

WARRUGANG NEWS



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WIRELESS INTERNET

Worried about the office, or just want to check the weather, snow and grooming reports?

As a trial this year, we are introducing a free wireless internet service so you can go to the Lodge, but not miss out on important emails, and plan your day with up-to-date information.

To access the Internet service, please ask David for the password and connection details.

Please appreciate that we have limited download capability. The service is not intended as a movie (or any other significant) download service or to enable a de-facto "TV in the lounge".

By limiting your downloads, you will help other members to have the same access as you and not find that our monthly allowance has been completely used and the service restricted for the rest of the month.

2008 SEASON COMMENCES

When Perisher moves into charging full price for a lift pass and the number of operating lifts hits double figures, you know that the season has begun; perhaps not with a lot of snow, but it's underway.

The first 2 weeks of the season could only be described as sparse - only one side of Front Valley had any cover and Perisher Blue put on entertainment with discounted food and drinks - it was snowplay time.

Then, 35cm of snow fell and, with Blue Cow and Smiggins operational and the snow guns pumping around the mountain, things are looking up.

So, what's new this year? A few things from Perisher Blue, as eagerly as ever trying to part us from our money, but let's first turn to the Lodge.

On one hand, we've still got the external cladding problem that is being negotiated with the builders who, in turn, are talking to the suppliers and the sub-contractors. Now that we've got a building consultant on the job, the likelihood of repairs in the 2008/09 summer is high - we'll just have to put up with the slightly dog-eared look on some of the boards this winter.

But on the positive side, inside, there's been a few changes.

Light fittings have been installed in the bedrooms and bathrooms and some of the heaters have been replaced.

There are some new pillows and, from July there are two 3-drawer bedside tables in each room.

Later this month, there will be bedside lamps. We've worked to find lamps that are stylish and will direct light fairly specifically; using cool energy efficient compact fluorescent globes to avoid accidental burns. There were many really stylish lamps using halogen lamps with operating temperatures well above 200 degrees that were just not suitable for a guest environment.

Thanks to David, we managed to get the vehicle delivering the bedside tables right up to the Lodge while it was snowing - the delivery truck was slipping and sliding in the new snow as it came past Kahane lodge. Good work!



Perisher Blue has a daily grooming report at <http://perisherblue.com.au/winter/snowreport/grooming.php>

SEASON'S STARTED (from page 1)

Later in the season we aim to erect a trial storage unit for clothes in one of the bedrooms.

The Stolmen system is an Ikea product, but seems to be the most suitable and at a reasonable price. It is an open design so that we avoid the overbearing look of a full timber wardrobe; is flexible so that we can have different configurations in the differently sized rooms and; due to volume and the assemble-it-yourself system, it is reasonably priced.

Perisher Blue improvements? Perisher now has over 108 acres of snowmaking with 188 snow guns and 19 grooming machines. The increase in snow guns has been substantial in the last few years with Zali's, The Ridge and Centre Valley added to the First Starter areas at Blue Cow and Front Valley. New areas this year are from Midstation through Goats Gully and Centre Valley across to Front Valley.

There are also some additional webcams -
Rock Creek valley

<http://www.ski.com.au/snowcams/australia/nsw/perisherblue/pb9.html>

Mid Station (Perisher Blue call it Yabby Flats!)

<http://www.perisherblue.com.au/winter/snowreport/midstation.php>

Guthega - at the top of the Blue Cow T

<http://www.ski.com.au/snowcams/australia/nsw/perisherblue/perisher-southperisher1.html>

The Ridge run at Blue Cow

<http://www.perisherblue.com.au/winter/snowreport/ridge.php>

Skiing for more than a week? A season pass is more economical than two 7 day lift passes, but Perisher Blue now has lift passes for \$85 per day from Friday to Sunday & \$79 from Monday to Thursday — if you purchase a \$45 Perisher Card — which could make a few short stays or stays over 7 days slightly less expensive than usual.

There are extra benefits, like a free one-day return SkiTube trip, cheaper lessons and a free "First Tracks" morning pass to get onto Eyre from 7.30 to 9 am. As always, conditions apply.

SKI LEVELS

You've probably seen the Perisher Blue self-assessment of skier competence. Here's another approach—

- * **EXPERT:** you can ski anything with style. No slope or situation is too difficult. You sneer at death. A good day is one in which you've survived with no injuries. You can walk on water in emergencies.
- * **ADVANCED:** you can ski anything in good conditions. You can handle any slope but not always with style. You carry scotch/schnapps/strawberry daiquiri/vodka instead of water for emergencies.
- * **INTERMEDIATE:** you can handle most slopes in good conditions but still could benefit from a lesson. You revert to survival techniques in poor conditions. You carry water for emergencies.
- * **ENTRY LEVEL:** skiing is a new experience ("which boot goes on which ski?") and basic skills are not yet co-ordinated. Your style is called "winding down the windows". You pass water in emergencies.



WARRUGANG AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF SPORT

It has become clear that the Australian Tax Office has shown some attention to club lodges and their taxation exempt status, focusing on three tests –

1. *Must be not for profit or gain for its individual members,*
2. *Must be for the encouragement of sport, and*
3. *The encouragement of sport must be the club's main purpose.*

While there has been no query raised with Warrugang, the Board is determined to ensure that we are in the best possible position to demonstrate that we meet the necessary requirements to maintain our taxation exempt status.

