

COLD FACTS



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NEWSLETTER OF THE ILLAWARRA ALPINE CLUB LIMITED

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Cover Photo: The end of an era – Brittany Ainge, Carrin DiMilia and Alexis Dengate finish their IAC Jnr representative years in 2007 on a high with a dominating success in the Interclub GS Team Trophy and the Smiggins Bowl defence last season. IAC salutes your loyalty, achievements and skills honed in the Jnr Race Dev Program!

In this Issue:

- [Messages from the Editor](#)
- [From the Immediate Past President](#)
- [From the President](#)
- [From the Booking Officer](#)
- [From the Club Captain](#)
- [From the Maintenance Chief](#)
- [Tin Mines Work Party report](#)
- [Postcard from Hokkaido](#)
- [Postcard from Mammoth](#)
- [Lift Pass discounts in July](#)
- [Nordic Shelter Update](#)
- [Last Run](#)

Messages from the Editor

There's been a relentless effort since the end of last season to complete the major internal works projects at the Lodge, which are almost complete and will make significant improvement in accommodation options and comfort for all Members in 2008. With thanks to Andrea Wilson for her expert architectural advice and drafting we have a new clever spatial solution in the downstairs bedrooms. A working party of 12 sampled the benefits over the ANZAC weekend working bee and know we're on a winner – now maybe project Manager Tony DiMilia can get some well earned rest!

Nominations were received this year for the awarding of two Life Memberships in 2007/08.

Mike DiLeva's tireless and accurate work on the IAC Committee as Treasurer for over 20 years is an exceptional contribution to the Club, and his achievements introducing simplified processes, improved financial integrity, up-to-date corporate compliance and a first-class bookings system were described by Geoff Mettam and Rhonda Boxall at the AGM.

Phil Warren spoke to Jarvis' nomination and summarised his many contributions since the early 80's. From Editor of Cold Facts to President and leadership with his trademark

passion for racing creating a following in his generation and the next.

Both have also been consistent attendees of annual off-season working bees and have demonstrated a commitment to their Club beyond reproach.

Mike DiLeva and Jarvis Fletcher were proposed and accepted unanimously with much applause.

Club Person of the Year 2007

Many nominations were received for this year after no candidates were proposed in 2006. This was perhaps not so much a reflection of lack of worthiness for the award but more so a collective oversight by all.

This year the award was received at the AGM by a stunned and humble Jonathan Mandl, nominated amongst other deserving individuals in a busy year that was.

The end of the term of Fiona Montgomery's Presidency was reflected on with both fondness and sadness by all at the AGM, and Barry Roberts summed up the mood best when he congratulated the absent Fiona for her sound leadership through many complex challenges and most of all, the fact that Fiona made history as Illawarra's first female President who served the Club in her position brilliantly. Thank you Fiona – you've left us in a very strong position but with a hard act to follow!

Vacant position of IAC Treasurer

Before the 2006 AGM Mike DiLeva announced that his term as voluntary Treasurer for a record term would be ending in 2008. None could say that this notice was anything but fair, however IAC remains with a pressing need for a candidate for this position. Never has there been a better opportunity to have a proper handover period and inherit as simplified, and easily managed system in the history of our Club.

The benefit of Mike's legacy is that virtually anyone can now manage this role, making it possible to serve a normal short term, then hand over in turn.

Your Club needs your help - urgently.

Got news? Email coldfacts@iacski.com anytime!

From the Immediate Past President

(From Fiona's desk in London – handing over to Geoff Mettam as new incoming President for 2008/09)

Hello everyone,

I am extremely pleased and excited to report, that after all the years of talking about an upgrade to the bathrooms in Siberia, that this in fact has been done over the summer, and Siberia residents this season will be treated to bathrooms of the same standard as the main bathrooms, with heated floors and all. They have been upgraded in their current configuration with no changes to the bedrooms.

As well as the Siberia bathrooms, we have also remodelled the downstairs bedrooms in the main section of the lodge and created more 2 bunk rooms. The old boiler room as been de-commissioned and we have used the additional space to reconfigure the old rooms 1, 2 and 3.

