

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF IN-
TEREST:**

October Lodge
Weekend — 20-21
October 2018 —
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2018, ISSUE 6

10TH OCTOBER 2018

President's Piece

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For the first time in months the heater is turned off at home and I haven't had to put on a jacket when popping outside for lunch. Spring is definitely here and summer is not far behind. It has been a great ski season and I'm sure many of us will be sad to see it go. However,

it's not all over yet. We have our popular October lodge weekend on 19-21 October and with a lot of snow lingering up high it is sure to be a good one. There are still vacancies so check this newsletter and the club website for details. Late spring is a great time to ex-

plore the highest peaks with long days and warmer weather. Check out the tour program for some spring fun.

The club's annual general meeting was held on 26 September.



Gale Funston, Margaret Baz, Alan Levy, Bill Stanhope, David Drohan and Claire Sim. We have just finished lunch and are about to head down, back to Dead Horse Gap. On a CCCSC tour from Dead Horse Gap to Rams Head, 23/9/2018.

Photographer: Ken Moylan

2018 Membership Subscriptions

Membership Subscriptions for the 2018 season are now due, and can be paid on Register Now or via the Club website.

November Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for articles for the November 2018 Off-Piste is 2nd November 2018.

President's Piece (cont'd)

I had the honour of being elected President for a third term (also my final term according to the club's constitution). Most of last year's committee have also renominated, with some minor changes. Our Newsletter editor, Tony Brown, is leaving the committee and will be missed. He has produced a very high calibre newsletter

over the last few years, and several members have commented to me on how much they enjoy reading it. Thanks Tony! Alan Levy will take over as newsletter editor and Ken Moylan joins the committee as the new touring coordinator. We still have a few vacancies on the committee – vice president, social meetings coordinator and training/lessons

coordinator. Please contact me or another committee member if you are interested in any of these roles.

Enjoy what's left of the skiing!

Jo-Anne Clancy
President

Ski and Snow Photos



Snowgum near the Paralyser Gap, with Betts Creek valley in the distance. 21 Sept 2018.

Photographer: Alan Levy



**Alan Levy, Bill Stanhope, John Gi-
acon and Penny Rossiter on the way
to Four Mile Hut, 4/8/2018.**

Photographer: Tony Brown

October Lodge Weekend

We were recently advised by the Southern Alps Ski Club that their lodge at Charlotte Pass will now be closed during October and November for maintenance/remedial work. We have therefore had to change the venue for the lodge weekend and have arranged alternate accommodation in Charlotte Pass at the Pygmy Possum Ski Lodge, which is located close to the Southern Alps lodge.

The Pygmy Possum lodge is owned by the Elouera Ski Club and holds up to 54 people. Most rooms are for two people (two singles or one double) but there are four rooms containing 3 or 4 beds. As non-members, we can stay at this lodge by booking in as a Guest. The cost for a Guest (non-member of the Elouera Ski Club) is \$60 per night for an adult and \$27 for a child. **People who have already booked for the lodge weekend at the Southern Alps lodge on Register Now will be reimbursed and will need to rebook again as per below.**

The Club can't do a bulk booking so anyone intending to come along to our lodge weekend at Pygmy Possum Lodge will need to make their own bookings directly via the Elouera Ski Club website <http://www.elouerskiclub.asn.au>

Some helpful hints for making a booking:

- Select the 'Pygmy Possum Ski Lodge' drop down menu.
- Select the 'Booking

Rates, Availability, Make a Booking' page.

- Click on the 'Online Form' button in the 'Make a Booking' section.

- At the bottom middle of the Booking Form Cover Sheet, you will need to quote our four digit Booking Id number, which is **2392**. (This Booking Id number links all our bookings together for our group and enables the organiser to see who is coming along and to help assign the rooms).

- In the Booking Form, if staying two nights select '19 Oct 18' for arrival date and '21 Oct 18' for departure date, select the bed choice (Single, Double, Queen), Privilege Level = Guest, and Single Supplement = No, for each person.

