CANBERRA CROSS COUNTRY SKI CLUB, INC

Off Piste Separations



2019, ISSUE4

SPECIAL **POINTS OF INTEREST:**

Heaps of photos

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Robin Collins skiing on the plateau above Trapyard Creek on the Kalkite Lodge Weekend, Saturday 3rd August. Photo: Greg Lawrence

2019 Membership Subscriptions

Membership Subscriptions can be paid on Register Now.

September Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for articles for the September 2019 Off-Piste is 9th September 2019.

Please send any articles or photos to cccsceditor@gmail.com

President's Piece

I can't believe that we are now almost halfway through the ski season. Like many skiers I dread the approach of warmer weather but the recent huge dump of snow means we should have some excellent spring skiing well into October and beyond.

My personal highlights of the season so far have been:

- Enjoying the great company, good weather and skiing at the July and August lodge weekends.
- Listening to the interesting and informative presentations at club social nights.
- Taking part in the Perisher XC week activities with other club members, including the Boonoona Open, KAC and Sundeck races.
- Canberra Cross Country Ski
 Club being awarded third place in the 'fastest ski club' category at the KAC race.
- Skiing several kilometres on fresh, dry powdery snow around Sawpit Creek (approx. 1400m altitude) last Saturday. It was a rare treat to ski through tall trees and along winding fire trails at this elevation. The snow quality was the best I have ever seen in over thirty years of skiing in Australia. Not having to battle the carpark crowds at Perisher was another bonus.

I now looking forward to the club's Victorian ski week and the Kangaroo Hoppet, followed by New Zealand and the Merino Muster. There may still be some vacancies for both of these trips – please contact cccscinfo@gmail.com if you are interested.

New Committee members needed for 2019-20.

The club's AGM is on Wednesday 25 September and we will need to elect a new committee. Under the constitution, I must step down as president, so we must elect a new president. Other committee positions are also vacant. If you want your club to continue and thrive into the future, please consider nominating to serve on the committee. Please contact me or any other committee member if you have any questions.

Club website down

You may have noticed that the club's website has disappeared. This

happened during the migration from one server to another. The website will now have to be rebuilt from scratch. The committee apologises for the inconvenience and is working hard to restore the site. In the meantime, we'll send out regular emails to keep members updated.

More tours needed

It would be a crime to waste all this fresh snow! We need more tour leaders to put trips on the program. You don't need any special qualifications. Please contact Ken Moylan at cccsctours@gmail.com to add a tour or ask any questions about leading a tour.

Make the most of the last weeks of winter!

Jo-Anne Clancy President.

Club Website Status

Over the last year we have been having problems with the Club website. The website was originally set up by a former member who subsequently moved interstate. The website was still located on his server and when some website problems arose last year he was difficult to get hold of to provide assistance, which meant the Members Only page was unavailable for much of last season.

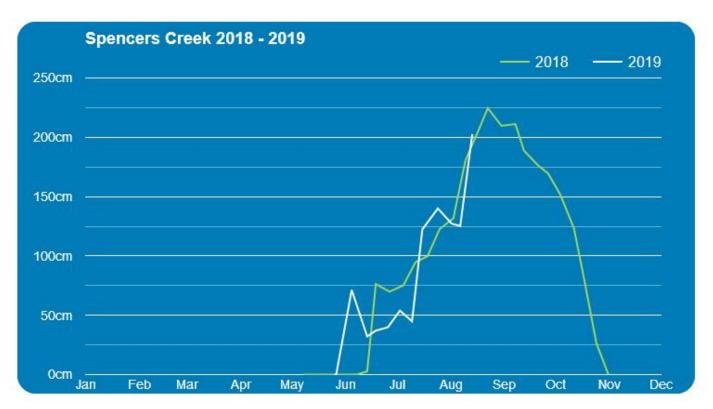
Earlier this year we decided to migrate the website to a new server. We got the website up and running again on the old server and everything was going OK until a few weeks ago when the website got corrupted.

The current situation is that the previous Club website is broken and unrecoverable, and we will need to set up a new website from scratch. In the meantime communication with Club members will need to occur by email. Emails will be sent out when there are updates to the tour program, social meetings and newsletters. We will advise when the new website is up and running.

