

CANBERRA
CROSS COUNTRY
SKI CLUB, INC

Off Piste



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

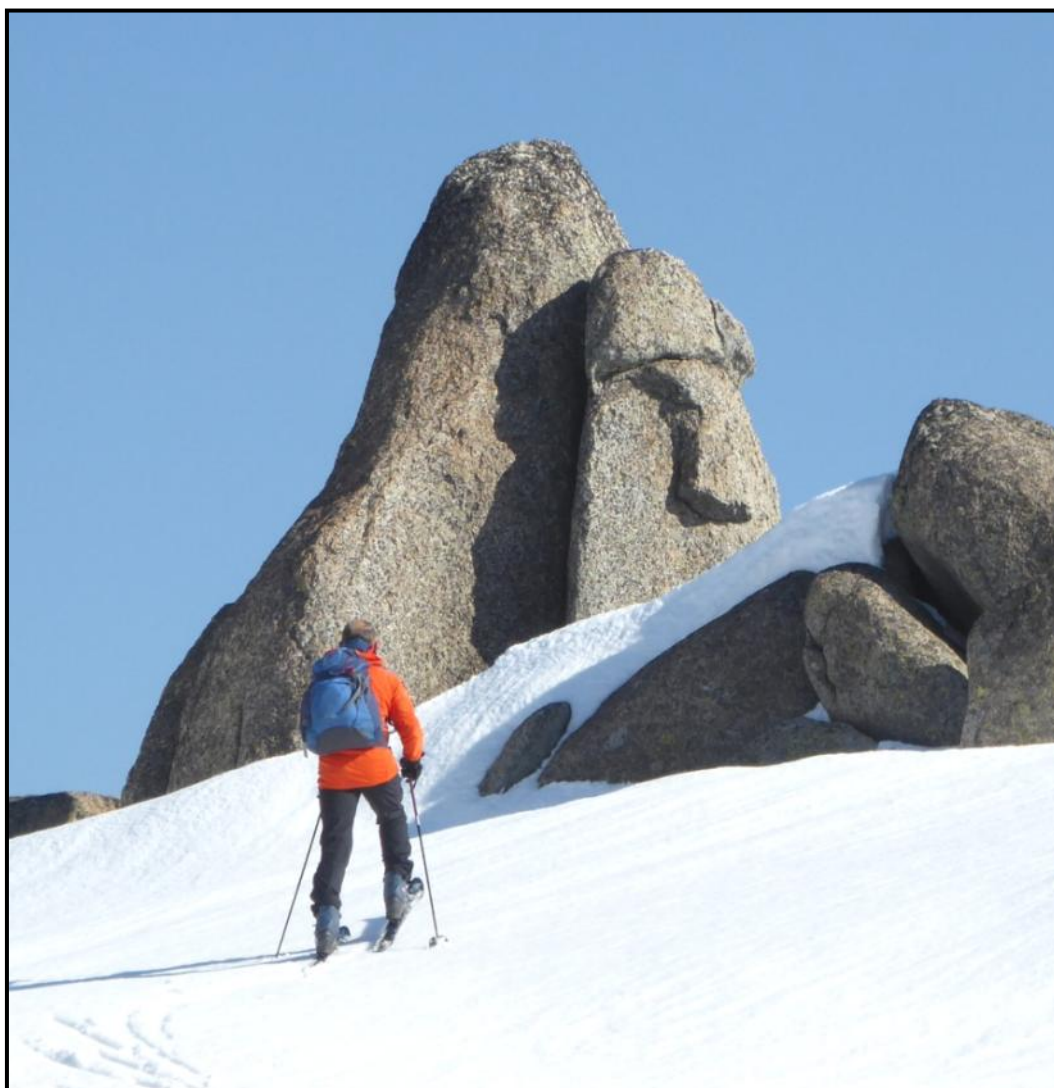
- XMAS Party
- Workparties

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2020, ISSUE 4

4 NOVEMBER 2020



*Noel Mungovan paying homage to the Easter Island god - Friday, 2 October 2020.
Photo: Alan Levy*

Next Newsletter

The next newsletter will be produced in May 2021.