An incredible amount of work has gone on through the summer this year, and the lodge was unavailable for summer bookings as a result. All the work that has occurred is a great improvement to the facilities and I hope that the residents enjoy their stay this year, I'm sure the new Committee would be very keen to get your feedback throughout the season. I would like to thank Tony DiMilia, Geoff Mettam and Mike Dileva who have put in a monumental effort over the summer to ensure that this upgrade was completed.

I am very excited by the new challenges that I have been presented in my career and working overseas for the next couple of years, but at the same time disappointed that this prevents me continuing a strong involvement in the Club during this time. My years as President have been challenging to say the least, but along with all of you, I share a deep affection for our Club and I look forward to being involved again when I return to Australia. I will miss my trips to Smiggin Holes each year and will struggle to compensate for that in Zermatt, Val D'Isere and other European resorts that you just can't compare to good old Smiggins.

Kirk Donkin and Melanie Golby looked after us exceptionally well in 2007, and have been re-appointed as managers for 2008.

I would like to thank all the members of the Committee that I have worked with for their time and efforts this year and in previous years, and for their fantastic support to me as President. It has been a pleasure being part of the team, and I wish the new President and Committee the best for the coming year. Best regards to all!

Fiona Montgomery

From the President

I write this in my new position as Illawarra President, & may I say that given my family history, both with Illawarra Club & on Committee, I feel a great deal of pride in being in the same position as my dad was some 25 odd years ago. I have big boots to fill following in the footsteps of all our Past Presidents, & the tremendous job they have collectively done, & I thank the membership for putting their faith in me.

A quick run-down from the AGM: We had over 40 attendees, the majority of which were what I will respectfully describe as "first generation" members. The point being, our Constitution calls for a quorum of approx 20 members, so without our "first gens" we were precariously close to not being able to hold our AGM. There is a crying need in our Club for our second & third generation members to stand up & get involved. So I ask all of you to think very strongly about this issue, without continued strong Committee management we will have nothing for our 4th generation. To borrow the phrase, "think not what your Club does for you, but what you can do for your Club?"

This leads onto a very serious issue which we now face. As has been highlighted since last years AGM, & in all *Cold Facts* since then, our long standing Treasurer, Mike DiLeva, indicated his desire to stand down from Committee after 20+ years. Over the past year we have approached a few "prospectives", but none have been able to see their way clear to stand.

And at the recent AGM Mike has stood down, so right now we have no Treasurer. Coming out of the AGM the Committee is charged with dealing with the issue.

So, "what can you do for your Club ?? " - if you think you can help please contact me.

Committee for 2008/09

Geoff Mettam – President

Phil Warren – Vice President

Jonathan Mandl – Vice President, Club Captain

Vacant – Treasurer

Vacant – *Cold Facts* Editor

Karen Irvine – Secretary

Julie Irvine – Booking Officer

Tony DiMilia – Maintenance

Craig Fairweather – Committee

Duncan Oliver – Committee

Since the AGM we have had discussions with Adam West, who has indicated he is willing to come on-board, so thank you to Adam.

Viola is our WebPage / Internet Queen, although she actually prefers the title "Web-Chief" & whilst she & Paul also stood down from Committee this year, she is continuing in this role.

Life Members

It gives me great pleasure to confirm to all members the election of Mike DiLeva & Jarvis Fletcher as our newest Life Members. Both have served our Club in long & distinguished fashion, in a variety of roles, & continue to do so. So congratulations to both of them, & thanx.

Elsewhere you will find a rundown of our Building works, with pictures posted soon on the web-page. Tony DiMilia has done a tremendous job in all of this, & our thanx to him for his continued work.

Thats enough from me at the moment. Lets hope the snow we've just had continues in June.

Geoff Mettam

From The Booking Officer

Email is the best way to contact me as always: (bookings@iacski.com), or you can phone between 7pm - 8pm, Monday to Friday on the ski club phone,

042 461 7707.

