

**SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:**

- New President
- October  
Lodge  
Weekend

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## November Newsletter Deadline

There will be a final newsletter for the season in November. The deadline for articles for the November 2019 Off-Piste is **12 November 2019**.

Please send any articles or photos to [cccsceditor@gmail.com](mailto:cccsceditor@gmail.com)

# President's Piece

Welcome to the October edition of Off-Piste. This is my first contribution to the newsletter as the new president of the club. I am honoured that my fellow-club members have elected me to this position and hope I can make a useful contribution during my time in office. The club has provided many benefits to me as a cross-country skier over the years, so it's great to have the chance to put something back into it.

I would firstly like to thank Jo-Anne Clancy for the excellent work she has done as president for the past three years. And for her continued input into the club as our new Vice-President. I very much appreciate her offer of a guiding hand while I familiarise myself with my new role. I also want to thank the other members of the committee, who are continuing in their positions. The club very much benefits from their generous efforts.

For those of you who do not know me very well, there is a short profile provided below.

There have been a range of rewarding club activities this year and some great adventures had by club members, including participation in international races. There have also been some challenges, including the issues we have faced with our website. As an essential part of our communications for club members and with the broader community, we will be ensuring the website is operating ahead of the 2020 ski season.

I look forward to skiing with many of you next year. In the meantime, I hope to see you at the club's lodge weekend on 25-27 October where we will be seeking to take advantage of the remaining snow on the Main Range (and the pleasant social atmosphere at the lodge!); and/or at our Christmas gathering in December (details on the latter to be provided closer to the event).

*Ian Turland,  
President*



*Ian in Norway, March 2018*

## **“IAN TURLAND, NEW CLUB PRESIDENT? – NEVER HEARD OF HIM!”**

Well, hopefully, many of you do know me, at least a little. But here's a bit of a profile, focused on my skiing background, so you can feel you know me just that bit better.

I started cross-country skiing back in the old days of woollen trousers and cane ski-poles when I was at university in Melbourne. I remember falling over a lot (why does the road to the Horn on Mt Buffalo have so many hair-pin bends?) but having a great time with friends as I tried to master this new art.

I joined CCCSC when I moved to Canberra in 1992. Thinking I had arrived in nirvana, I remember skiing up to December that year (those were the days!). While I participated in club activities over the following years, family and career, including two overseas postings, meant that my time on skis was often pretty light-on in many seasons.

However, over more recent years, I have managed to spend more time on

the snow and enjoyed seeing some of my skills develop. I own a pair of skating skis and some heavy telemark ones – one of the appeals of cross-country skiing to me is the diversity of activities one can do – but the mainstay of my skiing is getting away from the resorts on medium-weight gear. I can truly say that some of the best days of my life have been spent cruising over the hills and far away with a pair of skis under my feet.

As well as skiing, I also enjoy bushwalking and kayaking, and have a passion for exploring new places in the world.

*Ian Turland*



## October Lodge Weekend

The Club lodge weekend will be held at the Southern Alps Ski Club lodge at Charlotte Pass on the weekend of 26 & 27 October. Accommodation for the nights of Friday 25 & Saturday 26 October has been arranged.

This is always a popular weekend, with Club ski tours held around Charlotte Pass or on the Main Range on the Saturday and Sunday.

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.

The cost per person for accommodation is \$55 per night (adult) with cheaper rates for children. Payment will need to be made prior to the weekend via the Register Now site at the following link: <https://www.registernow.com.au/secure/Register.aspx?E=36200>

Please advise Alan Levy via email [alanlevy@pcug.org.au](mailto:alanlevy@pcug.org.au) if you are attending.



*Peter Cunningham, Jo-Anne Clancy, Trevor Lewis, Margaret Mahoney, Gale Funston. Standing at the bottom of Thredbo. They were about to ski from Thredbo to Perisher, via Charlotte Pass and the cross-country ski trails. Saturday, 14 September 2019. Photo: © Ken Moylan.*

*(See trip report on page 14)*

# 'In search of lost skiing time'

(If only Marcel Proust had been a cross country skier).

By Lachlan Kennedy

Sometimes in summer I just sit, and sometimes I sit and wonder. But mostly, in summer, I like to sit and count how many kinds of skier have I been in my life.

My first kind of skier was the beginner. We were all beginners once - fearful of putting our bodies in a slippery and cantankerous environment with way too much gravity around.

But even to get to that unhappy moment we had to buy or hire boots, skis, and maybe get a lift ticket. I never did get a lift ticket in those days. \$13 a day for a lift ticket was insane. The price of lift tickets today is still insane. That is the only part of skiing that has not changed.

Then I realised there was another kind of skier - the cross country skier. In the back country there are fewer people around to notice your humiliation as you pick yourself up from another fall, and do the 'dance of the loose snow down your undies'.

Cross country skiing turned out to be a great choice. The boots didn't rub and cramp my feet. I didn't have to give up the superior control you get from down hill skis, because even on down hill skis I didn't have any control. Companionship played a big part in it. To be out touring on skis with friends is one of life's richest pleasures. And the Kosciuszko National Park turned out to be, I later realised, one of the best places anywhere to do it.

