

FROZEN ACRES

September/October
2023



Issue 5 / 2023

FROZEN ACRES

Journal of the Canberra Alpine Club Inc.
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Editorial

The season got off to a good start with sufficient snow in July for members at our Family and Youth weeks to enjoy their skiing and boarding. However, we experienced warmer than usual weather in August and conditions in the mountains deteriorated. Fortunately, races were still able to be run, even with the reduced amount of snow, much to the relief of our members (see the President's Precis on page 3 and Race Results on page 4.). On the weekend of 12/13 August, the Club held the Brumby Cup Races with a number of members competing. The Social Sub-committee organised a delicious meal for the Brumby Cup dinner assuring a very successful weekend. With the help of Perisher groomers and volunteers looking after the tracks, cross country races were also able to be held.

The Club's final event for the year, the Post-Season Picnic and Presentation, will be held on the afternoon of Sunday 29 October. The venue will be confirmed closer to the date, with the event a great opportunity to catch up with your fellow members and welcome our new ones. Do keep this date free and come along and join us.☐

Contents

2. Club Calendar
3. Update your Contact Details to avoid Stressful Surprises *by Jenny McLeod*
Admin Officer's Hours
4. President's Precis *by Caroline Walker*
5. Race Results *by Sarah Brake*
6. Membership Fees *by Will Comensoli, Treasurer*
7. Vale - Stella McLaughlin *by Ross Smith*
9. Cross Country Week *by Gary Fry and Louise Rose*
11. Brumby Cup Dinner *by Lisabeth Hemming*
14. Ski Orienteering 2023 *by Erica Lejins*
17. Hiking in Kosciuszko National Park / Ngarigo Country in Summer -
Expressions of Interest *by Andrew and Jenny Cupit*
18. Internet Service at Jindabyne Lodge *by Jason Moore*
19. Back Country Skiing during XC Week *by Monika Binder*
24. Vale - Bern Brent.

Club Calendar

2023			
October	29	Post Season Picnic & Presentation 4.00 - 7.00pm	**Black Mt Peninsular
November	4/5	Work Party*	Jindabyne
	18/19	Work Party*	Mt Franklin
December	2/3	Work Party	Perisher
January	6/7	Weed Work Party*	Perisher
February	3/4	Work Party	Jindabyne
	10/11	Work Party*	Mt Franklin
	24/25	Work Party	Perisher
March	23/24	Work Party	Perisher
April	20/21	Work Party*	Mt Franklin
May	4/5	Work Party*	Jindabyne
	11/12	Weed Work Party*	Perisher

**Venue tbc - *Work Party tbc

The following members are responsible for organising work parties.

Perisher: Peter Richards, perisher_wp@cac.org.au

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Jindabyne: Peter Cunningham, jindabyne_wp@cac.org.au

Mt Franklin: Jenny McLeod, secretary@cac.org.au

O'Keefes Hut: Paul Oboohov,

***Copy deadline for the next issue: Thursday 16 November, 2023.
Please send your articles in Word, photos welcome (place at the end of a
paragraph or article.)***

Update your Contact Details to avoid Stressful Surprises

By Jenny McLeod, Secretary

To improve the security of the Club membership and booking system, we will be changing the way members log in.

Currently, to log in, you use your membership number and surname. The system will be updated so that instead, you use your membership number and a password to log in. This will improve the security of your personal details and Club information.

We expect to make this change in October. All members will be sent an email before-hand, with instructions on how to set your initial password. It is important that your contact details, especially your email address, are up to date, so that you receive these instructions and are able to set a password.

Please check your contact details now and ensure that they are up to date – and please ask your family members to check as well.

If your email address is not up to date in the system, you may be inconvenienced when you try to use the system. Prepare in advance to avoid stressful surprises.

Admin Officer's Hours

SHOULDER

Now until October Long Weekend

Mon & Fri – 9am to 1pm

Tue, Wed, Thurs – 1pm to 4.30pm

Sat – 9am to 10:30am

SUMMER 2023/24

Mon & Fri – 8:30am to 1:30pm

Tue, Wed, Thurs – 9am to 12noon (ish)

President's Precis

By Caroline Walker

With Winter now drawing to a close, I'd like to reflect on some of the season's highlights. While snow conditions may not have been as good as those experienced in the last few years, I know lots of members have still enjoyed a great time in the mountains. -Hats off to all the mountain staff for doing a great job keeping runs open to the greatest extent possible.

