

SNO SECRET

No. 3

October

2006

THE THIRROUL SKI CLUB LIMITED
MARANATHA LODGE
PERISHER VALLEY
KOSCIUSZKO NATIONAL PARK

ABN: 33 000 801 338



PO Box 70 Thirroul NSW 2515
Club website: www.thirroulskiclub.com.au

October 2006

Dear members

Here we are at the end of another winter, albeit a mild one this year with a shortage of the white stuff that we like to ski on. However a few people were lucky enough to be there at the right times. Owing to an injury earlier this year I did not get much skiing in this year. So I look forward to making up for it next year.

For several years now, we have been producing four newsletters per year, usually in February, April-May, September-October and December. In the interest of getting information to members in a more timely fashion, it may be desirable to have more than 4 newsletters per year. If these are produced as a paper copy and mailed, then there will be a proportionate increase in costs, typically \$300 - \$350 per edition.

There is a proposal that we go to an email-only or website-only newsletter. This would mean that considerable savings could be made. It would also mean less chance of information being out of date before it is available for members to read.

Hopefully, the new arrangements will be to everyone's liking.

Enjoy your skiing

Kevin Donegan
Publicity Officer

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well members, here it is September with the ski season nearly over and our end of season party fast approaching. I hope we make it a great turnout from Maranatha.

Well it has not been the best of seasons. A great indication is how many times Liz used the skidoo and I think it was a grand total of 2 or 3 times. I personally got very sick if tramping down that muddy road to go skiing. Our bookings are consequently are a little down .

I guess we all had good and bad days this season. The first junior training in June we skied only in Front Valley but the kids had a ball with plenty of new faces like Gemma Frew, the Grew girls, Byron Masters and Mitchell Arthur.

Junior development was held in the first week of school holidays and was attended by 12 junior members. We had 5 days of race training on Front Valley, but again the kids had fun and I feel we will do well in the Junior Interclub.

Liz has again excelled herself, feeding us well. I myself attended the lodge for the first time in Nordic week and had a chance to relax, kick back and enjoy the food and ambience of the lodge because we really do have a great club spirit and one of the most important things we have to do is keep that club spirit alive and thriving.

Talking of club spirit, there has been some tremendous partying this year. (Maybe because we are not skiing as hard.) The party after the club races was huge with "choking chickens" the centrepiece. The chicken is now a perpetual trophy for the club races, we even had a "chicken" race the course. You had to be there.

On a serious, note we are now gearing up for the end of season working bee to remove the rock facing and allow the builder to start the completion of work on the new bedrooms. All is quiet on the bed allocation proposed by NPWS. All SLOPES lodges (we are one) have rejected the NPWS proposals and it has gone back to the drawing board.

Our financials are due at the end of October. Our bookings are down because of the poor snow but our costs are down too due to good management from Liz and Owen, so we await our final profit figure.

The Brian Donegan Memorial Interclub was held on August 19 and we came a very creditable 2nd, behind Illabunda. Peter Kreilis, our interclub star was unavailable but in true Maranatha tradition others stepped up to do us proud, and of course Maranatha kept up the party tradition by being the last to leave the presentation party at 2am.

The senior races this year were followed by champagne and nibbles on the slopes. This year the sports captain didn't break any bottles on the way to the lodge. It didn't last too long, so next year we may have to double the quantity.

I hope to see you all at the harbour cruise, so in the mean time, stay safe

Regards
Ian Gregory
President

Membership Update

Thirroul Ski Club can be assured of a strong future with a record 23 new junior members joining this year. This brings the total number of junior members to 40. Most people took advantage of the new junior membership payment plan whereby the Interest Free Loan (currently \$3,000) can be paid off over 10 years or until the child turns 18 years whichever comes sooner.

The club looks forward to a strong junior race contingent coming through and competing in the club and interclub races in the future.

As well as the new payment plan for juniors the Club has removed the annual subscription payment (\$70 in 2006) for children under the age of 2 years. The junior subs payment becomes payable once the child is able to stay at the Lodge at 2 yrs old.

We have also joined 3 new senior members in 2006, being family of existing members and had 4 resignations.

We welcome the following people to the club:

Juniors:

Emily & Mitchell Arthur
Clare, Nicholas and Michael Young
Nelson & Madison Kreilis
Drew & Amber Turner
Trent, Sam & Jessie O'Brien
Briana, Tessa & Cameron McMillan
Reece & Bryson Masters
Matthew & Ryan DeDominicus
Thomas, Eliana & James Diblasi
Gemma Frew

Seniors:

Christine Knox
Suzanne O'Brien
Kristiina O'Brien

We say farewell to the following people:

John Paegle

Ben Arthur
Rene Alexander
Clare Norton

Just a reminder that unpaid subs and maintenance payments incur a \$15 late fee for each year they remain unpaid. When the amount owing to the Club exceeds the Interest Free Loan the member is no longer financial and will have their membership terminated if the fees are not paid. Unfortunately each year the Club has to resign a number of members for this reason.

