

# Australian Biathlon NEWS

OCTOBER 2011

The newsletter of  
The Australian Biathlon Association



*Gabriella Cigana leads the way, ahead of Giles Richardson and Irene Dunn at the Australian Biathlon Championships weekend, August 2011.*

## Biathlon Championship weekends – excellent roll up

Since the last *Australian Biathlon News*, the final event of the Australian Championship season has been run.

This year has seen a 75% increase in the number of race participants, a great sign for the future of this small, but dynamic sport.

Of note is the number of novices taking part; not only were there several schoolboys and schoolgirls taking part, but several 30+ fit & fearless athletes came and gave racing a go.

The final race weekend, as in 2010, was an international one, with a New Zealander racer showing the locals how it's done.

Best shooting of the more experienced biathletes over the Championship events was Gabriella Cigana, in the Womens Youth Class, who won 3 of her 4 races, and missed only 7 of her 60 shots at target.

Noteworthy among the novices was Michael McKernan, who, despite being 30+ and having his first season on skinny skis, managed to hit 94% of his targets over the Championships.

Australian winter 2011 ... best biathlon season ever.

*The Australian Biathlon Association is affiliated with the International Biathlon Union and the Australian Olympic Committee*

## In short ...

### Membership renewals

Please forward your payment and forms to the ABA Treasurer.

### Coaches listing

Coaches are invited to have their qualifications and availability for coaching listed in *Australian Biathlon News*. A full listing will be given in a later edition.

### Trophy return

Those who have perpetual trophies are requested to contact the Executive Officer asap.

### Personal Injury Insurance

The ABA General Committee has researched availability of insurance for those attending overseas events, especially those attending official IBU events.

Please contact the ABA Treasurer for more info

e: [treasurer-aba@netspace.net.au](mailto:treasurer-aba@netspace.net.au)

## From the Editor

Just a short edition this time around, at the 'recovery point' in the Australian Biathlon calendar.

See you at the AGM on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October.

Emma Flanagan

## ABA Annual General Meeting 23 October

The Australian Biathlon Association's AGM will be on 23 October next, at Wangaratta Small Bore Rifle Club, College Street, Wangaratta.

Activities start with Summer Biathlon, zeroing at 9.00 am, concluding at 11.00 am.

After morning tea, the AGM will commence at 11.30 am, concluding at 2.00 pm.

A BBQ lunch and presentations will follow.

RSVP to the Executive Officer: [aus\\_biathlon@bigpond.com.au](mailto:aus_biathlon@bigpond.com.au) by 5pm, Wednesday 19 October.

## Australians at Summer Biathlon Championships

Alex Almoukov and Lucy Glanville have just taken part in the Junior section of the IBU Summer Biathlon World Championships at Nove Mesto, CZE, with both biathletes qualifying for the Pursuit.

Alex achieved 10<sup>th</sup> position in the Junior Men Pursuit 12.5 km (1-2-1-2)

Full results at [www.biathlonworld.com](http://www.biathlonworld.com)

# Alice and Colin Paul Memorial Race Weekend

## 6 & 7 August 2011 by Greg Paul

*Here is a great recipe for a fun weekend*

*Take a couple of dozen biathletes;  
Peel off the serious layers & core out the pressure of competition.  
Add a thick layer of silliness, and a dash of odd outfits.  
Mix them all together.  
Process them through several unique, funny and meaningless tasks.  
Add some laughter from the helpers and spectators  
Yes – include a combination of accurate shooting and smooth skiing  
Throw in some hotdogs and a generous sprinkle of spot prizes.  
Hey presto! Everybody feels good and has a great time!!!*

*Best Dressed winner Toscha Stopar.*



This year, the second A&C Paul race weekend had the bonus of skiable snow.

The first event on the weekend was late on the Saturday afternoon, after the Pub to Pub X-C race presentations. 14 competitors lined up for the relay race with each lap involving some type of throwing/catching or dexterity task. A few X-C (but biathlon curious) racers came along and were thrown into teams.

As with the following day, there were no actual penalties for the shooting – however each athlete could not leave the firing point until all targets were gone – individually loading each round after the five round magazine.

No contact occurred but the relay change-over area was close to the activities, so there was a good blend of ribbing and cheering dished out from the competitors waiting for their turn. The loop was only a couple of hundred meters long, so the relay changes came quickly, with barely enough time for each athlete to recover from their previous loop. It was a good warm up for the main event the following day.

On the Sunday morning, 28 competitors lined up for the fun team patrol event (7 teams of 4). Some of the ADF members joined in, which was good preparation for their more serious competition during the following week. The Bi-curious X-C racers were there, but this time as spectators.

Each team worked together to complete 6 separate missions, punctuated by two shooting visits to the range. Quite a few other sports were blended into the missions, such as orienteering, golf, fishing, balloon racing and volleyball. General knowledge, ball skills and dexterity were certainly good assets to do well in the event.

Three of the missions involved finding things remote from the range area, and there was just enough snow to get around, although rock hoppers were the choice skis to use.

Continued ...



## Results

Many dressed well for the occasion however the clear winner for the best dressed was Toscha Stopar, with her colourful baggy clown suit (which doubled as a balloon bag in that portion of the event). Toscha also took out the best and fairest award leading her merry team of juniors in the race and also for buying most of the hotdogs & buns on her way up on Friday night. Second prize in the best dressed award was last year's winner Irene Dunn, looking exactly like a tall version of "Hit girl" from the movie "kick-#\*%".

