

COLD FACTS



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NEWSLETTER OF THE ILLAWARRA ALPINE CLUB LIMITED

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Cover Photo: Sunset over the lodge in the off season. Thanks to Geoff Mettam for this photo.

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Happy New Year everyone!

The biggest news this year is that we are about to welcome some new members to the lodge. It's a very exciting time and hopefully we'll see our racing team boosted by the new crew. More importantly however, we look forward to welcoming these new members to the friendly atmosphere of our club and getting to know them and their families. We'll have more information in the next edition. Stay posted!

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

Messages from the Editor

From the president

Presidential greetings from Japan!

Currently enjoying a brief sojourn in Japan with John, Shauna & Alexis Dengate, Tim Lee & Greg Eager

Currently the snow depths are 200cm with a base of 300+cm at the top. No friends on powder days!

Members, just to update regarding our fee structure after some enquiries.

- Spouse joining fee – existing members can have their spouse join our club for the current fee of \$500 + GST = \$550, + the normal annual subscription for that year, e.g. this year + \$180 = \$730 total

This is completely separate to the joining fee structure the Committee designed in the recent "New Membership" application process

- Student Fee – upon application, members who are bone-fide students, i.e. studying full-time at University / Teachers College / TAFE or the like, and are still essentially under their parents finances, are able to apply for a 50% Student fee. This application must be made each year they are students.

Geoff Mettam

From the Booking Officer

Welcome to a new season.

Bookings as usual for members open 1st March and for guests 1st April.

Due to financial constraints we have not been able to employ someone to update our on line booking system. I am all for an update and have great hopes of being able to have it done this year for 2011 bookings. Please be patient with the current booking form, we know it is old but just check your dates to the number of nights you would like, to get it all correct.

The web site will be up to date in time for new bookings (thanks Viola) with our 2010 accommodation rates and the programme for the season. On the bottom of the rates page is the dates for all Australian School Holidays. Use these dates to make your bookings if you want to avoid the school holidays or join in the rush.

As always the easiest way to contact me is via email. I have a very busy life with two young boys to chase after and a very big boy (David) to run after. I will try to process your requests within 24 hours. If you do not receive an email response from me within a week, please follow up with another request as the first email may have gone astray. You can also leave a message on the ski club phone.

All the best for a great year.

Julie Irvine

bookings@iacski.com

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From the Club Captain

With another hot Summer burning away the early months of the year, the only relief in sight will be chilling in an airconditioned lounge room and viewing the Vancouver Winter Olympics on the family plasma - bring it on!

The lucky ones amongst us have been/are now/will soon be carving up foreign slopes in Japan, Europe, Canada and the USA - a tough life! As per custom, we'll expect full reports and photos in upcoming issues of Cold Facts.

Turning to shop-talk, I need to remind all Members to start planning your bookings for Winter 2010 to include the racing highlights of the season. There really is something for everyone in the Nordic and Alpine racing schedule, and all ages are accommodated.

If you enjoy Alpine skiing, Cross-country or Snowboarding and haven't shared the fun of Inter-Club racing - you're missing out on the best fun on the mountain!

Keen for a personal challenge or up for anything new? Your Club needs you!

Children, teenagers, Mums and Dads plus our tribal elders are all able to compete in separate divisions - for fun or glory in great company – you will love it.

Choose the 21st annual Senior and Junior Interclub Championships (separate dates) to join a fun-loving competitive IAC team for a day's racing in very achievable Alpine and Nordic events for ALL ages - not quite a hard core World Cup event but with competitive rivalry between 6 other Illawarra-based Clubs and highly enjoyable. You choose which events you can manage - one or all three. Both days finish with a presentation ceremony and great party night!

Don't miss the annual IAC Club Championships which have provided Members with a first-class morning of Alpine racing since 1961. The very rare opportunity to test your skills on a Slalom course is followed by Giant Slalom ski and snowboard events.

Guaranteed best family fun of the year plus legendary celebrations follow the presentation ceremony.

The season finale is the Smiggins Bowl Championships which is part-racing, part carnival contested between 6 Smiggin Holes based private Clubs. This may be possibly the most fun your family will have on snow with a mix of racing events on Alpine skis, Snowboard and XC, much cheering and laughs from breakfast to presentation and after-party for all ages. Children and teens get special attention and love the experience.

Feel free to contact me anytime to make sure you - or your family have the facts and don't miss out this year! As Members we are also extremely fortunate to belong to a Club with a legendary and proud racing history, and committed to invest in a Junior Race Development Program run over two non-consecutive weeks each season (one week in the school holidays - the other in Term 3). This is 100% open to all child and teen Members from approx 10 to 16 years of age. A complimentary Junior Recreational Development program is customised each year during the matched school holiday week and is designed to build skills and act as a 'feeder' into the Junior Race Development Program.

