



DECEMBER 2007

# FALLS CREEK

newsletter



## Our one day in September



AAC Falls Creek won the coveted Wesche Cup at the Australian Alpine Club national interclub races held at Falls Creek on Saturday 8 September.

The first Wesche Cup races were held in 1963. The event is a dedicated to the memory of Roslyn Wesche who was killed when one of the earliest AAC lodges, Kunama lodge in the Snowy Mountains, was destroyed by an avalanche in July 1956.

The 2007 Wesche Cup was a giant slalom event held on Scotty's and included racers from other AAC lodges at Hotham, Perisher, Dinner Plain and Niseko.

Competition was fiercest between Falls Creek and their 'traditional rivals' from Hotham who held the Cup in 2006. The winning team from AAC Falls Creek for the Wesche Cup included Ross Barker, Melissa Cameron and Emma Pitt. John Cameron, Marg Pitt and Doug Pitt won the Masters category.

Racing was followed by a dinner for competitors and the presentation of trophies at AAC Falls Creek. The AAC Perisher lodge will host the next Wesche Cup races in 2008.



## 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](http://www.aacfallscreek.com) website.

**design :**  
sisko design  
Natasha Mathers  
t. 03 5984 2290  
[design@sisko.com.au](mailto:design@sisko.com.au)

**feedback :**  
on document to  
Ian Farrow  
[ian.farrow@gmail.com](mailto:ian.farrow@gmail.com)

# VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

## Lodge Manager

Marg Sewell has been reappointed by the Committee for a further year, i.e. for the 2008 ski season. I am sure that all the members share the Committee's view that over the last two years Marg has done an excellent job as lodge manager. The position will be readvertised following the end of the 2008 season.

## The Season that was

The snow was better this year (but 2006 was not much to compare with). I am pleased to report that the Club's bookings are up some 20%. It just goes to show that when the snow falls, members and their guests will use the lodge.

## Roslyn Wesche Trophy

The annual AAC races were held on 8 September. I am extremely proud to report the fact that Falls Creek made a clean sweep of the races in that we won not only the Wesche Trophy but also the Senior division. Congratulations to the winning skiers, Ross Barker, Emma Pitt and Melissa Cameron in the Wesche event and John Cameron, Doug Pitt and Marg Pitt in the Senior division.

## Australian Alpine Club national AGM

The AAC national Annual General Meeting was held in Melbourne in late October. AAC Falls Creek was represented by myself and David Stogdale. National office-bearers elected were:

President	Ian Farrow (Falls Creek)
Vice President	Margaret Campbell (Dinner Plain)
Secretary	Mike Gregson (Dinner Plain)
Treasurer	Richard Tress (Perisher)

## Site rental hike looms

The Alpine Resorts Coordinating Council (ARCC) is reviewing site rentals at leasehold properties occupied by non-profit club lodges at all Victorian alpine resorts. An ARCC proposal under consideration for submission to the Victorian Minister for the Environment, Gavin Jennings MLC, is for a real increase in site baseline site rentals by as much as 30%. This might mean an annual increase of about \$5,000 per year for each non-profit snowsports club lodge.

Site rental fees and other on-mountain charges are the single largest expense associated with operating

snowsports club lodges. Any increase in site rentals will therefore have a direct impact through increased accommodation costs to members and their guests, diminished lodge amenities or reduced budget allocations for capital works. An increase in site rental fees would also run counter to the objectives of the Victorian Alpine Resorts 2020 Strategy' and cause a further deterioration in the competitive position of the already high-cost Victorian alpine resorts.

The Australian Alpine Club will make a submission to the review of site rentals, making the case for a reduction in the site rental rates to enhance the competitiveness of Victorian alpine resorts as snowsports and recreational tourism destinations both domestically and internationally.

## Lease Renewal

The current site lease expires in 2015. Falls Creek Resort Management has invited leaseholders to apply for a renewal before their leases expire. Resort Management requires a considerable amount of information concerning the leaseholder, including a business plan. A sub-committee has been formed to prepare an appropriate business plan. We will keep you informed in respect of any negotiations with the government concerning a new lease for the Club, although I would expect those negotiations to be many months away.

We would appreciate any old photos of the lodge, as I believe the history of the Club at Falls Creek will form part of the Club's submission for a fresh lease.

## Membership

At the time of writing, there were no members wishing to sell their membership debenture interest in AAC Falls Creek. A backlog of members wishing to sell has been cleared. While we expect to have some membership turnover each year, I expect we will soon have a 'wait-to-join' list.

## Best Wishes

I wish you all the best for the Festive Season, particularly those of you who are travelling overseas to ski. I look forward to seeing you next year on the mountain.

Andrew Blogg  
*Chairman*





## NISEKO OPEN FOR BUSINESS

The lifts started turning in Niseko in late November, heralding one of the earliest starts to the winter season in several years. Snow was dumping at the rate of about 20cm daily in late November and the phrase "sugoi futteru naa" ("it's amazing snow, isn't it") was heard from locals who aren't expecting to see any grass again until May.

The AAC Niseko lodge is now open for members and their guests, including of course members of AAC Falls Creek. AAC Niseko has its first bookings in December, some fairly keen booking demand in January and February, plus some increasing interest in March. While defined as 'off-peak' because there is usually less new snowfall, March still delivers excellent value in terms of snow depth, plus a bit more sunshine.

### Niseko Snow Depth Summary by Month (1994-2004)

Description	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Average snow depth (cm)	72	183	276	349	351	194

The latest news about the AAC Niseko project is available though the weblog <http://www.aacniseko.blogspot.com>.

# Season 2008 bookings

## AAC FALLS CREEK 2008

	Winter Tariff			Off Peak			Summer Tariff		
	Memb.	AAC	Guest	Memb.	AAC	Guest	Memb.	AAC	Guest
<b>Week</b>	240	288	540	168	198	390	100	120	150
<b>Mid-Week</b>	160	192	360	112	132	260			
<b>Weekend</b>	80	96	180	56	66	130			
<b>Night</b>	40	48	90	28	33	65	20	24	30



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

## 2008 COMMITTEE

[aacfallscreek@gmail.com](mailto:aacfallscreek@gmail.com)

<b>Chairman</b>	Andrew Blogg
<b>Secretary</b>	David Stogdale
<b>Treasurer</b>	Noel Poon
<b>Lodge Supervisor</b>	John Harding
<b>Bookings</b>	Alan Long
<b>Membership</b>	Nigel Cowie
<b>Communications</b>	Ian Farrow

## KEY CONTACTS

Lodge Manager - Marg Sewell  
[aacfallscreek.lodgemanager@gmail.com](mailto:aacfallscreek.lodgemanager@gmail.com)

ProAcct - Jenny Hood  
[jhood@proacct.com.au](mailto:jhood@proacct.com.au)  
(03) 9880-9600

## THE LODGE

21 Falls Creek Road, Falls Creek VIC 3699  
T: (03) 5758 3209 F: (03) 5758 3264  
E: [aacfallscreek.lodgemanager@gmail.com](mailto:aacfallscreek.lodgemanager@gmail.com)  
W: [www.aacfallscreek.com](http://www.aacfallscreek.com)

## BOOKINGS

c/- Ken Long Tyres  
138 Stanley Street, West Melbourne VIC 3003  
T: (03) 9328 4491 F: (03) 9329 8839  
E: [mrkflong@bigpond.com](mailto:mrkflong@bigpond.com)

## CLUB POSTAL ADDRESS

PO Box 140 Deepdene VIC 3103

