
BIRKEBEINER BULLETIN



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Official newsletter of the Birkebeiner Nordic Ski Club

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From the President:

What a busy month it has been. Alasdair Tutt conducted a beginner waxing clinic (see report and photo elsewhere, Ian Franzke organised a full moon ski which unfortunately was cancelled due to high winds, Ronice Goebel took 20 juniors and 10 parents to the National Championships at Perisher Valley, there were Junior Joey and Junior Birkie activities and coaching, a new Nordic Night at Settlers tavern and, of course, the Kangaroo Hoppet.

I'd like to thank everyone who organised or helped with all of these activities. One of the strengths of our club is the number of active members who are prepared to assist others to become involved.

Special mention to Brian Keeble who had the enormous task of co-ordinating all the races BNSC ran this winter. The Rocky Valley Rush which was to be held the Sunday before the Hoppet was cancelled

due to lack of snow on the lower parts of the course. This was a disappointment, but in some ways a blessed relief, allowing Brian to concentrate on the main event and all the difficulties entailed in running it up on the Summit area.

The combined efforts of the 22 member Hoppet Race Committee and all the club members and other community service groups and individuals who helped, resulted in a great event and some very happy participants.

One disappointment was the lack of support for the free club coaching days. With only one participant on the first day and two on the next two days, it was decided to cancel the final day.

The next committee meeting is on September 21. If you have any matters you would like discussed, please contact Trish or me before then.

Helen



Elaine and Mick closely watching Alasdair.



Stop that Ranger 'Roo, he's got my skidoo.
Where's a Panozzo when you need one?

Waxing Clinic

After many years of skiing, and just as many years of handing my skis to someone else to wax (thanks Andy!) I thought it about time I learned to do it myself.

I got together with Cath Richardson and we put together some ideas and then approached Helen to ask if the BNSC would run a basic waxing clinic. She agreed and on Monday August 15th a small group of us gathered in Bob Flower's garage for Alasdair Tutt to teach us about the 'black art' of waxing.

We learned everything from how to clean our skis and apply wax to the best way to transport skis and how to store them over summer. We also looked at the equipment required and discussed the different types of waxes that can be used. I even got to wax my own skis for the very first time! I left thinking, that's not so hard, why have I never tried it before?

Thank you to Alasdair for imparting his knowledge, Bob for the use of his garage and the light supper, and to Helen for organising it. Hopefully we can do it again next year, and get some more people to come along.

Now, does anyone have a waxing iron for sale? Oh, and a waxing bench ...

Elaine Thomas

Grants to national team members

BNSC members selected for National Teams are eligible to apply for club grants as outlined below. Please read the policy if you are eligible.

Post applications to
BNSC Grant Application
PO Box 192
Mount Beauty 3699

OR

email to
trishacross@bigpond.com

The guidelines for funding are listed below.

1. Applicants must have been a BNSC member for a minimum of three years. This condition could be waived in exceptional circumstances.
2. Applicants must be a member of a Ski and Snowboard Australia (SSA) Cross Country Ski Team.
3. **Written applications** must be received no later than 12/10/2011. This the THURSDAY before the October Committee meeting. (Proposed date 19th Oct.)
4. Applications must be accompanied by a *financial statement including a trip budget* that outlines – (a) other grants received by the applicant, (b) any sponsorship arrangements held and (c) anticipated expenses for full participation in the Team. BNSC Grants will only be made if other levels of funding leaves a significant shortfall.
5. A *maximum of \$3,000–\$4,000* will be allocated for national team member grants in any one year with a *maximum of \$1000 to any one individual*, regardless of the number of grant applications received.
6. These guidelines will be reviewed biannually by the committee or by a sub-committee appointed by the committee.

Golden Hoppet Awards

At the Hoppet Race Committee dinner at Rois last month, race director, Allan Marsland, presented Golden Hoppet awards to Geoff Field, Mary Pike and Meg and Jim Crebbin. After many years of service in key roles on the Kangaroo Hoppet race committee, they have handed their portfolios on to new Chiefs.

Geoff Field was Chief of the Finish, and coordinated the volunteers at the finish line for more years than I can remember.

Mary Pike managed the merchandise and organised the staffing and smooth running of the Hoppet Shop in the auditorium for the past 10 years.

