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DISABLED WINTERSPORT AUSTRALIA

www.disabledwintersport.com.au

Email: dwa3@bigpond.com

Newsletter No. 8 May 2007



URGENT! Passport Renewals

Disabled WinterSport Australia in conjunction with the Australian Ski Areas Association (ASAA) has recently concluded an extensive review of the passport concession system. These concessions which commenced in 1978, have and will continue into the future.

The objective of the review was to gain a fuller understanding of all disabilities – intellectual, sensory and physical in relation to the alpine environment with a view to the improvement of services and facilities at Australian ski areas.

From that review has come the need to update and upgrade the application process for concessions and as a result the decision has been taken to ensure that all current and past passport holders MUST reapply for season 2007.

To do so, EVERY person with a disability wishing to obtain a passport must complete an application form, provide a recent doctor's certificate confirming disability and noting medications if required, supply two recent passport photographs and finally payment of \$65.

Incomplete application forms will only delay the process of supplying your passport in good time prior to the season and

THERE CAN BE NO EXCEPTIONS.

Application forms together with Frequently Asked Questions concerning the passport can be obtained on our website under Membership at www.disabledwintersport.com.au



YOUR CHECKLIST...

- Application Form
- A recent detailed doctor's certificate confirming disability and medications
- Two recent passport photographs
- Payment of \$65.00
- Return of old passport (if a previous holder)

Curling Program



DWA's Wheelchair Curling Program is now established in two states. In cooperation with the Qld Sporting Wheelies and Disabled and the Qld Curling Association we now have opportunities in the tropics to advance the sport in Brisbane.

For further information contact David Bartholomeus, Qld Sporting Wheelies on 07 3253 3333 or email: davidb@sportingwheelies.org.au

The Victorian Curling Association has a full program scheduled for this winter and we look forward to seeing increased participation by wheelchair athletes in their activities based out of Bendigo. To date two specific dates have been set aside, those being June 2nd and August 18th.

The game is now a recognised Paralympic sport and the Australian Paralympic Committee has expressed a strong desire to have a competitive team for Vancouver, Canada in 2010.

So if you are interested in 'giving it a go' please contact Jim Oastler on (03) 5750 1357, (m) 0417 016 043 or email: jao1938@westnet.com.au or Disabled WinterSport Australia 02 6495 4334 or email: finsko@bigpond.net.au

APC NEWS...

DWA foundation member and Treasurer Nick Dean was re-elected to the position of Vice President of the Australian Paralympic Committee. Nick has served the Paralympic Family well in that position which now spans ten years. His speciality is, of course, winter sports in which he is now considered a world expert.

Finsko's Lodge – Jindabyne

If you are planning a winter holiday in the NSW snowfields, accommodation at Finsko's Lodge is filling fast. Finsko's Lodge is all self-contained in either 3 x 3 bedroom apartments or 4 bed sitter apartments, specifically designed to accommodate people with disabilities. It is located in Jindabyne and 30 minutes drive from either Thredbo or Perisher Blue. For further details check out the DWA website on www.disabledwintersport.com.au



For bookings please contact Karen White at the Jindabyne Sport and Recreation Centre (02) 6450 0200.

DWA VICTORIA UPDATE

With the 2007 season just around the corner the DWV team has been working hard with DWA to build on our success last year

We have an increasing number of volunteers, guides and friends joining the organisation this year and we are all very excited about the upcoming ski sessions, camps, training programs and activities.

A good time also to thank all those who have contributed to the development of our 2007 program and a big thank you to all our guides and volunteers, new and returning, for your enthusiastic participation over the off season.

2007 Easter work camp – Friday 6th April to Monday 9th

The Easter work camp was held at YMCA Howmans Gap facility at Falls Creek in Victoria. The event was attended by 14 DWA Victoria volunteers and friends with the major focus of establishing a workshop and gear storage facility.

The team worked extremely hard and the results were nothing short of spectacular!

Thanks to the co-operation and support from Brendan, Mark and the Howmans Gap team, we now have an all-weather fitting room, storage room and workshop with excellent wheelchair accessibility.

The construction job would not have been possible without the planning and project management provided by Tom Blackburn. Our sincere thanks and gratitude to Tom for his outstanding contribution.

Whilst the Howmans Gap facility has always been the cornerstone for operations at Falls Creek, with the new additions we now have a secure, safe working environment for volunteers and clients to prepare for each day on the hill.

