

Lysaght Alpine Club News

Views and News of Management and Members Nov 1992 Vol 3.3

Snow Galore

When we were driving home from the Melbourne cup, Betty and I took some friends to stay at our lodge on 5th November. There was still snow all over the mountains. We could only drive to the crest of the hill just above the lodge and had to carry all our food etc. down the last 100 meters. Perisher lifts only operated to the second week of October although there was plenty of snow for skiing to the second week of November. Victorian ski fields stayed open to the first week of November. Seems to me that Packer missed out on some money and many skiers missed out on an opportunity to get some additional time on the slopes.

PKSC Ltd. - What's That???

Did you know that the Port Kembla Ski Club Ltd. (hereinafter called PKSC) is a company limited by guarantee and that you are a member of that company and you guarantee to contribute \$20 to the company funds if it goes broke? Well you do!

This comes about because back in 1957 the Port Kembla RSL formed the company to negotiate a lease with the NPWS. In 1971 the Lysaght Alpine Club members moved into the PKSC which was retained as the financial entity as it would have been complex and costly to change the name of the entity dealing with the National Park.

We continue to trade under the name of the Lysaght Alpine Club which is incorporated into the PKSC. You might notice that the debenture issued to you is from the PKSC, not the Lysaght Alpine Club. All clear?

A Perfect 10

In July this year a National Park Health Inspector gave our lodge a surprise visit and inspection. The result was a perfect 10 for all aspects including bathrooms, spa & sauna, bedrooms, kitchen & food storage areas. I was informed that it was very rare indeed for the inspector to give such a high rating and have no suggestions for improvement. We should recognise that especially our managers but also the manager's manager, the committee, and our members and guests have all played a part in this result. Congratulations to all of you. It is up to us all to maintain this high standard.

VRS & Les Smith Retiring From Domestic Duties.

In our August 1991 issue we announced that Vicky Smith was accepting the VRS and retiring to become a lady of leisure at the end of 1991. Well that was wrong. She really retired to join the hardest working group in the world.

World Traveler Reports

I received a card from Peter & Judy Gracie in September from USA. They had been to Mammoth & Whistler Mountains, missed the QE2 but made up with a ride on a paddle steamer and a Concorde, and did what honeymooners do at Niagara Falls. They said they had a very proud day in London as Malcolm went to the bar at Lincoln's Inn. (I'm not sure what that means. My mum wasn't so proud when I went to a bar in a pub). In reality, we should all be proud that one of our "clan" has been so successful in reaching such a pinnacle of the world legal profession. Congratulations Malcolm!

This week I rang Peter to see if they got home OK and was told yes, but only just! Shortly after their plane left Honolulu for Japan, Peter heard a great thud & next all the food & grog was withdrawn & the emergency doors prepared. Then the pilot announced that an engine had blown off & they had to return to Honolulu.

Bob & Maree McCulloch and Noel & Betty Arnold are going skiing in January in Austria, Switzerland and France. Noel & Betty are planning to meet up with Alan & Alicia in Andorra and then on to Spain for a few weeks. Sounds hard but someone has to do it.

The Prize or Death

Did any of you see the above show on late TV a few months ago? It was a send up of Quiz shows but with a difference.

It opened with the compere saying to the contestant (who was bent over with his head in a guillotine)... "Now you understand, if you answer the question correctly, you win \$100,000, but if you lose, down comes the blade....you die." The contestant nodded. Then the compere said "Your family is here and cheering for you" and the cameras panned around to show mum and four kids all holding up their hands and cheering "you can do it dad."

Well, dad got it wrong and the compere said "you realize you have to die....but there is a consolation prize...if you can make your head face upward when it falls into the basket, your family will get a consolation prize of \$10,000." The camera panned around to Mum and the kids who all cheered "you can do it dad". Well dad managed to make his head just face upward and as the family were all cheering "hooray, hooray" I switched over to watch another show. I did not want to watch more of that sort of thing.

Some time later curiosity got the better of me and I switched back to the Quiz show to see a contestant in an electric chair, with wires attached to his arms and to a metal cap on his head. His legs were strapped to the sides of the chair and between his legs was a plastic tube about 8" long with a metal cap on the end and a wire attached. The compere said "now you understand, if you don't get aroused you get \$100,000, but if you do you get 100,000 volts. The contestant nodded and out came the most beautiful girl in the world (well not quite as good as my Betty) who proceeded to perform the most seductive strip tease imaginable. The contestant stared straight ahead seeming to concentrate hard on other things and sweat came out on his brow and the lady did her very best, even rubbing her beautiful breasts in his face. He survived the

required 5 minutes and the lady gave up. The compere came over to him and shouted excitedly, "congratulations, you have won the \$100,000 I have never seen such amazing self control." As he said this he gave the contestant a congratulatory pat on the cheek and immediately received a 100,000 volt shock as the contestant shook violently in the chair....I switched back to the other show.

