

**NSW Snowsports: Alpine Committee**  
**Annual General Meeting, 26<sup>th</sup> October 2013**  
**Chairperson's Report**

**2013 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 2013 we had 7 Open team members, 9 State Junior team members and 20 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 third 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 \$250 and \$300 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.

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 2014 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, NSWACT Open team member, Sam Robertson represented Australia in the Alpine World Championships held in Schladming, Austria. Sam competed in the SG event with very credible results against the best speed racers in the world. In the Southern season, Lavinia Chrystal returned to the slopes following an injury last season and claimed the Australia Women's Slalom title along with the ANC Women's GS Championship and the prestigious yellow Continental Cup bib which provides a bib 31 start in Europa Cup and other Continental Cups.

We are also very pleased that 3 NSWACT State Open team members, Lavinia Chrystal, Sam Robertson and Matilda Coates have been selected to the Olympic Shadow team for Sochi having achieved the Olympic A qualifying standard in one or

more disciplines. They, along with other shadow team members will be seeking to improve their FIS rankings over the coming months to try to gain selection the Australian Olympic team which is announced towards the end of January.

In Children's racing, 11 NSWACT children competed in this years Whistler Cup in Canada. This year, for the first time, NSWACT Alpine entered a team in the new U14 Festival event at Whistler Cup, which enabled a larger number of children to experience this prestigious event. Australia achieved some impressive results in this year's event with Annabelle Hough winning the U14 SL event and 4<sup>th</sup> in GS with Madison Hoffman placing 5<sup>th</sup> in U14 SL.

In European International Children's racing, we congratulate Theo Coates who successfully defended his title in the U14 Children's Slalom event at Vratna, Slovakia.

### **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. 8 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 3 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.

3 NSW Alpine athletes participated in the 2013 SERAS Snowsports program. Applications have recently closed for the 2014 program and the successful applicants will be announced shortly.

#### **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 45 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 dryland training during the winter season.

NSW Alpine in conjunction with Manfred also organised a pre northern season testing day at the end of the September school holidays. 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 years 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 2013 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. The new NSW Snowsports website has enabled us to keep our website much more current. We also thank NSW Snowsports Executive Officer Rebecca Clarke 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, with well over 300 “friends” receiving our postings. Some of the more popular stories and photos receiving over 600 “hits”. 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. I would like to thank Greg Lewis for his excellent work with the NSW Alpine Facebook postings.

### **NSWACT Sponsors, Donors and Supporters program**

To try and 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 2014 programs. This year, 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 2014.

An Australian Sports Foundation Project was also established to enable donations to be made tax effectively. A broad based on line “Funds to Raise Campaign” was also piloted to test the appeal for this type of fund raising.

I would particularly like to thank Phil Coates, Gabi Robertson and David Chrystal for all their work during the year on these Sponsorship and donations initiatives. We ask if anyone has any personal or business contacts or is able to assist us in any way with sponsorship support, referrals or donations, financial or in kind, please let us know.

**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 simply couldn't function without your collective efforts.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank retiring Alpine Committee member Markus Mueller for his input and contribution to the Committee over the last 3 years.

Thankyou.

Annette Pilat,  
Chair, NSW Alpine  
26<sup>th</sup> October 2013