



SNOWSPORTS ACT ANNUAL REPORT

2008

Director's and Staff

Chairman & Cross Country Chair	– Peter Cunningham	Executive Officer	– WendyPinkerton
Treasurer & Interschools Chair	– Kerri Pinkerton	Executive Assistant	– Rebecca Masterton
Alpine Chair	– Christine Stevens		
Director	– John Ainge		
Director	– Teresa Harrington		
Director	– Linda Rigby		
Director	– Paul Szymik		
Director	– Damian von Demleux		
Director	– Rupert Winkler		

Chairman's Report

This past year was the first full year of operation and consolidation following the major structural changes that occurred in 2007 within Australian snowsports.

The signing in June 2007 of the Services Agreement with SSA by the SSO's (Snowsports ACT, NSW Snowsports and the VSA) introduced a joint membership agreement between SSA and the States where all prospective members now join SSA directly but are by default then an automatic member of their chosen SSO. This worked reasonably well however there were some teething problems with the SSA website software and record discrepancies that will need to be worked through. Time will only tell how successful these changes will be and how our sport will look in a number of years.

It was pleasing to finish the year with a balanced budget and 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.

A major project supported during 2008 was assisting the NSWSA XC committee in completing the extension to the Perisher Valley Nordic Shelter before the 2008 snow season. The extension was officially opened in August by the Member for Monaro Steve Whan for the NSW Minister For Sport Graeme West who was unable to attend because of a blizzard closing down Cooma Airport on the day. Special thanks must be given to the Canberra Cross Country Ski Club for their extraordinary assistance in this project. The Snowsports ACT cross country committee donated \$5,000 to the project in 2008 and a further \$5,000 in early 2009.

The NSWACT agreement was resigned during 2008. This is the joint development program ACT has with NSW for the organization of scholarships and training programs for junior skiers. I would like to thank Christine Stevens for managing the process and welcome Linda Rigby as one of our new representatives.

Snowsports ACT has ongoing plans to improve the athlete pathways and development for our skiers, particularly dryland and squad training. 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.

Congratulations are extended to Alpine athlete's Hugh and Bryce Stevens and Matthew Robertson for their selection to represent Australia at the 2008 World Championships in Val d Isere in France. Significant results at the 2008 Australian Championships were Hugh finishing 5th and Matthew Robertson 6th Overall in the Giant Slalom.

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

Happy skiing,
Peter Cunningham, SnowSports ACT Chairman



Alpine Report

2008 Southern Hemisphere Season

There were twenty ACT Alpine athletes competing in the Southern hemisphere season in 2008. Of those athletes, fourteen are FIS competitors and six compete in the Children's series.

Standout performances in 2008

Ben Hood, Child 2—2nd SL at State series, 4th in SL and GS at the National titles

Alia Moore, Child 2—3rd in SL and GS at State series

Nicole Wilson, J2— 1st in GS1 and GS2 at the State Championships

Kristofer Evans, J1— 3rd in GS2 and 4th in GS1 at the State Championships

Matthew Robertson, Open—3rd Australian in Supercombined in the ANC

Hugh Stevens, Open—3rd Australian overall in the ANC series.



2008/2009 Northern Hemisphere Season

The ACT has three of the six male athletes in the National Team squad, Matthew Robertson, Bryce Stevens and Hugh Stevens. The ACT athletes competed at the World Championships in Val d Isere, France in February 2009. The northern winter was Bryce's first season after nearly 2 years recovery from injury.

Standout performances in 2008/2009 Northern Hemisphere Season

Matthew Robertson—14th in SL and 27th in GS at the China University Games, 30th in SL qualification at the World Ski Championships

Hugh Stevens—21st in SL in FIS race in Crma, Slovenia, 23rd in GS in FIS race in Folgaria, Italy, 52nd in GS Final and 26th in SL qualification at the World Ski Championships,

Bryce Stevens—4th in GS in FIS race in Skofja Loka, Slovenia, 21st in GS in FIS race in Folgaria Italy, 46th in GS Final at the World Ski Championships.

