

FROZEN ACRES

Jan/Feb 2022



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FROZEN ACRES

Journal of the Canberra Alpine Club Inc.

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Editorial

Our Club is very proud to have two members, aerial skier Laura Peel, and snowboarder Valentino Guseli, competing in the Winter Olympics in Beijing. This is Laura's third Olympic and, at sixteen years of age, Valentino's first. It was certainly very exciting to watch the opening ceremony with Laura being one of the two flag bearers. See Valentino's story on page 8.

As most of our members have not been travelling overseas to ski this summer due to COVID, they have sorted out other ways to enjoy the mountains. Our Club lodges have been well booked with members, their families and friends enjoying walking and mountain biking.

An important reminder that our Annual General Meeting will be held on March 23, details are on page 4.

Please make sure you read Jon Wilson's Précis page 5, as it contains a number of important items for members.

Your articles are always welcome, please keep them coming in. ▣

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Copy deadline for the next issue: Friday 25 March 2022

Please email your articles, letters, photos etc to editor@cac.org.au.

Frozen Acres is published online 7 to 10 days after each deadline and distributed by post a few days later.

Club Calendar

Note: *All work party dates are subject to change or cancellation.*

2022

February	19-20	Work Party	Perisher
March	12-14	Work Party	O'Keefes Hut
	19-20	Work Party	Perisher
	23	AGM*	Deakin
	26-27	Work Party	Jindabyne
April	2-3	Work Party tbc	Perisher
	9	Work Party	Mt Franklin
	10	Heritage Festival Open Day	Mt Franklin
	15-18	Work Party (alternative date)	O'Keefes Hut
May	7-8	Work Party	Jindabyne
	tba	Pre-seasons Drinks	Canberra

* Remote attendance will be an option (see article page 4).

Work Party Contacts

Please contact the member below if you wish to join any of the work parties.

Perisher: Peter Richards, 018-637-984

If you require a park entry fee waiver, contact Judy Lejins, 0400-786-324 or judylejins@ozemail.com.au at least three weeks before the work party and provide your car rego number.

Jindabyne: Peter Cunningham, 0477-356-835

Mt Franklin: Jenny McLeod, 0414-403-398 or jmcleod@internode.on.net

O'Keefes Hut: Paul Obohov, 0417-048-217 or poboohov@bigpond.net.au

Booking Information and ***How to Book*** pages are no longer published in *Frozen Acres*.

All the necessary information is available in the Bookings section on the Club Website.

COVID Acknowledgment Form

A COVID acknowledgement form must be signed by all members and their guests aged 18 and over who stay at the lodges.

*A form must be signed for 2022,
even if one was signed in 2021.*

Please note that the Club lodges now have COVID Safe QR codes in place, to allow scanning by the Service NSW app (This is the NSW equivalent of the Check-In CBR app).

Admin Officer's Hours

Georgia works only part-time for the Club, therefore the best way to contact her is by email.

If you need to speak to her, the best times to telephone are:

Tuesday: 9.30am – 12 .00noon

Thursday: 3.00pm – 6.00pm

Saturday: 9.00am – 12.00noon

Outside these hours she will still be checking bookings and other requests, and will respond as appropriate.

2022 Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Canberra Alpine Club Inc.
will be held at **7.30 pm, on Wednesday 23 March 2022**
at the Canberra Bridge Club, 6 Duff Place Deakin ACT (subject to COVID
restrictions in place at the time)

Remote attendance will also be an option – details to be confirmed. New members
and those on the waiting list are encouraged to attend.

Nominations for the Committee

Nominations are called for the following Committee positions, which will become
vacant at the 2022 Annual General Meeting:

President
Vice President (1)
Secretary
Treasurer
Ordinary Committee Members (3)

Nominations are also sought for the office of **Public Officer**.

Nominations for the Committee or for the office of Public Officer must be in
writing, seconded in writing, and contain the signed consent of the nominee.

Only financial full adult members* are eligible to nominate or be nominated for
the Committee or Public Officer.