The "Alice Paul best helper" awards went to the range officers Jeff Harmer – alias the lion king, and David Evans from the Navy team.



The prestigious "Col Paul top shot" award went to Dyllan Harmer, with only one missed bullseye for the event.

Best novice shooter was Ruben from the Navy team, knocking down most in his first ever biathlon event.

Quite a few other ADF members had their first taste of biathlon in the event, and each received a spot prize.

*Patrol winners Giles "The Viking" Richardson, "Luke Skywalker", Sue Donoghoe and Peter Macartney (front)*

Who won the patrol?

A group stacked with talented ABA members in Giles Richardson, Sue Donoghoe, Peter Macartney and Luke Skywalker (sometimes known as Mike Hart). They produced a great team effort.

So, what was it all about?

Alice and Colin Paul were never into biathlon themselves; however they were stalwarts for the sport for the first 20 years of the ABA, and became life members. They were strong advocates for fairness and sportsmanship, and put in a tremendous amount of effort to establish the ABA for others to enjoy.

In honour of their involvement, the Paul family is very pleased to sponsor a fun biathlon activity, which is enjoyable for athletes, helpers and spectators alike.

We plan to have another next year. Don't miss it.

*Fishing biathlon, a new winter sport?*

*Paul Connor says: "no casting required!"*



# The Adventures of the Vegemite Beanie ...

## “Vegemite Beanie in Love” as related by Irene Dunn

The feast day of San Valentino ... and it would appear that this beloved Saint's winged messenger, Cupid, was on the mark with his love-dipped arrows. February 14<sup>th</sup> 2010 was a glorious, sunny day, and the trails were freshly packed and ready for skiing. Love, snow crystals, and a taste of gay abandon were in the air.

High up on the trails (about 2000m up, in fact!) the Vegemite Beanie espied the glimmer of a silver twinkle gliding briskly and effortlessly across the glistening snow. As the twinkle drew ever closer, it revealed itself to be the highly desirable, finely woven beanie, known as “Sparkles”. Dazzled by the glittering, winking, silver stars, which were set off by the stark, black knit background, the Vegemite Beanie was overcome.

“Sigh!” Could this be true love??

The wearer of this fine looking beanie was Italian skier extraordinaire. He was mask he is commonly known to favour, traditional, lycra race suit of the Italian Ski just up the road in the town of Moena, the enough to stop and spend a few minutes of (complete with Italian inflections), with the of time for the Vegemite Beanie and



none other than Christian Zorzi, incognito, shunning the cape and preferring to wear the more Team, or “gli Azzuri”. Hailing from 39 year old local lad was kind his time to chat, in delightful English Australian visitors, allowing plenty Sparkles to become better acquainted.

Sometime into the conversation between visit to Australia arose. Zorro admitted to past for a Summer holiday, and denied in the next Kangaroo Hoppet.

Zorro and La Choc, the subject of a having travelled to Australia in the rumours that he would be featuring

“No no no...when I go to Australia I want the heat and the sun...I want a holiday. For me...skiing...this is my job!” explained the Torino Winter Olympic Games Mens Cross-Country Relay gold medallist (“Oh, what a pity! That’s our loss” thought La Choc.)

When asked about the chance encounter later, La Choc had this to say: “What a lovely man, and so handsome, too...and nice and tall. With such a resonant bass-baritone, I wonder if he sings the Classics? Oh, what a shame he won’t be at the Hoppet after all.

Still, it’s not every holiday that a gal gets to meet 2 of her favourite cross-country sprinters (Zorro and La Petra), so I guess I’ve been exceptionally blessed.”

All Italians love a chat, but training was calling, so with a final wink and twinkle, Sparkles and Zorro reluctantly

Continued ...

## AGM – where it is & how to get there

The Australian Biathlon Association Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday 23 October next, at Wangaratta Small Bore Rifle Club, College Street, Wangaratta.

The WSBRC is only a few minutes' drive from the centre of Wangaratta.

Heading north along Murphy Street, the main road through the township of Wangaratta, turn left at the Commonwealth Bank, corner of Reid Street (there is a sign to HP Barr Reserve on that corner).

Follow Reid Street, which becomes Rowan Street, and turn right at Swan Street.

Follow Swan Street along the edge of the HP Barr Reserve (on your right) and turn right at College Street, heading into the Reserve.

Summer Biathlon zeroing is a 9.00 am, an informal competition follows, finishing at 11.00 am.

Morning tea at 11.00 am will be followed by the AGM at 11.30 am.

AGM concludes at 2.00 pm, followed by a BBQ & presentations.

RSVP to Executive Officer [aus\\_biathlon@bigpond.com.au](mailto:aus_biathlon@bigpond.com.au) by 5pm Wednesday 19 October next.

\*\*\* For updates and late changes, please check the ABA website: [www.biathlon.asn.au](http://www.biathlon.asn.au) \*\*\*

### Vegemite Beanie, continued from previous page ...

departed and continued skiing with their fellow Fiamme Gialle teammates as they prepared for their assault on the upcoming Gseissertal/Val di Cassies race.

This "Euroloppet" race is well known for the impressive post-race banquet it holds each year, and is hard for a bunch of hungry, male athletes to pass up!

The Vegemite Beanie was left with a misty, wistful expression, and an unforgettable memory of a chance encounter.

Pom-poms crossed that their ski paths will cross again in the not so distant future.

The end.