

From: Birkebeiner Nordic Ski Club secretary@birkebeiner.org.au
Subject: Birkie Bulletin - September 2023
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To: Birkebeiner Nordic Ski Club secretary@birkebeiner.org.au

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Birkie Bulletin - September 2023

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***Viewing on mobile devices works best in landscape mode.**

Ski De Femme 2023

On a wintry Saturday in mid-August close to 140 women gathered for the 29th annual Ski De Femme. Volunteer coaches ran clinics for XC skiers in a choice of classic or skating techniques followed by fun races with everyone encouraged to participate. Highlights of the day included yummy scones and pikelets, jam and cream and some amazing spot prizes contributed by local businesses. A big thank you to Ronice Goebel and all the volunteers for such a wonderful event.

Special thanks goes to the sponsors:

The YMCA, Falls Creek Resort, Bright Brewery, Windy Corner Café, Sassy Road, The Outdoor School, Gather & Harvest, Mt Beauty Bakery, Fischer, Silverseed, West Peak, Wildflower Pilates, Tawonga Baker, Mountain Sports Physio





2023 Australian Open XC Championships

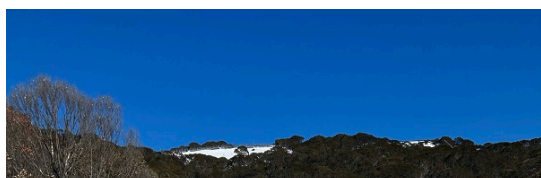
Saturday 19th August AUS Open Sprint Champ's (F) */ CC/FIS**
Sunday 20th August AUS Open Champ's Distance (C) */ CC/FIS**

The 2023 Australian Open Cross Country Ski Championships were held 19th & 20th August at Falls Creek. The BNSC Race Committee and FCRM groomers worked hard to produce race courses suitable for the low snow conditions. A bit of snow on the Friday prior enabled both the skate sprint and classic distance race to start and finish in the Nordic Bowl.

Over 60 competitors lined up for the events, including several international skiers from Switzerland, Germany, and Czech Republic. BNSC members were well represented on the podium with Jayden Spring and Kat Paul each placing 3rd in the sprint final. Kat then went on to become national champion in the distance race.

For full results click or tap below:

AUS XC CHAMPS RESULTS





Men's Distance Race Podium: Top 3 were internationals - Christian Winker (GER), Fabian Stoczek (CZE), Lauro Braendli (SUI); top 3 AUS - Seve De Campo, Noah Bradford, Bentley Walker-Broose.





Women's Distance Podium: First place - Flavia Lindegger (SUI); Top 3 AUS - Kat Paul, Darcie Morton, Aimee Watson.



Snow Australia Cross Country Update August 2023

Finn Marsland – XC Program Director

THIS UPDATE INCLUDES:

- [Record XC Field Battle for National Titles](#)
- [XC Masters World Cup Returning to Finland 2024](#)
- [100k Wednesday – Kat and Ella's Enduro Adventure](#)
- [Sundeck Cups \\$90k + Handshake to the AUS XC Team](#)
- [SkiMo Sprint Event and Camp in September](#)

Click or tap below for full update:

SAXC Update August 2023

2023 Kangaroo Hoppet Cancelled

Despite extraordinary efforts by the Hoppet Committee to make the Worldloppet race happen, the weather missed the memo that it is still winter. Hopes were high a couple of weeks out for a modified course in the Mt McKay area. Organisers designed a fun, twisty track incorporating the existing McKay loop and grooming a new track in

the area inside the loop. Unfortunately, the warm weather and significant rain diminished the snow, and by the Wednesday prior to Hoppet day, sections of the course had insufficient cover with no options for farming snow to make safe skiing. A forecast for poor weather on Hoppet day added to the hazardous conditions.

Following cancellation, race organisers quickly got permission from the Worldloppet Secretariat in Estonia to allow a "self-paced" event, which enabled skiers to get their Worldloppet Passports stamped. Skiers could ski a minimum distance of 21km for the Kangaroo Hoppet and 10.5km for the Australian Birkebeiner and record it on an activity tracker. Their passport was stamped upon presenting their activity record from their tracker.

If you are wondering what a Worldloppet Passport is you can find all about it here:

What is a Worldloppet Master & Passport?



And speaking of Worldloppet Masters, we have three in the Club, Ronice Goebel, Marg Hayes, and Bruce Wharrie. Marg & Bruce (pictured) are multiple Masters, Bruce has 6 and Marg has 9. They have done all the Worldloppets, except Ushaia Loppet in Argentina, which they hope to complete next year. Marg did an impressive 42km around Mt McKay to get her passport stamp for 2023 Hoppet. Bruce features in 'This Week in Falls Creek' in an article by Ella Jackson. To read click or tap below:

This Week in Falls Creek

Looking Back

Remarkably, prior to this year, the Kangaroo Hoppet has never been cancelled due to weather or snow conditions. The very first Hoppet in 1991 was postponed by a day when more than a metre of snow fell in the 24 hours prior, and the race course could not be groomed in time. In 2013 a landslip closed the Bogong High Plains Road the day prior to the race. The road was reopened at 7am on Hoppet day and the races were only delayed by an hour.

To read more about past events click or tap here:

Kangaroo Hoppet History

MERINO MUSTER



MERINO MUSTER

2nd SEPTEMBER 2023

WANAKA NEW ZEALAND

WORLDLOPPET RACE

28th Edition 2nd September 2023

Updated 30th August



It's not too late for a last minute trip to New Zealand for the the Merino Muster!
The Snow Farm is reporting spring snow conditions and the race course is in great shape.
For more info and race entries:

Merino Muster

XCSAV UPDATE & FC LAKESIDE DEVELOPMENT

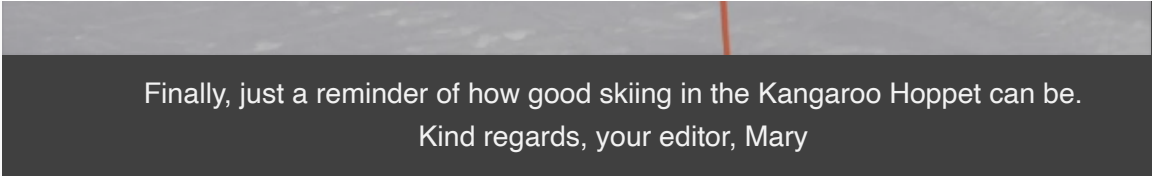
Clearing of the Bogong High Plains Road to the ANARE Shed in winter continues to be considered by ARV/FCRM. There still may be time to lodge an objection, if you have not done so, or to lodge another if you have additional objections to the new documentation submitted in the ANARE planning permit. If you have already submitted an objection, it still stands and will be considered in the planning approval process.

To find out how to get involved go to [SAVE FALLS CREEK](#)

For info on the Club's position click [HERE](#)

Take note in the video below, where the Hoppet starts and the course goes in front of the ANARE Shed will not be able to be used if they plow the BHP Road and build a car park.





Finally, just a reminder of how good skiing in the Kangaroo Hoppet can be.
Kind regards, your editor, Mary