- Preview the completed Form, which now shows the cost, and if happy, press Submit.

- After submitting the completed form, the next page (Booking Form Web Response) will show the BPay details near the bottom of the page. The details on this page will also be sent to you by email.

- Once the Booking Officer receives the form and responds accepting the

booking, then payment can be made.

BPay is the preferred and easiest payment method. Payment by credit card and cheque is also available but requires the form to be printed put and posted to the booking officer.

Closer to the date a room allocation sheet will be provided showing who will be in each room. Further details of the lodge can be found at the following page:

<http://www.elouerskiclub.asn.au/lodges/PygmyPossum/facilities/>

This is always a popular weekend, with Club ski tours held around Charlotte Pass or on the Main Range on the Saturday and Sunday. At present there is a deep cover of snow on the Main Range, so there should be good skiing during October. People will need to bring along food, linen and towels for the weekend. The intention is to have a community dinner on the Saturday evening where people bring along an entree, main course or dessert to share with others.

This information is also available on the Events page of the club's website.

Trip Report – Tate West Ridge – Saturday 22 September 2018

Eight of us (Tim Wright, Dave Drohan, Melinda Brouwer, Ken Moylan, Gale Funston, Robin Collins, Bill Stanhope and myself) met at the carpark at Guthega at 9:20 am on the Saturday. The Main Range had a very good cover of snow for this time of the year.

From the carpark we skied down the road to the dam wall, walked across the dam, then put our skis on again to begin the long climb up the ridge to Guthega Trig. It was a sunny day but with some high cloud and a cold wind. In the shelter of the ridge it was quite warm when climbing the slopes. After 50 minutes of climbing we arrived at some rocks and bushes at the top of the slope which provided a good place for morning tea. From here we had great views across to Perisher and Blue Cow and further south along the Snowy River valley towards Kosciuszko. Robin and Melinda also couldn't resist practising their turns on the slopes whilst the rest of us rested and con-

sumed food and drink.

From Guthega Trig we skied along the top of the ridge which was exposed to the cold wind and had some grassy patches which we had to walk across. Once at the very top we then had a good ski traversing the slopes across to Consett Stephens Pass. Whilst here we caught up with Peter Ward, John Sim, Claire Sim and Arnold de Bras who were having lunch whilst on their way to Mt Tate and beyond. From Consett Stephens Pass we dropped briefly into the Windy Creek valley then headed further west out to the end of Tate West Ridge, arriving around 12:45pm.

This is a very spectacular location with views of Mt Tate, Mt Twynam and Watsons Crag, and Mt Bogong in Victoria in the distance. We spent about one hour here having lunch, enjoying the views and practising on the fantastic slopes of the western faces which seemed to drop below us for-

ever. Dave left us to explore the northern sections of Tate West Ridge before catching up with us later on our return journey.

We left about 2pm and re-traced our route back to Consett Stephens Pass then further east to the top of the Falls Creek gully. From here we had a long gradual descent down the ridge on soft, easy snow all the way back to the dam wall, arriving at the bottom around 3:30pm. This descent can be tricky at times if the snow is icy or crusty but this was one of the quickest and easiest descents I have had here. To end the day we then had to ski up the road to the carpark at Guthega. Six of us then stayed overnight at Kalkite before doing Ken's tour the following day. A great trip, and a great weekend of spring skiing.

Alan Levy



Crossing the dam wall at Guthega before the climb up to Guthega Trig.

***Photographer:
Alan Levy***

Trip Report – Tate West Ridge – Saturday 22 September 2018 (cont'd)



Bill Stanhope, Gale Funston, Dave Drohan, Melinda Brouwer and Robin Collins having lunch on Tate West Ridge.

Photographer: Alan Levy



Dave Drohan on Tate West Ridge, with Watsons Crags in the background.

Photographer: Alan Levy

Trip Report—Dead Horse Gap to Rams Head—23 September 2018

On Sunday, 23 September 2018, Ken Moylan lead Alan Levy, Bill Stanhope, Claire Sim, David Drohan, Gale Funston, Margaret Baz, and Melinda Brouwer on a ski tour from Dead Horse Gap to Rams Head Peak and back.

