

GEELONG WATER SKI CLUB

November
2005

Newsletter

WILSONS ROAD, ST ALBANS PARK
PO BOX 151, GEELONG 3220
www.gwsc.org.au
A0046775R



This and other newsletters can be found on the Geelong Water Ski Club website at www.gwsc.org.au

If anyone would like to place articles in the newsletter, please write to the Secretary at PO Box 151, Geelong 3220.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The last 6 weeks have seen quite a bit of activity around the club with members and the committee in full preparation for the coming season.

Boat scrutineering was held on Sunday the 25th September which saw a great turn out from members. The committee would like to thank those members who were able to turn up on the day as this makes the process much easier. It is however appreciated that this date did not suit everyone and thank those members who were unable to attend for notifying us.

Quite a lot of works / upgrades have been carried out around the club. Sand has been deposited over the retaining wall to ensure boats are not damaged whilst moored. A general working bee was held on 23rd October with terrific attendance from members who came along to offer a hand. Your efforts will be enjoyed by all who use the club facilities over the coming months.

A "Tournament Sub Committee" has been established with the aim of enhancing tournament skiing participation rates and also to encourage those younger and older members to attend club held ski schools. Members of this committee are; Francis Gatfield, Richard and Sue Crisp, Jim Moore and Glenn Sheldon. I would like to thank you all for offering your time and knowledge, which I'm sure will see the continuing success of both ski schools and tournament skiing within the club.

Congratulations to club member Kevin Murfitt who once again has shown his ability to perform and win at the highest level. A full report as shown in the Geelong Advertiser is included on the following page.

A timely reminder with the start of the season to be vigilant that club rules are adhered to, to ensure safety for all members. This includes wearing approved buoyancy vests and appropriate helmets when using either the jump or newly installed slider. Please remember to use the flags when using the slalom course or jump to advise other boat users of your intentions. If you are unsure of any of these, please ask either a committee member or another member. These are there to ensure pleasant days are had by all.

I hope you all enjoy the coming season whether you are there for social skiing and for those members who will be doing the tournament circuit, the committee wish you the best of luck.

I look forward to seeing you all out on the water.

Kev sets sights on a new world order

SIMEON BENNETT

IMAGINE hurtling across the water, a pair of planks strapped to your feet, a crash helmet on your head, then launching yourself off a ramp, sailing through the air and trying to land right way up.

Now imagine doing it blind.

Geelong's Kevin Murfitt has just returned home after being crowned blind waterskiing's world champion for the third time at the World Disabled Waterski Championships in Belgium last week.

Competing in his sixth world championships, Murfitt turned in his career-best performance to take out the tricks, jumps, and overall titles.

The 50-year-old also set a world record in the jump, launching himself 19 metres to smash the previous record by two metres.

Murfitt, who celebrated his birthday in Belgium last week, lost his vision in a car accident 28 years ago, but now has nine separate titles to his name in 12 years of competitive skiing.

"It really says some-

thing for being determined to just keep on progressing," he said. "There's no one that should say, 'I'm now past it'."

Blind waterskiing might sound like a recipe for disaster, but Murfitt says the sport is quite simple.

"In slalom, there's an electronic device in the boat that indicates to the skier when they've reached the buoy," he said.

"In tricks, it's even more simple. I do exactly the same tricks a sighted skier does.

"In the jump I've got a guide who skis beside me, and he gets me out to the jump, then counts me down."

But Murfitt admitted the jump was the most challenging event to master.

"It was terrifying, to be honest, at first," he said.

"It was a feeling of extreme nausea. Nowadays, I'm really confident. It's still probably the most nerveracking, but we've practised that much that I have a very high success rate.

"The feeling of landing a jump makes it all worthwhile."

In fact, Murfitt didn't



Murfitt and his teammate Jamie McDonald with medals.

just land his jumps last week, he obliterated the world record by employing a technique never before used in blind skiing.

Whereas most blind waterskiers approach the jump straight on, Murfitt "cut to the ramp" as sighted skiers do in a whip-like action that increases speed and distance.

"It really did set a fairly high mark for future blind jumpers," Murfitt said of his 19-metre leap.

"The previous record had been there since 1999."

Murfitt said he had no plans of slowing down, and already has his eyes on the 2007 World Championships to be staged in Townsville.

"I love the sport so much it doesn't matter how old I get, I'll still be skiing," he said.

"When there are new people that can take over or when I can't achieve at the level I am now, I'll retire."



As reported in the Geelong Advertiser
21st September 2005.

