



# COLD FACTS



## NEWSLETTER OF THE ILLAWARRA ALPINE CLUB LIMITED

Volume 45 - June 2005 - Number 3

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### Message from the Editor

Welcome to your June/July issue of *Cold Facts!* Historically, *Cold Facts* has been tied to an Australia Post 'Print-Post' schedule which was fixed and inflexible. Now, with a majority of Members preferring electronic delivery, the Committee have agreed to cancel this arrangement, and are now able to publish your newsletter as news and developments may require, as well as the full Editions with a complete set of reports from key officeholders.

We hope that this will allow more current information to be notified, especially in the core months of the season where it will be helpful, relevant and maybe even entertaining!

With all eyes now turning to the Lodge, there has been a solid start to the '05 season with good falls and low temps building up the base. Snowmaking and grooming is happening daily and John & Bea report some great days of new snow runs on over a dozen lifts opened so far across Perisher Blue. Right now is a perfect time to make the most of it, with keen Members already making a few days getaway to enjoy no lift lines, clear runs and plenty of cover for XC forays. It's good to report that after a long dry Summer & Autumn, things are finally looking up!

### From the Webchief

Don't forget to save [www.iacski.com](http://www.iacski.com) as your 'home page' if not already done – and to check regularly for 'newsflashes' and updates with full colour photos from John online at the Lodge.

I hope you enjoy the new enhancements to our website this year!

Viola

### From the Booking Officer

Please remember that for bookings, you can email me at anytime convenient to you via [bookings@iacski.com](mailto:bookings@iacski.com) Otherwise my hotline number is **0424 61 7707**. If looking for an opportunity for an early season stay, or to upgrade/extend your holidays – check the *Vacancies* link on our website then 'step' back and click my email link.

Enjoy a great stay!

per Robert Hannam



Early season guests enjoy the new snow – Mon 20<sup>th</sup> June 2005

### From Lodge Management

Just a reminder to all Members and guests arriving late evening on your first night of your stay – please call ahead and let us know if you **will not** be joining us in time for Dinner (6:30pm).

As you will be showing on the bunklist for that night, we have to assume you will be dining. Please call the Lodge and let us know well in advance if you have changed plans so as to reduce over-catering and wastage. Many thanks for your help!

John & Bea

### From the Club Captain

All systems are 'go' for a great Alpine & XC Racing season in 2005!

Just a reminder that the dates below as seen on our website are firm and all necessary bookings should be in place for participants.

#### Scheduled Events

5-7 July: Recreational ski training for Junior Members

12-14 July: Recreational ski training for Junior Members

11-15 July: Junior racer squad training

13 August: IAC Club Championships - Alpine & Snowboard - ALL WELCOME!

20 August: Illawarra Senior Interclub races (Alpine, Snowboard and Cross Country events) Illawarra is host.

29 Aug-2 Sept: Junior racer squad training

3 September: Illawarra Junior Interclub races (Alpine, Snowboard and Cross Country events) Illawarra is host.

24 September: Smiggins Bowl (Junior and Senior Ski & Snowboard races) - ALL WELCOME!

Please call me and discuss any issues about our racing or development program.

Geoff Sturday  
02 98108414



Smiggins Hotel Carpark – 7am September 12<sup>th</sup> 2004

### “SAKE MOMENTS”

#### ‘ILLAWARRA’ TOURS JAPAN in 2005

Australia Day 2005, 8 sushi loving (well perhaps 7 ... but more of that later) & Greg Eager decided to feign appendicitis in order to avoid getting up at the crack of dawn to take us to the airport. With a 5 a.m. start, JD / Geoff / Tim, assembled at Jarvis' to meet Gav / Andy / Bob & on to the airport to catch Fiona.

We had been given much warning about “luggage limits & weights”, so Jarv & Gav's decision to bring 2 sets of skis each was dubious to say the least ...“you're on your own at check-in!” we all said. Luckily Geoff managed to charm the nice girl at the check-in counter, it was “one-in, all-in”, & Fletcher was thru without paying excess baggage – that's beer you owe Jarvis!

The best part of 24 hours later, Sydney – Cairns – Sapporo – Niseko (bus) we were settling into ‘Pension Create’ – the home of Illawarra for the next 2 weeks.

We were joined by another member, Alex Wilson from Brisbane, regular Illawarra guest Raf Moriana, Greg Hep, a mate of Jarvis' & Jim & Meg Crebbin, whom we met there from near Mt Beauty in Victoria.

Niseko, one of Japans main ski resorts, is in the north island of Hokkaido, and is where you will find its best snow. Contrary to rumours, it is not too expensive (our 2 weeks Snowave package cost approx \$3,000, including airfares / 14 nites B&B, 13 days lift pass).

