

**SPECIAL POINTS
OF INTEREST:**

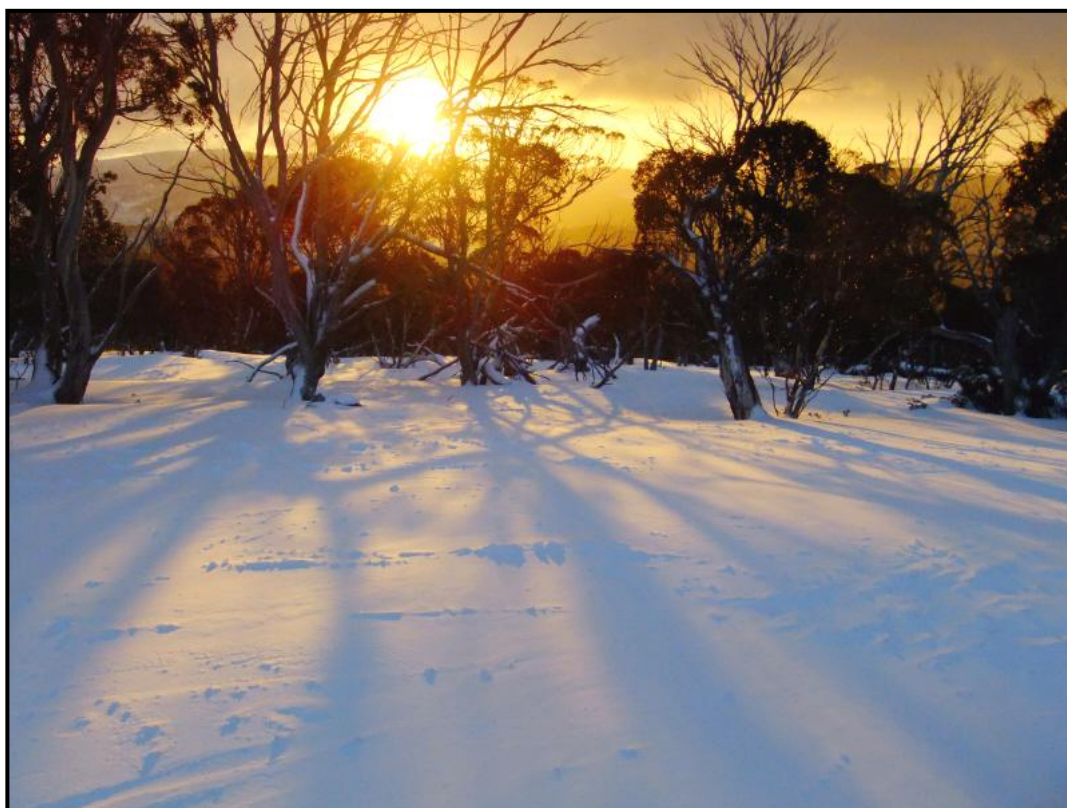
- Trip Photos
- AGM Notice
- Save Falls Creek

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2022, ISSUE 5

12 SEPTEMBER 2022



Sunrise colours - Wed 17 Aug 22. Photo: Mike Hinchey

Next Newsletter

The next newsletter will be produced in early October. Deadline for contributions is 11 October. Please send any articles or photos to cccseditor@gmail.com

President's Piece

Spring skiing is often the best skiing of the season. The snow is more forgiving and the days are longer and warmer. See the program of tours for some opportunities to take advantage of these conditions. This includes some overnight trips.

For the first time, I joined others in the club for the annual 'pilgrimage' to the Victorian ski fields. This is where I did some of my earliest skiing but it had been a long time since I was there. A very pleasant time, with day-tours and then the Kangaroo Hoppet race. About a dozen club members did either the Hoppet itself or the shorter Birkebeiner, which were held on a beautiful sunny day. Thank you to Gale for all her work in organising this club trip.

This is my last President's Piece. The club's constitution sets a maximum term for club president of three years. So, I will no longer hold the position after the Annual General Meeting on 28 September. It has been a pleasure and an honour to be president of the club during this time. I urge members to consider nominating for this position.

