

FROZEN ACRES

July/August 2022



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FROZEN ACRES

Journal of the Canberra Alpine Club Inc.
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Editorial

Our lodges have been exceedingly well booked this winter season. With early, heavy snowfalls, and many members having taken into account the problems with COVID and deciding against their usual pilgrimages to overseas snow resorts, the lodges have proved to be an easy choice for a skiing/boarding holiday. Families have particularly enjoyed our Youth and Family weeks which have been back in full swing this year. It has been reported that members produced a number of gourmet meals for the dinners (see article on page 11).

With COVID still ongoing you are asked to keep up to date with the latest information in order to minimise the likelihood of becoming infected and passing the virus on to others at the lodges.

This issue contains a number of important items relevant to your stays in Perisher.

On a sad note, we lost one of our early members in June, Keith Storey (see obituary on page 6.) ▣

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Copy deadline for the next issue: Friday 9 September.

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

August	6-13	XC Ski Week	Perisher
	8	KAC XC Classic*	Perisher
	8	Pre-dinner Nibbles	Perisher
September	11	Off-season Bookings start	Lodges
	17	Perisher Cup	Perisher

**Note: The KAC XC Classic is being held on a Monday this year.*

Club Members and Guests Pre-dinner Nibbles

Please join us for a casual, social event on the mountain.

Those staying at both Jindy or Perisher Lodges
are warmly invited to attend.

Please meet at Perisher Lodge lounge
for Pre-dinner Nibbles.
Monday 8 August
from 5pm to 7pm.

BYO drinks, food provided by the Club.

President's Précis –

By Caroline Walker

What a fantastic start to season 2022 we've had! Perisher opened a week early and by all accounts it was the most snow for the start of a season in over 20 years. The Peak Festival also made a welcome return on the long weekend and both Perisher and Jindabyne lodges were close to capacity with members and guests enjoying both the snow and the music.

I'd like to take this opportunity to extend a very warm welcome to the Club's new Admin Officer, Vicki Hughes. Vicki lives just outside Jindabyne and has many years' experience working in the mountains. She commenced mid-May and the Committee is delighted with how well she is settling in. She has already visited both lodges to familiarise herself with their layouts and set-up, and of course to meet our longstanding Perisher lodge manager, Jill. Many of you have already had contact with Vicki via email and phone and thank you to everyone who has made Vicki feel welcome. She is a keen skier and boarder, as well as a photographer, so you may well meet her out and about on the slopes or around the resorts.

As I write this, Youth Week is currently in full swing. It is the first time in many years that I'm not there as I no longer have school age children. But I understand from those in attendance that a great time is being had, even if the snow is not as good as earlier in the season. Family Week will follow next week, and fingers crossed that there will be a much needed top up of snow to help everyone enjoy the week. A huge thank you to Mel Randall and Gav Fox and Chrissie and Ben Young for all their efforts in organising these weeks which are key features of the Club's social calendar.

Our other subcommittees have also been hard at work in recent weeks. Many of you have already had the opportunity to view sketches of various options for the Perisher lodge basement refurbishment prepared by Lexi Phillips – thank you Lexi! The sketches are on display in both lodges and on the Club website. You can comment on the options by emailing president@cac.org.au or speaking with members of the Capital Works subcommittee (further details are on the website), with the dates for member forums expected to be announced shortly.

The Governance Subcommittee is considering potential amendments to the Club's Constitution. The proposals include continuing the practice of holding hybrid general and committee meetings, increasing age limits for youth membership, making our objects more inclusive of broader snowsports and updating certain finance provisions. Draft wording for the potential amendments is currently being prepared and is expected to be circulated to members for comment well before the

end of the year to ensure feedback can be taken into account before next year's AGM. Thanks to Geoff Purvis-Smith and Mel Randall for volunteering to assist with this work. The Bookings Subcommittee is also considering possible changes to our booking rules ahead of next year's peak season with a view to enhancing members' opportunities to access the lodges, particularly in the busiest weeks of the season.

Unfortunately, COVID is still prevalent in the community and I'd like to thank members who have done the right thing and cancelled bookings when experiencing symptoms or when asked to avoid non-essential contact with others. It is always disappointing to miss out on a trip to the snow fields but by staying home in these circumstances we can all keep other members safe and well. Please continue to keep an eye out for updates to the COVID plan which will be made as required throughout the season.