Remember no bookings will be accepted/confirmed until a deposit is made. Club rules state 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 can displace 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.

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.

Julie Irvine - bookings@iacski.com

From the Club Captain



Photo: A cabinet's worth of trophies won by our Junior Illawarra Interclub race team on Sept 1, 2007

Another successful Training and Racing season just a month away from starting – I hope everyone's printed a copy of the Club Programme from our website and noted the key events and dates.

Make sure any very welcome query around competing for the Club in 2008 is made to me by email or phone – we always welcome new participants.

In 2008 we farewell Brittany, Alexis and Carrin, but welcome James Irvine, Grace and Thomas Mutch into the Club's development programs. All Members should be aware that these opportunities exist for all children to develop confidence, competence and safety on the mountain.

All keen XC fans should note that this year's KAC cross country race (Perisher to Charlotte Pass) has been changed from the first week to the second week of August.

This year it will be held on Wed 13th August and can be seen on our 2008 Club Programme at www.iacski.com

Don't forget that the Smiggins Bowl races will be held this year on the 2nd August. The Illawarra team is on a hat-trick in 2008 and we're up for the challenge!

Jonathan Mandl

From the Maintenance Chief

Because our new gas powered hot water system uses the space of the downstairs ski storage room, we don't have use of this room for storage anymore.

Craig Fairweather has designed and installed a new secure cage storage system at the far end of the ski room. The cage will be locked and has three sliding doors for access. Extra ski storage space is possible on a ceiling mounted rack under Siberia for long terms through the season.

Boots, boot bags and suitcases should be stored in the loft storage space. There won't be space in the cage for anything other than skis and boards.

Jarvis and Bob Davis have widened two of the floor ski rack slots to take the wider ends of new ski designs.

Closest rack to the wall has been left for XC skis, and there is also a new wall mounted snowboard rack across the length of the wall.

The Lodge also has a new room - #12 which is large and family friendly. We still only accommodate 32 beds in total. In Siberia you will have brand new bathroom, toilet, bigger vanity and heated floors. Our central heating now works much more efficiently with the gas system.

Hot showers will still need the same courtesy of not lingering in peak times when others are waiting in the main bathrooms.

We are now using the old temporary garbage storage cupboard in the entry as a new linen store, it has been waterproofed and fully lined. Garbage now will go directly into a SULO bin outside and Tim's new sled will be in use again – better than ever.

Last of all, a reminder to all Members and Guests that we now comply with a 5m smoking-free zone around the Lodge, away from any doorway or windows as a priority. This is in line with current NSW legislation.

If you stay in the Lodge over the coming Summer, there is a new simple way to get our new hot water and heating on, so be aware of this and contact me for procedures before your stay.

Tony DiMilia

maintenance@iacski.com

TIN MINES WORK PARTY (28-31 March 2008)

What started as a small informal work party escalated into quite a re-union. Shortly before the planned weekend one of the local rangers advised us she would be bringing in the great-niece of the hermit, Charlie Carter – I guess for some sort of spiritual reunion with her ancestor. She and her

husband were out from England on a visit and were keen to learn as much about his life as possible, as well as to experience the area where he had lived during the final years of his life. She was delighted to meet up with Jenny Charker, whose father (Bruce Lang) in 1952, as the local Jindabyne cop, had retrieved his body from the hut at Tin Mines where Charlie had lived and died. (Over the years Boris often entertained us round the campfire with his tales of this epic journey.)

Both Lauris, the great-niece, and Pam O'Brien, the NPWS Ranger, were very impressed with the work that Illawarra Alpine Club had been doing over the years to restore and maintain the historic huts at Tin Mines and Cascades. It was a very special visit for his great-niece who also provided us with copies of her research into Charlie's fairly colourful life.