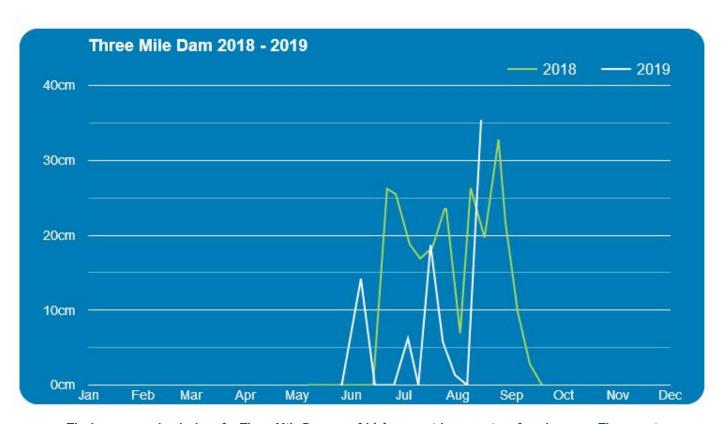
October Lodge Weekend

The Club intends to hold another lodge weekend at Charlotte Pass in October. The most likely dates at this stage are Friday 18th to Sunday 20th October or Friday 25th to Sunday 27th October. As the October Long Weekend is a bit later this year, and there is a good chance the resorts could extend their season, the later date is the more likely option, to ensure access to the village. We will finalise arrangements in early September and advise members about the lodge weekend after that. As the Club website is not working, details about the lodge weekend and a Register Now link to register for the weekend will be provided to members by email and in the September issue of Off-Piste.

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The latest snow depth chart for Spencers Creek, as of 13 August, with comparison from last year. The snowfalls of late last week caused a big jump in the snow depth, which is now just over 2 metres, with more good falls expected next week.



The latest snow depth chart for Three Mile Dam, as of 14 August, with comparison from last year. The cover is good at the moment but it has been a bit of a rollercoaster up until last week.

Trip Report — Up the Cascades Fire Trail, from Dead Horse Gap — Sunday 28 July

On Sunday, Ken Moylan led Greg Lawrence from the Cascades Car Park, at Dead Horse Gap, along and up the Cascades Fire Trail and onto Bob's Ridge, before reaching a rock formation called the Devil's Dolmen.

Greg suggested we find it, as he had been there with Mike Hinchey once before, logged it into his GPS, and wanted to see if he could find it himself.

We had lunch under the rocks, it was fairly chilly, and returned the way we came. It turned out to be a shortish day.

We left at 09:30 and were back at the cars around 14:30, well before the afternoon freeze.



- I thought that getting off Bob's Ridge would be a problem, due to icy snow. However, it had warmed up nicely so that my skis were very controllable. I had great fun coming down, not along the firetrail but beside it, using it as a navigational handrail as I made my first consistently controllable turns for the season.
- I found a possible base for a snowcamp. The top of Bob's Ridge has an open forest of snow-



Looking over the upper Thredbo River, from near the Cascades Fire Trail, about halfway down from Bob's Ridge. Brindle Bull Hill is across the river. Sunday, 28 July 2019. Photo: © Ken Moylan.

gums that would make for a sheltered place to camp and a good base for a couple of short trips through trees and open flats. Finding running water might be hard, so take lots of fuel.

• Skiing through an unburnt snowgum forrest. It has been so long since I've skied through an unburnt forest that I'd forgotten how nice it is. Most of Bob's Ridge escaped the 2003 bushfires, so the trees were tall, large and widely spaced, without the thick regrowth typical of the burnt areas.

Worst Bits:

- In the morning, the snow along the firetrail was very hard from the night's freeze. It took an hour to ski the couple of kilometres from the carpark to where the trail crossed the Thredbo River. Falling onto the snow almost felt like falling onto hard ground.
- The thin snow on the firetrail near the carpark, at the end of the day. I hit, hard, a buried rock that deeply gouged my ski and sent me flying flat onto my face. Ow!

(Continued on page 5)



Some of the Devil's Dolmen and Greg Lawrence lunching beneath it, on Bobs Ridge, near the Cascade Fire Trail. Sunday, 28 July 2019. Photo: © Ken Moylan.