2007 Ski Camp Schedule – Falls Creek

DWV has four camps scheduled so far for 2007. With additional camps expected, the current program includes:

- Friday 20th – Sunday 22nd July
- Friday 3rd – Sunday 5th August
- Friday 17th – Sunday 19th Aug
- Friday 31st August – Sunday 2 September

The principle activities at these camps will include:

- Royal Talbot Ski Camp
- Disability Opportunities Victoria Ski Camp
- DWV Members/Open Community Ski Camp
- Guide training as part of the Regional Ski Guide Program (RSGP)
- Guide training in addition to the RSGP

Regional Snowsports Ski Buddy Program

DWV, in conjunction with the Victorian Snowsport Association (VSA) and the regional Sports Assembly (CARN) has been awarded funding to conduct a Regional Snowsports Ski Buddy Program.

The program is aimed at the recruitment and training of ski guides from regional areas to support the work of DWV in alpine areas of Victoria.

One of the major long-term objectives of the additional training programs this year is to dramatically increase the resources available for DWA members to access ski equipment, guides and support at Victorian resorts.

The Regional Ski Buddy Program is a significant step in building these resources. Regional guides are seen as a vital resource as they are much closer to the resorts and often working within the resort itself. Building these numbers has been a successful part of the NSW program and other similar programs overseas.



Wedding Bells..

Congratulations to DWA's Program Manager, Paul Gardner, and his new wife Helen having tied the knot last Saturday high in the Australian Alps at exotic Thredbo Diggings on the Alpine way.

From all of us at DWA we wish you both all the very, very best for the future.

Sven Erickson and the adaptive training team from DWV will be administering the program and training with the expression of interest being posted in MARKc via the CARN network of 800 members through regional Victoria.

We look forward to keeping you up to date on the progress and results from the program over coming months. All interested parties can contact Jim Blackburn (0407 881 075) or Sven Erickson (0406 367 899).

New President for Disabled WinterSport Victoria

Congratulations to the newly elected president of Disabled WinterSport Victoria, Jim Blackburn. Jim comes to the position having spent a number of years as a ski guide principally in programs based out of Falls Creek. In addition he brings his impressive management skills as head of Agribusiness Research for Lonsec to his new role with DWV.

Jim replaces former President, Lynne Johnston, who continues to working tirelessly for the organisation in all areas and, particularly, in assisting Jim settle into his new role.

Michael Milton ... from piste to poo!

We congratulate both Michael and Penni on the birth of their daughter, Matilda.

Ex Winter Paralympic great Michael Milton has turned his attention to cycling both on the road and in the velodrome. He recently attended a national team cycling camp in Adelaide and produced a personal best for the 1000m time trial – about 3 seconds faster than in the Australian Nationals held in February. With these continuous improvements we can expect Michael to qualify for the world titles to be held next year.

For further information on Michael's exploits contact <http://www.michaelmilton.com>



2007 DWA (NSW) Camps Program

You are invited to apply for Disabled WinterSport Australia's 2007 Alpine Ski Camps:



Camp 1:	8th - 13th	July 2007	Perisher Blue/Jindabyne
Camp 2:	15th - 20th	July 2007	Thredbo/Jindabyne
Camp 3:	29th - 3rd	July/August 2007	Thredbo/Jindabyne
Camp 4:	26th - 31st	August 2007	Thredbo/Jindabyne
Camp 5:	2nd - 7th	September 2007	Thredbo/Perisher Blue
Camp 6:	9th - 14th	September 2007	Thredbo/Perisher Blue*

*DWA family ski camp (six families only – if interested please call Paul Gardner on the number below)

DWA reserves the right to screen all applications. Although DWA endeavours to accommodate a large range of people with disabilities on these camps, limitations in resources and equipment may restrict the number of participants that can be provided for.

The camp cost of \$675 per person includes:

- 5 nights shared accommodation in Finsko's Lodge (linen hire included)
- 5 days breakfast and dinner, 4 days lunch
- 4 days ski hire (ski clothing will need to be hired separately)
- 4 days lift and lessons
- Transport to and from Thredbo/Perisher daily (car pooling)

TRANSPORT – Transport to Jindabyne is not included in the camp costs. Greyhound Pioneer (phone 132 030) have coaches that travel to Jindabyne and pick up from Jindabyne can be arranged. If you are interested in car pooling with other participants please contact me to see if something can be arranged.

STAFF – DWA does not provide personal care attendants or nursing staff on camp, if you require assistance with personal care or with administration of medication, please contact us to arrange for an application form for you to bring your personal carer, at your own cost. DWA trained ski guides will be present on camp as well as

EARLY DEPARTURE – If a participant departs early from the camp during its course through illness or family emergency, a proportionate refund will be arranged. Requests for refunds should be forwarded in writing to DWA. Any participant displaying destructive or unsafe behaviour will be asked to leave the camp and no refund will be issued.