I plan to be in Perisher in August this year for a couple of weeks, including cross country week, so am very much looking forward to seeing many of you then.

All the best. ▣

Admin Officer's Hours

The Admin Officer Vicki Hughes only works part-time for the Club, therefore the best way to contact her is by email.

If you need to telephone, the best times are:

Monday - Thursday: 9.00am – 1.00pm

Friday: 9.00am– 3.00pm

Saturday: 9.00am –12.00noon

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

Snowy Mountains Special Activation Precinct (SAP) Update

By Monika Binder

Last year in August, the Club made a submission to the NSW Government on the Snowy Mountains SAP draft Master Plan and on the KNP: Draft Amendment to the Plan of Management: Snowy Mountains SAP (*Frozen Acres* Sept/Oct 2021).

In June 2022, the NSW Government made and finalised the Snowy Mountains Special Activation Precinct (SAP) Master Plan and passed supporting amendments to the KNP Plan of Management (mainly with respect to increased bed limits in the park).

The main issues raised in public consultation on the SAP draft Master Plan (which included at least 2100 submissions and 14000 form submissions) were the environment (40%), followed by transport and connectivity (26%), planning and governance (25%) and housing and accommodation (25 %).

In the NSW Government's responses to the many issues raised in public consultation, the following are of note:

- The protection and conservation of biodiversity values is a key consideration in the development and refinement of the Master Plan both within KNP and Jindabyne.
- The Master Plan does not propose to change the role and function of KNP.
- Development in KNP will focus on infill and renewal 'opportunities, within existing building footprints and lease areas, with new development primarily located in previously disturbed areas.
- The Master Plan continues to support bed limit increases in KNP. The new bed limit for the alpine resorts will be 14,214 compared with the existing bed limit of 10,433: an increase of 36% (See KNP Amendment to the Plan of Management Snowy Mountains SAP). For Perisher (ie Perisher Valley, Smiggins, Guthega and BullocksFlat/Mt Blue Cow), the new bed limit will be 6,858 compared with the existing bed limit of 4,952 (an increase of 38%). Most of the increase in beds for Perisher will apply to Perisher Valley.
- New beds in the alpine resorts will not be released unless there is capacity within existing infrastructure or, if no such capacity, there are prior upgrades in infrastructure.
- The Master Plan no longer proposes helicopter use in KNP (eg between the alpine resorts) for tourism purposes.

The Snowy Mountains SAP Master Plan now moves into the 'delivery phase'. This includes the:


- Department of Planning and the Environment (DPE) preparing a Delivery Plan, the Jindabyne Growth Development Control Plan (DCP) and the Alpine DCP;
- Regional Growth NSW Development Corporation commencing a construction program (eg on supporting infrastructure); and
- the Snowy Monaro Regional Council/DPE preparing the Jindabyne Growth DCP.

The NSW Government announced funding for the delivery of the Snowy Mountains SAP of just over \$390 million. This is in addition to general funding support for SAPs from the Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund.

For further details on the Snowy Mountains SAP go to the NSW Government's planning portal page:

<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Plans-for-your-area/Special-Activation-Precincts/Snowy-Mountains-Special-Activation-Precinct>

and on the KNP: Draft Amendment to the Plan of Management: Snowy Mountains SAP go to:

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research-and-publications/publications-search/kosciuszko-national-park-amendment-to-the-plan-of-management-snowy-mountains-sap>. 

Vale Keith Storey: **03/10/28 to 26/6/2022 (93years)** *By Betty Pearson and Lyndall Hatch*

Keith was one of the first people we both met on joining the Club. (Betty in the late 1960s and Lyndall ten years later in the late '70s.) Keith was always there and he was one of the most gregarious people one would ever meet. Outgoing and friendly, full of stories, he loved relaxing after skiing involved in deep conversation over a bottle of red. These conversations were not combative, but usually convoluted and often the point could be obscure, but they were great fun.