"I made my first

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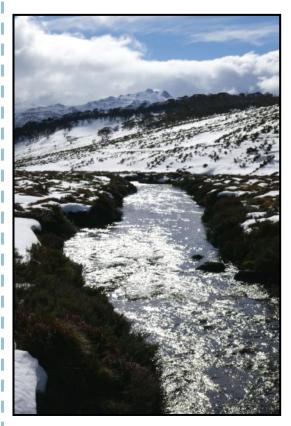
season"

OFF PISTE

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A lovely, colourful snowgum near the top of Bob's Ridge. Photo: © Ken Moylan.



The Rams Head, seen from the Cascades Fire Trail bridge across the Thredbo River.

Photo: © Ken Moylan.

(Continued from page 4)

Wax of the Day:

Swix universal klister, all day. Violet klister might have been better for the first part, along the ice, but universal klister worked well enough to start with and only got better.

I applied another layer on at lunch, because I wanted to slow my skis for the descent down Bob's Ridge to the Thredbo River and again for the last run down the firetrail to the carpark.

As it turned out, the snow was quite

nice and I needn't have slowed my skis.

Map Co-ordinates:

Map coordinates for Devil's Dolmen are: 12969 and 53171.

Dolmen:

A dolmen is a type of single-chamber megalithic tomb, usually consisting of two or more vertical megaliths supporting a large flat horizontal capstone.

(I knew not what it meant, either.)

Ken Moylan



Ken Moylan lunching beneath the Devil's Dolmen, on Bobs Ridge, near the Cascade Fire Trail. Photo: © Greg Lawrence.



A photo of Devil's Dolmen taken from other side in July, 2013. Ian Turland is the person in the photo. July 2013. Photo: © Greg Lawrence.

Trip Report — Kalkite Weekend — 3-4 August

The Club held another successful lodge weekend at Kalkite on 3 & 4 August. The numbers were down a bit to previous years but the weather was great and the tours and Saturday evening shared dinner were very enjoyable.

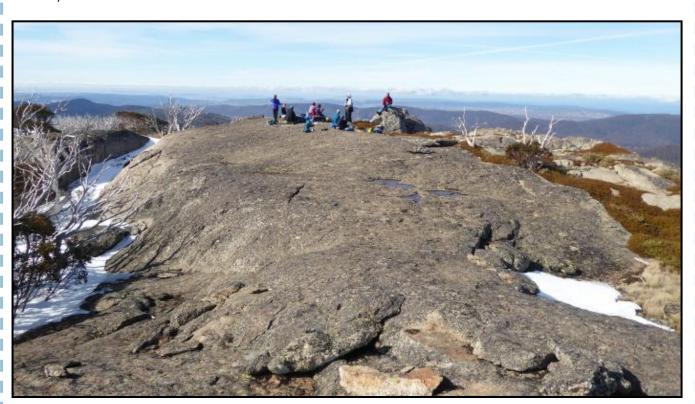
On the Saturday 13 people skied from Perisher along the Kosciuszko Road to Betts Creek, then across to the far side of Johnnies Plain. Following morning tea, four of the group explored Johnnies Plain before heading back to Perisher, whilst the more experienced skiers climbed to the large plateau above Trapyard Creek for some great views and a memorable descent back to the valley on perfect snow.

On the Sunday the group did some skiing on the Perisher Trails, and a short tour to a great vantage point on the Porcupine Link Trail overlooking the Thredbo Valley.



Girls weekend away at Kalkite. Silke Speier and Corinne Vale enjoying the views from the large rock on the Porcupine Link trail, Sunday 4th August. Photo: Tim Wright

Alan Levy



This large rock on the Porcupine Link trail provides a fantastic view of the Thredbo River Valley and eastern escarpment. Sunday 4th August. Photo: Alan Levy



Group having lunch on the plateau above Trapyard Creek, Saturday 3rd August. Photo: Alan Levy



Morning tea in the sunshine near the eastern side of Johnnies Plain. Saturday 3rd August. Photo: Paul Room

Corinne Vale telemarking on the slopes, Sunday 4th August. Photo: Alan Levy





Ralph Gailis and Tim Wright on the plateau above Trapyard Creek, Saturday 3rd August. Photo: Greg Lawrence





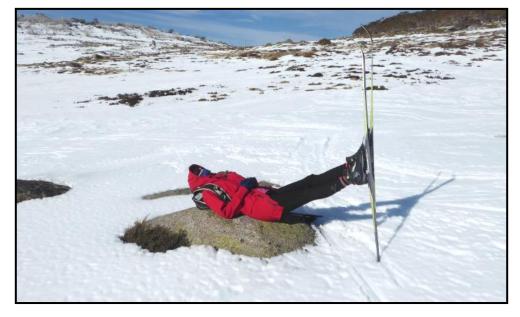


Robin Collins and Sonja Weinberg enjoying the scenery, Saturday 3rd August.
Photo: Greg Lawrence



