

# Off Piste

## The future of cross country skiing is in your hands!

In 2013 40,000 people in the USA were surveyed about snow sports participation.

Having someone to go with was the most significant factor that encouraged participants to go cross country skiing (61.9 percent).

This is what our club does. The Canberra Cross Country Ski Club provides a place where people can get together and find other people to go skiing with.

Don't take it for granted. Can you imagine what your cross country skiing opportunities would be without the club?

Everything that happens in the club is organised by the committee. And the committee needs a new treasurer, meetings coordinator, and Off-Piste editor.

The handful of people who are on the committee are making heroic efforts to cover all bases and so the club will be running next year. But this situation is not sustainable in the longer term.

We on the committee would dearly like, actually we need, more people to step into committee roles.

*(Continued on page 2)*



Above the Sentinel — Sept 13. Photo: Monika Binder

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

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## Newsletter Contributions

- Photos of trips, lessons, snow country, meetings or social events.
- Reports on tours, lessons and races and CCCSC events.
- Letters to the editor.
- Articles about XC skiing, snow conditions or related topics.
- Items to buy or sell.
- Please send emails to [ccsceditor@gmail.com](mailto:ccsceditor@gmail.com)
- The next newsletter will be out at the start of May 2015.



## Presidents Report for 2014

2014 has been a great skiing season - lots of snow made for plenty of skiing opportunities.

For the club the major administrative change this year was the commencement of the club's Facebook page. Some people have been posting to it regularly. Particularly useful for planning trips are posts of photographs of current snow conditions.

The club provides 5 services for its members - a touring program, monthly editions of Off Piste, ski tuition classes, the Kosciuszko Tour and social evenings. These services are organised by the volunteers who comprise the club's committee, and will be subject to separate reports to this meeting.

On behalf of all members, I would like to thank the committee members all of whom served the club so well this year. Without members volunteering their time for the committee we would not have a club. Committee meetings are always entertaining affairs and being on the committee is a great way to affirm friendships.

Particularly I would like to recognise the contribution that Margaret Mahoney has made. After 3 excellent years as treasurer, she is taking a break. We are of course therefore looking for a new treasurer.

I would also like to thank Deb Purss, who has been organising our social

meetings, sending out fortnightly updates to club members, and organising the ski tuition program this season. Deb is remaining on the committee but is seeking a reduced commitment next year. She is keeping on the tuition program, but is not available next year to organise the social meetings or do the fortnightly communication email. We are looking for volunteers to take over these rewarding roles.

### The Challenge Ahead

There is no doubt about it. The club is facing some big challenges in the next few years. Cross country skiing is also facing challenges.

When the club started in 1984 cross country skiing had had a relatively short history in Canberra and the new club was eager to discover the skiing potential of winter in our mountains. We knew we needed to build a cross country skiing fraternity, acquire skiing skills, and get the right skiing equipment to do this safely.

We have succeeded so well in all these things.

But it seems that we have passed our peak in membership, and the average age of the club continues to increase. Personally, I am glad to see so many familiar faces in the club; to see so many people who have been a constant part of the club for so long.

But we have to consider where we would like the club be in another 10 years time. While we have new members every year is our rate of recruitment and retention high enough to guarantee the future of the club?

There are therefore 3 strategies that I would like to see the club adopt next year to grow our membership.

Firstly, I believe the club needs to get more creative in the way it recruits and retains beginners. Therefore I will be taking to the committee (should I be re-elected as president) a comprehensive program for beginners, so that the beginners will be more likely to stay with the club. The program will provide beginners with a series of opportunities to develop from a raw beginner to an entry level intermediate skier.

I also would like to see the club providing more opportunities for families to go cross country skiing.

Finally I would like to see the club engaging more closely with the Perisher Cross Country Centre, because our goals for cross country skiing are very much aligned.

I am proud of our club's past 30 years. With your help, we can lay the foundations for another 30 years.

