



Welcome to the March edition of the Snow Sports New Zealand newsletter, helping to keep you informed on the latest news from Snow Sports New Zealand.

From the Chief Executive

Greetings from the team at Snow Sports New Zealand!

As you probably know, Snow Sports New Zealand has undergone a significant restructuring in the past six months. My appointment as chief executive is the culmination of months of work by the SSNZ board, staff and members, who have joined together to create a blueprint to unify member organisations under the SSNZ umbrella and, more importantly, to establish a framework to support and grow snow sports throughout New Zealand.

My first days in the role have been dedicated to getting to know the people and the history of snow sports in New Zealand. And although I've already had the pleasure of meeting and acquainting myself with a few of the key players, there are many of you who I hope to sit down with in the weeks and months ahead.

And while, ultimately, I'm here to lead; for the time being, I'm here to listen, learn, and hopefully understand both the opportunities and the barriers we face to growing snow sports at all levels.

Already, I have been impressed by the passion and commitment of the people whose lives revolve around snow sports, and I feel honoured that the board of SSNZ has chosen me to help take snow sports forward.

And because I very much believe in the adage that "those who forget the past are condemned to repeat it", I plan to engage the longtime supporters of snow sports to ensure we're all pulling in the same direction, utilising new and existing resources for the direct benefit of SSNZ members.

Our near-term goals at SSNZ include establishment of dedicated steering groups for our members. Much of the detail around this will be sorted during our upcoming Annual General Meeting and planning weekend scheduled for the weekend of 12/13 April.

In the meantime, SSNZ is undergoing a re-branding, including development of a new website that will raise our profile, and allow us to communicate more effectively with all of our partners.

The entire team at SSNZ, including Operations Manager Jo Forbes, Adaptive Snowsports Manager Libby Blackley and Marketing/Communications Manager Kristy Quin, are busily preparing for the fast-approaching season from our offices in the Snow & Ice Centre at Base Camp in Wanaka.

Please don't hesitate to contact any one of us if you have questions or issues you'd like to discuss.

Finally, I'd like to acknowledge the generous support we have received from SPARC, the Caversham Foundation, Community Trust Otago, New Zealand Community Trust, NZOC, FIS, each of the ski areas and ski fields across the country, and all of the volunteers who have helped make New Zealand a great place to ski, ride and compete on the world stage.

Cheers,

Ross Palmer

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New Zealand
Cross Country
Ski Association



New Email Addresses at SSNZ

The SSNZ team have new email addresses utilising the snowsports.co.nz domain name. CEO Ross Palmer can be contacted at ross@snowsports.co.nz All staff emails are listed on page 4.

Latest SSNZ Integration News

Disabled Snowsports NZ (DSNZ) / Adaptive. The integration of DSNZ with SSNZ is proceeding smoothly, with the DSNZ board to act as the steering committee. The daily operation of DSNZ will be managed by SSNZ through Operations Manager, Jo Forbes and Adaptive Snow Sports Manager, Libby Blackley. DSNZ will remain as a charitable organisation.

“Working towards being the unified national organisation driving the development of Snow Sports in NZ”

Westpac Halberg Awards

Each year the Halberg Trust celebrates the success of New Zealand’s sporting achievers at the Westpac Halberg Awards. Halberg organisers have asked that we nominate our key snow sports achievers for the year to date - be it athlete, coach or team.

It’s important that we consistently update the Halberg Trust, to keep our nominees top of mind! Kristy Quin will send out a reminder to steering groups for input bi-monthly. Given the exceptional start to the year, this is an opportunity not to be missed!

For more information visit www.halberg.co.nz

Adaptive News



Bob Williams

Bob Williams’ trip to the US. Bob Williams, DSNZ board member and snowboard instructor travelled to the US last month to check out some of the US adaptive programmes, latest techniques and equipment. He has returned with some great ideas he’ll be sharing with the DSNZ Board.

2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games - Boise, Idaho. Every four years, thousands of Special Olympians with intellectual disabilities come together to showcase their athletic skills and celebrate the true spirit of competition through winter sports.

New Zealand will be represented by a small team of individuals and their coaches. Nominations are currently being received for the February 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games. For more information visit www.specialolympics.org.nz

Snow sports for ALL. Adaptive Snow Sports Manager in role of No Exceptions Officer - SSNZ’s proposal for No Exceptions in snow sports has been accepted by SPARC. This new role is part of the integration of Disabled Snowsports with SSNZ and will help us advocate and implement strategies for ensuring that all New Zealanders have access to experience the freedom of snow sports. Libby Blackley, formerly of Disabled Snowsports NZ will work part time in this role.

