



Birkie Bulletin

August 2025

The snow gods are being much more generous this season, and there is loads of skiing to be had and races to be run. In this issue have a read of what's been happening and about exciting events to come.

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What's been happening...





A foggy start to the Birkie Ski Classic

2025 BIRKIE CLASSIC

On Sunday 13 July, the Birkie Classic had 74 participants across the three distances on offer, 10km, 5km and 2.5km.

In the 10km Lauro Braendli of Switzerland easily won the Open Male category in a time of 28.54 followed by BNSC members Clancy Harvey and Harri Silvester in times of 32.27 and 33.06, respectively. In the Female Open, Kat Paul won in a time of 32.41 ahead of fellow BNSC member Hannah Price at 34.21. It should be noted Kat's time put her in 3rd place overall in the event. BNSC member Bethany Franzke won the Female U18. Bethany's father Ian Franzke was a respectable 2nd place in the Male 50+. In the 5km event former BNSC president, Ewer Silvester took the honours in the Mens 50+ category.

Special shout out to Ian Franzke who helped set up and after racing stayed behind to help pack up despite the rainy conditions. Thank you!!

2025 Birkie Classic Results





A fast start in the 10km Birkie Classic

Birkie Junior Camp

Over the weekend of 19-20 July over 25 Birkie juniors enjoyed two days of cross-country skiing skill development using games, challenges, mini-tours and assorted activities. All had fun on skis and improved their skills.



2025 VICTORIAN JUNIOR XC SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Vic Junior Champs were held on the weekend of 26-27 July. Some wild weather made for challenging conditions. Saturday was the classic sprint races and Sunday the freestyle distance event was scheduled. BNSC members were well represented.

On Sunday the weather took a turn for the worse, and for the safety of participants and volunteers the Jury made the difficult decision to postpone the race for the day. The Vic Junior Championship Distance races will now be run in conjunction with the Rocky Valley Rush on the 10th of August.

For full results:

Vic Junior Championship Results



BNSC President Andrew Hall presenting Ewen Silvester with 2024 Birkie Award

Mid-Season Dinner

The annual BNSC Mid-Season Dinner was held the 26th July with more than 60 people enjoying a delicious two-course meal prepared by Lilli Pilli catering. During the evening the 2024 Birkie Award was presented to Ewen Silvester for his outstanding service and commitment to club programs & events.

Following the award presentation, guest speaker Tom Hoogenraad, Team Manager for our junior national training camp in Switzerland and World Junior Championships in Italy, gave an interesting presentation about his and the Team's experiences in Europe and Australia's first XC World Championship medal.

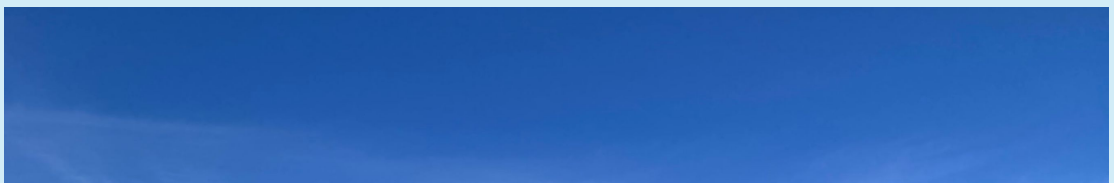


Guest speaker Tom Hoogenraad at the Mid-season Dinner

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TECHNIQUE COACHING CLINICS

The Club has organised a series of 2-hour technique sessions in classic and skate for adult BNSC members who are intermediate skiers and above. So far four of these clinics have been run with Jacob Huseby, who is currently the Snow Australia National Team Coach and Falls Creek National Training Centre Coach. The final session will be 10 August, please see details in Upcoming Events.





Classic clinic with Jacob Huseby



SNOW AUSTRALIA CROSS COUNTRY NEWS

Australia's top athletes in cross country skiing competed in the 2025 Australian XC Ski Open Championships at Perisher from 1-2 August. BNSC members performed well with Jayden Spring taking out the sprint honours ahead of Phil Bellingham in second. Phil also came second in the distance championships. For details and results visit:

AUS XC SKI CHAMPS

Upcoming Events...