But then there was cross country racing as well. With 2.1 metre long skinny Trak skis I rocketed along the groomed trails. On those skis (the left one named Val, and the right one named Halla to remind me cross country

skis have a left and right ski) I never came last in any race.

And then I became the another kind of skier - the multi-day ski tourer. A friend pointed out that you can ski from Kiandra to Thredbo. Why not? We were all bush walkers, so we put our packs and skis on and went. Was the storm that hit us as we walked(!) across Happy Jack's plain an adventure or an ordeal? Those storms were something to experience. The rain stopped for 30 seconds, and as the wind flipped round to the south west the temperature plummeted and we were in a full on blizzard. We were forced to camp.

The next day the mountains were - let me chose the best cliché - blanketed, frosted, transformed - by the storm. But, more permanently, I was transformed. I discovered that what I loved so much about the winter mountains comes only after a storm. In that way, mountains are like life itself.

From that moment I became almost all skiers in one. I was completely lost to winter mountains where ever they were, and I was happy to ski them any way I could.

Touring skis over the years have got shorter. Out went the 210 cm waxless Traks and in came steel edged 200 cm skis. Steel edges made traversing on hard snow a lot safer, and turning easier. But more excitement was to come.

After a lot of experimentation we learnt to telemark well enough to enjoy the next generation of touring skis - shorter and with a parabolic side cut. These skis turned, and finding good down hill back country runs became part of every ski tour.

As we got better, this search for

down hill runs became more serious, and a pair of wide 1.60 m skis with telemark bindings appeared in the ski locker. These skis need skins to climb, but turn quickly across the fall line on steep slopes. No longer the anxious wait as the old skis turned slowly, accelerating all the time, before eventually crossing the fall line at near terminal velocity.

Skinning works best if you don't have to take the skins off, at least until you are ready to ski down. So we looked for tours with a big steady climb before lunch, and an afternoon down hill run, and if through trees, so much the better (think Mt Tate via East Tate ridge, or the Ramsheads above Dead Horse Gap).

But skins are more versatile than that. Who hasn't had the experience of skiing touring on frozen snow? Your waxless skis won't grip if you have to climb, and the steel edges loose their grip if for a second you get your weighting wrong on a traverse. But put half length skins ('kicker skins') on your waxless skis, and there is no need to stay at home. You can climb up frozen slopes like climbing stairs. No more traversing. And with shorter parabolic skis and steel edges, you can usually ski down these slopes with care, especially when they soften later in the day. Viva skins!

Then there are boots. The first touring boots were very soft leather boots. Even with many layers of water proofing wax (remember Sno-seal?) they still leaked, and if you were snow camping, they then froze at night. Putting them on in the morning was character

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*"I discovered that what I loved so much about the winter mountains comes only after a storm"*

*"... there is another kind of skier that beginners in particular should be wary of"*

*(Continued from page 4)*

building (like everything about snow camping). Then came heavier leather boots, and finally, to my eternal gratitude, completely waterproof plastic boots with insulated liners. One boot for everything but racing.

Which brings me to skating. Despite the assistance of some lessons organised by our wonderful ski club, I have never got past the torture to find the fun in skating. What I do find enjoyable about skating is how it was recognised as a form of ski racing. When the international ski federation took a vote, in the 1980s, on introducing skating as a part of international cross country ski competitions, the vote was tied, until, that is, Australia voted in favour. The rest is history.

One kind of skiing I love is ski mountaineering. I know a lot of ski mountaineers, and they are really great company, and on the whole, sane. I love

their stories of crevasse and creek extractions, self arrests, avalanches, and being confined in mountain cabins for days on end waiting for the blizzard to stop. And they take photos of the most amazing scenery. But this is one kind of skier I have never been. I can really enjoy a storm in the mountains, so long as there is a car, cafe or hotel at my back.

Then there is the another kind of skier that beginners in particular should be wary of. This is the skier who uses grip wax. Don't go there unless you enjoy having a leaky plastic bag in your pack full of sticky gooey klister wax, which gets on all your kit, and you also enjoy the heady feeling after sniffing ski wax remover.

Snow conditions vary in lockstep with the temperature changes during the day, and so as the day warms your wax must change. Hence the expression, waxing and waining. You wax in the morning, and by morning tea, the snow has changed, and as you get out that sticky plastic bag to change your wax, your interest

in waxing wains completely.

But in another way I am also glad there are people are keeping alive the waxing tradition. For years it was as essential to cross country skiing as the skis and snow. In countries such as Norway, where the winter snow pack used to be always below zero, waxing was preferred, as one wax could be used all day. But sadly, with global warming, northern winters are no longer stable, and even in Norway, waxless skis now sell faster than waxing skis.

Oh, I have just realised there is one other kind skier I do not aspire to become - the retired skier. But it will happen, and then you will find me snow shoeing, but not, of course, on the Perisher trails.

