FROZEN ACRES

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FROZEN ACRES

Journal of the Canberra Alpine Club Inc.
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Editorial

Winter is just around the corner, and Canberra Alpine Club members are gearing up for an exciting snow season! Thanks to everyone who helped prepare the lodges during our recent work parties. As the first flakes start to fall, we want to hear all about your early winter adventures—send us your stories and photos from your first trips of 2026!

A big thank you to Nola Charkos for her work as one of the editors of Frozen Acres, Nola is stepping across to the role of School Holiday Week coordinator. And a warm welcome to Hazel Gidley into the role of co-editor.

Frozen Acres Contributions

Copy deadline for next issue: 19 July 2026
Maximum article length: 400 words (images welcome too!)
Please send articles (in Word) and images to: editor@cac.org.au
Content may be edited for length and style.
Please note, while AI can support your writing, relying on it too heavily will make Frozen Acres feel flat and impersonal. Please use sparingly (or not at all).

Admin Officer's Hours 2026

Winter Hours (May - August)
Mon to Fri: Midday - 4 pm
Email is preferred

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Club Calendar

June	6-8	Opening weekend	Perisher / Thredbo
July	5 - 11 / 12 - 18 25	July School Holidays Weeks CAC Cooma Championship (Cooma hosting)	Perisher Perisher
August	8 22 29 (TBC)	Snowy Mountains Classic (XC) Brumby Cup and Dinner Balmain Cup	Perisher Perisher Perisher
September	12	Perisher Cup	Perisher

See the website for full event descriptions

President's Precis

By Jeremy Lucas

As we welcome the start of another winter season, it's pleasing to see strong demand for Club bookings across the coming months. Members are reminded of the upcoming Peak Music Festival 5-8 June long weekend at Perisher. The program features artists performing at major venues across Perisher including, The Man, Sundeck, Eiger, Corroboree, Perisher Centre, Skitube Terminal and Smiggins Hotel.

Our School Holiday Weeks continue to be extremely popular this year, providing a fantastic opportunity for members, families, and guests to enjoy the unique atmosphere of a fully catered Club experience together.

The winter season began on a high note with our recent pre-season social gathering at the Kingston Hotel. It was especially nice to see strong attendance from both new and longstanding members all sharing their enthusiasm for winter sports, travel experiences, and preparations for the season ahead. A sincere thank you to Lis Hemming for organising such an enjoyable afternoon.

Preparations for winter are now complete following our final pre-season work party. I have been particularly impressed by the ongoing enhancements made to both lodges over the summer months, which will further improve the member experience. On behalf of the Club, thank you to everyone who generously contributed their time, skills and effort.

It has been wonderful to see members and guests continuing to enjoy the lodges during the summer period, alongside increasing interest from our Summer Associates. The Club's 'One Membership, Endless Possibilities' spirit is evident in the many ways our facilities can be enjoyed throughout

the year.

Recruitment for our new Admin Officer is progressing well, with more than 300 applications received. Applications have now been shortlisted with interviews commencing shortly. I would like to sincerely thank Kate Chalmers for her significant contribution and support in the role over the past six months.

I'm also pleased to welcome Hazel Gidley as our new co-editor of Frozen Acres, working alongside Jenni Bodell. Hazel brings strong communications and marketing experience, and we look forward to her contribution to the Club.

I look forward to catching up with many of you over the winter season. Stay safe,

Jeremy

Welcomes

Welcome Elizabeth Barrett, Ella Fisher, Ian McConville and Elizabeth McCutchan to the waitlist.

Mount Franklin Work Party – 18 April

By Hazel Gidley-Webb

As a brand new 'waiter' the Mount Franklin work party was our first foray into the CAC-world – and we couldn't have wished for a better introduction to the club, its history and its members.

We started off with a good old cuppa as we did introductions and a quick briefing where we learnt all about heading across the border.
Jenny gave us a great history of the club at Mount Franklin and brought the former lodge and its ski fields to life with her anecdotes. For those yet to visit Mount Franklin there's a fun game of 'spot the CAC member' on the information boards.

