
BIRKEBEINER BULLETIN



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Official newsletter of the Birkebeiner Nordic Ski Club

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Annual BBQ at the Pondage.

The annual BBQ will be held at the pondage on **Saturday 24th November** from 5.30pm for a 6pm start. Families bring a salad and dessert to share. Singles/Couples bring a salad or dessert. The club will provide meat (veggie burgers available) and bread. BYO chairs, drinks, crockery and cutlery. In the case of inclement weather, the BBQ will be held under the verandah at the Hoppet Office.

National Team and Special Grants

At the October committee meeting \$4,000.00 was allocated to national team members to assist them with their overseas travel costs. Seven skiers benefited from this grant. The Victorian Junior Team/Squad travelling to the USA with manager Ronice Goebel and coach Jean-Claude Legras, was granted \$1,000.00 towards team expenses-eight of the fourteen participants are Birkebeiner members. The committee also allocated \$1,200.00 for the purchase of five pairs of Club roller skis and accessories to be purchased by Ronice while in the USA.

2012 Race Committee Report

Birkebeiner Classic

The Birkebeiner Classic this year was held in great snow conditions. It is always a good low key starter and gets us into a pattern for the next races on the calendar. We had plenty of helpers, but didn't get a lot of entries... This varies considerably from year to year. Perhaps because it is classic at the start of the season may be a reason for the low turnout, but we never really know. It was a great opportunity to give our 'track setting' team a practice without too much pressure. Racers: 47

Ski de Femme

By contrast, the next day the Ski de Femme had a great turn out with about 120 skiers. This year they added 'Fast and Female' to the format and it was great to see a big group of young females out in a 'stations' format. There was lots of noise and fun for both groups. The time that our 'volunteer' coaches give is greatly appreciated by one and all and thanks to Ronice Goebel and her team for their continued good work in getting it all organized. Racers: 120

Rocky Valley Rush

After lots of moving it around the calendar it was finally decided to put the RVR on the day following the Hotham to Dinner plain. This may have had a bearing on the numbers as lots of people use the weekend to stay at Hotham. Nevertheless it was held in good conditions and those who raced it enjoyed it. A big thank you to Peter Cranage and Snowgum's sponsoring of the event. Racers: 38

National Senior and Junior Sprints

The National Sprints were a big effort for the Club with it being a FIS race and without having Keeps on board, a lot of people stepped up and helped. The sprints require good weather, fast flowing results and turnover of races, to be successful, and with the help of everyone (including the weather god) that was achieved. It was great to have a team of high quality international athletes competing, and great to see how fast they could go, and this was supported by a high quality team of race organisers with Finn and BD at the helm. Racers: 81

National Senior, Masters and Junior Distance

The day after the sprint we held the Distance races in great weather. Again we had plenty of helpers and the event went very smoothly from start to finish. With the presentations often taking a bit of time at most races, it was great to have the certificates quickly printed off and ready to go, meaning we were finished up at lunchtime. Racers 88

The Race Committee did a big job this year with everyone putting in extra work to cover the job that Keeps knows off by heart.

A big thank you to Paul L'Huillier, Bill Little, Marg Trnka, Graeme Bottomley, Ronice Goebel, and Tony Crapper for all the work that they provided and for the many helpers who gave up their time to help on Race Days.

Judy Bottomley
Race Secretary

Members' Blogs

Phil Bellingham and Paul Kovacs and Alasdair Tutt all keep a blog when they travel and the links to these are below.

Phil <http://pbellinghamxc.wordpress.com>
Paul <http://pkovacsxc.wordpress.com>
Alasdair <http://atuttxc.wordpress.com>

**Cross Country Skiing
National Team Selection 2012-2013
Provisional as at September 15, 2012**

	Men	Women
World Cup Team (FIS Point or Top 80% of field World Cup)	Callum Watson	
Continental Cup Team (FIS Points Only)	Alex Almoukov Phillip Bellingham — Mark van der Ploeg —	Esther Bottomley — Aimee Watson
National Squad (Australian Selection Races)	Paul Kovacs — Damon Morton Mark Pollock (U23) Hamish Roberts (U23) —	Lucy Glanville Lescinska Grimmer — Anna Trnka (U23) —
National Junior Team (Junior Australian Selection Races)	Nick Montgomery Alasdair Tutt — Damon Morton Hamish Roberts Jackson Bursill	Lucy Glanville Anna Trnka Xanthea Dewez Casey Wright — Ashleigh Spittle —

Note 1. Any National Team athlete can be promoted to the World Cup or Continental Cup Teams during the northern hemisphere winter if they achieve the relevant FIS Point or World Cup standards.

Note 2. Athletes with the notation (U23) have qualified for the National Squad under the selection criteria for U23 athletes. Please note that several of these athletes are U20 athletes.

Note 3. All National Teams will become official following the acceptance of team invitations. Non-team athletes are still eligible to be selected to the Australian Team for major international events if they reach the relevant FIS point performance standard.

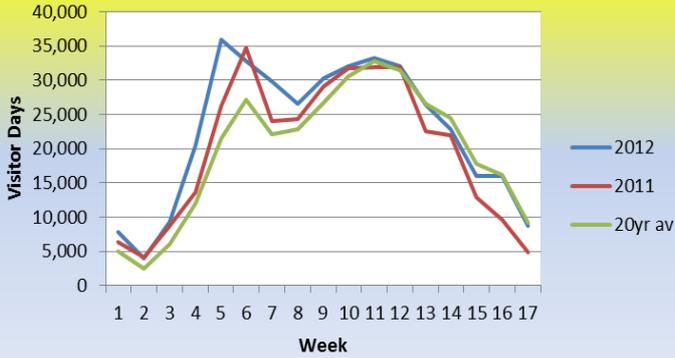
— Birkebeiner Members

The committee congratulates all club members who have been selected in a National Team and wish them all the best in their training and racing endeavours this coming northern winter.

