

Lysaght Alpine Club News

Views and News of Management and Members June 1995 Vol 6.0

95 HERE WE COME.

Hello there to all you skiers for 1995. Here's hoping we have as good a year as 1994. I trust you have started knee bends, distance running, gym work, etc. in preparation for the action in the snow.... you haven't?? That's disgraceful! To tell the truth, neither have I, but I'm thinking about it. Which is what you should be doing too, especially if you are getting on in years, like over 25, and you want to really enjoy that winter wonderland to the full.

Slave Driver

Ron Fitzgerald has over done it this summer with 8 working bees. The problem is that the word has got around that they are such good fun that people are clamoring to go and the committee has been forced to think of things for them to do. People who have attended working bees this summer have included;

Ted Fairbrother, Ted's friend, Ross, Julie & Michael Livermore, Friedl Bartsch, Cheryl & Peter Costigan, Ron Fitzgerald, Ian Flood, David Nell, Eddie & Helmut Zeller, Kevin Burke, Armando Fassone, John & Karen Henry, Paul Restante, Graham Roberts, Robyn Soranson, Adrian & Maureen Bell, Margaret & Steven Dennis, Richard Taylor, Lionel Thompson, Russel Viles, Graeme Williams, David Anderson, Lance Carr, Alan Ward, Henry Barracosa, Andrew (Henry's friend), Terry & Leanne Dryburgh, Brian & Norma Harrison, Graham (Brian's friend), Noel & Anda Arnold, Linda Pilmanis, Stephen Beckhouse, Leo Delison, Bob Cavanaugh, Les Smith, Bob & Maree McCulloch, Brian & Helen Askie, Keith & Dianne Chapman, Peter & Judy Gracie, Fred Cursio & friend.

That's over 50 people, with many attending twice or more. Ross attended 4 and Ron 6 times. Attendance by so many people shows that our club is still strong and vibrant, with plenty of members willing to pitch in when required.

The major job this year was to extend the manager's living quarters, involving footings, floors, walls, roof, windows, door, verandah, electricals, floor covering, painting, furniture, etc. A really big job. This will make conditions for our managers a little better than in the past where they had to live in a bedroom for 4 months of the year. It will also make it easier for our committee to attract the best possible staff if this is required in future. I heard that Alecia was so excited when she first saw it on arriving at 1.00am that she and Alan (he had no option in the matter), stayed up until 5.00am setting it up.

Overall working bee tasks completed included:

- Extension to manager's quarters
- Path extended to wood store
- Cleaning numerous areas
- Many electrical repairs
- Re-staining some external timbers
- Drinks delivered
- Furniture & materials delivered
- New oven installed
- Toilet ceilings repaired & painted
- Firewood delivered & stacked
- Bedroom sliding doors on better tracks
- Waterproof switches in Sauna/Spa
- Water hammer eliminator for kitchen HWS
- Lots & lots of other tasks.

Ron will probably have a working bee in November, so if you feel you would like to share some of the load, speak to him during this winter and book yourself in.

AGM Feast

The 1995 AGM was well attended by about 50 people who enjoyed a fine roast dinner & dessert afterwards. With all the food, drinks, and talking, it was a pretty good night, particularly as the formal meeting and speeches were kept brief.

President Simon announced that we had another successful year in 1994, and thanked all people who had contributed. He thanked retiring officers Ted Fairbrother and Ben Salon for their contribution in recent years. Special mention was made re Keith Chapman's efforts with SLOPES which involved work over the past 4 years, which has resulted in our just receiving an offer to extend our lease from 2004 to 2025 for a premium of \$5500, (which has since been accepted). In addition, SLOPES have negotiated with the National Parks to reduce the space required in lodges which means we may be able to bid for additional beds if they become available, without the need for additional construction.

Special thanks were also extended to Ron Fitzgerald and Ross Livermore and all the other people who attended numerous working bees to construct an extension to the managers room and contributed to a job that was well done.

Simon also mentioned our debenture issue which matures next year. (A committee has since been formed to consider and evaluate the club's options and prepare recommendations.- John Henry, Keith Chapman, Robyn Soranson, Noel Arnold). He asked all members to discuss this issue with each other and give their views to club officers during this season.

