STEEL MAKERS ALPINE CLUB

Winter 2023

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Report	Page 1
From the Secretary's Desk	Page 2
Junior Subsidies	Page 2
Treasurer's Report	Page 3
Club Captain Update	Page 3
Bookings	Page 4
Maintenance Update	Page 4
Public Transport to the Slopes	Page 5
Vale Tony Franjic	Page 5
New Ski Tuning Station	Page 7
Club Contact Details:	Page 8

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



Spring Snow at ARIMAC Photo Credit John Purcell

Hi to all our members and their families, I hope this newsletter finds you well.

Firstly, a huge thankyou to the committee who have put in time and effort to continue to manage the requirements of the Lodge.

Secondly, the Secretary's article reports on what the committee have been working on this year, and some very relevant information for members - so please ensure you read this.

Thirdly, our Club AGM was held at the end of April with reports given and questions from the floor answered, as possible at the time. The sentiments have been taken on board for discussion and consideration by the committee, So thanks to all who attended and provided their insights. The Booking System offers the ability to analyse the data and this can be used for future planning.

Fourthly, at the last working bee, a draft plan for lodge equipment replacement was developed, Gerry's maintenance report will expand on this, so again please read his article so you can see where we propose to spend our funds.

On a more disappointing note, the committee is concerned that liberties are being taken by some members and their guests, in particular bringing bikes inside the Lodge without proper consideration. The committee is aware of the investment members have made in their

bikes, but the Lodge is not a garage. We all know there are ways of securing bikes in or on cars, just like skis in winter. It is the strong preference of the committee, that bikes are not brought inside. If you absolutely must bring your bikes inside please ensure you leave no trace of them ever being there - a drop sheet or similar under the bike at a minimum and consideration others that may be staying at the same time or arrive while you are there.

If you have suggestions on how the club could improve storage, we are listening, as summer bike riding in the mountains is becoming almost as popular as winter skiing and we hope to cater for all member's needs.

As always, If you have any question about our club and its operations, please contact one of the committee members.

Hoping we all have a safe and enjoyable winter.

Barry

From the Secretary's Desk

This year has been a busy one in a number of areas, from Membership, to the Booking system, the Covid Plan and Constitution Review.

Membership movements have been busy in the past year after a couple of very quiet years. We've had 7 applications from members' children, and all have been accepted.

Our oldest skiing member John Burnard reluctantly hung up the skis last year and resigned his membership. He was an inspiration to many.

We also lost a long time member, Tony Franjic, who passed away earlier this year. Tony was a foundation member, a recently retired committee member who held multiple positions over the years, and an active participant in club events and working bees. As his son David said, our club was like a second family. May he rest in peace.

Member's children are eligible to take up membership in their own rite 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 the Club secretary Kevin for more information.

Our Covid Plan was reviewed and revised a couple of times, to keep it in line with current government requirements and standards. We have removed most of the Covid related requirements, only keeping those related to good hygiene and cleanliness practices.

We also reviewed our Constitution again as a result of changes by NSW Fair Trading and their changes for Incorporated Associations, which we are. They had modified their Model Constitution and advised that clubs should check their own constitution to see whether the Model or the individual club constitution applied.

Although we based ours on the Model constitution, we didn't adopt it wholly, which meant that ours is still applicable and does not need to change.

If anyone is interested and wants to know more contact me and I'll give you the details.

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.

Kevin

Junior Subsidies

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 have recently been discussed and confirmed, and 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

