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DISABLED WINTERSPORT AUSTRALIA

www.disabledwintersport.com.au

Email: dwa3@bigpond.com

Newsletter No. 11 – March 2009



From the President's Desk...

With two months still to go to the beginning of the season, a great deal of work and planning has already been carried out to ensure its success for our members. Programs for skiers are in place for Victoria and New South Wales, together with plans for training for ski guides.

State Program Managers Paul Gardner and Sven Erickson will have a busier season than ever with the demand for ski camps growing all the time. DWA Vic is extending its services to include Mt Hotham and Mt Buller as well as Falls Creek. Ron Finneran's successful approach to the Australian Sports Commission has resulted in a grant that will go towards radically improving equipment storage facilities in Thredbo.

DWA has worked quietly for a number of years now in an effort to establish a viable summer program operation in the alpine areas. Bolstered by the results of the audit of accommodation and tourist facilities conducted through the Accessible Alpine Project Tourism Project, Paul and Sven will spend this coming month researching and developing the new concept of summer programs for DWA.

The accessibility project, managed by Margot Hurrell and funded through the Federal Government's AusIndustry, was completed in December 2008. This was marked by a walk to the summit of Mt. Kosciuszko by a team of 40 that included a mixture of able bodied supporters, disabled sitting, standing and visually impaired, the very young and the elderly. Whilst Louise

Sauvage celebrated from her perch on the top of the summit stone plinth, Westie, the guide dog indulged in a huge roll in the snow.

MC'd by Paul Griffith, DWA's 30th birthday celebrations in Canberra on 22 November were a great success with a turn up of a hundred DWA members and supporters covering those 30 years. In memory of members no longer with us, Paul's touching gesture of arranging for a tiny table to be set up with a lone candle and a glass of wine was much appreciated.

As always, fundraising projects continue to be held to support all these programs. A recent success was at a Jazz Festival in Thredbo where Paul Gardner and our NSW ski guides worked the crowd selling raffle tickets with an outstanding result of \$2,600. Thanks to Kim Clifford of Thredbo who allowed us the opportunity and to all those involved who made the most of it.

With all this being set in place, it's just a matter of bring on the snow! Have a great season.

Adrienne Smith
DWA President



• Our long serving (and illustrious) President Adrienne loves pushing the disabled around

PASSPORT RENEWALS



2009 Fee Schedule:

- New Member Application Fee \$80
- Early Bird Passport Renewals \$60 (until 31 May)
- Passport Renewals (after 31 May) . . \$75
- Renewals after June Long Weekend \$85
- Associate Members \$25

For those registered passport holders from 2007/8 please find enclosed your offer to renew your passport for the 2009 season together with a copy of your details we currently have on file. Could you kindly review those details and make changes where necessary and then return with your passport and remittance to DWA offices.

Please pay particular attention to any changes in your medical condition and medications.

New members and those who did not renew in 2008 will be asked to complete the new membership forms and return with all necessary details including passport photos, medical certification and remittance. Membership Forms are available from our website at www.disabledwintersport.com.au

Address is: Disabled WinterSport Australia, 15 Beverley Street, Merimbula NSW 2548.

FINSKO'S LODGE JINDABYNE

Planning a snow holiday?

Accommodation is currently available at Finsko's Lodge, however it is filling fast. Located on the grounds of Jindabyne Sport and Recreation Centre in Jindabyne it is only an easy 30 minutes drive to either Thredbo or Perisher Blue.

For bookings please contact Karen White at the Jindabyne Sport and Recreation Centre on (02) 6450 0285 or 6450 0200.



2009 Disabled WinterSport (NSW) Camps...

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

- **Camp 1: Early Bird 5-11th July, '09 Thredbo/Jindabyne**
- **Camp 2: Juniors 12-17th July, '09 Smiggins Holes/Jindabyne**
- **Camp 3: Ladies 19-24th July, '09 Thredbo/Jindabyne**
- **Camp 4: Families 6-11th Sept, '09 Thredbo/Jindabyne**
- **Camp 5: 13-18th September, '09 Perisher/Jindabyne**

The cost of \$745 per person; \$440 skiing carer; \$260 non-skiing carer includes:

- 5 nights shared accommodation in Finsko's Lodge (linen hire included)
- 5 days breakfast and dinner (lunch excl.)
- 4 days ski hire (ski clothing not included)
- 4 days Lift and Lessons
- Transport to and from Thredbo/Perisher daily (car pooling)

DWA Membership

If you are not a current member of Disabled WinterSport Australia you will need to apply for membership by downloading a membership application form from www.disabledwintersport.com.au Please contact Paul Gardner if you cannot download the application form.

If you are a past member of Disabled WinterSport Australia and you did not renew in 2008 you will need to apply as a new member and complete the new membership form and supply all supporting information. Details on www.disabledwintersport.com.au under membership.

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 cost. DWA-trained ski guides will be present on camp.

