



Snow Country Snippets

February 2015

Club News Sheet Editor - Meg Brannon
Please send items to megbrannon@bigpond.com

Welcome to the first *Snow Country Snippets* for 2015.....

If you have any Club related news or ski holiday pics, don't forget to send them to the above email address and we'll include in an upcoming newsletter.

Happy New Year !

The Board takes this opportunity to wish all members and their families a very happy and prosperous 2015 !

This year is an important year for the Club with a number of key initiatives outlined below being commenced to help position our Club for future sustainability.

Booking system

- In conjunction with our current booking officer and webmaster, the Board is investigating an online booking system that will incorporate our member registry and website. The introduction of the system will improve the efficiency and security of our current booking processes as well as streamlining our subscriptions processes and improving communications with members. We hope to launch this system to members before the season commences. More news on this one soon...



Jindabyne Lodge

- The Club has invested in Jindabyne Lodge over the past 18 months with some room refurb's, the addition of interconnecting doors to some rooms, improvements to the managers quarters and most recently the introduction of TV's in rooms 1, 2, 3, 4, 9 & 10. All of these changes will assist the lodge secure more member and non-member occupancy, particularly in the summer months, which will deliver much needed revenue to support the ongoing viability of Jindabyne. We don't envisage the need for significant capital expenditure on Jindabyne Lodge in the near term, and will review options around marketing the lodge outside our member base to increase lodge income. We encourage all members to promote the facility to friends, family and your associated groups as a holiday destination to assist in driving higher occupancy.



Smiggins Lodge

- As many of you would know, our Smiggins Lodge is starting to show the signs of the harsh environment it has endured for the last 50 years. Recently the Board engaged an engineer and quantity surveyor to appraise the condition of the building and estimate the costs of repair. Although not imminently required, it is fair to say Smiggins requires significant maintenance if we are to extend the life of the lodge for another 50 years while avoiding costly emergency repairs in the future. Areas of maintenance include replacing leaking windows, damaged eaves and cladding, roof repairs and decking maintenance. We will be constrained by building regulations, government authorities and our finances as to what changes we can make to the lodge, and over what timeframe. The Board is reviewing our options and the costs involved. Further communication with members on the outcome of this work will be delivered through newsletters and at the AGM in May.

Social Media

- As part of our communication approach to members, we will be launching (relaunching) a Facebook page for Snow Country. We'll be up and running before the season starts and let you know once we're live so you can LIKE us and share with your friends.

So lots on and lots to do before the winter is once again upon us. In the meantime, please look for opportunities to support the Club by using the lodge facilities, and **importantly tell your friends/colleagues and associations about our Club lodges also.**



We look forward to catching up during the season.

Gavin

Club President

REMINDER - Subscriptions are NOW DUE

All members would have received their subscriptions notices for 2015. We look forward to prompt payment - remember, you're unable to book accommodation if you have outstanding or overdue subs.

***** Also the Club is still accepting applications for new memberships *****

Have you got friends that would like to join Snow Country? Or may be you're thinking about membership for your spouse or kids?

Detailed information on membership can be found at the Snow Country website. Remember, immediate family of current financial members pay **only half** of the usual joining fee.

If you require any further information or would like to discuss membership please contact **David Carr (0418 280 693)** or **Michael Brannon (0411 735 283)**



Junior Development Program - 2015

The SCSC Junior Development Program for Junior Members and children of Members of school age is conducted over several days during the July school holidays for **children skiers of Level 4 and above.**

Over the many years that the JDP has operated, the children who have been involved in this program have not only improved their skiing/snowboarding abilities, raced for the club, but have also made lasting friendships with other club members.

We are currently looking for expressions of interest/applications for the program this season. It is anticipated the dates for the training programme this year will be **July 5-8**. If there are sufficient numbers we may consider a second JDP in the first week of the school holidays from 28 June - 1 July.

Please complete the attached application form and forward by email to the Club Captain John Hopkins by 1 March 2015 at:

hoppo19@bigpond.com

The table below should be used to assess your child's skiing ability. Please try and be accurate as it assists the organising appropriate instructors. The participants will also be graded prior to the commencement of the program to ensure they are placed in a group suitable for their ability.

The programme is sponsored by the Club and includes instruction in alpine and cross country skiing with the aim being to improve young members skiing and racing technique. JDP participants are expected to make themselves available to represent Snow Country in race events (such as Smiggins Bowl) during the season.