Motions For AGM

Financial full adult members* are invited to propose or second a formal motion for
consideration at the AGM. Each motion must be in writing and be signed by the
proposer and seconder.

**Nominations and Motions must be delivered to the Secretary (or received in
the Club's post office box) no later than Wednesday 2 March 2022.**

A draft agenda, including any motions of which notice has been given, will be
distributed at least two weeks before the meeting.

** Includes Youth Members, but does not include Provisional or Junior Members.
Note that members are unfinancial where their subscription
remains unpaid after 1 January.*

President's Précis

By Jon Wilson

Happy New Year! After another tough year, I think all of us have been looking forward to a summer break, and while travel was still somewhat complicated, and the pandemic stubbornly continues to disrupt plans, I hope that everyone managed to enjoy some time with family and friends.

As we move into 2022, and the Year of the Tiger, we are also enjoying the spectacle that is the Winter Olympics. Congratulations to all 43 members of the Australian Olympic Team for Beijing 2022, in particular Club members Valentino Guseli – who at 16 is the youngest member of the team – and three-time Olympic veteran Laura Peel – also selected as an Opening Ceremony Flag Bearer. The Club is proud to support our elite athletes, and will offer additional support to Laura and Valentino during this Olympic Year. We wish all members of the team every success, and I am sure we will all be watching and cheering as they compete.

While lockdown restrictions limited use during the second half of the peak season, we have seen good use of the Club lodges during the off-peak. The mountains are an amazing destination all year round, and it is great to see so many members taking advantage of the Clubs facilities outside of winter. If you are visiting or staying at the lodges, please remember that members and guests are responsible for ensuring that the lodges are left clean, with all food, rubbish and recycling removed.

Despite all the disruption of the past couple of years, we are seeing a steady stream of peak season bookings coming in for 2022, with Perisher already at (or near) capacity for school holidays and some weekends. In general, we are expecting that demand will be higher than usual this year, so if you are planning to stay in the lodges (particularly Perisher), please make sure you confirm your booking early to avoid disappointment.

If you are making a booking, please remember that Georgia, our Admin Officer, only works for the Club part-time, and is not on call 24/7. Using the Booking System, or sending an email, is definitely the best way to contact Georgia. If you do need to call, her best contact hours are Tuesday: 9:00am – 12:00 noon, Thursday 3:00pm – 6:00pm, and Saturday: 9:00am – 12:00 noon. If Georgia is not available, then simply leave a message, or send a text, and she will respond when she is available. Please respect Georgia, and her commitments outside of CAC, and do not make repeated calls if your first call is not answered.

A new year, also means a new version of the COVID-19 Management Plan, with Version 3.0 now available on the COVID-19 Essential Information page

cac.org.au/?p=1161. This version is a major review, as we align our plan with the significantly changed public health environment. All members are strongly encouraged to (re)read this version of the plan.

While there are many changes in this version, members should note the following key points:

- No proof of vaccination is required for lodge entry, however all members and guests are encouraged to get vaccinated.
- No negative COVID-19 test (PCR or RAT) result is required for lodge entry, however all members and guests are encouraged to get tested if they exhibit any COVID-19 symptoms.
- In the event that a person staying at the lodge returns a positive RAT or PCR result then all other guests (who are now assessed as high risk contacts) must immediately leave the lodge and self-isolate.

This last point is likely be difficult and disruptive, particularly if it occurs when the lodge is at or near capacity, however with the current NSW Health guidance we are left with little option. As per the Management Plan, any booking affected will receive full credit or refund. We will continue to monitor the NSW Health guidance for people exposed to COVID, and update members accordingly if this guidance changes.

In good news, the provisional financial results for 2021 show that, despite the disrupted season, the Club continues to maintain a healthy financial position. We look forward to sharing the audited results, along with lots of other great information, including planning and discussion papers on Capital Works, Youth Retention, and Constitutional Change, at the Club's AGM on Wednesday 23rd March. We also have several Committee members who will be stepping down at this year's AGM, so if you are interested in contributing to running the Club, please consider joining the Committee. If you'd like more information on what is involved, contact Jenny at secretary@cac.org.au, or any other Committee member.

