

Melbourne Nordic Ski Club

Club Weekends – 2008

May 2008

1. Ski de Gens

This weekend is held at Falls Creek and is designed to ease you into the ski season. Often this is the first time on snow since the previous winter. Lessons are offered at all levels of competence and in classic, skating and telemarking techniques. This is your opportunity to try something new or to improve your style and still have the whole season to reinforce what you learn. It is ideal for beginner skiers too.

The Club gathers at the Windy Corner picnic shelter prior to setting out for the day's activities at the Nordic Bowl and beyond. In poor snow years the lessons are held at the top of Wombats Ramble near Cloud Nine. At Windy Corner there is Nordic ski hire, refreshments and toilet facilities. Lessons for all (tout le gens) and day tours are organised for Saturday. More touring will be organised for those interested on Sunday or there will be Ski de Femme workshops hosted by the Birkebeiner club for women as usual in the Nordic Bowl area, beginning at 10.00am. Saturday night we usually dine out in Mt Beauty and there may be a requirement to book for dinner.

Accommodation is organised by the Club in Tawonga or Tawonga South. Limited "on snow" accommodation can be organised by special arrangement through some members who belong to lodges in Falls Creek. Mt Beauty and Falls Creek can be reached by bus for those who don't wish to drive. However, the Club encourages car pooling and facilitates this by providing a spreadsheet online where drivers or passengers can register their intentions/requirements. The Club has a car pooling policy and provides a schedule of costs depending on the size of the car and the number of passengers. Families are welcome and children are charged at half the adult rate.

The accommodation officer attempts to place people who are travelling together at the same premises. People who arrive early are usually put together to minimise disturbance from those who arrive late. The proprietors will provide directions and keys to early arrivals. The list of room or cabin allocations is pinned up in the entry or office window so that latecomers can still find their beds.

Arby's Place

This is located opposite the Bogong Hotel, Tawonga (180 Kiewa Valley Highway). The proprietor's name is Ian Arbuckle and his phone number for emergency contact during the weekend is 5754 4443. Arby's has a central kitchen/living area and four communal bathrooms and toilets. There are seven rooms: two doubles, three twins and two with two sets of bunk beds. All linen and bedding is provided. There is a large drying room and wireless internet is offered at no charge. A small 3-4 person hot tub is available until 10 pm.

Kiewa Country Cottages

These are located at 113 Simmonds Creek Road, Tawonga South. They can be reached by turning right off the Kiewa Valley Highway just before the bridge over the river. The cottages are on the left side of Simmonds Creek Road, approximately 1 km from the highway (opposite Snow View Units). The proprietors are Andrew & Steph McEnnally and can be phoned in case of emergency during the weekend on 5754 4004. Each cottage has a kitchen, bathroom and drying closet. They have two bedrooms, a queen bed in one and two sets of bunk beds in the other. All linen and bedding is provided.

2. Marouka

This 2-3 day weekend is held at Mt Hotham at Marouka lodge, near Jack Frost. One of MNSC's members, Austin Maloney, is also a member of this lodge and kindly invites us each year. This weekend is not recommended for beginner skiers. No lessons are provided and while many of the trails between Hotham and Dinner Plain are classified as easy "green" and are groomed, they are a little more challenging than the nursery slopes of Falls Creek's Nordic Bowl. Small groups set off to explore the many trails between Hotham and Dinner Plain and other places each day.

Self catering is the norm with small groups, often those who travel together, organising the sharing of food and cooking. The bedrooms sleep 4 or more in bunk beds and you will need to bring a sleeping bag (some blankets/pillows are supplied) bed linen and a towel. In case of emergency the phone number at Marouka is 5759 3516. Nordic skis can be hired from Jack Frost and Dinner Plain or at places like Rays Ski Shop in Myrtleford or Melbourne (EMC gives MNSC members a discount). Further information can be obtained from Crosswords or by contacting Austin at club meetings.

3. Howman's Gap

This is THE annual Club weekend and is held at the YMCA Howman's Gap Alpine Centre near the entrance to Falls Creek. It is a great opportunity to meet and get to know better other club members in the communal dining and living areas. Six meals are catered, including Friday dinner, so don't forget to indicate on the accommodation form if you will be there in time and also if you have any special dietary requirements. The dorms sleep 4 to 6 people in bunk beds and you will need to bring a sleeping bag, (some blankets/pillows are supplied) bed linen and towel. In case of emergency during the weekend, the telephone number is 03 5758 3228.

Lessons are offered at all levels of competence and in classic, skating and telemarking techniques. The Club gathers at the Windy Corner picnic shelter prior to setting out for the day's activities at the Nordic Bowl and beyond.

4. Mt Stirling

This weekend is timed to coincide with the Justoyota Stirling Silver race, hosted by MNSC. This is a great opportunity to ski somewhere different, although not recommended for absolute beginners, although snow shoeing is an option! You can race, help out or just ski. We usually rent a couple of houses in Mansfield and self cater for Friday night dinner and dine out on the Saturday night.

In 2008, the two cottages are:

- * Robyns Nest on Ailsa, 31 Ailsa Street Mansfield, comprising 2 queen beds, 2 sets of bunk beds and 1 queen sofa bed, 2 minutes walk to shops; and
- * Robyns Nest on Highton, 69 Highton Lane, Mansfield, comprising 2 queen beds and 2 single beds, 15 minutes walk to shops.

Robyn can be contacted on 5779 1064 & 0427030957

5. Late Season, including Hoppet / Birkebeiner / Joey races

This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy spring skiing either by going on a tour or by participating in the Joey Hoppet, Birkebeiner or the Hoppet races. These races attract competitors from all over the world and are held at Falls Creek on the Saturday.

Joey, 7km,
Birkebeiner, 21km, and
the Hoppet. 42 km.

Some members take racing seriously, others just enter for fun. Another option for the less energetic is to help staff the MNSC drink station. Help is always welcome and an enjoyable day is assured. Saturday night we get together at a Mt Beauty café to swap/hear race stories before attending the presentation.

Accommodation is again in Tawonga at Arby's Place or Tawonga South at Kiewa Country Cottages. Details of these can be found above under "Ski de Gens" weekend. Limited "on snow" accommodation can be organised by special arrangement through some members who belong to lodges in Falls Creek.
