

NEW EDITOR FLEXES MUSCLES.

Hello there fellow members, this news issue is being produced by your new editor, Noel Arnold. John Creasey who has done an excellent job with previous issues has to concentrate on his studies for a while and passed the job on with a sigh of relief. The process intent of this and future issues will be to give you news about general club activities and about individual members. We plan to publish quarterly and I would appreciate hot news items phoned to me (042) 756011(work) or 284020 or mailed to 3 Edward St. Wollongong, 2500.

Anything involving our members or guests would be appreciated....anytime.

Have a heart

Barrie Knowles got a new heart a few months ago and is reported as being strong as a bull and building a new home near Jindabine. I am sure all members wish him well. We will all look forward to seeing Barrie at future functions.

A Few Missed Out

Peter and Judy Gracie enjoyed the second and third weeks of June at the lodge with no snow, but we have had a record season since then with snow so heavy that Friedel Bartsh could build and sleep in a snow cave at the North East corner of the lodge that could hold 3 people.

Skiers Battle Blizzard

The Martini Rossi 8km cross country race this year was run in a blizzard and had 680 entrants, including 15 of ours. Frank and Helmut Zeller closely followed by Friedel were our first three finishers. Eddie Zeller and Betty Arnold were the veteran winners, while 'Skinny' Mike Salon achieved his goal of beating the hour

Record Bookings

John Dengate reports that bookings this season are the heaviest ever at 87%. The lodge is fully booked from end July to the October holiday weekend. About half the bookings are full members, and 25% each ordinary and associate members. This means that of the \$90000 booking income this year, full members will pay \$33000, ordinary members \$24000, and associates \$33000.

Best tucker in the alps

Keith Chapman reports that this year sees Alan and Alecia once again providing superb food to our guests at the lodge. Even more variety is available this year, with some very special lunches in particular.

The basis of our contract with our managers is that they can ski for most of each day but the time that they must spend in the kitchen has naturally increased with the quality of the food and the "home made" content. To minimise the time spent unnecessarily in the kitchen, it would be appreciated if guests arrive promptly at the appointed meal times.

If the snow is just too good to stop for lunch, then carry on and stop for a snack at one of the many available food outlets on the mountain when you're ready. Similarly, if you can't tear yourself away from the ambience of the Sundeck at 6.45pm, don't worry - just decide where you plan to eat. Please remember, however, that whenever possible you let the managers know if you won't be dining in, as your dinner will automatically be prepared and would be fed to the disposal 'muncher'. It's always a shame to waste good tucker!

You make the decisions. The managers can't decide. They have been instructed that meals can only be served at the appointed times. Seriously now - in view of their good natures if the committee didn't tell Alan and Alicia when to stop, they would be in the kitchen all day long - not just most of it!

If you have a baby or young child that cannot eat the food prepared for other guests, then you should think ahead and cater for your child's special needs. Within reason you can use the Lodge cooking facilities - but only

by negotiation with the Lodge Managers. If you skied all day, don't expect to use the kitchen when the evening meal is being prepared. Plan ahead and use the kitchen when it is free. Common sense and courtesy, as always, are the watchwords where co-operation is necessary, so that everyone can be happy.

Snow Balls Are Best

SATURDAY 17 NOVEMBER 1990

Simon Smart says this is the date for the 1990 joint Illawarra Alpine Club/Thirroul Alpine Club "End of Season Ball". For those who have attended this function over the past three years (initially at the Kembla Grange Golf Club, and last year at Cleos), there is no need to remind you why it should not be missed. This year we move on to a new location, the Wollongong Club. For those of you who have been unable to attend one of the balls, do yourself a favour and get along to the premier social event of the 1990 skiers calendar.

In past years the ball has proven to be the ideal way to wrap up the skiing season, and this year should prove no different. The latest skiing stories can be wrapped, or bygone skiing days reminisced - with fellow club members, with friendly rivals from Thirroul Alpine Club, or with your own guests. All happening of course, while partaking of great food and wine and listening to music. Then relax after the meal with a cup of coffee with the Club Presentations before shaking all the food and drink down while you show your style on the dance floor.

This year we're out to get more numbers from our club to the ball than the Thirroul Alpine Club - something we've never done. So come on, book the 17th of November in your diary now before you forget, to ensure you don't miss out on a great evening. When details are finalised, invitations will be issued with more specific information such as time, cost, etc.