As a Committee, we often get questions about how the lodges work, for example, where to park, what to do with rubbish and recycling, and how to handle an emergency. To help our members with these questions (and lots more) we have prepared an Operations Manual for each lodge, and these are now published on the CAC website. If you are visiting Perisher or Jindabyne please review the relevant Operations Manual, which you can find under Our Club -> Policies and Guidelines cac.org.au/?page id=163.

As always, if you have any feedback, comments, or suggestions, on any aspect of the Club, please email me president@cac.org.au. ■

Keeping our Young People in the Club - Some Options

By Monika Binder

Our younger members play an important role in the Club. They are essential to having a broad demographic in the Club, from young to old, which is healthy for the Club's culture, vitality and outlook. Younger members will

- expose the Club to new ideas, technologies and different ways of doing things
- contribute to the Club's competitiveness in snowsports events, and
- are essential to the future financial sustainability of the Club.

Given this important role of our younger members, and given that more than half of the Club's membership is over 50 years old, it is concerning when we see any of our younger members leave the Club. From year to year, a number of our younger members drop off our membership list. In 2020, of the 20 members who left the Club, at least six of them were Junior or Youth Members. The loss is even higher if we include our younger Ordinary Members.

The Committee has prepared a discussion paper that looks at factors that might explain why younger members leave the Club and options to encourage them to stay in the Club.

The options set out in the discussion paper (which has been uploaded to our website) include:

- increasing the upper age limit of Youth Members and thus delaying their payment of extra fees (especially the annual capital contribution)
- allowing younger members to apply to the Committee to pause their membership for a period of time
- allowing Junior and Youth Members who advance to the next level of membership some time to pay off their upfront fees
- creating a separate booking fee category for Youth Members
- reducing the annual capital contribution for younger Ordinary Members.

The Committee has not reached a decision on any of the options. It invites members, prospective members and others with an interest in the Club to comment on the discussion paper, particularly on the options. Comments should be emailed to secretary@cac.org.au. We will use these comments to develop and distribute a Survey Monkey questionnaire to further gauge members' views on the options. ■

My 2021-2022 Snowboarding Competitions

By Valentino Guseli (age 16 years)

My competing on the World Cup circuit and my first season in some of the other more snowboard specific events such as the X Games and Dew Tour. I am currently on a plane to China to compete in my first Winter Olympic Games and I am very excited.

I had June-September at home, surfing and competing in some smaller comps in the Snowy Mountains. I journeyed back overseas in September to Switzerland for the first training camp of the season in Saas Fee. The first two weeks I was there the Halfpipe and Slopestyle course was exclusively for Red Bull athletes. That camp was an unforgettable experience riding with so many people that I've always looked up to and aspired to be like.

Thankfully, after the Red Bull camp there was another camp in the same place: the Stomping Grounds Performance Camp. In between these two camps there was supposed to be only one day off, but due to extreme glacier weather conditions we ended up having five days off, which ate into the start of the Stomping Grounds camp. The day finally came, the weather was good, and we got to ride again, but now almost everyone of relevance in the snowboard halfpipe industry was there, instead of just the few Red Bull athletes. The atmosphere was very different from how it had been.

