

Lysaght Alpine Club News

Views and News of Management and Members May 1998 Vol 9.1

1998 – It Springs Eternal

What does? Hope! Hope that this will be a good snow year. The last two years have not been the best so the probabilities suggest this should be a lot better. Hope that my old knee will last out a week on it. Hope that we are all fit and well at least until the end of our week at the snow. I know that I am voicing some of the thoughts you are all having and I hope your wishes are answered.

Now Hear This

Perisher lift tickets this year will cost \$62, unless you are a child or over 65 in which case it will be \$33. That's up a little bit on last year, but not too bad, considering Howard and Costello say everything is so good. Incidentally, Howard thinks He is, but the warfies don't think Patrick was a Saint.

Last season one of the lodge captains suggested that members could help improve the lodge amenities by taking all their old books and even new ones that they have read down to the lodge. If you wish, give them to another member to take down. Take a few down with you, and if you find one there you like, take it home with you. Then bring it back next time with a few more. Popular magazines would be OK too.

Ron Fitzgerald reports that a silver tape has now been wound around all skis at the lodge. When you use them, DON'T PUT THE TAPE BACK! In 2 years time, that's the summer 99/00 (looks funny doesn't it?) all skis still having tape around them will be removed to remote storage. Presumably something else will happen to them some time after that.

Lodge Extensions

With 12 working bees this summer, that's 2 each month, the lodge extension is just about finished. About 40 members worked on the project, many 2 or 3 times, with as usual, the majority of attendances being by Ron Fitzgerald (7) and Ross Livermore (6) at the time of writing. They would have also put a lot of time into planning, organising supplies, people, etc. We owe a lot of thanks to all those people for the effort they have put into the project on our behalf. You will notice the benefits this winter in the form of more room in various areas and a better kitchen for the managers' operations.

An interesting piece of information which is already well known by many is that during the final stages, 3 large pieces of equipment could not be moved into the kitchen. Although they could fit through the kitchen/dining room door as planned, the chimney structure prevented them being lined up outside the door. Our clever builders have worked out how to solve the problem and those pieces will be moved in next working bee.

Travelanders

Another baby seen at the lodge last season was the Gracie's youngest granddaughter, Paige (3yrs), her second visit. Paige was Luke Har-

greaves (also 3 yrs) ski pal for a week which made things a little easier for her mother. Sue (Davis) to ski last June.

The Gracie's are thrilled with the arrival of a grandson (after 3 granddaughters). William Peter, who arrived yelling instructions on 25 November last. His parents, Ian and Sue Gracie, have already decided to let him race for the club (if good enough) when he is a little older.

Peter and Judy with their other son, Malcolm, are on a 3 week train trip through Mongolia, Central Siberia (Russia), Kazakstan and China in May '98 and with luck may get a bit of skiing at ALMA ATA, a "new" resort near the Tien Shan mountains in Kazakstan – (where's Kazakstan!). Malcolm went skiing (January'98) in Canada at Norquay and Sunshine (Banff National Park) and at Lake Louise. His comments - MAGNIFICENT! Although snow conditions were relatively poor! Canadians can't understand the lack of snow - we can only hope this is not an indicator for our next season.

Anda and Peter Arnold are visiting Latvia and Switzerland while old grannie Arnold looks after little Tia (4) and Andris (1) back here in Oz. She complains a lot but really loves playing at being a young mum again.

Noel and Betty Arnold will be in China in October to visit with Daughter in Law and Granddaughter Alice (Chinese name Yu Monkchuen) in Beijing and wander around a few other areas.

Keith and Dianne Chapman took his mum and an auntie (both in their eighties), for a visit to their old haunts in England in April. I think they had forgotten what English weather is like and complained now and then about it – see report.

Bookings

John Dengate has completed the member bookings and you should have received your bills by the time you read this.

Weekends are fully booked from start of July until the Oct long weekend.

Mid week space is available in June, 1st 3 weeks of July and late September.

So strong bookings to date and more BHP and associate bookings being accepted at the moment.

John thought the following letter might be of interest.

My name is Michael Nadalin. I am the Physical Educator at BHP Medical Centre at 600 Bourke Street Melbourne. I was given your names by a staff member yesterday after a presentation I did on Snow Safety and Physical Conditioning. We are looking at entering teams in the Winter Games which are being held at Thredbo on August 8 and 9. Your names were mentioned in conjunction with accommodation for BHP staff in the area.

Would you be able to provide me with information regarding access to this accommodation for BHP staff and whether there would be any BHP staff that you know who may be interested in participating in the event.

It would be great to get as many BHP staff from as many different sites as possible.

I look forward to your reply.

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Ski Ball Report

Richard Taylor reports that this year the ball will be held at The City Pacific Hotel, on Saturday 14th November. The theme this year will be "Black and White". Nice and Simple. Why not plan now to get a few friends together and meet up with your fellow club members and their friends. There will of course be further notice on this.

LodgeManagers

Many of you will be pleased to learn that Paul and Kim Biddlestone will manage our lodge again this season. Those of you who have not met them yet will welcome the home made cakes and desserts they serve, the new kitchen will help and the main courses will be even better as your committee has recommended they spend a bit more on goodies.

Oh to be in England now that spring is here!

It happened the Thursday before Easter. After weeks of English drizzle, large areas of already soggy central England received a "tropical strength" downpour. It only lasted for a few hours but this was enough to build up floodwater all across the countryside. Fields became reservoirs of brown water and usually placid streams and rivers overflowed their banks, spreading far and wide. Towns and villages which had never seen floodwater were inundated within minutes. Roads, swelled with early Easter traffic, became lakes interspersed with carparks.