Keith was not new to the Club though. He joined in 1951 after coming to Canberra as a surveyor. He loved the outdoor life and immediately took to skiing. He married Shirley who joined him at Mt Franklin and together they were part of the group who made their own skis. Keith was a very good downhill skier, his name appearing on

at least two of our old trophies. He told me about one racecourse he remembered down Tate East Ridge. (Nowadays we just look across at that wonderful slope from Guthega and dream.) Keith was Club secretary in 1958 and served on the Committee in 1963 and 1964. The three children Chris, Michael and Rachel were introduced to the Club and to skiing: Keith taking them just about every weekend which is why he was always there. (Rachel tells me Shirley was very happy about this as it allowed her time to pursue her great interest in potting). Keith also took part in Alan Bagnall's bushwalks sometimes with the children.

Keith soon found surveying the emerging suburbs boring. He joined the NCDC and planning the growing City of Canberra became his passion; especially the urban boundaries and the planning for green spaces. Here his surveying and map interpreting skills came to the fore.

In the 1950s and '60s there was not a clear demarcation between downhill and cross-country skiing. Cable bindings allowed the heel to be released for touring and clamped down for the descent. Along with 'mates' (mostly Club members), including Brian Haig and Stan Goodhew and very often with children, Keith started exploring all over the Snowy Mountains staying in huts until Brian built his Bogong Lodge on the edge of the National Park near Cesjacks hut. This then became a base for the 'Morey (Elizabeth)-Storey Bogong Myths'. From here one could travel lightly with day packs to far corners of the Park. Keith was an excellent navigator. Other Club members including Ernst and Mary-Louise Willheim, Lin Chaffer and both authors of this item, were lucky to be included in this group. After Bogong Lodge was resumed and then demolished by the NPWS in 1987 (an interesting story in itself) this touring group needed a new base. Luckily Betty, through her membership of Ski Club of East Gippsland, was able to book Johnsons Hut in the Falls Creek area for a week each year and the touring group had new areas and huts to explore. Keith's love of touring rather than the Perisher slopes, were part of the reason Keith decided not to renew his subscription to the Club in 1982. He remained on the ex-active list.

I don't think Keith ever really believed he was no longer a member, he wanted to know everything that was going on and still expressed opinions on Club policy. Then Rachel and David (Austin) brought their daughter Elyse to Perisher to learn to ski. Keith definitely wanted to be there too and was able now to get his cheap over 70s ticket so once again he became a downhill skier and we enjoyed his company on the lifts and at the lodge.

With Keith's passing many older members have lost a dear friend but our thoughts of condolence at this time go to Chris, Michael, Rachel and their families. ▣

COVID-19 Management Plan updated

The Club's COVID-19 Management Plan has been reviewed by the Committee to align with current health guidelines for this winter season, and some key updates have been made.

A summary of the changes is available below and at

<https://www.cac.org.au/?p=1279>

The current COVID-19 Plan is always available at the COVID-19 Essential Information page at

<https://www.cac.org.au/?p=1161>.

Key changes:

- Reminder to bring face masks and testing kits, in case these are required following a positive case.
- Guests are no longer required to leave the Jindabyne Lodge during commercial cleaning.
- The Party Leader may request guests assist with cleaning.
- Guests are required to notify the Lodge Manager, Party Leader or Admin Officer, if they test positive to COVID-19 while staying at a Club lodge.
- Guests are also required to notify other guests who they have spent time with in the 2 days before they started experiencing symptoms and/or tested positive.
- The Lodge Manager, Party Leader or Admin Officer should advise other guests that there has been a positive case in the lodge.
- The Lodge Manager, Party Leader or Admin Officer should only identify a positive case where it is relevant.
- The Lodge Manager, Party Leader or Admin Officer should not identify a positive case if the positive case has asked not to be identified, noting that the positive case may still have an obligation to notify other guests.
- The Risk Matrix has been removed from the Plan. Guests should continue to follow the NSW Health guidelines and associated risk assessments, links to which are provided in the Plan.
- Contact details for President, Vice-President and Admin Officer have been updated.

