
BIRKEBEINER BULLETIN



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Official newsletter of the Birkebeiner Nordic Ski Club

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End of Season BBQ

On a very wet Saturday afternoon 30 something members and children braved coming out to the annual end of season BBQ.

The venue was changed to the auditorium near the Hoppet office which proved to be the right decision due to the heavy weather.

Conrad took over the cooking and christened our new Weber BBQ. (great work Conrad!) There was plenty of delicious salads and deserts to go round, so thanks to everyone who contributed.

It was my first time at the BBQ, so it was great to mingle and chat with some new people and catch up after the ski season.

I would also like to thank Helen, Trish and Paul for there help in organizing this event.

There are lots of photos elsewhere.

Kerry Lucas Social Secretary.

From the President:

Despite the stormy weather, the end-of-the year BBQ went ahead on Saturday 26th Nov. The auditorium next to the Hoppet Office was an ideal venue. About 50 people enjoyed a very social get-together and christened the club's new Weber BBQ.

The function included a special celebration of Max Richardson's 3rd birthday. The balloons, party food and play area made it a special night for the kids.

Thanks to our social secretary, Kerry Lucas, for organising the meat, etc, and to Conrad, John and Paul for their barbecue cooking. The shared salads and sweets were lovely.

We were pleased to have Phillip Bellingham, Nick Montgomery and Alistair Tutt give a short presentation about plans for their forthcoming overseas skiing trips. Paul Kovacs and Phillip have now arrived safely in Davos, Switzerland and already have some good snow to ski on.

We wish all our members heading overseas good luck in their racing and training. We look forward to hearing how you are going. Keep the emails coming, or let us know if you have a blog that members can follow.

Helen L'Huillier
President

Birkie Bits

Victorian Interclub Challenge 2011

We have just heard that Birkebeiner was the winner of this year's Challenge. Due to the loss of snow late in the season only 5 races out of a planned 8 were held. We earned top points in the Birkie Classic, the High Plains Tour, the Interclub Relays and the Bullfight Charge, and second place in the Hotham to Dinner Plain –beaten by the University Ski Club.

How does the Challenge work?

Race entrants indicate their club affiliation on the race entry form. At the end of the event the number of participants for each club is tallied. The club with the most participants is awarded 10 points; the club with the second most participants is awarded 9 points and so on. The club with the most points at the end of the series is the winner. Participation is the goal; this is the only event on the calendar in which every participant has an equal opportunity to be a hero for their club.

Thank you to all our members who participated this year. The turnout for the relays was particularly good, and a great fun day for all involved. Next year we hope to make this day a club party day, and look forward to an even better good turnout.

Another Club Olympian

Congratulations and best wishes to Alex Gibson who, along with NSW skier Lucy Glanville, will be representing Australia in the first ever Winter Youth Olympics in Innsbruck, Austria, from 13 – 20 January 2012.

Volunteer Grants

The club was fortunate to receive a Volunteer Grant of \$1,000 from the Federal Government. We applied for funds to support our volunteers in the form of a portable Weber BBQ, a small microwave for the race hut (so volunteers at races can heat their lunch/soup, etc.) plus some minor items such as a vermin proof container for the race hut and some shelving for the microwave.

The Kangaroo Hoppet also received a grant to purchase a cash register.

Our new BBQ

The new Weber BBQ is now up in the clubhouse and members are welcome to use it over the summer. There is an instruction book, some tools, a half-hotplate (an optional extra), a couple of small tables and 4 camp stools. Please empty, clean and replace the drip tray after use. **Please note:** The gas bottle is currently behind the BBQ. If your children are in the clubhouse, please ensure they do not tamper with the BBQ or gas bottle! And the BBQ must only be used outdoors.

Community Bank grant: Thanks to an application by Marg Trnka and Ronice Goebel, we have been granted \$1,200 from the Mt Beauty Community Bank to subsidise the cost of vests for our juniors next season. Please support the Mt Beauty Community Bank (supported by Bendigo Bank).

Bob Heddle, Artist & Author

It was good to see Bob back at a Birkie function. In August 2010 Bob came over from Kerang to help at the Hoppet set up, as he has done for many years, and was unlucky to be hit by a falling tree after he'd stopped on the road to help clear an earlier tree fall. Bob was critically injured and airlifted to Melbourne. He was extremely fortunate to survive. After a long hospital stay and recuperation in Melbourne, Bob is now well on the way to recovery.

Recently, in Kerang, he launched his series of children's books which he wrote and illustrated, and displayed a selection of his water colours and sketches. Bob has left with the club a set of his wonderful books for sale, and has donated four of his artworks. Contact Helen if you are interested in having a look, 5754 4606.

Falls Creek news

The Horsepack Trail walking track between Howmans Gap and the Gully car park is now complete. The track is below the road starting about 200m down the road from the Gully Café and comes out next to the driveway into the YMCA Alpine Centre at Howmans.

To reach the track from the top end, follow the sign to the Falls Creek Falls. From the Howmans end, look for the small yellow walking track sign about 20m up from the corner at Howmans. At the moment there are masses of wildflowers, and the boardwalks and bridges along the track make it a lovely 5km walk each way.

The Falls Creek Aqueduct Trail: As part of the summer works, the aqueduct is being surfaced with gravel as a walking/running/mountain bike trail between the Wishing Well (north of the International Poma) and the dam wall. The total length will be about 4.1km. The section between the Nordic Bowl and the dam has been done. This Aqueduct Trail is part of Stage 1 of the *Falls Creek Alpine Resort Mountain Bike and Walking Trail Four Year Development Plan*.

