



KCros PO Box 425 Jindabyne NSW 2627.

www.KCros.org.au

YOUR VOICE FOR CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING IN KOSCIUSZKO NATIONAL PARK

NEWSLETTER – March 2006 ISSUE

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From the President

Hello there. I know it has been a long time since you have heard from us. I have taken over from Tony Greville as President as KCros at last year's AGM in August. I acknowledge that KCros has not been active for a couple of years and there has been debate within and outside the organization about its ongoing relevance.

Having spent a few years not actively involved in the organization but being active in other organizations involved with cross-country skiing, I very much think that having a lobby group representing cross-country skiers in NSW is extremely important. Having travelled down for skiing into Victoria and seen the facilities they have there and travelling overseas and seeing what a big sport cross-country skiing can be, I can say one thing about cross-country skiing community We are not politically connected well enough. Decisions are made all the time that affect cross-country skiing and we are bypassed or overlooked.

There are some important decisions that affect our sport in the Park being made now and unless we are vigilant and active, they will affect our sport for generations to come. I have also written a "We have issues..." section for you to know what is going on.

However my first goal as President is to reconnect with our member base. If you get this newsletter and have changed your contact details (eg have a new email address) please let us know. We want to keep in contact with you. People change addresses all the time these days so if you can let us know your email address then we would like to start sending this newsletter by email to you. If you wish to make a donation to KCros to help us keep in contact with you and pushing the interests of cross-country skiing please do.

All we can ask of you is to please read this newsletter and become interested in your sport. Decisions are being made about this sport long before the snow falls. This is in reality a 12 month sport, not a sport that's lasts 3 months or the annual week trip down to the snow. The cross-country community needs to show that they are worthy of being involved in decisions. Becoming more involved in some way is the only way it is going to count.

I hope to catch up with you again and to see you down the snow somewhere. Please seek me out and talk to me about any concerns you have or any help you can give.

Warren McCourt

We have issues.....

This is a new section with your KCros newsletter that will tell you about what is happening within cross-country circles and your Kosciusko National Park that may affect your sport.

The KCros Committee may from time to time ask for your support with these issues. If you are aware of anything that KCros should become aware of write to Warren McCourt at gabs_waz@yahoo.com

• **Entry Fees**

There is to be an increase this year in entry fees to the Kosciusko National Park and another increase in 2007. Vehicle entry fees are to increase this year from \$16 to \$22 and there is to be further increase to \$27 in 2007. These fees are to only apply for winter entry. For summer entry the fees will remain the same. Annual passes will increase from \$85 to \$145 and to \$190 in 2007.

These increase in charges are due to an Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal

(IPART) report that recommended that due to the increasing cost of providing municipal services (sewerage, water, roads, waste disposal) at the Perisher Range resorts (i.e. Perisher Blue) that charges will need to be increased. However these increases will apply to all winter users of the Park, no matter what resort they use. Another reason given is that these charges will bring them into line with fees for winter entry into Victorian resorts.

- **Where will this additional revenue be spent?**

For example, will this increase in revenue for the NPWS see an increase in the budget for grooming on the Perisher Trails. This is doubtful. How the increased revenue will be used go to:

www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/npws.nsf/Content/kosciuszko_winter_surcharge

There is no mention of an increased budget for grooming but a lot of money for summer activities (track maintenance, horse camps).

- **New organisation**

A new body called Perisher Range Cross-Country Inc (PRCCI) which is made up of cross-country skiers, is trying to set up a management board that will run the trails at Perisher Valley. KCros has had representation on the steering committee for PRCCI.

This body was set up after NPWS have advised that within 5 years they would like to stop managing the trail grooming at Perisher Range. For the next 5 years they have agreed to continue funding the trail grooming to the tune of \$50,000 per year. This compares with the budget at Falls Creek at over \$100,000 per year. For the last two years the PRCCI have attempted to begin alternative funding through the implementation of trail fees. Perisher Blue have been supportive of this and were going to help with the ticketing.

