STEEL MAKERS ALPINE CLUB

Summer 2025

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WELCOME!

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

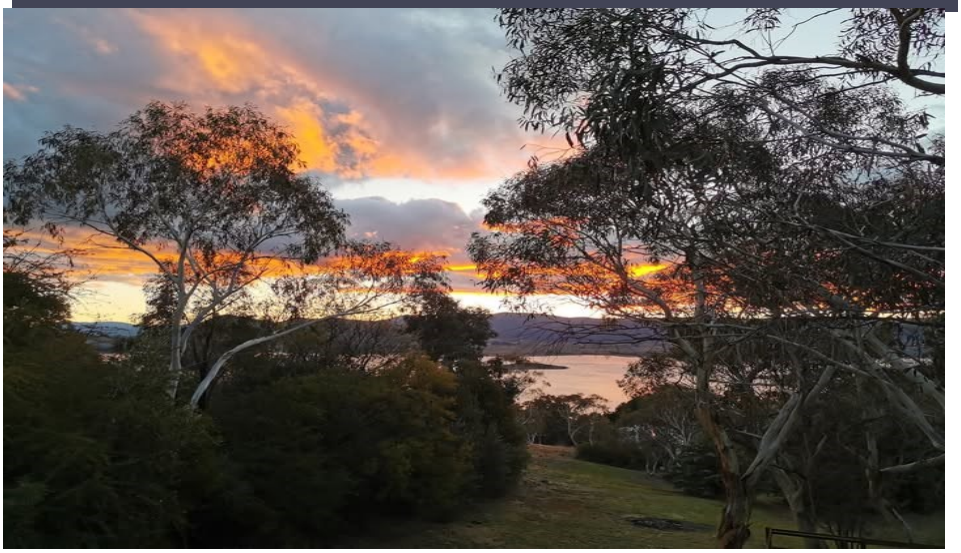
If you have any suggestions for future editions, or any photos for inclusion, please email them to raychel_parovel@yahoo.com

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



Who can resist that view???

Hi all, what a great season this year. It started early with the workers at the preseason working bee being treated to 2" of snow at the Lodge when we woke on Saturday morning, what a great sight. The falls on the mountains seem to come just before my bookings, so I really lucked out with 2 weeks of great snow and almost perfect conditions.

The committee has been working in the background to ensure the facilities at the Lodge are there for all to enjoy, the new fridges and new curtains were installed, and the ski tuning vices were readied for the ski season in the workshop and then removed afterwards.

A new monitor has been installed on the wall outside Room 3 that is now cycling through photos of old and new memories from members. If you have any photos you would like to add, please contact someone on the committee.

The position of Lodge Captain is one that has the responsibility of looking after the day to day life of the lodge during our stays. This is a position that our Booking Officer delegates, to members, on behalf of the committee and the committee expects that everyone respects this role.

Jamberoo Action Park day, our end of year get-together, is on again this year and tickets have been ordered. Please make sure you have this day as part of your calendar. The committee has agreed to subsidise some of the costs for this event to make this day affordable for members and their families. A BBQ lunch and drinks will be provided.

If you have any articles, you would like added to future newsletters, don't be shy - send them in. Our editor is always looking for content.

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

That's all from me, the rest of the newsletter will be a good read, with articles from others on the committee.

Enjoy your summer and Christmas time activities and I hope to see you somewhere

Barry

From the Secretary's Desk

I was reading my article from this time last year and it said how light the snowfalls, lodge improvements, and membership changes were. What a difference a year makes!

Snow has been plentiful and there's been lots of action on the membership and lodge improvement front. I'll leave the last one for others to expand on.

The snow was so good this year that I did something for the first time – skied in late September. The snow was still over 2m, there were no crowds on the slopes, the roads, in town, or at the Lodge. Literally there was no one at the lodge the week I stayed. The best part was sleeping in, leaving late, empty roads and carpark, and still getting to the lifts just after opening.

There were plenty of membership changes this year. We've had 1 application from a members' child (with another pending), no resignations, but 3 membership transfers, and 1 new application. Our total member numbers still remains at 141.

Member's children are eligible to take up membership in their own right from 18 to 21 but after 18 they are no longer classed as member's children, they become either a member's guest or an associate member. Contact me for more information.