If you have any membership enquiries or have unpaid subs owing and would like to discuss payment options please contact the Assistant Treasurer Evelyn Jelercic on 02 4274 7970 or email assistanttreasurer@thirroulskiclub.com.au

Sports captains report

The Club Championships were held on July 22 and the results were as follows:

(combined time for two runs)

Matthew Gregory	53.26	Mens open winner
Ian Gregory	57.90	Mens 45-60 winner
Michael Smith	58.89	
Samantha Curtis	1:01.08	Womens open winner
Scott Gregory	1:01.44	
Nicola Curtis	1:02.82	
Gai Curtis	1:03.51	Womens 45-60 winner
Katie Farrel	1:03.60	
Dominique Torrey	1:04.55	
Fiona Craig	1:04.66	Womens 30-45 winner
Martin Barnes	1:04.97	Mens 60+ winner
Scott Vormister	1:06.19	Mens 30-45 winner
Astrid Kreilis	1:06.57	
Peter Farrel	1:13.04	
Bill Torrey	1:13.53	
Rasma Kreilis	1:14.03	Womens 60+ winner
Chris Blatch	1:15.71	
Kevin Masters	1:17.61	Chicken Man!
Mavis Williams	1:20.27	
Amie Marshall	1:21.14	

The club Champions for 2006 are:

Open Womens	Samantha Curtis
Open Mens	Matthew Gregory

Thank you to all who competed and it was great to see some new faces like Fiona Craig and Scott Vormister.

Brian Donegan Memorial Interclub

As I have said, we came second this year. The following are our team results including the points scored.

		GS	XC	SB	Total
1 st place	Illabunda	99.88	91.7	100	291
2 nd	Maranatha	93.44	94.13	91.12	278
3 rd	Illawarra	100	74.18	97.67	271
4 th	Steelmakers	90.82	100	3.3	194
5 th	IMBAC	91.3	55.07	3.3	149
6th	Snow Country	81.8	10	2.2	94

As you can see we were very consistent in all the events but just not sharp enough to edge out Illabunda who are very consistent in downhill and Snowboard. The Maranatha cross-country racers all did us proud.

The top performers in our team were:

	Placing	Time
Sam Curtis	2 nd in womens GS	34.66
David Walker	9 th in GS	33.89
Ben Suttor	12 th in GS	34.05
SamCurtis	1 st in womens SB	57.75
Katie Farrel	2 nd in womens SB	70.47
Ross Norton	2 nd in SB	40.54
David Walker	11 th in SB	51.20
Mary Anne Spiers	1 st in womens XC	12:16
Sam Curtis	4 th in womens XC	19:00
Andrew Tartu	2 nd in XC	9:34
Bruce Norton	6 th in XC	10:16
Jim Spiers	13 th in XC	13:44

Sam Curtis took out 2nd in womens combined with 220 points and David Walker took out 5th in the combined with 244 points. Sam, for the second year running, was beaten by Alexandra McCulloch by 0.5 of a point.

Once again, thank you to all our competitors for their excellent club spirit and let's turn out with the same passion next year.

Ian Gregory

Captain of Sport



Kevin Masters seeking some information on snowboarding after Drew showed his prowess in snowboarding (as an extra runner) in this year's senior club races.

Drew boarded in Mark O'Brien's bib number; as Mark was caught at Blue Cow and did not make the races in time.

Cross Country Report

By Bruce Norton

Although this year was not the best season for good snowfalls we still had a great "cross-country" week., attended by our enthusiastic and fun loving people.

We were blessed with beautiful weather (clear blue skies, sun and no wind) except for "The KAC" race when we had a howling gale. This still did not deter the die-hard racers, even Jimmy managed to get to the starting line with the valuable assistance of "monsieur Ollier" and John Schiano.

Most events had to be relocated to higher grounds, but the newer courses proved very acceptable giving Good results.

Following is a list of times for the KAC race.

Bruce Norton	20:54
Hans Buettner	27:51
Jim Spiers	30:00

Martin Barnes	30:01
Tom Hazell	38:25
Bill Torrey	38:55
Ian Gregory	40:34
Gordon McComb	46:41
Pat Hazell	49:03
Gerard Toltz	49:17

News on one of our promising juniors

Drew Turner is showing fine form and has had some tremendous results in the NSW state Interschools snowboarding titles

First snowboarder cross division 5

First snowboard GS (giant slalom) division 5

Drew's GS (giant slalom) times would have won him the division 4 also these are children under 13 or in years 5 and 6

Drew won the GS by a massive 7.09 seconds over the two course runs

Drew also gained 5th place in the perisher blue half pipe series in the junior section (under 14,s) and will now compete in the final half pipe comp on September 3rd 2006

Maranatha Lodge Extension Progress Report October 2006

Meet the demolition team that worked for five days in Sept 2006 to demolish the timber patio and remove the granite from the ground floor ready for our builder Roger Toole to recommence the construction in the next two weeks.