Group near the Betts Creek Bridge. Saturday 3rd August. Photo: Paul Room







Amazing cloud formation. Saturday 3rd August. Photo: Paul Room



Group enjoying the views of the Thredbo Valley.
Sunday 4th August.
Photo: Paul Room

Rebecca Blundell and Silke Speier skiing in the Betts Creek Valley. Saturday 3rd August. Photo: Paul Room





Paul Davis skiing near Trapyard Creek. Saturday 3rd August. Photo: Alan Levy

Other Photos



Club members mingling on the Coffee Tour. Tuesday 6th August. Photo: Paul Room

The Coffee Tour at Perisher. Tuesday 6th August. Photo: Paul Room





Paul Davis and Judy Jenkinson on the Coffee Tour. Tuesday 6th August. Photo: Paul Room











Tony Brown recently took this photo of a rock that looks very much like an Easter Island moai statue. The rock is located between Etheridge Ridge and the Kosciuszko Lookout. Easter Island photo provided for comparison.

Greg Lawrence skiing down the Cascades Fire Trail, near the start of the trail. On a Club ski tour from Dead Horse Gap up to Bob's Ridge. Sunday, 28 July 2019. Photo: © Ken Moylan.





One of the benefits of doing the Coffee Tour — champagne in the snow! Tuesday 6th August. Photo: Alan Levy



Paul Davis, Sonja Weinberg and Margaret Mahoney on Mt Piper, Monday 5th August. Photo: Alan Levy







Sunset over Lake Jindabyne from Kalkite. Photo: Sonja Weinberg



Everybody enjoying their coffees.

Some faces include: Wayne Pethebridge, Sue Williams, John Ridley, Trish Woods, Maria Ng, Bruce Porter, Claudia Bartsch, Friedl Bartsch, Rhonda Cunningham, Martin Linsley, Bethan, Chris Wall, Paul Room, Paul Davis, Margaret Mahoney, Anne, Sonja Weinberg, Alan Levy, John Sim, Pat Edmondson, Marg Hayes. The Tuesday Coffee Tour, Perisher Ski Week 2019

Photo: © K.A. Moylan



The brazier that gave us the hot water. The Tuesday Coffee Tour, Perisher Ski Week 2019 Photo: © K.A. Moylan

Touring News

The Tour Program, containing tour leaders contact details, will be available in the Members Only section of the web site, in the Members version of the Off-Piste newsletter, and also on tour sheets put out at club social meetings where members can put down their names for tours or propose new tours. Between each monthly newsletter, additional tours will be advertised on the web site and/or by separate emails to members. Non-members will also have access to the Tour Program (without tour leaders details) in the 'Tours' page on the web site and on the Club Facebook page.

The Club Facebook page has been popular for trip reports and photos and is a good way of seeing what the skiing conditions are like throughout the season. New tours proposed on Facebook will not be designated as formal club trips but people are welcome to propose tours here, and should be aware of the Club guidelines below.

On the Club web site, the 'Info / Club Forms' page contains the following forms and guidance that should assist tour leaders and participants:

- Advice for Tour Participants
- Advice for Tour Leaders
- Guide to Transport Costs
- Tour Intention Form Tour Details & Acknowledgement of Risks and Obligations
- Emergency Procedures
- Incident Report
- Medical Information & Emergency Contact
- Ski Tour Grading

If anyone is interested in leading tours feel free to contact myself at cccsctours@gmail.com.

Ken Moylan, Tour Coordinator

Ski Tour Gradings

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.