The 2023 Club race calendar has been full and I'd like to thank everyone who participated and helped make the events a success. Congratulations to all our 2023 Club Champions - Dave Hartwig, Sarah Brake, Natalia Campos Pascall, Alistair Court, Jennifer Bodell, Mateo Campos Pascall, Jemima Court, Tim Greville and Harriet Greville. Also well done to our 2023 Brumby Cup winners, Jet Lange and Jenny McLeod, and the winners of the parent-child trophy, Roger and Sarah Brake. The Club also congratulates all members who participated in interschools events in 2023 – with a shoutout to Harriet Greville, Jet Lange, Darcy Barlow, Asher Shepherd and Jemima Court who all achieved individual podium finishes at regional/state level.

The inaugural Canberra/Cooma Cup, based on the results from the Alpine Club Championships race, was a tie with each club winning four categories. Canberra won the 18+ female ski, 18+ male snowboard, 18+ female snowboard and U18 female snowboard with Cooma winning the 18+ male ski, U18 male ski, U18 female ski and u18 male snowboard. The results in the 2023 Balmain Cup were so close – with Canberra Alpine Club eventually placing second overall to Cooma, with Guthega third, Brindabella fourth and Tate fifth. A huge shoutout to the snowboard team of Val Guseli, Alistair Court, Jet Lange, Ric Guseli, Ali Guseli and Nina Lange who placed first. Congratulations again to all participants in these events and good luck to those representing the Club in the upcoming Perisher Cup. And many thanks to Club Captain Sarah Brake for all your efforts in promoting the Club races, encouraging participation and organising the teams – no easy feat!

This season's social events have also been a huge success with attendees thoroughly enjoying a Mediterranean Feast for the Brumby Cup dinner. A huge thank you to Cheryl Taylor for organising and to Lesley Miller, Tanya Mark and Jenny Cupit for all your help with the food prep. The Balmain Cup post-race function hosted by the Club was a fantastic night – massive thanks to Gavin Hearn, Kristine Cook, Louis Hearn and Jett Oh for the amazing food and to the many club members who helped serve the 100 or so attendees. We received so many compliments from the other clubs throughout the night – the bar has definitely been raised!

It's been great to see members wearing their new club merch around the lodges, including at the Balmain Cup – the various designs and colours look fantastic. Thanks again to Jeremy Lucas, Gina Quadraccia and Kel Heatley for your efforts in delivering these products to our members.

Updated by-laws will be released shortly, including next year's fees and charges and booking opening and cut off dates. I encourage everyone to familiarise themselves with the contents to avoid missing out on bookings. And to improve the security of the membership and booking system, we will shortly be introducing a password requirement – details on how to set up your password will be emailed to members in coming weeks so please ensure Vicki has your correct email address in the system.

The capital works subcommittee is aiming to deliver the proposed work for the Jindabyne lodge ahead of next Winter. We anticipate it will be necessary to close the lodge while the work is undertaken and will provide updates to members as soon as we know the affected dates.

And as our thoughts turn to summer, I'd like to invite members to save the date of the afternoon of Sunday 29 October for the post season presentations and picnic. Further details will follow closer to the time.

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

Race Results

By Sarah Brake, Club Captain

Club Championships: male ski winner was Dave Hartwig and female ski winner was Sarah Brake. Male SB winner was Alistair Court and female SB winner was Jennifer Bodell.

No male ski entrants. U18 female ski winner was Natalia Campos-Pascall. U18 male SB winner was Mateo Campos-Pascall and U18 female SB winner was Jemima Court.

Brumby Cup: winning pair was Jenny McLeod and Jet Lange. Parent-Child winner was Sarah Brake and Roger Brake.

Balmain Cup: second overall, fifth in slalom (didn't count), fourth in GS, first in snowboard and second in XC. ☐

Membership Fees

By Will Comensoli, Treasurer

The Committee will be publishing shortly the new rates for the various club fees and charges for the upcoming 2024 year.