Please note there is no booking preference given to JDP participants and the normal member booking rules apply. If you would like to be involved in the programme you must book early to secure a spot when bookings open.

The application form is **attached separately with this email**.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact John on 0412395527 or hoppo19@bigpond.com

Ski Levels

Level 4	Are confident riding lifts and can bring the skis parallel during the turn
Level 5	Can start the turn with the skis parallel on all intermediate terrain and is confident riding t-bars and pomas
Level 6	Strong parallel turns on all green and blue runs, attempting easy black runs.
Level 7	Able to ski strong parallel turn on black terrain, short turns on all blue runs in all snow conditions
Level 8+	Can ski all black terrain and snow conditions easily.

Summer in Jindabyne

Our fingers are crossed for another great snow season. But until then, don't forget that the Jindy Lodge is open and ready for visitors so if you haven't experienced the mountains outside of winter, there's still plenty of time (and beds) available for a visit.

Below is a story from club members **Barry and Debra Whitton**, who stayed in Jindy over Xmas....sounds like great fun

I planned a few days with two friends to "Jindi", encouraged by two now local friends who relocated from Bundanoon, to try out some Mountain biking and bush walking .

The three of us were made welcome to the lodge in early December by Helen Waite, our good Lodge Manager, the rooms and facilities were immaculate.

*On the first day we headed to Bungarra lodge and rode the 20Kms of well prepared single tracks, **Green** ,**Blue** or Black Levels, just like the Ski Trails.*

Next day we tried the recently completed trail from Lake Crackenback to Thredbo, starting from the Ski Tube Terminal, 17kms of immaculately prepared trail to Thredbo.

This is highly recommended and is suitable for all MTB skill levels, and makes an excellent bush walk as well. The locals tell us it cost \$millions ; it follows the Thredbo river and crosses it many times over very elaborate bridges. The plan is to extend the trail to Jindabyne.



Third day we rode the "Mill Creek " trail from Jindi to the Tyrolean Village and return + the many well prepared shared paths around the Lake.

Paddle boarding, swimming, jogging and we were invited by the locals to join them in a training session of "Dragon Boat Racing" in preparation for the annual event.

So you do not need to wait for the Snow season Jindabyne can be enjoyed all year round.

Cheers,

Barry and Debra Whitton

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**** Remember, we have introduced some group booking specials for non-peak winter periods so if you know of a group that are interested in going skiing and want great, affordable accommodation see below....

******SPECIAL BOOKING OFFER FOR JINDABYNE LODGE******

- For bookings of 5 rooms or more, for a minimum of 2 nights, in non-peak and shoulder seasons, **a 10% discount** will be offered on the room rate
- For bookings of 8 rooms or more, for a minimum of 5 nights, in non-peak and shoulder seasons, **a 20% discount** will be offered on the room rate

Smiggins News

The “Back to Perisher” Weekend - 4th to 6th April, 2015

- The *Back to Perisher* weekend is an initiative of SLOPES and NPWS to increase patronage in the park in the autumn. All members and friends are encouraged to attend.
- Activities include :
 - A Fun Run between Mt P and Charlottes Pass
 - The Great Perisher Duck race raising money for Ski Patrol
 - Feature Creature (ie lizards, snakes and spiders), and
 - NPWS activities (Easter Egg hunt, Village Walks)

KNP Season Pass

REMINDER - it is better to buy your season pass at the National Parks entry station on the Kosciuszko Road at Sawpit Creek. This is because 95% of the amount you pay goes towards the running of the Perisher Range Resorts. It is only 35% if you buy the pass from the Jindabyne NPWS office or online!



Corroborree Road

Corroborree Road (the road that Smiggins Lodge is on) will again be cleared this winter by NPWS as a safety precaution. This means ski in / ski out will NOT be good for your skis, but the gear drop off will be easier ! Lets hope we have conditions similar to last year, which saw NPWS abandon the clearing in July due to the amount and regularity of the snowfalls...

Important Dates for the Diary - 2015

Junior Development Programme - EOI Open - Applications Close - Program dates	Now Mar 1 5 - 8 July
Winter Bookings Open - Members	Mar 16
Winter Bookings Open - General Public	April 13
Annual General Meeting	May 16
Senior Interclub Races	tbc
Junior Interclub Races	tbc
Smiggins Bowl	tbc
Snow Country Christmas Party	Nov 22