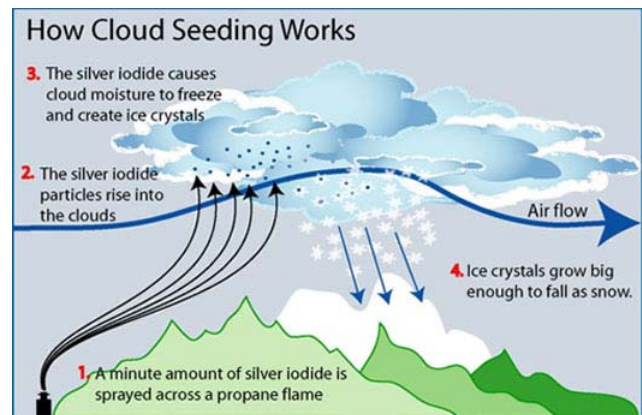
Snowy Hydro Limited is conducting a six-year research project of winter cloud seeding to assess the feasibility of increasing snow precipitation in the Snowy Mountains.

The New South Wales Government approved legislation to enable the cloud seeding research project which commenced in winter 2004.

*How does it work?*

Winter cloud seeding involves increasing the concentration of ice crystals in clouds that contain sufficient below freezing water droplets, and which would not naturally precipitate as snow or rain. The process of creating additional ice crystals is referred to as ice nucleation by cloud seeding. As the ice crystals grow in size, they form snowflakes and fall to the ground as snow.

The research project involves the use of minute amounts of silver iodide as the seeding agent, dispensed from ground based generators. The process will create no more noise than a backyard barbeque. Silver iodide is the most commonly used seeding agent for cloud seeding operations around the world, because its structure is very similar to naturally occurring ice nuclei.



Graphic: Snowy Hydro

Sample from 'Trading Post' section of IAC website:  
**Wanted! 1 Children's Helmet -**  
**Call Margaret King on 02 42 68 00 51**



Photo: Start of 'Pub to Pub Classic' Smiggins 2005  
 Sun, heat, alcohol, fancy dress and XC skis...  
 a dangerous combination!