



Annual Report 2009 - 2010

Chairman

Peter Cunningham

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Chairman's Report

The Vancouver Olympics was certainly Australia's most successful Winter Olympics to date with 2 gold and 1 silver medals and many high rankings. I would like to congratulate our Olympic team. It was disappointing we had no ACT athletes selected but ex-ACT cross country skier Katie Calder was selected to represent New Zealand.

After having been on the SSA Board for the last 4 years I was unsuccessful in regaining by SSA Board position at the recent March AGM. I was particularly disappointed at the voting support from ACT/SSA registered athletes and members which was virtually non-existent despite a number of email representations over the period leading up to the AGM. This is a strategic setback for the ACT as we need representation and be an active partner at the highest level in the organisation of snow sport within Australia.

On the same visit to Melbourne I attended the official opening of the Melbourne Ice House and it is certainly a very impressive training facility. The SSA and the Olympic Winter Institute will be relocating to the Icehouse and it is certainly a step up from their present office standard. The facility which consists of 2 ice rinks and offices, will certainly give a shot in the arm for Melbourne based ice discipline athletes and will also allow cross training for other athletes. It is worth a trip to check out.

We finished the 2009 financial year with a slight deficit caused primarily by our increased athlete scholarships during the Olympic year. I would like to thank Kerri Pinkerton for her significant efforts in maintaining our financial systems. Our triennial funding from the ACT Government is an integral component in our administration funding and is greatly appreciated. We have regular contact meetings with Sport and Recreation Services ACT who have been pleased with our strategic initiatives and operations over the past years.

Our major fundraising function the Ski sale was again successful with new software developed by Hugh Stevens being very successful in improving our systems and reducing the paperwork. We are confident that further refinements will achieve greater future efficiencies.

The NSWACT Alpine agreement was resigned during 2009. This is the joint development program ACT has with NSW for the organisation of scholarships and training programs for junior skiers. I would like to thank Christine Stevens and Linda Rigby for managing the process.

Snowsports ACT has been working over the past few years on improving the athlete pathways and development for our skiers, particularly with dry land and squad training programs. We are pleased participation rates have been increasing and are optimistic that the programs can progress to higher levels in future years. The NSW/ACT Interschool's competition was again an important component of our sports program attracting nearly 1,000 competitors. Our plan is to achieve greater integration of the interschool athletes into our development programs through active talent identification.

I would like to thank Kerri & Wendy Pinkerton and Rebecca Masterton for their running of the ACT office and their untiring organisation of our events, particularly interschools. I would like also to thank my fellow Snowsports ACT Board for their support during the year.

Happy skiing,

Peter Cunningham
Chairman



Alpine Report

2010 Update

Ski and Snowboard Australia Fitness Testing will be held in 2010 in April, June and October in Sydney, Jindabyne, Melbourne and Bright. Skier Cross Talent ID Camps will be held this year at the resorts.

The number of Alpine Registered Athletes in the ACT dropped significantly from 2008 figures in both Children's racing and FIS racing.



Alia Moore and Ben Hood, both in their last year of Children's competition, skied to podium finishes in many races in the Southern Season.

Alia placed 1st in all four races at the Blue Cow Cup. At the National Children's Champs, Alia placed 2nd in the Slalom, 2nd in the Giant

Slalom and 5th in the Skier X. Alia finished the season with the third lowest SSA points in her age category in Australia.

Ben received the lowest SSA points in his age category in the Children's series. After top podium results in the TSRC Cup and Blue Cow Cup, Ben placed 1st in the Slalom 1 and equal 2nd in the Slalom 2, 2nd in the Giant Slalom 1 and 2 and 1st in the Skier X at the National Children's Champs. Overall he was equal 1st place.

Alia and Ben were selected as members of the Australian Children's Squad, which competed in Italy and Canada in 2010. In Topolino, Alia placed 62nd in the Giant Slalom and 41st in the Slalom out of 100 competitors. At the Whistler Cup, Alia placed 48th in the Giant Slalom, 36th in the Slalom and 79th in the Super G out of 100 competitors. At the same event, Ben placed 53rd in the Super G out of 100 competitors.

Bryce Stevens, a member of the National Continental Cup team, came back from a long term injury in 2009. Throughout the season, Bryce improved his Slalom from 41.09 points (rank 755) to 25.37 (rank 319).



Bryce was the best placed Australian and New Zealand skier in the Slalom in the Australia New Zealand Continental Cup series and earned himself the "yellow bib". The winner of the discipline bibs earn the right to start no worse than 31st position in the coming seasons Europa Cup and NorAm race series, and if they qualify, have a personal quota spot with expenses in the World Cup. Bryce was the Runner up for the Giant Slalom Yellow Bib in the series.

