STEEL MAKERS ALPINE CLUB

April 2021—Autumn Edition

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WELCOME!

Welcome to the Steel Makers Alpine Club quarterly newsletter. We hope you will enjoy it.

If you have any suggestions for future editions, or any photos for inclusion, please email them to arimac.bookings@gmail.com.au

Have you got some great pictures of your time at the lodge?

We'd love to showcase them through the newsletter.
Please share them with us at arimac.bookings@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



A spectacular day in the Snowy's (credit Simon Byrne(

Hello all.

It looks like NSW is getting on top of COVID, I am sure we are all hoping that 2020 is a year we can put behind us and we can look forward to a brighter 2021. I recently sent out a letter to members about how the club has managed over Summer with our COVID plan in place and the expectations on all of us to help keep each other safe.

Club Ethos

The Post season event as part of the AGM was cancelled due to a lack of people interested in attending. Hopefully, future events will attract the interest of members to get together and talk skiing etc.

The delayed AGM was well attended however with a new committee elected with some new faces. A huge thankyou to the retiring committee members who stood down this year to allow new faces to become involved in the management of the club.

The Jamberoo Club Christmas Party was a great success with 60 odd people attending and enjoying a great day. Although we had to tweak the way we ran it to ensure we all remained COVID Safe.

Lodge

This winter season is looking promising for the ARIMAC to be open, if NSW government regulations/restrictions allow. We have had members only staying at the Lodge over summer and a QR code was obtained and installed at the Lodge, to help speed up tracing if required.

Over Summer our process of getting the Lodge professionally sanitised between bookings was tested and the check out and in times allowed the

sanitising to be done effectively

At the next working bee the main task will be to replace our aging Hot Water System

Again, the Lodge Captain with each Booking member have pivotal roles of trying to keep the Lodge safe for all those that stay at the Lodge. Please help them as much as you can.

Constitution

The constitution review team has reviewed it again to ensure that COVID requirement impacts have been catered for. The committee has agreed the revised constitution is ready to put to the Membership for endorsement at the next AGM – It will be issued to all members with the AGM pack. Once it is endorsed it then will be forwarded to the Department of Fair Trading for their agreement and registration. Our new version is based on the NSW government template so we expect that it will be accepted without change.

Finances

Our costs to operate have increased with some bills increasing with the major increase coming from our insurance as all the premiums in the Snowy Mountains Area have increased dramatically to cover the claims due to the recent bushfires. The committee are in the process of determining the impact on accommodation rates to cover these costs and maintain our finances at an appropriate level.

Club History

I have continued reviewing past committee minutes and other documents adding info into the summary of the SMAC History. I have also been finding out when our life members were appointed

Club Information

Check out the website as new info appears regularly.

Meetings

The Annual General Meeting is set down for 2nd of May with the venue still being confirmed. It will be announced in the AGM pack that will be out soon.

The committee meets at 7:00pm on the first Monday night of every month either via TEAMS or at Western Suburbs Leagues Club where we discuss upcoming events, ARIMAC Lodge management, improvement and maintenance requirements, Membership services, Lodge Bookings and review club finances.

If you have anything you wish to discuss with the committee, please feel free to contact any of the committee members

Barry

A note from the Treasurer

As members are now starting to use the Lodge again after the worst of the Pandemic appears to be behind us, the cash balance at the end of February was $88,190 (including $3,040 in outstanding subs) which will see us return to a more normal financial situation.

On a more disappointing note, I feel that I should mention that a significant number of members did not pay their annual subscription fees by the 28th February. I sent out a reminder email to these members 40+ to remind them to pay by the following week. This email was only a reminder, NOT an invoice. Invoices are sent out in early January to each member's address and it is made very clear that those who have not paid by the due date will be sent a late fee invoice, are deemed unfinancial and are not eligible to book accommodation. A number of member's replied by email requesting the amount they were due and also the banking details to be sent to them by return email. I feel this is a bit unreasonable to ask the Treasurer to commit more time to this already time consuming process and answer those emails. The invoice sent in January contains overdue subscriptions, late fees, current subscriptions, invoice number and bank details to provide all the information to easily pay what is due. If you do not receive an invoice in January, it means that your home address has probably changed and it is up to the member to notify the Secretary of any details that change – it is not up to the Treasurer to track members down to send them an invoice which has been necessary on many occasions.

Sorry to be so negative, but the Club Invoice is just as important and valid as an electricity invoice, and we know what happens if you don't pay that on time.