The Big Secret 60

The date 11/8/1992 was an important date. It was Bob McCulloch's 60th birthday. But he wants to keep it quiet so don't tell anyone or congratulate him. His grandson Peter had his 5th birthday on 13/8/92 and the birthday celebrations at the lodge went on for three days reaching a crescendo on the 12th. A happy birthday to Bob senior and Peter Junior and may there be many more in the snow.

Incidentally, I made a terrible mistake during that week. I told Debbie McCulloch she was wrong!! Boy, I won't do that again.

Wedding Bells

This news may come as a surprise to some, but not to others....Rhonda Knowles and John Creasey were married on Saturday 17th October, 1992 at Gynea Baptist Church. They had met over 2 years previously at Illabunda one Snowy week. The bride and her bridesmaid Karyn Whelan were up at the crack of dawn to prepare themselves for the big day while the groom and his best man, Trevor Wilkinson lay asleep for a few more hours. The wedding ceremony took place at 10.30 am with the guests being a mixture of Wollongongians and Sydneyites. The bride was absolutely stunning, wearing a blush silk, fitted gown with a long sleeved shawl, collared bolero jacket - finished to perfection with ribbon embroidery on the bodice and jacket. The bridesmaid was in a jade shawl collared fitted dress. Apparently she scrubbed up quite well also. The men were finely attired in dark grey morning suits. The ceremony was lovely with a very personal touch and quite a few tears were shed from guests and bridal party alike. The bridal party then enjoyed a wonderful trip in a stretch limo, complete with champagne, to Panorama House at Bulli for the reception. A spectacular view, a lovely meal and a good time was had by all before Mr. and Mrs Creasey were whisked away to the 'barn' that the groom had arranged.

I am sure that all club members join me in wishing Rhonda and John a lifetime of happiness together and above all....GOOD SKIING.

If you want to send them congratulations, or a Christmas card, or pay John the money you owe him, the new address is:

Rhonda and John Creasey
111 Coode St
South Perth
W.A. 6151
Ph (09) 474 3274

(Rhonda, if you don't get a copy of this newsletter please make sure you advise Ted Fairbrother of your change of name and address.)

Dinner with Perisher Plate & Cup

Our Club Captain, Peter McCulloch has reported that our club performed with great credit in the October Holiday weekend races.

Our A team which competed in the Perisher Cup comprised Lucas Molloy, Frank & Helmut Zeller, and Ben Salon. In competition with Australia's top skiers, they came 5th.

Our B team which came 20th in the Perisher Plate, included Peter McCulloch, Craig & Todd Fairbrother, and Martin Holmes.

Our leading results were;

- XC

Lucas Molloy.....8m 31s

Frank Zeller.....8m 45s

Ben Salon.....9m 23s

- JUMP

Lucas Molloy..95.9 Ben Salon..90.0 Todd Fairbrother..87.9

- GIANT SLALOM

Peter McCulloch..40.80s Ben Salon..40.92s Lucas Molloy..41.07s

- CLUB CHAMPION

Lucas Molloy..1st Ben Salon..2nd Frank Jr..3rd

Peter McCulloch..4th (Retiring Champion)

All the people at the lodge this weekend had a great time, although the phantom short-sheeted all the bed again, (it happens every year), and no one (except one) knows who it is yet. The people who had the best time were the B team who were plied with copious quantities of champagne as they finished their races by the team manager Claire Salon. Apparently they all became quite tidily and merry, especially the manager.

Captain Peter advised that there will be no trophies this year as it has been decided to use the funds to improve the ski workshop this summer.

Juniors with Big Hearts.

Brian Burke reports that the Junior race weekend was held on 12th September with 10 competitors doing battle on the slopes. Although the snow was good, the weather conditions on Saturday weren't, but this made it much more challenging.

The downhill was contested on the Skistar rise at Perisher with the winner being Cameron Nell. His best time was 26.29 sec. Second was Brendon Nell and 3rd. Jason Nell. The fastest girl was Jane Fairbrother and it was interesting to note that between 2nd and 5th places, there was only 1.74 sec, so they are all very competitive.

The X country course was set by our many talented helpers with the start and finish outside the lodge. The track wound its way up past the Sundek, alongside Telemark Tee Bar and across to Canberra lodge and back, approximately 1.5km. This was won by Jason Nell, 2nd Cameron Nell and 3rd Jane Fairbrother. Although there was 10 minutes difference between 1st & 10th, it was good to see everyone finish, some with more difficulty than others.

Four crashed 5 meters from the start, 3 crashed 6 meters from the finish, Blake couldn't turn at the top of the road and ended up half way down to the centre. Jai skied with one sock and Lisa crashed 1 meter from the finish. I think she wanted the finish moved forward so she didn't

have to get up again but elbow assisted, she crossed the line.