The CCCSC XMAS Party will be held on Wednesday 2 December.
See inside for further details.

President's Piece

Welcome to our final newsletter for the year. The snow is now pretty much gone now but, within the constraints of Covid restrictions and sub-optimal snow conditions, we have made the most of the season, enjoying a range of ski tours and other activities.

Our Annual General Meeting on 23 September saw two new committee members voted into office. Cliff Henderson is our new Treasurer, while Ralph Gailis has taken up the position of Tour Coordinator. Ken Moylan, who previously held the Tour Coordinator position is now Secretary. Thank you again to our departing Committee members, Paul Room and Greg Lawrence. Their services to the club over many years is very much appreciated.

Unlike previous years, it looks unlikely we will have members travelling to the Northern Hemisphere to ski during the winter season there. I keep hearing about great skiing experiences in places like the Dolomites and the Rockies. And, of course, we have members who have, in past years, been logging up their participation in loppet races in a variety of locations.

Nonetheless, there are a few activities in the months ahead to take note of. I hope to see you at the club's Christmas party at Lennox Gardens on Wednesday, 2 December. It's a chance to very pleasantly catch up with other members. (Further details are in this newsletter and on the club's website.)

And I would encourage members to consider participating in work parties on the Perisher X-C trails. This work has an important role in maintaining the infrastructure of the trails. [Further details in this newsletter and on the www.perisherxcountry.org website.]

Wishing everyone all the best for the holiday season.

*Ian Turland,
President*

Off-Season Activities

XMAS Party – Wed 2 December 2020

At Lennox Gardens, from 5:30pm. (see page 3).

Nordic Shelter & Trails Working Bees in 2021

The good work done by the XC Summer Work Parties continues in 2021, with work to be done on the trails and in and around the Nordic Shelter.

The 2021 XC Work Party dates are as follows:

- Nov 14/15
- Feb 6/7
- Mar 13/14
- April 10/11
- May 1/2
- June 5/6

Please contact Peter Ward if you plan to attend – nswxcl@gmail.com

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

Accommodation will be provided by Canberra Alpine Club. If you require accommodation, please contact Peter Cunningham - peter.petercunningham@gmail.com. Bring bedding, towels, food and drink.

First Off-Piste Newsletter for 2021 – early May 2021

First Social Meeting for 2021 – Wed 26 May 2021

At the Hughes Community Centre.



XMAS Party

Wednesday 2 December

The CCCSC XMAS Party will be held on Wednesday 2 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.



Ski Tour Photographs - 2020



Melinda Brouwer and Noel Mungovan at Blue Lake - Friday, 28 August 2020. Photo: Daniele Leyder



Noel Mungovan testing out his emergency shelter, which can hold up to 4 people - Friday, 28 August 2020. Photo: Daniele Leyder



Daniele Leyder grass skiing above Guthega Trig - Friday, 11 September 2020. Photo: Noel Mungovan



Amazing cloud formation near Schlink Hut - Wednesday, 16 September 2020. Photo: Alan Levy



*Group at Consett Stephens Pass on a trip to Tate West Ridge - Friday, 11 September 2020.
Photo: Daniele Leyder*



Tin Hut - Tuesday, 15 September 2020. Photo: Alan Levy



Mike Hinchey, leading Bess, Rita and Walter, near Etheridge Gap. On a Club tour from Thredbo to Cootapatamba Hut. Sunday, 27 September 2020. Photo: © Ken Moylan



Bess Rossiter skiing from Thredbo to Etheridge Gap, following the Kosciuszko Walk trail. You can see how busy it was by all the ski tracks heading in the same direction. On a Club tour from Thredbo to Cootapatamba Hut. Sunday, 27 September 2020. Photo: © Ken Moylan



Our group lunching at Cootapatamba Hut. We are: Ken Moylan, Gale Funston, Rita, Walter, Mike Hinchey, David Drohan, ??, Penny Rossiter, Bess Rossiter. On a Club tour from Thredbo to Cootapatamba Hut. Sunday, 27 September 2020. Photo: © Ken Moylan