Transport

Transport to Jindabyne is not included in the camp costs. Greyhound Pioneer (Ph 132 030) has buses that travel to Jindabyne and pick up from Jindabyne can be arranged. If you are interested in car pooling with other participants please contact Paul Gardner to see if arrangements can be made.

Early Departure

If a participant departs early from the camp through illness or family emergency, a proportion of program costs will be refunded. Requests for refunds should be forwarded in writing to DWA. Any participant displaying destructive or unsafe behaviour will be sent home at the cost of the participant and no refund will be issued.



Application

Should you wish to attend a camp please complete the application forms located on our website and return to the address listed below, with your deposit of \$200. The balance owing must be paid four (4) weeks prior to the start of the camp.

For further information or if you have any questions please feel free to contact the Program Manager on the contacts below.

Disabled WinterSport Australia
Paul Gardner, Program Manager
PO Box 514, Jindabyne NSW 2627
Email: dwa3@bigpond.com

A REMINDER...

A reminder to all DWA members attending the snow fields this year to book your ski lessons no less than three weeks in advance of your planned ski trip. If you are attending the snow fields during any of the school holidays, we recommended booking your ski lessons up to one month before heading to the snow.

Resorts throughout Australia are training more and more qualified instructors to teach people with a disability. However they need early bookings to validate your passport number and time to allocate you the appropriate and best suited ski/board.

If you are not aware, DWA members receive a 50% concession on private lessons, when the current DWA passport number is quoted at the time of booking.

2009 NSW Volunteer Ski Guides

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

- **June 13th-14th – Thredbo**
- **June 20th-21st – Perisher**
- **June 27th-28th – Thredbo**

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 and those with various other disabilities into their equipment, and onto the snow and around the mountain. They're also parents and friends helping their spouses. DWA Volunteer Ski Guides help out on camps and individual requests from DWA members.

This year DWA is looking for about 100 guides in NSW. You must be a confident and competent skier or boarder and have passion and time. For further information please contact:

Paul Gardner 0414 748 903 or dwa3@bigpond.com

2009 NSW Participation Program

Contact: **Paul Gardner 0414 748 903**

Ski Guide Training	13th to 14th June	Thredbo
Ski Guide Training	20th to 21st June	Perisher
Ski Guide Training	27th to 28th June	Thredbo
Northcott Society Adults	5th to 11th July	Thredbo
DWA (Early Bird) Ski Camp 1	5th to 11th July	Thredbo
DWA (Juniors) Ski Camp 2	12th to 17th July	Smiggins Holes
Northcott Society Juniors	19th to 24th July	Smiggins Holes
DWA (Ladies) Ski Camp 3	19th to 24th July	Thredbo
Manly CAS-ING	26th to 31st July	Thredbo
Manly CAS (Sportfitz)	31st July to 2nd August	Thredbo
Northcott Society Seniors	2nd to 7th August	Thredbo
QLD Sporting Wheelies Camp	16th to 23rd August	Smiggins Holes
Special O Development Camp	23rd to 30th August	Smiggins Holes
DWA (Family) Ski Camp 4	6th to 11th September	Thredbo
Michael Milton Camp	6th to 11th September	Thredbo
DWA Camp 5	13th to 18th September	Thredbo
ADF/DWA Nationals	2nd to 7th August	Mt Hotham

NATIONAL Team Update:

Australia is well placed to continue its Paralympic Games success in Vancouver next March after another great Northern Hemisphere season of results by the National Team.



Finishing 6th Nation at the recent World Championships in Korea ahead of countries like Italy, Switzerland and France the team came back with two World Champions, with Shannon Dallas (*pic above*) the Sitting SG champion and Cameron Rahles-Rahbula (*pic below*) the standing SL Champion.



Cameron also picked up a bronze in the GS. Toby Kane came 4th in GS and 6th in the Super Combined while Marty Mayberry came 6th in the Downhill. In the World Cup races Australia won 4 gold medals, one silver and two bronze medals.

In overall discipline titles Shannon came 2nd in Super Combined and 3rd in Super G, Cameron was 3rd in Super Combined with Toby 4th and Cameron was 3rd in Super G.

Mitchell Gourley had his best ever World Cup result with a 6th place finish in Giant Slalom at the season ending finals in Vancouver. Marty Mayberry had a 5th place World Cup Downhill result and a number of top 10 results in all disciplines.

The Nordic team also had a successful season with James Millar scoring a top 10 placing in World Cup competition and newcomer Dominic Monypenny scoring credible results in season ending World Cups to be a serious contender to make the 2010 Paralympic team.

With 12 months to go to the Vancouver winter Paralympic Games, both teams are looking forward to a big year to obtain even better results in March, 2010.

DWA Victoria UPDATE

2009 Victorian Camp Schedule

• Preliminary dates, book them in your calendar!

Driven by the success of last year's programs, and increasing demand from community disability groups, we have expanded our camps program again for 2009. Noticeably we have added some mid-week camps to take advantage of Sven's position at Falls Creek. A number of ski guides have already organised to attend these mid-week camps and we hope to have a good response for new guides who live and work on the mountain.