Meg and Jim Crebbin coordinated the feed stations, ordering supplies, packing the food and equipment and organising the teams of volunteers who ran the stations.

Mary, Geoff, Jim and Meg were warmly thanked for their wonderful efforts. The awards are wooden Hoppet map of Australia trophies, beautifully crafted from Australian hardwoods by Peter Panozzo.

The following document will be of interest to members. It is presented as I received it.

Falls Creek Mountain Bike and Walking Trails Project

Summary Information

Falls Creek Resort Management will be implementing the Falls Creek Mountain Bike and Walking Trails Project over the next four non-winter periods, October 2011 – May 2015.

This project is predominately funded through a \$1.9M grant from Regional Development Victoria. As such the planning and implementation is regulated in accordance with grant contract.

The implementation of the project will be staged over four years with a focus on trails that are “relatively” easy to plan and build in the early stages. The trails will also grow outwards from the Aqueduct Trail which will act as the central ‘backbone’ to the trail system.

Extensive planning went into developing a trail system that caters for a range of skills and desired experiences. World Trail Pty Ltd was engaged to develop a Feasibility Study that formed basis for the strategy and the foundation for the trail network. The resulting trail network utilises our unique environment at Falls Creek and will provide a mountain bike experience that will be unique in Australia. It will be a world class trail system and will form part of the overall strategy to develop Falls Creek into a viable and renowned summer holiday destination.

It is however important to realise that while this project will deliver an outstanding experience it is also a very difficult project to plan and implement. There are a suite of planning requirements that need to be met in order develop the trail network. These are taking considerable time to work through and are the predominant reason that the project will be stage over a number of years. The trails that will be constructed in stages 2, 3 and 4 will require considerable decisions regarding developments in very sensitive alpine areas. The implementation of the trail network requires the careful alignment of a number of key resort-wide strategies that are being developed concurrently with this project. FCRM understands that there are many guests and stakeholders that are very keen to see the trail network implemented as soon as possible but we ask that you understand that for developments of this nature the bulk of the work is done in the planning phase and we are endeavouring to ensure that the implementation phase will run as smoothly as possible.

Staged Development

As stated above the project implementation will be staged over four non-winter periods. Please refer to the attached PDF for a map of the staged implementation.

The first stage will involve a levelling and re-sheeting of the Frying Pan Spur Aqueduct trail surface. This will have numerous benefits for activities that range to and from the village. A tender process was undertaken by FCRM prior to winter to this stage and construction will begin as soon as practicable after winter. There will be some disruptions to aqueduct pedestrian and mountain bike traffic throughout the stage but the final outcome will be well worth the inconvenience.

The following table outlines the planned trails for each stage of construction:

Cross Country Trails				
Stage	Trail Name	Total Length (km)	IMBA Rating	Expected Ride Time (mins)
1	Aqueduct Trail	4.1	Easiest	10-20
2	Nordic Loop	1.25	Easiest	5-10
2	Windy Corner Trail	0.77	Easy	2-5
2,3	Main XC Loop	7.67	More Difficult	40-90
2	Gully XC	2.26	More Difficult	5-15
3	Summit Link Trail	1.70	Easy	5-15
3	Frying Pan Spur Lower Loop	8.70	More Difficult	30-60
4	Frying Pan Spur Upper Loop	4.94	More Difficult	15-30
4	McKay Saddle Loop	5.04	Easy	15-30
4	Rocky Knobs Trail	4.65	More Difficult	30-60
	Total	40.03		
Downhill Trails				
2	DH3	1.55	More Difficult	
3	DH2	1.13	Very Difficult	
4	DH1	1.15	Extremely Difficult	
4	Gully DH	0.7	More Difficult	
	Total	4.53		

Please note that the trail names are for planning use only. Suggestions for official trail names will be sought at an appropriate time.

