STEEL MAKERS ALPINE CLUB

Winter 2022

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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 raychel_parovel@yahoo.com

Do we have your email address?

To be more environmentally conscious and efficient, your Committee will be moving to electronic communication.

Please make sure we have your correct email address by contacting us at *smac.secretary1@gmail.com*

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Summer in the Snowies (Photo Credit: John McCloskey)

Hello all.

Some of us, the lucky ones got to ski last year, some more of us got to stay at the Lodge over summer as restrictions have eased.

Our COVID plan is still in place.

Some have ordered our SMAC branded merchandise – and we are awaiting its arrival Thanks Rod for arranging this.

Club Ethos

The post season event this year was the Club Christmas Party at the Jamberoo Action Park. We used one of the hut and a BBQ with more than 50 members and family attended a great day even though some of the park was closed for renovations we all managed to have fun on the day.

Lodge

The Lodge re-opened for summer after the closure during the winter

The new gas Hot Water Systems and a new Stove have been installed.

Booking / Reservation Review

A small group of Committee members reviewed our winter booking system and it was rolled out for the 2022 season.

Members were able to

- Apply for phase 1 bookings earlier starting from March 1
- have their first phase bookings confirmed by mid March
- pay for their first phase bookings by end of March
- receive phase 2 available lots early April,
- Apply for unsubscribed lots during phase 2, up till mid April
- have these confirmed by mid April and paid for by end of April
- Had their accommodation confirmed before Epic passes were payable on May 2

- After May 1 members will also be advised, via email, what other lots are still available

Many thanks to Pete for enhancing the existing system and develop spreadsheets to track applications, and allocations and then for advising the rest of us what was still available. He tells me we mostly got our first choices.

Finances

Our balance sheet is still good with our summer bookings and this year's winter bookings are making it look much healthier. We will be up for our Lodge Insurance shortly which is a big part of our operating costs.

Our balance sheet has been helped by being granted the Small Business Support Benefit from the state government. This has helped offset the lack of income and allowed us to pay our ever-present bills.

Club Information

Check out the website as new info appears regularly.

If you have any stories or photos please forward them to Raychel who will continue to be our Newsletter editor

Meetings

The committee continue to meet at 7:00pm on the first Monday night of every month mainly via TEAMS, and face to face 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. Above all, we hope you all keep well.

Barry

From the Secretary

Well another disappointing Covid affected season has passed with many of us getting zero days on the snow. Not that we're bitter about it.

If you managed to get on snow last year good luck to you, and I hope you were able to make the most of it. I know one person who had three quarters of 1 day skiing, then had to fight Perisher for ages to get a decent refund on his Epic Pass.

But it's time to look forward to the coming season that promises a return to the good old days, fingers crossed. I hope you have been able to book some time at the Lodge already in Phases 1 or 2. If not there's still time in the next 2 Phases.

Speaking of bookings (good segue), this season is the first trial of our new Booking Procedure. About half of the Committee worked in a small group over a number of months to analyse usage, address concerns, and come up with the fairest way for everyone to make Lodge bookings. We tried to consider the requirements from the point of view of families, young singles, couples, working people, retirees, and those living far from the snow, with the aim to give all members the opportunity to stay at the Lodge. We hope that we've covered all bases, but if we haven't please let us know, and if you think it's an improvement we'd like to hear that too.

Our AGM is coming up on Sunday May 29 2pm at Bellambi Surf Club, a little later than usual due to logistical reasons. Save the date and come along to have your say and meet other members. Notifications and reports will be sent out in the coming weeks.

I hope to see many of you at the Lodge, and also hope the season lives up to our expectations.

Kevin

Treasurer's report

Our Club remains in a sustainable financial position, with a strong cash balance after a sound summer occupancy and a healthy and growing number of winter 2022 booking payments. If you haven't yet paid your 2022 annual subs, please do this asap. Payments for 2022 annual subs are now overdue and you cannot make a booking until they are paid. We have relied on annual subs income to keep paying our bills during the unavoidable lodge closures that we all hope are behind us.

Amanda

Bookings

2022 has seen some big changes to the booking system and processes in general. The biggest change has been creating a digital record of the bookings. We hope to optimise these records further and introduce an online booking system in the future. Email bookings with forms are preferred but the phone is still available on Tuesday nights.

During the summer months there was only few weekends when the lodge was empty, along with multiple weekly bookings.