As the treasurer of this wonderful club I wanted to take a moment to reflect on how lucky we were to survive financially through COVID, and benefit from member and guest demand for bed nights over the past few seasons. We now have a growing capital works fund for the Club to start budgeting for much needed capital works that are on the horizon, and a small cash reserve for any emergencies if required.

As we have all seen this season, the Club thrives when there is snow, but when there is no snow, things can get much harder to manage very quickly. The Club for the month of August saw negative cash flow, with bookings for the lodges diminishing. With reservations extremely low, and the threat of climate change on bookings becoming apparent for future seasons, we need to take some tough decisions as a club in order to firm up our financial viability into the long term.

The Committee has now set the fees and charges for 2024. Most rates and charges have increased by around 6% for the 2024 year, reflecting the general rate of CPI Inflation over the past 12 months. The Member subscription and Waitlist Subscription rates however have been increased around 30%, which is needed for the Club to be able to cover the increase in the cost of our insurance premiums annually.

To explain further the basis for this jump, the Club has had a significant increase in a number of key costs over the past few years most noticeably in insurance costs after the 2019 bushfires. Insurance costs were \$91,544 for the 2023 year (up from \$20,541 in 2019 pre bushfires/COVID). We saw in 2023 an increase of 24% on 2022 insurance premiums. We expect our insurance premiums for 2024 to increase again by 30%, this expectation is based on the latest valuations for the two lodges that we have just received which saw a substantial increase in asset valuations.

Historically, member subscription costs have generally brought in enough revenue for the Club to be able to cover a substantial portion of its fixed costs (not just insurance), such as admin wages, rates and rent. It is important for us to have clarity on our financial position before the ski season has begun to try and insulate ourselves for the varying seasons and snow quality that we can have.

Unfortunately, for the 2023 season our member subscription revenue was not even enough just to cover our insurance costs. On this basis, the Committee has decided to increase Member subscriptions by \$40 for 2024, from \$130 per member for 2023,

to \$170 per member for 2024. This increase is expected to cover for the increase in expected insurance costs for 2024.

It should also be noted that the Club will be undergoing some significant capital works over the next few years, starting with Jindabyne Cladding over the next year or so, and then looking to upgrade the Perisher lodge over the next few years. These will be significant costs to the Club.

If we cannot keep on top of our annual running costs, then the Club will find it increasingly difficult to put cash aside for these major capital works over coming seasons.

Key Data

Member subscription revenue for 2023 was \$77,794.93.

Our annual costs for key line items for 2023 and 2022 are as follows (I note 2023 year is not complete yet so may be subject to change):

Key Costs CAC	2023	2022
Insurance	91,544	73,960
Electricity	27,443	48,296
Rates	34,095	34,011
Rent	38,029	35,532
Water	18,541	6,175
Sewer	9,906	6,935
Wages	56,379	53,761
Super	6,045	5,610
Total	281,983	264,280

Vale - Stella McLaughlin

By Ross Smith

Last month we lost another significant member of the Club community when Stella McLaughlin passed away after a long illness. Stella will be remembered by many members as a super-efficient and fair-minded Administrative Booking Officer.

Stella was initially raised in London and came to Canberra with her family in her late teens when her father was posted to a consular position at the British High Commission. Subsequently she married Bruce and raised two sons, Peter (now

since passed) and Andrew. Although nominally a 'home maker' (to use the parlance of past times), Stella's interests extended outside the home to teaching what was formerly called 'elocution' – and she had a formidable command of correct English language usage and structure. Before she joined our community, she had performed a similar role with the Canberra Bridge Club for many years. She also maintained a near-fanatical interest in all of the forms of cricket – not merely watching/listening, but also performing the role of a remote scorer, it was best not to try and contact her out of hours whenever a match was in progress – no matter where in the world.

Stella's first contact with the Club was something of a false start – she applied for the Booking Officer position in the 1980s and was passed over. Happily, that (*mistak*) was overcome when she was appointed to the part-time position in April 1995. Whilst the position was nominally 'part-time', Stella made herself available to members on what was effectively a full-time basis during usual 'business hours' – she was available at all times to committee members.

