

# ORMOND SKI CLUB



## NEWSLETTER

February 2010

*The "What sort of hut do we want?" issue...with a survey!*

Ormond Ski Club 11 Charman Rd, Beaumaris Vic 3193  
Website: <http://www.ormondskiclub.com.au>

A.B.N. 75 004 765 753

### Contents this issue:

The AGM  
What sort of club and a survey  
New booking policy  
Work parties  
Lots of other stuff  
Bookings open April 8. There is a policy change.

### AGM:

The AGM is at the college on March 12 at 0700.  
Dinner will be at the college afterwards. RSVP for dinner to Ross Cutler [rosscutler@optusnet.com.au](mailto:rosscutler@optusnet.com.au) by March 5.

The usual AGM elements apply but this year we are interested in the future and the nature of the club you make up. In the past we have focussed on the objective of affordable skiing for the members. There are times when this objective is challenged so come along and put forward your view. We are gearing up to major renovations so your input is needed.

The Master of Ormond, Rufus Black, has offered the club the opportunity to have dinner at the college after the AGM and we have taken him up on that. The menu will be forwarded with the AGM notes. The club continues to believe that a strong relationship with the college offers a strong recruiting ground and this ensures an active membership and a long life for the club.

### What sort of club?

We need a new roof, a new balcony and a new kitchen. Others things crop up – new carpets, doors, light fittings, speakers in the spa area, controls for the spa area upstairs near the spa not in the workshop but they are really just routine maintenance more or less. There are many of these and we must attend to them as they arise or fall due. The boilers are a good example. And we have to think about class A water usage, or tapping geothermal energy to heat the lodge and our water. These things require a bit more thought and a longer lead time.

Do we want en-suite bathrooms? They've cropped up every time we've had renovations. The current

committee says, fairly emphatically, "No," but if there are enough members who say, "Yes please," and can get the numbers for the committee then clearly they could go ahead.

Do we want wireless access to the Internet? Your neanderthalic editor says "Perish the thought" but Tom Nairn is on the other side and says, "Go back to your cave you silly old goat." (He didn't really.) Do we want to put a big screen down stairs in the rec room? ...the list goes on.

We've written about the cost of all of this in other issues. We expect that the renovations will cost about \$500K. We will have about half in cash and borrow about half. We can accumulate about \$70-80K per year based on our current revenue and charges. To kick this along a bit we have increased lodge fees by about 10%. Clearly if the members want a more substantial renovation and fancier facilities then it will come at a cost and so lodge fees or levies on members will have to be raised. But some people will be happy to do this. The committee wants to tap the views of the members so we have developed a short questionnaire to assist with the decision making process.

The general view is that renovations to the balcony, roof and kitchen will start in 2011. President Meg Casey intends to put forward a draft plan for members to consider during 2010 with a view to starting renovations for some or all of our projects late 2011 ready for 2012 season. We may move more quickly than that but currently that's the plan.

We need to have a new lease in place before we arrange loans for the redevelopment. The committee expect that the MHARB will grant the club a 25-30 year lease. The planned renovations and improvements are a necessary part of ultimately securing that lease.

### New members.

The club has a policy of recruiting a minimum of about 10-15 members per year. We have met that target this year and hence we do not need to recruit outside the club or the college.

## Booking policy change

Last year most of the weekends were booked very quickly for the peak season. In addition key weeks were also heavily booked very early in the season. While a full lodge is good for the club it creates problems if members can't get in to their own lodge. This change to the booking policy has been difficult for the committee. In most cases it only takes several families of 4 guests each to put pressure on the accommodation. Currently we have a strong skiing membership and the duty of the committee is to look after the members first. Hence the committee has amended the booking policy to give members a better chance to get into the lodge. As with all things we will see how it goes and amend it if required for 2011.

<b>Previous Bookings Policy (2009)</b>
Block bookings open at 12 noon 1st April 2009. Block bookings are nine day (week + 2 weekends), seven day (week + weekend), five day (week) or two day (weekend). General bookings open at the end of April 2009. Non block-bookings received prior to that date will be all treated equally.