Guided tour over, it was time to get to work for the Open Day. We set about ridding the clearing of any weeds and snow gum saplings; chopping wood for the fire and clearing dead trees.

After lunch we set about clearing the trail to Mount Franklin. As we made our way slowly up the hill we all tackled different areas and growth with

our varied tools. There were many enthusiastic calls of "*mattock*" to the two people with mattocks…as the rest of us set about lopping as close to the root ball as we could. The kids were great weed and sapling spotters and they also learned how to identify alpine pepper (tastes exactly as you'd imagine it would).

On route up there was enough time for a Mars bar break and a look back at the incredible view that the skiers coming down from the wood run would have enjoyed.

We also saw the famous Austin A40 — a car the once doubled as a lift and is now being slowly reclaimed by the elements. It was very much a reminder of the ingenuity and spirit of those early CAC members and Mount Franklin's unusual history.

After a descent back towards the hut, those members staying overnight to help with the Heritage Open Day started pulling out their tents for a night camping in a spot that no one else is allowed to camp in. What an absolute privilege to be guardians of this unique ski history.

On the journey back to Canberra, it was hard not to imagine how challenging those long dirt roads would have been in winter, buried under snow, with cars a long way from our comfy 4x4s.

As a newbie, this work party was a particularly special introduction to the club. The atmosphere was warm, welcoming, and inspiring.

A Warm Start to the 2026 Snow Season

By Lis Hemmings

The recent CAC Pre-Season event at the Kingston Hotel was wonderfully attended this year; perhaps a positive sign for the upcoming ski season too! Thank you to everyone who came along to chat, reconnect, and share stories ahead of winter.

It was fantastic to see such a great mix of members in attendance, from long-term CAC members, including one member who shared with me the story of joining the club back in 1976, through to waitlisters and Summer Associate members. It was especially lovely hearing people share memories and experiences from both lodges over the years.

From the conversations throughout the evening, it also sounds like there is enthusiasm for some additional summer social events, including mountain biking and fishing. If you have skills or experience in these areas and would be interested in hosting, providing tips, or simply participating, please reach out to either Jeremy or me.

The Kingston Hotel was a warm and welcoming venue for our traditional Pre-Season gathering. With only a few sleeps until the 2026 snow season opens, I wish everyone a healthy, happy, and snow-filled winter season ahead.

Upcoming Social events

Come join us for the following social activities. Grab a guest or friend and if attending, send an RSVP to social@cac.org.au

Saturday July 25th @ Cooma Lodge
Celebrate the CAC Cooma Championships

CANBERRA ALPINE CLUB
EST. 1934

Social Convenor
E: social@cac.org.au

Race Training Opportunity at Perisher

New for this year, a Guthega Ski Club initiative, CAC members and other Perisher based Ski clubs are invited to participate in race training in preparation for their club races or interschools races.

Sessions will be two hours long, conducted on a dedicated race-course on Front Valley with Perisher Winter Sports Club instructors providing tips and feedback.

These sessions will be run on the 7th, 11th or 18th of July from 6.30pm - 8.30 pm. Cost and dates to be confirmed – further information will come through SkiMail.

Perisher Work Party – May 2026

By Ian McConville

The fourth, final, and perhaps most coveted, Perisher work party in the pre-season calendar was held on the weekend of 2-3 May, ably led by Ross Taylor and Amanda East.

Nearly everyone was in place on Friday evening, and a convivial ice breaker "post dinner" refreshment session was enjoyed by all that night, including a handful of prospective and keen new members. Discussion veered to past ski adventures and exploits, and some pundits even speculated on the approaching snowy cold front (possibly two days away, maybe a week away, or perhaps next month). No matter, there was definitely an anticipation of the forthcoming ski season.

With eggs and bacon sizzling away at 0830 am on Saturday morning, we were all fired up for a productive day of activity. Our spirits were lifted by the presence of our venerated President who got the coffee maker going before heading out into gathering clouds and disappeared over the ridge. It was then up to Ross (ably supported by Cheryl) to brief us on the weekend's program and allocate tasks according to our abilities (unknown, non-existent, or otherwise).