**Strava route for the day's tour.
On a Club tour from Thredbo to Cootapatamba Hut.
Sunday, 27 September 2020.
Photo: © Ken Moylan**



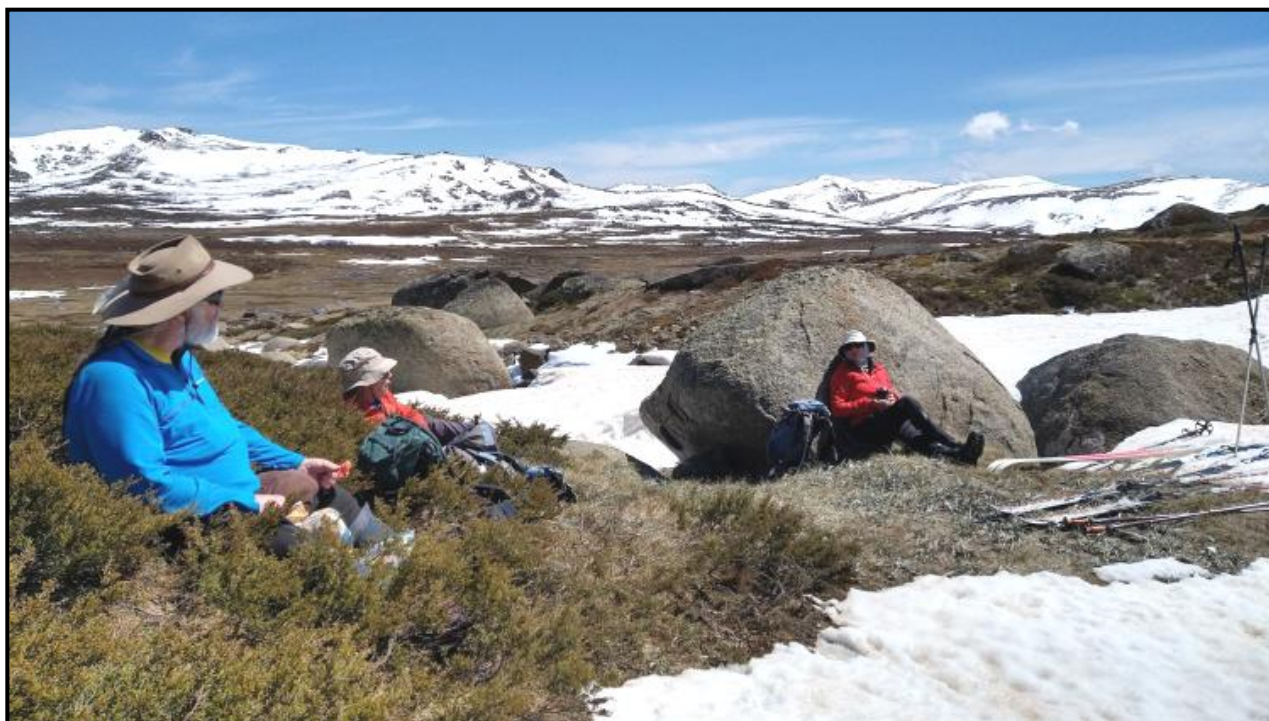
Alan Levy and David Drohan wading across the Snowy River at Foreman's Crossing. David reported that his bright orange dry pants kept him very dry. On a Club tour to the Kunama Hut ruins. Part of the October Lodge Weekend. Saturday, 10 October 2020. Photo: © Ken Moylan



Alan, Mike, Ken, Dave, Margaret and Sue at the Kunama Hutte ruin - Saturday, 10 October 2020. Photo: Sonja Weinberg



The Moon above the Mt Stillwell trig. On a Club tour along Kangaroo Ridge to Merritt's Creek. Part of the October Lodge Weekend. Sunday, 11 October 2020. Photo: © Ken Moylan



Having lunch at the southern end of Kangaroo Ridge above Merritts Creek. Part of the October Lodge Weekend - Sunday, 11 October 2020. Photo: Sonja Weinberg



*Skiers heading back from Tate West Ridge towards Consett Stephens Pass - Friday, 11 September 2020.
Photo: Daniele Leyder*



*Trevor Lewis at Consett Stephens Pass, with Guthega Dam in the background - Friday, 11 September 2020.
Photo: Alan Levy*

Trip Report - Mt Paralyser - 6 September

At last; a trip that pushed all the buttons. The weather was fine, the snow was firm and easy softening to a nice piste, and the company as always, made this a great day's skiing.