Photo: Cascades Hut, built in 1935 originally with bark roofing and regularly restored and maintained by IAC with permission from NPWS

We were quite impressed with their visit too, as it meant we could get both the workers and our gear in to the area a lot more easily with the assistance of the Ranger's vehicles. Jenny, Peter, Tim and Karla – after initially being driven up to the top of Bob's Ridge with their mountain bikes – were able to "coast" the rest of the 28 kms out to Tin Mines. A pretty impressive effort by 10-year-old Karla and some good psychology from her co-riders! As for the rest of us we got a comfortable view of the regeneration occurring in this wilderness area following the disastrous fires five years ago.

Pam, our very approachable ranger, returned the next day with another coincidental visitor – none other than the master axeman, Bill Boyd, who had wielded his broad axe in such unique style when we renovated The Barn many years previously. His visit was also timely as he was able to provide expert advice on the ongoing maintenance required to conserve the Hut for future generations.

Pat rehung the main door of The Barn which, due to sagging door posts, could no longer be fully opened; Tim, the expert stonemason repaired the fireplace; Jenny reconstructed the drainage round both huts while Narelle laid some fine stepping stones into the main building. As for the rest of us – we diligently waterproofed the walls and shingles with a mixture of linseed oil, turps and paraffin wax, generally cleaned up and undertook a few other miscellaneous tasks. Peter and Pat discussed future maintenance requirements with Bill Boyd and the ranger so planning could begin before our next working bee.

Despite recent brumby culling activity in the Park we came across two quite large groups of brumbies grazing happily in the surrounding area. Around the campfire on Saturday night Pat demonstrated he has lost none of his skills in making rum toddies. Unfortunately, they were so good the rum didn't stretch to a repeat for the next Happy Hour.

As more major works need to be undertaken our Huts maintenance group and the NPWS are encouraging extra support from Club members for the next working bee - possibly in September or October this year. The work is not onerous and the few days in this wilderness area a lot of healthy fun. We would love to have your company.

The Team: Jenny and Peter Charker, Pat and Sue Edmondson, Tim Edmondson and daughter Karla, Karen and Narelle Irvine and Rhonda Boxall.

Another Edmondson, Michael, made a brief appearance cycling in after work on Saturday night and out again after lunch the next day. It was great to have three generations of the Edmondson family present (5 families have achieved this over the years) as it most important that the knowledge, skills and spirit of huts conservation be passed down to our not quite so mature members.

Rhonda Boxall

(Look for Rhonda's photos on the 'Huts' link at www.iacski.com)

POSTCARD from Hokkaido



Photo: Rob Oliver waist-deep in Niseko's finest

In February 2008 Jarvis Fletcher, Geoff Mettam, Rob Oliver, Mark and Phoebe Burfield embarked on a Hokkaido ski trip.

For the first part of our trip we stayed 9 nights in Niseko. A few other IAC members Tim Lee, Bob Davis, Margaret-Ann and Ian King were also in Niseko at the same time, though after a few days our party was on its own.

We spent the majority of our skiing days at Niseko in glorious sunny conditions. Which was great, but what about all the fresh, deep Japanese powder? We had one big dump of snow early on in our stay which resulted in thigh to waist deep powder and that was about it for fresh snowfalls. Luckily it stays very cold in Japan, so five days after that snowfall we were still skiing untracked powder.

For the second half of our trip we headed north and inland and spent 8 nights in the city of Asahikawa, where we hired a car, travelled around and skied such places as Kamui Ski Links, Kitadaietsu, Furano and Asahidake. This part of the trip was much more interesting from a cultural perspective. We got plenty of fresh powder and there was far less competition to ski it.

Like any trip when you are living with people 24/7 a lot of interesting things happen, so if you are curious to know the answers to the following questions, click on the hyperlink (or see the 'Issues/News' page at www.iacski.com.au) and read the entire story and see our favourite 'hotshots'...

What happened to Jarvis passing through customs at Cairns?

Why were the locals unhappy with us on the train, and why did the lady refuse my offer of a seat?

Who was Muku and what did he do?

Were we worthy characters to use the onsen at the Scott hotel?

What could Surf's watch do and not do?

How do we know Geoff has political aspirations?

Who propositioned Geoff?