The focus will be the same as 2008, and that is to provide an exciting, professional service and introduce more new clients to the rewards of ski/riding in the mountains. The program is fairly well set, and as we confirm dates and client groups we will update you via the monthly news emails.

Camp #	Dates	Session	Activity/Client Group
Training 1	28th-29th June	W/end	DWA Vic Volunteers and Ski Guide training
Camp 2	5th-6th July	W/end	Disabilities Opportunities Victoria Camp 1
ADP 3	7th-11th July	Mid Wk	Athlete Development Program 1
Camp 4	12th-13th July	W/end	Spina Bifida Foundation Camp 1
Camp 5	19th-20th July	W/end	Disabilities Opportunities Victoria Camp 2
Race Squad	20th-25th July	Mid Wk	National Squad Race Training & Development
ADP 7	21st-25 July	Mid Wk	Athlete Development Program
Camp 8	26th-27th July	W/end	Royal Talbot – Austin Health Camp 1
Camp 9	2nd-3rd Aug	W/end	DWA Client Camp
Camp 10	2nd-3rd Aug	W/end	Mansfield Autism Statewide Services 1
Camp 11	9th-10th Aug	W/end	Royal Talbot – Austin Health Camp 1
Camp 12	16th-17th Aug	W/end	Members*
Camp 13	23rd-24th Aug	W/end	Spina Bifida Foundation Camp 2
Camp 14	23rd-24th Aug	W/end	Mansfield Autism Statewide Services 2
Training 15	25th-29th Aug	Mid Wk	DWA Vic Volunteers and Ski Guide training
Camp 16	30th-31st Aug	W/end	DWA Client Camp
ADP 17	To be advised	Mid Wk	Athlete Development Program 3
Camp 18	6th-7th Sept	W/end	DWA Client Camp
Camp 19	13th-14th Sept	W/end	Epworth

* There are also limited spaces for members on most other camp dates

If you have any inquiries please contact Program Manager, Sven Erikson, on 0406 367 899 or email at sven@dwv.org.au

Howman's Gap YMCA Alpine Centre, the Home of DWA Vic

Over the last few years YMCA's Howman's Gap Alpine Centre (*pic below*) has been the home for DWA ski programs in Victoria. The centre has fantastic accessible facilities and friendly staff, and has become a favourite part of the program for our clients, families and guides alike.

One of the true benefits Howman's offers our members is the interaction with the wider community via other groups staying and enjoying the surrounds. Our members enjoy the social interaction during meal times and the chance to meet and share their snow experience with other guests.

In 2007 DWA Vic and YMCA further developed the relationship with YMCA offering the space for a workshop and equipment storage facility under the accommodation wing. It gives us a place to store and maintain our equipment and

also a place for our members to be fitted. Without this space our programs would not be able to continue the success and growth of the last two winters.

The friendly staff at Howman's are the key to the great culture and atmosphere there and we thank them for contributing to our camps and client experiences. DWA Vic is very lucky to have a great relationship with the YMCA and this relationship looks to grow further in the coming years. So next time you are at a DWA Vic Ski Camp don't forget to say a friendly "Hello and thank you" to Mark and team.



Headed up by Paralympians Michael Milton and Louise Savage, in December 2008, a group of 40 people comprising seniors, a mother with her young children and a large group of people with varying disabilities ranging from paraplegic, blind, amputees and polio, made the trek from Charlottes Pass to the summit of Mt Kosciuszko.

Thanks to our Program Manager, Paul Gardner, whose preparation and work on the day ensured an outstanding success. The day was the culmination of two years hard work by Project Co-ordinator Margot Hurrell and signalled the completion of a visionary project that will be the benchmark for similar projects in providing Accessible Tourism throughout the country.

Following on from this amazing event, DWA trialled two summer camps for people with disabilities. The camps were 3-4 days in length and took in activities such as hiking,

Alpine Accessibility Tourism Project

fishing, canoeing, cooking, bobsledding and camping.



• Manly CAS at Top Station Crackenback

Our first groups were Manly CAS and Northcott Society. Both camps were held over a four-day long weekend challenging participants and giving all of us many memorable moments. Next year 2010,

DWA plans to run 6 to 8 summer camps spread throughout the alpine areas in NSW and Victoria.

For further information contact (NSW) Paul Gardner 0414 748 903 or dwa3@bigpond.com (Victoria) Sven Erikson 0406 367 899 or sven@dww.org.au



• Alpine Accessible Tourism Committee Margot Hurrell, Ashley Blondel, Ron Finneran and Tracey Dickson

Check out our website for all current DWA information:
www.disabledwintersport.com.au

When booking a place on DWA sponsored programs please check the website for the necessary forms for all our 2009 ski camps, DWA membership forms, equipment rental forms, ski guide booking forms, DWA entitlements, and much more.

The more people visiting the web site and giving us feed back, the more we can continue to streamline and improve our service to members.



Disabled Wintersport Australia

15 Beverley Street, Merimbula NSW 2548

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