<b>Amended Bookings Policy (2010)</b>
Block bookings for members only (adult members, spouses, buddy members and child members) open at 12 noon 8th April 2010. Block bookings are nine day (week + 2 weekends), seven day (week + weekend), five day (week) or two day (weekend).
Block bookings for non-members open at 12 noon 22nd April 2010. Block bookings are nine day (week + 2 weekends), seven day (week + weekend), five day (week) or two day (weekend).
General bookings for members and non-members open at 12 noon 13th May 2010. Non block-bookings received prior to that date will be all treated equally.

In relation to non block bookings: Prior to the opening of non-block (general) bookings any booking will be amended to comply with the block booking (either by deleting any non-standard days or increasing to the full week etc).

If you are planning on booking a large group (greater than five people) for five days or more during August, could you please signal your intent by emailing the bookings officer at [bookings@ormondskiclub.com.au](mailto:bookings@ormondskiclub.com.au) prior to bookings opening on 1 April. If possible, the bookings officer will try to coordinate large groups to avoid the lodge being overbooked in any one week. Priority will still be given to bookings on a first paid basis as per the normal booking terms and conditions.

If for whatever reason during the ski season you need to cancel a booking you have made, please let the bookings officer know rather than just not showing up. We often have members on the waiting list for beds at the lodge who would jump at the chance if a bed was to become available. In these circumstances a partial refund for the cancelled booking may be granted even if the cancellation is after the normal cut-off date for refunds.

## Subscriptions for 2010

Subs for 2010 have been debited to your account. You should have received your Subscription Notice via email for all Members with registered email addresses. Snail mail Subscription notices will be out shortly. Subs are due by Feb 28th 2010. Due to the work parties in the first half of the year, the Club has substantial costs to meet prior to prepare the Lodge for ski season. Prompt payment of your subs ensures the Club can appropriately prepare the Lodge for another great season. Late payment fees do apply so please pay promptly.

## New Member Login for Ormond Ski Club

The Member Login area for Ormond Ski Club members is being migrated to the main Ormond Ski Club website. This will require a new password for all Members and a different login process. This document explains the process.

The sections here are:

When will I know I have been setup in the new Member Login area?

How do I login?

What do I see after I login?

When am I setup in the new Member Login area?

After you have been setup as a Member in the new Member area, you will receive a system generated email similar to the following:

Hello <Member>,

You have been added as a User to Ormond Ski Club by an Administrator.

This e-mail contains your username and password to log in to  
<https://www.ormondskiclub.com.au/v2/>

Username: <Your username> (this will be your email address)  
Password: xxxxxxxx (this is a randomly generated password you can change after login).

Please do not respond to this message as it is automatically generated and is for information purposes only.

Please note your login is still your email address however you will have a new password. You can change the password after you login to the new Member area.

### How do I login?

On the Ormond Ski Club website, you will see the following Login area on the left hand side under the Main Menu:

Type in the username and password you received in the email you received.

If you forget your password or username, click on the relevant link. You will be prompted to enter your email address and the appropriate information will be emailed to you.

The screenshot shows a 'Member Login' section with a blue header. Below the header are two input fields for 'Username' and 'Password'. There is a 'Remember Me' checkbox. A blue 'Login' button is positioned below the input fields. At the bottom of the form, there are two links: 'Forgot your password?' and 'Forgot your username?'.

### What do I see after I login?

After you login, you will see a new menu item called "Member Details" in the Main Menu on the left hand side. If you click on this, it will expand to show the available pages.

Click on each of the options to show membership details specific to you.

The screenshot shows a 'Newsletters' section with a red underline. Below it is a 'Member Details' section with a red underline. Under 'Member Details', there is a list of options, each with a red arrow pointing right: 'Contact Information', 'Spouse, Child, Buddy', 'Lockers', 'Work Party history', 'Finance History', and 'Change Password'. Below this list is a 'Member Information' section with a blue underline.

