

FROZEN ACRES

May/June
2023



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FROZEN ACRES

Journal of the Canberra Alpine Club Inc.

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www.cac.org.au - password for protected areas 'franklin'

(maintained by Mirabel Wilson)

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Editorial

As winter approaches, and with work parties finished, our thoughts are turning to the coming snow season. Our lodges are heavily booked, with members eager to spend time skiing or boarding and enjoying winter in the mountains.

In this issue we have articles about the By-laws Changes and our new Club Website. As these articles give important information, please make sure you read them and keep them for future reference. We also have a number of articles from waitlisters about their experiences at work parties and at the pre-season social held on 14 May. We are pleased that some of these articles were from juniors. Information on snowboarder Valentino Guseli's outstanding achievements have been included in the President's Precis.

On a sad note, in April we lost one of our honorary life members, John Tilley. Details of John's achievements during his many years with the Club can be seen on pages 9 and 10. ▣

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Club Calendar

2023			
June	10-12	Opening Weekend	NSW Resorts
	10	Club Social	Jindabyne Lodge
July	2-8	Family Week	Perisher
	9-15	Youth Week	Perisher
	30	Club Championship (alpine)**.	Perisher

**We have arranged with Perisher and Cooma Ski Club to hold a GS race on Sunday 30 July – this will serve as the Club Championships for alpine skiing and snowboarding. There is also talk of establishing a Canberra/Cooma Cup for the event. We are waiting to hear back from Perisher about whether we can also get a date to hold the Brumby Cup in 2023.

Work parties have concluded for this summer season but will recommence later in the year.

The following members are responsible for organising work parties.

Perisher: Peter Richards, 0418-637-984

Perisher Work & Weed Parties: Amanda East, 0412-546-680

Perisher Park Entry Fee Waivers: Judy Lejins, judylejins@ozemail.com.au or 0400-786-324

Jindabyne: Peter Cunningham, 0477-356-835

Mt Franklin: Jenny McLeod, 0414-403-398

O'Keefes Hut: Paul Oboohov, 0417-048-217

***Copy deadline for the next issue of Frozen Acres: Thursday July 13 2023.
Please send in you articles in Word, photos welcome.***



WINTER WARMER

**Saturday June 10 from 5pm
at Jindabyne Lodge**

Outdoor lawn area on the lakeside.

Have you plans for the long weekend?
Why not book a room & enjoy a relaxing meal & a cozy fire, on us?
Pack your woollens and enjoy the regions Opening Season Festivities!

This is a **new social event**
Brought to you by the Social Sub-committee.

BBQ Sausage Sizzle, s'mores & Firepit.
BYO drinks

There is no cost to attend, however it is preferable if you are booked to stay at either of the Lodges.

Please **register** with Cheryl Taylor as below.
Email: mobilechez@gmail.com or SMS: 0406-375-751

Admin Officer's Hours

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

Her winter hours from June will be:
Monday & Friday - 9am to 2.30pm
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday- 1pm to 5pm
Saturday - 9am to 11am

On weekends she will check for anything urgent if she is in range and will respond as appropriate.

President's Precis

By Caroline Walker

After the recent snow in the mountains, anticipation for Winter 2023 is building! To help kick off the season, the Club's Pre-season Social Event was held at Maddies at the Kingston Hotel. The function was very well attended, with all enjoying drinks and nibbles, and the opportunity to share stories of recent adventures and expectations for the upcoming season.

The final work parties for the season have been held at Jindabyne and Perisher, with members and waiters making a fantastic contribution. Jindabyne lodge received a thorough spring clean, with pruning, weeding and mowing also being completed before the rain, and even some snow, set in. At Perisher a week later, cutting wood, weeding and replanting grasses was undertaken in crisp autumn sunshine, while inside cleaning and tidying took place, along with the hanging of this year's art work sourced from photos submitted by members. Thanks to everyone who has attended work parties over the season and to all who submitted photos. Special thanks to Peter Richards, Peter Cunningham, Amanda East, Jenny McLeod, Paul Oboohov and Doug Boast for running the work parties and to James Muldowney for coordinating the artwork project.

