STEEL MAKERS ALPINE CLUB

Autumn 2924

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WELCOME!

Welcome to the Steel Makers Alpine Club 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



Fishing by the lake Photo Credit: Gerry Campbell

Hi all, I hope the Christmas holiday season has been good to you. Sarah and I were really chuffed to have all our 3 kids and their families at our place (all at the same time) for the first time in 9 years. We really enjoyed the assistance of our 5 year old grandkids gave us in preparing for Christmas day. It was a great time for us all. I hope you all have similar stories.

Just a short note from me to give some insights and an overview on other articles within the newsletter. The committee decided it might be a good idea to provide some background, profiles if you like, on our committee members. Peter McIndoe and myself are apparently the guinea pigs. Raychel, our newsletter editor, posed some questions to us and our response kind of make up the profile.

Our club will turn 40 years young in November 2025, Keep a look out on how we will celebrate this milestone, I would love a huge member and family turn out to the event that Gary, our Social Director, will be organising. He will tell us more.

The 2024 season booking phases will start on March 1 so start planning your ski dates applications. The booking conditions and application form updates for 2024 will be finalised shortly and emailed out to all members.

The Lodge working bee, post winter season, was held in October with new double mattresses being the main works for every room. Gerry will tell us more.

The AGM is coming up in early May so watch out for more info from our Secretary, Kevin.

Junior Development Week will be on again this year and our Club Captain, Troy is arranging this.

Our Club Members and guest weekend, will be in late July so watch out for more detail on this.

There has been attention in the media on lithium battery fires as used in e-bikes and e-scooters etc. As these are becoming more widely used, the committee has decided, that while members can bring these to the Lodge for use during their stay, the batteries must be charged outside. Power points will be added to help facilitate this.

Enough from me as an intro, over to our other committee members for their articles.

Have a great winter season everyone and I hope to catch up with you at our Club events or at the Lodge.

Barry

From the Secretary's Desk

It has been a while since our last club newsletter, and as usual the committee has been busy looking at multiple ways to improve the club and lodge, as well as the week to week running of the club.

There have been more membership movements since the last newsletter, some unwanted, with the passing of long time club stalwarts Merry Duxbury and Friedl Bartsch. Friedl was involved in the early years of the club and Merry continued to frequent the lodge for skiing and working bees, including last year. They are missed by those that knew them.

New members include Merrys' husband John Duxbury taking over her membership, and Tony Franjic's' daughter Danielle taking his.

Member numbers have dropped ever so slightly with Friedl's membership being cancelled, and the recent resignation of Rob De Lazzari.

I know it's still Summer, but we all need to start thinking about and planning for Winter. Winter bookings open at the start of March! You will be receiving this years' Booking Conditions and Form soon, if you haven't already.

Here is a summary of dates to take note of and help with your planning:

March

1st – Phase 1 bookings open, limits per member

14th – Phase 1 bookings close

31st – Phase 1 payment due or your booking is cancelled

April

1st – Phase 2 bookings open, limits per member

14th – Phase 2 bookings close

30th – Phase 2 payment due or your booking is cancelled

May

1st – Phase 3 bookings open, no limits per member

5th – **Annual General Meeting**

14th – Phase 3 bookings close

17/19th – **Lodge Working Bee**

31st – Phase 3 payment due or your booking is cancelled

June

1st – Phase 4 bookings open, no restrictions

8th – Opening weekend

July

7th – Junior Development week 1 – School holidays

14th – Junior Development week 2 – School holidays

19/20th - Junior Development weekend

21st – Interschool Races

26/28th – Club weekend

28th – Peak season period commences

August

31st – Peak season period ends

October

25/26th – **Lodge Working Bee**

November

30th – **Jamberoo Christmas Party**

We are a family friendly club, and we've always had an ethos to encourage kids to enjoy the snow. To this end we will continue to subsidise the costs of skiing/ boarding and lift tickets within the means of the club.

The rules for this in general are:

1. Reimbursement of 50% of lift ticket and lesson costs during the season, with maximums to apply
2. Subsidies are relevant for Members' Children only
3. Subsidies are paid annually and must be submitted by the end of November
4. Reimbursements are at the discretion of the Committee, and will depend on the number of claims being made and the financial position of the Club at the time
5. Subsidy requests must include a completed Expenses claim form (available on website) and receipts of the claimed costs
6. Requests should be emailed to the Club Secretary or Treasurer

Lastly can I ask you all for a favour. When I send out emails to all members please read the details and respond directly to an email address nominated, such as the Booking Officer or Maintenance Manager. It's a small inconvenience for me, but any delay in getting it to the right person might mean you miss out.

Thanks,

Kevin

Treasurer's Report

Hi everyone. Our Club's finances remain in a strong financial position despite last year's winter season ending earlier than hoped. Costs have been rising though, and the committee has raised the annual subs amount to **$70** to keep pace with insurances and council rates and charges. Thank you to everyone who has paid their subs promptly! If you haven't yet paid your 2024 annual subs, issued in early January, please do this asap to avoid the annual subs late fee of $30, applying to unpaid subs from 1 March. I have emailed statements to everyone who still has outstanding invoices. Members cannot make a booking until they are paid. If you feel that you have not seen your invoice please check and ensure the email has not been diverted to junk mail.

Here's hoping for a terrific snow season!

