

# LYSAGHT ALPINE CLUB NEWS

VIEWS AND NEWS OF MANAGEMENT AND MEMBERS MAY 1999 VOL 10.1

## 1999 – Here's Hoping

The past 2 years have not been good snow periods, so you would think the probabilities will favor this year being a good one - Here's hoping it is! A good sign occurred in mid May when a guest at our lodge for the weekend had to spend all Sunday digging his way out, due to heavy snow.

I did not publish a newsletter last November, as I just did not have enough information to justify one. This issue does have quite a few items that should interest you.

## Vale Fred Russell

Members will be sad to learn that Fred Russell passed away unexpectedly on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May. I heard he had been suffering from a virus infection and seemed to be recovering but suddenly went downhill and did not recover. Fred played a significant role in the building of our lodge and has formed friendships with many of us. We will miss him and our sympathy goes out to his family.

## New Managers

The Biddlestones after signing the contract to manage the lodge in 1999 resigned in April! I did hear it was due to an unexpected event that might occur in about 7 months. A subcommittee quickly advertised for new managers and a total of 19 applications were received from quite a good field of candidates.

A couple from Stanwell Park have been appointed. They are Peter and Jane Bout who have previously worked for Master Builders Lodge and Avalanche Lodge. Peter has completed a chef's course and during it received several prizes so we should have great food again this year.

The previous notice that the lodge would be open for bookings for the week before the long weekend was therefore canceled.

## Travelanders

In terms of news of general interest, I was told recently that Alan and Alicia Clifford are back in Australia for a holiday. They have their new son Dylan with them and have been staying with Tonia and Alan Jackson. I understand that they will be taking a trip to Queensland during their stay in Australia.

Jason Tierney (who joined our club in 1997), has been traveling around Europe for the past 12 months, visiting UK, Ireland, Italy, France, Germany, Spain, Austria, Greece, Holland etc., but expects to be back home in Dapto on the 1<sup>st</sup> June. He expects to continue on to New York in July unless there is good early snow at Kosi in which case he might book into our lodge if possible. Here's hoping Jason skis Perisher.

In May 99 Karen and Gerald Brock took a holiday from their very popular Grand View Hotel at Cleveland Point Queensland, to spend a month or so in Europe. Why on earth would anyone take a holiday away from the second best place on earth?

## LUNCH IN STYLE!

Those of us who have stayed at Illabunda know well the blissful feeling of taking off the ski boots and sitting comfortably in the best restaurant in the snow - Illabunda. At lunch time a good rest in pleasant uncrowded surroundings with a cold drink, beautiful view and a tasty and copious meal is just what is required - and what isn't really available anywhere else in Perisher Valley.

Little wonder that people take advantage of such a good thing, especially when the cost is the princely sum of \$5. There are two issues that arise. First, Paul and Kim our past managers advised that the cost of providing the lunches far exceeds \$5. Your Committee has consequently increased the charge to \$10 per lunch per visitor, payable to the Managers that same day by the guest who extended the invitation.

The other issue is that our Club rules for mealtime visitors are not being followed. Some members and others who happen to be at Perisher but are not Lodge guests tend to just turn up for lunch. This is not acceptable, particularly as it sometimes occurs on changeover days when there are often two lots of guests already. Arriving and departing guests share the dining room which can become somewhat congested.

In future the correct procedure must be followed. The Managers' agreement must be secured before any visitors for meals are invited and only those invited by current guests will be accepted.

We want you as a guest at Illabunda to enjoy the style and lunchtime delights on offer, without overcrowding.

## Bookings

John Dengate has advised that bookings are reasonably strong but we do still have vacancies in week ends in June and September, and mid-week periods in the last week of June, 3<sup>rd</sup> week of July, and the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> weeks of September.

## Tongue Twisters

How good are you at saying these three times quickly. You really have to be careful with the last one.

- The seething sea ceaseth and thus sufficeth us.
- Fanny Finch fried five floundering fish for Francis's father.
- Double bubble gum bubbles double.
- The sixth sheik's sixth sheep's sick.
- Strange strategic statistics.
- Six slim slick slender saplings.
- A bloke's back brake block broke.
- I slit the sheet, the sheet slit me, slit was the sheet that was slit by me.