Where ever I am,

'The winter mountains,  
Powdered in snow,  
Tug at my back.'  
(Anon)



Looking south along the crest of the Main Range towards Mt Twynam and Watsons Crags after a storm. Photo: Lachlan Kennedy



## Trip Report - Charlotte Pass to Illawong Bridge and Back, via Blue Lake and Spencer's Creek

### - 24 September

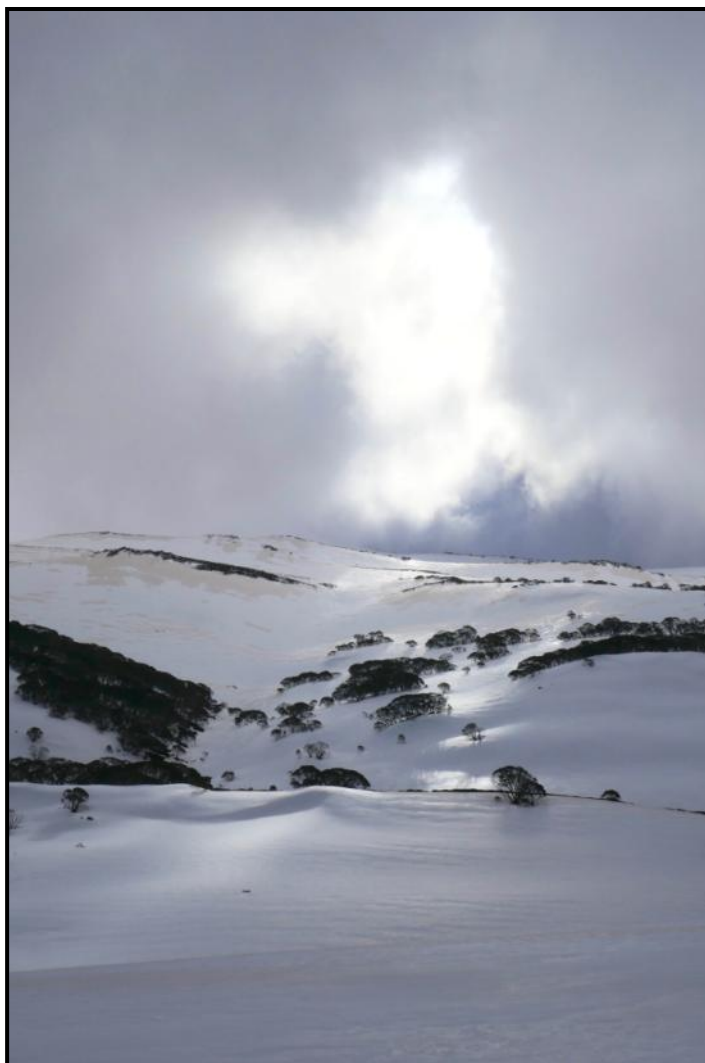
On Tuesday, 24 September Melinda Brouwer and Ken Moylan skied the long way from Charlotte Pass to Illawong Bridge. We had been staying at the Southern Alps Lodge in Charlotte Pass and Melinda needed to get to Guthega to return home. I went with her for safety's sake and we chose to go up onto the Main Range, instead of the easy way via Spencer's Creek, for variety.

#### Route:

From Charlotte Pass village we skied across the downhill slopes, up to the Pass, skied down to the Snowy River, skied across the Snowy River (well upstream of Foreman's Crossing) and across Club Lake Creek (3 rare skis).

From there we ascended Carruthers between Club Lake Creek & Carruthers Creek, pausing for morning tea about halfway up. During morning tea the cloud that was hanging about the top dropped lower. We decided to continue up because we, too optimistically, thought that the cloud wasn't going to be too thick. After a while inside the cloud we decided that neither Carruthers nor Twynam would be worth climbing, due to lack of view, sense of texture in the snow, and general sense of direction. We had a GPS but the local map wasn't loaded, so it was useless beyond plotting where we had been. Using map, compass, familiarity with the area, and following a downward traversing contour, we got low enough to be below the cloud base.

A glimpse through the mist revealed what might be Soil Conservation Creek near the waterfall and, over the ridge, Blue Lake. A difficult ski down, on heavy snow, got us to Blue Lake and then the outlet, where we



**Arty photograph. Sun breaking through cloud, shining on trees, snow and rivers. Snowy River, near the confluence with Spencer's Creek. Tuesday, 24 September 2019. Photo: © Ken Moylan.**

had a late lunch. From there we basically followed a traversing contour down and north east to get to the Illawong suspension bridge, crossing Crummer Spur, Little Twynam Creek and down Twynam Creek. There we split up. Melinda made her way to Guthega

and I made my way back to Charlotte Pass. Spencer's Creek had opened up in the week since I'd last been there, so I spent about 20 minutes looking for a string of rocks to step over and get to the other side. From there it was

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*"After a while inside the cloud we decided that neither Carruthers nor Twynam would be worth climbing"*

(Continued from page 6)

relatively straightforward to ski up Spencer's to the Kosciuszko Road and follow it, in the twilight, back to Chartlotte Pass. By the map it was about 21km, with total climbing of about 480m.