Route

Starting at the upper car park at Dead Horse Gap, we climbed straight up through the thick timber, roughly North East, picking our way as best we could.

Skins came off when the way through the trees became easier.

Near the tree-line, we veered right, roughly North, until we reached a flat below Rams Head.

Along the way, a tempting hill presented itself and we had a little play on it.

Surprisingly, there was still enough snow to climb & ski along the Western side of a knoll to get to the Rams Head.

We bagged the peak and lunched in the shelter of a nearby rock.

Clouds were coming in and visibility was going out.

That, and the weariness of the tour leader (it was his third day in a row of hard skiing), prompted the return.

Claire suggested we follow the walking track that goes down the ridge on the Eastern side of Bogong Creek and ends at the lower carpark.

It was a lot of fun, skiing through glades and roller coasters.

(The last 50m vertical shall not be mentioned.)

Finally, we stopped just short of the Thredbo River, where the snow ran out.

Best Bits

The views

We could see snow on the Victorian peaks, including Mt Bogong and the high plains near Falls Creek. The valleys of Leather Barrel Creek and upper Thredbo River clearly showed themselves.

The run down the Bogong Creek walking trail

The snow was easy and forgiving enough for us to hoon down,

going from glade to glade, trying to cope with the occasional roller coasters.

The snow

It was surprisingly deep for a tour in late September.

Worst Bits

The weather coming in and clouding the surrounding high points

This concern about the cloud lowering and making everything very white worried the leader enough to put off reaching North Rams Head for a safer day.

Wax of the Day

Most of the party used skins for the first part of the climb, roughly 200m.

Swix Nero Klister worked well all day, from the base to the top and back down.

At times the skis felt a bit grabby, but all members of the party felt the same, so it must have been the snow.

Ken Moylan



Claire Sim paralleling down the hill.

Photographer: Ken Moylan

Trip Report—Dead Horse Gap to Rams Head—23 September 2018 (cont'd)



Alan Levy, Bill Stanhope and Melinda Brouwer.

After completing the hardest part of the climb up from Dead Horse Gap.

Photographer: Ken Moylan

Melinda Brouwer telemarking down the hill.

Photographer: Ken Moylan



Bill Stanhope telemarking down the hill.

Photographer: Ken Moylan



Trip Report—Charlotte Pass — Mount Townsend — The Racecourse — Lake Albina—Thursday 20 September 2018

Participants: Stephen Davies (Photos, Report), Sue Davies and 22 others!

Today a mixed ability group in excess of twenty people, led again by Colin Ridley, set out in an attempt to summit Mount Townsend. Along with our NSW Nordic Ski Club group we had visitors from Victoria, South Australia and Queensland. Sue and I left separately a couple of minutes earlier, heading further up Kosciuszko Road than the main group to take some panoramas of the Main Range.

After traversing the resort's downhill runs Sue and I followed the route of Kosciuszko Road several kilometres past where the main group departed towards the Snowy River. Along the way we enjoyed the cool clear air, bright blue skies and fantastic panoramas to our west. Heading "off track" before Etheridge Ridge towards Muellers Pass presented us with a fantastic panorama of Muellers Peak and Mount Clarke with all of our main group snaking their way towards a morning tea break below Muellers Pass.

After a short break Sue and I were off again up Muellers Pass where the snow was softening nicely, it was oh so tempting to take a run back down but we pressed on. Deciding to try to conserve energy doesn't always work as planned! In traversing the south slopes of Muellers Peak in an effort to avoid losing height that we would have to regain later, we found our-

selves crossing a very hard refrozen surface which in places barely managed to take an edge. A slip here would have resulted in a long painful slide and at least a few bumps and bruises. Fortunately, not everyone followed this route but descended from Muellers Pass and climbed more directly up Mount Townsend from lower in the valley.