Thank you from Paul Kovacs

Dear BNSC,

As I write this I have only 14 more days until I'll be sitting in a plane heading over to Europe. I would like to thank you for the grant I have recently received from the club. It means a great deal to me, getting so much support from the club I grew up in and have been a part of, for as long as I can remember.

This season I hope to be extremely competitive and have set some high goals and standards, to really push myself and get the best out of the trip.

If anyone is feels inclined, I have been working on a Blog that I will officially publish just before I leave. Any BNSC member or the general public can tune in from time to time and see how I'm going (I will send BNSC a link and you are more than welcome to circulate it).

Also I hope you don't, mind but I have multiple links to the club on the website and of course list you as one of my major sponsors. If this is an issue please say.

Thanks again for the money and support.

Regards

Paul Kovacs

<http://pkovacsxc.wordpress.com/> is the link to Paul's blog.

Thank you from Mark Van Der Ploeg

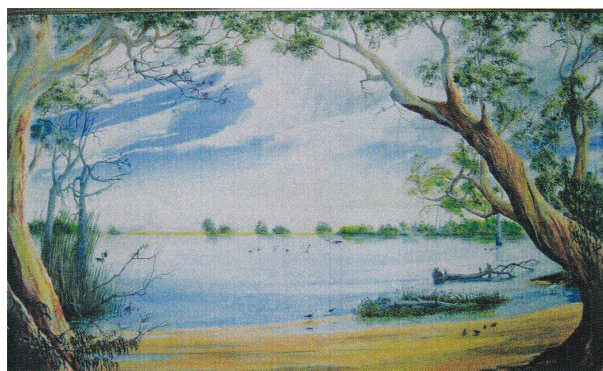
I would like to give my thanks to you and all the Committee members for their support this year and in years past it has been really appreciated and without which I don't think I could have done what I have especially in the last few years.

Regards

Marl Van Der Ploeg

Bob Heddle's Books

Bob Heddle has left 42 of his kid's books at Dave Harley's place (Ph 57544794) in case people within the club wish to buy some of them. The cost is \$20.00 per book, or \$50.00 per set of the three linked ones. Thirty percent of the proceeds will be donated to the club. There are also three copies at the Hop-pet Office. Check them out.



Judy is an elusive lady and the plan was to present this to her on at least three occasions, but due to all sorts of reasons Jude was unable to make any of them. A private presentation was achieved at work. The citation and certificate are reproduced here.



Birkebeiner Nordic Ski Club Inc.

Judy Bottomley
Certificate of Appreciation

Nominated by: Paul L'Huillier
Seconded by: Brian Keeble
Citation

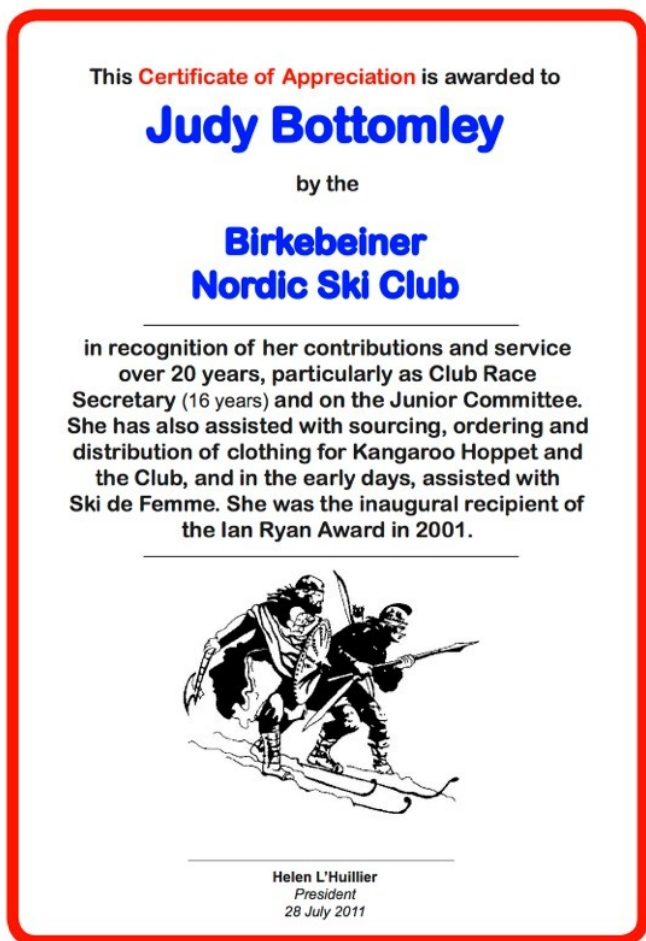
Judy had been involved in many aspects of the Club over a long period.

Areas include:

Race Committee Secretary – 1996 to 2011+ (16 years).
Ski de Femme (assistant organiser in the early days)
Junior Committee (organiser and off & on snow helper at various times)
Club uniform (sourcing product, ordering and selling when this was a Club initiative)
Judy was the inaugural recipient of the Ian Ryan Award in 2001.
Her major contribution has been her dedication to the *Race Secretaries* job which she took over from Helen L'Huillier in 1996. Helen

found being both the Club race secretary and Hoppet race secretary was too demanding. Because of Judy's Club commitment we are recommending that she be award a *Certificate of Appreciation*.

28 July 2011.





Assorted photos from the BBQ taken by Trish Cross

Weston's Hut Photos supplied by Paul L'Huillier

A group of club members walked into the new Weston's hut. The photos show the difference between the original and the new. The new hut is completely insulated, walls and roof and the rock fireplace is designed and built by Jim Crebbin with labour supplied by Paul L'Huillier.