#### Best Bits:

\* Skiing along the Kosciuszko Road.

I used my European-learned diagonal striding technique to power along the road, despite my tiredness.

\* Rock hopping across Spencer's Creek.

It was hard, but felt really good to get to the other side with dry feet.

\* Being on the Main Range.

#### Worst Bits:

\* Skiing inside a cloud.

\* The heavy snow, that made turning hard work.

#### Wax of the Day:

Swix universal klister, applied 3 times because it kept rubbing off. The snow started fresh and moist (lots of balling up), but transformed over the day to become more suitable for klister.

Ken Moylan



*Melinda Brouwer, somewhere near Little Twynam Creek.*

*Note the two colours of the snow. The white snow had fallen the day before and was heavy, soft and hard to turn on. The darker, reddish snow was wetter, icier, tending towards Spring corn and easier to turn on.*

*Tuesday, 24 September 2019.*

*Photo: © Ken Moylan.*



*Blue Lake, under a firm cover of snow and ice, showing the low lying layer of cloud cloaking Mt Twynam and Little Twynam. From near where the Main Range Walking Track comes in from Soil Conservation Creek.*

*Tuesday, 24 September 2019.*

*Photo: © Ken Moylan.*

## Trip Photos - Tate West Ridge - 28 September

On Saturday 28 September eight club members (Ian Turland, Alan Levy, Sonja Weinberg, Melinda Brouwer, Lachlan Kennedy, Victoria Claire, Bruce Porter and Trevor Lewis) skied from Guthega Dam up the ridge past Guthega Trig, out to Consett Stephens Pass and had lunch on Tate West Ridge. The weather was perfect, with plentiful snow apart from a few grassy areas that had to be negotiated.

*The group having morning tea near Guthega Trig.  
Photo: Alan Levy*



*Ice on Guthega Dam.  
Photo: Alan Levy*

*Ian and Trevor at lunch on Tate West Ridge, looking south to the Victorian Alps.  
Photo: Lachlan Kennedy*







*Signing off to winter 2019 with tele-turns on Tate's west ridge, 28 Sept 19.  
Photo: Lachlan Kennedy*



*Windy Creek in spring - so much terrain too explore....  
Photo: Lachlan Kennedy*

## Trip Report - Camping at Horse Camp Hut

### - Sun 29 September to Tues 1 October

After going on the ski tour from Guthega out to Tate West Ridge on Saturday 28 September, Ian Turland, Sonja Weinberg, Melinda Brouwer and myself stayed overnight at Island Bend campground before heading out on a three day snow camping trip from the Sunday to the Tuesday. We had heard good reports of the snow cover around Schlink Pass and beyond, so our plan was to drive to Guthega Power Station then head up the valley to Schlink Hut and maybe to Tin Hut.

On Sunday 29 September we arrived at the carpark at Munyang and ominously there was only one other car in the carpark. We unpacked our skis and camping gear in the warm sunshine then headed off around 9:00am. We walked up the switchbacks on the road above the Power Station hoping that we would reach some skiable snow higher up, but there was nothing. There were a few short patches of snow on the road closer to the turnoff to Horse Camp Hut but little else. In the distance we could see a good cover of snow higher up around Schlink Pass but to reach this would involve a long uphill walk with our heavy packs, so we decided to camp at Horse Camp Hut instead.



*Ian, Sonja and Melinda setting out from Guthega Power Station, 29 Sept 19. Photo: Alan Levy*

We reached Horse Camp Hut around 10:30am. Luckily the hut was surrounded by snow and there looked to be a much better snow cover behind the hut and higher up towards the aqueduct track. The hut was originally built for the Snowy Mountains Scheme in the 1950's and had been completely rebuilt a few years ago. Sonja, Melinda and Ian decided to sleep in the hut whilst I set up my tent on a patch of grass nearby. We lazed around in the sunshine and had lunch before deciding on an afternoon ski.

There is an aqueduct track which goes down the western side of

the valley below the Rolling Grounds from below Whites River Hut, past Horse Camp Hut to the pipes descending to the Power Station. As this track was on an east facing slope and mostly amongst trees it still contained a reasonable snow cover. We climbed up above the hut and were able to ski north along the track for about 1.5 kilometres and there were only a few short grassy patches that we had to negotiate. Far below us in the middle of the valley we could see the road completely bare of snow.

If we had continued skiing along the aqueduct track we would eventually re-join the road just below Whites River Hut, but instead we turned back to explore a snow covered spur climbing steeply up to the top of the Rolling Grounds. The spring snow on this slope was great to ski on and we managed to climb about two hundred metres above the aqueduct track and saw that this would be a good route for the following day. We returned to the hut at 4pm and had an enjoyable evening eating, drinking and talking. And the night sky was fantastic.



