

Maranatha Junior Training Weekend

The junior training weekend was held on the last weekend of June 2008. The snow conditions could be considered as appalling but due to the use of the snow guns on Perishers front valley there was 1 run available for skiing and boarding.

Some of the families that initially booked for this weekend had called and cancelled due to the snow conditions. There 8 children in attendance for this weekend are as follows:

Amber Turner (helper)
Drew Turner
Riah Phillips
Bryson Masters
Kye Harvey
Samantha Laurie
Angus Laurie
Brooke Laurie

For the Laurie children, it was their first time at the snow and they enjoyed their first task of the snow games immensely; by the end of the weekend they had successfully advanced to become Level 3 skiers.

Bryson, Riah and Kye, were able to concentrate on their drills (such as the 1 ski turns - having to lift the inside ski alternatively on each turn). The best part about the lessons was not having lift priority through the ski school lines.

With the limited terrain and the volume of people on the run; the participants were provided with ski lessons on both Saturday and Sunday morning with consideration given to the benefit the children would potentially receive using the ski school queues rather than the general public ones.

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The Village 8 Express was operating along with 1 magic carpet, 1 T-bar and 1 magic carpet within the Milo kid's area. All mountain riders were funnelled into the area between the 8 seater and the T-bar, with the car park $\frac{3}{4}$ full it made for a very busy and potentially dangerous mountain.

The Laurie parents and Kevin Masters were the only adults to take on the crowded slopes over the weekend.

Glen did an awesome job in arranging the sun on the deck for our Saturday lunch and treated us to a great sausage sizzle, which filled the empty stomachs that were created from the morning lesson and the trek back to the lodge.

After some time for lunch to settle and a snow/mud fight, all the children readied themselves for the afternoon and the trek back to front valley. Amber Turner was the designated instructor for Saturday afternoon and the younger children were treated to her expertise in relating to younger children. Brooke enjoyed her first taste of the 8 seater and just wanted to keep going "on that thing". Drew met us all as we were on our trek back to front Valley and turned around to join Bryson on his board for the afternoon. Drew had finished his training for the day with the Perisher Blue Winter Sports Club group (where he is the recipient of a $\frac{1}{2}$ scholarship to a winter training program - involving 40 days training through the season).

After shower time on Saturday afternoon the children were treated to some live music by Darren Powell; who was a guest at the lodge for the weekend. Kye Harvey is now practising for next time when he has promised to do a solo for us. Glen had specially requested that Darren bring his guitar along (as he had played for us at last year's development week). The other parents enjoyed the ambience of the fire and the great music while the dinner was cooking; even the children sat to listen and took photos.

After dinner the children were able to watch the 'G' rated "Flushed Away" in the upstairs lounge area before going to bed, although 2 of the older boys talked through most of it the younger children fought the sandman to try to get to the end of the movie. They did not see the end but are waiting till next time to see it.

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On Sunday morning the children were up early Drew, Brooke and Samantha set the table ready for breakfast and waited eagerly till it was time to go skiing. We all prepared for the trek to Front Valley and the children again went to their morning lesson. For a moment Brooke gave us a scare when she told us she didn't want a lesson, but she quickly changed her mind when she knew she could go on that thing (8 seater) wit her mum and dad and do more runs after her lesson with the new skills she would learn during her lesson.

Everyone that attended the weekend had a great time and it is good to see that Glen didn't loose any of his great culinary skills through the summer. He did a stellar job as always and I am sure that he is greatly appreciated by all lodge guests.

Bring on the snow and let's hope the white fluffy stuff keeps coming to create a huge season.



Pictured - Brooke, Amber (stripes) and Angus behind Amber in the lift queue.

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Pictured - Anne, Angus, Amber and Brooke