This is my last year on the Committee, as I will be standing down at the next AGM. It has been an honour and privilege to have served the Club on two occasions for a total of 22 years seeing it grow from day 1 at the Visitor's Centre to the successful association it has become today in 2021.

Best Regards,

Alan



Good spot for a BBQ! (Credit: Brett Monkman)

Secretary's tales

It has been a fairly quiet time in what you might call our off season, though there wasn't much of an "on" season, even if you did go skiing last Winter.

Since the last newsletter we have had successful events such as the Jamberoo Kids Christmas Party and a belated AGM. Although we don't keep records of the numbers, the Jamberoo Christmas Party was extremely well attended, certainly the biggest in recent years, with many parents also enjoying the "kids" party.

Our AGM in November was also well attended, though numbers were down, and the event was different to previous years due to Covid requirements. We had everyone sign in, socially distant seating, individual drinks and snacks, and a few members joined us virtually via TEAMS. Apart from us being locked out of the hall and starting late it went well with the virtual attendees saying they could see and hear the proceedings okay but unfortunately they missed out on the social side after the meeting.

Speaking of the AGM, we're back on track for our normal schedule, so the next one is not far away, on Sunday May 2nd. Make a note in your calendars to attend in person or virtually, and the details will be sent out soon.

As Barry mentions we have some new people on the committee, with more changes to come. We continue to look at improvements for the Club and Lodge, while remembering and honouring those that put in the hard work over so many years. Our committee meetings are still a combination of in person and virtual, and this will probably be the "new normal" because it provides flexibility and greater attendance.

I look forward to seeing you again, or meeting you for the first time at the AGM or at the Lodge, where we can swap stories of the fantastic season we hope it is going to be.

Kevin



Adam Ferguson on the Thredbo River
(Photo Credit: Simon Byrne)



Simon Byrne with a small dry fly spider pattern

Bookings and more

Summer bookings have been relatively consistent this year, with members old and new getting use out of the lodge. Its great to see people enjoying what the Snowy's have to offer in non ski season—with fishing, biking, hiking and just enjoying the alpine surroundings becoming more and more popular.

Bookings for Winter 2021 and Summer 2022 open at the AGM. Bookings cannot be taken for Christmas, Easter etc until this date. In the past this may have happened, but with these times of year now being more and more popular, this rule will have to be enforced.

Also a reminder that a completed booking form must be received for each and every booking lot. With most bookings now being made vie email, this should be much easier. The Booking Form is on the club website for ease of access.

Please take note of the rules around Member's Priority, Members Only and General booking periods as noted on the Booking Conditions form for this year (and on page 6 of this newsletter). These outline the dates and maximum durations of bookings in each period. These are in place to ensure equity of access to the lodge for all members, so please respect these rules.

During Member's Priority and Member's Only booking periods when more bookings are received than there are beds for any one lot, names are drawn out of a hat at random. To avoid disappointment, please do not make other arrangements that are dependent on your Club booking until this has been confirmed.

For Club events when overflow accommodation is required, I will be rotating people staying in the lodge and in overflow on an annual basis—again, for equity to all.

Finally, a reminder that Associate Members can only attend the lodge if accompanied by a Member.

See you at the lodge! Raych



Brett Monkman and friends enjoying Thredbo Mountain biking

Maintenance Report

As everyone is probably aware the 2020 working bees were impacted by the COVID pandemic. The May working bee was cancelled outright and the Oct working bee was restricted to a small number of committee members to set the lodge up in line with our COVID safe plan to allow us to open for summer bookings. Due to this very little of our planned maintenance and none of our planned upgrades were carried out.

I'm pleased to report that with the apparent improvement of the COVID situation and our ability to manage it through our COVID safe plan we will be conducting our usual pre season working bee on the weekend of the 7th - 9th May. During the week prior to this we will be removing the old electric water heaters (which are beyond their use by date) from the drying room and plumbers will install two high capacity instantaneous gas water heaters to the external wall outside the workshop.

This will give us unlimited hot water in times of high demand and is expected overall to be significantly cheaper to run. It will also allow for more hanging space in the drying room.

In keeping with requirements of our insurance and the current fire regulations we have recently appointed an authorised fire system inspector to carry out monthly inspections and certification of our fire alarm system.

Unfortunately the planned replacement of our stove has had to be pushed back to the Oct working bee.

Here's hoping that the 2021 season is everything that 2020 wasn't. I'll be at the AGM to answer any maintenance questions.

Cheers Gerry



A different view of the lodge carpark (Credit: Brett Monkman)

Club Captain's Report

Welcome to 2021 and let's hope this is a fantastic season to make up for the last one!

