STEEL MAKERS ALPINE CLUB

Autumn 2025

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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



ARIMAC upon purchase I988

Hi all, as part of this newsletter, I thought I would include the 40th Anniversary speech I presented at our celebration, the day included nibbles, platters, some speeches, cake, and then barefoot bowls for any of the attendees who wanted to join in. It was great to see over 80 guests enjoying the afternoon.

Some of our Club's founding members shared some recollections. Frank Parovel, Ross Meaker and Gerry Campbell. They spoke from the heart of the building of the Lodge and Lodge family to what it is today.

"Thank you for coming along today to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Steel Makers Alpine Club and Gary for organising today's festivities.

The club started with some meetings of ski enthusiasts at the Steelworks Visitors Centre where the idea of a club and a family style lodge was proposed. I was at some of the early meetings, but, as a young apprentice at the time, my finances we low, so it took me a while to put together the funds to become a member. It was when we first took our eldest, Kelly, to the snow for the first time that we scraped together the joining fee and I am really pleased we were able to do that and be a part of this great club.

I suspect most of us here, have spent at least night or two, or more, at ARIMAC and hopefully enjoyed the family ambiance that started 40 years ago and continues to this day. The Spinner fireplace, in the centre of the lounge

area, holds many memories for me of drinks, naps, debates or just staring into the flames. I am sure the Lodge holds many memories for us all.

When you book your stay, you never know who else may be there. But you can be sure that at the end of your stay, you will have caught up with partners in crime from a previous stay, good friends or have made new friends. Strangers are only friends we haven't met yet.

I would like to thank the committee, not only the current group, but every single person who has contributed in this way, making decisions to ensure the future of our Steelmakers Alpine Club.

As a member, and current president, I can see that our future is secure, and set to continue, as it has for the last 40 years. The Lodge is a happy base camp, to enjoy our skiing and boarding in winter, along with bike-riding, hiking and fishing in summer.

Over the years our founding members, along with many others, have been driving forces in the development and improvement of Steelmakers. Join me in thanking all who have contributed, in big ways or small collectively, for their drive and passion to make ARIMAC what it is today, as Frank always says, 'our home away from home'.

Some Milestones to reflect on

- *1985 First meeting driven by Frank and Norm to make Steelmakers a reality*
- *1988 ARIMAC purchased, with 43 foundation members – how many are here today?*
- *1991 Loan repaid – big party to celebrate*
- *1992 mezzanine expanded and carpark upgraded*
- *1995 excavation to allow workshop and extra bathroom downstairs*
- *1996 an end to dorm style accommodation with double bunks installed*
- *2004 Junior Development Week started*
- *2008 Chernobyl installed (??new lounges installed) luxury!!*
- *2011 started accepting EFT payments*
- *2012 new dining tables installed – continuing the great tradition of shared meal times*
- *2023 instantaneous gas hot water installed – no one has a cold shower any more*
- *Life Members 13"*

And some thoughts to reflect on

How many meals have been shared around the dining tables?

How many kilos of cheese have been consumed with pre -dinner or afternoon drinks?

How many tonnes of firewood has been burnt as we enjoyed the fire?

And finally, how many bottles beer or red wine have we relaxed with?

Other members of the committee will provide more information about happenings in their respective areas.

Barry



ARIMAC upon purchase in 1988



ARIMAC Ski Team 1990

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.

Some of the things we have been asked to look at that you may not know about are:

- A request to have marked parking spaces to improve parking was discussed and deemed unnecessary as most people know the need to maximise parking.
- We looked at the bar area upstairs for use as a workstation for guests that had to do some work, but there were too many issues with reducing noise and also maintaining ventilation.
- After the last couple of poor Winter seasons and early finishes, we discussed changing the end of Winter and start of the Summer season, but left it as is because this year is going to be long and deep.
- Like most households we review our Electricity, Gas, and Bank yearly looking for better rates or conditions, and the Treasurer always manages to find or negotiate better terms, even though suppliers are limited in Jindabyne.

There have been no membership movements since the last newsletter, with total numbers still at 140. I have received a few updates to emails, addresses and phone numbers, so if any of these have changed please let me know. Our membership register is the only way we can keep you updated with changes and information.

Phase 1 & 2 booking periods are now closed, but here are some important dates for the rest of the year.

May

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

4th – **Annual General Meeting**

14th – Phase 3 bookings close

TBA – **Lodge Working Bee**

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

June

1st – Phase 4 bookings open, no restrictions

6th – Opening weekend

July

6th – Junior Development week 1 – School holidays

13th – Junior Development week 2 – School holidays

18/19th - Junior Development weekend

20th – Interschool Races

25/26th – Club weekend

27th – Peak season period commences

August

29th – Peak season period ends

October

18/19th – **Lodge Working Bee**

December

7th – **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.

I will explain the rules in the next newsletter after the season, for now just remember to keep your receipts.

Lastly can I ask again 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.