Your Club is committed to encouraging participation in Snowsports - no matter what you ride.

Being a part of it is up to you - the door is always open!

Jonathan Mandl
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IAC 2010 Club Programme

February 1st

Subscriptions due

March 1st

Winter season bookings open for members

April 1st

Winter season bookings open for guests

April 2nd

Easter – Back to Perisher Week (events and activities)
Cascades/Tin Mines Working Bee

April 27th

Annual General Meeting

May 28th – 30th

Working Bee – Food Weekend

June 1st

Bookings open for Après Members

June 11th

(Friday) Lodge opens for winter season
Mountain of Music Festival

June 13th – 18th

Toddler's Week #1

July 5th – 9th

Junior Race Development Program Week # 1

August 7th

IAC Club Championships

August 14th

Senior Interclub Races (Hosted by Steelmakers)

August 23rd – 27th

Junior Race Development Programme Week # 2

August 28th Junior Interclub Races (Hosted by Steelmakers)

September 12th – 17th

Toddler's week #2

September 25th

Smiggins Bowl (Hosted by Muniong)

October 4th

Lodge closes for winter season (Labour Day Weekend)

October 11th

Lodge opens for summer bookings

TBA

IAC End of season event

Noticeboard

Congratulations!!!!

Photo: Nate Warren

Congratulations to Phil and Michelle Warren on the birth of their baby boy. Another one to fire up for Illawarra in the future! Well done guys, we are all very happy for you.

Another milestone for Sue Edmonson!

Congratulations to Sue Edmondson who has just celebrated her 80th birthday. The matriarch of Illawarra Alpine Club, wife of the 1st President and mother of those 4 unique children, Mike, Libby, Tim and Simon marked the occasion with a grand party at Jindabyne Sailing club. Approximately 100 guests representing Sue's many interests and activities over the years joined in the celebrations. Our President, Geoff, (down on a working bee) sent some of Illawarra's well-known firewater to acknowledge the occasion in true IAC style.

Sue has a proud record of achievement behind her – enthusiastic ambassador and hostess during the early days of our ski club, ski shop operator, passionate cross-country skier and bushwalker, potter, artist and community activist. Although a broken ankle may have slowed her down over recent months Sue maintains her interest in painting and gardening and is still very involved in keeping Jindabyne honest by driving the Climate Change campaign. (She was also largely responsible for getting Recycling established in the area.)

Pat and Sue's Memoirs

To celebrate the occasion 'Pat and Sue's Story' has just been printed – preserving for posterity the eventful lives of a remarkable couple. The book contains many unique photos as well as their memoirs. They have only had approx. 50 copies printed for their extended family and a few check it out for yourselves!

Rhonda Boxall

CASCADE HUT WORKING BEE – 6-8 November 2009

There may have been a shortage of snow during the latter months of the snow season but this was not quite the case the week before our scheduled working bee at Cascades Hut. Rob Gibbs, the ranger, was unable to access the area due to deep snow drifts on top of Bob's Ridge and thought the work party would have to be cancelled. A bulldozer was sent to barge its way through. Although this was successful it was decided the trail was still quite soft in places, particularly out towards Tin Mines where much of the work was to be carried out. It was decided to reduce the size of the work party from 15 to 7 and focus on the final details of Cascades Hut instead. Apart from myself as caterer the Wollongong contingent remained at home.

Nankervis Family Visit.

In recent years KHA have been encouraging families with connections to the old huts to return and see how they are being restored and maintained. Ken Nankervis was a 12 year old boy when he first accompanied his father, Harry, and older brother, Jim, up onto the snow lease which covered the Cascades area. On the first day of our work party Ken (now mid-80's) proudly returned accompanied by his wife, Shirley and sons Peter and Gary and his brother Jim's son, Norman. They were delighted with the work Illawarra Alpine Club has been doing to preserve the Hut built in the mid-1930's.

Their return visit prompted many stories about the snow lease days, including tales and legends about their often less than friendly neighbours. Ken was a mine of

information and I have organised to go to Corryong in early December to record his memories. Just as the story of



Photo: Ken Nankervis visits the old family hut at Cascades

Bruce Lang and Charlie Carter's body have enlivened our connection with the Tin Mines area, so too has the Nankervis visit enriched our links with Cascades.

