

**SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:**

- **XMAS Party**
- **Summer  
Workparties**

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*Victoria Clare skiing through the glades above Dead Horse Gap after a snow storm, 9 September 2019. Photo: Lachlan Kennedy*

The CCCSC XMAS Party will be held on Wednesday 4 December.  
See inside for further details.

## Next Newsletter

This is the final newsletter for 2019. The next letter will be issued in **early May 2020**.  
Please send any articles or photos to [ccsceditor@gmail.com](mailto:ccsceditor@gmail.com)

# President's Piece

Welcome to the November edition of Off-Piste, our last newsletter for the year. Our snow-based activities for the year have ended: sadly, no more glides, turns and skates for a while now.

But not everyone will be packing away their skis until the 2020 winter: some members will be heading to Northern Hemisphere localities to enjoy skiing in our "off season", including participation in some of the Loppet races. We wish them all the best.

I enjoyed seeing some of you at the club's Lodge weekend on the last October weekend, which was my final chance to ski for the year. The weather was pretty wild on the Saturday but we enjoyed getting onto the snow (what was left of it!) on the Sunday. And, yes, there was, of course, our usual rite of passage for Spring skiing: wading the chilly waters of the Snowy River.

I hope to see you at the club's Christmas party (starting 5:30pm, Wednesday 4 December, at Lennox Gardens). And I'd also like to give a plug for the XC Summer Work Parties: volunteers to contribute to this great effort to keep the Nordic Trails and Nordic Shelter in top condition would be most welcome (details included in this newsletter).

All the best to everyone for the holiday season.

Ian Turland,  
President



## Off-Season Activities

### XMAS Party – Wed 4 December 2019

At Lennox Gardens, from 5:30pm.

### Nordic Shelter & Trails Working Bees in 2020

The good work done by the XC Summer Work Parties continues in 2020. Snow fence and pole repairs, summer grooming and further trail audits are on the job list. There will also be work in and around the Nordic Shelter.

Bring food and drink, sturdy work boots, gloves, clothing for all conditions and be prepared for flies.

The 2020 XC Work Party dates are as follows:

- Feb 1/2
- Feb 29 / Mar 1
- April 4/5
- May 2/3
- June 6/7

Please contact Peter Ward if you plan to attend – [nswxcl@gmail.com](mailto:nswxcl@gmail.com)

Accommodation will be provided by Canberra Alpine Club. If you require accommodation, please contact Peter Cunningham - [peter.petercunningham@gmail.com](mailto:peter.petercunningham@gmail.com). Bring sheets and pillowcases, towels, food and drink.

Many thanks to Canberra Alpine Club and Cooma Ski Club for XC Work Party accommodation.

### First Off-Piste Newsletter for 2020 – early May 2020

### Connect and Participate (CAP) Expo – early May 2020

The Club will have a stall at this Expo held at the Old Bus Depot building in Kingston on the first weekend in May. This Expo enables Clubs and organisations to increase their visibility and promote their services to the public.

### First Social Meeting for 2020 – Wed 27 May 2020

At the Hughes Community Centre.



## XMAS Party

Wednesday 4 December

The CCCSC XMAS Party will be held on Wednesday 4 December at Nara Park, Lennox Gardens (on the lake shore behind the Hyatt Hotel) from 5:30pm. A club banner will be erected near one of the BBQs. This is a BYO food and drink event. So come along and say hello and goodbye to your ski mates till next year.



## Trip Report - A Main Range Tour

### - Sunday 20 October

On Sunday, 20 October, Ken Moylan lead Alan Levy and Ralph Gailis on a tour from Charlotte Pass to Carruther's Peak, Lake Albina and Mt Clarke.

The trip was advertised to go on the Saturday, but the weather forecast for Saturday was very blowy, so the trip was moved to Sunday for better weather.

#### Route:

From Charlotte Pass, we walked down to Foreman's Crossing, waded or rock hopped across and donned our skis.

From there, excepting a few thin leads of grass stretching down to Club Lake Creek, we had continuous snow cover all the way to the top of Carruther's Peak.

We paused for morning tea about two thirds of the way up, trying to shelter from the wind in the lee of the last clump of rocks and bagged the summit around noon.

To our good fortune, the wind had dropped by the time we reach the top, so we could enjoy taking in the views, of the Main Range, snowy Grey Mare Range, the



*This is the first bogong moth that I had seen for several years. Somewhere near Moraine Pass, KNP. 20 October 2019.*

Photo: © Ken Moylan.

ridges to our West and Club Lake, before walking along the Main Range Walking Track to near The Grandstand.

Near the top of Carruther's, the track felt rather exposed to the long drop down to Club Lake - I was glad that the flat rocks used for pavers were not icy.

