

Lysaght Alpine Club News

Views and News of Management and Members November 1990 Vol 1.2

EDITOR RETIRES

Good old Noel (that's me) retires from BHP S&CP on the 30th November. I will continue as the editor of this newsletter and as your trusty historian. In this latter role in 1991 I will be producing a history covering the development and building of the present club, to follow on from the history of the old club at Wilsons Valley, (a copy of which is at the lodge). So please pull out your old diaries and give me some of those human interest stories and photographs that will help to make the history interesting and a little more truthful than if I only include my recollections.

Noel Arnold
3 Edward St.
Wollongong. 2500

NEW MEMBERSHIP BOSS TAKES OVER.

Mal Grantham has taken over the role of Membership Registrar so if you change your address and want to be alone don't tell us. But if you want us to keep in touch, make sure you write to Mal or our club secretary. Mal will also handle the sale of your debenture if you are down to your last bean and need the money fast. Incidentally, Peter Schaff has moved permanently to America and has sold his debenture to Bob McCulloch (Senior) who was the acceptor highest on the waiting list. Best wishes to Peter in USA and welcome to Bob. It will be great to have a McCulloch in the club.

Mal Grantham
Electrical Dept. - Del 123
C/o BHP S&CP
Po Box 77
Port Kembla NSW 2505

LYSAGHTS HAS MEMORABLE RACE SEASON

Our biggest achievement this year would have to be winning the combined Illawarra Inter Club races, however this should not overshadow our other achievements. Some of these were:

* The Kosiusko Tour. This is an 18km event starting at Thredbo, going to Mt Kosciusko and finishing at Perisher. Our team of Helmut Zeller, Frank Zeller and Friedl Bartsch won the team event! A great effort when you consider the opposition.

* The Osram Feral Ski Club night relay which with the inclusion of Jane Livingstone to the Kosciusko team would have done very well if we had thought to enter the mixed team event. We did do well anyway.

* We were represented in the Nastar Finals series by Graeme Williams, Rhonda Knowles

and Karyn Whelan, Graeme doing well to take out 4th spot in the overall men's.

* Ben Salon competing in the State and National Championships.

* The Perisher Cup team coming 6th and the Plate team were unlucky not to win the most improved team. (Next year).

Our club champion this year is Helmut Zeller who had an outstanding year in both alpine and crosscountry, well done Helmut.

What Peter would like to know is who won Nastar medals this year? So if you want your name in print (he's sick of writing the same names every year), give Peter a call.

Well that's all for this year. Hopefully next year we can add to these results.

Peter McCulloch
Club Captain
Ph H 263252 W 756263

ILLAWARRA RACES OURS AGAIN

Peter also filed the following.

On Saturday August 18 our ski team competed in the Brian Donegan Illawarra Inter club races, staged at Blue Cow on a post card day. The alpine event was held in the morning with the cross country following in the afternoon.

In the alpine event competitors have 2 runs each with the best aggregate time winning.

Graeme Williams won the event with a time of 68.13 seconds. Graeme's first run beat the pace setter's time, (a great achievement).

Helmut Zeller came in second with a time of 70.46 seconds setting himself up nicely to defend the combined individual champion trophy which he won last year.

With Peter and Robert McCulloch finishing in the top 10 we took out the alpine team event for only the second time in its history, Illawarra Alpine having won it every other year. What a start to the day!

As you can guess our biggest challenge for the cross country and the combined was going to come from Illawarra Alpine who were still smarting over their relegation to 3rd place behind IMBAC in the alpine event.

Illawarra Alpine was a very formidable outfit, containing Mike Edmonson, the Australian 15km champion plus three other competent racers. In 14 years they have only lost this event twice, both times to Lysaghts. Illawarra's pride was on the line here but one man doesn't make a team and although we couldn't beat Mike, we could beat their team.

Well, it's now history our team of Friedl Bartsch, Frank Zeller, Helmut Zeller and Ben Salon did it for the second year running by the closest of margins. Just 10 seconds separated first and second.

By taking out both the alpine and the cross country we secured for only the second time (the first being last year,) the combined trophy. To win this trophy is a great honour for the club and it's members, especially since Illawarra Alpine had held it since its' inception 16 years ago. This was better than the Americas Cup

because we held it and Bondy lost it. Well maybe it wasn't 140 years but it felt like it.