Where did Jarvis park the car?

What was the needle in the haystack, and how did we find it?

What song was the Asahikawa theme song and why?

Who was in the A-team and who was in the B-team and what rivalry was there?

Rob Oliver

POSTCARD from Mammoth, California

After an average 28 foot season (some would say below average), the Mammoth winter is morphing into the Mammoth spring, and while the days grow longer, the lines get shorter and the smiles get bigger. The Mammoth season was characterized by strong winds, savage storms and periods of intense snowfall. Skiing and riding as you could imagine was pretty impressive, and this was the trend across the country. Southern California had their best season ever, Colorado will be in the top 3 (Steamboat 500 inches+), Utah ran out of snorkels, Jackson Hole received a whopping 605 inches, while over the border, Whistler/Blackcomb will be spinning the lifts until June.

This season I was fortunate to coach an impressive group of 8-year olds called the Mighty 5's. This group included my daughter Katherine, and every weekend we skied the mountain from top to bottom, side to side, and we challenged not only each other, but every run, bump and jump. Overall, the kids did exceedingly well, including the coach who had a blast! Other Illawarra locals leading Team Green (check out the jackets...) included Kari DeLiva the head coach for the J5 team (9-10 year olds) and Brett Allen working with the J3's (13-14 year olds).



Photo: M5 Lead Coach Kathleen Knox, Katherine and Stuart Brown – Katherine wins M5 skier of the year 2007

Late in 2006 I commenced work with the Town of Mammoth Lakes, as the Community Relations Manager. This line of work compliments the easy-going nature of Australians, and the ability to say what's on your mind. I have to say, I find my transition from the mountain to a government employee a little abstract at times, but it allows me to do

what I love in a place that welcomes everyone exactly as they are.

Julie just wrapped up another winter as the General Manager of Canyon Lodge and the Village at Mammoth with the famous Pond Skim. This popular springtime event bears witness to scantily clad employees and locals braving freezing water, and a 100 foot pond all in the name of bragging rights – Gotta love it! She now transitions into summer planning and some much needed family time.



Photo: The Brown family on the snow at Mammoth CA

Spring is definitely silly season in the States, and not only do the locals get into the act, so do the resorts. Vail resorts recently launched their \$579 Epic Pass - unlimited access to Vail, Beaver Creek, Breckenridge, Keystone, Arapahoe Basin, and even Heavenly in California. Intrawest countered with the \$399 Rocky Mountain Super Pass for Copper and Winter Park, while Mammoth's MV9 is only \$576 (\$288 Senior), and \$786 for the regular Mammoth Season Pass. With the United States on sale, now is the time to pick up a crazy deal on a 2008/09 season pass. We might not have much sushi, but we speak English, and a beer and a burger is only \$5.00. Did I mention the natural hot spring?

Thanks for reading along and let's hope for a stellar (global) season!

Stuart Brown

p.s. If you want to see what I'm up to – subscribe to Stu's News: www.visitmammoth.com/stusnews

Discounts for Lift Passes in July

Perisher Blue have announced a discounted Lift Pass rate for the week immediately following the July school holidays. The 'Bonus week' starts 27th July til 1st August. This includes 5, 6 & 7 day passes sold for collection over these dates.

Advance ticket purchases MUST be made over the phone to Perisher Blue Winter Holiday Booking's hotline – 1300 655 811 for this special period.

Conditions state that you must be booked in to any local accommodation (includes Illawarra Alpine Club – whether Member OR Guest) and a booking reference number will be asked for verification. This booking reference number is your Illawarra receipt number provided by Julie our Booking Officer.

Give your Club name as Illawarra as you pay, and a 5 day pass for example is \$366 instead of \$431, and another 5% comes back to our Club in October.

Perisher Nordic Shelter Update- February 2008

A quick update on progress at Perisher.

The retaining wall and drainage have turned out to be a mammoth task.