Bryce also had a second place in the Mt Buller Slalom FIS event and a 3rd place in the National Junior Champs Slalom at Thredbo. In the Northern season, Bryce competed in the North American Cup, European Cup and World Cup in Schladming.

Hugh Stevens, also a member of the National Continental Cup team, was the best placed Australian and New Zealand skier in the Giant Slalom in the Australia New Zealand Continental Cup series. Like Bryce, he has also earned the right to start no worse than 31st position in the coming seasons Europa Cup and NorAm races series. Hugh was the runner up for the Yellow bib in the Slalom in the ANC. Hugh was the best placed Australian in the series overall. Hugh made his best Giant Slalom result (24 points) in Cornett Peak in New Zealand whilst skiing against US/Swedish World Cup ski team members.

Megan Thomas and Clare Sutherland competed in their first year of FIS in 2009. Samantha Biilmann made a personal best in Ginat Slalom at Mt Hotham with a 100.3 results.

The World Master Winter Games were held in January in Slovenia. Three ACT athletes competed. Heimo Thaurer placed 9th in the Giant Slalom and 2nd in the Slalom. Rupert Winkler placed 4th in the Giant Slalom and 11th in the Slalom. Damian von Demleux placed 35th in the Giant Slalom and 27th in the Super G.

Christine Stevens

NSWACT Alpine Report

Committee Members: Ruth Biilmann (Snowsports ACT Alpine representative), Greg Lewis (NSW Alpine representative), Annette Pilat (NSW Alpine representative) and Linda Rigby (Snowsports ACT Alpine representative).

NSWACT Teams for 2009/10

The NSWACT Senior, Junior and Children's, teams were published in the new National Competition Guide and on the Snowsports ACT website.

FIS Open Team

Lavinia Chrystal, Edward Parry, Matthew Robertson (ACT), Bryce Stevens (ACT) and Hugh Stevens (ACT)



FIS Junior Team

Samantha Biilmann (ACT), Scott Clark, Tim Easdale, Murray, Elliott, Toni Hodgkinson, Nicholas Karlowatz, Courtney Kazar (ACT), Bobbi Kelly, Tom Lewis, Alexandra Pilat, Elizabeth Pilat, Sam Robertson and Will Wood

Children's Team

Matilda Coates, Max Hough, Zac Kelly, Ben Hood (ACT), Alia Moore (ACT), Nadia Mueller, Adam Podgorski, Richard Stewart and Hannah Sugerman

Selection criteria for NSWACT Alpine teams for 2010

The following criteria was endorsed by NSWACT members:

FIS Open Team - Athletes born before 1991 - FIS Senior athlete in 2010/11:

Less than 80 FIS points (best two discipline average as determined by the 11th FIS points list for the 2009/10 season) provided the athlete is not a NSWIS/OWI scholarship holder.

FIS Junior Team Athletes born in 1991, 1992 or 1993 - 3rd, 4th or 5th year FIS athletes in 2010/11:

Less than 110 FIS points (best two discipline average as determined by the 11th FIS points list for the 2009/10 season).

Athletes born in 1994 - 2nd year FIS athlete in 2010/11:

Less than 130 FIS points (best two discipline average as determined by the 11th FIS points list for the 2009/10 season).

Athletes born in 1995 - 1st year FIS athlete in 2010/11:

Two male and two female athletes with the best and next best SSA Children's Points (two discipline average) at the end of the 2009 season (four athletes in total, two of each gender) provided that an athlete must also be ranked within the top 6 nationally amongst 1995 athletes to be eligible.

Children's Team Athletes born in 1996, 1997 or 1998:

Male athlete and female athlete with the best SSA Children's Points (two discipline average) at the end of the 2009 season for each of the above years of birth (six athletes in total, one of each gender, from each year of birth).

Male athlete and female athlete with the next best SSA Children's Points (two discipline average) at the end of the 2009 season (two athletes in total, one of each gender, regardless of the year of birth).

NSWACT Alpine Rising Stars Awards

This program, which is an evolution of the previous Awards of Excellence, aims to encourage some of the top performing Interschools racers to become involved with the race clubs and SSA racing. Eight Interschools racers from Div 3,4, and 5 were selected to receive a free weekend of training with a race club and free entry and assistance at the Blue Cow Cup.

NSWACT Alpine Talented Athlete Program

This flagship program, which has been running for many years, was successfully conducted again in 2009, despite the fact the Resorts had withdrawn their support at the end of 2008. The 2009 program, endorsed by the NAC as part of the National Alpine Pathway, involved 2 blocks of 4 days on snow coaching for selected athletes. We thank Perisher and Thredbo for their support for the program. Although coaching was no longer provided free of charge, the resorts provided lift tickets, hill space, early lifting and subsidised coaching.