That day I wanted to do a trick that I hadn't done since May. I felt as though all the preparation had been done the right way and I was ready for it. This trick was the backside double cork 1260 in the halfpipe which is essentially a somersault into a 180, into a backflip, into another 180 all in the same air. I tried about five times and got closer to landing it every time. On the fateful 6th attempt I initiated the trick too early. I knew instantly that I had made a mistake but I stuck with the rotation because there's not a whole lot else you can do in that situation. I came around on the second rotation and saw the deck of the halfpipe coming at me fast. I hit the deck of the halfpipe pretty hard on my back with my left arm under me in a pretty awkward position. I remember hitting the deck, bouncing to the flat bottom of the pipe and the falling onto my stomach. A few seconds later I got up and rode to the bottom of the pipe to see my coach. I started to feel a lot of pain in my left forearm and as I rode down to him every little bump in the flat bottom of the halfpipe that I rode over made my arm crunch and click. By the time I got to him I said "I'm pretty sure I just broke my arm" in the most relaxed and calm manner I felt I could in that moment. It may have been the most adrenaline I have ever experienced. I remember being barely conscious as I sat at the bottom of that halfpipe. Time went on at the bottom of the pipe as we waited for the snowmobile to pick us up and take

us to a place we could get airlifted out to go to a hospital and I became more and more aware of my current situation. The sled arrived and I got taken to the top of the gondola which is the most ideal place for a helicopter to land up there.

At the hospital, they x-rayed it and immediately knew what had to be done. I had to get surgery on it and, because I'm an athlete, they gave me priority to get surgery which is one of the things during that experience that I am very grateful for. They numbed my arm, cut it open and fixed it with three plates and too many screws to count. I got out of surgery and due to COVID I had very little contact with Tom, my coach, which made things slightly challenging. He wasn't allowed in the hospital as visitors are viewed as a COVID risk. A few days went by in that hospital room, I had watched a lot of shows and movies, studied the video of my crash many times, done a lot of thinking and done a *lot* of accepting my current reality.

The decision to go to the Red Bull Athlete Performance Centre in Salzburg, Austria and get on that recovery grind was made. It was one of the craziest places I'd ever been with state of the art technology for testing performance in sport, the best gym I've ever been in, some of the world's best physiotherapists, strength and conditioning trainers, sports psychologists, nutritionists, sports scientists and doctors all under one roof. All of those crazy things but my favourite thing about it was some of the people I got to meet: top athletes from all around the world were there, from different sports backgrounds, all hanging out together, doing gym together, eating lunch together, exchanging stories. It felt like family, the things I learned on that trip from various people were crazy and exactly what I needed to get back to doing what I love.

Before long my arm was better again after lots of physio. The rest of my body was also much stronger because, as I waited for my arm to heal, I spent lots of time in the gym to minimise the risk of injury to my other body parts and enhance performance when I could snowboard again. I enjoyed this part of the season very much as when you go back down to square one the only way you can go is up. I could get back on snow within six weeks of the injury and I did just that. I had two weeks to train before the first competition of the season which was daunting because two weeks is not a very long time to prepare for the biggest season of your life right after an injury.

Those two weeks went well however and, in no time, I was in Copper Mountain for the Grand Prix (the first Olympic qualifier of the year). I hadn't crashed a single run in any of the practices for the comp. I had done my comp run many times safely and comfortably and was very confident for comp day. I shouldn't have been this confident. On comp day, training went well, I landed every run and thought, based on the odds, I was definitely going to land a run in the competition. This was a very bad false sense of security because landing a run in practice and landing a run in the

comp are two very different things. I dropped in for my first run and crashed on one of my easiest tricks. Second run was up and I had to land a run if I wanted to do well and secure my spot for the Olympics. I'd gotten to my 4th hit of five in the pipe, the same trick I'd crashed on the first run. I crashed it again. It was a very disappointing moment. I felt stupid. I felt fraudulent as though I didn't even deserve to be there. It was my first major competition while being on Red Bull and I totally blew it. Tom and I went home that afternoon and discussed why it didn't go well. We talked about what we were going to change and how we were never going to let anything that embarrassing and frustrating happen again. We had planned to go to Laax, Switzerland after that comp but then I got a last minute spot in the Dew Tour which was also in Copper Mountain not long after the Grand Prix so we stayed. We called it "the redemption comp" because it was our chance to redeem ourselves for the previous comp. We were sitting in a great position because we knew very clearly what not to do.