National Alpine Committee (NAC)

The newly appointed National Alpine Committee met for the first time in Melbourne on 25th October 2008. The committee comprises Cliff Mason (Chair), Lachlan Clark (Chairman of Selectors Subcommittee), Steven Weeks (Chairman of Club Presidents Subcommittee), Scott Sanderson (Chairman of Resorts/ROC Subcommittee), Greg McCormack (Chairman of Marketing/Finance Subcommittee), Christoph Maier (by phone for an hour as National Development Coach) and Michael Kennedy (SSA CEO).

The NAC is considering an innovative proposal from Christopher Maier for filling the gap in the athlete pathway between the State and Junior Squads and the National Development Team. This is likely to have most effect in the 2009/2010 NH season but will become operational in May 2009.

In July 2008, Mark Sharp (Canadian National Womens Team) spent time consulting with SSA, state ski associations, clubs athletes and all interested parties and wrote a review on alpine racing in Australia. The NAC met again for a planning workshop on 15th November to consider Mark Sharp's Alpine Review Recommendations and on progress being made in implementing the Sharp Recommendations.

Christine Stevens
SnowSports ACT Alpine Chair





Cross Country Report

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

- National Senior and Junior Sprints and National 10/15km Championships at Perisher on 9/10 August 2008.
- ACT Senior & Junior Distance Championships on 2 August.
- ACT/NSW Senior & Junior Sprint Championships on 19 July.

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

Unfortunately the ACT results for the 2008 season were severely weakened by the absence of Katie Calder (formerly ranked Australian No.1 for the previous 3 years) who is now skiing for New Zealand and Sally Cunningham who was studying overseas in Canada. Other ACT results at the Junior Nationals were Bridgette Cunningham 6th WU14 in Freestyle and Classic.

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

A major project during this year was support given in assisting the NSWSA XC committee in completing the extension to the Perisher Valley Nordic Shelter by the commencement of the 2008 season. This involved attending or organizing working bees on nearly all weekends from October 2007 to June 2008. Special thanks must be given to the Canberra Cross Country Ski Club for their extraordinary assistance in this project. The Snowsports ACT cross country committee donated \$5,000 to the project in 2008.

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
SnowSports Act Cross Country Chair





Interschools

One of the most important programs organised by SnowSports ACT is the Interschools Series, which attracts grass roots participants 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 Travelplan NSW & ACT Cross Country Regional Championship and Subaru ACT/Southern NSW Championships.

In 2008, the cross country disciplines were held at the 1st NSW & ACT Cross Country Regional Championships. 19 ACT students over 7 schools competed as individuals and teams in the Cross Country Relay and Cross Country Freestyle.

Outstanding Performances at the NSW & ACT Cross Country Championships

Dominika Moir, Merici College—3rd Division 1 in the Cross Country Freestyle

Ben Hood, Radford College—3rd Division 3 in the Cross Country Freestyle

Bridgette Cunningham, Canberra Girls Grammar—3rd Division 3 in the Cross Country Freestyle

The ACT-Southern NSW Interschools Championships saw 611 ACT entries from 24 schools compete in the five disciplines of Alpine, Freestyle Moguls, Skiercross, Snowboard GS, and Snowboard Cross.

Outstanding ACT Individual Performances at the ACT-Southern NSW Championships

Shauna Rigby, Radford College—2nd Division 1 in Alpine, 1st Division 1 in Moguls, 1st Division 2 in Skiercross

Nick Wright, Canberra College—1st Division 1 in Alpine and Skiercross

Alia Moore, Telopea Park School—1st Division 3 in Alpine

Ben Hood, Radford College—2nd Division 3 in Alpine

Clara Dahlenburg, Telopea Park School—1st Division 5 in Alpine

Jimmy Tanner, Radford College—1st Division 2 in Snowboard GS and Snowboard Cross

Henry Bessell, Canberra Grammar Jnr—1st Division 4 Snowboard GS

Hamish Roberts, Canberra Grammar Jnr—1st Division 4 Snowboard Cross, 2nd in Division 4 in Skiercross

100 ACT teams and individuals went on to compete at the Australian Championships held at Perisher Blue.

Kerri Pinkerton

SnowSports ACT Interschools Chair





Snow Sports Sale & Expo

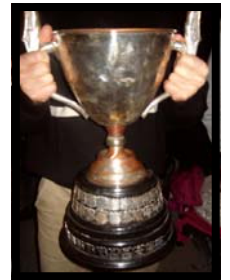
The annual Snow Sports Sale & Expo is a vital fundraising project for the SnowSports ACT. It provides an opportunity for the organisation to promote and introduce the general community to the sport. The profits from the 2008 Sale & Expo went into supporting NSWACT Alpine and Cross Country Development programs.

