STEEL MAKERS ALPINE CLUB

Spring 2026

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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



A beautiful day on Kids Weekend

Hi all,

Well, I guess from a snow availability point of view, this year was probably the worst in my memory. Work commitments meant, apart from the May working bee, I didn't get to the Lodge for a ski holiday this season so luckily I didn't miss out on much!

Whilst I may not have enjoyed the snow this year, it was good to see many of you enjoying what snow was available. Our Club weekend was held again this year with members and their families getting involved in some skiing and other social events over the weekend. Next year, we are looking to reintroduce Club Races on this weekend, so stay tuned for more information on that.

ARIMAC joined the Interclub Races again this year for the first time in many years, The 6 or so Wollongong based Ski Clubs have an annual race day for seniors and juniors with each club taking it in turns to host the event. The ARIMAC Committee is keen to see the Club continue to be a part of this and other Interclub events, so we have agreed to subsidise entrance fees for any ARIMAC entrants. Contact our Club Captain Troy if you are interested in learning more about racing. See a report on this event elsewhere in the newsletter.

As you all know, our club is a family-oriented club. The committee is looking to continue to foster this atmosphere with events during summer and winter as well as post season activities organised. If you can, please include these in your calendars, as a lot of fun can be had, meeting and enjoying the company of your like-minded ski bums.

This year we have arranged two end-of-year events. The first is a late afternoon-evening for nibbles and drinks with barefoot bowls at Figgy Bowlo, and the second is our annual Kids Christmas Party which this year will involve tenpin bowling and/or laser tag for lunch and a couple of hours of fun. See flyers included in the newsletter for more details on these events and contact Judy, our Social Director if you can come.

We have our next Working Bee coming up in October. This is another great opportunity to help with the larger maintenance tasks at the Lodge, but also a chance to have a fun weekend with fellow Club members. We'd love to see some new faces at these Working Bees so again, see information in this newsletter for details.

Over recent times, the Committee has carried out some analysis of our bookings. We have 140 members but only about 50 of those are active in booking stays at the Lodge each year. This suggests that we have a lot of members who are just hanging onto their membership, paying their membership fees diligently every year, but not taking advantage of what the lodge has to offer either in Summer or Winter.

The Committee receives many requests from friends and families of members who have visited the Lodge and would like to become part of the ARIMAC family. We have an existing membership waiting list that has not decreased in size in many years. If you are no longer interested in using the lodge, the Committee is always open to a membership buy back arrangement where you can resign your membership and get your original $1500 loan back. This would allow some of the people on the waiting list to be offered membership to be able to use the Club facilities. If you are interested in this, please contact our Club Secretary.

Continuing with the family atmosphere theme, the Committee is also exploring ways to enable more members to use the Club in each booking lot. One way of doing this is returning to the shared room options that we had for many years before COVID hit us. This would allow more members and their guests to get a bed at the Lodge as the larger rooms will not be seen as "booked out" if there is only one two people in the room. Now that our world has returned to something like normal, we to can allow the Lodge to be fuller again. There have been times when all the rooms are "booked" but there may only be 10 or 12 people in the Lodge. With a bit of agreed sharing between booking parties the Lodge would be better utilised.

I hope to see lots of new and old faces at the various social events that your Committee has arranged. These will be a great low-pressure way to get to know your fellow members, and I am sure everyone attending will already have something in common to talk about. Snow or lack there of……..

Barry

From the Secretary's Desk

Hi Everyone, What a difference a year, and a strong El Niño weather pattern, makes. Last year we were talking about how great a season it was, even late in September. This year, the less said the better.

But, to paraphrase, "with no powder comes great sociability", or the opportunity to enjoy more Summer time at the lodge and club social events. These events have already been mentioned and are included in more detail in this newsletter, but in summary:

- Lawn Bowling, snacks, drinks, & dinner at Figtree Bowlo on October 10.
- Working Bee at the Lodge on the weekend of October 17/18.
- Arimac fishing weekend November 6-8.
- Tenpin Bowling, Laser Tag, food & drinks at Zone Bowling Albion Park Rail on November 14.
- Arimac mountain biking weekend November 27-29.
- Arimac hiking weekend December 11-13.

We hope to see you at one or more of these events.

Membership changes have been very limited since the last update, with only one members child joining to give us a total of 142. As Barry mentioned we are still looking to reduce our overall numbers and increase the participation rates, so if you are holding on to a membership but not staying at the lodge or joining any club events please consider whether it's still worthwhile.

Members' children have the opportunity to join as members in their own right between the ages of 18 and 21 (currently), with approval by the committee.

Something else we're trying to do related to membership is to get an understanding of our age demographic. The purpose of this is to determine when we might have a lot of people either resigning their membership, or children wanting to become members.

We have sent out a survey, we have many children's ages from development weeks, and I have been bugging people at the lodge and other places.

So it would be much appreciated if you could send me the ages of yourself, your children, and any other members that you know.

And as usual at this time of year, if you have incurred skiing/boarding expenses for your children, the club does offer subsidies, so put in a claim using the expense form located on our website, along with receipts. Or contact me.

Sláinte!,

Kevin



Brandon at the gates at the InterClub Races

Bookings Update

This season will have to go down as one of the worst on record, but the silver lining is this spring weather we are having right now. As expected, there were plenty of cancellations and no shows leaving the lodge under utilised in some lots. A few members have requested that the larger rooms be shared during these periods to increase the total number of members in the lodge. I will no longer be redacting the names from the room list to give members the opportunity to reserve a bed and share a room when they are available. Historically, the lodge has always been full to the brim in Winter and this is the environment the club wants to retain moving forward.

