



Welcome to the VSA June Newsletter!

What a fantastic start to the season with lifts running at Mt Hotham, Falls Creek and Mt Buller with over 10,000 people getting out and about on the slopes Victoria wide.

Most resorts have the snow guns firing and with temperatures remained cold in the city this week it is looking good for continued snowmaking and fingers crossed some more snowfalls!

Please see the following long range forecast thanks to "the frog" from snowwatch.com:

"I can say that June and July are pointing towards being wetter than normal with El Nino weakening. I see snowfalls mixed in with some showers before the temps drop slightly at the end June and we start to see colder nights and the likelihood of heavier snowfalls increase dramatically in early July. I think July could one of the best for some time."

Let's keep our fingers, toes and skis crossed that he is right and that we have a bumper 2010 season!!

Have you bought your SSA Membership yet?

Support VSA and buy your Ski and Snowboard Australia Membership today!

All members receive VSA membership when purchasing SSA membership. Make sure to nominate your state organization when purchasing on line at:

www.skiandsnowboard.org.au

To select Victoria please choose **VSA affiliate**.
If your club wishes to become a member of the VSA please go to our website and follow the links.

Cross Country, By Allan Marsland.

Vale Robyn Rodd

The cross country skiing community has been shocked by the tragic death of Robyn Rodd in a cycling accident on the Great Alpine Road between Mt Hotham and Harrietteville on Wednesday 26 May.

Robyn had been involved in cross country skiing for over three decades, winning her first Australian

VSA website

Have you seen the VSA website yet?

www.vsa.org.au

Make sure you check it out regularly as we are constantly updating information on competitions, camps and industry news!

Mailing list

Not on our mailing list?

Contact the office:

vsa@skiandsnowboard.org.au

and we will add you on!

championship in 1981 and being a regular occupier of the podium at championship and citizen races over the intervening years.

Robyn was one of only three women who had competed in all 19 Kangaroo Hoppets, and was in very serious training for this year's twentieth Hoppet with the rumoured aim of making the podium once again.

Robyn's involvement in the sport went way beyond competing. She was National Cross Country Race Secretary of the Australian Ski Federation for 17 years. A member of the Birkebeiner Nordic Ski Club, Robyn was active as a volunteer in club activities and at the Hoppet, (as well as competing) and was involved with the annual Ski de Femme program for women and girls.

We extend our deepest sympathy to her husband Richard and children Lachlan, Nicola and Cameron.

Victorian Junior Squad pre season training weekend at Mount Beauty. May 22-23

Over 30 junior skiers travelled to Mount Beauty for the Victorian Junior Squad pre season training camp. Activities included participation in the 3 and 10km events held with the Mt Beauty Half Marathon, roller skiing, fitness and technique sessions, and trying out the new Ski Erg double pole machines.

Highlight of the weekend was an evening presentation on 'The Road to Vancouver' by Olympians Paul Murray and Esther Bottomley and National Head Coach Finn Marsland.

Thanks to coaches Jacinta O'Neil and Jean Claude le Gras, to the national team members and former squad members who gave of their time to help out and, of course, the parents who organised transport, meals and accommodation.

SXCV Discussion Forum

Following from a decision made at the April Euroa meeting, a discussion forum was held in Mount Beauty on May 22 after the Half Marathon. The two main topics were the planning process for the Revised Management Plan of the Alpine National Park and the restructure of SXCV.



Robyn Rodd Competing in the 2005 Kangaroo Hoppet

The revision of the management plan for the Alpine National Park is of great interest to cross country skiers as a significant part of the trail networks at our resorts are in adjoining national park areas.

Those present shared their concerns at the inadequate information about snowsports in the Alpine National Park on the WePlan website, and at the total lack of consultation with the VSA in general and SXCV as the cross country committee in particular. A draft information paper on snowsports in the national park was tabled and it was decided to circulate the draft with a request for comments within a week. The revised paper has been forwarded to Parks Victoria.

A draft structure for SXCV was tabled and discussion will continue through the winter with the aim of a new structure being decided on at the Spring Euroa meeting.

Athlete watch...

Scotty James

Since Scotty got back he has had quite a bit of fan mail from all over the world. Some of the local schools his area have done class projects on snowboarding and the winter Olympics so Scotty has been out and around meeting and talking with the kids about the whole experience.



Photo's courtesy Phil James

Alpine : By Dave Reeves

2010 Children's Series:

This year there have been some changes made to the State and National racing formats for the 2010 season.

The changes are as follows:

Children will now be participating in 1 x state heat and 2 x national heats.

The reason for this change is to enable athlete's to have more than one opportunity at competing against their interstate counterparts and therefore relieve the hype and stress that National heats have caused in the past by only holding one event.

Points will also be changed to the following format:

State heats will have a penalty calculation similar to that of an 'Entry Level' (ENL) FIS race, where the penalty, and subsequent points available will be slightly higher recognizing the differing tiers of state and national series racing; this will be applied to state series racing in both NSW & VIC.