We enjoyed the new metal walkway along the spine of the Main Range (none of us remem-

bered it from before).

An all too brief ski took us down to Lake Albina, which we skied across to get to a grassy outcropping for lunch.

The lake was well frozen and there was no chance of us falling in.

On the way back, we passed the ruins of Albina Hut, went through Albina Pass, up to Moraine Pass and on to bag Mt Clarke.

We finished skiing with the great run that goes down Clarke East Ridge, and only a little dodging of grass leads.

The day finished with another wading or rock hopping of Foreman's Crossing and the quarter hour climb back to Charlotte Pass.

#### Best Bits:

- I found a bogong moth. It was the first I've seen for many years.
- Good weather.
- Almost continuous snow cover, which was unexpected

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*"The lake was well frozen and there was no chance of us falling in"*



*Alan Levy and Ralph Gailis skiing out from Lake Albina, heading towards Albina Pass. The notch in the sky behind them belongs to Lady Northcote's Canyon. 20 October 2019.*

Photo: © Ken Moylan.

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for this time of year.

### Worst Bits:

- Nothing.

It was entirely a good day out on the snow.

### Wax of the Day:

The snow was very dirty, consisting mostly of a thin layer of red dirt patches of white snow. Klister, the indicated grip-wax, would have clagged up within metres, so I used my fish scale skis.

Buzz. Buzz. Buzz.

The white snow was quite soft & grippy and the red snow was nicely firm & watered, so I aimed to climb on the white and turn on the red.

Ken Moylan

**Ken skiing near the top of Carruthers Peak, with Mt Lee, Northcote and Kosciuszko behind. Notice the patterns caused by the red and white snow. Photo: Alan Levy**



**Ken and Ralph at Foreman's Crossing. Photo: Alan Levy**



**View towards Townsend Spur from just below Carruthers Peak, 20 Oct 19. Photo: Alan Levy**

## Trip Report - October Lodge Weekend

### - 25 to 27 October

15 people attended the October Lodge Weekend at the Southern Alps Ski Club Lodge at Charlotte Pass from 25 to 27 October. A few people couldn't make it for various reasons.

The weather on the Friday was overcast, cold and windy. Thredbo had received a 120kph wind gust earlier that morning. People just used this day to arrive at the lodge, and no one skied that day.

On the Saturday the weather was even worse, with gusty and gale force winds, low cloud and fog, thunder, and precipitation for most of the day, mainly in the form of sago snow followed by drier snow. Most people spent the day huddled inside the lodge eating, drinking and talking, but a few people ventured out on skis – David and Tim went to Kangaroo Ridge, Ken skied in the valley near Charlotte Pass Village, and Ralph and his son Alex crossed the Snowy River and headed towards Blue Lake but retreated due to the elements and icy snow surface. By the end of the day over 10cm of new snow had fallen around the lodge at Charlotte Pass and the nearby ski slopes had turned white again.

On the Sunday we woke up to a sunny day, although a bit breezy. The lodge was surrounded by fresh snow and the road out of the village back up to the Kosciuszko Road was covered by snow, which meant 2WD vehicles needed chains to get back up the hill. After cleaning up the lodge and packing up, most people met at the turning circle at Charlotte Pass around 9am and walked down the snow covered walking track to the Snowy River crossing. Across the other side we divided up

into faster and slower groups. Bruce, Melinda and Ian headed towards Blue Lake and beyond via the walking track whilst Ralph and Alex went via a slightly different route.

The remaining six in the slower group (Ken, Alan, John, Sonja, Trish and Sunny) went the long way round via the long snow drift that connects the lower slopes of Carruthers Peak with Club Lake Creek. As we climbed higher we noticed that the wind had picked up and there was low cloud whizzing over the peaks and ridges near Blue Lake, so we changed our plan and decided to head up the valley to the Kunama Hut ruin where it was more sheltered and sunnier. There was a very good snow cover in the valley below

Club Lake, Mt Lee and Mt Northcote. The new white snow atop the older red snow made the slopes look painted in camouflage patterns which was very photogenic.

After stopping to look at the Kunama Hut ruin we traversed across the lower slopes of Mt Lee to Club Lake then back down into the valley where we had lunch sheltered behind a grassy knoll. We then retraced our tracks back to the Snowy River, climbed the hill and were back at the cars around 3:30pm.

There was some grass skiing in places but from the Snowy River crossing point we had

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*"The lodge was surrounded by fresh snow"*



*This photo shows the snow that built up during the day on the outside table at the lodge, 26 Oct 19.  
Photo: Sonja Weinberg*

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kept our skis on the whole time and been on snow 99% of the time on the way out, and 95% on the way back, mainly due to some of the new snow melting during the day.