Members may recall that the committee announced in September last year that it was developing a branding strategy which leverages the history and changes within the club to bring it into the 21st century. The new brand was being delivered in two parts, the new club logo followed by a new website. In mid-December last year, club member Jeremy Lucas along with Josh Wren from Advanced Graphics started working on the new website and I'm pleased to say it's now 'live' at cac.org.au, Jeremy has provided more insight into the website in his article below and many thanks to both Jeremy and Josh for their efforts.

In a testament to the vitality of the Club, I'm pleased to report that we have now officially reached our membership cap of 600, with around 100 more registered on the waiting list. Going forward, the Committee intends to offer memberships once each year, once it is known how many members have not renewed membership for the year ahead. I'm also pleased to report that the postal ballot has confirmed all the changes to the Constitution voted on at the AGM. Additional details are provided elsewhere in this issue

Congratulations again to all the Club's international athletes for their efforts during the 2022-23 season, with a special mention of Valentino Guseli's incredible season which culminated with him earning the overall Park and Pipe Crystal Globe. He was also named joint Male Athlete of the year, joint Junior Athlete of the year and won the Alex 'Chumpy' Pullin Outstanding Achievement Award at the recent 2023 Snow Australia Awards.

Finally, on behalf of the Club, I would like to extend our deepest sympathies to the family of Honorary Life Member John Tilley, who passed away recently. John spent many years on the Committee, including serving two terms as President, and contributed greatly to many aspects of the Club.

As always, if there are any issues you would like to raise with me, please email me at president@cac.org.au. ▣

Club's New Website

By Jeremy Lucas

As Caroline mentioned in her precis, the Club now has an exciting new website <https://cac.org.au>.

Over the past five months I've worked alongside Josh Wren, a talented website developer to build the Club's new website. I would also like to put a big shout-out to club member Nola Charkos, a freelance copywriter in helping proofread the copy and waitlister Gina Quadraccia who has worked tirelessly on the new club branding.

My brief was to develop a site that would provide Club members with up to date relevant information in a visual and engaging way incorporating the primary and secondary colours from the club's new logo colour palette peppered with images. Some of the images will be updated over the coming year as we build up our library

The new site gives an insight into who we are and where we've come from. There's an Event Calendar displaying dates of club events including up to date information from event organisers.

The Accommodation section provides members with detailed information on each lodge, including How to Book and valuable information for First Time Visitors.

Latest News will provide an insight into what's happening with our elite athletes amongst others and *Frozen Acres* is now accessible from the site, including past newsletters.

The Gallery section is where you'll be able to tell your story as a blog as well as posting photos and video. This feature will be available soon.

You'll also be able to send Vicki (Admin Officer) a message from the site instead of emailing her.

And finally you'll be able to see the latest weather at a glance for Perisher, Jindabyne and Thredbo. ▣

By-laws Updates

The change to the upper age limit of Youth Membership in the Constitution means that a few by-laws requires updating.

In addition, the Committee has resolved to amend some other by-laws, in order to move away from charging for *Frozen Acres*. The annual payment for some member and associate classes has previously been tied to payment for *Frozen Acres*; instead, a General Administration Fee will be charged for these classes. To avoid confusion, the current 'Administration fee', which is payable when booking rules aren't complied with, will be renamed to a 'Booking Non-compliance Fee' The amount of each of these fees remains unchanged.

The by-law relating to considerations taken into account by the Committee when electing waiters to membership has also been updated.

As bookings for the 2024 Peak season will not open until after the 2023 Peak season, fees and charges for 2024 will not be set until later in the year. The By-laws will be updated and distributed again with the 2024 fees and charges when they are determined.

The complete by-laws are distributed with this edition of *Frozen Acres*, and are available on the Club website.▣

Pre-Season Social Report

By Cheryl Taylor (Social Sub-committee)

The Club's Pre-season social function held at Maddies Bar and Library area. at the Kingston Hotel on Sunday 14 May was a delightful event.

Despite it being Mothers Day and clashing with other events and sporting commitments, it was well supported with the attendance of approximately 30 members and waiters. The Committee provided guests with finger food, of which the Kingo's menu choices were widely appreciated. Attendees enjoyed sipping on drinks and munching on nibblies while conversations revolved around skiing stories and expectations for the upcoming season. Members were able to catch up with old friends and make new ones in a relaxed atmosphere. Overall, it was an enjoyable evening, and I'm confident that everyone left feeling even more enthusiastic about the upcoming ski and snow season. ▣

Postal Ballot Results

Eighty ballot papers were received for the postal ballot to confirm the Constitutional changes that were passed at the AGM.