The Work. The weather was autumn at its best. Following the late snow and good spring rains conditions were as good as you could ever hope for. This time work requirements were a breeze due to the cancellation of the heavier work at Tin Mines. This meant the final details of the recent major Cascades Hut renovation could be completed. The work carried out included preserving the outside timber with a linseed, turps and paraffin mix, resetting the NE chimney post, fixing the new door latch and refitting two top weatherboards. Most importantly, a new bench seat was made to allow us to enjoy our nights around the Cascades fire in comfort. The Hut is now in very good shape.

To establish work requirements for our Easter 2010 working bee an exploratory trip was also made to Tin Mines. While there a temporary prop to the NW chimney was put in place.



Photo: Many hands make light work.

Next Easter it is hoped to at least commence the restumping or reposting the four chimney posts and at least five other Mess Hut posts as well as rebuilding the fireplace.

The work party consisted of Pat, Sue and Mike Edmondson, Linda Beasley, Jonathan and Eric Mandl, myself and ranger Rob Gibb. With all those enthusiastic photographers in one small area competition was pretty fierce for the perfect photo. I think young Eric may have

won the title for the most enthusiastic followed very closely by the master himself, Mike Edmondson. Looking forward to seeing a large group helping us out at Easter next year.

Rhonda Boxall

PS. An email was received from Rob Gibbs the following week stating members of the National Parks Regional Advisory Committee had inspected the work being done at Cascades and Tin Mines. They were very impressed with the work the Club has carried out and asked that this be passed on to the Illawarra Alpine club.

Snowy Mountains of Music Festival

The June Long weekend Music festival is on again in 2010 following a fun/good weekend last year.

As you will see by the attachment, it is all designed about getting Clubs to fill their lodges, and to get discounts on the tickets to help it all along.

It may be 6 months away, but many people plan their holidays a long way ahead, so here is the good news for you to put on your websites and pass on to your Club Members.

More info: <http://www.snowymountainsofmusic.com.au/>

Graeme Anderson

National Parks "Resort Roundup"

The latest Resort Roundup by Kosciuszko National Park can be found here:

http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/parks/DECC20090548resort_roundup_summer2010.pdf

Help from bushwalkers needed to contain weed menace

The NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW) is calling on bushwalkers in Kosciuszko National Park to help find pockets of a potential alpine weed menace which has already spread to over a hundred locations in Victoria's Alpine National Park and has devastated parts of New Zealand.

Hawkweed is an iridescent orange mountain daisy from Europe which was first found in Victoria by University of Melbourne Botany Students at Falls Creek where it is believed to have escaped from a domestic garden. Hawkweed was soon found at another 10 sites and despite huge efforts to contain it hawkweed it is now found at 125 locations in Victoria.

It has since been recorded at a handful of locations within the Jagungal Wilderness area within Kosciuszko National Park and DECCW is now making every effort to eradicate it.

DECCW botanist, Dr Keith McDougall, said that if not found and destroyed early it will spread very quickly with

the potential to cause an environmental disaster within our life time.

"Its seeds are not unlike those of the common dandelion in that they are easily picked up by the wind and blown to far flung destinations.

"It only takes one seed to lodge in a remote nook within the park where no one will see it and within a handful of years a small population grows and then there are literally thousands and thousands of seeds being dispersed by wind to other corners of the bush.

"So this weed has enormous potential to spread rapidly. It and other hawkweeds have devastated parts of New Zealand where they cover more than 6 million hectares.

"It loves mountain landscapes and has the potential to spread right across the Alps as well as the surrounding tablelands such as the Monaro.

"In Australia it has frightening potential to change the whole appearance of the Alps, smothering native vegetation and impacting on wildlife reliant on a native understorey. This weed even has the potential to get into the bog systems and impact on the critically endangered Southern Corroboree Frog. Hawkweeds have many cunning strategies for reproduction, including not needing sex to produce seeds.

"We need to find it and fast before it has a chance to spread and that's where our army of devoted bushwalkers, which number up to a hundred thousand, can help.

"We want people to keep an eye out for the bright iridescent orange daisy but it's most important that they do not pick it because this may lead to its spread. Although there are also a few native daisies with orange flowers, hawkweeds are unmistakable in having milky sap, which oozes from leaf veins when torn.

"People, who think they may have found Hawkweed, should take digital photos and send them to us via email and describe the location. Then we can investigate and if it is hawkweed we can eradicate it properly," Dr McDougall said.

DECCW and Parks Victoria are preparing an eradication plan for hawkweeds in the Australian Alps with the financial support of the Australian Alps Liaison Committee. The plan should be out by mid-year.