On the first practice day of the Dew Tour, I had the heartbreak of the previous comp driving me to reach a new level. I was an animal that day metaphorically speaking. My fear of failure was bigger than my fear of crashing. That day I rode the best I had since the previous season. After repeating my new and improved run many times at a great amplitude, practice was over. I rode to the bottom of the hill, took off my board, dropped to my knees and became very emotional. There were tears coming out of my eyes but I don't want to say I was crying (ha ha). After all of the pain that I had struggled through I had finally found the me that I'd felt like I lost for some time. One of the craziest feelings I've felt, almost tearing up just remembering that feeling of release after so much tension.

I had another training day and my riding continued to be much better than before. Then comp day came along, I was determined to make finals at my first Dew Tour. I stomped my first run very nicely. I got a good score and stayed in the top five for all of the first runs. On the second run I stomped a more technical run but the judges didn't score it as well as my previous one due to one slight execution flaw so I had to just hope my first run was enough for finals. It was and that was a great moment. I made the finals on my first Dew Tour and proved to myself that I could land runs in a contest, which I was seriously doubting after the previous comp. I went on to finals to stomp my runs and then get my best major competition result to date which was 6th. In between Dew Tour and the next comp there were about two weeks.

I spent that time training in Copper working on some tricks and techniques that I wanted to use in comps from then on. The next comp came along and I knew what not to do and I knew what to do from previous comps this year. It was another Olympic qualifier and all I had to do to qualify was land a run. It was the mammoth Grand Prix. Training went decently and I was comfortable in the halfpipe even though I have spent very little time in that pipe in my lifetime. Due to very bad

weather the comp kept getting postponed until the last day that they could run it. It was finally on, qualifiers and finals were that night. I dropped in for my first run and I was worried I wasn't taking it seriously enough so I thought I should try and put some extra pressure on myself to try to force myself to not make mistakes. This didn't quite work and I made a mistake on the same trick that I crashed in the Copper Grand Prix. I suddenly saw history starting to repeat itself and knew I had to make sure it didn't. When I got back to the top of the pipe I spoke to Tom and he said these words which gave me much more faith than I had at the time. The words were "It's not over yet". This gave me some clarity as it was so true, it wasn't over, I still had another opportunity to put a run down. I made sure to do so and I did. It was pretty bad, but I landed which put me in 13th missing the finals by one spot. This result safely secured my spot in the Olympics which was a big weight off my shoulders. The next comp was the Laax Open which was right after the Mammoth comp. We left as soon as the Mammoth comp finished to go to Switzerland.

Laax is my favourite halfpipe/place and I was so happy to be back there. Training was good, I was instantly back in my home away from home. Qualifiers were on after two days of practice in the comp and I was in the first heat of two where the top six from each went to finals. My heat was stacked. I had some of the heaviest hitters of all time in my heat. I didn't focus on that though, but on my own riding and trusted that if I rode well enough, I would safely qualify to finals. I put down my first run nicely with good amplitude. I was sitting in 3rd in my heat after the first runs were all finished.

On my second and final run for qualifiers I tried to upgrade my run a bit but I didn't land the trick that I upgraded so again I had to trust that my 1st run would be enough. It was just enough qualifying me 5th in my heat into finals. The next few days I trained in the pipe and really worked on the bigger tricks that I wanted to whip out on finals day! The work was done and on the Saturday night of that week it was time to compete.

I put a very high importance on just stomping my first run. I did that and it had me sitting very nicely. I was in 3rd at the end of the first runs which had me very excited as there was only one run left for everyone and there was a possibility of me being on the podium. On my next run I planned to upgrade my last trick but, by the time I got down to it in the run, I thought I should keep it the same. In hindsight I definitely should have upgraded it. After that run I waited at the bottom and watched, I was sitting in 5th after my second run so I knew there was no podium at that point which was slightly disappointing but that's alright. I ended getting 5th with a new major competition personal best.