All resolutions were confirmed.

The number of votes for and against each motion were as follows:

	For	Against
Remote attendance at General Meetings	78	2
Remote attendance at Committee meetings	77	2
Change the upper age of Youth Membership to 25	76	3
Increase limitation on commitments from \$25,000 to \$100,000	76	3
Change Club badge	73	7
Update objects of the Club to refer to <i>snowsports</i> instead of <i>skiing</i>	80	0
Clarify reporting of findings by an Investigation Committee	78	1
Minor amendments	77	1

There were some abstentions, so responses don't add up to 80 in all cases.

There was a small number of votes that were arguably not technically valid, due to being unsigned, incomplete, or other issues. They are included in the count above, as in all cases the intent and author of the vote was clear, however omitting them would have made no difference to the overall outcome.

As notified in the last *Frozen Acres*, changes to the Constitution took effect from 1 May 2023. The new version of the Constitution is now available on the Club's website.

Do You Enjoy Waking up to a Good Coffee? You're in Luck!

By Jeremy Lucas

The committee have decided to trial a Barista Express coffee machine at Perisher.

The Barista Express allows you to auto grind and dose fresh beans supplied by the Club to deliver a single or double shot. The machine also allows you to use your own pre-ground coffee directly to the portafilter, and delivers powerful steam for your favourite latte.

There's a handy guide on the wall above to get you started if haven't made your own barista style coffee before. Enjoy!



Congratulations

On the arrival of a future Club member.

Congratulations to Will Comensoli and Peta Rogers who are the proud new parents of Harry Gerald Comensoli, born 21 April, 2023.

A Tribute to John Tilley: A Stalwart of the Club *February 1937 – 5 April 2023* By Tricia and Fyfe Bygrave

In April this year the Club lost a much-loved and long-time member. John Tilley joined the Club in 1972 soon after arriving in Canberra with his wife Judy. We joined in the same year and soon developed a long-lasting friendship each family having similar aged children with interests in skiing.

Wearing his identifiable blue jacket and unique head gear and enthusiasm for skiing, John would often lead club members down each of the Perisher ski fields. If not seen he could be heard everywhere with his characteristic yodel. He embraced the sport, offering advice and encouraging young members on aspects of ski technique especially alpine skiing.

John was a family man who brought his children Simon, Peter and in later years Helen, to ski during the Winter school holidays in the early 1970s. Our children, Lee, Stephen & Louise would join with them and other club children who most days would ski off from the lodge following John down the slopes learning the finer points of how to ski. When it was time for the club races, often it would be John giving instructions, organising the course, setting up of the poles and encouraging even the youngest to race. These were wonderful holidays for the children who wore passed-on ski clothes, skied on handed-down skis, and saved pocket money for ski tows.

Besides his skiing attributes John also made major contributions to the administration of the Club. He was President on two occasions from 1975 to 1976 and from 1985 to 1986 as well as Treasurer from 2000 to 2007.

During my [*Fyfe's*] time as President (1979 to 1980), John was a member of my committee and totally supportive as we dealt with a number of quite sensitive matters affecting the Club, particularly involving the running of the Perisher Lodge.

Using his knowledge as an experienced accountant, John also gave well-articulated recommendations at relevant Annual General Meetings on best ways to finance the extensions of both the Perisher and Jindabyne Lodges. His extensive contributions to the Club were recognised by him being made an Honorary Life Member in 1998.

John's love of the slopes and his contribution to the Club continued well into his later life and he will be long remembered.

Remembering Wonderful Times with John

By Lyndall Hatch

We called him John-Claude Tilley referencing Jean-Claude Killy, the most famous skier of our (John's and my) generation, because John was the best skier we knew.

John's skiing skills were honed in Tasmania where you had to be able to ski anything to survive. Then in 1971 he and Judy with two little boys and another child on the way came to Canberra where John became the accountant to JB Young stores. Chasing up skiing opportunities he met Mike Brent who helped him to join Canberra Alpine where he had an immediate impact becoming President in 1975.

John loved to teach and was soon leading a group of Club skiers down the hill yodelling encouragement and high spirits. "Let's play" he would say as he set off down the slope doing 360s. To John skiing was dancing, light footed and rhythmic. When the new 'shaped' skis appeared John encouraged us to demo them and taught us the new slightly different skiing technique required. But he said "if they are not dancing skis don't buy them".