*Lachlan Kennedy*  
President  
2014



*(Continued from page 1)*

For the love of cross country skiing, please think about it.

### Initiatives for next season

Despite the vacancies the committee is working on ways to reinvigorate the Club. Next year will see some changes in the way the tour program is run to make it easier to put on tours at short notice. People chasing the snow falls will be able to run tours at short notice if they are minded to.

There will also be a season long program for beginners which I will be

coordinating. This will comprise lessons (arranged by Deb Purss), and then a series of tours over varied (and always entertaining) terrain, which I will arrange, from which beginners will be able to finish the season as intermediate skiers.

*Lachlan Kennedy,*  
President

### Newsletter Editor Position

At the AGM I was elected as the new Touring Coordinator, so will be relinquishing my role as Newsletter Editor next year. I have enjoyed producing the newsletters for the last four years but now it is time for someone else to take over this role. I am happy to produce the first newsletter next year and can provide assistance and be a backup editor to anyone taking over this role. If anyone is interested, could they contact myself or other Committee Members.

*Alan Levy*



## A World Loppet Event in New Zealand! Who Wants to Come

The Merino Muster is New Zealand's Worldloppet ski race, part of the same circuit of marathon length ski races as the Kangaroo Hoppet in Victoria, as well as other long races around the world.

There are three lengths available, the 7km Straggle Muster, the 21km Snow Rake, and the 42km Merino Muster.

Next year's race will be held on Saturday, 15 August 2015, which is the Saturday between the NSW Snowy Mountains Classic (the culmination of Cross-Country Week on 8 August) and the Victorian Kangaroo Hoppet (22 August).

I plan to race it next year and think it would be good to do it with some other Club members.

You could do one of the shorter races, if you wish, or a bit of sight seeing.

At the moment I'm still in the working-out-what-to-do stage, that is, working out when to get there, deciding on which town to stay at, how long to stay, and how much skiing to do. That sort of thing.

I'd like to get expressions of interest now, as by the time the next newsletter comes out, in Autumn next



year, we'll need to have sorted out at least accommodation and flights by then.

To get hold of me, you can e-mail me or telephone me.

*Ken*



### XMAS Party

**Wednesday 3 December**

The CCCSC XMAS Party will be held on Wednesday 3 December at 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.



## Club Photo Competition Results — 2014

The Club ran a photo competition this year to celebrate its 30th Anniversary. The two categories for the competition were Landscape, and People in the Snow.

Rob Wignell was the judge and showed the photos and announced the winners at the club social meeting on

10 September. The winners received gift vouchers from Ted's Cameras and A3 sized prints of their entries and runners up received wine.

A selection of the photos, including the top three in each category, are shown on the following two pages.

Thanks to everyone who entered and thanks to Rob Wignell for stepping in to judge at short notice, when the original judge was unable to make it.

*Gale Funston*  
Competition Organiser



Winner — Landscape Category. Photo: Tony Brown "Snowy Sunrise"



Second — Landscape Category. Photo: Alan Levy "Fitzgeralds Hut"



Third — Landscape Category. Photo: Bruce Porter



Landscape Category. Photo: Tony Brown "First Snow"



# Club Photo Competition Results (cont.)



Winner — People Category. Photo : Ken Moylan  
"Skier on Carruthers Peak"



Second — People Category. Photo: Greg Lawrence  
"Mike Hinchey"



Third — People Category. Photo: Ken Moylan  
"Adam Lilley"



Landscape Category. Photo: Lachlan Kennedy



Landscape Category. Photo: Bruce Porter  
"View towards Carruthers Peak"

## Trip Report — Ramshead Range — Saturday 20 September

On Saturday 20 September I led a ski tour from the top of Thredbo onto the Ramshead Range. After meeting up at the Sundance bakery in Jindabyne, we headed off to Thredbo and eventually met at the top of the chairlift to commence the tour. The group consisted of Jenny Manning, John Olle, Ken Smith, Rowan Christie, Tony Brown, Kim Hello, Margaret Mahoney, Penny Rossiter, Peter Cunningham, Bruce Porter and myself.