Some of us were soon engaged in re flooring the entry and drying room area with skill and artistry (Heather and Lizzie); while others brandished dusters and termite paint to ensure our smoke detectors were better behaved than in years gone by (Sam and Ian). The professional painting team (Cheryl, Femke, Lilah and Oliver) was

despatched in all directions, downstairs, upstairs and outside, and looked very relieved that the weather had cooperated for the occasion. Dave was entrusted with onerous and serious duties as he was wearing a face mask and carrying power tools, while Chris was hard at it juggling lots of light bulbs in his hand and disappearing down dark corridors.

Perhaps the most intricate of all tasks was the dismantling, resetting and reconstituting the door lock. This job was reserved for someone with prior experience, a steady hand, and sound judgement. That Ross gave this task to his erstwhile colleague and fellow pilot, James, was a clever decision unanimously supported by the rest of us. This was all the more impressive as James had only flown into Jindabyne in his own plane at sparrows on the same day.

The capable kitchen cleaning team was spearheaded by the ever-experienced Leonie/Marg/ Jenny / Tanya – and ably supported by our young mascots, Sebastian and Isabella who contributed enthusiastically, and with flair. Finally, some commendable landscaping

and weeding was completed by strongman Warwick, who appeared indefatigable – seemingly toiling through the afternoon on Saturday and then more early morning on Sunday when most of us were still recovering from our heroics of the previous day.

As always, the highlight of the day was the morning and afternoon teas – consisting of scrumptious chocolate and lemon slice fudge slices (rumoured to include real mars bars) which Cheryl had whipped up in preceding days.

With our demanding, but fair, work party leaders evidently satisfied that we had earned one hour of recreation on Saturday, a small contingent beat our way up the local ridge late afternoon under the watchful eye of local bushman, Dave. The mission was evidently a success, as we had soon summitted and enjoyed glorious views of Townsend, Kosciusko (for those that could recognise the indent on the horizon) and Carruthers. This also enabled newbies in the party to get our bearings and to really ratchet up the appetite for the forthcoming gala dinner.

The Saturday evening feast was a sight to behold, and immediately we all reassured ourselves that this was like a normal ski day, and that we were ravenous. And with the north westerly picking up outside, and a few glasses of red on the table, it definitely felt like we were “in season”. Kudos to all the chefs – and a shout out to the meal planners for ensuring a generous spread of delicious entrees, mains, salads and desserts were enjoyed by work party participants.

Sunday was a wrap up day, with plenty of polishing, cleaning, and for the anointed few, the privilege of re-varnishing the lounge wooden chairs.

A special shout out to Ross and Amanda for organising a hugely productive work party – as well as introducing the handful of newcomers to the values and special spirit of the Canberra Alpine Club.
Their encouragement, knowledge of the Club and its functioning, as well as enthusiasm, made us all feel welcome and keen to be part of such a special community!

Dearest Gentle Reader,

Intrepid snow folk beware; changes are afoot. I have it on great authority that our beloved Mid-Station has been acquired anew. After 30 plus years of supporting our fellow ton, this bastion of mountain heritage has changed hands. A new owner has been 'unvailed' to sustain the ton on their yearly sojourn to the snow. Gentle readers be warned, where once a trinket store dwelled to tempt your pennies it is rumoured a candy filled corner will appear.

Should you wish to be seen this season, then this author recommends you make an appearance at mid-station to sample the sugar filled wares. I certainly will be!

Yours truly,

Lady Flurry-down

By Isabella Bodell

(Rumours based on a chat with the builders at mid stations during the May work party! But I hope they are true….)

Club Publications

Available on request

- Club constitution
- Club by-laws
- Membership application forms
- Applicant's information sheet
- Guides for lodge users during off-peak season
- Bedding plans for each lodge

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 on request.

If undeliverable, return to

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