Approaching Mount Townsend it was becoming colder and cloudier so we continued to the summit without delay. After enjoying the views and taking more photos we were back off the summit for a quick sit down and munch on a sandwich.

As we were getting cold we collected Stephen Poole, Margaret and Helen before heading east to look at our options down towards Lake Albina. We certainly noted how cold it had become, as the snow was refreezing below our skis as we went. After a little deliberation we opted on The Racecourse down to Lake Albina. We all enjoyed a great run, even if we were quite tentative with many of our telemarks due to the patchiness of the snow refreeze.

After our climb up to Northcote Pass we mutually agreed that the planned Mount Northcote, Mount Clarke ridge route home would be abandoned. Considering the cold wind and hard cover we favoured getting a great ski down into the valley towards Club Lake Creek in the morning sun softened north-east face of Mount Northcote. Such is life,

you can only dream, our reality today was different as the drop in temperature had already taken effect in starting to freeze the surface snow. This resulted in another challenging descent, the only real winners being the elements and Stephen on his AT gear.

Once down to the creek we moved very quickly on the slippery surface and in next to no time were on the pole line. Back near Foreman's ruin I left the group and headed the Snowy River a short distance for a look before crossing a snow bridge and climbing to Charlotte Pass. Another short climb from here had me at the top of Pulpit T-Bar for a great final run back to the lodge on the groomed slopes.

The rest of the main group returned by a couple of different routes. Some descended via The Racecourse before following Lady Northcotes Creek directly upon to pass at its head and returning via the Snowy River. The main party returned via the same route they had come. I believe everyone ended reaching the summit of Mount Townsend and those had tried and failed in previous years were very satisfied with their day and thankful to Colin for his encouragement and support. A very satisfying and a times challenging day was had by all.

Ken Moylan

Trip Report—Charlotte Pass — Mount Townsend — The Racecourse — Lake Albina—Thursday 20 September 2018 (cont'd)



View north from Mount Townsend.

Photographer: Stephen Davies



Sue Davies skiing down the racecourse.

Photographer: Stephen Davies

Ski and Snow Photos (cont'd)



Alan Levy, Bill Stanhope, Penny Rossiter and John Giacon taking a break for some lunch inside Four Mile Hut, 4 August 2018. Photographer: Tony Brown



Sunset at South Ramshead on 17 August 2018. Photographer: Tony Brown



Just some rocks between South Ramshead and Bogong Creek. 12 August 2018. Photographer: Tony Brown



Hard life for a snow gum, covered in ice and snow on a ridge between South Ramshead and Bogong Creek. 12 August 2018. Photographer: Tony Brown

Ski Tour Gratings

It is important that tour participants ensure that their abilities match the skill levels required by the tour – a description of the Terrain, Distance and Skill Level descriptors is provided below and under Ski Tour Grading on the club's web-site.

TERRAIN

Rolling — Flat to gently rolling hills, no big hills to climb or descend. There may be some steep sections but these will be short and easy to negotiate.

Hilly — Large rounded hills requiring several turns to descend but not technically difficult. There may be some steep sections but these will be short and easy to negotiate.

Steep — Steep skiable hills including black runs at resorts, cornices and chutes. Technically difficult slopes to descend.

DISTANCE

Short — Under 8km/day and < 200m vertical climb. A moderate level of fitness is required.

Medium — 8km to 15km/day OR 200m to 600m vertical climb. A moderate level of fitness is required.

Long — Over 15km/day OR > 600m vertical climb. A high level of fitness is required.

SKILL LEVELS

Basic — Can maintain control and perform the following skills on gentle terrain: kick turns, snow plough, side step, herring-bone, traverse and diagonal stride.

Intermediate — Can maintain control and perform the following skills on hilly terrain: kick turns, snow plough turns, step turns, side slip, side step, herringbone, traverse, diagonal stride and self arrest.