NSWACT Alpine FIS Junior Team Conditioning Program

This new program in 2009 was delivered by Manfred Wolscher. It assisted in providing fitness and conditioning support to members of the NSWACT Alpine Junior Team prior to the southern and northern seasons. Positive feedback was received from the athletes about the benefits of coming together for training camps and having access to regular feedback on their fitness training. The program involved 4 day training camps in April and October and online monitoring support. This program, along with the TAP program, was funded jointly by the participating athletes and NSWACT alpine.

Linda Rigby and Ruth Biilmann
NSWACT representatives for Snowsports ACT



Cross Country Report

Focus throughout the year was again principally on racing with the ACT Cross Country Committee organising or co-hosting the following championships:

- National Senior and Junior Sprints and National 10/15km Championships at Perisher on 7/8 August 2009.
- ACT Senior & Junior Distance Championships on 25 July.
- ACT/NSW Senior & Junior Sprint Championships on 10 July.

All championships were very successful with excellent snow cover and good weather.

The Cross Country committee also organised the 10th Snowy Mountains Classic ski race, which was very successful.

Assistance was also given to the NPWS with summer maintenance of the Perisher Valley Nordic ski trails.

The Snowsports ACT committee has been actively participating in the Perisher Valley Cross Country Consultative Committee in negotiations with the NPWS regarding the operations and administration of the trails grooming in Perisher Valley

I would like to thank all members of the committee for their support and efforts during the year, which made the running of our events so successful.

Happy skiing,

Peter Cunningham



Interschools Report

One of the most important events organised by SnowSports ACT is the Interschools series, which attracts grass roots participation to all snow sport disciplines with the potential to introduce athletes to other programs and competition that will develop them into elite athletes and move up the athlete pathway to World Cup and Olympic participation. The Interschools series, locally and nationally, has the largest participation numbers in snow sports competitions and is by far the best opportunity to promote the separate disciplines, encourage participation, and develop the skills of junior athletes.

The SnowSports ACT Interschools Committee volunteers and staff are heavily involved in the NSW Regional and State Championships, Australian Championships, and the locally organized NSW and ACT Cross Country Championships and ACT-Southern NSW Interschools Championships.

In 2009, the ACT-Southern NSW Interschools Championships received 1 548 entries from 743 competitors from 51 schools. Alpine and Skiercross receive the highest amount of entries, followed by Snowboard Cross. Entry numbers were higher than last year and Cross Country entries saw the biggest growth.

Top Performances

Ben Hood placed 1st in both Skier X and Alpine at the ACT-Southern NSW Champs and Australian Champs.

Shauna Rigby placed 1st in the Skier X and 2nd in the Alpine at the ACT-Southern NSW Interschools Championships.

Samantha Biilmann skied up to Division 1 and placed 2nd in the Skiercross and Alpine at the Australian Interschools Championships.

Bridgette Cunningham placed 2nd in the Cross Country Classic at the Australian Interschools Champs.

Lucie Winkler Lucie placed 2nd in the Skier X and 4th in the Alpine at the ACT-Southern NSW Interschools Champs.

Tom Ashton Tom placed 2nd in the Freestyle event at the NSW & ACT Cross Country Interschools Champs. At the Australian Interschools Champs, Tom placed 4th in the XC Classic.



Ski and Snowboard Sale and Expo

The Annual Ski and Snowboard Sale and Expo was held again in May 2009. Hugh Stevens put together a software package so that electronic lodgments and receipting could occur. The new system proved to be very effective and efficient.



There were more buyers in 2009 than in previous years and a fair profit was made. In 2010, eftpos machines will be trialed and it is hoped that it will speed up the receipting and payment process.

Once again, the general public had the opportunity to sign up for a free membership on the day, which entitled them to discounts at ACT retail shops.

Thank you to all the Volunteers who helped out in 2009.

Annual Awards Presentation

The Annual Presentation Dinner was held in October 2009 at the Hellenic Club of Canberra. The night allows SnowSports ACT to recognise the achievements of our athletes from the season and thank our volunteers for their tireless work. Award receivers in 2009 were:

Athlete of the Year – Bryce Stevens
Male Skier of the Year – Hugh Stevens
Female Skier of the Year – Samantha Biilmann
Junior Male Skier of the Year – Ben Hood
Junior Female Skier of the Year – Alia Moore
Special Achievement Award – Matthew Robertson

Interschools Awards

Bridgette Cunningham
Shauna Rigby
Lucie Winkler
Tom Ashton

Volunteers

Linda Rigby
Ruth Biilmann
Adele Holland