The weather was perfect and we skied up onto the Ramshead Plateau towards North Ramshead. Along the way we saw a few skiers with parasails. The snow surface was a bit rough, with a mixture of old and new snow. We stopped for morning tea on the ridgetop directly above Cootapamba Hut and overlooking the Swampy Plains River and Leatherbarrel Creek. It was John Olle's birthday, and he had brought along his own birthday cake which he shared with all of us!

We then had a good descent down the



Group skiing towards South Ramshead. *Photo: Alan Levy*

long slope past Ramshead Peak. We continued south across a valley then traversed around some steeper slopes before arriving at South Ramshead. We had lunch on some soft grass im-

mediately above Leatherbarrel Creek, with Mt Bogong and views of Victoria in front of us.

It was hard leaving this spot, but we had to start back in order to meet the chairlift. There were some large uphill slopes on the return trip which were quite tiring. Once past Ramshead Peak we had a good fast run across the plateau past North Ramshead, followed by the descent to the top of Crackenback. Kim and Rowan decided to ski to the bottom of Thredbo, whilst the rest of us caught the chairlift back down.

After another stop at the bakery in Jindabyne, we headed back to Canberra, satisfied after a great days skiing.

*Alan Levy*



Morning tea, with Mt Bogong in the background. *Photo: Alan Levy*

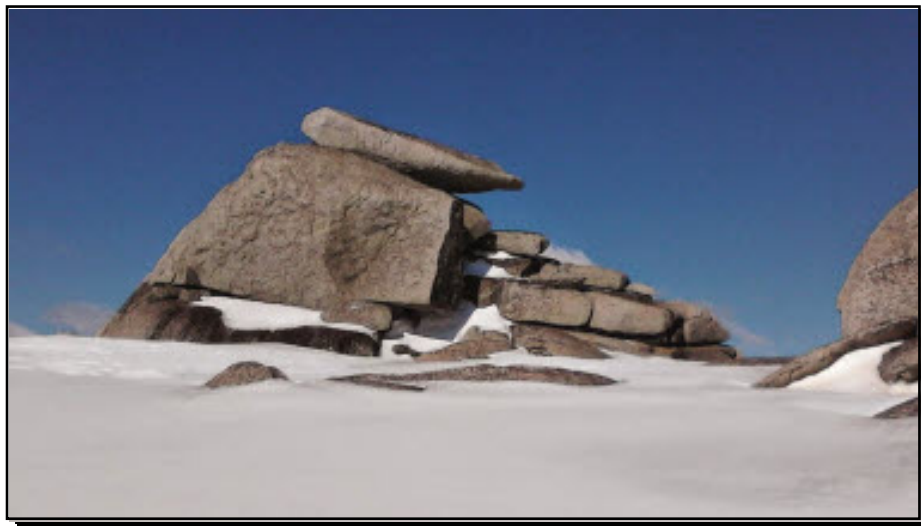
Club members at rest!







Bruce Porter, Margaret Mahoney and Peter Cunningham near South Ramshead.  
*Photo: Alan Levy*



Rock formation on the Ramsheads.  
*Photo: Kim Hello*



Ken Smith & Jenny Manning skiing on the Ramsheads above Thredbo.  
*Photo: Kim Hello*

## Trip Report — Main Range Snowcamp —11 & 12 October

A few photos from a Club snowcamp on the weekend of 11-12 October. On the trip were Tony Brown, Patrick Paynter, Alan Levy & Kim Hello. We had to walk along the summit road from Charlotte Pass to Snowy Bridge before reaching snow. We camped on grass next to the Snowy River just downstream from Snowy Bridge, then were able to ski in most places beyond Snowy Bridge. On the Saturday afternoon we skied to Lake Albina, Wilkinsons Valley, then around the western and southern sides of Mt Kosciuszko, up to Etheridge Gap and back to camp. On the Sunday we skied to Seamans Hut, then headed out early as the weather started to deteriorate. A great weekend, especially watching the mountains and creeks lit up by the colours of sunrise and sunset and the almost full moon.