After being involved in a very serious road cycling accident in 1991 it looked as though John would never walk again let alone ski. His determination at rehab paid off and he was able to sort of walk in a very handicapped way. He could only use one arm and one hand (on different arm). Life was very difficult (for the whole family) and John had completely given up on skiing. He hadn't given up on the Club though, still helping whichever club was hosting the Balmain Cup.

At one of these events Simon persuaded him to don skis and glide on the gentle Guthega slope. Muscle memory is an amazing thing and John found he could stand and glide downhill on skis gently shifting weight. Gradually his skiing career was reignited even though I remember once that when he came back into the lodge he had to crawl on all fours to get up the stairs. The seriousness of his injuries qualified him as a disabled skier and as he regained more and more skiing ability he was accused of faking his disability! It was truly remarkable how his skiing returned and believe it or not he was again encouraging us to set off down Discovery Trails doing 360s. Although skiing ability returned the serious pain never abated and John's post-accident life was dominated by serious pain.

By far the most important thing in John's life was his family and all his family were involved in the Club. I don't remember ever seeing Judy downhill ski but she did use touring skis and used to join John and the family in the lodge where she strongly

encouraged their love of skiing. Always a beautiful lunch on the table when they came in and always helping at Club events. Of course all the children became excellent skiers and represented the Club in the Balmain Cup. Both Peter and Helen spent many years as ski patrollers. John's nephew from Tasmania Michael Foster along with wife Debbie and sons Sol and Alex all joined the Club thus even more enlarging the Tilley family group. Although there was a very large Tilley 'family' group the whole Club became John's extended family. He had a great interest in all the young skiers coming up through the Club ranks and used to comment enthusiastically on their great technique especially 'smoothness'. This interest extended to cross country skiers and in recent years even though he was never a protégé he followed with great pride (because he was a Club member) Valentino's accomplishments.

John spent many years serving the Club on the Committee. In 1972 on joining the Club he was immediately drafted onto the Committee and was President 1975-76. Between 1979 and 1984 John was Vice- President and it was during this time that the Club learned that the then current sleeping accommodation mostly in bunk rooms of four in the basement no longer satisfied NSW standards with respect to the volume of air available per occupant. The Lodge would not be able to operate unless this was remedied. Unlike now there was no cash reserves and the Committee came up with the proposal to levy all members \$200. The General Meeting only accepted \$100 and even then a few members resigned from the Club rather than pay. John was the Committee Member charged with solving this problem. He engaged architect Bert Reid and the concept of the 1981 extension was conceived. The A-frame was angled out west-ward and a row of bedrooms built under this extension utilising the high space between the managers flat and the new roof as lofts to bedrooms supplying the required air.

John was determined we would not miss a season and so we moved into this 'new wing' using doors on concrete blocks for beds and sheets for curtains. This was not a happy time because many members felt that the extension did not actually improve our amenity. We still had only two rooms for two so most of us had to be accommodated in multiple bed rooms either male or female. John however felt that it was all that could be done in the time and with the available finance to keep the lodge operational and he was rightly unapologetic. We had somewhere to stay and we could ski! John served a second time as President 1985-86 and I don't remember any great dramas during this time. He re-joined the Committee as an ordinary Member in 1999 and between 2000 and 2007 he served as Club Treasurer.



John skiing Back Perisher in 2007. Photograph courtesy of Helen Tilley.

He was very interested in the racing side of Club life and attended every Balmain Cup. Being frustrated by the long time it took to calculate the results he developed a computer program to do this. It was first used when we were the hosts and then he took it to each of the host clubs. He would have enjoyed this because he had already become friends with the serious skiers from all the participating clubs. The Club recognised his great contribution by awarding him the Lane- Poole trophy twice (the only person) in 1973 and again in 1994. He was made an Honorary Life Member in 1988.

This is a long article for *Frozen Acres* and it could be much longer because there is so much to say about John. I could have included his love of tennis, cycling and trout fishing. His love of fast sports cars and the pleasure he had in serving as his brother Stan's navigator in the Tasmanian Targa. John led ski tours and participated in and led bushwalks. John loved dogs particularly Springer Spaniels and took great pride in how well he trained them .