Although the weather wasn't as good this year, the snow cover was better than in recent years and everyone had an enjoyable time as usual.

Alan Levy



**The Southern Alps Ski Club lodge surrounded by new snow, 26 Oct 19.  
Photo: Alan Levy**



**The snow covered Main Range from the walking track just below Charlotte Pass, 27 Oct 19.  
Photo: Alan Levy**

**Group at Foreman's Crossing after crossing the Snowy River and Club Lake Creek.  
Photo: Alan Levy**





*Sonja, Trish and Sunny skiing across the snow covered grass towards Mt Lee and Club Lake.  
Photo: Alan Levy*



*Sunny, Sonja, Ken & John at the Kunama Hut ruin, 27 Oct 19.  
Photo: Alan Levy*



*Skiing towards Club Lake, 27 Oct 19.  
Photo: Sonja Weinberg*

## Trip Report - A Visit to Watson's Crags

### - Thursday 31 October

On Thursday, 31 October, Ken Moylan and Alan Levy did the last Canberra to snow and back day trip for the year. We left Tuggeranong as the sun was climbing over the Tinderry's, returned with it starting to brush the Brindabella's and we still had a good ski in between. I could get used to these long daylight hours.

#### Route:

From Charlotte Pass, we walked the Main Range Walking Track down to and across Foreman's Crossing and a little way up the other side until we reached a good snow lead. We sort-of followed the walking track as it made its way up and across Soil Conservation Creek, before leaving it for the spine of the Main Range and down and up onto Watson's Crags.

We made good time, not stopping for morning tea shortly before reaching the top of our climb and then lunching at the end of the snow on the Crags (as

far as we were willing to go without a sizeable walk down to the next patch of snow). We had hoped to ski down the glacial valley into Blue Lake and then across it, but the snow was too patchy for the former and the ice looked too thin for the latter. Instead, we enjoyed the run down the ridge separating Soil Conservation Creek and the valley feeding Blue Lake, and dropped down for afternoon tea beside the lake. Here we saw the tracks of possibly the only other skier & snowboarder in Australia on the day. We climbed back up to the saddle into Soil Conservation Creek, and following the wide drifts, skied over to and down to the bottom of Carruther's Creek.

Patchy snow drifts let us mostly ski beside Club Lake Creek back to Foreman's Crossing before the familiar rock hopping and long walk back to Charlotte Pass.

#### Best Bits:

- It was a beautiful weather day - little wind and sunny all day.

- The quality of the snow cover - it was firm all day with no slushy areas.

- Being able to see and photograph the tracks our skis made on the downhill runs. Our turns left smooth curves in the snow.

Why can't we ski like that on July's icy or heavy, unconsolidated cover?

- The views over range after range towards the West. The air was surprisingly clear for so long since the last snowfall.

#### Worst Bits:

- Looking down Watson's Creek, at the deep, broad and smooth cover, and not being able to ski it.

#### Wax of the Day:

Fishscales only at this end of the season.  
Buzz. Buzz.

Ken Moylan

"Fishscales.  
Buzz Buzz"



Ken skiing near The Sentinel, 31 Oct 19. Photo: Alan Levy



*Alan Levy looking over some of the Main Range, from Mt Clarke to Carruthers. From the path from Charlotte Pass down to Foreman's Crossing. 31 Oct 19  
Photo: © Ken Moylan*

*Look at how blue the sky was! Alan on the Main Range Walking Track, near Soil Conservation Creek. Here we put on our skis and were on snow for most of the rest of the day. 31 Oct 2019.  
Photo: © Ken Moylan*



*View towards The Sentinel and Watson's Crags from the morning tea spot, 31 Oct 19.  
Photo: © Ken Moylan*



*Ken Moylan skiing  
on Watson's Crag,  
31 Oct 19.  
Photo: Alan Levy*



*Looking towards  
Tennyson Woods  
Knoll and the Main  
Range, from Watson's  
Crag. 31 Oct 19.  
Photo: © Ken Moylan*



*Blue Lake panorama, showing the sketchy ice cover and the chutes. 31 Oct 19.  
Photo: © Ken Moylan*

## Other Ski Photos



*Blizzard art - main range near Mt Tate, 10 September 2019.  
Photo: Lachlan Kennedy*



*Some of the best snow of the season - first tracks every where in the glades above Dead Horse Gap, 9 September 2019.  
Photo: Lachlan Kennedy*



## Canberra Cross Country Ski Club

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**Fun and fitness  
in the snow**

# Club Committee Contacts

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## 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 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 or Ken.