## 1999 AGM

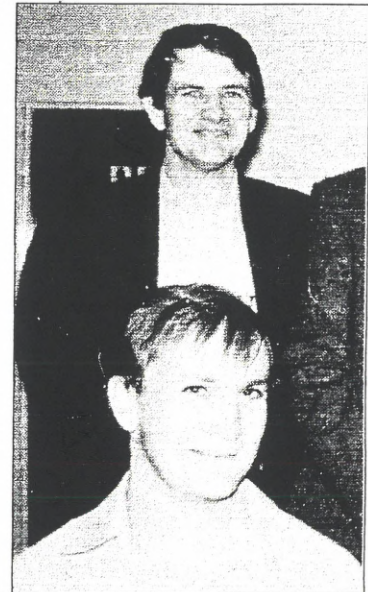
The minutes of the 1999 Annual General Meeting are not out yet, so here is a report of some of the things that happened and were said.

President Simon Smart was living it up at a swank resort so John Dengate presented his report which summarized the bad season, low utilization (73%, which was better than most of Perisher), yet we still achieved a reasonable financial result no doubt due to our excellent facilities and service from our managers Kim and Paul. The new Kitchen, dining room, drying room and shower hot water changes all worked well.

This year we had a lot less hectic maintenance program, the main job has been double-glazing in rooms 1, 2, 3 and 5, with more room in room 2, and some general maintenance.

Simon expressed regret that our involvement in the annual ball was canceled this year due to lack of interest.

Simon then thanked all those many people who have helped with the club maintenance and operations this year.



PRESIDENT SIMON and BOB HENSON at a works function recently

Treasurer John Henry advised there was a loss of \$4,764 on trading that increased to \$16,872 after inclusion of depreciation and amortization which was reasonable after bookings were down \$10,500 on budget. Most costs were consistent with budget although electricity was up due to higher thermostat settings in some areas and the larger drying room. Also part of the 1997 NPWS community service fee was delayed and included in 1998 expense. Based on the account for the first 6 months of 1999, the annualized cost will now be at least \$10,300 per annum, (41% increase over 3 years).

Investments of \$106,587 held at year-end are considered adequate. The committee has approved a break even trading budget for 1999, excluding depreciation and amortization.

Club Captain Graeme Williams reported that in some of the worst snow conditions on record both our training and race weekends were well attended



and good results were achieved by both Junior and Senior race teams. For every new snowfall, we had the equivalent in follow up rain, with snow, rain, mud and rocks.

The two Junior Training weekends were lucky in that we found just enough snow between the rocks and both downhill and cross-country skills were instructed. The junior interclub was run in disgusting conditions, rain, fog and very wet snow. As reward for their efforts our X-Country team finished first, Renee Bartsch, Liam Zeller and Chris Bilboe. We also had the youngest competitor finish, Thomas Williams (6 years old). Our Downhill team was placed fourth. A great effort from all in the conditions. The Junior X-Country Champions are Renee Bartsch and Jai Restante and Downhill Champions are Renee Bartsch and Liam Zeller (10 years old). Other team members were Jacinta Bartsch, Ben Zeller, Sian Bilboe, Jonathan Williams and Ben Restante. Thanks to assisting members Friedel Bartsch, Lucus Molloy and Helmut Zeller for their assistance.

Senior Downhill training at Blue Cow proved to be just what the team needed for the Interclub Race as in torrential rain and lightning the team achieved an inspiring first place. The X-Country team came in second, with a solid first place from Friedel Bartsch, to regain the Combined Interclub Trophy. The team comprised of Ben Salon, Friedel Bartsch, Michael Livermore, Graeme Williams, Tod Fairbrother and Justin Tierney.

Club Champion was Ben Salon, X-Country Champion was Friedel Bartsch and Downhill Champion was Ben Salon.

The Perisher Cup was cancelled due to lack of snow and our Veteran X-Country skiers were unable to race due to sickness and extremely bad weather.

Thank you to all the members who assisted during the year and our lodge managers who are always obliging and supportive

Your new committee for 1999-2000 is the same as last year with the exception that after many years in your service, John Henry retired as treasurer and Darren Morris was elected to take his place.

## A racer from the past



Werner Daniels, our first president, showing the style that won the first Lysaght Club downhill race in 1972. Noel Arnold came second.