*Alan Levy*



Walking along the summit road from Charlotte Pass towards the snow. *Photo: Alan Levy*

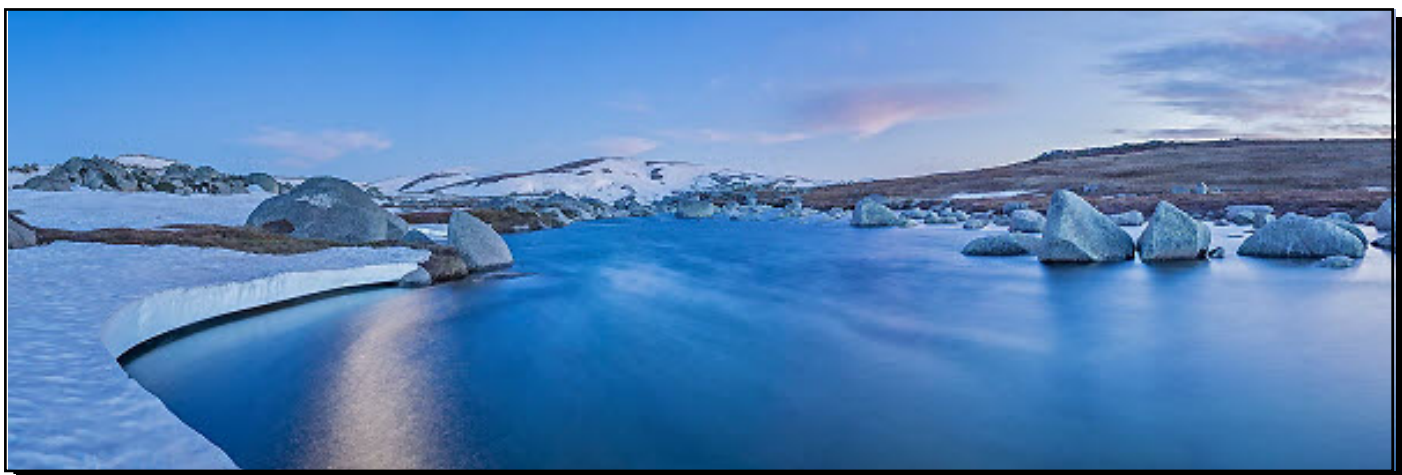


Kim Hello. *Photo: Kim Hello*



Alan Levy, Tony Brown and Patrick Paynter near Snowy Bridge. *Photo: Kim Hello*

Early morning light on the Snowy River close to the campsite near Snowy Bridge.  
*Photo: Tony Brown*