People can call the Environment Line on 131555 and send photos to info@environment.nsw.gov.au

Photos: Close up of Hawkweed
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/nswnationalparks/4182443113/>

Caption: The Department of Environment, Climate Change and water is hoping to recruit bushwalkers in an effort to locate Hawkweed which has recently appeared in Kosciuszko National Park and has the potential to cause enormous environmental damage as it has done in New Zealand. (Photo: Dr Keith McDougall-DECCW)

Photo: Dr Steve Clark locates a patch of the noxious Hawkweed in a remote part of Kosciuszko National Park during a recent field survey carried out by the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/nswnationalparks/4183208316/> (Photo- Dr Keith McDougall)

In the News

Ski resorts under the pump

ROSSLYN BEEBY

14 Dec, 2009 08:08 AM

Climate change has forced Australia's mainland ski resorts to spend \$82 million on snow-making equipment over the last two years, new research says.

Griffith University ecotourism expert Professor Catherine Pickering has warned that if current climate trends continue, the amount of water needed to boost snow cover at the resorts would be more than Canberra's current water use - roughly 60,000 megalitres a year.

Professor Pickering said six resorts in NSW and Victoria had invested more in snow-making in recent years than resorts in the French Alps, which spent \$61 million to boost snow cover. "We are predicted to lose 97 per cent of snow cover in the Australian Alps over the next 60 years. So even with the best intentions, this level of investment is simply not sustainable," she said.

In NSW, Perisher has spent \$19 million since 2007 to install more than 100 new automated hi-tech snow guns, imported from Italy. When the guns were officially launched this year by the NSW Government, a Perisher spokesman said they would allow a more consistent snow experience and were nine times more energy efficient than current systems. Thredbo has spent \$8 million upgrading snow-making equipment to triple its capacity to pump out readymade snow over 70ha of snowfields.

Professor Pickering's research suggests resorts will need to double their investments to attract a new generation of skiers and snowboarders, who are taking up new adventure sports as Australia's snow cover diminishes.

Within just 10 years, Australia's ski resorts will need to increase the number of snow guns by 71 per cent to produce the snow to maintain current cover.

A survey of alpine tourists conducted by Professor Pickering found fewer tourists were choosing to ski, with numbers of downhill skiers dropping from 87 per cent in 1996 to 50 per cent in 2007. Over the same period, snowboarding increased by 17 per cent.

Editor's note: 17 per cent more have seen the light!

Tourists found thanks to beacons

10 Dec, 2009 10:53 AM – Summit Sun (NSW)

The hiring of a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) from the Snowy Region Visitor Centre in Jindabyne was crucial in the quick rescue of a group of Victorian Scouts over the weekend.

The group, aged from 11 to 14 years and their leader and one parent, hired the beacon on Friday before taking off for a mountain bike trek on the Saturday.

Poorly prepared for the trek, they had not packed suitable cold weather clothing, a map, a compass or emergency camping equipment. They set out from Dead Horse Gap on mountain bikes with the aim of making it to the Pinch in one day. A wrong turn saw the group lost near the Tin Mines Trail and the Jacob's river.

Inspector Peter Rooney from Cooma Police Station said police received notification from Australian Marine Search and Rescue (AMSR) that the beacon had been activated. "They (AMSR) dispatched a fixed wing aircraft with infra red capabilities and they quickly located the group. The aircraft flew over the group until the emergency personnel could reach them at around 5.30am. "No one was injured but the temperature was down to 6 degrees."

Manager for Business and Tourism at the Snowy Region Visitor Centre Steve Redden reminded people using the Kosciuszko National Park these summer holidays to always be prepared for changes in conditions.

The beacons are available for hire at a cost of \$20 for a two week period and can be collected from NPWS offices in Jindabyne, Khancoban, Tumut or Perisher. The devices are not a GPS though and all users should carry a readable and current topographic map as well. This was the second activation of a PLB since they were introduced into the area before winter.

In a third incident, yesterday morning a group of schoolgirls hiking near Mount Twynam activated their PLB. NSW Police said at 6am the group became disoriented due to fog while walking towards Guthega. The SouthCare Helicopter responded but there were no injuries and although worried, the group had not become lost.



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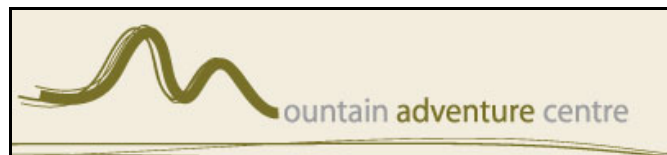
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Ph: (02) 6452 2303

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

Rhythm are proud sponsors of the 2009 IAC Club Championship



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Opening Hours – Winter 2008

Monday to Sunday 7:00 - 7:00pm

Friday nights open till Midnight when snow falling

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