

Lysaght Alpine Club News

Views and News of Management and Members November 1991 Vol 2.3

Remember Those Who Suffer for You.

Well here we are at the end of 1991, which has been a great snow year. We had snow almost up to the front verandah again and it lasted well into October. Our club is in a sound financial position due to heavy bookings and the enthusiasm of members and your committee. It also has a high standing in the Australian ski world due to the efforts of many members. In the last newsletter I mentioned the effort, striving and suffering of some of our members racing on our club's behalf. Being bashful, I did not mention my own suffering but can hold back no longer. In this year's Martini Rossi X-country race from Perisher to Charlotte Pass I had a badly fitting shoe which resulted in a huge blister covering the whole base of my right big toe, and my toe nail turned blue. The blister has healed, the nail has come off, and a new nail is now growing well. I got no sympathy from Betty but would appreciate the odd enquiry "How's your big toe?" next time we meet.

Here's hoping 1992 will be just as good or an even better year.

Rain Snow and An Easy Life

President Mike Salon just came back from an overseas business trip to Europe and America. It rained for over 3 weeks of the four week trip. The only place where it didn't rain was California where they are still in a drought that has lasted many years and due to water rationing Mike was asked to save water in every possible way eg. Don't put it in whiskey; shower with a friend and only on Saturday; etc. - (so what's different)? One bit of good news was that when he flew over the US Rockies they were covered with snow and the ski resorts there opened in early November, a month early. Of course Mike was working so he didn't even think of skiing.

Vice President John Dengate managed the club well during Mike's absence. It helps to have an easy job and a wife who does all the housework and looking after the two children.

Only Arabs Should Climb Pyramids

Ever tried balancing on top of a 4 tiered human pyramid? Rhonda Knowles would certainly not recommend it.

It had been a perfect day for Illabunda at the Illawarra club races. Brilliant blue sky, great snow and good race results. Rhonda had scooped the ladies pool by winning the combined Cross Country/Alpine trophy as well as the women's Alpine Championship. The presentation party was in full swing when the decision was made to build a human pyramid and take a photo. The participants appeared somewhat hesitant but

when the call was made for the final person to complete the ceiling high masterpiece, Rhonda clambered to the top. Unfortunately the pyramid collapsed, toppling off it's crowning glory, much like a cherry sliding down melting ice-cream. The drop was quite a distance but Rhonda was grinning the whole way down. Ironically, the photo was never taken - the flash hadn't warmed up in time!

A short time later, Rhonda was heard to complain of a sore hand - but it was attributed to the carpet burn that she had sustained.

The next morning a concerned physiotherapist diagnosed the injury as a fractured right scaphoid bone. However, presuming the physiotherapist was just making a fuss, Rhonda went skiing. There was however a visit made to Cooma Hospital on the homeward journey where a plaster cast was applied after much protest from the injured Pyramider. This made the drive home rather awkward as her passenger was sporting a broken right wrist. So the driver held the steering wheel with her uninjured hand while the passenger changed gears with her left hand. Needless to say, it was a slow trip.

Rhonda underwent surgery 2.5 weeks later to screw the bones back together and she is recovering well. You can bet she won't participate in that party game again next year.

NPWS Head Lease Proposal

The Club thanks all those who helped the cause by writing to the NPWS or to Members of Parliament expressing their views on the head lease proposal. Although it is now too late for submissions to the NPWS you can still write to your local Member or to the Hon. Tim Moore MP, Minister for the environment, or even to the Premier (I did) - and it is still important that you do so, even one more letter will help. MPs can be reached c/o Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney.

As you are probably aware, we joined SLOPES (Ski Lodges Organisation for Perisher, Smiggins and Guthega) in the hope that this organisation would be able to have an impact on the decision that the Minister will eventually make on the implementation of the Kosciusko National Park Plan of Management. No decision has yet been announced, the NPWS is still reading the thousands of submissions it received, but we are reasonably confident that the concerns of the club lodges will be addressed.

We have received a copy of the submission made by SLOPES to the NPWS and also several newsletters reporting on the actions SLOPES has taken. SLOPES sent copies of its excellent submission to approximately 50 MPs (all Ministers, all members of relevant committees, most independents and to key members of the NSW opposition) and other decision makers. It sent a summary of the submission to a much wider group, including all NSW Government backbenchers.