The next day I already had to leave to go back to America for the X Games which I'd just received my first invite to! I went there, hung out, rode, competed and took

the whole experience in, because it was unlike any other comp I'd ever been to. I landed my first run at this comp too, was sitting decently with it for sure but I needed more to get on to the podium which was a very achievable goal. Unfortunately I crashed my second run, my third run was much closer and then my fourth was even closer to landing but I made a little mistake on the last trick that cost me the comp. It was very disappointing because I knew all I had to do was land that last trick and I would've got a top four result for sure.

But we live and we learn. I'm excited to go back next year and give that one another crack!! After the X Games it was back to Laax it was where we trained for the comp I'm on my way to right now while writing this. The Olympics! Training was good! I'm now very eager to do everything I can to put my best foot forward for the Olympics and just try to put on a show for everyone who is watching when the time comes. The ups and downs of this season of this season have been tremendous but I wouldn't want it any other way, because each struggle turns into strength and each positive memory is one that I'll get to hold onto forever.

Thanks for reading about my season so far.

Lodge Cleanliness

By Mandy Savery, for the Committee

As mentioned in the President's Précis last issue, the Committee has received an increasing number of reports regarding cleanliness. In recent times, many members have reported arriving at the lodges and finding that their rooms have not been cleaned by the previous occupants. This issue has also been reported in the kitchens over the summer months, when the regular cleaning is not occurring.

The Committee believes that the condition of the lodge on arrival, not only enhances the enjoyment of members when using the lodge, but leaves a lasting impression on guests who may be considering joining. The Club By-Laws require members to clean and vacuum the rooms they have occupied, whilst also ensuring that the kitchen, bathrooms and other common areas are cleaned. Members are also reminded that they are responsible for the conduct of their guests. These rules apply whether it is a standard booking, a group booking or a block booking.

The Committee is currently considering options for ensuring the cleanliness of lodges, including the imposition of a cleaning bond where members have had to be reminded of their obligations on several occasions. ■

Perisher Work Party 20-21 November

By Nola Charkos

Q: What does a painter do when it gets cold?

A: Puts on another coat

Despite the many dad jokes shared, the November work party was a productive one. Many of us hadn't been able to attend the lodge over winter due to lockdown restrictions, so it was a welcomed opportunity to get away and have a change of scene.

With cold and rainy weather forecast across the weekend, Peter Richards assigned the various tasks and we were on our way.



Cold, wet and beautiful

The inside painting group tackled the kitchen, dining and living areas, giving walls and ceilings a good clean and a new lick of paint, leaving the area looking fresh and ready for everyone to enjoy. Once the paint was dry, the Tetris game of putting cushions back in the right order on the banquette seating began, taking almost as long as the painting itself and requiring many more members than it would take to change a light bulb.



Not quite the Sistine Chapel

Those assigned to outside work spent much of the weekend tackling the window frames with paint stripper and giving them some much needed TLC. With the wet and cold all weekend, their work was cut out for them.

The group that was on cleaning duties made good progress, working through the lodge to remove dirt and dust, leaving it looking sparkling.

The old freezer was giving its last rites, with a new one in its place and some fun along the way trying to solve the mystery of what some of the freezer contents were.

Our resident ‘sparkie’, Ben Norris, spent much of the weekend attending to electrical work and uncovering some dangerous wiring in the drying room – a reminder to us all not to take on any electrical repairs without being a licensed electrician!

We had a small celebration for Elicia, who marked a significant birthday on Saturday by getting to work and trying to avoid any fuss.



Trying not to inhale the paint stripper

With all the activity and tasks at hand, there was little time for wildlife spotting, other than one rather large worm, as well as the sound of children whose musical interludes were repetitive and sometimes questionable. Thanks to these talented juniors, I'm sure many of us adults had a particular song stuck in our heads long after the work party was over.

As the work party wrapped up around lunchtime on Sunday, we headed home happy with what we had done, the new faces we had met and all looking forward to the next winter season.