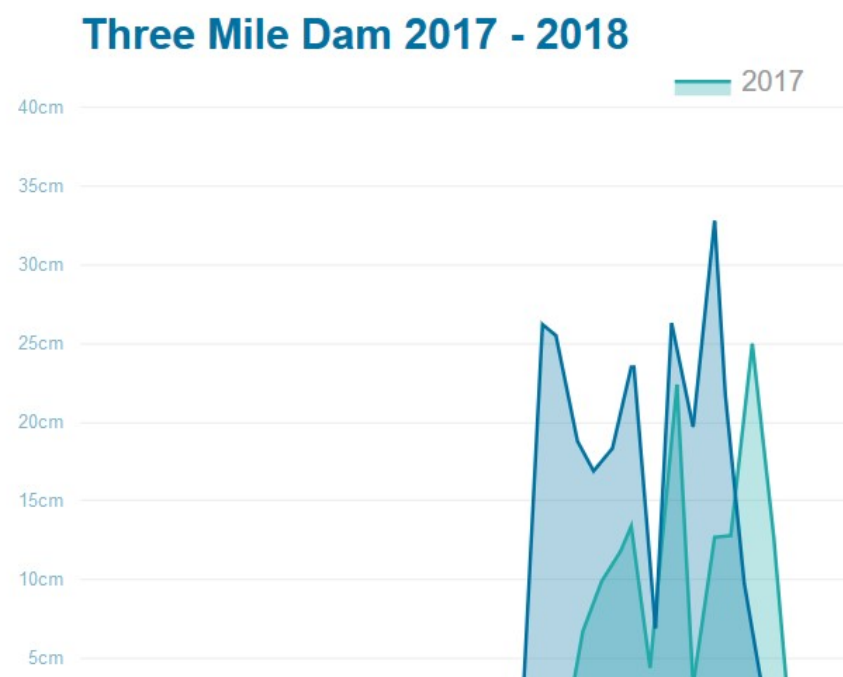
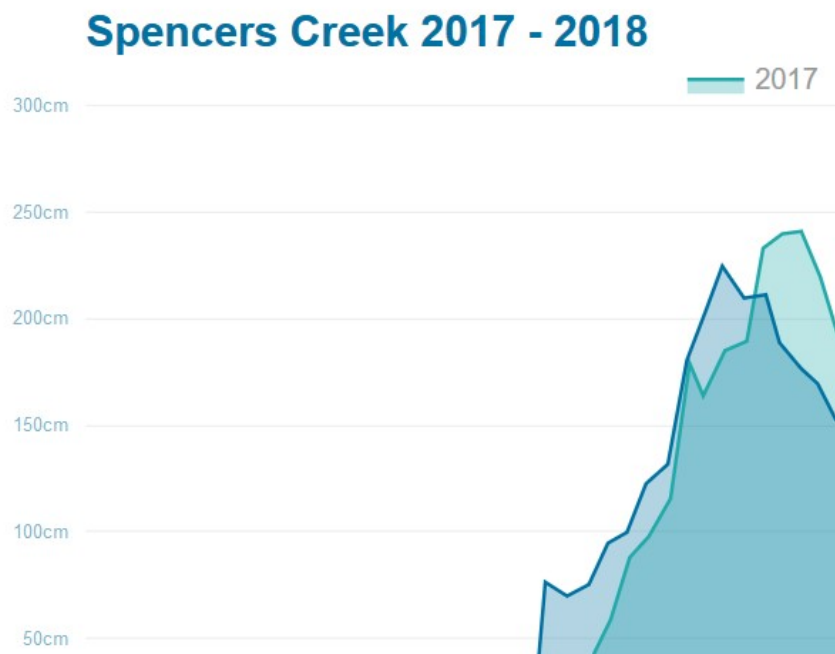
Advanced — Can maintain pace over long distances. Has intermediate skills plus able to link stem, parallel or telemark turns.