### FAQ

What about making a booking? *There will be a bookings link in the Member Details section closer to when bookings open.*

How do I change my email address? *If you click on Change Password, you can change your password, your display name and also your email address. However if you need to change your email address, please contact the Membership officer who will change both email address and username so they match.*

I want to change contact details, how do I do this? *There will soon be an "Edit details" link so you can do this online. If you need to do this beforehand, please contact the Membership Officer.*

### **Email addresses:**

Access to the Member Login area uses your email address as your login. If you don't have an email address registered with the Club, you won't have access to the Member's area. If you don't have an email address, or want to change yours, please contact Geoff Markley, Membership Officer, at [general@ormondskiclub.com.au](mailto:general@ormondskiclub.com.au).

### **Work parties**

Contact: Stuart Watson ([watsonsa@tpg.com.au](mailto:watsonsa@tpg.com.au))  
Australia Day weekend

Labour day long weekend: 6,7,8 March (For this weekend there are several cycling events in the area so there may be altered road conditions over the weekend.)

Easter: 2-5 April

Anzac day: 24-26 April

Queens birthday: 12-14 June

### **Work party Guidelines – OSC**

#### Availability

Each work party has a specified number of skilled and unskilled positions available, depending on the work to be completed. Once these positions have been filled you can be added to a waiting list, to be called in case of cancellations.

Due to the nature of the work being completed, the lodge is not available to paying guests during work parties.

#### Cancellations

If you need to pull out of the work party you should notify the Maintenance Officer (Stuart Watson ([watsonsa@tpg.com.au](mailto:watsonsa@tpg.com.au))) no later than 3 days prior to the start of the work party (eg. if the work party begins on a Saturday morning, then notification should be given no later than COB Wednesday to allow time to contact members on the waiting list).

The provision of food (free of charge to work party attendees) is based on the confirmed numbers given to the Maintenance Officer. If you cancel your spot less than 3 days prior to the start of the work party you will be charged a fee of \$50 for food already purchased. This fee will also be charged to members who commit to the work party and do not show up.

#### Format of Work Parties

A WP leader will be allocated for each WP. The role of the WP leader is to allocate tasks, and ensure that the weekend runs smoothly. Typically work starts at 9am, and finishes at 4-5.30pm depending on the nature of the work being completed. There's also morning tea,

lunch, and afternoon tea provided during the working day.

It is expected that participants work on tasks allocated by the WP leader during these times. If leaving the lodge during these hours for an extended period of time permission must be sought from the WP leader. If permission is not sought the member may not be eligible for a WP credit for that day.

Participants may be charged summer rates if they attend the work party but then do not participate in any of the jobs set out by the WP leader. This will be dealt with by the committee on a case by case basis.

### **Goss**

**Rohan** and **Anna Hodges** and kids are in Solden Austria and Chamonix. **Nic Reilly** is with the Hodges.

On 14/1, **Nick Reid** was on top of Mt Blanc, Chamonix, having a vin chaud and facebooked "Sucks to be you."

### **Setchell/Swiss Chapter:**

**Fi Setchell** and Jan-Paul (her Dutch boyfriend) are testing slopes around Switzerland and France. Fi is pretending to study her MBA in Switzerland while spending huge amounts of time at the snow and investigating purchase of Swiss mountain properties. Perhaps a joint venture with the club should be explored?!?!?

**Andy Setchell** and Laura Carter are testing slopes on a 6 week European adventure as directed by Fi. **Tom Nairn** and family are meeting the Setchells in Switzerland and Chamonix for further slope testing.

**The Vancouver Chapter:** undergoing massive expansion. **Pip O'Donnell** is at Whistler working as the Victory Ceremonies Supervisor at the Games. **Phil Cross** and **Jen Downer** - living in Vancouver and skiing ridiculous amounts of vertical in BC before lunch and tested Sun Peaks for Christmas. See their blog at <http://www.jenandphilonthemove.blogspot.com/>. They are always looking for people to ski with. **Meg Casey** is heading to stay with Phil and Jen in Vancouver to test Whistler/Blackcomb during winter Olympics (hopefully without breaking her wrist) and Mt Baker.