We'd departed Kalkite at 7.30am to beat the roadblock and made it to the Perisher car park by 8.30am to find it not yet full. By 9am the park was full, however, and it seemed likely NPWS would start diverting traffic at Jindabyne.

After meeting up with some new members, we headed up the road to Perisher Gap on the crunchy ice turned over by the tracked vehicles and made a quick descent down to Bett's Creek on the same tracks. We then headed up the valley towards the Paralyser saddle for a 'morning tea'. This was followed by a steady ascent on ever softening snow on the sunny side of the valley till we made the saddle and the company of some snow boarders and down-hill skiers.

We arrived on the Paralyser summit for a Father's Day lunch and perfect views of the Main Range and everywhere else. By the time lunch was over the snow had softened nicely and we all made an exhilarating descent to the valley floor – surely one of the nicest runs in the mountains. By then things were warming up and we reduced our layers for the climb back up to Perisher Gap and the best little coffee/drinks/snacks shop in NSW. Needless to say the place was bustling with business but we enjoyed the coffee with friends and then made a pleasant descent down the valley floor to Perisher. We were back at the car by 3pm and pretty satisfied with ourselves. We were Alan Levy, Sue Genner, Gale Funston and Mike Hinchey.

Mike Hinchey



*Alan at the morning tea site in the valley below the Paralyser Gap.
Photo: Mike Hinchey*



*Sue, Alan and Gale descending the slopes below The Paralyser.
Photo: Mike Hinchey*

Trip Report - Main Range Snowcamp — 2 & 3 October

Four of us (Noel Mungovan, John Giacon, Jo-Anne Clancy and myself) met at the bakery at Jindabyne on Friday 2 October. We then headed to Charlotte Pass to camp for two nights in the Snowy Bridge area below Seamans Hut. The weather was warm, sunny and windy. Following some good snowfalls the previous week there was still a good snow cover on the Main Range which extended down to the Snowy River crossing below Charlotte Pass.

From the Charlotte Pass turning circle we walked a short distance along the Summit Road from where we were able to put on our skis and continue skiing towards our destination. Surprisingly we were able to ski virtually all the way along the road to Snowy Bridge. We were planning to camp on grass and I had intended to camp just downstream of Snowy Bridge amongst some rocks, but this area was all under snow, so instead we camped on grass just upstream of the bridge close to the Snowy River. But the campsite was exposed to the wind.

After setting up our tents and having lunch, we headed off for an afternoon ski. We skied south across the valley towards North Ramshead and Etheridge Gap to visit a large rock shaped like an Easter Island moai statue that I had visited the previous year (see cover photo). We then continued down the valley from Etheridge Gap to visit Cootapatamba Hut, which had been rebuilt the year before. Following a long climb from the hut back up the valley we arrived back at the campsite around 5:45pm. We then cooked dinner and watched the full moon rise in the east over Kangaroo Ridge. As it was windy and we were feeling tired due to the soft snow we decided not to do any night skiing under the moonlight and instead headed to our tents for the evening. My tent flapped in the wind all night so I didn't get much sleep that night.

I was up before dawn the following morning to watch the full moon set in the west and the sun rise in the east. The colours in the early morning sky were



*Early morning light and full moon at the campsite - Saturday, 3 October 2020.
Photo: Alan Levy*



*The moon setting over Etheridge Ridge before dawn - Saturday 3 October 2020.
Photo: Alan Levy*

amazing and are one of the highlights of doing a snowcamp. We had breakfast and set off before 8am to ski towards Mt Townsend. Jo-Anne continued with us for a short distance before returning to pack up and head out early. John, Noel and myself continued skiing across the upper Snowy River valley to Muellers Pass then across the southern slopes of Muellers Peak overlooking Wilkinsons Valley up to the plateau

below Mt Townsend. There was plenty of snow in this area but as it had been 9 deg during the night and 15 deg during the day the snow was extremely slow and heavy. It was also blowing a gale up high.