## Wisdom

Most parents don't worry about a daughter until she fails to show up for breakfast - then it's too late!

The Aga Khan III leader of the Ismaili Moslem sect, was partial to the pleasures of the table. When a visitor asked him how he reconciled his predilection for worldly enjoyments with his status as a religious leader, the Aga replied, "I do not think the lord meant the good things of this world to be enjoyed only by sinners.

An elderly farmer was finishing his haying one Sunday morning as the minister of the local church drove by. "Brother." The clergyman lectured him, "don't you know that the Creator made the world in six days and rested on the seventh?" "Yes," said the old farmer as he looked uneasily at the rain clouds in the West, "I know all about that. But He got done, and I didn't."

## Coffee Addicts Awake

If you are one of those people who find it difficult to get through the day without a decent cup of coffee or you like a 'proper coffee' after dinner then you should know that there are plunger coffee makers at the lodge for your use. You will need to take your own ground coffee as the Club will continue to supply only instant coffee for guests.

This is not a new thing, the coffee plungers have been there for years - just a reminder to add coffee to your packing list along with towels and all the other paraphernalia of skiing at Illabunda.

## Membership

Mike Salon reports that we presently have on our waiting list 12 people who are waiting to join the club. This is just the right number so we are not anxious for more, but the waiting list is still open at this stage.

New members over the past 2 years or so are:

Edwardo Fermino, 10/3/97

Jason Tierney, 29/3/97

Norman Upton, 9/4/98

Susi Holland, 1/1/99

## HISTORY

In the last newsletter I showed the March 1982 provisional timetable for the new lodge lease, design and construction. Because of NPWS delays, the whole program started one year later, and all events then occurred as planned, plus one year. i.e. the stage 1 construction occurred from Oct 84 to May 85 and stage 2 to completion from Oct 85 to May 86.

The main organization involved the club board retaining overall control of the project including leases, raising of funds, approval of forward plans and budgets, and continual control of fund releases during construction, but the board appointed a construction sub-committee responsible (to the board), for the lodge design, selection and control of the builder and expenditures to completion of construction.

In Sept 1982 the building sub-committee was appointed comprising Adrian Bell (Chairman), W. Kelly, J. Henry, C. Ellen, and E. Fairbrother. This committee first met on 19/10/82 and invited Ross Livermore to join them at their next meeting as the

prospective builder. I think they met once or more a month from then until lodge completion. They were also involved in numerous other meetings with the club board, architects, suppliers, NPWS etc. The final result was very dependent on their enormous (sometimes frantic), workload over the next 3.5 years. - To be continued.

## Web Browsing

The other day I was surfing the web, looking for somewhere old world and nice and relaxing to stay at, when I came across the following add

10 Anzac Parade, Bundanoon

Ph/Fax: (02) 4883 6643 MILDENHALL

Mildenhall is a lovingly restored 1930s country guesthouse with the original style and elegance of yesteryear, and the modern facilities of today. Set in a large cottage garden in the center of Bundanoon it is only minutes away from Morton National Park.

The house features original oregon paneling, large lounge and dining rooms with log fires, wide verandahs and a sunny breakfast room. There are 5 double bedrooms and 3 bathrooms. Mildenhall specializes in fully catered group bookings from 6 to 10 people, and has an established reputation for fine food.

Group weekends begin with dinner Friday night, a hearty breakfast Saturday morning, and a special dinner on Saturday evening, ending with brunch on Sunday. Individual bed & breakfast accommodation is also available.

When I checked further, I got a surprise to learn the manager is Karen Henry, and she has a handyman named John who does all the work!! Would someone please follow this up for me and report further?

## A Hairy Guy

Some years ago, one of our members who was proud of his abundance of curly thick hair was having a hair cut - correction - light trim, when the barber jokingly said "If I cut off those side burns of yours, I'll bet nobody would recognize you."

"Could be," mused our member, then added quickly, "and I bet nobody would recognize you either."

## Editors Comment

Our club members are now dispersed around Australia so your newsletter in an ideal way for you to let your fellow members know where you are and what you have been doing. I am thinking of publishing all members email addresses in the next issue so if you have one please send me an email. If you don't have an email address, please send me a note about what you have been doing.

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