The position which Stella came to had been reasonably settled for many years – busy periods for Perisher bookings and not so busy for Jindabyne. The bedroom configuration at both lodges then meant that room-sharing was accepted by all members. Unlike many lodges which have set arrival and departure dates, our Club has allowed flexibility to members in terms of numbers and dates and this situation has to be managed. The construction in 1999 of the bedroom wing at Perisher enabled couples and even 'singles' to book their own room – however, it posed many interesting booking issues for Stella, which she resolved all with ease. These additional complexities, and the other Club functions which Stella had taken on, led the committee to re-designate the position as 'Administrative Officer'.

Further change and complications came when the Club acquired the right to more bed licenses at Perisher and it became possible to accommodate up to 46 people each night (up from 34) – without additional bedrooms being added. Again, Stella rose to the occasion – as she did when the rebuilding of the Jindabyne lodge was finished in 2014 and became sought-after accommodation.

After providing sterling service to numerous committees, across 21 years and 11 different Club Presidents, Stella retired from her position in 2016 and moved with Bruce to a retirement village in Sydney near their son Andrew and his family. By this time her health was declining and sadly she was hospitalised on several occasions in her final years. This did not stop her continued informal contributions to the Club by continuing to proof read *Frozen Acres*.

Stella will be missed by her friends in the Club and remembered for the dedication to her role as well as the valuable contributions that she made across the years. □

Perisher Cross Country Week

By Gary Fry and Louise Rose

In summary Perisher Cross Country Week was great fun on ever diminishing snow land and with ever increasing ingenuity and determination shown by the organisers, guided by our very own Peter Cunningham.

We didn't get to every event and not every event was held, but we had a full and happy time. At least one of us is normally at the end of the pack, never in the peloton (if you have such a thing in x country races). At least one of us is generally fussing with rudimentary technique and seldom paying attention to the spectacle of great technique rushing past us. Sheer speed, skill and turbulence at times seemed to threaten to destabilise and catapult us into nearby heath and bog!

But let's go to conditions: Disappointing and distressing if you allow it! Everybody felt it, but nobody allowed it. Says something wonderful about cross-country ski crazies! No that's not right, we're not crazy, we just like skiing uphill. It's good for us like remembering to take our tablets. The snow conditions were awful and the camaraderie and determination were brilliant. Despairingly reducing snow by the minute (upside in a moment), ever diminishing track availability and increasingly treacherous variability from shade to light, from ice to grass with a bit of fluff in between.

The band of determined organisers who know every inch of our usually very good trail network including where the snow collects and, sadly, from where it disappears first, soon decided that to aim for a full week of skiable groomed race trails would be very silly. They brought races forward and managed to fit most into less days, they dragooned an army of shovelers and they worked very closely with the highly skilled groomer. The organisers and groomer must have been exhausted but maintained great spirits right until the end. And us racers had little time to catch our breath as we raced around the same few kilometres, most days, still loving it. There were lots of smiling faces and laughs.

And the days were (almost all) gorgeous, blue and warm, the perfect time to be out in the weather. And along with the magic worked with snow, came the team at the Nordic shelter and the Ski clubs, Sundeck, KAC and Marritz, who kept up a steady stream of gluhwein, craft beer, warming soups, gourmet hors d'oeuvres, and of course coffee, sparkly and homemade treats. A special note of appreciation goes to Geraldine who kept us all 'on track' and heading in the right direction. She was always ready to help those of us confused by where we should be or what was happening next, keeping kids (and others) fed with her team at the barbecue and making sure everybody was informed about conditions with her 5am emails, noting the starry nights.

A special shout out to two mystery coffee tours. These writers attended the first. We have been on coffee tours before but this was the first where our guide (John Sim) stopped, shared his expert knowledge, and pointed out special things, like vegetation changes and what the number on the poles means; which somebody knew! (Somebody else said that the number had saved his life, or his collarbone or something, by pin pointing his position and then in swooped the paramedics. One looked him over. She pronounced him alive).

The mystery coffee spot was nestled in snow gums which become luxuriously beautiful with Schnapps and champers - the coffee was sidelined - and after the schnapps we couldn't be sure what was in the home made brownies - but the paramedic from Orange, who became our friend, forwent them - on duty of course.