I also encourage members to participate in the AGM. This is a chance to review the running of the club and to elect committee members. It is also a social event, with time to imbibe a glass or two of gluhwein and reminisce over past ski adventures and conjure up new ones – or wherever conversations stray.

Before then, Matthew Brookhouse from the Australian National University will provide a presentation to the club at our 14 September social meeting on eucalypt dieback, a major environmental challenge in the Australian Alps. This is a good chance to learn more about this important environmental issue.

Ian Turland
CCCSC President

Social Meetings

Some of the COVID restrictions that were in place for the Social Meetings last year are no longer required, however members should exercise common sense and not attend if experiencing COVID like symptoms. Hand Sanitiser will be provided for use at the meetings.

Accessing the Members Page

When logging in via the 'Member Login' page, you need to use the "Username" and "Password" provided to members via the email "login 13/7 ..." on 13 July 2022 or via subsequent email when joining the club.

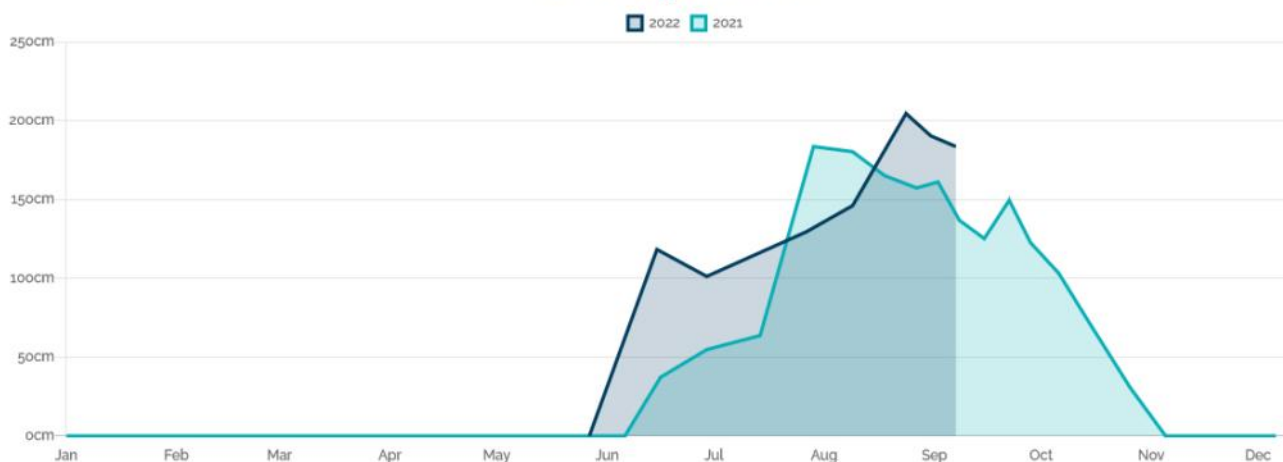
Please do not log in with your email address as this will not work.

CCCSC guidelines for insurance excess in the event of vehicle damage

A set of guidelines has been developed for reimbursement of the cost of the insurance excess where a car being driven on a club trip sustains damage, eg. from hitting a kangaroo or being sideswiped in the carpark. This document can be found under the "Forms" section of the club's website – see <http://cccsc.asn.au/home/info/forms/>.

Spencers Creek

CURRENT LEVEL **183.6cm** AS OF 07 SEP 2022



As at 7 Sept the snow depth at Spencer's Creek was 183.6cm, higher than at this time last year.

Notice of the Annual General Meeting of Canberra Cross Country Ski Club Inc

Date: Wednesday 28 September 2022

Time: 7.45pm

Place: Room 3, Hughes Community Centre, Wisdom Street, Hughes, ACT

This is to advise you of the upcoming annual general meeting of the members of the Canberra Cross Country Ski Club Inc.

The details of this meeting are as follows:

At the meeting, members will have the opportunity to:

- find out about the club's activities and finances
- ask questions about the club's activities and finances
- speak about any items on the agenda
- vote on any resolutions proposed.

At the meeting, members will be asked to vote to:

- accept the minutes of the last annual general meeting
- accept the president's report
- accept the treasurer's report and annual financial statements
- elect the committee

Afterwards there will be a chance to socialise with gluhwein, nibbles and some photos from this ski season.



