

NOVEMBER 2006

FALLS CREEK

newsletter



What Keeps Us Coming Back

Donald Moffatt, writing in *'The Atlantic'* captured the essence of what it is that keeps a person returning to the sport day after day and year after year.

Skiing may be and doubtless has been described as a new form of snobbery, an exercise in exhibitionism, the last resort of the muscular feeble-minded, a purveyor of thrills, a religion, a fad of the moment, and many another harsh or paradoxical epithet. And, accurate though some of these charges may be, it is nevertheless equally true that, almost alone among sports, skiing consists solely of fanatics. Poverty, disablement, marriage, or some such calamity may put him on the shelf for a time, but the axiom still holds generally good: once a skier, always a skier. And this becomes doubly curious when one considers that a man on skis is almost always a man tired, or scared, or both.

It's the same with every beginner. Once his boot has felt the grip of the binding, once he has glided softly down a little untracked slope and heard the hiss of the dry snow against his skis, he is lost forever. He tries it again, he gets the feel of the thing; his skill increases, his knowledge expands, confidence and passion gather in his breast; he looks for longer, steeper slopes; he learns to complain of the snow, and masters the art of vituperative argument; he spends most of his money and all his time spare, or stolen — in the mountains; he takes a few lessons, learns how to turn and stop voluntarily instead of by accident; he scans the weather reports, eagerly reads textbooks on the art, bores his non-skiing friends half to death, is shunned by them, gives not a single damn.

"Mr. Pennyfeather on Skiing" (*'The Atlantic'*, January 1936),
<http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/prem/193601/pennyfeather-skiing>



Colour Newsletters

The expense of colour printing this newsletter would be prohibitive but the colour versions copies can be viewed or downloaded from the www.aacfallscreek.com website.

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VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to my first contribution as Chairman of the Club.

Season 2006 (R.I.P.)

As if to prove that long-range weather forecasters can make mistakes, the 2006 season was not one to remember fondly. Some have compared it with the 1969 and 1973 seasons. The winter was certainly cold enough, but in common with drought-affected regions of south eastern Australia, what we lacked was precipitation. I cannot remember the Summit not opening for an entire season. We should appreciate the resilience of Falls Creek, thanks to the considerable snowmaking infrastructure and the vast supply of water in the Rocky Valley Dam. Compared with many other alpine resorts in Australia, Falls Creek survived the 2006 season.

Ian Farrow

The first thing I would like to do is thank Ian Farrow for his 3 years as Chairman. During those 3 years there were enormous positive developments at the lodge including overseeing the fit out of the new kitchen and, of course, the refurbishment of the bathrooms.

Luckily Ian's experience will not be lost to us as he remains on the Committee and is now the National President of the AAC.

Marg Sewell

As I hope many of you now know Marg Sewell has taken up the reins as the Lodge Manager. Marg commenced at the Lodge in May and did a terrific job throughout the season in trying circumstances given the poor snow. I understand the "Meet and Greet" sessions that Marg ran on Sunday afternoons for the weekly visitors were sensational.

However just a small reminder that the Lodge is in fact a lodge and not a commercial hotel. Please follow the rules (which are on the back of the bedroom doors)

particularly when you are leaving the Lodge and if possible, do small things to help Marg keep the Lodge clean and tidy. Remember you are responsible for your guests.

New members

I would also like to welcome new members Peter Bannerman, Ida Greco, Marjayln Henson and Natalie Allan.

General

I am sure the technophiles amongst us would have been using the wireless internet facility that is now available at the Lodge.

The Committee currently has a number of irons in several fires as how to further improve the lodge and membership, particularly improvements to the lodge before next season. More of these developments over the next few months. I and the other Committee members would naturally welcome any suggestions that you may have in respect of improvements to the Lodge, or other issues relating to membership. You can contact me or the other Committee members on the telephone and email addresses set out in this newsletter or at the general email address of the Club aacfallscreek@gmail.com.

The Committee is also keen to send as many copies of this newsletter electronically to members as it will mean the newsletter will be received in glorious technicolour and of course the cost and environmental savings of not having to print and post newsletters. If you would like to receive the newsletter by e-mail it is as simple as advising us of your e-mail address. The easiest way would be to send your e-mail address to the general e-mail address of the Club at aacfallscreek@gmail.com

Andrew Blogg *Chairman*

Lost (but not forgotten)

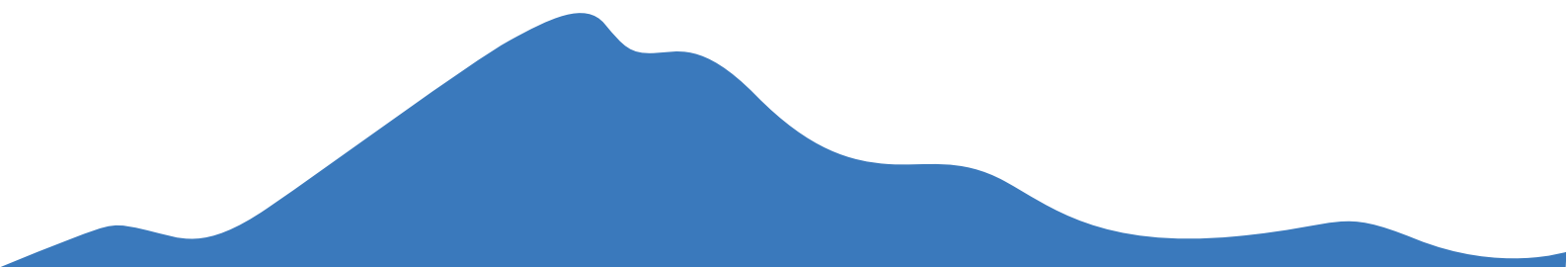
The following items 'went walkabout' during the 2006 Season. If they are things you picked up and packed accidentally, their owners would really love to have them back. Please contact the Club if you find them.