Special mention of Ski-O, an adventurous and intriguing highlight. Elsewhere Erica has written beautifully about the Ski-O. But we would just like to add, if the coffee tour was a mystery, the Ski-O was riddle wrapped in enigma and the most challenging way to rediscover the trails from an excess of different angles, sometimes on skis and sometimes with skis on shoulders. All with glimpses of a sun-glittered main range.

We'll be back, as long as our bodies let us!☐

Race results for Club members for the KAC

Name	Time	Overall place	Place – class
Harriet Greville	18:02.7	7 (1 st woman)	1
Tim Greville	20:06.7	12	5
Monika Binder	25:02.9	39	2
Bruce Barnett	27:35.6	44	12
Jenny McLeod	28:53.5	48	2
Garry Fry	52:04.9	119	7
Louise Rose	56:48.3	122	16

The full results are available at: alpinetiming.com.au/results/r410/

Brumby Cup Dinner

By Lisabeth Hemming

The calendar date was set, and Sarah sent out a final call for the 2023 Brumby Cup. Hosted at Blue Cow under overcast skies, the event brought together both seasoned racers and eager first-timers for a day filled with camaraderie and competition.

As the sun set, the festivities shifted from the racetrack to the dinner table, where a dedicated crew of fabulous club members had prepared a sumptuous feast. The Matildas' game was on the big screen while the members enjoyed chips n' dips, and as the game stretched into penalty shoot outs, the soup course was served. Celebrations ensued when the Matildas emerged victorious, adding an extra layer of jubilation to the evening. With spirits high, dinner was served, and became the perfect accompaniment to the animated conversations and shared laughter.



Caroline Walker and Leslie Miller.



Cheryl Taylor, Tanya Mark and Leslie.



Leslie, Jenny Cupit, Caroline and Cheryl



The event reached its zenith with the highly anticipated Awards Ceremony. Participants were recognised and applauded for their individual performances, and their random paired performances. As a first timer at this event, it highlighted the dedication and passion that makes the Brumby Cup a cherished tradition within the Club.

The 2023 Brumby Cup was not only a showcase of racing excellence of our members but also a wonderful opportunity for community and camaraderie. As the sun set on the day, it was evident that the Brumby Cup had once again cemented its place as a cherished event in our club's calendar.

See you there next year! ☐

Ski Orienteering 2023

By Erica Lejins

I was one of four club members who took the challenge and competed in the ACT & NSW Ski Orienteering (Ski-O) Championships on Sunday 13 August at the Perisher Cross Country Trails. The event is the only one of its kind held in the Southern Hemisphere. In contrast to last year's whiteout, the 2023 event occurred on a bluebird day, but with limited snow cover.

I arrived with an improvised map case (made from an empty plastic lentil bag left over from the Brumby Cup dinner), and borrowed skinny skis, boots and poles. This was my first cross-country ski race, since the Paddy Pallin Junior Classic in 1965!

With some foot orienteering experience and a little bit of earlier practice on the five kilometres cross country trail, I was confident I could complete the middle-distance course. This required me to sequentially find 10 electronic controls around a mapped course of about 5.5km (or 3.7km as the crow flies). Each control had a distinctive orange and white marker, which was easy to spot in the alpine landscape. An electronic timing device worn on my wrist (called an SI stick) would beep and record when I was within one and a half metres of each control, as well as my start and finish times.

The organisers reassured me that that the lack of snow did not matter as entrants could take their skis off and walk or run to controls if need be. The event attracted a very mixed field of participants, including a former Junior World Biathlon Champion, orienteers who had never skied, and those with no prior race experience in either discipline.

I managed to both start and finish the event on my skis but some of my fastest legs occurred when I went off the trail to walk directly between controls. I successfully finished the course in one hour and 34 minutes and was very pleased not to be disqualified. Other club members achieved podium finishes, with Jenny McLeod placing third in the Women's Long Distance, and Garry Fry placing third in the Men's Middle Distance.

The event was well supported by the Nordic Shelter and the ACT Orienteering Association with all participants looking forward to next year's Ski-O.

More information about orienteering in the ACT region can be found at act.orienteering.asn.au/.