John Henry, our treasurer, advised that the club is in a very sound financial condition. We had good snow, good booking levels and our cash held increased in the year by \$12k to \$210k. This cash gives us a buffer to meet costs that may be required in future years, such as covering a bad snow season, repaying all or part of our debentures, possible lease costs, possible sewerage costs, increasing our bed levels etc.

John commented on the merger of Perisher and Blue Cow into a resort named Perisher Blue and a new quad chair lift connecting them will be operating this year.

Ben Salon, our Club Captain, is now living in Traralgon, Victoria and was not able to attend but provided a report which was read to the meeting. He congratulated all those who helped us win the interclub races again and said as we are hosts this year, we will need support from everyone. He expressed concern that we could not field a team in the Perisher Cup for the second year running.

Club Champions for the year were;

Men Alpine G. Williams

Men X-Country L. Molloy

Men Vet X-Country N. Arnold

Women Vet X-Country B. Arnold

At the election of officers, the following were elected.

President - Simon Smart

Vice Pres. & Booking Officer - John Dengate

Treasurer - John Henry

Secretary & NSW Ski Assn & SLOPES rep - Keith Chapman

Social Sec & Spa Mgr - Richard Taylor

Provisions - Kevin Burke

Lodge Housekeeping - Maree McCulloch

Lodge Maint & Working Bee Co-ord - Ron Fitzgerald

Supervisor of Lodge Managers - Ross Livermore

The following were appointed by the President;

Club Captain & Junior Race Co-ord - Graeme Williams

Membership Registrar - Mike Salon

Newsletter Editor & Historian - Noel Arnold

All mail to the club should be addressed to;

The Secretary,
Lysaght Alpine Club
c/o BHP-SCPD
PO Box 77
Port Kembla.

Keith Chapman's 'phone numbers are
Work 02-2285669
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Bookings Strong

John Dengate said that the lodge is now virtually booked out except for some vacancies in June, and from late September to our end of Winter bookings on 8th Oct.

Don't forget that if you are likely to make long distance calls from the lodge, it would be wise to get a Telecard which can take up to 3 weeks to get. The alternative is reverse charge which costs \$2.20 to connect (vs 0.40 for Telecard), and also costs a lot more for call time (eg Sunday call to Perth normal cost \$0.20/min vs up to \$1.00/min reverse charge).

Big Junior Cashes In

Kevin Burke was the only committee member who gave me a report late last year in time for my November Newsletter, which I didn't produce because I had no other reports. So here is his last report in full.

.....JUNIOR RACE WEEKEND

Racing as we all know has it's highs and lows, (especially if you're into moguls), and the junior races are no different. The high is we had four new starters this year, Emma, Ben & Liam Zeller, and Justin Tierney. The low side is that Susi Holland and Blake Burke have raced their last year as juniors and we have four more juniors with only a couple of years to go. (Ed: The good news is they are all getting closer to joining the Veteran ranks and can race me in the Martini X-C). SO WHERE ARE ALL THE JUNIORS HIDING? A few years back the club purchased baby baths and cots etc., so someone must have used them!!

The downhill was held on the Skistar course with all the times being very close. On the first run there was just over 4 seconds between 1st and 9th., whereas on the second run (including a few crashes) there was only 2 seconds difference. Look out Perisher in a few years time, Illabunda will be able to supply a few Kamikaze skiers to the slopes.

Results of the downhill are:

1. Brendon Nell.....Combined time 41.83
2. Emma Zeller.....44.34
3. Brendan Fitzgerald.....45.28

The Cross Country course, on reflection, could have been a bit longer but as our new starters hadn't been on XC before, we tried to accommodate them and show them what GREAT FUN XC SKIING IS. (Well anyway, Helmut seems to enjoy it). With a fair amount of encouragement, all our competitors finished the course.

Results of the Cross Country are:

1. Brendon Nell
2. Brendon Fitzgerald
3. Blake Burke.

Once again our presentation night was expertly catered for by Alan and Alecia and we wish to thank them for their continued support of our junior racers, always catering to their needs and making this night special for them - special food, goodies, drinks etc.

The overall results are:

Alpine Champions

Emma Zeller.....Brendon Nell

XC Champions

Susi Holland.....Brendon Nell

Encouragement Award..Brendan Fitzgerald

Junior Club Award.....Emma Zeller

Junior Club Champion..Brendon Nell

I would like to congratulate all the competitors and trust they had a good weekend.