Snowplanet Adaptive Programme was officially opened on Feb 2nd 2008. It was exciting to see so many interested people and disability support groups attend. Disabled Snowsports NZ was involved in training staff, instructors and volunteers, and assisted with the setup of the programme. A huge effort went in to get this project underway from Millie Clark and a team of dedicated people in Auckland who came together with the vision with the full support of Snowplanet. A major fundraising effort is still required to purchase equipment and to keep this programme going until it can become self sufficient.

Dates to Remember

12 & 13 April

SSNZ AGM and
Workshop Weekend

07 April

RSVP to SSNZ Sports and
members attendance at AGM

Highlights from the Northern Hemisphere

Over the past month, New Zealand snow sports athletes have certainly shown their mettle on the world stage with podium placements in world-class invitational events and also on the World Cup circuits! This month we also see many athletes returning home after a jam packed Northern Hemisphere competition circuit.

Cross Country's **Nat Anglem**, one of just a dozen or so sports medicine specialists in the country, has recently returned from a heavy three month training block in Silverstar, BC, Canada in preparation for the upcoming Olympic qualification period. He now faces four months of dry land training before the Southern Hemisphere winter takes off in Wanaka. Nat is looking forward to analysing the progress he has made in the last 12 months during the upcoming season.



Nat Anglem

Ski Racer **Ben Griffin** wins FIS Super G. Volkswagen National Team member Ben Griffin won his first FIS Super G in Europe, the first man to do so since Simon Wi Rutene. Coach Nils Coberger says Ben just cleaned up, but the whole team skied well too. Griffin earned 25 World Cup points for his efforts.



Ben Griffin

Adaptive Skier and paralympian **Adam Hall** finished his season at the top of the podium, winning gold at the prestigious Wells Fargo World Disabled Invitational at Winter Park in Colorado in March. His victory marks the third time he has held the title and also marks the end of a highly successful season that has seen him constantly dominate the world rankings. The week prior, Hall had his eye on the gold medal at the World Champ finals in Japan, but was disappointed as the event was cancelled due to bad weather. Hall's final overall world ranking is 2nd in Slalom and 7th in Giant Slalom. He returned home this week bringing with him seven gold medals from the North American Series, gold at the World Cup in France along with gold at the Wells Fargo World Invitational.

Adaptive Snowboarding in Canada & US comps. There were a few firsts for Adaptive Snowboarding this month - The first World Cup Adaptive single border cross snowboarding event was held on March 14th at Blackcomb Mountain, Whistler, BC. The Canadian Adaptive Snowboard Program also hosted an International Summit and development camp prior to this event. Carl Murphy from NZ will compete at the WSF Adaptive Snowboard Championships at Copper Mountain, Co, USA 25th March - 5th April. Good Luck Carl.



Adam Hall

Freeskiing superstar Jossi Wells became the first World Halfpipe Champion at the World Halfpipe Championships in Park City. Adding to his most recent results, Jossi also won the Nippon Open!

Lyndon Sheehan placed consistently in the top 10, with the latest position of ninth in the European Open.

Skier Cross racer Mitchey Greig. Ski Racing champion turned skier cross athlete is turning heads as she proves she is a force to be reckoned with as she soars up the World Cup rankings after only six skier cross races ever! Mitchey most recently placed 7th at the World Cup at Meiringen in Haslberg, Switzerland giving her a current world ranking of 18 after just four World Cup events. Mitchey's father, Rob, admits it's not a bad result "for a one person Kiwi girl team travelling by herself."

With Skier Cross a new Olympic sport in 2010, Mitchey is a hot prospect for a podium finish.



Jossi Wells



Mitchey Greig



James Hamilton



L to R: Paula Mitchell, James Hamilton, Ben Stewart and Tom Willmott

Snowboard team makes New Zealand history. After a month of training the team is back on the competitive circuit, proving the hard work in training is paying off. James Hamilton (Auckland) attained a well-deserved third place podium for New Zealand in the World Cup Snowboarding Halfpipe event in Valmalenco, Italy. Team member Ben Stewart gained a personal best with ninth and Paula Mitchell placed thirteenth the women's.

The team was hunting down valuable top-30 end of season rankings to gain quota spots for New Zealand at next year's all important Olympic qualifying season. The results mean New Zealand have three men's and three women's starts at the FIS World Cup to challenge for spots at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver.



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SSNZ Board
Paul Rogers - Alastair Smaill
Rick Pettit - Roger Miller

SSNZ Member Organisations

- Ski Racing NZ
- Freeski Ass. NZ
- NZ Snowboarding Ass.
- Disabled Snowsports NZ
- Cross Country NZ
- Speed Ski NZ
- University Sport NZ
- NZ Snow Sports Ass.