*Ian and Sonja skiing along the aqueduct track near Horse Camp Hut, 29 Sept 19. Photo: Alan Levy*

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*"We lazed around in the sunshine before deciding on an afternoon ski"*



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After a cold night we woke to another clear day on the Monday. We had breakfast, waited for the snow to soften, then headed off at 8:30am and retraced our ski tracks along the aqueduct track to the start of the spur. We put on our climbing skins then began the long climb up towards the Rolling Grounds. As we climbed higher the views opened up and we could see more and more snow-covered slopes towards Guthega and across the valley towards Disappointment Spur and Mt Gungarten.

We reached the top then had to walk across a large area of grass to reach the broad snow-covered valley heading along the eastern section of the Rolling Grounds. From here we skied north for a few kilometres past some steep slopes and underneath large cornices. The skiing was great and we had it all to ourselves. We stopped for morning tea somewhere to the west of Whites River Hut then continued for another few kilometres to Dicky Cooper Bogong, where we stopped for lunch. From here we could see that there was still good snow towards Mt Jagungal and on the Grey Mare Range. In the distance to the south-west there also



**Sonja enjoying a cup of tea in the doorway of Horse Camp Hut. Photo: Sonja Weinberg**

looked to be plenty of snow remaining on Mt Bogong and the Bogong High Plains.

We left Dicky Cooper Bogong and skied south along the Rolling Grounds and could have continued all the way to Guthega, but we had to turn east half way along to head back down to the hut. Skiing down the upper slopes of the eastern escarpment and through some of the trees on perfect spring snow was very enjoyable. The final slope of the spur just above the aqueduct track was much steeper and more nerve-wracking, but I just took my time whilst Ian, Melinda and Sonja

made it look easy. We were back at Horse Camp Hut at 3pm.

On the Tuesday morning we packed up and headed off just before 8am to walk back to the Power Station. We were back at the carpark at 9:15am and after a coffee stop in Jindabyne we were back in Canberra around 1pm. Even though we had to change our original destination we were lucky that there was still enough snow near our alternative destination which made for an enjoyable few days.

Alan Levy

*"The skiing was great and we had it all to ourselves"*



**At Horse Camp Hut. Photo: Alan Levy**





*Melinda and Sonja skiing on the slopes below the Rolling Grounds. Looking south towards Guthega and Blue Cow, 30 Sept 19. Photo: Alan Levy*



*Lunch near Dicky Cooper Bogong, with Watsons Crags in the distance, 30 Sept 19. Photo: Alan Levy*



*Interesting cloud formation from the Rolling Grounds, 30 Sept 19. Photo: Alan Levy*



*Sonja skiing under a large cornice on the Rolling Grounds, 30 Sept 19. Photo: Alan Levy*



*Campsite at Horse Camp Hut, 30 Sept 19. Photo: Alan Levy*



## Trip Report - Not the Kosci Tour

### - Saturday 14 September

For the last few years I have run a 'Not the Kosci Tour' trip in early-mid September. It follows the route of the original Kosciuszko Tour race, from the top of Thredbo via Charlotte Pass to finish at Perisher.

The morning started with some complicated transport arrangements; Jo-Anne left her car in the Perisher car park, caught the ski tube to Bullocks Flat, met Margaret, Peter and Trevor to carpool to Thredbo, then a shuttle bus from the Friday Flat car park to the bottom of the Kosciuszko Express chairlift, where Gale joined the group. When we boarded the shuttle bus, we were surprised to hear that the chairlift was on wind hold. It really didn't seem that bad down in the valley. Fortunately, by the time we bought our lift tickets the chair was running again. The ride up the chairlift was very pleasant, with plenty of snow on the downhill runs, blue sky, mild temperatures and just a bit of a breeze.

We called into the Eagles Nest café for some pre tour refreshment and enjoyed the stunning view while fuelling up on Devonshire teas, banana bread, coffee and hot chocolates. Eventually we agreed that we should do some

actual skiing, so we paid up and set off.

The first uphill from the top of chair to Kosciuszko View can be a challenge, often icy underfoot with a strong headwind. This year the weather gods were kind. A layer of corn snow provided solid grip and a tailwind gave us a gentle assistance up the hill. Once we got to the lookout we stopped for a drink and admired the Main Range in all its glory – deep snow, rolling hills and peaks, crisp blue skies. Kite skiers were out in force, zig-zagging across the slopes and valleys. The snow was so deep on some aspects that the Snowy River was completely buried. Other aspects, including Kangaroo Ridge, had quite a sparse cover.

The descent to Snowy Bridge was fast and enjoyable, followed by another uphill and then a gentle cruise down the road towards the Charlotte Pass lookout. As usual the wind had created many steep snow dunes near the lookout. These were a challenge to get over and most of us took a couple of spills negotiating them. We then headed down the groomed downhill runs (a challenge on xc gear) to the Chalet for lunch, where we were joined by Arnold D'Bras who had skated from Perisher. The lunch menu at the Chalet was limited as it was their last day of trading for the season,

but we managed to find enough food and drink to keep us going.

