



KCros PO Box 425 Jindabyne NSW 2627.

www.kcros.org.au

YOUR VOICE FOR CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING IN KOSCIUSZKO NATIONAL PARK

NEWSLETTER – September 2009 ISSUE

KCros is a special interest group with a primary focus on the issues of service and facilities for cross country skiers in Kosciuszko National Park. Experience has shown that a unified, well-organised representation is more effective than many small scattered voices. KCros has the mandate of various cross-country organisations and independent skiers to speak on those issues on their behalf as a single strong voice.

KCros exists to ensure that the views and needs of cross country skiers are addressed and met in the operation of and in the future development of the Kosciuszko National Park.

KCros is aware of the differing needs of beginners, novices, children, seniors, racers, the physically disadvantaged, ski orienteers and biathletes, day tourers, back country tourers and snow campers.

KCros provides the structure for varied and unrelated cross country skiing groups as well as independent skiers' to speak with one voice on issues that affect safe and enjoyable participation in their chosen sport anywhere within Kosciuszko National Park. KCros will identify and investigate relevant issues of concern to cross-country skiers. When necessary KCros will co-ordinate lobbying activities and establish an effective lobby network wherever and whenever it is needed.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the spring edition of our newsletter. I hope if that you had a chance to go skiing in the last few months, you and your family enjoyed the snow. It turned out to be a good season.

There have been many good things happening in cross-country skiing over the last few years. The Nordic shelter extension has been completed. Perisher Blue have been persuaded to release the cross-country trails from the franchise area and cross-country skiing has become free to develop itself and offer new alternatives. The trail grooming has improved at Perisher and Smiggins and new trails have been developed. The National Parks and

Wildlife Service has also increased funding for grooming and this season we had grooming from June to September. This would have been unprecedented in the past!

However there are challenges ahead for cross-country skiing. With the change in the franchise area it has also meant that the lease on the Perisher car park has reverted back to the NSW Government. With that the village development is back on the table.

In 2003, Perisher Blue originally proposed developing the car park into a village complex with accommodation and parking for people staying on snow. Car parking for the general public was going to be reduced by two thirds. Perisher Blue never got final approval for the complex and it was lost in the negotiations over the new lease arrangements.

Now that the State Government is the leaseholder over the car park it has asked for expressions of interest to develop the car park into a village. The difference this time is that it has proposed that the amount of car parking for the general public to remain the same. This would seem to mean a massive amount of underground parking.

Anyone that has attempted to park at Perisher Valley and ended up down the road and trying to get up to the snow, will know that this is a time consuming and at times hazardous venture. It will be up to cross-country skiers who don't come into the equation as paying guests for the downhill operation but use the car park as a valuable access point for their activity, to make sure their voice is continued to be heard.

Cross-country skiers will need to be vigilant that the current guidelines for the development application take into account their interests. This is one of the immediate issues that I see for an organisation like KCros and its members will need to be watching closely.

At this stage I cannot continue to lead this organisation through to this new stage of vigilance.

Due to family, work and other responsibilities within the cross-country ski community, I will be standing down from President at this year's AGM at NSW Sport and Recreation Camp in Jindabyne on September 26th. The committee and I are asking that someone come forward to stand as President.

This is important for you to consider this if you feel that cross-country skiing does and will continue to fight for a better deal for itself. It is going to be up to its participants to develop it so the sport continues and be available for new skiers to join.

Warren McCourt
President

MEMBERSHIP OF KCros

Your KCros subscription gives life membership and KCros is funded by voluntary annual donations from members.

Current Financial Situation

We have approximately \$900 in funds. Donations acknowledgement since the last newsletter go to Hatch, Schnieder, Cordero and Parish. Last year we suggested that you donate directly to the Nordic Shelter Fund instead of KCros but donations to KCros are most welcome this year to go towards paying for our PO Box, our web site and the printing and distribution of the Newsletter. For any monies in excess a vote will be taken at the AGM for their distribution. This year the suggestion is for helping the selected XC Olympic skiers but you as a member are most welcome to give the committee other suggestions. If you are sending a donation then we have no facility for credit cards (being a small voluntarily run group) and we apologise that payment will be a bit troublesome but can only be received by cheque or money order.

Laurinda Allan
Treasurer

AGM

This season the KCros AGM was not held as usual on snow during XC week. It will be held this month and all members and their friends are invited to attend the **2009 AGM of KCros to be held at the Sport and Recreation Centre at Jindabyne at 4.30 pm on the 26 September 2009** in the Golf Clubhouse. Please see the attached map. This will coincide with the presentation of the NSW XC Ski Awards.

Minutes of the previous 2008 AGM are posted on the KCros web site for all to see. There will be the election of a new committee and our current concerns of running KCros and our tasks ahead will

be discussed. It is hoped that as many members as possible will attend.

Our concerns at KCros

KCros needs support from its members and we need to question what we should be doing now as a lobby group. Two big concerns have been taken from our agenda. We have lobbied since our formation about the Perisher Resort (known formerly as Perisher Blue) franchise over the XC area and this at last has now been resolved. The second is the proposal to charge trail fees as NPWS gradually withdraw funding for the grooming of the Perisher Trails. This matter has been taken over by the committee of the Perisher Range Cross-Country Inc. who have set up a management board to formulate a plan of payment.