The various photographs (which will be visible on the club's website) show the team and the lodge without patio and granite façade.

The team of volunteers are members of Maranatha Lodge and travelled from Canberra, Batemans Bay, Sydney and Wollongong. These members donated their annual leave, rosters and the retirement time free of charge to the lodge and carried out a lot of hard work during the five days.

The team identified in the photograph from the left, Mal Lawrey, Martin Barnes, Hans Beuttner, Ian Eddy, Mavis Williams, Gordon McComb, Tom Pickering, Ken Lucas and Kevin Masters.

It is estimated that the work carried out during the five days has reduced the contractor's man hour charges by approximately \$15,000.00 which is a significant saving for the club.

The major work was to remove the granite facade from the bottom floor north and east walls using jack hammers and to demolish the timber patio. Jack Hammers were loaned to the lodge by our builder Roger Toole free of charge a saving of at least \$500 in hire charges; refer to photographs of work in action.

All the granite was removed, cleaned and stacked for reuse resulting in six tonnes of cement rubble and timber was taken to the Jindabyne tip. The site is now ready for the builder to recommence work in the next two weeks.

It is expected that the brick work will be finished in October 2006 and the concrete patio roof (new

bedrooms roof) will be formed up and concrete may be poured before Christmas if not after the builders holidays in February 2007.

The aim will be to at least have the extension to lock up at the start of the next winter season.

Due to the unknown costs of the study being carried out by our fire engineer, Stephen Wise of Canberra, as directed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) I don't expect to have an estimate on the cost of this work until December 2006. A breakdown of costs will be available at the AGM in February 2007.

Once I know the fire upgrade requirement cost we can ensure that the lodge extension is completed within our financial capabilities without any levies being imposed on members for the extension.

On the 26th September 2006 the lodge was inspected by Karen Field from the NPWS and accompanied by James Alexander a consultant for the NPWS on fire safety who is the author of the Health and Building Audit Report for our lodge.

The purpose of the inspection was to verify that we had completed all the priority 1 items identified in the NPWS Health and Building Audit in the prescribed time frame.

Karen Field NPWS was impressed at our progress and we passed with flying colours in regards to fire safety on priority 1 items and our lodge may be used as a model for other lodges in Perisher Valley.

The NPWS Health and Building Audit which includes the fire upgrade is causing all lodges in the Valley to comply with the new regulations which are very demanding. Our lodge is a three story building so we have a higher cost to comply, as the regulations are more stringent.

As an example of the new regulations we had to change all fly screens on the lodge windows to stainless steel mesh which was quoted to cost \$2500.00. In an effort to save money I purchased the materials for \$800.00, Mal Lawrey and Tom Pickering re-meshed all the lodge screens during the working bee, a saving of \$1700.

Another example of the impact of the new fire regulations is that by next season we will not be able to accommodate four people in rooms 5 and 6 and the adjoining wall will be removed and be converted to only accommodate two people. It is fortunate we started our extension project to add bedrooms as our lodge capacity would have been reduced from a 20 bed lodge to an 18 bed lodge resulting in loss of revenue.

The Australian Institute of Environmental Health who carried out inspections on our lodge kitchen insisted that we install a gas flexible hose and a wire rope retainer on our stove and ovens. The gas hose alone costs \$360.00 and then casters had to be fitted to allow stoves to be rolled out for regular cleaning.

Refer to the photograph casters being fitted during working bee. These six casters were donated by Wollongong General Agency (WGA) and would have cost us about \$300.

In summary a lot of work is being undertaken by our team of volunteers on our working bees and we are fortunate to have the team spirit alive and well .

It is also appreciated that a lot of members are offering positive suggestion on how we can enhance the layout and the design aspects of the new bedroom extension.

Keep those positive suggestions rolling in so we can be the "FINEST IN VALLEY".

I would like to thank the working bee team, the committee for their support and especially Mavis Williams and Liz Scott catering for the working bee team.

Regards, Kevin Masters.

Project Manager Maranatha Lodge Extension.

Illawarra Combined Clubs Sydney Harbour Cruise

You are invited to our annual get together to celebrate another fantastic year on the slopes. We have booked a harbour cruise, which includes a three-course meal and dancing on board a three level catamaran through Aquablue Charters.

When:	Saturday 28th October 2006
Where:	Sydney Harbour - King St Wharf
Cost:	\$55 pp
Bar:	Available on Board

Hurry! Numbers are limited as the boat has only the capacity for 130 people

To book your place or to find out more information, contact Gai Curtis at socialsecretary@thirroulclub.com.au or by phone on 02 4285 0871.

By the time you read this the cruise will be less than 3 weeks away. So don't delay – book NOW.

Gai is also arranging a bus for Wollongong members to get to and from the cruise.