Hokkaido receives more snow than anywhere in Japan, experiencing storms that travel from Siberia across the Sea of Japan. These produce some of the lightest driest powder found anywhere in the world.

Niseko is quite a large resort and considered to be one of Japan's best. It is made up of 4 main resort areas – Hirafu, where our accommodation was, with the lifts within easy walking distance. Annapuri, Higashiyama and Hanazono, all of which are within easy reach from the top of the mountain. It has a (mostly) efficient lift system & queues are rare. Lifts are primarily gondolas and covered chairlifts so even on the most extreme blizzard days, you can ride in comfort – although the “no safety strap singles” will challenge those with any “height phobias”. The “Japanese touch” of brushing off the chair before you get on is something P-Blue lifties could take notice of. Bad weather does not mean bad visibility in Niseko, as the resort has an abundance of tree runs and being low in altitude, it rarely if ever experiences true

whiteout conditions that are often found in North American or European resorts of higher altitude. Additionally, Japanese resorts tend to have a more 'relaxed' attitude towards 'out of bounds' skiing or snowboarding.

Stats-wise Niseko is as follows, Top : 1200 metres / 3937 feet, Base : 300 metres / 984 feet, Vertical : 900 metres / 2953 feet. Snow-wise, this past season was phenomenal, they had a record season, snow banks piled high on roads / roofs, & whilst we were there, day after day of fresh, dry powder, never less than boot tops, often knee deep. The corollary to this was that we didn't see much sun, nor Mt Yotei, the volcano across the valley. It's certainly a unique experience to stand at the top of the resort & see the Pacific Ocean on one side & the Sea of Japan on the other.

Beyond this, the trip was full of "Sake' Moments"... hence the title... mostly involving Tim. The first, was probably the best...

As part of the "Snowave Welcome" we were invited to a "Cocktail Party" at the Pow Pow Bar, one of the local spots at 5pm on the first evening. The "hook", a free beer ...so it was clear all of the Illawarra contingent would be there - all but Tim that was! "Where's Tim??" ... we were all asking ourselves. 5.20 / 5.30, still no Tim, finally, 5.45 he turns up.... "Someone's stolen my walking boots!" he exclaims. Now for anyone who has experienced Japan, theft is very rare, "doesn't sound right Tim, we said, where did you look / leave them??" - "I've looked everywhere, my room, downstairs in the boot room, someone's stolen them" Tim insists. For the rest of us the penny drops.... "Tim, we know it was late last night when we arrived (2am), but do you remember coming in, we put our skis etc downstairs, our bags thru the front door??" "yes" says Tim, "& as per Japanese custom, we took our boots off in the foyer & put them on the shelves" ...."go look in the shelves" ...the penny drops for Tim. Now this might not sound much like a "Sake' Moment", except for when you also come to know that Tim walked down the hill, to the Cocktail Party, in the snow, in his sox & sandals... he didn't want to miss his "free beer" ...."Scuffs Lee".

As was indicated earlier, Jarvis & Gav decided to bring 2 sets of skis each, despite considerable warnings about weight. One set for the powder, one set for the hard pack. The "powder set" were obtained at a VERRY competitive rate (if you get my drift!!) from Extreme where Gav works. Day 2, Higashiyama, a bump run in about a foot of powder. Mid morning, everyone starting to warm up: Jarvis, as usual, wanting to be first, trying to show off, close to the trees... edge! / crash! / 5 bumps down the hill / snow everywhere / surface & shake things about...one ski!!!

"Where did you fall? / What were you doing? / What direction?" ... being the good ski friends that we are, we were all looking... all 10 of us!!! "Be methodical / try there / just go slowly"... Jarv had all the instructions. "You're supposed to go easy with the back-pack (containing the video camera) on Dad" says Gav. 5 minutes, 10 minutes, 15 minutes, 20 minutes ...it went on. No ski. "How much did you pay for that ski hire Jarv??" "Does Warren know you've got his skis over here??" "Did you want to keep that job Gav??" Does

insurance cover being a boof-head & trying to show off??" ... we were enjoying ourselves immensely at Jarvs' expense at this stage.

"I think its gone dad" says Gav. Jarvis is seeing the impending bill from Extreme!! Finally, 30 minutes on, Geoff spots something, "wots that bit of red ribbon behind you Bob??" "its my powder strap" says Bob, & moves his ski away, but what Geoff had spotted doesn't move, Bob reaches down & finds Jarvis' powder strap & pulls the ski up, 10 metres from the fall...that's more beer you owe Fletcher!!!

*...to be continued*  
*Geoff Mettam*



*Annapuri Niseko, Japan*

#### **Reminder - Official IAC Club Clothing survey**

Hi, everyone. Thank-you to all of you who completed our survey last year down at the lodge. For those who missed it, people were asked to list, in order of preference, 5 items of clothing they would be interested in purchasing. The choices were a t-shirt, polo top, jersey, vest and windcheater. The overwhelmingly popular choice was a polar fleece vest, with the jersey coming in 2nd.