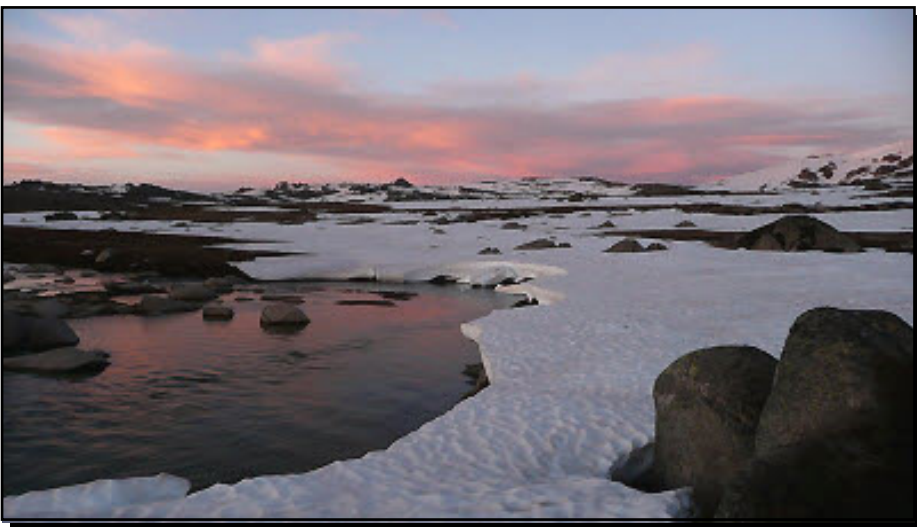






Camping on the grass close to Snowy Bridge. *Photo: Alan Levy*

Patrick Paynter skiing next to Lake Albina. *Photo: Kim Hello*



Early morning light colouring the Snowy River and surrounding snow. *Photo: Alan Levy*

## Trip Report — Lodge Weekend — 18-19 October



18 people attended the Club lodge weekend at the Southern Alps Ski Club lodge at Charlotte Pass on the weekend of 18-19 October. The weather was great and various trips were conducted to Kangaroo Ridge, Carruthers Peak, Watsons Crags, Mt Lee, Blue Lake and Club Lake. A great feast was held on the Saturday evening and everyone had a great time. Hope to do this again next year.

Trish Woods, Helen Crompton & Penny Rossiter on Carruthers Peak — 18 Oct 14.

*Photo: Alan Levy*

Sunny Giam, Helen Crompton, Victoria Clare, April Leung, Penny Rossiter & Trish Woods at Blue Lake — 18 Oct 14.

*Photo: Alan Levy*

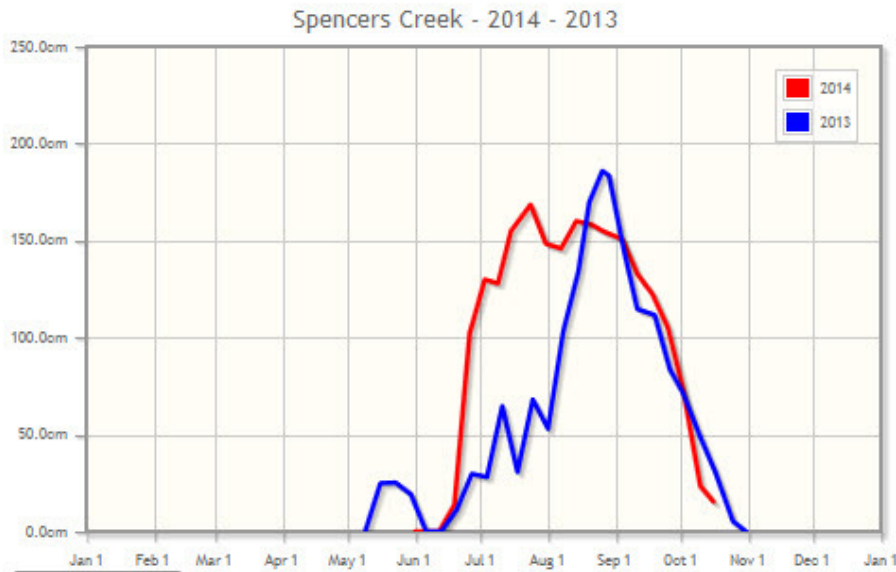


Overlooking Blue Lake — 18 Oct 14.