APPLICATION – Should you wish to attend this camp please complete the application forms available on DWA's website and return to the address below, with your deposit of \$200. Balance of payment must be forwarded prior to June 10th 2007. If your application is unsuccessful your deposit will be refunded. If you chose not to attend this year's camp please advise the Program Manager on the contacts below as soon as possible so another participant may be invited to attend.

DWA reserves the right to cancel a ski camp if there are insufficient numbers. If so DWA will notify members at least two weeks prior to the camp and members shall receive a full refund. If you have any questions regarding this information please feel free to contact me via the contacts below.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Regards,

Paul Gardner
Disabled WinterSport Australia

DWA website: www.disabledwintersport.com.au

PO Box 514, Jindabyne NSW 2627
Ph: 02 6450 0200 – Fax: 6456 2917 – Mobile: 0414 748 903
email: dwa3@bigpond.com

DWA Winter 2007 NSW Participation Program

Your contact is: **Paul Gardner 0414 748 903**

	Dates:	Venue:
Guide Training	16th - 17th June	Perisher Blue/Thredbo
Guide Training	23rd - 24th June	Perisher Blue/Thredbo
Guide Training	30th June - 1st July	Perisher Blue/Thredbo
APC & DWA Junior Dev. Camp	1st - 8th July	Thredbo
Northcott Society Juniors	1st - 6th July	Thredbo
DWA Ski Camp 1	8th - 13th July	Perisher Blue
DWA Ski Camp 2	15th - 20th July	Thredbo
Glendon Special School	22nd - 27th July	Perisher Blue
Northcott Society Seniors	29th - 3rd August	Thredbo
DWA Ski Camp 3	29th - 3rd August	Thredbo
Tuggerah Lakes College	29th - 3rd August	Perisher Blue
QLD Sporting Wheelies Camp	18th - 26th August	Perisher Blue/Thredbo
DWA Ski Camp 4	26th - 31st August	Thredbo
DWA Ski Camp 5	2nd - 7th September	Thredbo
Manly CAS	10th - 14th September	Thredbo Blue/Perisher
DWA Family Camp	9th - 14th September	Jindabyne

NSW Volunteer Ski Guiding Program

This year in NSW DWA is running, in conjunction with the resorts, three guide training weekends.

- June 16th - 17th
- June 23rd - 24th
- June 30th - July 1st

If you're not sure what a DWA Volunteer Ski Guide does, they're the people helping sit skiers and people with a visual impairment into their equipment, and onto and around the mountain. They're also parents and friends helping their spouse. DWA Volunteer Ski Guides help out on camps and individual requests from some DWA members.

This year DWA is looking for about 100 guides in NSW. You must be a confident skier, have passion and time. If this is you or you know of someone, please contact me.

Paul Gardner – Program Manager
0414 748 903 or dwa3@gmail.com

The overseas season was a very successful period for the winter program. On the X-Country side of things, James Millar performed well in the European World Cups he competed in. James continues to reduce the time % he is behind the winner. James' trip was curtailed due to the poor snow conditions in Europe which resulted in the cancellation of many World Cup races. Four weeks training in Vail, Colorado helped James prepare for his European racing trip.

The alpine team had probably their most successful overseas season since the 2004 World Championship season. World Cup wins for Shannon Dallas, Cameron Rahles-Rabula and Marty Mayberry and two 2nd places for Toby Kane highlighted the top end results for the program. In fact Australia had the most podium places by any country in the men's World Cup races held in North America in January.

These great results were ably supported by Australia qualifying their first female skier ever to the World Cup circuit. Louise Williams qualified in both GS and SG in her first season of racing and is only a few points away from qualifying in Slalom also. The program's long term future also looks bright with 15-year-old Mitchell Gourley (identified during last year's Talent ID camp) winning many junior titles in the US.

A further four athletes went to Kimberley, Canada, as part of the program's long term development. As the year was a non Paralympic or World Championship season the team only trained and raced in North America. This proved very fortunate due to the very poor snow conditions in Europe this season. An unscheduled short trip to Korea at the end of the season was a highlight for a small number of the athletes.

Korea, a candidate for the 2014 Games, funded four of the team and Head Coach Steve Graham to travel to Korea for a week of races. Two of these races were won by Marty Mayberry to end an extremely successful season for him.

The 2007 Australian season is fast approaching. A major goal for the program is to continue to find more new young talent through an early season Talent ID camp and followed by developments camps throughout the season. A number of Elite camps will also be held as well as the program running its first ever ASD/FIS points race. The race will be run in conjunction with the Australian National Able-bodied Championships in Thredbo in August. The



• World Cup Super G – Aspen, Colorado (from left) Shannon Dallas (Aus) 2nd, Martin Braxentahler (Aut) 1st and Takeshi Suzuki (Jap) 3rd

race will give our younger developing athletes the experience racing against world class competition and give them a golden opportunity to get points and world rankings to help them achieve selection for the 2010 Vancouver Paralympic Games.