Please familiarise yourself with the current Plan, especially if you will be visiting Club lodges. ■

Perisher Basement Refurbishment

Draft plans have now been prepared showing possible layout options for the refurbished basement at the Perisher lodge, and are available on the Club website. These plans are also on display in both lodges. Feedback from members on the plans can be provided to president@cac.org.au or in person to any member of the Capital Works Sub-committee (Peter Cunningham, Amanda East, Chrissie Young, Lexie Phillips, Alan Booth and Caroline Walker). A tender process to select builders will follow the finalisation of the design with a view to commencing construction in October 2023.

The lower level 'Basement' refurbishment project is moving to the next stage, the formulation of the detailed brief and it is pertinent that we have all members views. The Committee has so far shared three, design concept drawings that show some of the possibilities for the space, which is area of 150sqm and equivalent in size to a 3-bed home.

The Planning Group needs your input to resolve what is in, what is not, and how much of each. Please join us for the meeting so that your needs can be taken into account.

Things you may like to consider

- Do we need wax benches and how many?
- How many bathrooms and does the shower and toilet need to be separate?
- Do we need a dedicated place for those needing to work while visiting the lodge, noting some rooms do not have desks?
- What activities work best at the lower level, a pool table, table tennis or a quiet room?
- Do we need a media screen for streaming?
- Do we need a kitchenette, to including microwave, sink and mini fridge?
- Would a sauna or bath be useful additions to the facilities offered.
- How much space do we need for the activity room, and how many people will use the area?
- Should we have a separate boot room?
- Is an airlock necessary?

A zoom meeting is planned for the Monday 25 July at 7:30pm and a follow up meeting to present the final brief on Tuesday 23 August 7.30pm. ▣

Perisher Safety Alert 2022 – Uphill Access

This information has been provided by David Milford,
Perisher Safety Systems Manager. via SLOPES.

Background

In recent years there have been more persons accessing the ski area and not using lifts. Non-lift access/uphill access such as uphill snowshoeing, hiking or “skinning” may present a high danger of personal injury to participants or others.

The ski area is not maintained for uphill access and trails are not patrolled outside normal ski area operating hours, therefore emergency services may not be available. Ski area operations take place 24 hours, 7 days a week in winter and users may encounter vehicles, slope and trail maintenance activities, snowmaking operations and other hazards not typically present during operating hours.

Policy

1. Uphill access is only permitted outside of public operating hours – From 5.00pm to 7.30am. All uphill users must be clear of the ski area by 7.30am.
2. Avoid areas where machinery is operating. Winch grooming operations may be in progress. Strobe lights mean stay clear and avoid the area altogether. Runs that are commonly and regularly winch groomed include: Towers, Zali’s, Excelerator, Lower Roller Coaster, Cleft, Dogleg and Olympic. However, winch grooming may occur in any place in the resort.
3. Stay off all runs and areas signposted as closed. Stay off advanced (black diamond) terrain. Stay off all Terrain Park features and jumps.
4. Obey all signage.
5. Stay towards the centre of the trail.
6. Maximise your visibility – position yourself so that you are visible from above; wear reflective or brightly coloured clothing.
7. Stay clear of all snowmaking equipment as it may commence operating at any time.
8. Be vigilant for early morning ski/snowboard race training when crossing ski slopes.
9. Please note that fat tyre biking and / or mountain biking is prohibited within the ski area during the winter season, both during daytime and night time operations.
10. Third party (ie. non-Perisher) snowmobiles are prohibited within Perisher’s ski area at all times, save for where the use has been authorised by Perisher’s Operations Director.
11. Persons engaged in uphill access of Perisher Ski Resort assume all risks associated with access. ■

Items Left in Perisher Ski Room

By Amanda East for Lodges sub-committee

The Perisher ski room has accumulated a large collection of skis, one board and miscellaneous boots, possibly a result of the snap COVID lockdown. These items need to return to their homes. If they are yours, please take them away or, if you cannot get to Perisher this season to do so, contact me on 0412-546-680 and I can bring them out of the mountains for you. Anything remaining will be removed at the first summer work party, to be sold at next year's Snowsports ski sale. ▣

Youth Week

By Melissa Randall (with photos by James Muldowney)

Youth week 2022 was a delightful concoction of skiing, snowboarding and snow shoeing, excellent company and fantastic food.

The highlight was spending time with members and guests who could not join us last year due to various lockdowns.