We skied to the top of Alice Rawson Peak for some great views over Lady

(Continued on page 14)

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Northcote Canyon and the western faces of the Main Range. I had intended to then explore the lower parts of Wilkinsons Valley but as there was little glide on the snow and as the three of us were feeling very lethargic we decided to head back to the campsite. We stopped for lunch out of the wind below Seamans Hut then climbed up to the hut to see the new toilet block which is being built there. We were back at the tents by 1:30pm.

As we had no other plans for the day other than just sitting around the windy campsite we decided to pack up and head out early. We quickly packed up our tents and set off back down the summit road at 2:20pm. Being the Saturday of the long weekend the road was full of walkers, snowshoers and a few other skiers. Much of the snow that we had skied on along the road the previous day had disappeared so there was a lot more walking on the way out. We got back to the car before 4pm to then head back to Canberra. Another great trip.

Alan Levy



Noel Mungovan climbing into Cootapatamba Hut via the ladder - Friday, 2 October 2020. Photo: Alan Levy



View of Mt Jagungal and the Western Faces of the Main Range from Alice Rawson Peak - Saturday, 3 October 2020. Photo: Alan Levy

Trip Report - A Last Hurrah! - 20 October

On Tuesday, 20 October 2020, Ken Moylan and Alan Levy did the day trip to Charlotte Pass.

We had waited more than a week for good weather since our first thoughts about the trip and at last a day of good weather was forecast.

Route:

From Charlotte Pass, we walked down to Foreman's Crossing, hopped across on the stepping stones, and walked along the walking track to Soil Conservation Creek.

We got to ski into Soil Conservation Creek and then mostly ski up, through and down the saddle into Blue Lake, for morning tea.

After a bush-bashing walking detour to the Blue Lake Outlet, we mostly skied up the glacial valley above and behind Blue Lake and got onto the ridge of the Main Range just after lunch.

Here we took in views of Watson's Craggs and north towards Mt Jagungal, etc.

Another little ski took us to the saddle below Carruther's Peak, where we were rewarded with views of The Sentinel and Lady Northcote's Canyon.

By now, it was getting late and we were tiring, so discussion of bagging Carruther's was "Nuh".

We turned our skis towards the Snowy River, followed the lead of snow that lay

in Carruther's Creek and skied most of the way to where it meets Club Lake Creek.

From here we did the familiar walk back to Foreman's Crossing and up to Charlotte Pass.

Wax of the Day:

The snow was pretty dirty, with months of dust and grass now lying on top.

My fishscale skis didn't even mind the grassy segments connecting the snow drifts.

Best Bits:

- No falls.
- The views we got from the ridge of the

Main Range.

- Spring corn snow! I had a whole day of easy turning snow, something to remember next season on the difficult early season snow.

Worst Bits:

- As Sgt Murtagh of the Lethal Weapon movies says, "I'm too old for this stuff". Day tripping from Canberra is pretty hard to keep up.
- The disappearing snow. October was rainy and the snow depth was disappearing at a great rate of centimetres.