Both years the process has been held up the NPWS. This year Parks did not agree to the implementation as they were concerned about the protest from the increased entry fees and trail fees at the same time.

The PRCCI steering committee in November was going to write to the NPWS pointing out the loss of income for the last two seasons and requesting an increase in funding. But nothing has happened so far. With budgets probably decided for this season there is every chance that we will be stuck with same level of inadequate grooming as in the last few years.

- **National and State Representation**

There has been continuing infighting between the various state associations and Skiing and Snowboarding Australia (SSA) which have rendered the upper echelons of snowsports in this country dysfunctional.

The Australian Sports Commission (ASC) launched an enquiry into the running of SSA. The report written by Kate Costello who was involved in the Crawford Report into Australian soccer, will have a profound affect on cross-country skiing in Australia.

It has basically recommended that state associations be disbanded and that the SSA only concern itself with elite development. The SSA will have a regional officer (ie for NSW and ACT) who will co-ordinate all the events (alpine, cross-country, freestyle and aerials) at the resorts through volunteers. How this regional officer is going to do this for all the sports on often the same weekend remains a mystery.

The volunteers will have a limited say in the running of the SSA as there would be no longer a state association and each member of SSA has one vote for each member. How this will affect the Nordic Shelter which is leased to the NSW Snowsports Association, junior development, coaching programs, school programs, snow safety education, touring and the race calendar with citizen races, all not being considered as part of the SSA responsibility, is of deep concern.

As the ASC is the biggest contributor to the SSA it has made some of the constitutional changes compulsory. However it would seem that the stakeholders submissions have been ignored in the report and the SSA executive have got what they wanted.

Kate Costello will be travelling to the major centres to discuss her report and KCros will hope to be there as an observer. The committee will keep you informed of developments and how you can help if you are concerned.

- Remember to go to www.KCros.org.au and your state/territory ski association websites for example: www.nswski.com.au if you want to keep up to date with the latest developments.

FROM THE EDITOR

The 2005 Annual General Meeting

The KCros AGM was held at the NPWS Ranger Station Perisher at 3.30pm on Friday 12 August 2005, this being the Friday at the end of Cross Country Week.

Reports from the President, editor and treasurer were presented at the meeting and a new committee was elected.

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

We are always losing email addresses because people change jobs and service providers. Members are asked to send us their email address so that we can keep them up to date with news reports.

Remember to also advise KCros of your change of mail address so that we can keep in touch.

LIST OF DONORS TO KCROS

Subscriptions and Donation in the last 12 months will be included in the next newsletter.

There is also a donation box in the Nordic Shelter below the KCros noticeboard for anonymous donations.

MEMBERSHIP DETAILS (OR CHANGES) AND ANNUAL DONATION FORM

Your KCros subscription gives life membership and KCros is funded by voluntary annual donations from members. Donations for 2006 can be sent in now.

(This form is also available on the Web Site for printing and posting to KCros)

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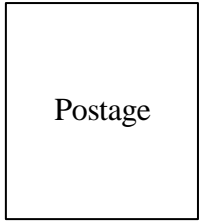
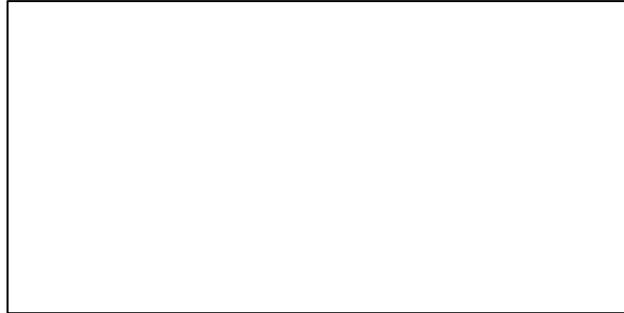
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