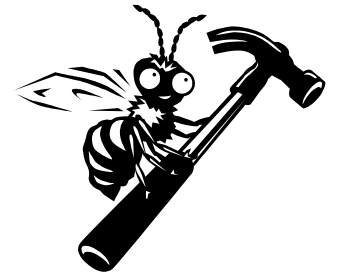
WORKING BEE

A general working bee was held on Sunday the 23rd October 2005.

A number of jobs were carried out on the day including; general clean up of kitchen and shower areas, washing of the external building, sewing grass in areas required and much, much more.

The working bee concluded with a BBQ.

Many thanks to those members who attended the day providing valuable time and effort in preparation for the start of the season. Your support is greatly appreciated.





BOAT SCRUTINEERING

Boat scrutineering was held on Sunday the 25th September 2005 at the Geelong Botanical Gardens.

It was a beautiful sunny morning which saw a wonderful attendance from members with more than 40 boats scrutineered.

For those members who advised the committee that they would be unable to attend on this day, please ensure that you contact the relevant committee member to have your boat scrutineered.

Special thanks to Laura Madden who assisted with the paperwork on the day and to Graham Horton for doing a fantastic job with the barbecue.



Jamie Madden, Dave Vallance and Graham Horton cooking.



Francis Gatfield, Laura Madden and Leanne Madden



George Lewis, Peter Schrueder and Robin Miller



EMILY JONES

Club member Emily Jones has just found out where she will be going in the US next year with Rotary Exchange.

Emily is off to Lander which is a small country town of about 6,000 people out in the US Wild West.

Overview of Lander

When you are looking to get away from it all, make Lander your destination. Enjoy the spectacular views of the Wind River Mountains while hiking alone or with an outfitter, or strolling our historic Main Street. After an adventure-filled day, enjoy an evening of dining, shopping or participating in one of the nightly activities before retiring to your first-rate accommodations.

Nestled against the foothills of the Wind River Mountains on the banks of the Popo Agie River, Lander is where Fremont County history began. Lander saw the first white trappers in 1811 became a small military post in 1869 and now borders the Wind River Indian Reservation. If our friendliness and charm don't captivate you, then our blue skies and breathtaking scenery will. Whatever your interests are, we invite you to discover Lander, Wyoming...where we combine history with visions for the future.



Lander Valley High School
(Where Emily will go throughout 2006)



Downtown Lander

FOR SALE



Malibu Wakesetter

For sale 2004 Malibu Wakesetter
\$60,000.

Includes Perfect Pass, Bimini, Full Cover, Wedge, Cage, CD player, Heater, Gal Trailer and much, much more.

For further details please contact
Mark Young on 0418 525 815.

Dry Suit

Size Extra Large, in excellent condition. \$450. For further details please contact Glenn on 0419 296 222.

Dates to Remember

2005 - 2006



Club Fun Challenge

Saturday 26th November 2005

Ski Schools (8.00am to 12.00noon)

Sunday 11th December 2005

Sunday 12th February 2006

Sunday 5th March 2006

Sunday 26th March 2006

April 2006 - TBA

If anyone can assist with providing boats, and/or driving at any of the ski schools it would be greatly appreciated if you could contact Francis Gatfield so that a register can be established. This would be of great assistance in the organising of these days.

River Closures

Sunday 6th November 2005 from 1.00am and 1.00pm for the Bridge to Bridge Marathon

Sunday 23rd April 2006 from 10.30am and 2.30pm for the Mars Challenge.

Inter Club Challenge

7th – 8th January 2006 at the Geelong Water Ski Club

Presentation Night

Friday 26th May 2006

Venue to be advised

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ROLE	NAME	EMAIL OR TELEPHONE
President	Glenn Sheldon	image11@bigpond.com 0419 296 222
Vice President	Ray Perrett	donwitham@geelong.hotkey.net.au 0417 799 073
Treasurer / Secretary	Anthony Jones	
Secretary	Leanne Madden	Madones454@yahoo.com.au 0402 577 640
Club Captain	Francie Gatfield	fgatfieldimpala@bigpond.com 0407 040 877
Slalom Course & Grounds	Jamie Madden	madones454@yahoo.com.au 0425 822 177
	Mark Young	MAY@ncable.net.au
	David Valance	0438 427 602
	Peter Whelan	roadandriver@iprimus.com.au 0418 521 026
Social	Graham Horton	
Jump	Jim Moore	rosmoore13@hotmail.com 0407 224 376