Watson's Crags

Falls Creek Cross-Country Skiers Need Your Help

Falls Creek Alpine Resort Management Board (FCARMB) wants to make changes to the cross-country ski area from Windy Corner, through the Nordic Bowl and to the Dam Wall.

The changes for Summer use are no concern, but FCARMB wants to clear the road of snow from the Windy Corner car park, through the Nordic Bowl and to the Dam Wall. This will ruin the experience as we know it. As well as closing ski trails, it will effectively close the ski road from Windy Corner to the Nordic Bowl and beyond to the dam wall. I expect major changes to the Kangaroo Hoppet, Australia's biggest ski event, none of them good.

Most of us use and enjoy the Perisher Nordic trail system, so we appreciate any infrastructure made available to us. Victorian cross-country skiers need your help to fight this detrimental change to their infrastructure.

Although we are North of the border, we can still add our voice to the swell of protests coming from Victorians. We can write or e-mail our concerns to many influential people, including:

- Helen Haynes, the independent member for the Federal seat of Indi, which covers Falls Creek (helen.haines.mp@aph.gov.au);
- Falls Creek Chamber of Commerce (info@fallscreekreservations.com.au);
- Parks Victoria (info@parks.vic.gov.au);
- Snow Australia (info@snow.org.au).

Personally, the changes will affect my participation in the Kangaroo Hoppet. I try to spend the week beforehand ski touring, with most days going out of Falls Creek. This will affect how willing I want to spend as much time in Falls Creek, and the attendant spending that I will do.

I urge you to consider how this will affect you and write your concerns to the real influencers. I know of no deadline, but do it this month, before it is too late.

Ken Moylan

Some resources to learn about the issues, what you can do and to whom to write:

Save Falls Creek XC

Home page of the campaign.

<https://savefallscreekxc.org/save-falls-creek-xc-1>

How You Can Help

A page full of suggested actions you can do to help the campaign. It has a full list of people to contact, why they matter and what might influence them.