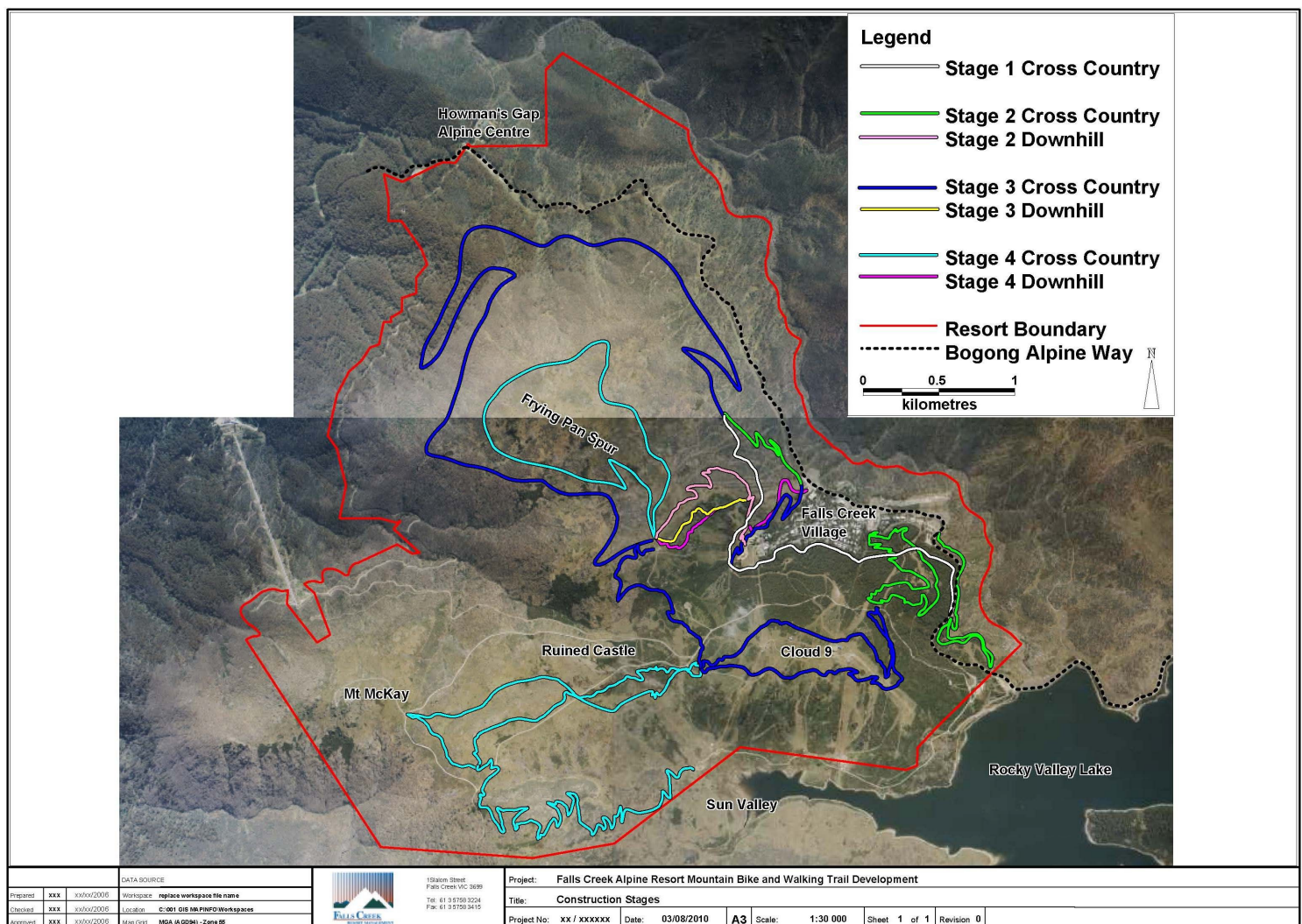
Competitive use of Trails

While the trails have been developed as a stand-alone semi-facilitated soft-adventure activity for the resort that can be used at anytime and by anyone, there has been a competition strategy incorporated into the trail network design.

It is intended that well run events and competitions will provide important advertising of the product and will generate revenue for the resort during summer similar to the 3 Peaks and Falls Creek Triathlon weekends.

The following table summarises some of the strategy that was used during this section of the Feasibility Study:

Race Format	Option Number	Trails Used	Distance
Olympic Cross-country	1	Main XC Loop	8km
	2	Main XC Loop (lower two loops) + Aqueduct Trail (northwards) + Gully XC Trail + village roads between Village Bowl and Village Plaza	8km
6-12hr Enduro	1	Main XC Loop (from Village Plaza to Ruined Castle Trail Junction) + McKay Saddle Loop + Main XC Loop (from Ruined Castle Trail Junction to Village Plaza).	13km
	2	Main XC Loop (from Village Plaza to Ruined Castle Trail Junction) + Summit Link Trail + Frying Pan Spur Lower Loop + Aqueduct Trail + Main XC Loop (from Aqueduct Trail to Village Plaza)	17km
	3	Main XC Loop (from Village	17km



Hoppet Thank You and Editorial Rave

Well it's done and dusted for another year. The high altitude course made things difficult for everybody. The snow was difficult but it turned out a good day in the end.