Ken Moylan



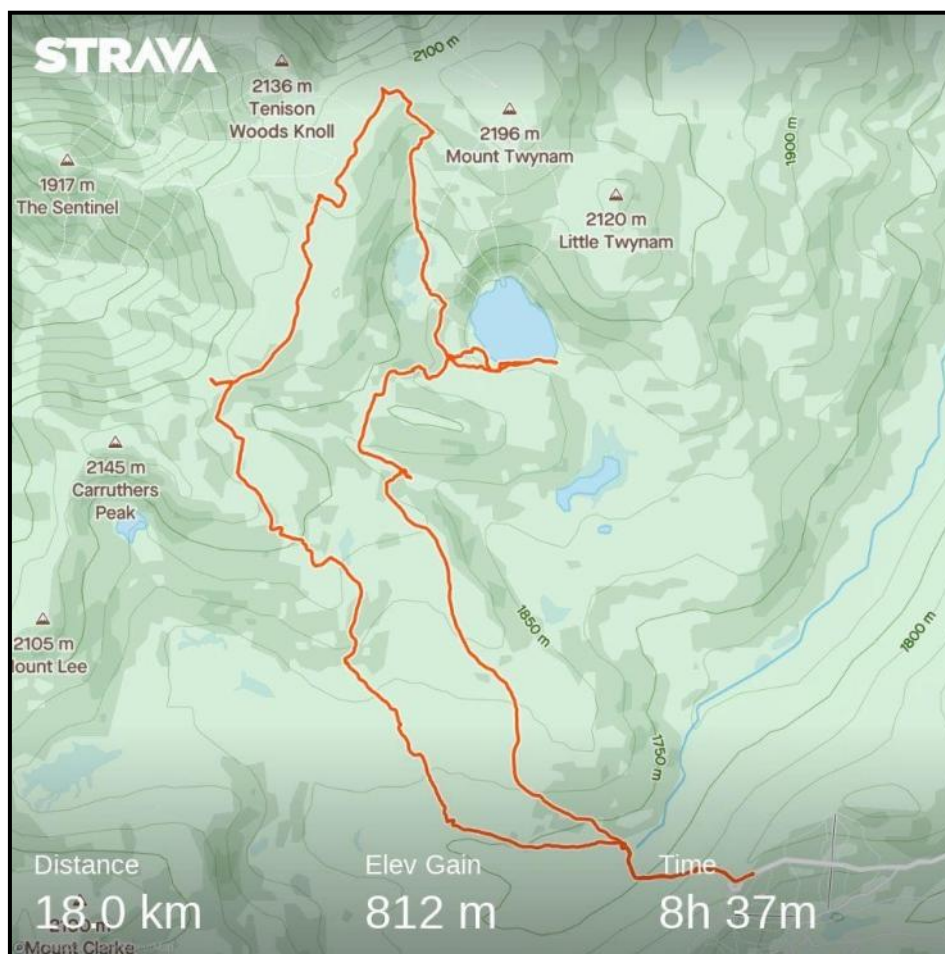
The outlet of Blue Lake. Tuesday, 20 October 2020. Photo: Alan Levy



Alan Levy taking in the view of Lady Northcote's Canyon and The Sentinel. On a Club tour to from Charlotte's Pass up to The Main Range. Tuesday, 20 October 2020. Photo: © Ken Moylan



View to Watsons Crags. Tuesday 20 October 2020. Photo: Alan Levy



Strava route for the day's tour. On a Club tour to from Charlotte's Pass up to The Main Range. Tuesday, 20 October 2020. © Ken Moylan

2020 Annual General Meeting - President's Report

It has been a challenging year for the club in a number of ways – most notably the impact of Covid-19 restrictions and limitations arising from relatively poorer snow coverage and duration. We have also been unable to ski in the northern part of Kosciuszko National Park owing to damage from the summer bushfires. Nonetheless, within those constraints, we have maintained a substantial program of activities.

While later in starting, we have had an active tour program over recent weeks. With less certain snow conditions and with many of the normal community cross-country activities cancelled, we have had a less structured advance schedule of tours but the club has worked to fill the gap by conducting a good range of tours catering across skill levels, from beginners to intermediate to advanced. Regular emailed updates of forthcoming tours have been useful in informing members of these events.

There was an increased use of Jo and Paul's accommodation in Kalkite this year, with 127 nights booked from 29 July to 23 September. Along with ski lodge bookings, this accommodation often played a central role in the initiation of tours. Unfortunately, we were unable to run our July lodge weekends this year; these are normally a key element of our program. We still hope to run a lodge weekend in October.

Unfortunately, the racing calendar has been severely constrained by Covid restrictions, including the cancellation of the club's Kosciuszko Tour, the Perisher XC Ski Week and the Kangaroo Hoppet. Some members, however, participated in the Virtual Kangaroo Hoppet and Virtual Merino Muster races.

Because of Covid restrictions our program of social meetings did not commence until July but since then we have maintained our usual schedule of social meetings, albeit with constraints on numbers attending.