<https://savefallscreekxc.org/take-action>

Lakeside Development Project Planning

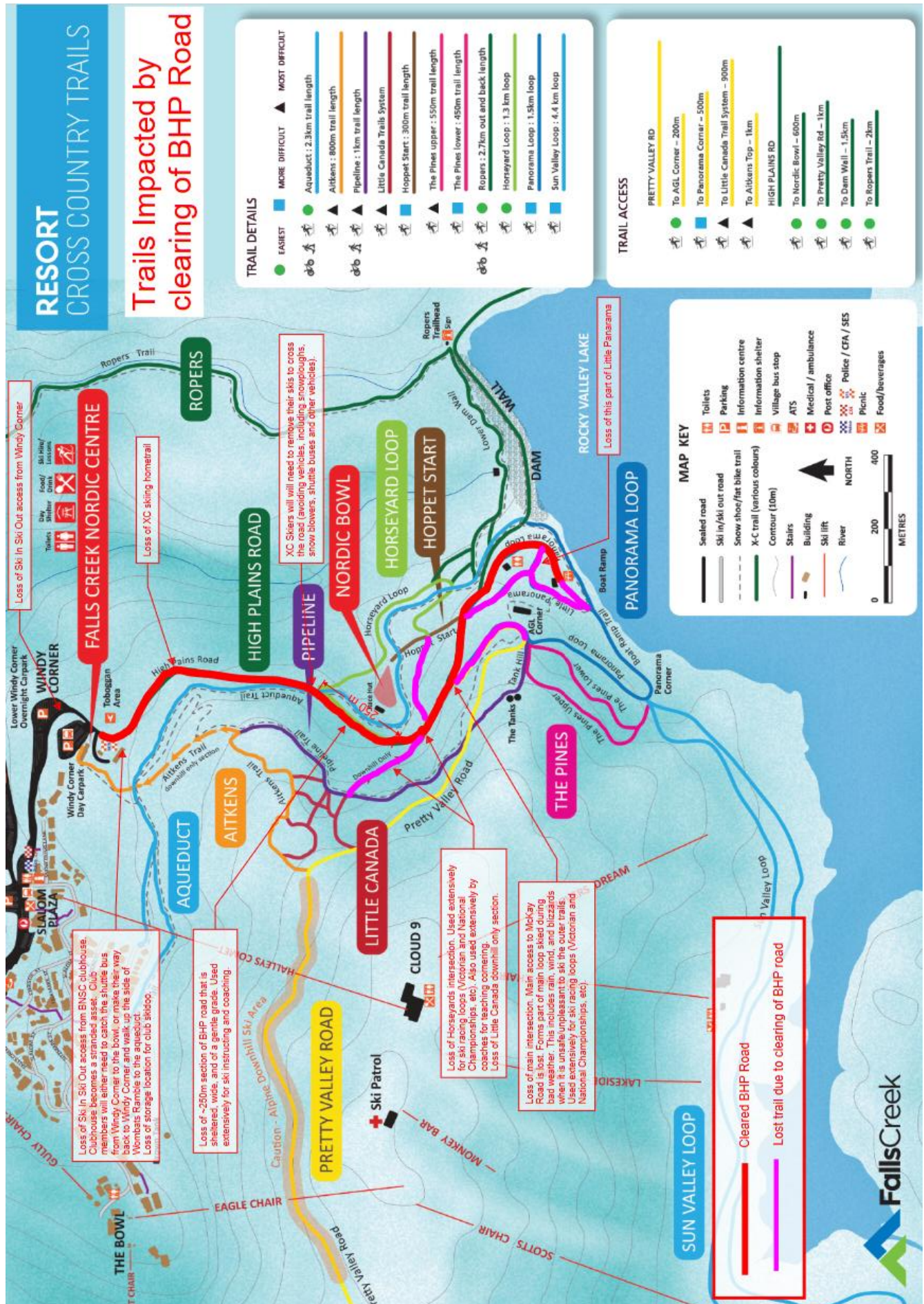
FCRMB's

<https://corporate.fallscreek.com.au/lakeside-development-project-planning/>

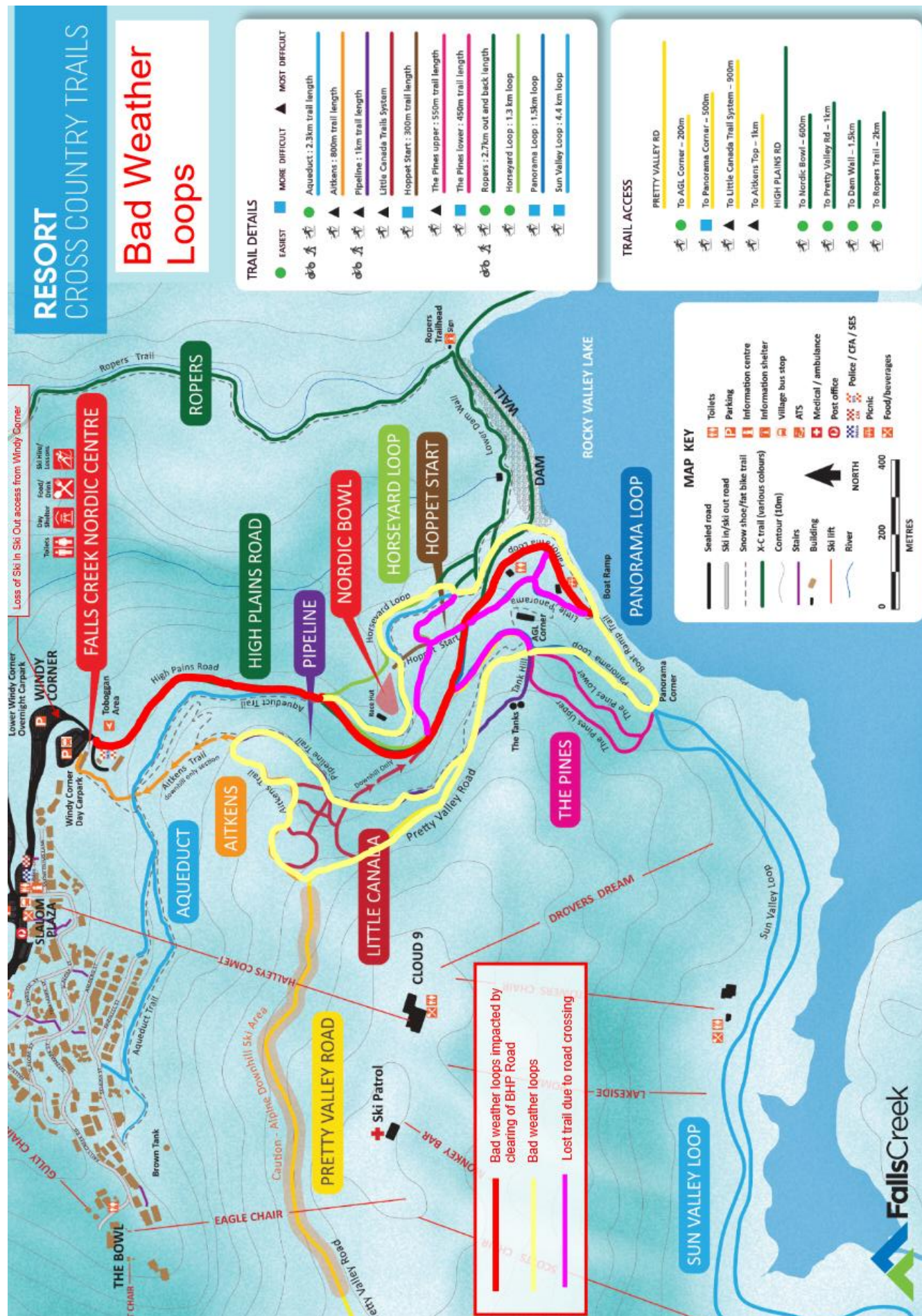
Maps of lost XC ski terrain

<https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/048b2ac5-d3d9-4b5a-8b69-dca68f6af5c3/downloads/Map%20-%20lost%20XC%20ski%20terrain.pdf?ver=1661848415399>

Some of these maps included on pages 5 & 6,



Bad Weather Loops



Skistradamus Returns

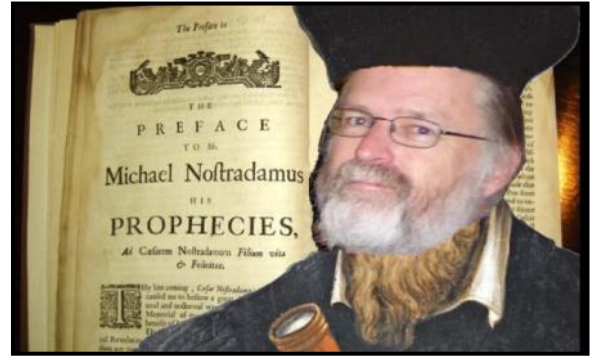
I have been following the snow depths this season and, except for the big dump in June, it is following a typical year's course.

Look for my prediction in the next issue of Off Piste.

Until then,

Ski On!

Skistradamus



Guidance for New Members on Club Ski Tours

- Details of the club ski tours are available on the [tours](#) page and [members](#) page on the club web site.
- Contact the tour leader at least two days before a tour (ie – by Thur pm for a weekend tour) to enable the tour leader to finalise arrangements.
- Car pooling for ski tour participants will be arranged by the tour leader.
- Passengers should provide a contribution to the driver to cover fuel costs, park entry etc. This cost can vary, but is usually \$40 to \$50, based on 3 passengers in a vehicle. If going by ski tube from Bullocks Flat then the cost for the driver will not include KNP park entry and will be less, closer to \$30. Ski tube costs are additional.
- If hiring ski gear, pre-book any ski hire and let the driver know in advance, as this helps with the timing of the transport and the tour on the day.
- Participants should review the [checklist](#) on gear and clothing.
- Further advice for ski tour participants is available [here](#)

October Lodge Weekend

The Club is looking at holding a lodge weekend on the weekend of 8 & 9 October, staying either at Charlotte Pass or at Perisher on the nights of Friday 7 & Saturday 8 October. This is always a popular weekend, with Club ski tours held around Charlotte Pass or on the Main Range on the Saturday and Sunday.

Further details will be provided to Club members by email once the accommodation is confirmed.

