

## **Melbourne Cup Weekend 2011**

The **Melbourne Cup Weekend, Towong** is on Saturday October 29th to Tuesday 1st November. Cutting and pasting bits from the 2011 Rides page gives:

The Committee has booked the spectacular "Snowy Mountain Holidays" B&B accommodation package on the Murray River at Towong, 11 km out of Corryong. For more information on Snowy Mountain Holidays, visit: [www.snowymountainholidays.com.au](http://www.snowymountainholidays.com.au)

Typically we make a four day weekend out of the Tuesday public holiday to take advantage of the great location and the time and distance required to get there. The plan would be to ride up Saturday, ride around the hills Sunday and Monday and return to Melbourne on Tuesday. This means three night's accommodation. You'll need to take annual leave for the Monday, so book your leave day now.

\$160 buys you 3 nights' accommodation and a home cooked meal and forms your deposit. The first night's meal is a BBQ (steaks, sausages, salad, potatoes, sauces, ratatouille, garlic bread). Great value.

**Accommodation:** Please visit: [www.snowymountainholidays.com.au/accommodation.html](http://www.snowymountainholidays.com.au/accommodation.html)

**The money.** The more people, the cheaper it is. Our worst case scenario is \$46 per head and the Committee has agreed that we will use that figure and then refund riders if more people attend. So, 3 nights at \$46 plus \$20 meal plus \$2/person (roughly) blue van transport into town a couple of times makes **\$160**. Money speaks. First in, best dressed as numbers are limited. Note: you will be allocated a room which will best fit the available accommodation. Just because you arrive first does not mean you have the pick of the rooms. We need to be considerate of each other. **Direct Deposit** via the Internet into the Melbourne University Credit Union BSB: **803-143** Account Number: **14304721** Account Name: **Melbourne Sportsbike Riders** Please put YOUR name in the appropriate field so that the Club can identify who paid.

**Cancellation Policy:** Deposits are fully refundable up until three weeks prior to the start of the event - 7th October. No refunds are available after this date.

**23/7** Email from **Ern Reeders** skiing at Falls Creek, but really missing MSR riding: Well there's always one topic of conversation in the street and it's the state of the snow. The tech term for its current condition in the back country is 'snot'. We've had above zero days and some drizzle; given the amount of cover out there, that means it's deep, soft and wet. I skied one of the lower groomed trails out of Falls Creek on Thursday, with a fresh wind driving drizzle along with it, cloud rolling in and out, and the moisture in the snow making it very slick. In the township it's mild and sunny today again ... clothes washing weather. The landlady has a bird feeding station in the front yard and it attracts the extraordinary King Parrots, Galahs, Crimson Rosellas and the inevitable loud-mouthed Sulphur-crested Cockatoos.

Life up here is very easy. The Bakery is back to doing decent coffee and is just five mins walk away. You know you're a local when they start remembering your caffeine preferences. Also when the regulars invite you to join them at a table and they know more about you than you do about them! (It's a mistake to tell anyone what your user name is on the main ski forum in Australia if you're concerned about privacy.)

The butcher does his own smoking and his ham off the bone is fabulous *and* cheap. The supermarket is well stocked and allocates a proportion of takings to local schools, clubs and other organisations; about half a million dollars has been donated so far.

PS: I've been told that what I'm doing is trying a career change as a ski bum. Experts in this career say if I'm cooking and washing clothes I've failed two key tests already ;-}