We shouldn't have a problem with the first test and can argue that the Club encourages the sport of skiing.

The potential problem arises from the third test. It is possible to claim that the Club's main purpose is accommodation and that encouragement of sport is a secondary pursuit so, to demonstrate that the principal purpose of our club is to promote the sport of skiing to members, Club Captain Hugo Loneragan is planning organised ski races, tuition and other activities to promote the sport of skiing.

This would also help to—

- * re-establish our club's ski races as annual events to build club spirit.
- * encourage members to continually develop their skiing abilities through instruction & participation.
- * facilitate members' enjoyment of the sport of skiing.

The plan is to –

- * Hold organised Warrugang ski races during the Perisher Valley 'race week', including cross-country and downhill races for members, associates and friends.
- * Actively encourage members and associates to represent Warrugang in the significant number of ski races held in Perisher Valley, in particular the cross-country races held in Perisher Valley 10th to 17th August 2008.
- * Offer personal ski and snowboard tuition to members, associates and friends, especially for those planning to represent Warrugang in external races.

In addition, Gary Coffey is working with David Arens on a regular email update to members covering events in the Valley, snow conditions, lodge vacancy and upcoming races to encourage members to make bookings at the Lodge to participate in skiing activities – watch for e-mail from david@warrugang.com.

The Club has an impressive history in ski racing so lets all get behind this. All contributions, ideas & suggestions welcome — contact Hugo about the encouragement of sport, Gary about the email update and Warrugang news-letters contributions to Tim.

Your editor's got into the swing, suggesting a few time trials—

- * The Warrugang Eyre Race – fly all the way to the T-bar!
- * Kamikaze to Yarandoo bridge at Blue Cow; not an easy run – a bit of an obstacle course in anything less than a great year — so, it's a real challenge!

Let's see some hands — or at least some more ideas!

Ok – cross-country souls: name your suggested run!

And how about some entries for the KAC on Wed 13th August?

NEW MEMBERS

We have 2 new members – Michael Ross and Jennifer Slarke and a new associate – Ursula Ross.

Welcome to Warrugang!



8 July—snow falling & Lodge bookings filling up—get in now!

WHO ARE SLOPES? WHAT DO THEY DO?

(Part 1) From material from Graeme Anderson, President SLOPES

SLOPES is the acronym for The Ski Lodges Organisation of Perisher Smiggins and Guthega. Members are the 88 Ski Clubs of the Perisher Range, and SLOPES believe they talk for some 55,000 skiers made up of Club members, friends and associates who stay in and use the Clubs.

SLOPES was formed in 1990 when the Packer group had nearly convinced the Liberal Party to give them a head lease over all the Clubs, Hotels etc in the Perisher area. Government had already in 1989 passed legislation allowing the interpositioning of a Head Lease between National Parks and the Lodges. Almost all Clubs at that time had leases that expired in 1996- 2002.

The representative body for all Skiing activities, including Clubs, at that time was the Ski Association of NSW, and they had a deal being worked out with the relevant interests which meant that all Ski Association members would get a discount on lift tickets and the like if the Head Lease deal went through. This would have guaranteed the Ski Association having a very large membership and income, but the Clubs would have been thrown in as a pawn.

A group of Clubs headed by John Grinham challenged this approach, and set up a new body known as The Ski Lodges Organisation of Perisher, Smiggins, and Guthega Inc, with the acronym of SLOPES. The group quickly attained 100% membership of all the 88 Ski Clubs in the area. The Committee were very aggressive and made representations to all members of the NSW Parliament, and a Parliamentary Select Environment Committee, and finally the Government came down in favour of issuing new

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leases to all Clubs and some Commercial lodges.

SLOPES represented the Clubs in the negotiations, and in 1996, 88 new Club leases for 1620 beds were issued with an expiry date of 2025 (*to be continued*).

VILLAGE SHUTTLE – LOOPDELOOP

Each Tuesday evening a free Village shuttle service will operate in four loops around Perisher Valley & Smiggin Holes — North Perisher Loop; South Perisher Loop; East Perisher Loop and Smiggin Holes.

Now, if it was on all the days that ended in "y"!

HUMOUR

At the time of World Youth Day, let's hear from the very young when they write to God—

"I went to this wedding and they kissed right in church. Is that okay?", Neil.

"I think the stapler is one of your greatest inventions", Ruth.

"In Bible times did they really talk that fancy?", Jennifer.

"I think about you sometimes even when I'm not praying", Elliott.

"I am American. What are you?", Robert.

"Thank you for the baby brother but what I prayed for was a puppy", Joyce.

"I bet it's very hard for you to love all of everybody in the whole world. There are only four people in our family and I can never do it", Nan.

"Instead of letting people die and having to make new ones, why don't you just keep the ones you got now", Jane.

"We read Thomas Edison made light. But in Sunday school they said you did it. So I bet he stole your idea", Donna.

"If you let the dinosaur not extinct we would not have a country. You did the right thing", Jon.

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