Skiing Photos



Reflection in the window of Cesjacks Hut - Sat 13 Aug 22. Photo: Alan Levy



Some of the CCCSC club members taking part in the 2022 Kangaroo Hoppet. Robin Collins, Ian Turland, Gale Funston, Monika Binder, Alan Levy and Bruce Barnett. Nordic Bowl, Falls Creek. Kangaroo Hoppet, Saturday, 27 August 2022. Photo: © K. Moylan



*Robin Collins, John Giacon & Ian Turland above the clouds on Frying Pan Spur, Falls Creek - Thur 25 Aug 22.
Photo: Alan Levy*



Near the top of Mt Jagungal - Wed 17 Aug 22. Photo: Alan Levy



Near South Ramshead - Sat 13 Aug 22. Photo: Lachlan Kennedy



Burnt trees near Cesjacks Hut - Sat 13 Aug 22. Photo: Alan Levy



Ralph Gailis dropping down from Tate East Ridge. 7 September 2022. Photo: © K. Moylan



Looking towards Watson's Crags from Tate West Ridge, Wed 7 Sept 22. Photo: Mike Hinchey



Race bibs from previous editions of the Kangaroo Hoppet, including Australian Birkebeiner and Joey Hoppet. Outside the café and shelter, Windy Corner, Falls Creek. Thursday, 25 August 2022. Photo: © K. Moylan



Near South Ramshead - Sat 13 Aug 22. Photo: Lachlan Kennedy



(Above & below) Leatherbarrel Creek. Sun 21 Aug 22. Photos: Monika Binder



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.

Ralph Gailis, 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
	Ski tours will be advertised in Off-Piste, at the Social Meetings, on the Club web site and via email to members. The web site will be updated with any new tours as soon as they are advised.	
Monday to Friday, 5 to 9 September & Monday to Saturday, 12 to 17 September	September Ski Tours from Guthega Basic-Intermediate skills, Rolling & Hilly terrain, Medium distance During this period I will be running day tours from the ASC (Australian Ski Club) Guthega or Guthega Carpark to a variety of destinations short or long depending on the weather, snow conditions and how big our previous day was. I have been running tours for some decades from Guthega and we make the most of the conditions. Any CCCSC members that wish to join us can do so by phoning the ASC lodge on 0264575296 the afternoon/ evening before to get the latest details for the next day's tour and arrange a rendezvous. Some people may be concerned if they have the appropriate skill level for a tour? Let's have a chat and I am very confident I can work out if the tour is suitable for you or not.	
Wednesday to Friday, 14 to 16 September	Intermediate level overnight base camp Intermediate skiing skills and some overnight bushwalking or snow camping experience, Rolling & Hilly terrain, Medium distance A 3-day, base camp trip for intermediate level skiers. It would be suitable for people who do not want to carry an overnight pack for long distances. The aim is to include an introduction to snow camping, and it would be good to have some experienced snow campers to share their skills. The destination will depend on snow and weather conditions. We will ski a few hours carrying overnight packs, set up camp and ski with daypacks from the base. Possible destinations will depend on the snow cover and weather. Options include a base near White's River Hut with trips onto Dicky Cooper Bogong, or using a Guthega Creek base with trips up Mt Tate or Twynham. There should be scope for people to join us for just 2 of the 3 days. Equipment needed will include good bushwalking type gear plus some extra clothing, a sleeping bag suitable for -10 C, and a warm sleeping mat (as well as touring ski gear). The following has a list which is a good start https://bushwalkingmanual.org.au/equipment-and-clothing/clothing/ . I am happy to provide advice on equipment. A few of us will be staying at Kalkite or in the Jindabyne the night before the trip so we will meet up in Jindabyne about 8 am before heading up.	
Monday to Thursday, 19 to 22 September	Snowcamp - Schlink Hut Basic-Intermediate skills, Rolling & Hilly terrain, Long distance Will start from Munyang and head up the road to Schlink Hut to base camp for a few days. (Whites River Hut could be an alternative destination). Will spend the time exploring the surrounding area – the Kerries, Mawsons or Valentines Huts. Hoping for a fine weather camp, so if the weather is not good the date could be changed to later in the week or the following week.	
Friday to Sunday, 7 to 9 October	October Lodge Weekend tours The Club is looking at holding an end of season lodge weekend at Charlotte Pass or Perisher in early October. 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. Specific tours for this weekend will be included on the website and advised by email beforehand.	TBD
Saturday & Sunday, 15 & 16 October	Main Range Snowcamp Basic-Intermediate skills, Rolling & Hilly terrain, Medium distance Will head out from Charlotte Pass and camp overnight near Snowy Bridge, below Seaman's Hut, which provides a good base to explore the surrounding area. A mostly flat ski in to the campsite but with plenty of large hills and slopes close by. May camp for longer if people are interested.	