Leader

Event Description Date Ski tours will be advertised in Off-Piste, at the Social Meetings, on the Club web site, when it is working again, and via email. Sunday, Ramshead Range 25 August Intermediate / advanced Skills (some longish steep sections and tree skiing) Head up from Dead Horse Gap onto the Ramshead Range, and see how many peaks we can bag in a day. I will take AT gear and skins, but I at least recommend some good turning tele skis. Monday, **Guthega Day Trips** 2 September to At least Intermediate Skills All sorts of Terrain Medium to Long Distance Friday, Day tours out from Guthega. Destinations for tours will be taking advantage of the 6 September snow and weather conditions at the time but will be a circular trip from Guthega for immediate and above skiers. In previous years, tours have gone up Guthega Creek, down Falls Creek, up to Mt Tate, down Pounds Creek, up Spencers Creek, and up Farm Creek. Saturday, Mt Selwyn Area 7 September Basic & Intermediate Skills **Gentle-Rolling Terrain** Medium Distance Hopefully the snow will hang around in the northern end of the park after the mid-August dump. This will be an easy ski trip, suitable for beginners, with mostly gentle and rolling terrain. May head along the Kings Cross Road or on the plateau near Mt Selwyn Resort. Good views of Mt Jagungal and the northern end of the park. If not enough snow then the tour will be at Perisher. Saturday, Not the Kosciuszko Tour 14 September Intermediate Skills Rolling terrain Long Distance This tour will re-create the glory days of the Kosciuszko Tour ski race by following the original route from Thredbo to Perisher on the September date. The tour will involve a car shuffle and the purchase of a lift ticket at Thredbo and a Ski Tube ride from Perisher back to Bullocks Flat. Leave car(s) at Bullocks Flat, drive to Thredbo, catch the chairlift up to the top of Crackenback, then ski along the old Kosciuszko Tour route along the pole line and summit road to Charlotte Pass, then continue along the road to Perisher, before returning to the car(s) at Bullocks Flat. Saturday, **Tate West Ridge** 21 September Intermediate Skills Hilly & Rolling Terrain Medium Distance Start at Guthega, cross the dam wall and climb past Guthega Trig out to Consett Stephens Pass and on to Tate West Ridge, which provides great views of the Main Range and Geehi Valley. Could stay for an extra day and car camp if people are interested. Further tours for late September and October will be advised by email and in the next newsletter. Late October **Lodge Weekend at Charlotte Pass** The Club will hold an end of season lodge weekend at Charlotte Pass in late-October, most likely on the 26 & 27 October (tbc). Tours will be conducted on the Main Range or around Charlotte Pass on the weekend. Further details will be provided once

confirmed.

Kosciuszko Tour — 27 July 2019

The day went well with good calm weather and 38 entrants, up on last years 23.

I had alot of happy responses from participants, one Michael Brennan saying this type of event is why he does XC skiing!

Peter Cunningham did an excellent job of flagging the course, making it easy for entrants to follow and easy for the volunteers to direct skiers.

Thank you to Peter Ward for setting the course - 10km trail + 7.5k trail. Skiers liked it.

The Presentations went well at the Altitude Lodge, Smiggins.

Rowan Christie

KT Director





Photos from the 2019 Kosciuszko Tour Post-Race Function, at Altitude Lodge, Smiggin Holes, Saturday, 27 July 2019 © Ken Moylan







Race Results

27/07/2019	Perisher Valley Kindly sponsored by Canberra Cross Country Ski Club					
Place	Bib	Name	Age Group	Time		
0						
Classical						
f						
1.	36	Carla Zijlstr	Under 60 Female	1:07:59		
2.	2	Wendy Hopkins	Under 60 Female	1:13:00		
3.	6	Ayumi Kono	Under 40 Female	1:26:03		
4.	4	Bethan McDonald	Under 40 Female	1:44:46		
5.	39	Leonie John	Under 70 Female	1:44:58		
6.	5	Jane Heather Bundy	Under 50 Female	1:50:12		
7.	3	Jane Purcell	Under 40 Female	2:39:57		
m						
DNS	12	tony corr	Under 70 Male			
DNS	21	tony garr Sven Howorth	Officer 70 Ividic			
DSQ	38	Kendrick Moylan	Under 60 Male			
1.	40	Michael Brennan	Under 50 Male	55:45		
2.	10	Adrian Blake	Under 70 Male	1:08:59		
3.	16	Garry Lewis	Under 60 Male	1:12:40		
4.	13	Wayne Pethybridge	Under 70 Male	1:13:14		
4. 5.	19	Lachlan Rowe	Under 23 Male			
5. 6.	7	Peter Ward	Over 70 Male	1:16:50		
7.	23	Carl Trindorfer	Under 50 Male	1:17:46 1:19:25		
8.	11	Michael Stenning	Under 70 Male	1:23:00		
9.	9	Jim Finnie	Under 70 Male	1:31:05		
10.	22	Nathan Gunniess	Under 50 Male	1:31:49		
11.	18		Under 50 Male			
12.	17	Richard Hocking	Under 60 Male	1:34:24 1:36:16		
13.	8	Chris Hopkins Bruce Porter	Under 70 Male			
14.	14	Alan Levy	Under 60 Male	1:43:05 1:55:10		
1	14	Aldii Levy	Orider ou wate	1.33.10		
Freestyle						
f						
DSQ	25	Lisa-Jane Lewis	Under 60 Female	1:01:12		
1.	37	Brooke Darlington	Under 40 Female	52:41		
2.	24	Kate Greenwood	Under 60 Female	1:06:51		
m	****		1111			
1.	34	Paul Ecclestone	Under 50 Male	47:48		
2. 3.	35	Garry McDougal	Under 60 Male	52:05		
3.	33	Samuel Bylett	Under 18 Male	54:15		
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Under 70 Male