The winter booking process received a major overhaul this year to help all members get better access to the lodge during the peak, off peak and shoulder seasons. So far Phase 1 and Phase 2 are complete with a 94% confirmation rate on the bookings requested. I am still getting to know members and member partners' names. Don't be offended if I have suggested you should share a bed with your Brother or Mother! It is just a placeholder in the booking system. Thank you to all of the members who followed the booking and payment instructions to make my job easier.

I hope this recent rain is a sign of relentless snow to come. See you at the AGM.

Pete.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 36th Annual General Meeting of Steel Makers Alpine Club Inc. will be held on Sunday 29th of May 2022.

Venue: Bellambi Surf Lifesaving Clubhouse, Morgan Place, Bellambi.

Time: 2.00pm

Nominations for Committee

Nominations for the following positions are called for:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Eight (8) Officers and Committee Members

Nominations are to be lodged with the Secretary no later than the 22nd of May 2022.

They shall be in writing and signed by the Nominee, Proposer and Seconder.

Nomination forms are included on the email with this Notice and are available on request from the Secretary.

Notice of Business

If members have any formal business to be presented at the AGM or any resolution to be presented to change the constitution, a written notice of business must be received by the Secretary no later than the 22nd of May 2022.

Light food & Refreshments will follow the meeting.

K. Larkin

Kevin Larkin, Secretary

Maintenance Update

Hi everyone, a quick update on lodge maintenance.

2021 only saw one working bee in May, the October working bee deemed not necessary due to the lodge being largely vacant because of those horrible lockdowns. The few lucky ones who were able get there provided some positive feedback on the new gas water heaters and running costs to date seem to suggest they are more economical than the previous electric heaters. Though we won't know for sure till we have a full season to compare with.

We have recently appointed a new mowing contractor due to the retirement of our old one. His pricing is quite reasonable, only a small increase on the previous contractor and he provides us with photos after each job.

After a 4 month delay due to Covid and supply issues we finally were able to install our new stove and we're already getting positive feedback from those who have used it.

The next working bee is planned for the weekend of May 7 & 8 where we hope to get the lodge shipshape and shiny for what's shaping up to be a mega season.

Hopefully we'll see you on the hill.—Gerry

Club Captain Update

It's been a long break from skiing for many of us, so I'm hoping this year will be a bumper season!

Junior Development Week
Junior development week is on once again this year with lots planned for the kids. Securing ski lessons in the school holiday period has been a challenge in recent years, with very high demand, but the club will be funding some group lessons for the kids if we are able to secure places. I will be aiming to book these for the Monday at Perisher to kick off the week. Other planned activities are the mountain treasure hunt, crafts for any rest days, and of course party night!

Club Weekend
The Club Weekend this year has been nominated as the first weekend in September. I have yet to receive confirmation on whether we can secure a race course for this, but regardless this will be a great social weekend for members at the tail end of the season. Stay tuned for further updates.

Commemorative Book
The Club Committee has been discussing the idea of providing something at the lodge to honour and commemorate our past members who have sadly passed away. We have decided on a book that we will add pages to over time. The idea is to dedicate a page or so to the member, and include some photographs, a short bio, and maybe a club related story or two. The book will be on display at the lodge and guests are encouraged to take it down and have a read when it becomes available. To any family members or close friends of a member who has passed, I would love to hear from you with any material or content that you think may be appropriate to include. The final draft page will always be shared for review and approval with the family before publishing to the book. Note we expect at least six months before the this book becomes available.

Club Merchandise

The club apparel sale was a good success albeit a bit drawn out, but we got there in the end!

Approximately 30 members purchased around 113 items from Belgravia with Beanies being the clear favorite with members, taking up 44 of the 113 items sold.

Latest correspondence from Belgravia indicates deliveries should start around mid-May, just in time for the winter season.

Thanks to all that purchased items and looking forward to seeing you all wearing the apparel down at the lodge and on the slopes this season.

Cheers, Rod Valdivia



Snow in November at Smiggins (Photo Credit; John McCloskey)

Your Committee

- **President:** Barry Neill
- **Vice President** Gary Perkins
- **Secretary:** Kevin Larkin
- **Treasurer:** Amanda Moran
- **Club Captain:** Troy Flinn
- **Maintenance Officer:** Gerry Campbell
- **Bookings Officer:** Peter McIndoe
- **Social Coordinator:** Gary Perkins
- **Web Manager:** Troy Flinn
- **Committee Members:**
  - Rod Valdivia
  - Judy McCracken
  - John McCloskey
  - Renato Compagnin

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Club Contact Details:

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