Jenny McLeod



Hiking in Kosciuszko National Park / Ngarigo Country in Summer –

Expressions of Interest

By Andrew and Jenny Cupit

We are planning to have a hiking week in the Snowy Mountains next summer for five to seven days based at the Club's Perisher Lodge. This would be open to any Club member who is interested in going on guided walks in the National Park. We have previously submitted articles on the large variety of walks available (see *Frozen Acres* Feb 2021 and Jan 2023).

If you haven't walked these tracks during summer, we highly recommend it. Having our lodge with its hot showers and comfortable beds to stay in after doing a 20km day walk is a great benefit. At that time of the year, wildflowers are everywhere so the natural beauty of the area is on full display.

Participants would need to book their accommodation, self-cater food for themselves for the week (like you do in winter), drive themselves to the lodge and have suitable hiking gear. We are planning to have different graded walks each day for people to select based on their fitness and experience; from easy walks of a couple of kilometres to harder walks of around 20kms. The walks we could select are as follows:

- Rainbow Lake track
- The Lodge to Blue Cow
- Porcupine Rocks
- Sawpit Creek
- Mount Stilwell (could include some off-track walking up to the old Stilwell Restaurant and the old Stilwell ski fields)
- Munyang huts walk from Guthega Power Station
- Mount Twynam loop starting and ending at Charlotte Pass
- Mount Anton and Mount Tate circuit (from Guthega)
- The Main Range track walking to Mt Kosciuszko (from Charlotte Pass)
- Snowies Alpine Walk between Charlotte Pass and Guthega (one way).

We are members and walks leaders of the Brindabella Bushwalking Club and have been trained for navigation and safety (first aid) for bushwalking. We always carry a personal locator beacon, thermal blanket and a first aid kit.

We may organise a camp out for one night, if there is sufficient interest. It would involve carrying a pack with provisions and equipment for camping. For example,

Horse Camp Hut in Mungyang Valley could be a good site for those who have not camped before. For those who don't have suitable gear, they would need to borrow or hire kit. Those not interested in camping could still stay at the lodge that night.

We are seeking Expressions of Interest in attending this club event. Please email Andrew Cupit to express interest or for any questions – cupit@cac.org.au. ☐

Internet Service at Jindabyne Lodge

By Jason Moore

Most of you will be aware of the poor mobile voice and data service in Jindabyne. Mid-season the Club installed a broadband internet service to the Jindabyne lodge. This will allow the retirement of the 4G service for the bookings tablet and will make it easier for people who need to work there. You may also wish to enable 'wifi calling' on your phone if your carrier allows it (more reliable in Jindy than Telstra!). It was a welcome addition during the Soccer World Cup!

To connect to the service either use the QR code below, or connect with the SSID and password. If you have any difficulties, call me on 0417-663-598.

WIFI SSID -

CAC -

Password:1934Franklin. ☐



Backcountry Skiing during XC Ski Week

By Monika Binder

Having booked into the Jindabyne and Perisher lodges during this year's XC Ski Week, Bruce Barnett and I not only participated in a few of the races and other events that proceeded (despite the so-so snow cover on the Nordic trails), we also went backcountry on the blue-bird sunny days.

The first of our backcountry tours was a reconnaissance tour just after our check-in at the Perisher Lodge. We caught the train from Perisher to Blue Cow, skied as far as we could to the beginners' area above the terminal (Pony Ride), then stepped across the ski resort boundary and headed towards the western side of Back Perisher Mountain. We kept skiing till we hit a gully before Mt Perisher. The view across the Paralyser ridge to the Main Range was terrific. After we took in the view, we headed up to Mt P, but then veered to the Vista run which we used to take us back to Perisher Lodge. We saw that there was plenty of snow to go onto Paralyser, and aimed to do this later in the week.

Our second short tour was to ski up Rock Creek towards Porcupine Rocks on the snowshoe/XC ski trail. While we had to walk a kilometre or so from the Nordic Shelter beyond the lodges to the pondage, there was continuous snow most of the way to the Rocks until that stopped and we were left with sketchy snow leads and grassy patches to negotiate. We had views over the Thredbo Valley, Bullocks Flat and Lake Crackenback. We returned a slightly different way on the true right of Rock Creek till we reached the pondage once more.