Junior Development Week

Junior Development Week will run from 4-11 July this year. If you haven't attended one of these before, it is a fabulous social time at the lodge for all the kids, with a number of organised activities both on and off snow. Junior development week runs from the Monday in the second week of the July school holidays through to the Sunday. Families are welcome to book the mid week lot, just the weekend, or both. Hopefully we will be able to support a good turnout under the prevailing pandemic situation, and as in past seasons, will look to employ overflow accommodation as required.

Interschools Championships



On the racing front, if you have children that are at all interested in racing, I highly encourage you to take a look at the NSW Interschool's events this year. There is an emphasis on participation, and you only need to be a recreational skier/boarder for the initial event – race experience is not necessary. The event is open to children from kindergarten through to year 12. The Southern NSW/ACT event this year will be held at Perisher from July 20 to 23rd. It is quite easy to arrange entry for your child to represent their school – even if they are a solo competitor. Hopefully we will have at least a handful of competitors staying at the lodge during this time to share the camaraderie, whatever school they are representing. Information is available at https://www.interschools.com.au

Club Races

On to ARIMAC Club races. Unfortunately we may be approaching the end of an era here. Last year Perisher informed us they were no longer hosting small events on weekends in August, so we settled for a late July club race, but then COVID-19 happened. This year they have informed us that there will be no club race events on Saturdays for July or August, and they have parked the decision to host club events at all for the season until mid-late May, when their race department comes together again. We still have hopes for hosting a club race, but given the uncertainty this season and a desire to host the race on a Saturday, we have chosen to make the first weekend in September (3rd-5th) our "Club Event" weekend. There are no guarantees that we will be able to host an official race, but we will try to make the most of what is possible and get creative with some other ideas if we cannot get access to a course. I suspect this will also be an issue for Illawarra Junior and Senior Interclub events. We will continue to work with Perisher Race Department on getting a race day allocated to us.

Club Merchandise

Thank you to all the people that responded to our Club merchandise survey. We received a very enthusiastic response with more than 50% of people interested in purchasing club apparel and another 35% as maybe's.

Polar fleeces were overwhelmingly the most popular item people were interested in, followed by hoodies, beanies, and shirts. The most popular colour choices were black, blue, grey, and white. The committee is now looking to select a suitable supplier, and hopefully we will be able to provide a pre-order choice so that you are ensured of getting the size and colour of items you want on the first round.

Troy

(Photo Credit: Brett Monkman)



2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Although it hasn't been long since we held the 2020 AGM, we will be holding our 2021 AGM at its usual time of year, in early May.

Details for in person attendance are below. The meeting will also be held via Microsoft Teams for those who want to attend virtually. Please see the AGM notice sent by Kevin on 30 March for details.

DATE	Sunday, 2 May 2021
TIME	2:00pm
VENUE	Bellambi Surf Club Morgan Place, Bellambi
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED	

IMPORTANT BOOKING DATES

Member's Priority Booking Period	**2 May—16 May** Bookings for members (incl children) and their guests only Bookings for Winter Peak Period for a maximum of 14 days Bookings outside of the Winter Peak Period can be submitted for any length of time
Member's Only Booking Period	**17 May—30 May** Bookings for members (incl children) and their guests only Bookings can be submitted for another 14 days during the Winter Peak Period Bookings outside of the Winter Peak Period can be submitted for any length of time
General Booking Period	**31 May onwards** Bookings open to Members and Associate Members No restrictions on booking length

Your Committee

- **President:** Barry Neill
- **Vice President** Gary Perkins
- **Secretary:** Kevin Larkin
- **Treasurer:** Alan Ritchie
- **Club Captain:** Troy Flinn
- **Maintenance Officer:** Gerry Campbell
- **Bookings Officer:** Raychel Davis
- **Social Coordinator:** Gary Perkins
- **Web Manager:** Troy Flinn
- **Committee Members:**
  - Frank Parovel
  - Barry Wilson
  - Brad Browne
  - Rod Valdivia
  - John McCloskey

Club Contact Details:

Lodge Phone: 02 6456 7173

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Phone: 0456 919 442

Maintenance: arimac.maintenance@gmail.com

President: arimac.president@gmail.com

Secretary: smac.secretary1@gmail.com

Treasurer: smac.treasurer1@gmail.com

Club Captain: arimac.captain@gmail.com

www.steelmakersalpineclub.com

Don't forget to join the **Steelmakers Alpine Club** group on Facebook to stay up to date on Club happenings!