It would have been enjoyable to follow the Porcupine trail back to Perisher rather than just ski the road, but Arnold and Peter advised it would be unskiable in parts. So instead we skied out towards Johnnies Plain and then back to the road via Betts Creek. The snow had warmed up and was starting to get softer and slower. As we neared Guthries the cover on the road disappeared and we had to pick our way around the tarmac. The long ski down to Perisher was fun – not too fast or too slow.

Once we got to Perisher it was another complicated car shuffle and ski tube ride to get everyone back to their vehicles. Gale had won a voucher during NSW XC ski week, for dinner at the White Spider restaurant in the Eiger Chalet. She invited me to join her there after the tour. The food was delicious and the service friendly and professional, well worth a visit if staying up at Perisher. It was the perfect end to a perfect day of skiing, sunshine, good company and fine dining.

*Jo-Anne Clancy*

*"Devonshire teas, banana bread, coffee and hot chocolates"*





## Trip Photos - Easter Island Rock - 12 October

Six people (Alan Levy, Tony Brown, Penny Rossiter, Mike Hinchey, Bruce Porter and Stephen) skied from the Charlotte Pass turning circle up past Mt Stilwell, along Kangaroo Ridge and across the valley and headwaters of the Snowy River towards North Ramshead. The destination was a rock shaped like an Easter Island statue that Tony had seen earlier in the season, located just north of the metal walkway and not far from the Kosciuszko lookout. The return was via Snowy Bridge and the large snow drift below the summit road that extended most of the way back to Charlotte Pass.

There was a fresh dusting of snow on the ground from Wilsons Valley onwards, and the weather during the day was mostly cloudy and foggy with some heavy snowfalls at times during the afternoon. Overall there was more snow on Kangaroo Ridge, around Snowy Bridge and across the river than on the October lodge weekend last year.



*Group having morning tea near Merritts Creek below Kangaroo Ridge. Looking across the valley towards Etheridge Ridge and Seamans Hut. Photo: Alan Levy*



*The rock with the 'Easter Island' moai face. Photo: Alan Levy*

*The snowgums near Charlotte Pass were very colourful due to the wet weather.*



# Interesting Sculptures and Monuments on the way to the Mountains

## Green Mountain Blue II

Green Mountain Blue II was fabricated and installed under the direction of Charles Ginnever, an American sculptor, during his visit to Australia in 1978. It is located in open country next to the Monaro Highway on a windswept hill approximately 15 kilometres north of Cooma.

The sculpture is 21.5 metres long and 8 metres high and constructed of brilliant blue rolled steel beams. The foundations weigh 6 tonnes and are completely buried. The effect is that the beams seem to emerge from the soil and rocks without visible support to tower over the observer. From a distance the work looks like a simple lever, or an up-ended set of dividers, the single cable keeping the two diverging linear elements in a fragile state of balance. This is only an allusion as in reality the steel I-beams in the work are rigidly bolted together and the work solidly set into concrete foundations.

The sculpture was commissioned for this rural setting by the collector John Kahlbetzer, then owner of the property, who donated the work to the National Gallery in 1981.

Green Mountain Blue II is related to an earlier work of the same title, which was displayed in a gallery setting in 1968, then later installed outdoors on the artist's farm in Westminster, Vermont. Both sculptures are similar compositionally, although Green Mountain Blue II is approximately twice the size of the earlier sculpture.



## Snowy River Sphere

Artist Richard Moffatt was commissioned by Snowy River Shire Council to create a large-scale public sculpture to mark the gateway to the Snowy River Shire.

The sculpture is made entirely from recycled steel beams left over from the construction of the Ski Tube, and was installed in 2011. The sculpture sits on the Monaro Highway, just north of Snowy Mountains Airport. The positioning provides the longest viewing distance to maximise the effect for passing traffic.

The flowing lines that define the sculpture are inspired by the Snowy Mountains' river systems, ski runs and Indigenous pathways. The spherical shape becomes part of the striking boulder-strewn landscape that is a defining feature of the region.



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## Strzelecki Monument

The bronze statue of Count Paul Edmund Strzelecki was presented to the people of Australia by the Polish People's Republic on the occasion of Australia's bicentenary. The monument depicts the explorer with his hand outstretched towards Mount Kosciuszko and is a tribute to an important figure in both Australian and Polish history. The statue was installed in 1988 on the Lake Jindabyne Foreshore at Banjo Paterson Park.

Strzelecki, who was born in Poland, came to Australia in pursuit of mineral discoveries, located gold and silver in New South Wales and coal deposits in Tasmania. He also investigated the possibilities of irrigation, measured the heights of mountains, carried out soil analyses, and collected and identified many fossils and minerals. While exploring in the Snowy Mountains region, he was the first Westerner to climb what is now known as Mount Kosciuszko. Strzelecki named the peak for the Polish leader and patriot, Tadeusz Kosciuszko.



## The Big Trout

The town of Adaminaby in the Snowy Mountains is a popular trout-fishing spot and an ideal place for the ten metre high Big Trout to live. Weighing in at 2.5 tonnes it holds the illustrious title as the world's biggest trout. The trout is constructed of fibre glass over wire mesh and steel frame. It was installed in 1973 and is located in Picnic Park in Adaminaby.