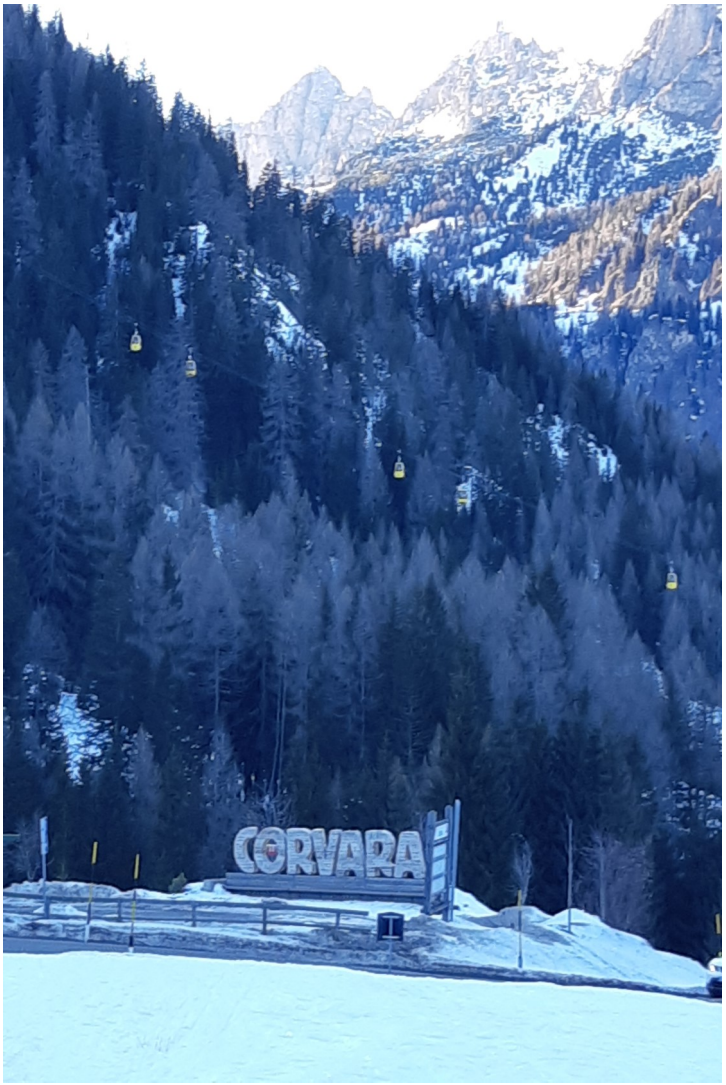
Treasurer's Report

Our Club's finances are still in a strong financial position, as reported at our AGM and also with a healthy cash balance after another great summer occupancy level. Winter 2023 booking revenue is just about matching winter bookings of last year at this point in time, so we are back on track after the pandemic affected seasons of 2020 and 2021. Costs are rising though, especially energy costs. If you haven't yet paid your 2023 annual subs, issued in early January, please do this asap. In the last week or so I have emailed statements to everyone with outstanding invoices. Payments for 2023 annual subs are now overdue and you cannot make a booking until they are paid. We have been sending out the annual subs invoices via MYOB software for a number of years now. 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 to a bumper snow season and fun times this winter!

Regards

Amanda



Dolomites in February (Photo Credit: Amanda Moran)



The Flinn's enjoying skiing in Japan (Photo credit: Troy Flinn)

Club Captain's Update

Welcome to the 2023 season. After fabulous conditions in Japan with the kids earlier this year, I am praying to the snow gods to provide more of the same down under!

This year we once again have a bunch of fun activities planned for the kids attending Junior Development Week during the school holidays. If you have young kids and haven't attended one of these before, I highly recommend trying to secure a booking in the coming seasons. The kids enjoy both on and off snow activities during the week and get to socialise with other kids in the club, often forming lifetime friendships and always taking home wonderful memories.

The Club weekend this year should be an enjoyable social event for all attending. Due to a waning interest in racing amongst members, the committee has decided to no longer take out the necessary Club Snowsports Insurance that allows us to participate in resort hosted races. In the absence of the usual club race, we will have another fun, competitive activity on snow to keep everyone "amused"….

Please get in touch with me if you do have an interest in competing in either club or inter club races in the future. If we start to get a groundswell of interest again at some point in the future, the committee will re-evaluate. Meanwhile if any member's kids are competing in Interschools or other events this season, we'd all love to hear how it goes and include something in the end of season newsletter.

Hope to see you all out on the mountain

Troy



Renato sporting retro Club Attire at the working bee

Bookings

The Lodge has been busy as the season is the finally kicking off. Peak Season is booked out but there are still plenty of rooms available, especially midweek. I will continue to send out the vacancies available every fortnight. I will also try and get back to you straight away for any last minute bookings. Good Luck and have a good season!

Pete.

Maintenance Update

Once again a successful working bee was held in May, here's a list of the work we carried out.

1. Repaired loose towel rails in bathrooms 3 & 4
2. Installed new fanlight in bathroom 4
3. Installed ski tuning station in workshop
4. Installed new shelf over laundry tub
5. Cleared and repaired stormwater down pipe and drain outside room 4
6. Repaired rotted roof joist ends and capped with Colorbond
7. Painted roof joist end repairs and touched up deck handrails
8. Replaced clock in kitchen
9. Repaired car park lights
10. Sprayed and weeded paths
11. Secured polycarbonate roofing above garbage bins
12. Repaired cold water tap in laundry
13. Cleaned BBQ
14. Dymo labelled kitchen cupboards, drawers and fridge shelves
15. Sorted all kitchenware back into correct place
16. Placed flue cleaner cartridges in fireplaces, please do not remove
17. Cleaned car park and stormwater drains
18. Cleaned firewood crates and storage area and stacked firewood
19. Cleaned up and burnt debris from car park and lodge surrounds
20. Restocked consumables for workshop, bathrooms and kitchen
21. Checked 1st aid kit and supplied spare electrodes for AED
22. Carried out onsite assessment with committee members re mattress, fridge and curtain replacement
23. Carried out whole of lodge cleaning including de-cobwebbing outside doors and deck

