

NSW Snowsports: Alpine Committee
Annual General Meeting, 25th October 2014

Chairperson's Report

2014 Programs and Initiatives

NSWACT Teams

NSW Alpine in conjunction with ACT Alpine continued again this year to name NSWACT Senior, Junior and Children's, teams to provide recognition and support to those athletes who are performing at a high level and who meet the published State team criteria, In 2014 we had 6 Open team members, 7 State Junior team members and 21 Children who achieved selection to the Children's team.

By way of recognition and support to State team members, NSWACT Alpine offers subsidized State team jackets which are presented to the Children's and Junior team members at a presentation evening and dinner in Jindabyne at the start of the southern season. This year, for the 4th consecutive year, we are also pleased to be able to provide a small cash grant, this year of \$150, to each State Children's team member in the U14s and U16s who competed interstate in the SSA Australian Children's Championships. NSWACT Alpine also funded National Championship and interstate racing grants to Junior and Open team members of \$300 and \$400 respectively to provide some assistance towards the costs of travelling interstate to compete in National and interstate FIS events. We also, again this season, paid for the race entry fees for the Open team members to the National Alpine Championships in Thredbo and Perisher.

The grant cheques to eligible State Children's, Junior and Open team members will be presented at tonight's Awards evening and the NSWACT Alpine Children's team for 2015 will also be announced.

NSWACT athletes performed exceptionally well at this year's National FIS and Children's events and were strongly represented on the National podiums and in the National Alpine team and squad selections.

This past year, NSW Open team member and National team athlete Lavinia Chrystal represented Australia in the Sochi Winter Olympics along with Alpine team mates Greta Small, Emily Bamford, Ross Peraudo and Dominic Demschar. All competed in both Slalom and Giant Slalom disciplines, with Greta also competing in the speed events. Lavinia also won both the Slalom and Giant Slalom titles in this year's National Championships. Ross Peraudo won the National mens GS title.

NSWACT Open team and National team member, Sam Robertson also represented Australia in the Alpine World Junior Championships held in Jasna in Slovakia.

In Children's racing, NSW children were also well represented in this year's international children's events held in Europe and in Whistler Cup in Canada. Maddison Hoffman had an exceptional result winning the U14 Slalom at Whistler. NSWACT Alpine also entered a team for the second year in the U14 Festival event at Whistler Cup, which enabled a larger number

of children to experience this prestigious event. We are currently calling for expressions of interest for the 2015 Whistler event.

NSWACT Alpine Programs

NSWACT Alpine Rising Stars Awards

This NSWACT Alpine program, aims to encourage some of the top performing Interschool racers to become involved with the Race clubs and SSA racing. 9 Interschool racers from Div 4 and 5 were selected to receive a free weekend of training with a race club and free entry and assistance at Blue Cow Cup. These award winners will also be recognised at tonight's Awards evening. We would particularly like to thank TSRC and PWSC for their assistance with this program by providing the complimentary race training weekends to Award winners. We continue to receive very positive feedback about the program with a large number of Award winners going on to join the race clubs and compete in SSA racing.

SERAS

The SERAS program is open to NSW and ACT, 13 to 18 year old Snowsports athletes and provides 2 weekends of off snow, athlete development during the year. The camps, held at the Institute of Sport facilities in Canberra, provide assistance to the athletes with fitness coaching and testing as well as educational sessions on, health, goal setting and sports psychology.

9 NSW and ACT Alpine athletes participated in the 2014 SERAS Snowsports program. Applications for the 2015 program will open in February next year.

Fitness testing and training Sessions

This year we have again worked closely with Manfred Wolscher, NSW Alpine and NAC, strength and conditioning advisor, to run a pre and post season fitness program which started in April with a two and a half day testing and strength and condition camp at the Sydney Institute of Sport facility at Narrabeen in Sydney. The camp was attended by about 40 child and FIS age athletes and we received very positive feedback. The camp was then followed by weekly training sessions in North Sydney and in Jindabyne. The race clubs look after dry land training during the winter season.

NSW Alpine in conjunction with Manfred also organised a pre northern season testing weekend in early October. Weekly fitness training sessions are again underway in North Sydney and Jindabyne during term 4, to help prepare those who are racing in the northern season.

This year's April camp and the weekly training sessions were offered to all participants on a subsidized basis due to contributions from the NAC, TSRC, PWSC and NSWACT Alpine

Alpine Officials training Course

The Alpine Level 1 Officials course, (the only accredited program currently being conducted in Australia), was again conducted in Sydney in June 2014 for about 25 volunteers and in Jindabyne in July for about 15 volunteers. The courses were delivered by Scott Sanderson and were offered free of charge to participants due to NSW Alpine having applied for and receiving a \$1500 grant from the NSW Government Department of Sport and Recreation to assist with the funding of this program.

Member Communication

Member communication continues to be a priority and we thank NSW Snowsports Executive Officer Rebecca Masterton for the excellent and regular e news updates sent out to members which include Alpine matters. Emails notices and news were also emailed out to our broad based communication list on a regular basis.

The NSW Alpine Facebook page continues to be a great success with over 350 “friends” receiving our postings. Some of the more popular stories and photos receiving over 1500 “views”. NSW Alpine Facebook provides a full coverage of what’s happening with our alpine athletes and we encourage everyone to click on like and keep up with all that’s happening in Australian alpine racing. We will again post updates during the northern season so you can follow our athlete’s progress in Europe and North America.

NSWACT Sponsors, Supporters and Fundraising

To provide a sound financial basis for our athlete programs and grants and to hopefully be able to expand these moving forward, NSWACT Alpine is actively seeking Sponsors, Donors and Supporters for our 2015 programs. In 2014, the subcommittee looking after this, secured support from TSRC, PWSC and Candlelight Lodge Thredbo. We are very appreciative of the financial support and assistance provided by these 3 organisations and look forward to working with them again in 2015.

An Australian Sports Foundation Project also operates to enable donations to be made tax effectively.

This year we also ran the first NSW Alpine Thin Air Fun Run event at Lake Crackenback. About 50 children and 10 adults participated in the inaugural event which involves participants completing a 2km or 4km run around the lake. We would like to thank Ski Japan and Peak Performance as our sponsors for the race and also Committee member Jenny Neill who lead the event organising committee. We hope to hold the event again next year with a broader range of children and adults competing.

NSW Alpine End of Season Awards evening

This year’s presentation evening will follow this meeting and we extend our congratulations in advance, to all this year’s award winners.

In closing, I would like to thank the NSW Alpine Committee members along with the numerous parent volunteers who gave of their time and energies during the year to assist with the running of various Alpine programs, events and races. The sport couldn’t function as effectively without your collective efforts.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank retiring Alpine Committee member Felicity Coates who is stepping down after almost a decade on the committee. During that time Felicity has contributed significantly across a range of areas including in particular, the children’s TAP program which ran for over a decade and more recently with various other children’s team activities.

Greg Lewis is also retiring after 6 years on the committee about 4 years of which were as Secretary to both the NSW Alpine and NSWACT Alpine committees. Greg’s involvement

and contribution to the sport in both NSW and nationally achieved a number significant changes and improvements. His knowledge and skills will be indeed missed.

Angus Thompson will also be standing down as Treasurer this year however we are pleased that he will be able to continue on as a committee member and assist the incoming Treasurer.

I am also standing down as Chair this year after six years in the role, however I will continue my involvement with the committee for the coming 12 months to assist the incoming Chair and committee members with a smooth handover.

Annette Pilat,
Chair, NSW Alpine
25th October 2014