In 1969 a suggestion was made to the then Adaminaby Lions Club that a sculpture of a large trout be commissioned. Andy Lomnici, a Hungarian born artist and sculptor who was living in Adaminaby offered to build the trout. The project took four years to complete and was in position ready for the official opening of the Adaminaby Lions Club Picnic Park on the 3rd November 1973.

Over the decades maintenance and repairs were undertaken many times, with a more extensive renovation undertaken in 2012 which restored the trout to its original condition.



Summarised from information contained on the SMRC and NGA websites.



# 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 [cccstours@gmail.com](mailto:cccstours@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

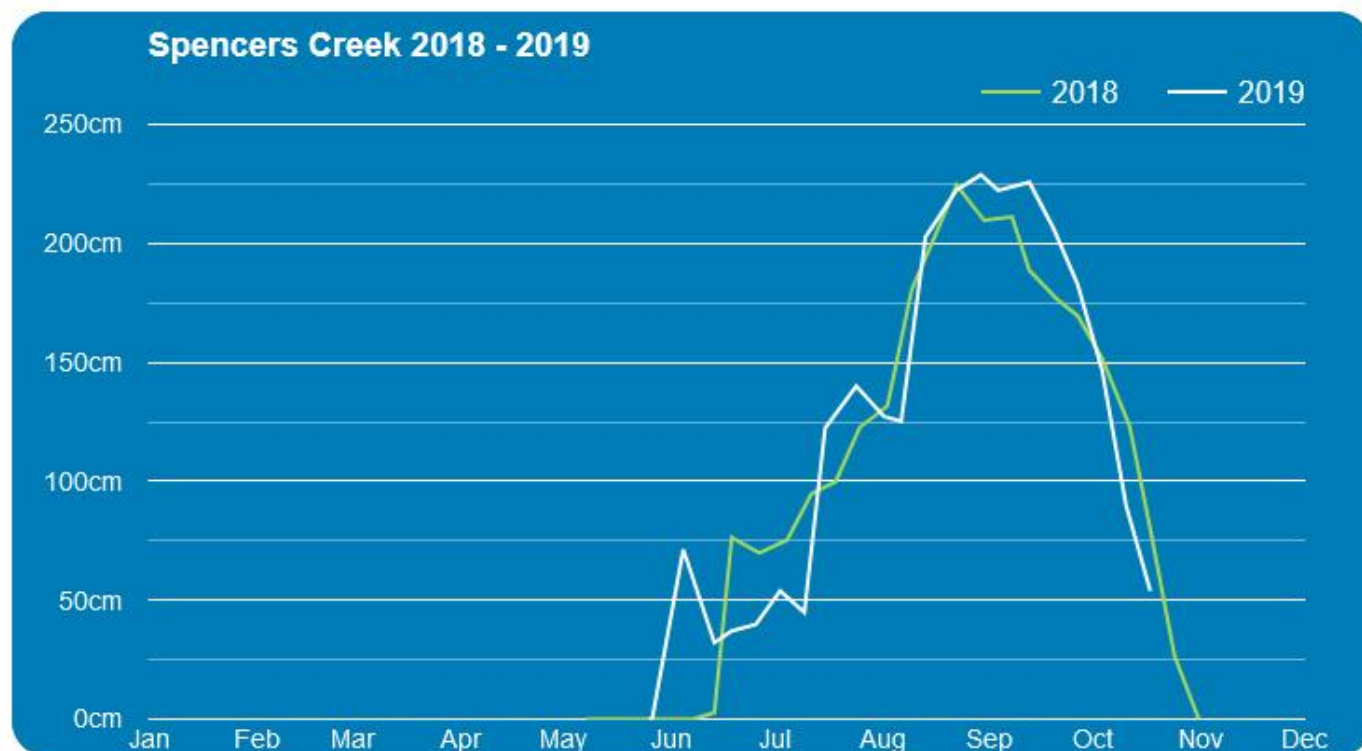
**Basic** — Can maintain control and perform the following skills on gentle terrain: kick turns, snow plough, side step, herring-bone, traverse and diagonal stride.

**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.

Date	Event Description	Leader
Sunday 20 October	<b>Main Range Tour</b>  Basic-Intermediate Skills    Rolling-Steep Terrain    Medium Distance  A tour on the Main Range, starting from Charlotte Pass. Will cross the Snowy River and head up to Carruthers Peak and across towards Lake Albina, returning via Mt Clarke and Foreman's Crossing.	
Friday to Sunday, 25 to 27 October	<b>Lodge Weekend at Charlotte Pass</b>  The Club will hold an end of season lodge weekend at Charlotte Pass in late-October, at the Southern Alps Ski Club lodge. Further details are on page 3 of this newsletter. Tours will be conducted on the Main Range or around Charlotte Pass on the weekend for those staying at the lodge, and for anyone that wants to come down just for a day.	

Any further tours in November will be advised by email.