Bring on Summer!

Thanks,

Pete.

Join the fun at the working bee!

The October working bee is scheduled for the weekend of 17th and 18th with some of us arriving in the days before.

If you can make it we'd love to see you there. In recent years we haven't had large numbers turn up to these events so we're planning to make this more of a social event with less work and more partying.

The club will reimburse fuel costs and supply food and drink. Also you will be exempt from the annual club fees.

Please let me know if you'd like to attend on 0408 264 154 or gerrycam@bigpond.com.

Cheers Gerry

Club Captain

Thankyou to all the kids and parents for making junior development week such a success again. We got off to a slow start on the Monday with marginal snow and lift closures that meant even though we had the kids in club lessons, lift priority didn't make much difference to the wait times. Things quickly improved though and we got in some great skiing over calm sunny days that followed. The bear hunt was enjoyed by all with a couple of new faces on the hunt this year. Big Ted will be back again next year if your kids haven't made it to a junior week yet!

A large number of our club kids competed in the NSW Interschools this year with some great results. Congratulations to all, and we would love to see you come along next year to also compete for Arimac in the Illawarra Junior Interclubs.

This year marked the return of our club to the Illawarra Interclub events as well as the 50th anniversary for the Brian Donegan Memorial Illawarra Senior Interclub. Both the senior event and the Friedl Bartsch Illawarra Junior Interclub event were hosted by our friends at Maranatha this year. SMAC was warmly welcomed back into the fold by all the clubs and we had a wonderful time both competing and celebrating at the after parties put on by Maranatha. SMAC did exceptionally well with only a very small team of 4 skiers across the senior GS events and 2 in the cross country, coming in 5th out of the 6 clubs. With more competitors to accumulate points in all events we could easily climb the ranks. For the junior event we tried to get an additional late entrant in but wound up with only one competitor this year - with Brandon doing extremely well coming in 4th in the GS (combined time, and 3rd fastest time).

Next year we are hoping to be able to once again organise a race with Perisher just for our club members. I will make sure we get all the details out with the booking forms next year so hopefully we can get a good turnout at all events. Get in touch if you are at all interested or have any concerns. These races are social in nature and you don't need to be any sort of expert or to have even raced before.

With the early end to the season its now time to start thinking about mountain biking and fishing again. Be sure to get in some use of the lodge over the summer, and I hope to catchup soon.

Summer Activities Update

The SMAC committee are organising some summer activities with the view of getting more members, their families and friends down to the lodge outside of winter. These activities will be self-funded and self-equipped but will be facilitated by Rod Valdivia, a member of the committee. Rod is a keen fisho and has fished Lake Jindabyne several times over the years and is happy to give some hints and tips on locations, baits and lures. He is also an avid Mountain bike rider who has ridden Thredbo multiple times over the last few years. He has also hiked a few of the trails around Kozi National Park. Normal individual summer rates will apply for staying at the lodge. The activities are as follows:

- **Fishing** – This will be a combination of boat/kayak or shore-based fishing. All members attending will need to ensure they have a fishing license (unless you are entitled to an exemption under NSW DPI rules). Dates are the weekend of 6-8 Nov 26. Rod has a couple of spare fishing rods he may be happy to lend out for those who may not have one!
- **Mountain Biking** – This will be a combination of DH riding at Thredbo Mountain Bike Park or for those who would prefer something a little flatter, a XC ride along the Thredbo Valley Track. Those riding DH at Thredbo MTB Park will need to organise their own lift pass for the day/s. There are several places in Jindabyne and Thredbo that have bikes for hire, for those who don't have one. Dates are 27-29 Nov 26
- **Hiking** – Trail locations will be chosen based on ability/ fitness levels, with potential to break into a couple of groups if required. Dates are 11-13 Dec 26.

Please note that Rod, although committed to facilitate during those dates above, may not be able to attend due a change in personal circumstances and if this occurs he will look to see if someone attending is happy to facilitate on his behalf. Numbers for each activity will be limited to ensure each participant gets a bed in the lodge. The plan for each activity is to travel to the lodge on Friday, conduct the activity on the Saturday and return home on Sunday. People who have the time are more than welcome to stay longer. Speak to the Booking Officer to book anything extra. If an activity is cancelled due to inclement weather, an alternate date will be looked at sometime in early 2027.

For those members who are keen, please reach out to Rod on rocket439@hotmail.com. Cut off dates for confirming your attendance will be 2 weeks prior to the weekend. Any queries, throw them Rod's way!

Remembering Rossco

On the morning of 31 August, a few of our members too some time to remember our dear friend, Ross Meaker, and sprinkle some of his ashes on one of his favourite places. It was also an opportunity to reflect on all of our dear friends who are no longer with us. "They only truly die when we stop remembering them"



John McCloskey, Jeff Humphries, Gery Campbell, Eileen Campbell, John Purcell, and Chris Purcell remembering Rossco at the top of Leichhardt

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:** Judy McCracken
- **Web Manager:** Troy Flinn
- **Committee Members:**
  - Rod Valdivia
  - Greg Perkins
  - Raychel Davis
  - Phil Burnard

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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!



Some of the action from the Interclub Races After Party Presentation