Over and above everything though, John loved and formed a great partnership with, Judy and loved and nurtured his three children Simon, Peter and Helen. Now he has five grand-daughters Natasha, Rebecca, Ruby, Aija and Zoe to carry on the great Tilley tradition in all ways. Such a joy to him!

Your friends really miss you John. Thanks for wonderful memories.▣

Perisher Lodge Photographs

By James Muldowney

Our members have been busy taking photographs throughout the season and we've chosen a number of them for the bedrooms in the Perisher Lodge. Many of our rooms are now looking great and, hopefully, you'll agree as you visit during the season. The following rooms have now had member photographs added:

Level 1	All rooms (except Room 1 which already has heritage paintings)
Level 2	11, 12 and 15
Level 3	21 and 22

We've added some examples of the photographs below.

Don't forget though that there are still plenty of rooms to go. Please continue to add your photographs to *our folder* (tinyurl.com/cacphotos) throughout the year and make sure you take that great picture if the opportunity arises! And, please remember, that it doesn't have to be in the winter season. We're also looking for photographs of our alpine areas in spring, summer or autumn. ▣





New Skills, Uplifting Discussions with a Side of Fenugreek and Luscious Lamb.

By Kellie Pati (with a report by Rose)

On the Weekend of May 12,13 and 14 a final waitlister, work weeding party at Perisher for many, but so much more for all of those who attended and made the most of fantastic company and the fine culture the Club has built over many years.

We are Kellie, Dan, Lewis and Rose Pati, from Newcastle, first introduced to the Club in September 2017, by a generous member, who came to frequent many an afternoon music gig of Dan's at Jax Bar on front valley. That generous club member, described to us this weekend as virtual 'CAC royalty' would enjoy an afternoon beer, while his now household-name offspring Val [Guseli] was riding rings around anyone on front valley and winning night time slope style comps in some bright yellow bib overalls. Dan still plays guitar at the snow, for the past 5 to 6 years at the Man from Snowy River Hotel, this year you'll find him for afternoon Apres 4 to 6pm August 8 to 16 inclusive. Now I've got that plug in, you know how we came to know the Club, back to the story about the May Perisher work party.

The focus was weeding and transplanting native grasses to the newly disturbed patches. There were logs and tree branches to split, stack and remove to allow for more parking, and clear the way for snowfall onto flat ground. At least 20 new alpine-themed pictures were unwrapped and hung in bedrooms and in communal areas. Artistic tastes varied, hero pictures were selected and hung in pride of place positions. New hanging hooks, key lock boxes, and downstairs boot and gear storage sideways-shuffles and re-numbering were no problem for our multi-talented community of helpers.

We had members and waitlisters from Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney, Narooma and ourselves from Newcastle. We descended late Friday night, arriving to clear night time weather, and met new friends early Saturday morning. Cracking sunny but fresh-air conditions meant outside work was a pleasure, albeit testing on the uninitiated crouching thighs and knees. Team chainsaws Ryan [Smithers] and Dan got busy on the stacks of wood, team weeders Andrew [Beevor], Chris [Alidenes] and myself got an education in alpine grasses and how to identify an unwanted weed to remove from the areas below and adjacent to the lower basement and front side of the lodge.



Our youth waitlisters Silas [Smithers] and Cheley [Gallate] played most valuable player roles in taking Lewis (10), Rose (8) and Alex (12) on an explorers walk, seeking lost and forgotten valuables while picking up rubbish flying about the mountain. They got back with fresh-air in their lungs, some wet socks and shoes, but better for it.

The afternoon session was in full swing with more weeding, trophy-case cleaning, furniture relocations, more picture hangings and general lodge maintenance. James, [Muldowney], Tanya [Mark], Jeremy [Hall], Cheley, Caroline, [Walker] Jason, [Gallate] Ayndri [Soysa] and Ingrid [Bremers] were all busy with jobs. Late afternoon was time for a short adult dry-weather explore with actual *lodge royalty*, the legend that is Judy Lejins. Judy cut a cracking walking pace up that hill, and I only hope I'm that nimble and able when I'm Judy's age. While hearing of Tanya and Amanda's latest travel adventures in Georgia and Saudia Arabia, Tanya and I may have led Judy a little astray, walking off-piste into the native shrubbery looking for what logically should have been a looping track back toward the lodge from the village Eight. With a few helping hands, holding nerves and words of support, we did great, masterfully trekking through said shrubbery and finding ourselves popping out above the dirt road called Raven Place.