APC/DWA Development and Elite 2007 Program

Your contact is: **Steve Graham 0421 274 942**

	Dates:	Venue:
DWA Junior Development Camp 1	July 1st - July 8th	Jindabyne/Thredbo
Elite Only	July 13 - 22nd	Jindabyne/TBD
Development	July 22nd - 27th	Jindabyne/TBD
Elite/Development	August 5th - 10th	Mt Hotham
Elite/Development	August 5th - 12th	Jindabyne/TBD
International Race Series	August 13th - 17th	Jindabyne Thredbo
Elite/Development	September 2nd - 9th	Jindabyne/TBD
Elite Overseas Training Camp	September 23rd - 30th	New Zealand



Disabled Wintersport Australia

15 Beverley Street, Merimbula NSW 2548

POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA



ALPINE RESPONSIBILITY CODE

Regardless of how you enjoy your snow sport, always show courtesy to others and be aware **that there are inherent risks** in all snow recreational activities that common sense and personal awareness can reduce. These risks include rapid changes in the weather, visibility and surface conditions, as well as natural and artificial hazards such as, rocks, trees, stumps, vehicles, lift towers, snow fences and snowmaking equipment.

Observe the code and share with others the responsibility for a great experience.

1. **Know your ability and always stay in control and be able to stop and avoid other people or objects. It is your responsibility to stay in control on the ground and in the air.**
2. **Take lessons from qualified professional instructors, to learn and progress.**
3. **As you proceed downhill or overtake another person, you must avoid the people below and beside you.**
4. **Do not stop where you obstruct a trail or run, or are not visible from above.**
5. **When entering a trail or run or starting downhill, look uphill and give way to others.**
6. **When riding chairlifts always use the restraining devices. Always use suitable restraints to avoid runaway skiing/boarding equipment. Ensure your equipment is in good condition.**
7. **Observe and obey all signs and warnings. Keep off closed trails or runs and out of closed areas.**
8. **Before using any lift you must have the knowledge and ability to load, ride and unload safely.**
9. **Do not ski, snowboard, ride a lift or undertake any other alpine activity if your ability is impaired by drugs or alcohol.**
10. **If you are involved in, or witness an accident or collision, alert Ski Patrol, remain at the scene and identify yourself to the Ski Patrol**

KNOW THE CODE. IT'S YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.

FAILURE TO OBSERVE THE CODE MAY RESULT IN CANCELLATION OF YOUR TICKET OR PASS BY SKI PATROL OR OTHER AUTHORISED PERSONNEL.

'RESPECT GETS RESPECT'

FROM THE LIFT LINE, TO THE SLOPES, THROUGH THE PARK AND THE RESORT.





Australian Government
Department of Industry,
Tourism and Resources

Access Barrier-free Alpine Tourism (in summer now as well!)



With the help of a grant from the Australian Government under the Australian Tourism Development Program (ATDP), through AusIndustry, DWA will be working with alpine resorts, outdoor activity providers, accommodation operators, local councils and other businesses within the alpine regions of New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania to assist in developing Australia's alpine areas as leading year-round tourism destinations for people with mobility, vision and hearing impairments.

The project builds upon DWA's previous success in providing opportunities for people with disabilities to enjoy winter sports in the Australian alpine regions. Now we're keen to expand upon the successful relationships we have with the resorts and land managers to develop year-round accessible tourism in the alpine areas.

This is a 12 month project that aims to assist providers of accommodation, outdoor activities, attractions and facilities to develop their skills and awareness of accessibility issues, increase their level of occupancy, and to market their products to a growing and largely untapped market of people keen to visit the alpine areas.

The project aims to develop a sustainable community-based accessible tourism program for people with a disability as well as seniors and others who have access needs.

The Project will be coordinated from Jindabyne in New South Wales.

If you are interested in being involved contact the Project Manager: **Margot Hurrell on 6457 2339 or email her at margot@safetynetwork.com.au**



DWA Alpine Championships

**Mt Hotham
August 5th to 11th**

SPECIAL OLYMPIC GAMES

With a Special Olympics Winter Games scheduled to take part in Boise, Idaho in 2009, Special Olympics Australia and Disabled WinterSport Australia plan to establish a series of programs to gain sufficiently capable skiers able to participate at the games.

DWA plans to conduct a development week in September 2007 based out of Jindabyne and skiing in Perisher Blue and Thredbo. This week will be designed to further develop skiing skills with lessons on how to best run gates.

For those interested and for further information please **contact DWA Program Manager Paul Gardner on 0414 748903 or email dwa3@bigpond.com**