Attendees

- Eileen and Gerry Campbell
- John Purcell
- David Butler
- Kevin Larkin
- Judy McCracken
- Renato Compagnin
- Merry Duxbury
- Sarah and Barry Neill
- Troy and Brandon Flinn



Dave Butler hard at work at the Working Bee

After assessment by onsite committee members it was decided that the double mattresses will be replaced in Oct 2023, the fridges to be further assessed during winter 2023 now that fridge space has been assigned to each room and curtains to be replaced as needed in Oct 2024.

Replacement mattresses have been priced from several suppliers with prices ranging from around $350 up to $1500. The final decision to be made closer to replacement date with the lower priced ones being the preference.

Cheers Gerry

Public Transport to the Slopes!

Snowy Mountains Bus Service will again run this year, providing a service from Jindabyne to the ski tube, Perisher and Thredbo. This year, a free park and ride service will also be available from East Jindabyne to the Station Resort where you can catch the bus to the slopes.

Buses will run from Jindabyne every 30 minutes in peak. You can also drive to the Station and park your car for free before you catch the bus to the slopes.

The trip from Jindabyne to Perisher and Thredbo will take 45 minutes. It will take 20 minutes from East Jindabyne to the Station.

Tickets for the Jindabyne to Perisher or Thredbo service are $21 return or $12 one way for adults and $11 return or $6 one way for children / concessions. This includes pass entry fees.

Jindabyne to Ski tube tickets are $15 return for adults and $7 for children/ concession

Bookings are encouraged so you are guaranteed a seat.

Timetable and ticket bookings are available on www.coomacoaches.com.au/snowy-mountains-bus-service



Working bee action

Vale Tony Franjic



Tony Franjic (source: Facebook)

Sadly, ARIMAC lost another one of the greats in March this year, with Tony Franjic passing away. Gerry Campbell was asked by Janene, David and Danielle to speak at his funeral service about his skiing life. Here were his thoughts

Firstly, I'd like pass on our deepest condolences to Janene, Danielle, David and the family from the committee and members of the Steelmakers Alpine Club. Tony was a much loved friend to all of us.

My friendship with Tony started through our ski club and our love of skiing, and I am privileged that his family has asked me to speak about this part of his life.

Tony joined our club in 1986 as a foundation member and he served as a committee member from 1990 to 2002 including a brief stint as maintenance officer in 1993. He was vice president from 2003 to 2016 and then a committee member again from 2016 to 2019. In recognition for the tireless contributions he made to the club he was awarded life membership in 2006.

Now a brief word on snow skiing, for the non skiers here it's difficult to explain why a seemingly sane person would spend huge sums of money to strap unmanageable boards to their feet and, lemming like, throw themselves off steep hills, but that's what we do, why? Because it's fun, and that was what Tony did best, he was always having fun. So having said that, where do I start?.

Probably with that smile, he greeted us with it every time we met, often with a mischievous glint in his eye when we knew we were about to get hit with a silly play on words or one of his dad jokes. Usually something like “where’s ya bin?, no, no, where’s ya wheelie bin?”.

I first saw his smile at our ski lodge nearly 40 years ago when our after dinner drinks and conversation revealed kindred spirits and led to the start of so many years of skiing, so many years of happy, funny experiences. These often involved Frank Parovel, Barry Wilson, Mike Mitchell, John Purcell and a few others. Not all of them ended well for Tony, we seemed to be sending him home broken a lot, and I know Chris Cameron will say “not only Tony”. One memorable early occasion was at Thredbo when Tony injured his knee at the top of the mountain. It was early in the day so Barry and I, being the caring mates that we are, helped Tony, who wasn’t even able to walk, back onto the chairlift to ride down the hill. We wished him good luck and continued to ski. When the lifts closed at the end of day we found him in the bar still waiting for us, which was good because we were travelling in his car.

This troubling trend continued over several years to the point where we were afraid to face Janene, who we were sure was going to ban Tony from ever skiing with us again. It was around this time that Tony’s skiing was improving but he would inevitably start running wide in his turns as his speed increased. This led to a number of collisions with others and earned him the nickname “take out Tony”, with one of our mates complaining that Tony had traversed across the whole side of the hill to take him out.

Another occasion involved my wife Eileen when Tony unwisely attempted to overtake on a narrow trail, she was far more forgiving than I was.