Keith Chapman blundered into this desperate situation after days of meandering down admittedly damp but otherwise peaceful country roads. With a sneer at pommie motorists who just don't understand flooded roads, the resourceful Aussie driver immediately left the main road and proceeded to explore country lanes. After an hour of terrifying water crossings and repeated U-turns on narrow lanes between high hedges (when some elegantly dressed Englishmen with their trousers rolled up way above the knee were observed pushing their car out of the water) a somewhat less confident motorist rejoined the main road and decided a wider detour was indicated.

Many frustrating hours later and back almost at the starting point, a long but luckily successful search was undertaken for some accommodation to get warm and wait out the floods. The next day the roads were again navigable but the scores of cars parked unattended in pools of

floodwater or up to their windows in ditches were a grim reminder of the folly of trying to drive through floods - even for daring Australians.

We accept that flash floods happen in Australia but they were incomprehensible in England. The TV and newspaper photos of men in boats rescuing people from upper stories of cottages and from trees were curiously familiar to us tourists but the effects of the floodwater were a disaster for the many locals who found water flowing through their houses for the first time in memory.

Next issue Keith will fill you in on the snowstorms that followed the floods.

Travellers tip - even if it seems like a good idea at the time, leave your ancient Auntie at home.

Membership Waiting List Re-Opened.

Our membership waiting list was re-opened in May 98 after being closed in December 97.

You may recall that the way our waiting list works is that our Registrar, Mike Salon, maintains the list. The priority on the waiting list is determined strictly by the date and time when the application was received by the SECRETARY, except that if a member wishes to nominate a spouse or adult child for membership this can be done at any time whether the waiting list is open or not and they will go to the head of the queue (unless another member has already done so in which case they will be second on the queue).

Each time a member wants to sell their debenture, they advise our secretary, who passes the request on to Mike. Mike then advises all persons on the list of the availability of the debenture and that they must offer to purchase and pay for that debenture within 21 days. The person highest on the list who makes the required offer then has that offer accepted by Mike on behalf of the seller. Any person on the list who does not offer to purchase as required, is taken off the list.

In order to keep Mike's work load at reasonable levels, the waiting list is limited to about 15 persons. When the waiting list is closed, any applications to join it are kept in date of receipt order and added to the list when it is re-opened. Claudia Bartsch sold her debenture last month. At that time 3 persons on the waiting list did not offer to purchase so that made a reduction of 4 off the list.

Norman Upton is our new member so please make him welcome if you meet up with him.

HISTORY

The last report got to the AGM 1982. At that meeting, our president Mike Salon (pictured below), distributed working papers for lodge development and construction. This showed the things to be done and was fairly close to the result.

At this stage a team had selected the preferred site but we had to negotiate with the National Park. The Park delays put the program back one year.



MIKE SALON

You will note that the first item was a circular to members to ensure they could all be involved in the early planning and selection of the type of lodge we would build. I remember that my suggestions for a high R number (insulation rating) involving a small number of small windows were not preferred by most - (we got plenty of big windows) - at least my views had been presented and considered - I was involved. Many suggestions were rejected, but many were accepted.

WORKING PAPERS PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

March 1982 - Questionnaire to Members to be circulated for replies by May 1982;

April 1982 - Approach N.P.W.S. with view to initiating negotiations for new lodge

May 1982 - If above satisfactory, have site defined and surveyed before Winter 1982.

August 1982 - LAC General Specification to be completed, based on members' requirements and suggestions,

Assuming Lease Negotiations Progressing Satisfactorily

September 1982 - Select small panel of potential architects and commission each to produce several preliminary designs and cost estimates.

November 1982 - Receive above from architects.

Assuming Lease Negotiations Completed

December 1982 - Apply for D.A. from relevant authorities (N.P.W.S. & Council)

Club selects final design and architect.

Contract with architect to produce working drawings.

March 1983 - 1. Above finalised by architect.

2. Apply for B.A. from relevant authorities (N.P.W.S. & Council)

April 1983 - Appointment of, and-finalise working arrangement with Builder.

Winter 1983 - Finalise labour commitments and materials schedule for Stage 1 construction.

October 1983 - Stage 1 Construction

to

May 1984 - Sitework, Footings, Foundations, Brickwork, Concrete Slabs etc. up to completion of Basement, Sewerage and Drainage.

Winter 1984 - Finalise detailed timetable, labour commitments and materials schedule for Stage 2 Construction.

October 1984 - Stage 2 Construction

to

May 1985 - Framework, Wall Cladding and Roofing, Windows and Doors, Internal Lining and Insulation, Electrical - Plumbing and Heat-

ing System Installations, Internal Joining, Painting, Finishing & Furnishing.

Assumptions

Construction to take Place over 2 summers, 83/84 & 84/85

Above will be permitted by N.P.W.S.

Architect not required for supervision.

COMING SUPERSHOW

As part of our history reporting, with help from Ross Livermore I am producing an exciting 10 minute video showing the lodge construction from vacant lot to final building and opening.

Below is one exciting scene from that video. When you go down to the lodge, check to see if it is there yet. If you helped build the lodge, it might bring back memories. Even though Ross pushed everyone very hard for 13 hours a day, to the point where we were ready to drop, we all remember it fondly as a period of great achievement.



A LODGE BUILDER

Editors Comment

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting are not out yet so I can't report details from them. However, the general items I can remember include comments that although income was down due to the bad snow season, costs were also down due to efforts by our committee and the new managers.

Quite a few members contributed to this issue. Thanks to all. Please remember, this is your newsletter, (not mine), so feel free to give me articles for inclusion in the next issue.

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