To date 35 responses have been received from MPs, most expressing some degree of support. Follow-up meetings have been held with 5 Ministers and with the vital Environment Com-

mittee which advises the Minister. Tim Moore and some of the other important Ministers have been difficult to pin down but efforts to arrange meetings with them are continuing.

The particular actions that SLOPES is now pursuing include:

- A supplementary submission is being prepared for the Environment Committee following its requests at the meeting for more information on specific topics.
- A letter has been prepared for wide circulation to restate SLOPES basic reasons for objecting to the NPWS proposal and its suggestions for change to the draft Plan of Management. This was considered necessary since the Minister has been saying that club lodges are protected under the NPWS proposal. This is misleading and at best is only partly true (we still have reservations) until the present lease expires - when we become shark bait if the NPWS's past statements are to be believed.
- Further meetings with Ministers and influential groups and individuals are being sought.
- An effective information network is being built.
- A plan of vigorous action is being prepared in case we become aware that an unfavourable recommendation is going to the Minister or that an undesirable outcome is likely.

The SLOPES committee meets weekly and visitors are welcome. A meeting of the whole SLOPES membership was scheduled to be held on 4th December at Macquarie University. If you would like details of the meetings or you would like to see copies of the SLOPES submission, newsletters and other correspondence please ask any committee member or phone Keith Chapman on (02)8950471.

The Skier's Ball

Simon Smart, our ball organizer says that according to all accounts, the Ski Club Ball held on 25th October was a huge success. The joint Illabunda, Maranatha & Steelmakers event attracted 114 people, with an Illabunda contingent of 42. The total number was 15% down on last year's record turnout, but the Illabunda number has been pretty consistent over the last 4 years. Attendees included many regulars from as far away as Canberra (guess who) along with, for the first time, our lodge managers Allan and Alecia. Allan wasn't quite ready to take to the dance floor after his recent knee injury, but he still had a good evening.

Mike and Claire Salon were absent from the ball for the first time since its inception, (Mike was on one of his rare business trips interstate & overseas), so club Captain Peter McCulloch & Ben Salon performed the presentations for Illabunda - well done guys. Highlight of the evening was seeing three young lads providing vocal back-up for the long legged Maria after dinner. Illabunda's rep. Peter McCulloch (he couldn't stay out of the spotlight) certainly demonstrated

he was up to the standard of the rest of the contingent but a few singing lessons wouldn't go astray if he wants to make a career out of it!

The Ball marks the end of the social calendar for 1991. For most people, the next opportunity to get together again will be the 1992 AGM in March. Followed of course by the annual pre-season B-B-Q sometime in May - hope to see you all there!

Bee-ers Upset by B Borrowers

Ron Fitzgerald advises that the first working bee this summer was held on 9th & 10th November. It was attended by Kevin Burke, Ollie Specia, Simon & Debbie Smart, Hardy Papsion, Brian & Helen Askie, Steven & Margaret Dennis, Brian Harrison and Ron Fitzgerald. Ron says that Illabunda stood up to a second excellent season rather well, but there were still a few repairs needed.

Soft drinks & table wine were taken down and the first load of fire wood stacked away. The firewood stacking was greatly hindered by the person who "borrowed" the tyre pump for the wheel barrows (did someone use it for pumping a large tyre tube??). We would appreciate its prompt return, along with our angle grinder ("borrowed" last year) and our two Wollongong flags (yes the second flag has been "borrowed" also).

Otherwise the weekend went rather well with great meals by Margaret (no wonder Steve is so fat).

Our electrical members & possibly other low professions (metallurgists, accountants etc.) will feel more at home with the array of voltmeters and ammeters now in the plant room.

The next working bee is on the 14th-15th March & the final one on 16th-17th May 1992. We still need people for both these dates - especially if you have not been to one yet. Help spread the load please but remember, we always have a great time on these occasions (which is more important than the work, isn't it?)! Contact Gerald Brock if in Sydney (02)2394444(work) or Ron Fitzgerald in Wollongong (042) 286733(work) or 283330(home).