Kellie, Judy and Tanya, back on track.

The undoubted highlight for the trip was the amazing food, company and sense of community with the two degrees of separation we share with people we share similar values, culinary ambitions, sporting passions and professional interests which are a source of endless conversations. Our Saturday night Mediterranean themed meal was a feast with juicy succulent lamb, magic potatoes, salads galore, and a very special Georgian eggplant rolls with walnut filling dish that Amanda East brought back from her trip away. The recipe can be found by googling that dish title, the taste sensation that is a '*khmeli suneli*' spice mix contains Fenugreek seeds among many spices.

So that's it, we were up early for mountain Mother's Day and back out in that sweet mountain air and sunshine with some more weeding and lodge cleaning and then we were all out of there, tripping it back to Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney and Newcastle, some with new contacts in our phones and a fresh air kick in our step. We can't wait to come back with more snow on the ground and do it all again. Thanks CAC and all the members that contribute to such a great club atmosphere and lodge life.

Rose Reports

On the weekend my family went up to the snow we stayed in a lodge. There was a bit of snow, I met a girl named Heidi. She is 8 years old she has a little brother. Heidi came on Saturday night we played twister and battleships. After dinner we made a cubby and Heidi made this thing up you put two couches 10 inches apart.

Then Heidi went to bed so I played with this girl named Cheley, and this boy named Alex and we walked up about three mountains. My shoes got drenched, it was tiring. I got a bit worried about frostbite, we saw what was like an ice-rack but smaller Cheley, Lewis, Alex, Silas and I jumped on all three of them, my brother and Alex jumped and almost fell in and Alex's phone almost went in the ice, the ice was thick, I had so much fun.☐

Cross Country Skating Skis in need of a Home

My old, well- worn, well loved, well looked after skating skis with a million (almost) layers of wax need to be saved from the Green Shed.

180 cms long.

Old Salomon bindings.

Salomon boots to fit bindings size 39

Lyndall Hatch lyndallh@bigpond.com 0428570497

Five reasons to go to a Work Party

By Ingrid Bremers

1. Meet new people

Work Parties bring together people from all ages, locations and backgrounds. It really is the Ethos of the Club to have these experiences together, share stories and meaningfully connect with each other. Work gets done of course, but there is much more to a work party than work.

2. Make a contribution

Get the satisfaction of making a difference to the Club and seeing the efforts come to fruition. Many hands make light work, and that is evident at these events. Even small tasks have an impact: the kids have previously delighted in collecting dead flies and bugs from around the lodge - you would be amazed (and possibly horrified) about how many are collected each season. Keeping our lodge, clean and functioning means we can all enjoy it year round.

3. Enjoy the views

Whether it is Jindabyne or Perisher, the views from the lodges are simply gorgeous. At the Perisher lodge work party in May, we were treated to snow-capped peaks. Heading up in the off season also allows you to enjoy the peace and quiet of being in mountains - with barely a soul nearby.

4. Earn extra Saturdays each season

The by-laws provide that a member who has participated in a work party during the previous summer is entitled to one additional Saturday night booking (beyond that permitted by Booking Rule 7.1) for each work party up to a maximum of two additional Saturday nights per member each season. So you can enjoy more weekends on snow.

5. Amazing food and drink

There's nothing better than sharing a wonderful spread of food with people after a day's work. I love the experience of trying new and different flavour sensations; things I probably never would have thought of or tried myself. At the Perisher May work party, Amanda East treated us to a Georgian delicacy involving grilled eggplant, pomegranate and fetta. Delicious! ▣

Environmentalism in Action

By Cheley Gallate

Every time I look at a satellite image of Australia, I am always drawn to a little handkerchief of white in a country filled with vast red desert. This is, of course, the Australian Southern Alps. It staggers my mind that this tiny alpine region survives on such a flat and dry continent. It makes it unique and truly special in my opinion. For me, it makes the gnarled old snow gums, the tiny, weird aquatic creatures, and the wild flowers - hum with a very special vibrancy. This place is just so wonderful – especially when you live in a city.

It also changes my outlook whenever I ski or am in the back country. I take nothing for granted. When I am on my skis, I think about how amazing it is that I live only hours away from a desert yet can slide on frozen water. I watch the predicted snow fall through the season with eagerness and will never get sick of the freedom that comes flying down the mountain.