The presentation was held on Saturday night with all competitors receiving a printed T/shirt and lots of goodies from Alan & Alecia.

The results are:-

Junior Girl Alpine Champion.....Jane Fairbrother

Junior Boy Alpine Champion.....Cameron Nell

Junior Girl X Country.....Jane Fairbrother

Junior Boy X Country.....Jason Nell

Best Girl overall.....Jane Fairbrother

Encouragement Award.....Blake Burke

Junior Club Champion.....Cameron Nell

We lost 3 Juniors this year, Michael Livermore, Kate Fitzgerald, and Aidan Burke. After they get the HSC out of the way, we hope to see them racing in the senior ranks in future years.

We were lucky to gain 2 more Junior starters this year, Jai Restante and Susi Holland. We hope they will continue to compete in the junior races.

Congratulations to the winners and a BIG "keep trying" to all the competitors. Thank you to all the parents, Mike & Aiden who helped with the running of the weekend. Thanks also to Alan and Alecia for the great meals and goodies they provided, and we hope to see you again next year.

PS. Where was Dianne Fairbrother? Have her eyes now taken on a new slant?!!!!

More Bricks

Ron Fitzgerald advised that a working bee held early in November 92 was attended by Kevin Burke, Russell Viles, Dave Nell, Eddie & Helmut Zeller, Brian & Norma Harrison, Adrian Bell, and of course Ron. The main tasks included further work on the new rear entrance (800 bricks, roof, and move steps), a load of firewood, repair doors, and move power point in kitchen. Highlights included Helmut Zeller practicing on his mountain bike, and Brian's pants catching fire while he was using an angle grinder on the rear steps. See, these working bees are not all work, there is always some fun.

Future working bees are planned for 13th March 93 and one or two weeks before the Queen's Birthday. If you are interested in having a great weekend with fellow members, get in touch with Ron on (042) (home)283330 (work)286733. Don't forget, you may be slugged \$100 at some future time if you have not attended a working bee for 3 years. It's up to you.

Mike's Last Ball

Mike Salon has transferred to BIIP Melbourne and has indicated he will retire from our club committee at the next AGM in March. He will then step down after 13 years as our president. Mike has presided over the major changes in our club involving the re-organisation to debenture holders and members committed to raising the funds for, and building our new lodge, and the 6 very successful years since the lodge was built. We all owe him and his wife Claire a great debt for the time, thought, and effort they have put into helping to make our club the wonderful place that it is. I am sure that I speak for all members in wishing Mike and Claire every success and happiness in their move to Melbourne, (and that it doesn't take too much while they are there, which I expect).

On Saturday 24th October at Cleo's, Mike presided over the last Alpine ball he will attend as President. Together with friends from Maranatha and Steelers clubs, we all had a wonderful time. Simon Smart and the other organizers did a great job.

A farewell barbecue attended by 50 members was organised by Ron Fitzgerald for Mike and Claire at the Orb on 20th November at which a "thank you" gift of a track suit embroidered as per our jumpers was presented to Mike and a bouquet of flowers was presented to Claire by Vice President John Dengate on behalf of our members.

VRS Helps Population Growth

An earlier report referred to Vicky Smith retiring???

After much struggling, Katherine Rose Leighton Smith was welcomed into the world on June 3rd 1992. Mother and baby are well and father survived the somewhat protracted event! (That's funny, I remember Vicky was always very fast at work.)

You will also be glad to know that Kate stayed at the lodge some six weeks later, but didn't manage to skil

Kate is now surviving her parent's treatment and is absolutely thriving and looking forward to Christmas.

Just in case you want to send her a card, she is still living at home with her parents at 32 Homestead Drive, West Dapto, 2530.

Gossip

On the 9th and 10th of August this year Peter McCulloch gave up much of his skiing time to fix the spa so that the rest of us could enjoy it for the rest of the season. I believe he should get credit for one working bee for this effort. (Please note Ron). Others also assisted Peter (eg Alan Clifford and Robert McCulloch (Jun)) but did not put in the same time.

Brian & Helen Askie had a good week in August at the lodge. Although Helen had a sore knee and could not ski, she had a wonderful time just relaxing, looking at the beautiful scenery, browsing in the shops, and NO COOKING OR HOUSEWORK. In fact quite a number of people enjoyed a holiday at the lodge without skiing, including Mary Holland and her friend Maree.

Do you remember Donna Gould? Well Donna wrote to me earlier this year from London advising that she had married a fellow named Brettell and that she was presently living in London but would move to Coffs Harbour NSW in December. She decided to sell her debenture.

Things to Do

Please return the attached form immediately so we can order the correct size jumper for you.

50 of our members, their children or friends are mentioned in this newsletter. If you are not mentioned please give me a comment for inclusion in the next issue. It's not hard to do, just drop me a scribbled note or phone.

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(18k characters)

A Happy Christmas to all