I hope to see many of you at the Lodge this season, and if you don't know somebody introduce yourself, it's always good to put faces to names.

Thanks,

Kevin

Social Directors Corner

Following on from Barry's comment with regard to the 40th Anniversary celebration.

Yes it was the biggest social event we have had for many years, and the 80 plus attendees seemed to enjoy themselves. Although some playing bowls had better not give up their day jobs to take up the sport professionally.



Gerry, Frank and Ross cutting the 40th anniversary cake

Although the weather on the day was more suited for spending the day in a pool, which is a great segue into our next major event which is our Steel Makers Christmas Party at Jamberoo. This is booked for **Sunday 7th December so please save the date,** it is a great day particularly for the young and young at heart.

See you soon.

Regards

Gary



What's a working bee without a lunch???

We need your photos!

It has been noticed by a number of members that we have some great memorabilia on display around the club, but it has been quite some time since any newer club memories have been added. To this end, the committee have been working on an initiative to provide a more dynamic presentation of club history up to the present.

This winter we have installed a digital frame that will cycle through photos and other items of interest related to the club history and present day activities.



We also have some members who have graciously offered to create some new photo albums for the inclusion of recent memories to go alongside our existing older albums dating back to our club beginnings.

To support these efforts we are asking members to upload photos that you would be happy to see on display in the lodge. Ideally we would like to receive full resolution images so that we can achieve maximum quality output.

By now you would have received an email from the club secretary with a link to a shared folder on Onedrive where you can upload your photos. If you have any difficulties, please contact Troy for assistance. Looking forward to seeing some of the great memories that people share.

Looking forward to seeing some of the great memories that people share!

Get to know Judy McCracken

Where do you work?
As a First Aid Trainer for the following RTOs: Red Cross, Surf Lifesaving, Australia Wide First Aid. Was an employee of BHP from 1986 till 1998.

Committee role
Committee member

How long have you been a member of ARIMAC?
Joined the year after foundation

How long have you been on the Committee?
Stint 1—somewhere in 1990 to somewhere in 1996—newsletter writer
Stint 2—Since 2019 I think.



Ski or Snowboard?
Ski.

Bike or Hike?
Neither, never ridden a bike

Favourite ski resort
Only been to NSW main resorts and South Island NZ. Throughly enjoyed Cardrona and Remarkables. I like to do the tour across all Perisher Resorts. Keen to try Japan.

Favourite ARIMAC memory

The early days when you could walk in on the start of a weekend and say "Hi Mum, I'm home" and familiar voices would reply, we'd all have a drink and relax together, stay up late, then get up and drive to mountain and ski. When we hosted the Interclub parties and the other clubs where impressed with our ability to put on a great party.
We used to get together even in summer and at members homes and celebrate

What do you like best about being a member of Steel Makers Alpine Club?
The comradery of the members, when you arrive there is always great friendship. Those members who have been there from the early days still spend the days skiing when we are in the lodge together, like catching up with family.

Introducing Kurt Donovan

Where do you work?
Fredon Industries as an electrical site supervisor.

Committee role
Committee member

How long have you been a member of ARIMAC?
12 years

How long have you been on the Committee?
About 2 years

Ski or Snowboard?
Snowboard

Bike or Hike?
Bike

Favourite ski resort
Tough one, between Revelstoke in Canada and Niseko in Japan

Favourite ARIMAC memory
Probably my first trip to the lodge after becoming a member. There was a lot of founding members present at the lodge and I remember feeling very welcomed as we all had a laugh and shared some stories around the fire place.

What do you like best about being a member of Steel Makers Alpine Club?
I like returning to the lodge for my first trip of the season each year and catching up with familiar faces.

Club Captain's Report

Welcome to the 2025 season. We have another great week of junior development teed up for the second week of the school holidays. This year we will be running three group lessons so we can spread the ability levels and the kids get the most from their lesson. Lots of social events will keep the kids occupied and I heard that a certain giant Arimac teddy bear might make an appearance again. Apparently he is very keen to try out the new chairlift at Mount Perisher! If you are interested but haven't booked yet, the lodge is currently full for this week, but still get in touch with Peter, as we often will book overflow accommodation in neighbouring lodges for this event when feasible.

On the technology front, there have been some upgrades to the network in East Jindabyne over the summer. Hopefully this will improve mobile data and internet during peak times in winter. We also have the new electronic picture frame installed, so be sure to upload some of your best Arimac photos to the file share (members should have received an email with details)- drop me a line if you have any trouble accessing. Don't forget also that we have an active Facebook group that is a great way to keep in touch with fellow members. See you at the lodge!

Some more 40th anniversary celebration photos







Your Committee

- **President:** Barry Neill
- **Vice President** Gary Perkins
- **Secretary:** Kevin Larkin
- **Treasurer:** Renato Compagnin
- **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
  - Kurt Donovan

Lodge Phone	02 6454 7173
Bookings	arimac.bookings@gmail.com 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
Newsletter	raychel_parovel@yahoo.com
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!