Work Party attendees:

Peter Richards, Alan Booth, Christophe, Nola, Henry and Leo Charkos, Caroline Walker, Peter Webb, Alistair Court, Jenni Bodell, Jemima and Sebastian Court, Ben Norris, Elicia Page, Amanda East, Inara, Tanya Mark, Peter Cunningham, Andrew and Jenny Cupit, James Muldowney, Gene, Brigitte, Buddy and Sunny Ross, Ben, Chrissie, Mason and Ryder Young and Paul, Raylee, Lachlan and Eliza Kelly. ■

A New Way to Enjoy the High Country

By Jason Webster

We recently enjoyed spending the period between Boxing Day and New Year's Day at the Perisher lodge with a group of friends and their families. While the weather was warmer up on the mountain than in previous years, there were still plenty of large snow drifts which were popular with the kids.

A highlight was walking the recently opened track connecting Charlotte's Pass and Guthega via Illawong Hut. The track commences soon after the start of the Main Range walk. The new section connects Charlotte Pass to the Illawong Hut and onto Guthega. Charlotte Pass to Illawong Hut section is 12.5km return and takes walkers across the new Spencers Creek suspension bridge that is Australia's highest suspension bridge at 1,640m elevation.

The walk is expected to be officially launched in March 2022 as the Illawong to Guthega portion is still being renewed but is open for use now.



Spencer's Creek suspension bridge



Beautiful vista on the Illawong Walk

Our group didn't end there; a few of us also completed the Main Range walk and came across more snow drifts than we had seen for quite some years. Others went off in search of the lost Thredbo to Charlotte Pass chairlift of old via Mount Stilwell. While the chairlift wasn't found, a 'legless lizard' (aka snake) was discovered that kept everyone on their toes and treading carefully.

Another highlight was spending a relaxed New Year's Eve in the lodge and seeing the International Space Station pass directly overhead in the evening. Everyone enjoyed the clear skies and the great company. ■

O'Keefes Hut Work Party, 12 - 14 March (or Easter 15 - 18 April)

By Paul Oboohov

The O'Keefes Hut work party will occur either over the Canberra Day long weekend, 12 - 14 March if the weather is fine, or alternatively over Easter, 15 - 18 April. If you are interested in taking part, please contact me on 0417-048-217, or email poboohov@bigpond.net.au.

Kosciuszko National Park (KNP) hut work parties are subject to final approval by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), regarding safety issues, such as the weather and fires. In any case, the advice of the relevant Parks Ranger, and the Kosciuszko Huts Association's Huts Maintenance Officer will guide me as to which weekend is used.

O'Keefes Hut was built in 1934 by A.S. O'Keefe, a lessee of a grazing lease at the base of the northwest ridge of Mount Jagungal, which is now in the Jagungal Wilderness Area, in the middle of KNP. Mt Jagungal is the only peak greater than 2,000 metres altitude north of the Main Range in Australia. From its peak on a good day, you can see the Brindabellas to the north, the Cooma Plains to the east, the Main Range, and the Victorian Alps on the horizon to the south.

In the 1980s I visited Mt Jagungal and the original O'Keefes Hut on a bushwalk, and the mountain again on skis on a Kiandra to Smiggin Holes cross country ski traverse in 2002. Other members had visited it back to the 1960s, when Jim Dick and Peter Arriens started looking after O'Keefes Hut for our Club. The hut was later looked after by Jack Palmer (I had the privilege of being on a work party with Jack, one of his last). The original hut burnt down in the 2003 bushfires that also ravaged Canberra. It was rebuilt in 2009 by the NPWS, as a crucial shelter in the more remote middle west of KNP. Check out its history at khuts.org/index.php/the-huts/kosciuszko-national-park/766-okeefes-hut you can also check its location at com.au/maps enter the search text "O'Keefes Hut, Jagungal Wilderness NSW", and turn on the satellite imagery view.