Just think, we are now Illawarra Teams Champions in the Alpine, Cross country, and Combined as well as having the individual Alpine Champion Graeme Williams, the Individual Combined Champion Helmut Zeller, and the individual Female Cross Country Champion in Jane Livingstone. Jane beat most of the boys home which is not good for the ego.

If this has made you keen to compete, just have a run on the Ski Star and pass your time and the pace setter's time on to me. If you are a budding cross country skier, have a race in any cross country event (except the pub to pub) and forward your times.

A special thanks must go to all our reserves, our officials and our cheer squad. Without you we wouldn't have won these events.

On a final note, if we want to continue winning we have to encourage our juniors. They are our future racers so let's get behind them and give them as much support and encouragement as we can.

Peter McCulloch
Club Captain.

JUNIOR RACERS KICK UP HEELS

Our junior race Captain, Kevin Burke reports that the junior races were held on the 8th September with 10 junior racers participating and plenty of dedicated parents to help with course setting, time keeping, keeping people off the course, starting and gate checking. The course was set up alongside the Telemark T.Bar for the downhill and near the link T.Bar for the X-country. The results are as follows:

- Alpine Champions:
 - Kate Fitzgerald. Aidan Burke.
- X-country Champions:
 - Jane Fairbrother. Aidan Burke
- Junior Encouragement Award:
 - Brendan Fitzgerald.
- Best Girl:
 - Jane Fairbrother.
- Junior Club Champion:
 - Aidan Burke.

The Junior Presentation was held at the lodge on Saturday night following the races and not held over to our pre season B.B.Q. as has been the practice in previous years.

A few awards that might be presented at our pre-season B.B.Q. might be - "Spit the Dummy" Michael Livermore for X-country (it's just like walking Michael) and "Loving Couple" Dianne and Ted Fairbrother - last seen holding hands and whispering in one another's ears alongside the course during the races. The same day TED was a late arrival at the Sundeck for pre-dinner drinks!!! "Technology" - Mike Salon who had the results worked out on computer and printed for the presentation. "Old Habits Die Hard" - Julie Livermore & Sandra Burke who worked the results out with a calculator - just in case the computer was wrong. "Film" - Ron (20th Century) Fitzgerald who did a video of the races (or

we think he did.) He says that you need 15 fingers to press all the buttons!!!

Kevin thanks all those who helped make it a great weekend and we hope to see more junior racers there next year.

Kevin Burke
39 Langson Ave
Figtree NSW 2525

PRESIDENT MIKE SAYS 1990 A GOOD YEAR

As summer approaches, and (depending on where you are) takes over from a heady balmy spring, we can now look back on what will surely be remembered as the best ever seasons for the Lysaght Alpine Club.

First there was the snow itself - for many of our members and lodge guests, 1990 was blessed with the best skiing conditions they can remember, with 1981 being the last "really good" season. Snow drifts around Illabunda were the deepest we have seen at our new lodge, and quite heavy snow falls have continued quite regularly well into the spring. Let us hope for many more seasons like 1990.

Booking levels at the new Illabunda have always been high, but the superb skiing conditions this winter have led to record utilisation, and therefore, the club's financial results at the end of the year should reflect this high level of business. While our bed usage was up, skier numbers, at Perisher Valley at least, were obviously down in 1990, no doubt contributed to by excessive lift ticket prices and competition from the much improved Thredbo resort, and Mt. Blue Cow. During the season, I heard a statistic quoted by the Cooma visitors Centre, that park visitors were down by 30% from the previous year. While this is bad news for the resort operators and other businesses in the snowfields, the reduced crowding was no doubt much welcomed by our members and guests!

Competition performance adds to the 1990 "good news" for Lysaght Alpine Club. For the second year in a row we won the coveted Brian Donegan Memorial Illawarra Interclub Races which are contested by the ski clubs based in the Wollong area. Congratulations to our team in that race meeting, and to all who competed for the club in our other "official" races, ie. the KAC-Martini Cross country Classic, the Perisher Cup/Plate, and our Junior Championchips. Special mention to Helmut Zeller, whose performance in the Perisher Cup earned him the Club Champion's trophy for 1990.