Regards, Amanda

Club Captain's Update

Welcome to season 2024. Winter bookings will be opening soon, and as usual we have some great things planned for Junior Development week during the school holidays. So if you have young children be sure to get your bookings in for what is always a memorable week for the kids. Note also that participation counts towards your junior subsidy. Member's weekend will again be in July this year. Note that this is for member's, their guest, and children and is the one weekend we allow for some overflow. This is a great weekend to socialise with other members earlier in the season if you don't mind a more crowded atmosphere in the lodge. We are not planning on hosting any racing again this year, but if anyone from the club is competing in Interschools, Masters, etc, we would love to hear from you and maybe publish something in the end of season newsletter. Please send any results to myself or the Club Secretary if you are happy for them to be shared. Stay safe, and I look forward to seeing you at Arimac this season.

Troy

Bookings

Unfortunately the inclement weather this summer has reduced the number of people looking to stay at the lodge. It has been a very quiet few months for me but winter bookings are just around the corner. Bookings over the past few years have been made primarily by email and this seems to be 99% of the members preference, so waiting till Tuesday night to make a booking over the phone is no longer necessary. I will do my best to accommodate all of the members requests as they come through. Please remember to pay for bookings before the end of the month so I don't have to cancel it.

Please let us know if you do not get the email updates about bookings from me so I can add you to the mailing list.

Thanks, Peter

Maintenance Update

Hi fellow club members, I hope everyone is having a great summer as we get to the point where we start thinking about winter and skiing.

The summer season has once again seen the lodge well used. Thankfully there have been only a couple of minor things reported which include someone cutting their hand on a sharp edge in the dishwasher and the fridge near the pantry not getting cold enough. Hopefully I will get a chance to attend to these in the near future.

The Oct W/B was another success and as per usual we waded through a lot of work and managed to have a bit of fun along the way.

On arrival I was pleased to see the lodge had been left in pristine condition which made our cleaning job a bit easier. Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to keep it that way.

The new double mattresses are a significant investment by the club and those of us who have slept on them found them very comfortable thank you very much.

John Purcell has repaired the base of the spinner fireplace with fire grout which needs to cure for an extended period before heating. To this end the fireplace is currently out of service till autumn, if you get cold then light the slow burner please. I won't detail all of the jobs that were completed here, they are listed on our club Facebook page and I will run through them at the AGM.

Recent visitors to the lodge will notice that a number of trees have been removed from alongside the dining room wall and car park. This was required as a result of longhorn beetle larva infestation. Hopefully the remaining live trees will survive. The plus side is that we scored a large amount of firewood.

Barry has mentioned the new club policy regarding charging larger devices that contain lithium batteries, such as e-scooters, e-bikes, etc, outside due to the significant risk of fire. We are planning to install more outside power points to facilitate this. We anticipate that it's only a matter of time before insurance companies begin updating policies to void coverage for lithium fires.

The preseason W/B is planned for the weekend beginning Fri 17th May, if you're available please let me know. Once I have done the work program I'll let you know the numbers needed. As always, if you have any maintenance related questions or suggestions please feel free to contact me on 0408264154.

Cheers Gerry

Congratulations Sarah!

Sarah Neill, wife of President Barry Neill, received an award as part of this years' Australia Day awards.



Sarah has been recognised with a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for her services to youth and the community through Girl Guides. She has been a member for almost 30 years starting as unit Leader and then taking on management roles within the Organisation. She held the position of State Commissioner and Chair of the Board for NSW, ACT and NT Girl Guides for 5 years term and is now part of the Girl Guides Australia (GGA) Team looking after Leaders and their training needs. She is still active in assisting at major guiding events and is still having lots of fun with girls and adults within all levels of the organisation.

Our congratulations go to Sarah for this well deserved award and recognition.

We want your stories and photos!

Our newsletters are much more interesting when we have interesting stories and great photos to share!

If you have an idea for an article that we could include, or a great photo that we could use, we'd love to know!

Please send your ideas or photos through to one of the Committee, our Raychel who develops our newsletter. Contact details for our Committee are on the last page of this edition.

60 seconds with Barry Neill

Where do you work?

Bluescope Steel

Committee role



2nd ever President, after filling Frank Parovel's very large shoes 4 years ago

How long have you been a member of ARIMAC?

35 years – I was at the first meeting, but as a young apprentice, I couldn't afford to join straight away – saved up over 5 years to join

How long have you been on the Committee?

I have been on the committee 7 years

Ski or Snowboard?

Committed skier

Bike or Hike?

Neither – but in my younger days I have hiked over the snowy mountains a couple of times in Summer

Favourite ski resort

Australia – I learnt at Thredbo, My wife Sarah and kids learnt at Perisher ski school. Perisher provides a great range and options

Oversees – Hard to beat Breckenridge, Colorado – Skiing Africa is a great memory

Favourite ARIMAC memory

Any night with a beer around the fire place – always great company – always great conversation

What do you like best about being a member of Steel Makers Alpine Club?

Meeting like-minded ski bums – at a really great, family orientated, home away from home, seeing the families grow up

Get to know Peter McIndoe

Where do you work?

Port Kembla Steelworks

Committee role

Bookings Officer

How long have you been a member of ARIMAC?

10 years

How long have you been on the Committee?

3 Years

Ski or Snowboard?

Snowboard

Bike or Hike?

Bike 1st, Hike 2nd

Favourite ski resort

Thredbo

Favourite ARIMAC memory

The day I became the booking officer! :)

What do you like best about being a member of Steel Makers Alpine Club?

Access to an amazing lodge in Jindabyne.



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
  - Kurt Donovan

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Club Captain	arimac.captain@gmail.com
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www.steelmakersalpineclub.com	

Club Contact Details:

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