*Photo: Alan Levy*



## Latest Snow Depth Chart



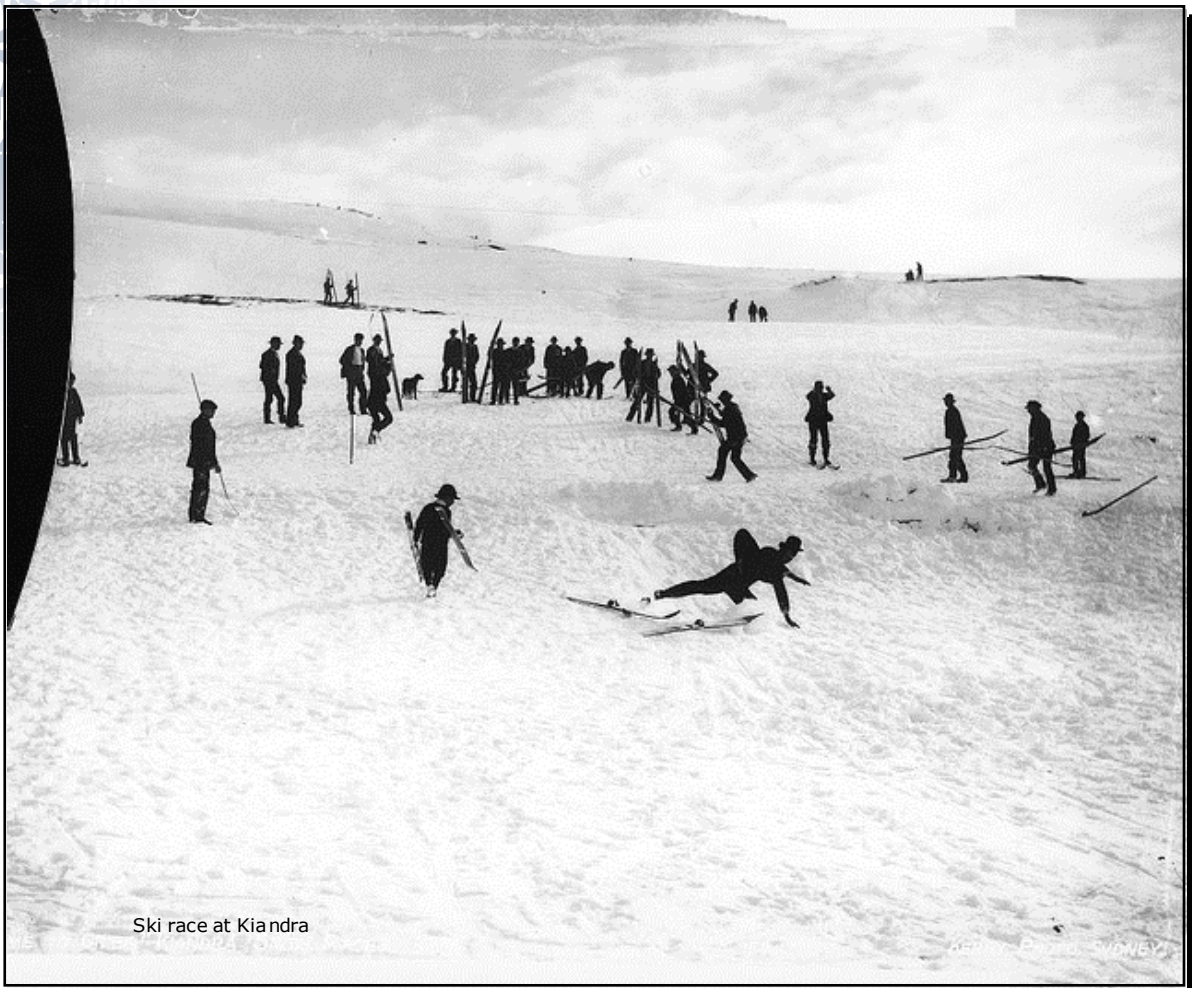
A comparison of the snow depth at Spencers Creek for 2013 and 2014. The snow is almost gone!



Cootapatamba Hut — 4 Oct 14. Photo: Tony Brown



Ken Moylan (237) and Paul Photios (420) racing in the 2014 Kangaroo Hoppet. Ken's new skis were faster than Paul's, so he managed to beat him, the first time in many years. Falls Creek, Victoria. Saturday, 23 August 2014





## Club Committee Contacts

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Fun and fitness in the snow



### 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 week-end.

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

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

**Snow shovel** - \$4/weekend; - \$6/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** (GMEMT410G)

**Contact** Alan & Steve

**GPS** (Garmin Etrex Vista HcX)

**Contact** Alan & Steve