Avery big thank you to all who helped in the staging of this event. Many who provide a lot of effort and time are not even club members.

I think we as club members in general need to look at the support and effort we all put in the staging of this event. I checked back as far as I could and membership fees have been as they are for at least the last ten years. The single fee of \$20 barely covered the printing and postage of the newsletters. No longer a cost as none are posted. The money we receive from the Hoppet for running the race is what keeps the club doing the things it does. The Junior Program, club coaching, maintaining the club house, running races and ski de femme (mainly self-sufficient), running the social events (casserole dinner, mid-season dinner, end of year BBQ), the list goes on. Without this money the club fees would need to be more than they are.

I noticed on Saturday afternoon that one of the members who was active in packing up, doing the heavy work, was one of more senior members. He had already helped in the setup on Friday, had skied the Hoppet in heavy conditions and was prepared to give a hand in the pack up. There a lot of juniors who could have done similarly, but didn't.

There has been a turnover of some of the holders of key positions in the staging of the event and whilst some of the new people are younger than those they replaced, in the main we have replaced like with like. Phil made the comment that over half of our volunteers are over 60. We have a lot of people around the club doing the same sorts of things that they were doing twenty and thirty years ago. This has the potential to become a real problem in the near future. There is and will be in the future room for our younger members to step up and take over some important jobs around the club and the whole skiing scene. I look forward to an influx of younger bodies.



Ranger 'Roo cultivating relationships with office bearers of the club.

2011 Kangaroo Hoppet Stadium Report

Hoppet Volunteers once again produced an excellent Start/Finish Area at the High Altitude Course. The last time the race was held on this course was in 2006. On that occasion we had Army personnel and an Army truck assisting us.

This time the Falls Creek Management supplied lots of personnel and 2 oversnow transport vehicles with large storage crates attached.

This valuable assistance enabled us to transport all of the fencing, drink stations, tents, timing equipment etc to the Start/Finish area very efficiently.

Friday 19th: Hoppet Officials met the Falls Creek Management and Lift Co representatives to plan for the expected High Altitude Course. A lot of assistance from FC Management was offered.

Tuesday 23rd: All equipment including drink stations and supplies were transported by truck via Howmans Gap then up Road 24 to the snow line. A snow groomer then carried all equipment to the Start/Finish Area. Rob Boland, Bill Little, Brian Keeble and Philip Evans marked out the important areas ready for Friday's working bee.

Thursday evening: Brian emailed that the planned ski course had changed so new plans were required immediately.

Friday 26th: Lots of helpers managed to ride the ski lifts to get to the Start/Finish Area. Peter Panozzo + Relatives put up TWO Start Areas. Rob Boland supervised the Finish Area. Luckily we had a group of hard workers who erected all 10 tents...a great effort. Bogong School Camp teachers put up the flags.

By 5:00 pm, in windy cold conditions, the last of the crew skidooed to the AGL sheds for the night. Most of the work had been completed.

Saturday 27th 6:30 am: Thanks to the Bottomleys and Brian Keeble, fencing and bunting were put up. Other volunteers soon arrived to help with tents. The wind was strong and cold so the huge inflatable banner was left in the bag. The big Clean-Up started at 1:00pm and we had everything back in the Race Hut and the Green Shed by 6:30pm. Once again the resources of the Falls Creek Management were readily available and greatly appreciated.

Thanks to all our volunteers on the four long days at Falls Creek.

NB: At least 50% of our volunteers are in their 60's with a few in their 70's. However it was great to see a few younger faces helping on Friday and Saturday afternoon.

Jim Gargan did an excellent job in coordinating the roles of all the volunteers.

Philip Evans





Start finish area from a distance



Bert and Peter Panozzo, Manfred Rueff and Doug Westerman setting up on Friday.



Cat, Jim and Ali Gargan



Norm Michener and Ric Spiller



Bob Heddle and Jim Crebbin at the setup on Friday. Rob Boland cruisin'