Unfortunately we also lost one of our long time members and club stalwart Ross Meaker, who passed away in August. He will be remembered for his service to the club as our long running Secretary, on Working Bees, at Club functions, and always enjoying the camaraderie at all events. Everyone has different memories of Rossco, from the 'Fat Controller' of overseas ski trips; a lover of good food, wine, and cars; his artistic photography of landscapes and the snowy mountains region; or falling asleep at the lodge with a glass of red nearby. Whatever else, he loved skiing and everything associated. Vale Ross.

We've had a lot of communications from members this year which is great to see. Regardless of the suggestions or ideas, all input from members is welcome and nothing is turned down without a discussion by the committee. If I am slow in getting back to you it is probably because we're waiting for the next committee meeting, but all emails will be addressed. Keep 'em coming.



Snow at the lodge—9 June 2025

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

Kevin

October Working Bee Update

Another working bee is done and dusted. As always here's the list of everything we did.

- Sliding door rollers replaced in dining room door and adjacent rm 3
- BBQ repaired - replaced doors and frames, resecured front facia, reglued loose tiles
- Resiliconed kitchen bench tops
- Changed door codes
- Assessed curtains for cleaning and/or replacement
- Checked retaining wall movement
- Replaced chord plugs on microwaves
- Replaced kitchen GPOs
- Replaced bedroom lights with dimmer set up
- Assessed fireplace and decided on maintenance plan
- Upgraded laundry shelf and installed wall hooks
- Replaced defibrillator batteries, pads and prep kit
- Repaired room divider curtain room 6 (temp to be finished in May)
- Installed Rossco's plaque
- Had doona covers laundered
- Repaired broken reading lamp
- Put away ski vices
- Cleaned top of wardrobe 3
- Carried out liquid trade waste inspection with council inspector
- Oiled dining tables
- Sprayed weeds on paths
- Cleaned bathroom fans
- Removed thorn bush from side driveway
- Repaired kitchen fly screen
- Repaired holes in cutlery baskets
- Repaired grout in entry floor tiles
- Audited first aid kit
- Cleaned car park drains
- Tidied and organised book shelf
- Sanded and painted bbq stair handrail
- Cleaned oven
- Tightened loose curtain tracks



The October Working Bee Crew

Some of these tasks involved a lot of hard work and sweat that isn't reflected in this brief description. Brian also suffered a nasty thorn spike through his glove resulting in a painful swollen hand.

The whole lodge was also thoroughly cleaned, especially the kitchen.

Many thanks to the attendees: Amanda and Brian, John and Chris, Barry and Sarah, Judy, Petra, Troy, Eileen and myself. Cheers Gerry

Club Captain's Report

Junior development week was once again a great success with good snow and loads of fun for the kids both on and off the snow. The club put on lessons for all kids at the beginning of the week and it was great to see the improvements everyone made during the week (special mention to Ari !).

The annual bear hunt took place around Perisher this year with one teddy bear being injured while not wearing a helmet and being collected by Ski Patrol, and Big Ted being found lost in the woods off Snowy Trails near the Leichhardt terrain park.

As usual party night was a late one for the kids, but the adults were treated to something new this year, with a spectacular glow-stick display in the back yard, rivaling the Sydney Harbour fireworks on new year's eve! The kids art auction was also a great success on the night with over $160 raised for Snowy Mountains Wildlife Rescue.

If you are considering junior week next year and have kids that would prefer a snowboarding lesson over skiing, please let me know early in 2026, as I always book the lessons as soon as they go on sale in March-April to avoid missing out during the busy school holiday period.

If you visited the lodge this season you will have noticed a new digital picture frame on the wall in the living area. We are slowly accumulating photos from members to display on rotation and preserve memories. To share photos for the frame, please upload them to the link provided to all members by email, and also available as a QR code next to the frame when you are at the lodge. Please note that standalone portrait photos do not display particularly well with the landscape orientation of the frame. It would be appreciated when submitting photos that they be edited to make a collage (in 16:9 aspect ratio) when submitting portrait oriented photos. The same goes for landscape photos - if you want them to look their best, set your camera mode to 16:9 (most phone cameras support this), or crop the photo to 16:9 (note the display resolution is 1920x1080).

While Arimac is currently not a racing club, please let me know if you have any interest in social racing. If ever enough interest returns, the committee may consider once again joining the Illawarra Interclubs events. Perisher is beginning a return to support of these events with early confirmation of schedules for next year. The 2026 Brian Donegan Memorial Senior Illawarra Interclub event will be held on 1st August, and the Friedl Bartsch Memorial Junior Illawarra Interclub will be held on 29th August.

Have a great summer everyone, and make sure you enjoy the lodge in the summer season too!