### **Japanese Chapter:**

**Tracey Whiriskey** - still living and working in Tokyo, now owns an apartment in Japanese mountains. Meg - recently caught up with Whisky and tried to make it beyond the bars and restaurants to see the snow but failed! Next time.

**Dave Owen** - Facebook tells me Dave is currently on a ski trip in Japan. **Chalkie** is skiing in Japan too, leaving Kath at home to suffer through his updates.

**Kate Austin** will be somewhere in Canada (Red) as we go to press.

Dave Owen



Phil Cross, Jen Downer



**Non-skiing hols:**

**Wayne Lewis** and **Kim Ely** will be tripping to the US in Feb and will be catching up with **Fred Watson** in Monterey.

**Saul Wakerman** has just completed a 6 month exchange in Sweden and is now traveling through South America.

**Lisa & Nick Balster** have a new baby, Noah.

**Sally Dean** writes: “Saw **Lachlan Holberry Morgan** being interviewed on TV on how to manage rips, and what to do if caught in one. He took the reporter out and demonstrated as well. Seemed as nice as he was when I knew him at 3!”

...More on Chamonix from Tom Nairn...

We were put onto a mountain guiding company called Worldwide Guiding ([worldwideguiding.com](http://worldwideguiding.com)). The principal is a chap named Sebastian Rougegre. He was formerly a member of the French Mountain Rescue service, as are some of his guides and is highly qualified and very experience.

He has only recently left his former employ and started this business. They were outstanding. Safety was paramount, together with ensuring his clients enjoyed themselves and maximised their experience. His emphasis on safety comes from the experience he has picking up the pieces at the other end when it all goes wrong, but in no way detracts from the experience. It probably enhances it because it gives you confidence.

He and his staff bent over backwards for us and nothing was too much trouble. We had two awesome days of guided off-piste skiing (reasonably priced for a small group of 3-4) If anyone is coming to Chamonix and looking for a guide, they could not possibly do better and be in safer hands than with Sebastien and his Worldwide Guiding crew. If they liaise with him in advance, he will handle a lot of the prelim bookings etc' necessary for the trip.



La Vallee Blanche: Nairn, Setchell et al.

**Editor:** Ross Cutler Feed back welcomed. [rosscutler@optusnet.com.au](mailto:rosscutler@optusnet.com.au). Phone: 03 5255 5614 Fax: 03 5255 5613

<b>OSC members survey:</b> Email the completed survey as an attachment to <a href="mailto:rosscutler@optusnet.com.au">rosscutler@optusnet.com.au</a> or fax: +61 3 52555613		
	Agree	Disagree
The core business of the lodge is to provide affordable skiing for its members.		
Write your own objective for the club:		
The current charges for accommodation are reasonable		
The accommodation at the lodge, modestly refurbished, is suitable for my purposes.		
I am embarrassed by the modest lodge environment and seek a more upmarket facility		
I am comfortable with the rates the club currently charges, would happily pay less but do not want to pay more beyond CPI		
To provide a better lodge standard I am happy to pay 30-50% more for lodge fees.		
If the current shared bathrooms are regularly refurbished I am happy		
I hate the shared bathrooms and want en -suites. I am happy to pay significantly more for these rooms.		
The current carpet is awful and independently of any other renovation needs to be replaced.		
I would like the club to install wireless access internet facilities		
A big screen for movies or TV installed in the recreation room downstairs is a good idea		
I like the idea of a blackboard along one wall in the rec room		
Get rid of the shelves in the living area and the LP records and just put in a digital sound system that takes CDs and MP3 players or Ipods.		
The bunkrooms rooms are pretty much OK – minor tweaking only required		
I can mostly live with the bathrooms		
The downstairs bathroom at the northern end needs some work		
The kitchen needs a complete makeover		
We should use Class A recycled water from the mountain in the toilets and maybe the washing machine but not for drinking.		
We should investigate and plan long term to tap geothermal energy		
I am happy for the club to levy members against accommodation to finance club improvements		

Complete the following sentences:

I would enjoy my time at the lodge more if:

.....

The top five things I would like to see bought or done at the lodge are:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

If money was no object the club should.....