Lodge managers, Alan and Alicia had another good year at Illabunda, and almost everyone will be pleased that they have accepted the job again for 1991. In the meantime, Alan & Alicia will again spend our summer enjoying winter and skiing in Andorra.

I mentioned some difficulties in lodge operations in the last President's Message. Another potentially serious one that I must bring up involves lodge security: apparently some members have been revealing the access code to the "void" to their friends. Obviously there has been no ill intent, but it must be emphasised that, in consideration of the valuable equipment owned by members and the club, and stored in the void, that only full members are allowed to have access code information - a reasonable

extension of this is to the immediate families of members, but no further. Also, for obvious reasons, the access codes for the external doors must never be spread beyond full members and legitimate guests at the lodge. Please, your cooperation in ensuring our security.

To finish this message, let me thank all members and others who helped run the Club and Lodge through 1990. Of course there's the club committee and the office bearers, but I'm also talking about those who help in other ways at working bees, as Lodge Captains etc. Your contributions are most appreciated - thanks to you all. Don't forget - in December, I'll circulate the annual Debenture Poll questionnaire, and also a request for your opinion on that most hotly debated topic, smoking in the Lodge.

Mike Salon
President.
Del code 138, ph 6262

LODGE GETS 5000KM SERVICE

Our Maintenance Manager Ron Fitzgerald organised a working bee weekend commencing 9/11/90 where 12 members worked their hearts out (you know what Ross is like), cleaning, repairing, painting, and roofing & walling the wood store landing. In addition to Ron, Ross and Noel we had Brian Askie, Brian Harrison, Rhonda Knowles, Karen Wahelan, Fred Russell, Marlie and Henry Lysaght, Steve and Margaret Dennis. We got 150mm of snow on the Saturday and had to struggle through a blizzard to reach the Man From Snowy bar that night, then back through the blizzard for a gourmet dinner. A great time was had by all, but someone has to do it.

By the way, the next working bee is on 1-2/3/91 so how about marking it in your diary and ring Ron and say you will go, especially if you have not been to one before.

Ron Fitzgerald
48 OBrien's Rd
Figtree, 2525
Ph 283330.

NEW SAND GROPER DISAPPEARS INTO THE WEST

Best wishes to our ex provisions officer John Creasey who will be the State Operations Officer for LBI from 3/12/90. John did a great job for us ensuring supplies of drinks, gas, sheets, cutlery, etc. were always there. He also saved us labour and money on wood costs because the wood didn't turn up at the November working bee. Kevin Burke has now taken over this very important job.

Kevin Burke
39 Langson Ave
Figtree, 2525
Ph 293159

THE BALL WAS GREAT

The Illabunda/Maranatha/Steelmakers end of season ball was held this year on Saturday November 9 at the Wollongong Club. Our organiser was Simon Smart who, together with the other club organisers did an excellent job. The speeches were brief and the mike was turned down so you couldn't hear them anyway. The food was good, the music and dancing lively, the girls beautiful in colourful gowns and the men sober, (well reasonably so). The ball was a great success, with most of the 120 people attending staying until 1.00 am and still being reluctant to go home. Even a couple of ring-ins from Illawarra and IMBAC clubs said it was the best ball they had been to for years.

GOSSIP

- Who saw the young couple who stayed at the lodge this winter. She had a beautiful wardrobe which worked, they plan to marry next October.
- Fred Russel gets married on Sunday 2/12/90 for the second time. He wants to keep it quiet so if you want to send him a card, he lives at
1/179 William St.
Bankstown, 2200
He should get at least 100.
- Who was the bright spark on the working bee who fitted a new timer to the clothes dryer, switched it on to test it, and burnt out another part. Oh well, another job for March.
- We have a video record of Ross referring to someone as a wimp and a grub for pulling out of the working bee at the last minute. Wonder who it was? Well, it will appear in a future club history.
- Ron Fitzgerald wants to know who stole the 4" angle grinder from the club tool locker. For a while he thought the cots had also been stolen and was really cranky until they were found in the freezer. Is Helen expecting again?

Noel and Betty Arnold will be skiing in USA in January so the next issue of this newsletter will be in April 1991, when we should be able to let you know details of the new committee and its plans for 1991.

**A happy Christmas and
good skiing for 1991.**