We have conducted a preliminary trial of video-conferencing as an alternative or supplementary means of conducting our social meetings and will consider pursuing this path further next year, especially if Covid restrictions were to still be impacting at that time. Committee meetings have been successfully held using Zoom video-conferencing.

On club communications, work undertaken by our webmaster, Ken Moylan, saw the reinstatement of the club's website early this year, a very welcome development, given the website serves as one of our main interfaces with members. The club's newsletter editor, Alan Levy, has produced three newsletters this year, with one more anticipated. Our Facebook page has attracted many new members this year.

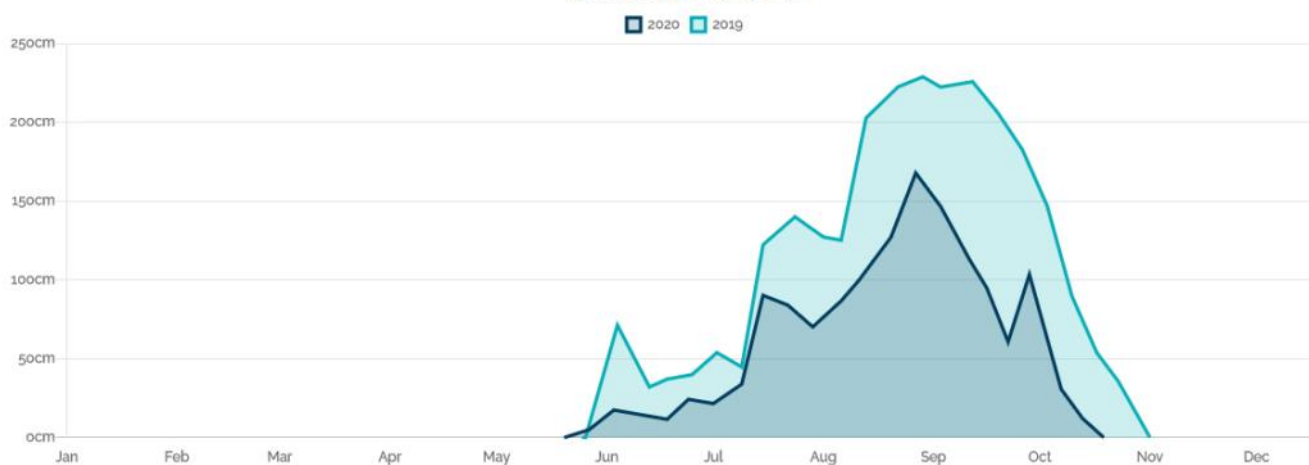
Club membership currently stands at 127. Given constraints on the club's 2020 activities arising from the Covid-19 restrictions, the committee determined that membership from 2019 would be rolled over. New members paid a reduced annual fee of \$10 for singles and \$20 for families.

Finally, I wish to thank the other members of the committee for working constructively and effectively in managing the club's affairs during the past year. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.

*Ian Turland,
President*

Spencers Creek

CURRENT LEVEL **ocm** AS OF 19 OCT 2020



The snow depth chart for Spencers Creek as at 19 Oct 20, compared with 2019. The reduced depth of snow and the rain during spring caused the snow cover to disappear quickly this year.

Spencers Creek

CURRENT LEVEL **ocm** AS OF 19 OCT 2020



The snow depth chart for 2020 is a fairly close match with 2013.



Canberra Cross Country Ski Club

Web: www.cccsc.asn.au

Email: cccscanberra@gmail.com

**Fun and fitness
in the snow**

Club Committee Contacts

Position	Name	Email	Phone
President			
Vice President			
Secretary			
Treasurer			
Membership Secretary			
Tour Coordinator			
Kosciuskzo Tour Coordinator			
Meeting Coordinator			
Newsletter Editor			
Webmaster			



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





Ken Moylan looking out from the Cootapatamba Hut "Chimney". On a Club tour from Thredbo to Cootapatamba. Sunday, 27 September 2020. Photo: © Bess Rossiter



Aries tarn under the North Ramshead. Monday 3 November 2020. Photos: Mike Hinchey