Canberra Cross Country Ski Club

Web: www.cccsc.asn.au

Email: cccsccanberra@gmail.com

**Fun and fitness
in the snow**

Club Committee Contacts

Position	Name	Email	Phone
President			
Vice President			
Secretary			
Treasurer			
Membership Secretary			
Tour Coordinator			
Kosciuszko 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 Alan or Ken



Social Meetings 2022 (All Welcome)

Wednesday 14 September 2022

Eucalypt dieback in the Australian Alps

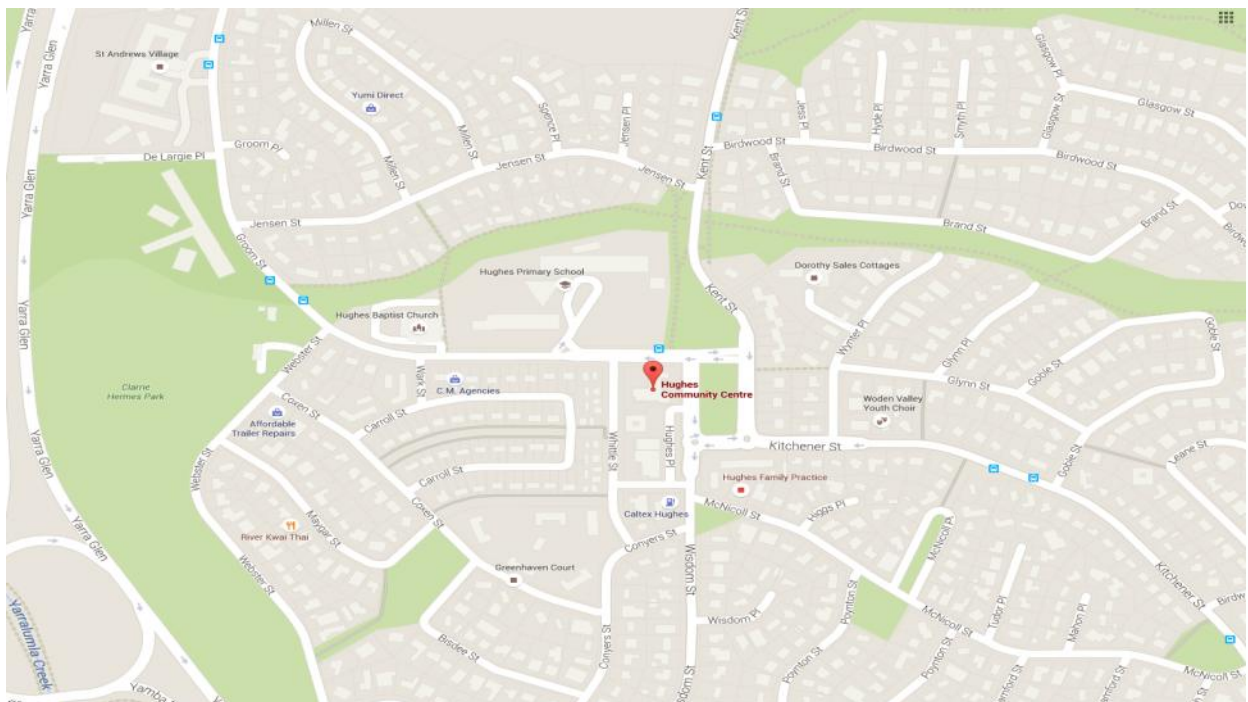
Speaker: Dr Matthew Brookhouse

Dr Matthew Brookhouse will speak about his research on eucalypt dieback in the Australian Alps.