Tony also loved his driving and I remember one harrowing trip up Macquarie Pass with him on our way to the lodge. I commented that he seemed to be revving the engine hard and he replied that he had difficulty reading the instruments so just changed gear when the taco needle reached the vertical position, close to red line. This earned him another nickname “redline Tony”.

As the years progressed our kids shared the ski adventures and I remember the first time we met young David, who at about 7 or 8 was learning to ski. We were at the top of the hill and us old, wise heads were discussing the safest trail for David to follow. We turned to David to point the way but he was gone, disappearing into the distance, head down, bum up in a flying wedge straight down the fall line. I was terrified that we were now going to send the son home broken as well, but he was safe and well and has since proved to be a superb skier.

Talking about David has reminded me of a father and son moment with Tony and David. We were in a condo in Canada when teenage David unwisely got involved in a drinking session with some of our other tour members. Our whole condo was awoken in the early hours by David being noisily, violently ill in the bathroom. Eventually Tony stuck his head out of his room “are you alright son?” “Oh dad I’m sick” “OK then son I’ll see you in the morning”. And he went back to bed.

While talking skiing I guess I should mention Tony’s brother Mark, who has been on the hill with us on more than one occasion. I remember Tony, myself and Eileen following Mark and our boys (David and our son Ben) around various locations for Mark to get video footage for whichever project he was working on. As parents we had some heart stopping moments when the boys went to extremes to get some exciting content. I also remember Mark walking briskly across the car park as his ancient ski boots disintegrated on his feet but that’s another story.

A huge part of our friendship with Tony has involved our ski club and our ski lodge where so many of our fondest memories were made. This includes all of those overseas trips that were managed by our reluctant tour guide Rossco, where we had hilarious adventures, especially when Tony and Frank “helped” to organise the unruly group. Both were deaf as posts and nobody could get a word in once the shouting started. Then there was that one time when unfortunately I used the phrase “trust me I know this good run” . Back then I never wore my glasses when skiing and misread the trail sign that said “double black diamond, expert skiers only”. We ended up in a very bad place but managed to survive with a few minor injuries, though I will admit that Tony’s white polo neck really hi lighted the blood from the wound on his neck. He never ever let me forget it.

As part of the upkeep of our lodge we hold regular working bees and, as the maintenance manager, it’s my job to organise these. I had two rock solid assistants helping me, being Tony and John Purcell. We worked well together, although it probably didn’t seem that way as our work process involved a lot of shouting and blaming each other, it was always so much fun. All three of us have had management experience from our working lives but vastly different approaches to any task, it somehow worked for us and through it we have forged a bond much stronger than simple friendship. Tony was always able to manage any task asked of him and to lead those helping him. He was insistent that his ethnic heritage made him a natural for any concreting, paving or tiling job. He said it was bred into him. As such we called him the mud master and he always got the mix perfect. As I mentioned, our work ritual involved a lot of good natured shouting and somehow Tony also ended up being called the apprentice, a name I think he enjoyed,



Tony on Peak 10, Breckenridge (2009)

and played to the max.

In preparation for this eulogy Eileen and myself started searching through our hundreds and hundreds of old photos, looking for those with Tony in them. There were so many and so many occasions we had forgotten about. It brought back old memories, great memories, far too many to mention in these few simple words. All of those nights when we drank too much and still managed first lifts with terrible headaches, all of those wonderful meals, all of that excitement at exploring a new ski resort in a new country, and the laughing,

That was Tony, Always laughing, always cheerful, always able to see the humour in any situation, that smile that could brighten a room and oh, those terrible dad jokes that made us groan and shake our heads but we loved them and him anyway.

His passing has left a huge hole in our lives, I still can't believe he's gone, but I believe his spirit is still with us and will accompany us along our snowy trails.

New Ski Tuning Station Installed

Our Club Captain Troy has carried out extensive research to source and procure some great ski and board tuning equipment which was set up for member's use in the workshop at the working bee. Please look after this gear and put items back in their place after use so that they don't go missing.

We now have a solid set of ski vices with attachments for snowboards and cross country skis, as well a proper waxing iron with accurate temperature settings. The committee also agreed to provide a once off supply (1kg) of general purpose wax for members to use this season with the new equipment. We'll see how that goes, and how long it lasts - (please don't waste).

We also have edge guides and diamond files for tuning your edges, a sidewall trimmer, brass brush for cleaning the structure of your bases pre-waxing, ski and snowboard scrapers for post waxing, steel scraper for base repairs, base edge bevel guide, and a gummy stone for polishing edges or detuning tips.





The new ski tuning station—thanks Troy!

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

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!