On a sadder note, I also never take it for granted because I wonder how much longer there will be snow in our country. Of course, the modelling is complicated, and we may even get increased snow at times, but this is not the point. Warmer climates made the Fox and Franz Joseph glaciers in New Zealand advance, the only glaciers in the world that were growing, due to more precipitation on their névés. This occurred for years, and was exciting until their recent collapses at their terminal moraines, cutting off hundreds of metres – again due to warmer climates.

I am studying sustainability at university, and although big corporations and lobby groups are giving us a snow job – *that we as individuals are responsible for climate change* – 70% of carbon emissions since 1988 have been produced by just 100 companies which are committed to placing profit over planet. This is from CDP, the [link, https://www.cdp.net/en/articles/media/new-report-shows-just-100-companies-are-source-of-over-70-of-emissions](https://www.cdp.net/en/articles/media/new-report-shows-just-100-companies-are-source-of-over-70-of-emissions) however it has also been published by various news sources.

It is nonetheless important, as individuals, to do everything we can. Not only to lessen our small contribution as much as we can, but also because, a committed *do-er* is also an effective communicator for change, and a threatening voter, that the big corporations are more likely to take note of.

As such, I was overjoyed with the last work party I attended at Perisher. Although it was billed as a weeding party, really, it was an environmental sustainability party. Amanda East's knowledge and care for the environment was so encouraging. The main thrust was to get rid of invasive species and replant them with native grasses. But it was also an informal sharing seminar, where everybody could contribute

knowledge and then put some of it into practice. I especially enjoyed taking the kids for a walk to pick up rubbish. It was an excellent opportunity to expose them to the natural environment before it is covered with snow and also inform a new generation that will hopefully do a better job of managing the planet than we have. ■

Perisher Work Party

By Heidi Bremers (7 years)

On the weekend, I drove down to Perisher. I went with two babies, their names were Marcus and Illyria. There were two adults, their names were Ingrid and Ayndri.

The next afternoon, I met a girl named Rose, we played battleship and twister. Before I met Rose, I sorted the *Frozen Acres* from the 19s all the way to the 20s. Then I met Rose. Rose and I each had a go at lying down on a blanket in between the couch. I fell down three times. Rose fell down twice.

There are about three to five levels in the lodge. Rooms 21 to 26 are the top level, rooms 11 to 16 is the middle. 1 to 7 is the bottom level. My room was room 21, Rose's was room 26. Rose's room had two single beds and a Queen size bed and a bunkbed. My room had a bunkbed and a queen size bed. My bedroom also had an amazing ensuite. There are about ten sets of stairs in the lodge. I love work parties.



Snow outside the lodge. ■

Getting to know your Fellow Skiers and Snowboard Enthusiasts

By Aija Tuisk, (age 10)

Maddies, Kingston Hotel. Sunday, 14 May 2023. The chatter of skiing Enthusiasts filled the room, swapping stories of skiing in the Northern Hemisphere and excited about the Australian Winter.

As a Junior Wait List Member and Reporter, keen to get to know some of the members better, I arrived, notebook in hand.

Jeremy Lucas enthusiastically told me about skiing in Europe, especially Italy and the dynamics of the Club. "*Grazie* Jeremy, and *boun scii*".

Caroline Walker greeted me with a big smile, having just returned from the work party at Perisher. "So Caroline, What's your favourite run at Perisher?" "It's got to be Schnaxl at Guthega (although I think that might be a rude word in German!) It has a great pitch. Not too hard but not too easy."

On to Peter Cunningham, who put forward the challenge of who in the room had joined the Club first. Was it Jenny McLeod, who I'm told always proudly wore her blue and gold hand knitted Club jumper, and joined in 1977 Or was it Lyn Boast, who also joined in 1977? I took the chance to grab a dumpling or two. Lindy Down arrived, taking gold, having joined as a nine-year old in the 60s.

Time to try the spring rolls. Thanks Cheryl for a great event. See you on the hill!



Roger Brake, Monica Binder, Bruce Barnett, Jeremy Lucas,
Cheryl Taylor, Matt Kelso and Dave Hartwig



Jenny Bodell, Alistair Court, Jemima Court, Aija Tuislk.,
Caroline Walker, Roger Brake, Jenny McLeod and Tanya Mark



Ross Taylor, Kathryn Wingett, Rhonda and Peter Cunningham,
Jenny McLeod and Lyn Johns-Boast

From Mountains to Deserts and More

By Ernst Willheim

In April, my wife Mary Louise and I, with two others from Canberra, joined two commercial tours so we could travel escorted through Oman and Saudi Arabia.