Fitness testing:

Fitness testing was conducted on the weekend of May 15th and 16th at the MSAC sports and aquatic center.

There was a great turn out of around 40 FIS and C1 & C2 athlete's participating in testing.

The Victorian Alpine Committee greatly encourages all athlete's to participate in the fitness testing events as it will assist you with your development and help you measure and achieve your goals as an athlete.

Stay tuned for testing dates after the season!





VICTORIAN
SNOWSPORTS
ASSOCIATION

Freestyle: BY Andrew "Patto" Pattison

With the opening of the ski season now days away, excitement is building for a big winter!

Following a successful 2010 Olympics for Australia, program applications have been coming in fast with program enrolments at a ten year high.

Athletes have been very active leading into the winter, taking part in Water Jump training and Acrobatic/Trampoline training to improve their air awareness skills.

Looking ahead, the two main freestyle events taking place in Victoria will be:

Sunday August 1st – Junior National Mogul Championships @ Mt Buller
Saturday August 28th – ABOM Mogul Challenge @ Mt Buller

The two events at Mt Buller are definitely great to compete in, with each event having over 90 competitors last year.

Entry forms will be available closer to the event on www.teambuller.com

Back in my day....

Jim's Snow Adventures : Season 1955, Bob Hyman's Hutte, Falls Creek By Jim Logan-Bell

In 1954 , as a student at RMIT, I joined its Ski Club, a division of the Ski Club of Victoria. I purchased my first pair of skis (formed from steamed blanks of Tasmanian Blue Gum) from Don Smart, supplier to the Australian Antarctic Expedition.

Having lacquered their soles, I booked a bus ticket to Mt Buller for mid July.

Passengers boarded the bus in Flinders' Street, at 6.30pm and it followed what is today known as the Melba Highway(but then more twisting and a gravel surface to Yea, we reached Mansfield at about 9.30pm and transferred into a smaller bus as far as Saw Mill Settlement.

Here Harold Racker met us with his old Army Blitz wagon truck where we clambered aboard with Skis , packs sitting on hard benches either side of the back.

Snowboard: By Christine Hocking

Come 'n' try

This winter the Southern Snowboard Committee will be running a "Come 'n' Try" program. The program will consist of a 2 hour session being run for 5 days of the Subaru Victorian Interschools.

Participants will be given the chance to train with both a Race Club coach and a Transitionist Snowboard Camps coach (TSC) to experience both freestyle and racing environments.

It is sure to book out fast so please get your forms in fast once entries open!

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Back in my day.... continued

As we climbed , because of the roads rough surface, we had great difficulty holding onto our skis and seats as the truck rode the bumps and swayed around the sharp corners.

The night was cold (below freezing) with a crystal clear sky lit by a full moon. This was how I first caught site of Buller glistening in its light as we left Mansfield.

When we reached the Old Chalet Site, Harold said "Well this is as far as I go. It's not far , just keep walking up the road and you'll find the hut", and then he was gone.

Suddenly, all alone, I experienced for the first time that rare silence, where the only sounds were that of my deep breaths and the crunch of each footstep on the frozen ground. Something quite extraordinary, a magic moment that has stayed with me ever since, one that has engendered in me a deep love and passion for our mountains.

Lumping one's skis and pack, I set off up the steep short cut to Windy corner and on up to the "Whit") now Ski Club of Victoria (SCV) headquarters where there was a light from an outbuilding and voices, so I called out " Where is the RMIT Hut?", a guttural voice yelled out "What do you want- just keep going up an you'll find it." I staggered into the Hut, exhausted, there was only one top bunk left with no mattress just slats.

I awoke the next morning looking like a zebra. Nothing was working, everything was frozen, including the toilet. So for one , there was a low slung bough of a snow gum and that did the job.

Having previously learnt the basics 5 years earlier at Mt Buffalo, I ventured onto Bourke Street and spied that infernal rope tow. My skis were so heavy, with primitive bindings and converted army boots, with my bamboo stocks and large baskets. It was quite a daunting task to make any headway.

All one could do was snow plough, and then to climb either kick turn and or herring bone.

Cooking was on a single primus stove, or a most of the five did we had our main meal at the Whit.

This first weekend was a seminal event which led me to later become fully involved in the development of several clubs in both summer (work parties) and winter, the last and most rewarding being as an Associate of the Navy Ski Club from 1958-1987. Where in 1963. I won the inaugural Club Championship, a g/s on lower Standard run.

Later, I represented Navy in the 1968 Interservices Competition, also I was their first Ski Rescue Representative for the Victorian Ski Rescue Service. In the RAN 30 Year History, it quotes my ode to skiing when I won the Club Race.

From hill to hill as if on wings
Sliding on
Over broad white waves
Whizzing to full swing
Silently downward
And to then rise
Upward again
This is living!