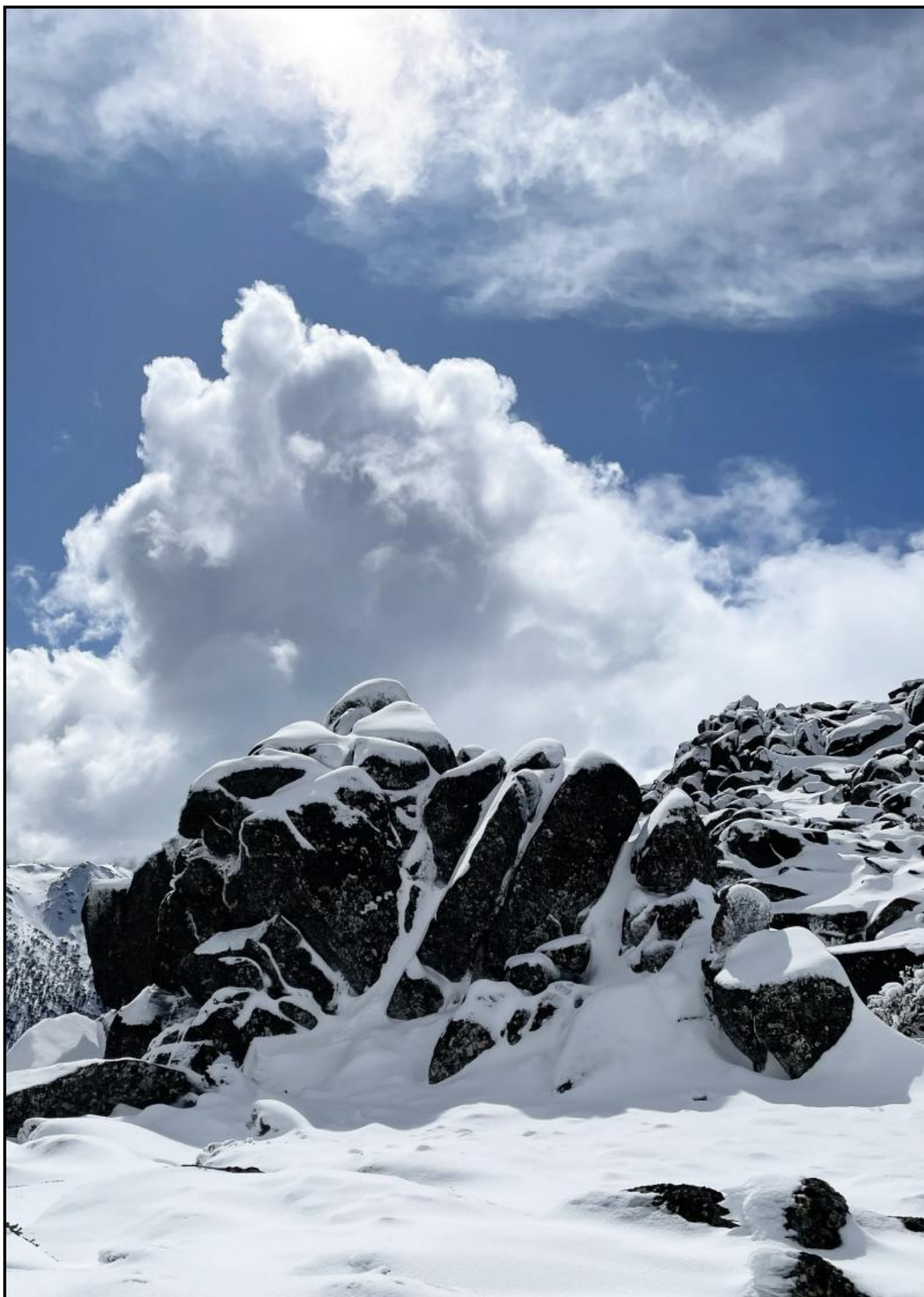
Wednesday 28 September 2022

Annual General Meeting, Photos & Socialising

Please come along and have your say on how we can best run the Club, and vote in the new Club Committee. See AGM agenda items on page 3.



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.



Near South Ramshead - Sat 13 Aug 22. Photo: Lachlan Kennedy