Committee Minutes

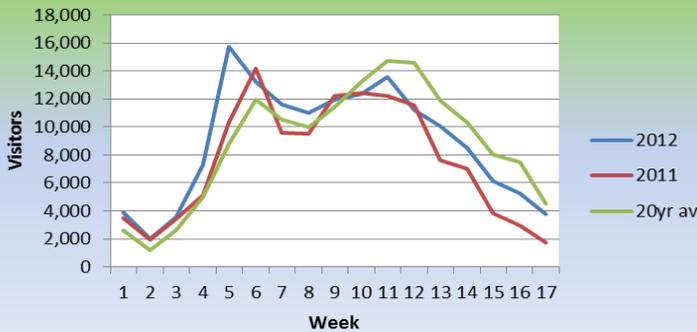
These are available for viewing on the club's website,
<http://birkebeiner.org.au/admin-2/meeting-minutes/>

Falls Creek Winter Visitor Days



Visitor Days			
Week	2012	2011	20yr av
1	7,787	6,394	5029
2	3,928	4,170	2429
3	9,350	8,698	6005
4	20,515	13,653	12006
5	35,953	26,231	21501
6	32,817	34,786	27211
7	29,823	24,031	22103
8	26,517	24,401	22883
9	30,251	29,035	26696
10	32,036	31,767	30529
11	33,325	31,858	32769
12	32,000	31,905	31486
13	26,427	22,535	26581
14	22,898	22,004	24481
15	15,955	12,848	17729
16	16,050	9,600	16196
17	8,798	4,854	9132
Total	384,430	338,767	334,766

Falls Creek Winter Visitors



Visitors			
Week	2012	2011	20yr av
1	3,898	3,524	2,630
2	2,009	1,967	1,204
3	3,581	3,397	2,588
4	7,256	5,116	4,982
5	15,727	10,337	8,765
6	13,260	14,184	11,966
7	11,621	9,613	10,534
8	11,038	9,519	9,978
9	11,970	12,238	11,381
10	12,351	12,435	13,223
11	13,559	12,195	14,716
12	11,191	11,581	14,603
13	10,061	7,626	11,882
14	8,529	7,030	10,328
15	6,137	3,814	8,024
16	5,257	2,950	7,489
17	3,763	1,762	4,538
Total	151,208	129,288	148,831



Late September on Bogong

with Bob and Nick

What do you do if you have perfect weather, coinciding with school holidays and the best spring snow in years? Why you ski Bogong, of course. And what a good idea it was! Not for the experience of isolation, mind – there must have been twenty people up there that day with the same idea (about the same number as were skiing Ruined Castle in similar weather on the preceding day). The road in to Camp Gap from Trappers Gap is pretty much a highway now, so even after a relaxed start we were still underway in plenty of time to walk

up Eskdale Spur, stopping to chat to some young campers at Michel hut. ‘Reckoned they could share a car from Melbourne and have a weekend away with snow views for \$50! Their breakfast mushrooms smelled good, but they probably wouldn’t have got their firewood sawn through if we hadn’t happened along.

Snow on the track started pretty soon after the hut, but walking was easier than attempting to ski until we got out of the trees. The air was super-clear, with unimpeded views across to Kosciusko and the Main Range – you should be able to make it out in the background of the photo of Nick standing on Eskdale Spur. Once we got up on to the plateau, the summit beckoned. There we encountered another couple of skiers (aghast at the sight of skating skis) having lunch. We were just leaving when an exhausted young guy arrived alone and on foot and lay panting in the snow. Between us we found him some energy bars, as all he had was one mandarin, and extracted a promise not to dally too long before heading down. Everyone’s got a story when you’re on Bogong! The rest of the day unfolded with a bit of exploration along the ridge around rocking stone saddle, and then down through the trees to Cleve Cole Hut. About 20 people had overnighted there, but it looked remarkably orderly inside. After climbing back to the summit area we tried a couple of half-



hearted runs part way down Cairn Gully – not being anxious to descend too far at this stage of the day. On the way home skiing was possible for us down to the junction of Eskdale and Granite Flat Spurs – although the hard men who overtook us on the descent managed another couple of hundred metres through the trees. A very satisfying day - we have already ordered similar weather and snow conditions for the last week of next season, when it will be time to tackle Feathertop.

Bob Flower, who was accompanied by new member, Nicholas Wright



The hut interior photos are of Cleve Cole hut on Mount Bogong.

Paul Kovacs and Boynton’s Winery Sponsorship

Paul and Callum Watson have arranged with Boynton’s Feathertop Winery that for every case of wine sold under the Towards Sochi 2014 fund, \$50 will be donated towards helping them pay for their expenses for the next two World Cup Seasons taking place across North America, Europe and Russia. Think about it when you buy up big next time.

Excellence in Sport Award

Birkebeiner was the sponsor of the Excellence in Sport award at the Alpine Shire Youth Awards held on Friday 19th October in Mount Beauty. Allan Marsland presented the award on behalf of the club.

Adam Hays (a 13 year old Myrtleford horse rider) won the award. Adam was selected to be part of the “Equine Goals and Dreams Team” which competed at the Johore International Horse Show in Malaysia in April 2012.

During this competition, Adam placed fifth as an individual in the round one showjumping with his riding technique receiving a standing ovation from the crowd of several hundred spectators. Adam also rode in the preparatory dressage test section and placed a commendable second place. As a rider of the Novelties Team competing over 3 days, Adam’s team ended up in first place.