The third tour occurred after a dump of snow of five to 10 centimetres and was a reprise of our first trip but went further to Paralyser trig (see photo page 23). This was a terrific day as we had fresh snow all the way. After crossing both branches of Farm Creek, we reached the trig to get some great 360-degree views. From the trig, we ventured across the tops towards a south-west facing ridge for a bit of a scout. We could see snow around Charlotte Pass, and that the road to Spencers Creek was clear. We returned via Mt Perisher itself and skied the Vista run back to Perisher Lodge.

Towards the end of XC Ski Week we had moved out of the Perisher Lodge into the Jindabyne Lodge. As Sunday was going to be a fine day, we opted for our final tour to be out of Guthega. We drove from the lodge at around 7.30am and, just beyond the Guthega turnoff at Sponars, a long queue of cars was already forming. On reaching the Guthega car park, we saw that there was plenty of snow cover up high on the main range and Guthega ridge. At this point we hadn't a clear idea of where we were going to go other than to ski up the Guthega trig/ridge towards the Rolling Ground and take a look around.



Magnificent snow gum near Mt Perisher



Bruce skiing from Consett Stephens Pass

As we started off, we found the conditions to be very icy, but our skis were sufficient to manage this. If the terrain was a lot steeper, we'd have required some kind of ski crampon as well! Once we got near the Rolling Ground we found that the north and eastern aspects were starting to soften but that the southern and western aspects still

remained pretty icy. As we were making good time, we decided to head to Mount Tate and so we 'skied' or rather ice-clattered our way down to Consett Stephen Pass - not a pleasant auditory experience. Once across the pass, we struck some softened snow. From there it was a straightforward uphill climb to Mount Tate where we ran into two other skiers on alpine touring equipment. After lunch, we opted to chance our way over to Gills Knob and head down to the bridge over Guthega Creek from there. The Gills Knob area is the site of a former ski run - you can still see remnants of the lift there - and it is usually a great downhill playground. But at 1.00pm, it was quite challenging with icy and crusty conditions up high, and heavy porridge down low. We were relieved to get to the bridge without incident. From there we could ski/walk to the Guthega dam wall and onto the car. It was a great day albeit in challenging conditions.



Bruce looking out to the back of Mt Perisher

It does not take much to get away from the noise and colour of the downhill ski resort - but it helps to have the right equipment and knowledge of where to go. For all these trips we were on backcountry touring skis - Bruce had his Madshus Epoch skis with Switchback telemark bindings and plastic Scarpa T4 boots, and I had Fischer SBound skis with lightweight Rottefella cable bindings and Fischer Goretex three pin boots. We also were equipped with other gear as well. If you're interested in adventurous tours such as to Mount Tate, I recommend checking out either Snowy Mountains Backcountry Tours or K7 Adventures.



Bruce Skiing around the creek behind back Perisher



Bruce at MtTate



Monika at the Paralyser Trig. □

Vale - Bern Brent

The Club extends its sincere sympathy to the family of Bern Brent, who passed away in early September.

Bern arrived in Australia in 1940 on the HMT *Dunera*, and remained here after the conclusion of World War Two. He joined Canberra Alpine Club in 1970, and was Secretary in 1977. While he ceased his membership in 2010, he was then an Associated Ex-Member until 2021.

Our sincere condolences to Jo and Peter, Bern's children who are also Club members, and to all Bern's family as they mourn his loss.

From Jo Brent

Hello friends, very sorry to let you know that Bern died on Thursday 7 from a heart attack at home. We had just come back from a trip to Melbourne where he had a very special night with the family of Peter Danby, dad's dear friend that was on the *Dunera* with him. We are very sad and quite shocked - of course we shouldn't be but we'd convinced ourselves Bern was unbreakable. Most importantly, we are very, very grateful that Bern got the ending he wanted - going out close to the top, still living in the family home with no pain or illness and remarkable independence for a centenarian.



Bern at Eyre Cafe. March 2021 ☐

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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Copy deadline for next issue: 16 November 2023.

Please email your articles, letters (in Word) and photographs or other material to: ***editor@cac.org.au***. Photographs need to be placed at the end of a paragraph or article, not alongside the text.

Frozen Acres is published online 5 to 8 days after each deadline and sent out by post a few days later to those members who have requested a hard copy.

If undeliverable, return to

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GPO Box 27,
CANBERRA ACT 2601**

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