Ski Tour Program 2018

Date	Tour Description	Leader
	Additional tours will be advertised in future editions of Off-Piste, at the Social Meetings and on the web site. The web site will be updated with any new tours as soon as they are advised.	
Thursday to Thursday, 4 to 11 October	A Week on Top (near Mount Twynam?) Advanced Skills Hilly Terrain Medium Distance A snow camping / photographic / telemarking adventure on top of the Main Range, probably near based Mount Twynam.	SD
Friday 12 to Wednesday 24 October	Main Range Camping Medium to Advanced Skills Hilly Terrain Medium Distance Basecamp snow camping / touring / telemarking / photographic adventure anywhere on remaining snow in the Main Range area or beyond, suggestions welcome. An extremely flexible trip venturing into the mountains as conditions suit, otherwise car camping in Kosciuszko NP or staying at Christina Lodge in Thredbo if needed and available. I can send a map of my campsite location if you'd like to visit or join me for however long you like.	SD
Saturday, 13 October	Ramshead Plateau Basic-Intermediate Skills Rolling Terrain Medium Distance From Thredbo catch the chairlift to the top of Crackenback and head out towards Mt Kosciuszko and around the Ramshead Plateau. A fairly easy ski with great views of the Main Range.	AL
Various dates through October & November	Main Range Spring Campaign Basic-Intermediate, Medium to Long, Rolling. I want to run a series of day tours from Charlotte Pass to various destinations on the Main Range. They will start when the road to Charlotte Pass is open. Destinations include: * Little Austria & Lake Albina; * Rawson's Pass & Snowy River (North Arm & South Arm); * Blue Lake; * Club Lake; * Watson's Crags & The Sentinel. Please contact me if you are interested in any of these trips.	KM
Friday 19th to Sunday 21 st October	Lodge Weekend at Charlotte Pass The Club will hold an end of season lodge weekend for members at Charlotte Pass in mid-October at the Pygmy Possum Lodge. Tours of various standards will be conducted on the Main Range or around Charlotte Pass on the weekend. Further details about the weekend and how to book in are provided elsewhere in this newsletter and on the Events page on the Club website.	
Saturday, 3 November	Mt Townsend Visit Intermediate Skills Rolling Terrain Long Distance From top of Thredbo, head past Mt Kosciuszko to stand atop Mt Townsend. Return via Wilkinson's Valley. This is the weekend of the Snowy Ride, so I expect that the chairlift will run later in the afternoon and we won't have to walk down.	KM

Snowy Hydro Snow Depth—6 October 2018





Business Name

PO Box 6234, O'Connor ACT 2602

Web: www.cccsc.asn.au

Email: cccscinfo@gmail.com

**Fun and fitness
in the snow**

Club Committee Contacts

Position	Name	Email	Phone
President	Jo-Anne Clancy	cccscpresident@gmail.com	
Vice President	Ian Turland	cccscvicepresident@gmail.com	
Secretary	Greg Lawrence	cccscsecretary@gmail.com	
Treasurer	Paul Room	cccsc treasurer@gmail.com	
Membership Secretary	Gale Funston / Niboddhri Ward	cccscinfo@gmail.com	
Tour Coordinator	Alan Levy	cccsc tours@gmail.com	
Kosciusko Tour Coordinator	Rowan Christie	cccsc racing@gmail.com	
Meeting Coordinator	Vacant	cccsc meetings@gmail.com	
Newsletter Editor	Tony Brown	cccsc editor@gmail.com	
Webmaster	Nick Reese	cccsc webmaster@gmail.com	



Club Snow Camping Gear for hire

The following gear which is owned by the Club is available for hire to Club members. These prices are cheap. The commercial hire charge for a 2-person tent is \$45 per weekend.

Tent (Macpac 3-4 person) - \$20/weekend ; - \$30/week

Trangia stove - \$3/weekend; - \$5/week



Club Safety Gear for use by Tour Leaders

The Club has four Personal Locator Beacons (PLB), two GPS units and some first aid kits which are available free of charge to members leading Club ski tours.

PLB (GME MT410G)

Contact Alan Levy, Jo-Anne Clancy, Bruce Porter or Lachlan Kennedy.

GPS (Garmin Etrex Vista HcX)

Contact Alan Levy, Jo-Anne Clancy