WORK Some do it, some wonder how it gets done, others never think about it.

Ron Fitzgerald has booked the weekend commencing 9/11/90 for the next working bee. If you have never thought about being on a working bee, here is your chance to do it. These events are always productive but also great fun. Most of the club planning is done on these weekends between 10pm and 2am. If you are interested in leaving your mark on the club, ring Ron on (042) 286710(work) 283330 (home), and book in for this weekend.

President Mike Says We Have a Few Problems.

At long last, the Snowy Mountains are enjoying an excellent snow season, with snow depth and coverage the best since the bumper year of 1981, and maybe, by the end of winter, the statistics will show it to be better than 1981. I hope all members and their guests are able to gain full enjoyment of this excellent winter! With Alan and Alicia back and managing the lodge, we have been also enjoying their superb meals and pleasant company.

There have, unfortunately, been a few problems, with both lodge equipment and even some guests. The spa pump failed early in August, and the first replacement pump was not suitable. I hope by the time you receive this newsletter, the spa will be in action again. There have also been some problems with the hot water supply, caused apparently by the inlet pressure valves being unbalanced. These types of problems are very difficult to fix during the season, so Ron Fitzgerald will probably not be able to sort them out fully until the end of winter. In the meantime, there is plenty of hot water available, but it is sometimes necessary for Alan to make manual adjustments to the hot water heaters. Please let him know if you can't get a hot shower.

Even the telemeter, which counts the charging pulses on the 'phone has failed (as have our attempts to get Telecom to fix it!), and we have had to ask guests to reverse charges for long distance calls, or get a ring back price. This is inconvenient, and more expensive, and we hope the telemeter will be fixed soon.

Rowdy and unacceptable behaviour on the part of some guests (not members), marred the stay of the others during a weekend very early in the season. The offenders have been advised they will not be welcome at Illabunda again. Full members are reminded that they are responsible for

the actions of persons they nominate as associate members, and they should ensure that such people are going to be suitable guests at the lodge.

Parents or guardians are also reminded that they are responsible for their children's behaviour while staying at Illabunda. Our club, of course, has no wish to dictate how members or guests bring up their children - this is their own affair - but when at the lodge, the enjoyment of the other guests is an overriding concern. Children who are excessively noisy or active and are annoying other guests must be controlled, especially when asked to do so. Hard and fast rules are undesirable if not completely impractical, so we have to ask for consideration on behalf of both the children's parents and the other guests. This winter, we have seen some uncontrolled children not only disrupt the "quiet enjoyment" of the lodge, but also make a considerable mess, only to have their parents insist that the mess be cleaned up by the managers! This is unacceptable behaviour - the club expects guests to clean up after themselves: the managers are paid to maintain an overall high standard of cleanliness and tidiness.

We have also had some problems with young children in the spa. The excitement of being in the spa clearly stretches the control of some youngsters beyond normal limits, and "contaminating" the spa water is not only disconcerting to others in the spa at the same time, it constitutes a health hazard. Therefore, the club has introduced a new rule that children under 6 years of age may not use the spa. Note that we have always required that all children have to be supervised by an adult at all times they are using the spa: This is required for their own safety.

Finally, on children, may I remind all members that children of all ages have (and always have had) to be booked into the lodge and paid for. This applies even when the children sleep in cots, in their parent's room, and when they have their own food brought for them. We have always welcomed babies at Illabunda (although many lodges don't allow them), but parents should remember that it does cost us a lot of money to have them there - preparing meals, bathing them, using the clothes drier etc., and they do have an impact on the other guests quite disproportionate to their size. Most importantly, however, are the terms of our lease with the Kosciusko National Park. We are only allowed 20 guests at any one

time, and no concession is made to age.

I trust that members understand the reasons for the above requirements, some of which may be interpreted as a little stern. Safety, health and guest enjoyment are major objectives of many of our rules which have been established with the perceived wishes of the bulk of our membership in mind. Finally, on this matter, the issue of smoking in the lodge has been raised by some guests and lodge captains this winter. Smoking is already banned in bedrooms: whether it should be restricted elsewhere or prohibited altogether is a controversial issue. I propose that we conduct a referendum on the subject at the same time as the Debenture Transfer Poll of all full members in December.

Write to Me - Talk to Me Says Editor.

Well that's it for August. Please send me lots of news and personal items so we can hear about each others' experiences during this season in the next newsletter in November.