We still retain our stated roles of LOBBYING and COMMUNICATION and one of our best advantages over the individual ski bodies is that we can speak on issues as a single voice. At the moment we retain near 600 members. If you think that we are necessary then you need to let us know. New committee members are needed be they active skiers or just supporters but it would be good to have someone who gets to the snow and sees what is going on and what is needed to make our sport as good as it can be. All positions are open each year for election. Laurinda and Margaret are interested in re-standing for their positions but we are in urgent need of a membership secretary to keep the postal and email addresses of members up-to-date, a Touring Committee Member to report on trips and conditions away from the resorts and definitely a President as Warren is not standing again at the moment. What we also need so much now in this day and age is computer literacy and particularly committee members who could help develop an emailed newsletter instead of mailed version. Emailing members would also give the committee a quick way of notifying members of issues and discussing them as they arise during the year.

HOW TO CONTACT KCros

Your suggestions, opinions, ideas and comments would be appreciated as soon as possible and preferably before the AGM. You can email the current KCros President, Warren McCourt at gabs_waz@yahoo.com. If you are interested in being nominated for the committee and feel that you could offer some of your time then do not hold back. It does become a rewarding experience on a committee and you can give back to the ski community some of the joy that skiing gives you.

NEWS

Weather

During the 2009 Ski season bad and particularly windy weather seemed to predominate with those sunny, clear days being few and far between. For the start of the season good snowfalls miraculously came at the end of the long weekend in June and further good falls occurred from late June into the first half of July. (See falls at the Snow depth calculator graph on the Snowy Hydro website). Frosty nights and mornings were down on average.

Nordic Shelter

The new larger Nordic Shelter building being used for its second snow season was much appreciated particularly on the bad days and the coffee facilities were well used. The extended building is really well designed, can accommodate a large number of people and is really good to use. The wax room is a great facility. Perisher trails were all set and well maintained throughout the season with a couple of small changes to the sharper corners being well received. Tracks along the road set up to Perisher Gap were good if newly formed but were soon unfortunately each day wiped out by over-snow traffic.

Main events

The KAC Classic Race celebrating the 100th anniversary of their club fell again for another year on a cold, windy day. Low cloud and very little visibility made it a hard race for the 350 entrants on their run from Perisher to Charlotte Pass. The night relays (and following superb banquet in the Nordic Shelter) on the Monday night of XC week were again scintillating under lights making it the star event for the week for both competitors and spectators. Do mark the Monday late afternoon/evening in your diary for next year. Ski de Femme was granted a great sunny day – also look out for it another year for excellent ski lessons with subsidised fees for all women and girls. The Cabramurra Tour was held on the Dry Dam trails at Cabramurra with 24 skiers joining in. Other races were a bit down on numbers. The FIS point races held at Perisher this year were a true spectator sport experience with top skiers from Switzerland, New Zealand and Japan joining our top skiers and Olympic hopefuls.

Changes for 2009

XC lobbying has had a win with Perisher Resort (formerly Perisher Blue) now foregoing the franchise rights to the XC area on the south side of the Kosciuszko Road. Ski instruction in this area can now be provided by anyone with a NPWS Commercial Tour Operators' Licence. Amongst those qualified the most evident during the season were K7 Adventures, a XC teaching group who started operating from a corner of the Shelter, and Wilderness Sports who opened a XC shop with equipment, hire and lessons from a corner of the Perisher NPWS building. Sigi's XC shop in the Perisher Centre has closed and was much missed this year.

The Perisher Resort in May 2009 had their franchise area varied with 10 leases across the Alpine Ski Areas amalgamated with certainty of tenure of a 40-year lease and extra 20-year option. This allowed for the release of the XC area and also the 1780-Perisher Car park area that was surrendered to the Government who now has the challenge of finding a developer for the Village to be constructed on it.

Heartfelt Thanks

Firstly thanks is given to the NPWS who has continued to provide great support to the XC community, and secondly, as in most sports, it is to the small handful of dedicated XC people who organize and run things and take on the associated tasks that are necessary or are thrust upon them. This year they must have been tested to their utmost with the exacerbating weather conditions and we pass on our gratitude to them.

XC Skiing Web pages

Pages to put in your search engine and bookmark are NSW Snowsports, Snowsports ACT, the Hoppet page and also Ski and Snowboard Australia for their news, links and race calendar and race results. Also for all XC skiers the Canberra XC Ski Club, NSW Nordic Ski Club sites are invaluable for touring information and citizen race details. Do not forget the KCros page that also has lots of skiing information. The Snowy Hydro site is particularly recommended for the graphic yearly snow depths and NPWS for its Alpine safety advice. During the season Wilderness Sports in the XC section of the Perisher Resort site gave a good and welcome daily update of the state of the grooming of the XC trails.

Margaret McCawley
Editor/Secretary

ANNUAL DONATION FORM

(This form can be downloaded from the website)

Return to: KCros PO BOX 425 Jindabyne NSW 2627

(PLEASE PRINT ALL DETAIL)

Family Name..... Continuing member/New member

Family Members Names *(Include ages where under 15 yrs)*

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.....
.....

(or) Organisation.....

.....

Mailing Address *(must be filled in)*

.....
.....

email

(If we receive enough addresses we are hoping to be able to email the newsletter)

How to pay: Cheque/Money Order payable to **KCros** (no staples)

(No cash through Post *please* and we are **unable** to take cards)

Single \$10	Family \$20	Donation \$..... <i>Donations always welcome</i>
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(Cash donations can be placed in the secure box marked 'KCros donations' in the Nordic Shelter- also find copies of this donation form to fill in there.)

Your Suggestions to and/or Comments about KCros



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