Recent work parties have completed pasting up 1940s and '50s newspaper sheets on the walls (the original farmer inhabitants in the 1930s would use wads of newspaper sheets for cheap insulation, creating a window into the news stories of their time) and covered them with perspex sheets screwed to the walls to dissuade paper eating insects and rodents. What remains is to install wooden beading over the joins between perspex sheets to further protect the newspapers, using small beading nails, and give them a neat look. We will replace any old or missing putty on the window frames, and paint the external side of the frames and putty, inspect

the doors and see if they need any further paint and apply it, or sand them back before repainting (the rear door faces the south west, being the direction from which winter icy blizzards flail it with ice and snow, as well as the glaring summer afternoon sun). We will paint wood oil onto the wood just below the edge of the roof. We will restock the hut with wood, and cut the grass around the outside edges of the hut.

If people wish, on the Sunday 13 March we will climb Mount Jagungal, 2061 metres, driving to a useable walking trail which goes up beside the beginnings of the Tumut River, on the western side of Jagungal's south west ridge. The walking trail rises 400 metres to the mountain.

We will be meeting at a café in Cooma on the Saturday morning, before driving to Eucumbene Dam, and on up Happy Jacks Road, through an NPWS locked gate, to fabulous views of Lake Eucumbene from the top of the escarpment, before heading across Happy Jacks Plain and up to an area to leave cars just behind the peak of the imposing bulk of Farbald Mountain. From there we will be travelling in four wheel drive vehicles on scenic trails to the hut (the Doubtful Gap Trail is rough in parts, and has some steep ascents and descents, and the Grey Mare Trail has several sometimes wheel height creeks to cross. I can provide tuition in four-wheel driving, via small UHF radios I can provide).

Those intending to come should be self-sufficient for clothing (work, summer, warm clothing and beanie, and wet weather hooded jacket), camping (sleeping mat, warm sleeping bag, tent), and food, basic cooking gear, and maybe a bushwalking stove, though we usually have a cooking fire going outside the hut. Bring waterproof bushwalking shoes or boots if you intend to look around. A tent might not be necessary, you can sleep on the floor inside the hut, though NPWS COVID rules stipulate one person per tent or hut room, unless others are part of your household. Water can be obtained from a nearby creek, though I will have 60 litres of Canberra water in my 4WD Landcruiser. A biggish day pack and a 2-litre water bottle (or more) would be good if you want to climb Mount Jagungal, or do some bushwalking on the Grey Mare Trail. Sun cream and sunglasses would be a good idea, as would a sunhat, due to the alpine altitude, as you would do for skiing.

I will be bringing all tools and materials required for the work party, though you may wish to bring some of your own. I will also bring my compass and topographic maps of the area, a handheld GPS unit, and two handheld UHF two way radios (my Landcruiser also has a UHF radio). Since Telstra installed a mobile phone tower at the nearby town of Cabramurra, and since we will be at an altitude of 1,700 metres, there is now normally a three bar signal for mobile phones just outside the hut, making it less remote. In any case, I will have my satellite phone, as well as a high

frequency (HF) radio for long distance communications. Recharging your mobile phone through my vehicle and solar panels will be possible.

On the last day, after cleaning up the hut, we will make our way out the way we came in, or via the scenic Grey Mare Trail, and if people want to, adjourning to the upmarket Lott Food Store lott.net.au, if it is open, on the corner of Soho and Sharp Streets, Cooma (there are other cafes), before heading back to Canberra. ■



Summer



Winter.

CLUB PUBLICATIONS

Available free of charge on request:

- Club Constitution
 - Club By Laws (as at June 2021)
 - Membership Application Forms
 - Applicants' Information Sheet
 - Guides for lodge users during off-peak.
 - Bedding plans for the lodges
- *Check our website to obtain copies of these items.*

ALLIANCES

The Club is a corporate member of the following organisations:

- *Snowsports ACT*
- *SLOPES [Ski Lodges Organisation of Perisher, Smiggins and Guthega Inc.]*
- *The Kosciuszko Huts Association*

The Club is a regular sponsor of the *Perisher Ski Patrol*.

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