We uncovered an underground stream at the base of the excavation - not really a stream but a constant water flow. This has caused a few problems and time delays. There has been constant rain since we started the project resulting in more time delays during excavation

and concrete pours. There has been at least 70m3 of concrete poured so far with a few more m3 for the path around the rear of the building.

The drainage solution/retaining wall accepted by the Dept of Planning was far more involved and expensive than originally designed and costed. As a result we have spent a lot more at this stage of construction than anticipated - but I think we shall still make it with funds at hand. We will call for help with finances in the new

year if it looks like we may need some more to complete the project by next winter.

It is important that we stabilize disturbed soil with suitable grasses, benching etc. to control run off. We have some pristine wet areas below the shelter and it is imperative that we look after this area.

The completed building is going to be fantastic, not only for the public but for the elite athletes and event organisers.

We have had some well attended working bees so far and if you can help, we would love to

see you. Let myself or Peter Cunningham know if you are interested. Canberra Alpine Club are kindly

offering accommodation at Persisher for working bee attendees.

Contact Details: Peter Cunningham:
peter.cunningham@countryenergy.com.au

Peter Ward: wardp@snowy.net.au or 0409 338 978

Below: Taking shape - the new-look Nordic Shelter exterior in March



Perisher Historical Society (PHS) UPDATE

Invitation is made to all interested skiers who have shared many Winters on the Perisher Range to attend the Inaugural Dinner event of the PHS on Saturday the 7th of June, 6:30 for 7:00pm at the Snowgums Restaurant, Perisher Valley Hotel.

Dinner is \$50.00 per person which includes return Skitube access from Bullocks Flat terminal on the Alpine Way and entertainment from a historical narrative by Keith Line and John Davis.

Dress: Smart casual or 60's / 70's Apres ski fashion!

All proceeds to the Perisher Historical Society.

RSVP by Friday 23rd May – 02 6459 4455

Last Run

World's costliest skiing? (SMH 29/04/08)

Skiing has never been a sport for the financially strapped and now the Australian Alpine Club has announced that Australian resorts have the most expensive single-day lift passes in the world.

This season a single-day lift pass will set you back \$98 at Perisher Blue, \$97 at Thredbo and \$94 at both Falls Creek and Mount Hotham.

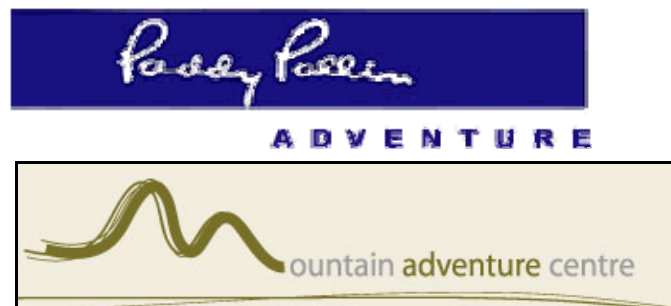
While these prices are slightly more expensive than the American resorts, they are about \$10 dearer than Canada's Whistler. The European resorts hover around the \$70 range, although, interestingly, Klosters in Switzerland, one of the world's premium resorts is \$66. The cheapest single-day lift passes can be found in Japan at Niseko and Hakuba, \$56 and \$48 respectively.

However, Andrew Ramsey, the executive director of the Australian Ski Areas Association, says that making comparisons on the basis of single-day tickets is not a true indication of the cost of skiing in Australia.

While not denying that it is a costly sport, Ramsey says skiers do not usually buy single-day passes. "People rarely buy single-day tickets but package multi-day tickets up with meals, accommodation, which presents an entirely different picture," he says.

He also points out that the strength of our dollar is a factor in Australia coming out on top of this unwanted list.

Perisher Blue have invested \$9.75million in snow-making this year, allowing for the introduction of a new water supply for the Perisher Valley, an upgraded pump station and 34 new automated snow guns.



Paddy Pallin Store Manager and IAC contact: John Weir

Thredbo Turnoff, Jindabyne

FREE CALL 1800 623 459

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Email: shop@tmac.com.au

Web: www.mountainadventurecentre.com.au

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**