It was absolutely fantastic to be part of four birthday celebrations. Leo and Darcy celebrated their birthdays on 5 July. Lachie [Hatch] and Jess, a father daughter team who share the same birthday, celebrated on 7 July.

(See the three photos below).





For a July school holiday, the snow was plentiful and the queues were minimal. We enjoyed a variety of conditions and it meant that we could get out and across the resort to make the most of the beautiful mountains. Gav [Fox] and Mick [Barlow] powered up Heart Break Hill in their snowshoes each day. Thanks to Gav's Tubbs brand snow shoes they became the Tele tubbies for the week.



Mick powering up Heart Break Hill.

Our winter sports program kids had many early starts. They were often sent out to train before the sun came up but remained in good spirits .

As always, the food was delicious and plentiful. Our amazing chef talent turned on some wonderful meals, including two barbecues, a very popular gluten-free mac-n-cheese on pasta night, awesome curries and a fantastic guacamole with homegrown jalapenos on Mexican night. Kristen [Guseli] and the pizza team were even able to take everybody's orders and make some really authentic pizzas on the Friday night.

Following on from the 2021-84kg apple-debacle-desert, chef, Lexie [Phillips], was called on to repeat her Apple Crumble Extravaganza. Luckily, Chrissie [Young] had the forethought to bring her apple slinky machine. In the ultimate irony, we ran low on apples. (See this link if you don't know what I'm talking about:

https://www.harrisscarfe.com.au/kitchen-dining/kitchen-accessories-food-prep/kac-food-preparation/dline-apple-peeler/334014?utm_medium=organic&utm_source=google&utm_campaign=feed_clicks&utm_content=shopping_listings&gclid=EAlaIQobChMIksas-YT3-AIVVn8rCh10qg3e EAQYASABEGIYOPD_BwE&gclid=aw.ds. ...

By Saturday we had all eaten so much that the Saturday leftovers night was a low-key affair with many of us opting to polish off just the remaining deserts – chocolate pudding and apple crumble - Yum!

Devices were banished from the lounge area. Activities included card playing, colouring in, fort building, baking the famous 100 cookie recipe (<https://bakeplaysmile.com/famous-100-cookie-recipe-condensed-milk-cookies/>), complete with mini-M&Ms and chopped milk chocolate, and a sewing bee. The second-hand race suit that Darcy is wearing had some damage. It had obviously hit a few too many gates. But thanks to a club sewing bee, and using Jill's sewing kit (just inside the kitchen door), the rips in the knees are barely noticeable.



Darcy Racing

Thanks to everyone who made such a fantastic week possible. ▣

Oh What an Opening Weekend!

By Lynette Johns-Boast

After nearly a metre of snow, those of us lucky enough to be booked into Perisher for the opening weekend were greeted on arrival by unbelievable sights, especially for so early in the season.

We couldn't believe our eyes when we exited Hans Oversnow at the Perisher Lodge to see that our indomitable lodge managers, Jilly and Frenchy's truck was completely snowed in and they were obviously going nowhere fast!



Entering the dining room and we were met with yet another unbelievable sight – the quantity of snow on the south deck.

First task of the day was to begin the mammoth task of clearing the south deck. This took many hours and was shared by many people.



The following morning, I looked out my bedroom window and noticed not only the wonderful view, but that Frenchy had been trying to extricate his truck, completely without success



After many, many hours of shovelling the snow on the south deck, the final result was the creation of a wonderful igloo in which one not only could sit in but could also contemplate the rising of the full-moon through the window.



[Reminds me back many years ago at Mt Buller, there was a very heavy snowfall. A friend parked his car in the carpark on the Friday night and when he returned on the Sunday his car was not just buried in the snow but the snowcat had crawled over the top and squashed it flat . He had quite a job explaining what happened to his insurance company. Ed] □

CLUB PUBLICATIONS

Available free of charge on request:

- Club Constitution
 - Club By Laws
 - 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*.

A copy of each issue of *Frozen Acres* is lodged with the *Australian Serials Collection of the National Library*. The collection, dating back to the 1960s, is available for examination on request.

Copy deadline for next issue: Friday 9 September, 2022.

Please email your articles, letters and photographs or other material to: ***editor@cac.org.au***.

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