2025 BNSC RACE COMMITMENTS

Sun 13th July 10.00am Birkie Classic 2.5/5/10km (C)

Sat 9th August 10am Ski De Femme 1/2.5/5km

Sun 10th Aug 10:00am Rocky Valley Rush 22.5/15/7.5km (F)

Sat 16th August 9:30am AUS Open / Junior Sprint Champs (C
CC/FIS

Sun 17th August 10:00am AUS Open/Junior/Masters Champs
10/10km (F) CC/FIS

Sat 23rd August 9:30am Kangaroo Hoppet 42/21/7km (F) CC/FI

2025 XC Race Calendar



Waxing Clinic - Lessons learnt from international competition Fluoro Free

When: Tuesday 5 August, 5.30pm

Where: Hoppet Office

What: an educational evening with Jacob Huseby for those interested in base preparation including hand structuring, glide waxing in the non fluor era, and if time allows some hints on kick waxing. Free for BNS members, \$20 for non-members.

BIRKEBEINER NORDIC SKI CLUB IS CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF

SKI DE FEMME





A WOMENS COMMUNITY XC SKI DAY AT FALLS CREEK

SATURDAY 9TH AUGUST

START 10AM NORDIC BOWL

BEGINNERS WELCOME, GREAT SPOT PRIZES, NO ENTRY FEES,
BUS SHUTTLE FROM MT BEAUTY AVAILABLE



Scan QR code for more info and rego or visit
www.alpinetiming.com.au/registrations/r596/



SKI DE FEMME 2025

The first Ski De Femme was in 1994 and BNSC has proudly run it every year since (except during Covid). With average participant numbers each year over 100, that makes thousands of girls and women who have had fun and learned some new skills on cross-country skis.

The event is run by volunteers and entry is free. Clinics are available for both novice and intermediate XC skiers in a choice of classic or skating techniques. Equipment can be hired from YMCA Falls Creek Cross Country at Windy Corner prior to the clinic.

Following the ski race there will be tea and treats, and a raffle. Many local businesses have kindly donated some great spot prizes.

Please be sure to register to assist us with catering numbers.

For more info and
registration:

Ski De Femme



BNSC Rocky Valley Rush

Date: Sunday 10 August

Where: Falls Creek

Courses: Freestyle with 22.5km, 15km, and 7.5km options

Start: 10 am start in the Nordic Bowl

To register:

Rocky Valley Rush

Skate Technique Clinic with Jacob Huseby

10 Aug - 2.00 pm, meet at Nordic Bowl

Free for adult BNSC members who are intermediate skiers and above.

The group is limited to 12.



Less than 3 weeks to go!

Be sure to enter by the 13th of August to get a seeded start and avoid the next price rise.

More info, registration & volunteering can be found:

Hoppet

Birkie Bits...

Welcome new members - Please say hello to:

Erin Francis; Liam McQualter; Tracey Milne; Sarah Bath; Sue North; Lucy Vardy; Lisa Bendtsen; Giorgia Petterd; Merinda Speedy; Sonja Greenfield; Millicent Gunner; Jack Bennie; Anna Taylor

Margaret Heath & family; Matthew Zagorski & family
Rhiannon Wild & family; Phil Sullivan & family; David Stanford family

Arlene Harriss-Buchan & family; Rebecca Schwarzman & family
Junior members: Sara, Skye, Finch, Iris, Everly

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A special thank you goes to **Hannah Price** who graciously took the time to review and provide feedback on the BNSC Constitution. The Committee is currently in the process of updating the Constitution and Hannah's contribution has been very helpful.

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BNSC member **Katerina Paul** joins athletes from nine different sports as part of the ambassador lineup for the 2025 AIS Problem Solvers Program. To read more about the program please visit:

Young Problem Solvers

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Interested in SkiMo? - Check out **Phil Bellingham** at the Falls Creek SkiMo Challenge on the day after the Hoppet, 24 August. For info:



Family Fun Day - Save the date, 31 August 2025 from 11am-2pm for a Family Fun Day at Falls Creek. Plans are currently underway and details will be in an upcoming Bulletin update.

Looking Back...





As it is the 30th Anniversary of the Ski de Femme it seems appropriate to look back at the original. Birkie's inaugural Ski de Femme day had over 100 women and girls attend. Jenny van der Ploeg and Helen L'Huillier organized this event. To read more:

Ski de Femme

About us

2025/26 Committee

President – Andrew Hall

Vice President – Paul Gray

Secretary – Michelle Forrer

Treasurer – Jeanette McLaren

Contact:

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MEMBERSHIPS

Family \$75, Individual \$35, Junior or Student (not in a family membership) \$25, Associate* \$25. Fees are payable by 30th June 2025. To JOIN OR RENEW please click or tap [HERE](#)

Membership

*Intended for existing members who no longer ski or use the clubhouse, but would like to remain club members and receive correspondence and the bulletin newsletter, or for search and rescue squad members who do not require the use of club facilities.



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