Now the Committee has asked us to proceed to the next step of coming up with possible designs. To help make this happen, we'd love to hear from anyone who would like to join us on SCRADCI (that's Sub-Committee for Research And Development of Clothing for Illawarra!!!) It would be ideal to have representatives from the most Junior, less Junior and least Junior age groups and a mixture of men and women/boys and girls as well. Anyone interested please contact us by e-mail on [williamsr4@optusnet.com](mailto:williamsr4@optusnet.com).

Look forward to hearing from you.

Zoe and Robin Williams

[Official IAC Club Clothing survey](#)

#### **📧 Subscribe to Perisher Blue's Newsletter** *'Out of the Blue'*

Latest resort-wide news and updates – its free!

<http://www.perisherblue.com.au/winter/info/new.html>

## Other news & trivia

### ① Cloud seeding nets 25% more snow

A cloud-seeding trial in the Snowy Mountains has boosted snowfall by 25 per cent in its first year, an initial review has found.

But climatic factors have prevented a clear assessment of how much extra water was produced by Snowy Hydro Ltd's project, which is scheduled to run for six years.

NSW Primary Industries Minister Ian Macdonald said samples taken from the trial area showed that snowfall had increased by an average of 25 per cent -- well above the project's 10 per cent target.

But drought, snow drifts and wind had made it difficult to gauge how much extra run-off had been created when the snow melted.

"The signs are very strong that cloud seeding is generating additional run-off, but we need more scientific evidence," Mr Macdonald said.

He said snow samples collected by Snowy Hydro were being evaluated by a US research institute, and efforts were being made to overcome the difficulties.

It is understood dry weather affected the water content of snow, while snow drifts and wind also made things difficult. The number of snow samples able to be collected in the first year was also very low.

The project's environmental impacts are being monitored by the NSW Natural Resources Commission, and Mr Macdonald said he expected some results soon.

Snowy Hydro's marketing services manager Paul Johnson said the second year of the trial would start "as soon as the right conditions come across the mountains".

Snowy Hydro is spending up to \$4 million a year on the trial -on top of \$5 million in set-up costs- to shoot silver iodide into clouds from ground-based machines to encourage the formation of snow particles.

Snowy Hydro believes full-scale cloud seeding could boost snowfall by 10 per cent and run-off into the Murray River catchment by 6 per cent, generating an extra 70 gigalitres of water a year for irrigators and environmental flows.

*'Weekly Times' June 21, 2005*

### ① Highest ski lift in world is ready to roll

India has opened the world's highest gondola ski lift in Kashmir, close to the de facto border with Pakistan.

The ski lift, stretching 2.5 kilometres, connects the bowl-shaped Kongdoori Valley with the 4390-metre Afarwat peak at India's top ski resort, Gulmarg, in northern Kashmir. Bad weather had delayed the completion of the lift several times in the past two years. Farooq Ahmed Shah, head of the Cable Car

Corporation, one of the Kashmir Government's few profit-making enterprises, breathed a sigh of relief.

"Thanks to Allah the lift has been completed; it is working," Shah said. "It is the world's highest cable car using gondolas and the only one in the world that takes skiers to a height of 4390 metres."

He believes it will draw skiers as well as trekkers and adventurers.

*Agence France-Presse May 30, 2005*

### 📰 Ski News on the website – from latest 'Newsflash'

"After a few days with sleet, snow rain and sago, Mother nature finally came to the party.

A big dump last night, with dry snow. And guess what... a beautiful sunny morning.

It's a shame that Perisher Blue only opened 15 lifts.

Rope tows and magic carpets doesn't really do it for me on a nice powder day. Hume t-bar was open so we could ski across and have a few carve turns on the duplex.

Nice powder on each side of the duplex as well. More snow is coming and let's hope that more lifts will be open on the weekend."

John (*Lodge-June 22<sup>nd</sup>*)



*What an outlook for a new day! – 8am June 22, 2005*

### 🔔 Got equipment to sell – or something wanted?

Members and friends can advertise FREE on our website's 'Trading Post' – just email [webchief@iacski.com](mailto:webchief@iacski.com) and don't forget to advise if items sold/found to remove your entry!

### ① Transport to/from Sawpit Ck carpark in 2005

For parking or transport arrangements to Smiggins call Sawpit Mick on 0412 045 894 at least 24hrs BEFORE arrival at Sawpit Ck. Mick's valet service is \$100 for the round trip (drop off & pick up) between 7am-7pm although a 24hr service operates all season – call Mick for a quote if getting in late! Just remember to leave enough room in your car for him to squeeze in.