Troy

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 Mtn 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. At this stage, we have chosen some dates for each activity with a backup date for each, in the event of the first activity dates being cancelled due to bad weather or lack of attendance.



Some of the kids during Junior Development Week

The activities are:

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). Initial dates are the weekend of 24-26 Oct 25 with back up dates of 29-31 May 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 Mtn 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. Initial dates are 28-30 Nov 25 with back up dates of 10-12 Apr 26.

Hiking – Trail locations will be chosen based on ability/fitness levels, with potential to break into a couple of groups if required. Initial dates are 12—14 Dec 25 with back up dates of 27-29 Mar 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.

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!

Catch up with Frank at ARIMAC



Frank at ARIMAC, September October 2024

As many of your know, our founding President Frank Parovel (my dad) is unable to ski these days and as a result, doesn't get to the lodge anymore. He misses the lodge and the Club a lot and the friends he made over the years.

A few people have expressed a desire to catch up with him once again and reminisce about fun times, so we have arranged a weekend to take him down to his beloved ARIMAC.

If you would like to join, details are below:

When: Friday 13th March—Sunday 15th March

Bookings—submit booking form as usual, noting it is for the catch up with Frank

RSVP—final numbers need to be confirmed by 2nd March 2026

Once we know numbers and who is going to come, we can discuss options for a meal for the Saturday night.

Hoping you can join us

Raych

Get to know Troy Flinn

Where do you work?

I work for DXC in consulting, but currently doing project work for BlueScope Steel in Port Kembla

Committee role

Club Captain

How long have you been a member of ARIMAC?

Since 1988

How long have you been on the Committee?

Not sure exactly, but over 10 years now.

Ski or Snowboard?



Ski, but snow-board once in a while.

Bike or Hike?

Bike

Favourite ski resort

I've been fortunate enough to ski all around the world, so a very difficult question to answer straight up. I don't think you can beat Whistler/Blackcomb for steeps, but my true love is that "cold smoke" powder you get in Colorado and Utah, deep and in the trees, and since Utah is the most reliable for this kind of powder, Snowbird/Alta takes the crown. Favorite family destination though is Breckenridge.

Favourite ARIMAC memory

Those first early years of introducing my kids to skiing and seeing how much they instantly loved the sport.

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

A great group of like minded people in the membership - passionate about the mountains and snowsport, and a family atmosphere.

Introducing Greg Perkins

Where do you work?

Open Spaces maintenance Coordinator at Shellharbour City Council

Committee role

Committee member

How long have you been a member of ARIMAC?

15 years

How long have you been on the Committee?

This is my first year on the committee.

Ski or Snowboard?

Ski

Bike or Hike?

Bike



Favourite ski resort

Perisher, (I have only skied in Australia)

Favourite ARIMAC memory

A funny memory that always sticks out in my mind. One night after skiing all day, I had a 'boys' look and didn't realise I was drinking another members red wine until I was had drank half their bottle. Lucky for me, everyone had a laugh and we then shared my bottle around the fire together.

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

Having an amazing club and lodge to make long lasting family memories.

Jamberoo Christmas Party

Our Christmas party is on at Jamberoo Action Park again on Sunday, 7th December

Please note this is a member's only event with each member able to bring one 'guest' and their children only.

Tickets will be handed out just outside the entrance to the park from 9:45am to 10:30am. If you arrive after this time, just text me on 0414 241 851 and I will bring out your tickets.

Cost: $50 per head for Members, Members Guest and Members Children. This includes a Club subsidised entry ticket, nibbles and drinks, a BBQ lunch and a small lolly bag for the younger children.



Similar to last year, we are allowing each Member's Child to bring one friend along if they wish. The child's friend is the responsibility of the Member, arrangements must be made for them to purchase their own entry ticket from Jamberoo Action Park. Steel Makers will not be providing our subsidised tickets to them. You must still include them in your numbers as a Member Child's friend purely for catering purposes. Please provide the number and age of the children attending and any allergy concerns.

All people wishing to attend please email Judy arimac.social@gmail.com. You will be required to complete a waiver for the Park's risk management.

Final numbers and payment must be made by Friday 22nd November 2025. Please put your "Surname Jamberoo" as the reference when paying.

Bank details: Steel Makers Alpine Club BSB 814 282 Account Number: 4208 3876

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:**
  - Amanda Moran
  - Rod Valdivia
  - Greg Perkins
  - Raychel Davis

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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!