We knew little of either country and in different ways we enjoyed both. Oman is mountainous. While our Oman trip was a tourist trip rather than a walking trip, we had many spectacular mountain drives and mountain walks including part of the rocky and visually precipitous ‘balcony’ walk at Jebel Sham, above Al Nakhur Canyon, which some claim to be deeper than the Grand Canyon (the mountain rises 3009m, we were at 2000m). We enjoyed our spectacular hair-raising drive to see the exit from Snake Gorge, the full length of which is a good day walk with some canyoning.



Balcony Walk, visible as the white path

Our tour included a desert camp at Al Wahabah, where we scrambled up a massive sand dune to view the sunset. We visited several wadi’s (confusingly meaning both valley or river), and some of the tour group swam in Wadi Bani Khalid and followed the wadi upstream to a cave but they did not attempt ‘the squeeze’ to reach the source spring, deep within. We found the track too daunting and sensibly stayed behind. The group also swam in the limestone sink hole at Birman in the Hawitat Najim Park.



Mary Louise, a windy sunset walk at Wahiba Sands



Wadi Bani Khalid gorge swim

In another wadi, we walked through the farming village of Ash Sharqiyah. The visit included a demonstration of climbing a date palm and learnt about the 2000+ year old falaj, irrigation system. At Raz Al Jinz turtle reserve, we lumbered about in the dark, over a pink shelled beach to witness turtle hatchlings flapping their way to the sea and a mother laboriously laying and covering her eggs.

A dinner in a private home at Dakhiliyah was a delightful feast, with the host and our guides sitting on floor rugs and eating with traditional way, with their hands while most of us we sat up on the lounge that encompassed the room. A highlight of one of the many souq visits was a busy goat and cattle market. We saw traditional, timber Dhow building and stayed in a restored heritage hotel in Nizwa. Many stairs were climbed on the tours of fortresses and castles built by Imans, a synonymous term used for leader and preacher. Our final day, was a mountain walk through three villages, including Al Sherajja at Al Jabal Al Akdhar, in the rose growing area (the perfume shops were closed because of Ramadan).



Lots of steps on the village walk



Visit to Mountain Village of Misfat Al Abyreen

Apart from our first hotel in Muscat accommodation was always good. We had a refrigerator for every hotel except one, ironically this was the night of my 80th birthday so the celebratory champagne had to be deferred to the following day. Muscat is an interesting city, there is a modern part and an old part with demanding hiking opportunities through the mountains that surround original port of Muscat. Several of our group did the Riyam Park to Mutrah, 3km hike and reported it was rocky and slippery experience along a polished marble wadi. The modern city of Muscat has two large shopping malls and extensive strip shopping areas including cafes and restaurants but the jewel in the city is the new, 2004 Grand Mosque. It is a large, masterpiece of Islamic architecture, elegantly proportioned, with delicately patterned timber work, magnificent chandeliers and tiled mosaics representing all regions of Islam.

Photographs by Amanda East▣

Jindabyne Lodge - the Perfect Mid-week Getaway

By Lisabeth Hemming

The Club offered the perfect mid-week, mini-break. Recently, I had the pleasure of spending a few days at Jindabyne Lodge, relaxing while enjoying the stunning views over the lake.

The brisk mornings were nothing short of breathtaking, with lake fog blanketing the water, burning off as the sun rose to reveal the beauty of the valley and distant mountains. The weather was perfect for a variety of activities, with some guests preferring to spend time outdoors enjoying the picturesque surroundings and myself enjoying the beauty of the views while engaging in a two-person paint and sip day. I can assure you lots of tea was consumed - this was my first painting event and I was challenged by a paint-by-numbers canvas! Staying in for a day, a friend and I enjoyed the stunning views while creating our own 'masterpieces'.

The Club will be getting full with the up-coming work parties and approaching 2023 ski season, but if anyone wants to do a simple, yet fun, paint-by-numbers mini-break, Jindabyne Lodge is an amazing location to do so!



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
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- *Check our website to obtain copies of these items.*
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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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