*Snow depth chart for Spencer's Creek, as at 17 October 2019, and a comparison with 2018. Since mid September the snow cover has been diminishing quickly, possibly helped by the dust storm that coated the snow pack with red dust, and the warm temperatures. There is still good snow on the Main Range out from Charlotte Pass but more walking will be involved to reach the snow over the next few weeks.*

## Snowy Mountains Scheme 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

This October marks 70 years since the Snowy Mountains Scheme began. In October 1949 the ceremonial first blast was fired at Adaminaby to mark the commencement of the hydro-electric construction project. This historic milestone will be recognised with reunion events in Cooma on 19 October, Khancoban on 26 October and Talbingo (Tumut 3 Power Station) on 10 November. In addition to Snowy Hydro's organised events, local community groups are also hosting their own events to celebrate the 70th Anniversary.

The scheme was completed in 1974. During the 25 year period over 100,000 men and women from more than 30 countries worked on the project. During construction, seven regional townships and over 100 temporary camps were established throughout the Snowy Mountains.

A timeline of the key dates is as follows:

1955 – Guthega Power Station 60MW and Blowering Dam Power Station 80MW completed.

1955 – Guthega Dam

1955 – Guthega tunnel 4.7km

1958 – Eucumbene Dam (Lake Eucumbene)

1959 – Tumut 1 Power Station 330MW. (It currently has an upgrade underway).

1959 – Happy Jacks Dam

1959 – Tumut Pond

1959 – Tumut 1 Pressure tunnel 2.4km

1959 – Tumut 1 Tailwater tunnel 1.3km

1959 – Eucumbene to Tumut tunnel 22.2km

1960 – Tantangara Dam

1961 – Deep Creek Dam

1961 – Tooma Dam

1961 – Tooma to Tumut tunnel 14.3km

1961 – Tumut 2 Dam

1961 – Tumut 2 Pressure & Tailwater tunnel 11.3km

1961 – Murrumbidgee to Eucumbene tunnel 16.6km

1962 – Tumut 2 Power Station 287MW

1965 – Island Bend Dam

1965 – Eucumbene to Snowy tunnel 23.5km

1966 – Geehi Dam

1966 – Snowy to Geehi tunnel 14.5km

1966 – Murray 1 Power Station 950MW. (It currently has an upgrade underway).

1967 – Jindabyne Dam

1968 – Jounama Dam

1968 – Blowering Dam

1968 – Murray 2 Dam

1968 – Jindabyne to Island Bend tunnel 9.8km

1969 – Murray 2 Power Station 550MW

1969 – Murray 2 Pressure tunnel 2.4km

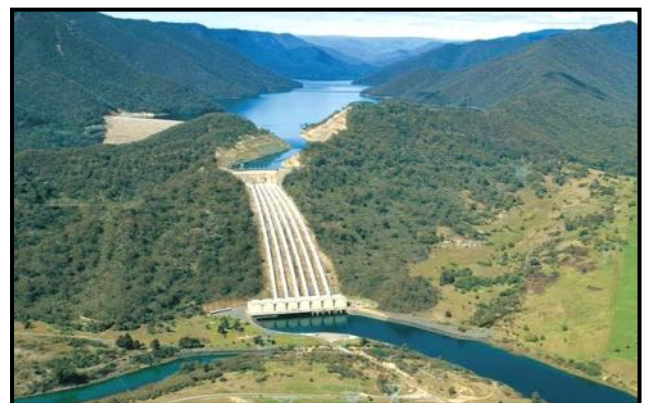
1969 – Jindabyne Pumping Station (Waste Point)

1970 – Talbingo Dam

1973 – Tumut 3 Power Station 1800MW and first major pump-storage scheme in Australia (upgraded in 2012).

2009 – Jindabyne Dam Mini Hydro 1MW

2010 – Jounama Small Hydro 14MW







## Canberra Cross Country Ski Club

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Web: [www.cccsc.asn.au](http://www.cccsc.asn.au)

Email: [cccscinfo@gmail.com](mailto:cccscinfo@gmail.com)

**Fun and fitness  
in the snow**

# Club Committee Contacts

Position	Name	Email	Phone
President	Ian Turland	<a href="mailto:cccscpresident@gmail.com">cccscpresident@gmail.com</a>	
Vice President	Jo-Anne Clancy	<a href="mailto:cccscvicepresident@gmail.com">cccscvicepresident@gmail.com</a>	
Secretary	Greg Lawrence	<a href="mailto:cccscsecretary@gmail.com">cccscsecretary@gmail.com</a>	
Treasurer	Paul Room	<a href="mailto:cccsc treasurer@gmail.com">cccsc treasurer@gmail.com</a>	
Membership Secretary	Gale Funston / Deb Purss	<a href="mailto:cccscmembership@gmail.com">cccscmembership@gmail.com</a>	
Tour Coordinator	Ken Moylan	<a href="mailto:cccsc tours@gmail.com">cccsc tours@gmail.com</a>	
Kosciuszko Tour Coordinator	Jo-Anne Clancy	<a href="mailto:cccscracing@gmail.com">cccscracing@gmail.com</a>	
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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 Levy or Ken Moylan.