On hand at the Sale & Expo in 2008 were representatives of ski clubs, resorts and retailers to provide the sound advice to snow sport enthusiasts. Past and present members, as well as ACT athletes and their supporting family, volunteered at the event.

In 2008, SnowSports ACT offered free membership to visitors of the Sale & Expo, which entitled them to great benefits at the local Canberra snow sport retail shops and services.

Balmain Cup

2008 was the 75th anniversary of the legendary Balmain Cup. The special anniversary was celebrated throughout the events and the presentation at the Blue Cow Bistro. Competitors from the past were invited to race in the Giant Slalom Veterans category and trophies were given to the best female and male in each discipline. Guthega Ski Club did a tremendous job in organising the Presentation, which included speeches from Club members on the history of the Cup and video footage of the events. SnowSports ACT marked the event with a published Balmain Cup booklet of the history and results of the Balmain Cup from the previous 25 years to match the 50th Anniversary booklet.



Cooma Ski Club won the Balmain Cup in 2008. Many competitors entered all four events to challenge for the best overall male and female awards. Rupert Winkler took out best overall performance for the Guthega Ski

SnowSports ACT Awards

The SnowSports ACT Annual Presentation Dinner was held in October 2008 at the Canberra Southern Cross Club. The Presentation Dinner allows SnowSports ACT to recognise the achievements of our athletes, recognise vital volunteers and farewell athletes who compete in the Northern hemisphere season. Peter Cunningham presented the participation and prize awards to ACT's top Snowsports Athletes on the night to the following:

Athlete of the Year – Hugh Stevens
 Alpine Male Skier of the Year – Matthew Robertson
 Alpine Female Skier of the Year – Samantha Biilmann
 Alpine Junior Male Skier of the Year – Ben Hood
 Alpine Junior Female Skier of the Year—Alia Moore
 Country Junior Skier of the Year – Bridgette Cunningham
 Alpine Master Skier of the Year – Rupert Winkler

Volunteer Award—Rhonda Cunningham
 Volunteer Award—Ken Ineson
 Volunteer Award—Vit Koci
 Volunteer Award—Jeremy Lucas
 Volunteer Award—Rod Sutherland
 Volunteer Award—Cheryl Wilson

Interschools Achievement Award—Ashleigh Wilson
 Interschools Achievement Award—Shauna Rigby
 Interschools School of the Year—Radford College





Membership

Following a review of the sport's governance arrangements undertaken by the Australian Sports Commission, there is now a unitary system of governance where members join Ski and Snowboard Australia (SSA) directly rather than via state and territory associations. Under a services contract, SnowSports ACT receives 50 percent of the membership fees paid to SSA from ACT members. These members are the organisations Reciprocal Members.

SSA Reciprocal Membership 2008

Alpine Registered Athletes	20
Cross Country Registered Athletes	7
Freestyle Registered Athletes	1
Snowboard Registered Athletes	4
General Membership	14

Other Membership 2008

Along with our reciprocal SSA members, SnowSports ACT offers Corporate Membership for clubs, Membership via the Snowsports Sale & Expo to the general community and Interschools Membership.

Corporate Membership	9
Ski Sale Membership	256
Interschools Membership	649

Volunteers

The activities of Snowsports ACT, and the future of snow sports in the ACT and the surrounding areas, is heavily reliant upon a dedicated commitment by a large number of volunteers. These volunteers have involvement in the ongoing development of the sport, including competition in the ACT and local district as well as State and National events.

Events which are managed and operated either entirely, or with significant involvement by Snow Sports ACT volunteers include:

- *SnowSports ACT Annual Snow Sports Sale and Expo
- *ACT/Southern NSW Interschools Competition
- *NSW Regional and State Interschools Competitions
- *Australian Interschools Competition
- *Alpine races, Children and Junior State and National Championships
- *Cross Country races, Recreational and Elite ACT, State and Nationals
- *Balmain Cup



Volunteers at events who work as course officials are trained by the event organisers at dedicated volunteer training sessions.