Thanks also to the parents who helped us in setting up and with encouragement. This (1994) is my last year as my age says that I'm no longer a junior and I don't have any juniors left to compete, so I'd like to thank the club for their support of junior racing and hope that it will continue to grow in number and strength.

If you are on the slopes and see a strange looking figure that will probably be dressed in ski gear, covered with knee pads, elbow pads, and a motor bike helmet, it is probably only Joe Tierney. We were given a colourful display of joe's prowess during the junior weekend. Joe managed to break yet another pair of glasses, blacken his eye, cut his nose (probably broke it as well), and place many a rainbow colour on his face. All this and he assures us that he really does love skiing.

Selamat Hari Krismas

In December 94 I got a wonderful letter from Debbie, Robert, Peter and Alex McCulloch who are now living in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Bob moved to a BHP job up there in mid 1994. They are now all used to the hot humid weather, speak Malay fluently, and despite spectacular thunder storms every afternoon, have a very active social life. Being a Muslim country, the public events involve plenty of tea, coffee or ice cream. But the private events are a different thing with plenty of beer, wine etc. Peter and Alexandra attend Mount Kiara International School, where they have teachers from all over the world, with about 8 students to a class. Debbie's life is full of lunch dates, golf, squash, tourism, parties, and study...Study??? What the hell does she study? Bahasa Malaysia of course.

There was little mention in the letter about what Bob does, except that he leaves for work at 7.00am. (I know what he does. He works hard for 12 hours a day to pay for all Debbie's fun).

I am sure Debbie and Bob would dearly love to receive a note from fellow club members at home here in good old 'Ozzie so sit down now and write to;

McCulloch & McCulloch
12 Persiaran Beringin
Damansara Heights
50490 Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia.

Tourist Reports

The other Bob McCulloch, (the senior one), went overseas to Whistler, Aspen and Vail this year to get taught by the best possible international ski instructors. One was a truly international Japanese instructor who teaches in Vail in the Northern winter. Where do you think he teaches in the Southern winter? Perisher of course. Bob must have run a bit short of money at the end of the trip because he was seen paying them off with golf lessons.

I later got a clue about how Bob ran out of funds. Maree didn't buy a new ski suit in

Whistler or Aspen, Noooo, she waited for the sale in Vail, the upper crust fashion centre of the world - there were no sales, but being the last place, Maree just had to buy a suit, (at about 5 times the price anywhere else in the ski world). During her lessons Maree being almost a professional pupil, was able to tell the instructors where they were going wrong, especially when they tried to tell her what to, instead of racing around on the slopes showing her what to do.

Another pair of international travelers, Judy and Peter Gracie, wrote to me in April this year from the Albury Paddle Steamer Motel to advise that Ian and Sue Gracie now have two daughters, Emma 3.5 and Alice 1 yr. Ian is still filming in Port Douglas and they were moving to a new house at Bulgola Plateau in May.

Susan and Greg have a baby girl Paige, (7 months), and are living in Canberra. Malcolm is still single and working very hard (Ed. What is special about that?) and travels often. Peter and Judy are going to our lodge in June and North China in August.

New Skier Joins Club

Remember in the last newsletter I asked who was the J. Morris that had booked in to the lodge late in the 94 season? Well, I now have the answer. Jordan Morris was born to Darren and Robyn on 14/4/94 and had a great time at the lodge with 2 days of heavy snowfalls followed by 2 days of super skiing.

New Captain on the Job

Graeme Williams who is responsible for organising both the senior and junior races this year is hoping to interest another member in taking on the Junior organising. The next newsletter will advise further on this. In the meantime, the main races of interest to our members this year are:

8th Jul - Lysaght Junior Club Championships
9th Jul - New Junior Illawarra Interclub Events

7th Aug - X-Country Night Relay
9th Aug - X-Country Martini Cup
Includes Lysaght Men & Women Veterans

12th Aug - X-Country Paddy Pallin
19th Aug - Illawarra Interclub races
28/29 Aug - Aust Alpine Championships
30th Aug - FIS Perisher Cup

Graeme asked that any member with children contact him this year re entering in next years events (Phone home 042-844093)

Ed. note: Would any member involved in any race events make sure I am advised so that I can include comment in our next newsletter.

Best wishes for good skiing in 95.

Noel Arnold, Editor.

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