Club property

- one steam iron
- one port-a-cot
- one axe (from the ski room)

Personal property

- one jumper with a stag embroidered on the front and "Jaeger" written across it.



Lockers The Committee has conducted an audit of lockers at the Lodge. It is apparent that some lockers are seldom used or assigned to people who are no longer members. These lockers are obviously unavailable to those members who wish to use a locker.

The Committee understands (although we are all too young to remember) that many years ago members "purchased" a locker for \$50. So all members are treated equally and to ensure lockers are available to those who desire them (so far as practicable) Committee proposes, commencing in 2008:

- to buy back all lockers allocated to members for \$50 by a credit on that member's subscription of \$50 for the 2008 year; and
- to charge an annual rental of \$10 per locker which would be added to the member's annual subscription, again commencing in the 2008 year

Please contact either the Lodge Supervisor John Harding or the Chairman Andrew Blogg, preferably by email to: aacfallscreek@gmail.com, if you have any queries or wish to discuss.

RACING

AAC Falls Creek Races

The AAC Falls Creek Races were held on Scotty's in Giant Slalom format on Saturday 12th August. This was probably the largest race participation in some years with sixteen men, twelve women and eleven children competing for club racing glory. Prizes were awarded in the following categories at the annual Race Weekend dinner that night:

Men

Darby Kitchin	1:03.11
Gerard Gerstner-Stevens	1:05.67
John Cameron	1:06.78

Women

Emma Pitt	1:08.58
Melissa Cameron	1:09.19
Marg Pitt	1:13.91

Children

Alice Macdonald	1:20.59
Charlie Macdonald	1:22.38
Louisa Kitchin	1:23.08
Jacinta Poon	1:35.78
Nicholas Farrow	1:36.27

Guests

Fiona Kirkwood	1:33.51
Debbie Poon	1:39.08

Detailed race results are here: <http://fallscreek.com.au/downloads/AAC2006.pdf>

AAC Races

These were hosted by Anton and held at Hotham on 1st September. The rivalry between Anton and Falls Creek was unremitting this year, with Anton narrowly winning the Roslyn Wesche event by under two seconds on aggregate adjusted time.

Roslyn Wesche Memorial Trophy:

1st Anton 05.75 William Loton, Anna Whittaker, Inga Gilchrist (Capt), Georgina Whittaker.

2nd Falls Creek. 107.86 Darby Kitchin, Emma Pitt, John Cameron (Capt) Melissa Cameron.

3rd Dinner Plain 123.14 Ian Mack (Capt), Jonathon Stutt, Jonathan Frawley and Ben Sanger.

Masters Australian Alpine Club:

1st Anton Huette 132.05 John Loton, Kerry Loton, Wally Kenworthy, Philip Robinson (Capt)

The AAC Races were followed that night with a dinner hosted by Anton, with traditional hospitality. The rivalry is set to continue when Falls Creek hosts the AAC Races in 2007.

Hoppet 2006

AAC Falls Creek member John Binning demonstrated the importance of clean living and exercise by claiming another outright victory in his cohort, with a time of 47:37. John was pursued by prospective AAC member Ron Stride who came fifth in his cohort with a time of 51:12.

Hoppet results are at

<http://www.hoppet.com.au/result06/jm.htm>

Season 2007 bookings

Key changes for 2007 bookings:

- Mid-week rates: five nights for the price of four.
- Booking limit: two continuous weeks (subject to a break of one week).
- Large guest group bookings: subject to Committee approval during winter peak season.
- Foundation Members' Week: dinner no longer provided, but qualifying members will stay at off-peak rates.
- Summer: minimum \$200 booking for lodge opening.

AAC FALLS CREEK 2007

	Winter Tariff			Off Peak			Summer Tariff		
	Memb.	AAC	Guest	Memb.	AAC	Guest	Memb.	AAC	Guest
Week	228	273	522	171	204	392	100	120	150
Mid-Week	152	182	348	114	137	261			
Weekend	76	91	174	57	68	131			
Night	38	46	87	29	34	65	20	24	30

Children 16 years and under half price. Mid-Week is five nights, Sunday to Thursday.
Summer bookings: \$200 minimum

2006 COMMITTEE

Chairman Andrew Blogg
Secretary Tony Sasse
Treasurer Noel Poon
Lodge Supervisor John Harding
Bookings Alan Long
Membership David Stogdale
Communications Ian Farrow

aacfallscreek@gmail.com

KEY CONTACTS

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Members who...
introduce new members to the
Club will receive a one week
accommodation voucher ...