A Working Bee Anecdote

An anonymous contributor advises that people who attend working bees know of the wide variety of jobs which are performed, many of them physically demanding. They are also aware that there is always an electrical job to be done. Some cynical people might even suggest this is done purposefully so that the electrician doesn't have to do one of the hard physically demanding jobs. The main electrical job tackled on the 9th November was to install an electrical panel in the plant room - something to do with allowing us to easily determine whether the lodge is electrically OK. Anyway, after Kevin Burke had been locked away in the plant room for all of Saturday and a couple of hours of

Sunday (by which time Debbie Smart had labeled him "Dungeon Man") he reckoned he'd finished. A really heavy physical non-electrical job was the next to be done by anyone available. That was when Kevin claimed he had to refit the adjacent fuse board door. It was then claimed he had mounted the panel a little too close to the fuse board, so that the door would not operate properly. Fairly simple fix though - remove the door, fix the hinges to the other side, invert the labels to hide the mistake. Took 'till well into Sunday afternoon (the end of the working bee). And he reckons it wasn't planned!!!!

Never Smile at a Crocodile

Betty and I recently saw an amazing stage show in a night club in North Queensland. While we were eating dinner an entertainer wheeled out a long table with a live 4 meter crocodile on it. He lifted the top jaw until the huge mouth was open at 45 degrees showing rows of sharp teeth, then let it drop with a loud 'SNAP'. He then opened the jaws again and when he let them go they stayed wide open. He then did an amazing thing, he pulled out his er.. what shall I say er..finger and placed it in the crocodile's mouth. They stayed like that for a full 15 minutes. The moment he withdrew his er.. finger from between the huge jaws, they again snapped shut with a loud 'SNAP'. Of course everyone clapped loudly at this brave display. The entertainer said he would offer \$500 to any man in the audience brave enough to do the same thing for 15 minutes. A spotlight picked out one man after another who all refused the offer until a little fellow up the back called out "I'll do it..I'll do it for the \$500". The little man was led up onto the stage and the entertainer said "You must be a very very brave man". To which the little fellow said "Yes, I am but you are braver because...because...I'm not sure I can keep my mouth open for 15 minutes."

The Best Treasurer in the World Isn't Keating

John Henry, our treasure, thought a paragraph or two of accounting dribble would not detract from what is normally an informative newsletter, seasonably adjusted of course.

Never the less, it has been a turbulent year for the economy, and corporate high fliers such as ourselves have not been excluded. The Nikko-snow indicator was very flat until July. A bull run from then to the season's end reached peaks as high as our balcony resulting in an extended season as well as higher than budget occupancy levels.

For the technically astute, movements in the U.S. dollar, the unlisted property trust crash, and fluctuations in the all ordinary's index don't affect us. The fall in interest rates was however anticipated.

All in all I would expect we will finish the year with a small surplus. The final result will reflect the efforts of those members that helped promote and fill accommodation surplus to member needs. Hope you had a good season.

John Henry.

(Ed. Keating dribbled more drivel than that and didn't make a profit. Well done John).

A Bashful Champion

Peter McCulloch, our Club Captain, was our Club Champion this year and as a result felt too bashful to prepare a 1991 ski racing report full of praise for himself. He is full of praise for the racers and officials who did quite well throughout the year and will present a full report (possibly prepared by an impartial friend) to the AGM which will be covered in the April newsletter.

A Young Champion

Dave Nell's son Cameron has been selected by the NSW Sport & Recreation Group to attend a training camp in Colorado USA for downhill skiing from 30/11/91 to 31/12/91. Congratulations Cameron for your selection and we look forward to your participation and success in future competitions.

Well that was 1991

A lot of your committee members have put in a lot of time on your behalf in 1991. For the past 4-5 months Keith Chapman as our Delegate to the NSW Ski Association and SLOPES has put in up to 3 evenings a week for us. He has also put in a lot of time and caring effort as the Manager's Supervisor. A lot of time and clever professional effort has been supplied by all other committee members, President Mike; Secretary Warwick; Treasurer John H; VP & Booking Officer John D; Captain Peter; Provisions Officer Kevin; Security & social Sec. Simon; Maintenance Manager Ron; Membership Registrar Mal; Promotions Officer Gerald; Committee Member Rhonda. In addition many other members put in a lot of time at working bees and in other ways. Have you given any thought to the enormous amount of time and effort these people have put in on your behalf? Have you given any thought to how you can thank them? It's easy. Give a little bit of your time to support them by coming to the social functions (the AGM and BBQ) and while there say "thanks". You will also have a really good time.

On behalf of President Mike and all the committee, have a happy Christmas and good skiing in the new year.

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