Under 18 Male

Under 60 Male

Under 70 Male

Over 70 Male

Under 70 Male

Under 40 Male

Under 70 Male

1:00:59

1:06:21

1:06:58

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1:24:32

2:24:57

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Zac Zaharias

Brock Hughes

Christopher Wall

MITCHELL LOVELL

Warren Jack

Arnold D'Bras

Rowan Christie

john sim



Canberra Cross Country Ski Club

Postal Address:

33 Brunswick Circuit, Kaleen, ACT 2617

Fun and fitness in the snow

The Home of Free-heel Skiing

Web: www.cccsc.asn.au
Email: cccscinfo@gmail.com

Club Committee Contacts

Position	Name	Email	Phone
President	Jo-Anne Clancy	cccscpresident@gmail.com	
Vice President	Vacant	cccscvicepresident@gmail.com	
Secretary	Greg Lawrence	cccscsecretary@gmail.com	
Treasurer	Paul Room	cccsctreasurer@gmail.com	
Membership Secretary	Gale Funston / Deb Purss	cccscmembership@gmail.com	
Tour Coordinator	Ken Moylan	cccsctours@gmail.com	
Kosciuskzo Tour Coordinator	Rowan Christie	cccscracing@gmail.com	
Meeting Coordinator	Vacant	cccscmeetings@gmail.com	
Newsletter Editor	Alan Levy	cccsceditor@gmail.com	
Webmaster		cccscwebmaster@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



The Club has two 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 or Ken Moylan.





Social Meetings 2019 (All Welcome)

Wednesday 28 August 2019

Social Night & Skiing Video Night

Martin Linsley will show some videos he made of the Cross Country Loppet Skiing Events in New Zealand and China. And Bernard Kwan has some interesting cross-country skiing movies to show as well.

Wednesday 11 September 2019

Kosciuszko Snowies Iconic Walk

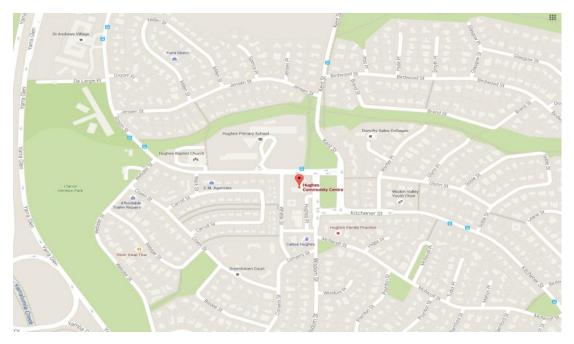
Maggie Sutcliffe, Project Manager of Walking Trails, will talk about the new walking track being established in the Thredbo, Guthega, and Bullocks Flat area.

The new Kosciuszko Snowies Iconic Walk will link up with other walking tracks to create a 44-kilometre multi-day walk. When complete, the walk will allow visitors to hike from Thredbo, via Charlotte Pass, Guthega, and Perisher to Lake Crackenback.

Wednesday 25 September 2019

Himalayas and Annual General Meeting

Ben Darlington will talk about his adventures in the Himalayas (further details in the next newsletter). This will be followed by the Annual General Meeting.



Meetings are held at the Hughes Community Centre, Hughes Place, Hughes, Canberra, Canberra on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month from mid May to October. Door opens at 7.30 pm for 7.45 pm start. Light refreshments will be provided.