

SPECIAL POINTS
OF INTEREST:

- XMAS Party
- Trip Photos
- Summer Walks

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2022, ISSUE 7

23 NOVEMBER 2022



Ralph Gailis, Mike Hinchey and Ian Turland skiing next to Club Creek on a trip to Kunama Hutte ruin and Club Lake, Sunday 30 October 2022. Photo: Adam Lilley

Next Newsletter

The next newsletter will be produced in early May 2023.

The CCCSC XMAS Party will be held on Wednesday 7 December.
See inside for further details.

Victoria Club Lodge Ski Week 2023

Sunday 20 - Sunday 27 August 2023 - open to all members

Week of the Kangaroo Hoppet.

Opened - For the first time this is open to all club members. Non club members are welcome to register an interest. If you have not joined us previously for the Victoria week you will need to be a club member to take up the booking.

Skiing - Ski tours are organised throughout the stay at the surrounding cross country ski fields (mostly at Falls Creek but also at Mt Buffalo or Mt Hotham if conditions permit). The Kangaroo Hoppet ski race is also available for those who are joining the participant event.

Accommodation - Tawonga/Tawonga South

Dates: Sunday 20 - Sunday 27 August (or Tue 22 to Sun 27 if not enough interest in Sun 20 - Mon 21)

You can stay for a shorter period. The amount of interest will guide if we need more accommodation.

Cost - It is expected to be not more than \$100 per night and is expected to be less depending on the numbers (people staying longer will pay less).

Meals - There are shared meals on most nights (no shared meal on Sun 22, Sat 26 (and pos Mon 21 depending on numbers)).

Register interest

Later in the year we will provide information on how to register your interest.

Download what3words before your next bushwalk

Street addresses don't exist in national parks, nature reserves, or many of the rural areas where we like to walk. While this is part of the appeal of bushwalking, it leaves us in a pickle if we need to let someone know exactly where we are in an emergency.

what3words is a mobile app that divides the world into 3 metre x 3 metre squares and gives each square a unique three word address. People can then refer to any precise location – a delivery entrance, a picnic spot or a drone landing point – using three simple words. **what3words** is the simplest way to talk about location. It is considered more 'user friendly' than lat.long coordinates that may be misunderstood and lead rescuers in the wrong direction. Rural police and ambulance operators have specifically requested what3words coordinates from a CBC member recently, so it's worth having the app on your phone.

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.

Snakebite First Aid

Allan Donnelly, a member of the Canberra Bushwalking Club, has written a very clear and comprehensive description of how to treat snake bite, that those doing bushwalks over the summer might find useful. Available [here](#)

Summer Activities

This is a summary of some activities / events that will occur over the summer and autumn months. Additional details will be provided to members by email and in any further newsletters.

XMAS Party

Wed 7 December 2022.

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.

Summer Bushwalking Trips: *(further details on page 12)*

Some walking and camping trips are planned over the summer period as follows:.

Dec 22:

- Snowy Plains to Kidmans Hut (overnight camp)

Jan-May 23:

- Mt Anderson west ridge (overnight camp)
- The Sentinel (overnight camp)
- Geehi Flats (overnight car camp)
- Pretty Plain (2 nights camping)
- Gavels and Vickerys Huts (overnight car camp)

Nordic Shelter & XC Trails Summer Working Bees

The good work done by the XC Summer Work Parties continues in 2023 with work to be done on the trails and in and around the Perisher Nordic Shelter.

A Special Purpose Work Party will be held this coming **Tues 29 & Wed 30 November 2022** to carry out work postponed from the earlier November work party. The main jobs will be to pull up the water mitigation halfpipes and bridge covers. The more people the better!

The 2023 XC Work Party dates are as follows:

- Feb 4/5
- Mar 4/5
- April 1/2
- May 6/7
- June 3/4 (if necessary)

Please contact Peter Ward if you plan to attend – nswxc1@gmail.com

Bring food and drink, sturdy work boots, gum 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 bed linen, towels, food and drink.

First Off-Piste Newsletter for 2023

Early May 2023

First Social Meeting for 2023

Wed 24 May 2023, at the Hughes Community Centre.



XMAS Party

Wednesday 7 December

The CCCSC XMAS Party will be held on Wednesday 7 December at Nara Park, Lennox Gardens (on the lake shore behind the Hyatt Hotel) from 5:30pm. A club banner will be erected near one of the BBQs. This is a BYO food and drink event. So come along and say hello and goodbye to your ski mates till next year.



Trip Report - Rambling on the Ramsheads - 5-6 November

Keen to get in some late-season skiing, Ralph Gailis and I headed off for a snow-camp for the 5-6 November weekend. We took the chairlift up from Thredbo and skied onto the Ramshead Range in somewhat uncertain weather conditions. There had been heavy rain during the preceding week and the snow had a very heavy texture but there was enough of it to pick a reasonable route to the Rams Head – at 2190m elevation, one of the highest points on the Main Range.

We skied down to a lower area below North Ramshead, hoping to get a relatively sheltered campsite from the wind, and set up tents. From there, we skied down towards Cootapatamba Hut and followed the north side of Swampy Plain River towards what I refer to as Peak 1977 (its elevation) but which I observed on the online map I was using is called “Simkin Peak” – well, there you go: so, it has a name after all! While on the subject of geography, here’s a bit of trivia: at a starting elevation of 2120m, Swampy Plain River, which runs from Lake Cootapatamba, is assessed to be the highest river in Australia; it descends 1860 metres over its 59km course to the Murray River (*source: Wikipedia*).

The snow was pretty compromised and we didn’t get to Simkin Peak, being hemmed in by the open water of Swampy Plain River and tributary creeks. We returned to our campsite, with Ralph detouring for a run down the south slope of Kosciuszko – his big climb up was not well-rewarded, with the heavy snow making for a sluggish descent.

The wind had shifted enough during the afternoon to turn our campsite from a somewhat windy place into a very blustery one. Oh well, it was a very scenic location – one has to find some consolations!

The next day, we skied around North Ramshead before heading over to Etheridge Ridge and skiing onto one of the higher points on the ridge, providing great views over Lake Cootapatamba and the upper reaches of the Snowy River (south arm) and across to Mt Kosciuszko and other areas of the Main Range. Then it was back across the Ramsheads and on to the chairlift, the finale to our skiing for the season.

Ian Turland

Photos: Ian Turland

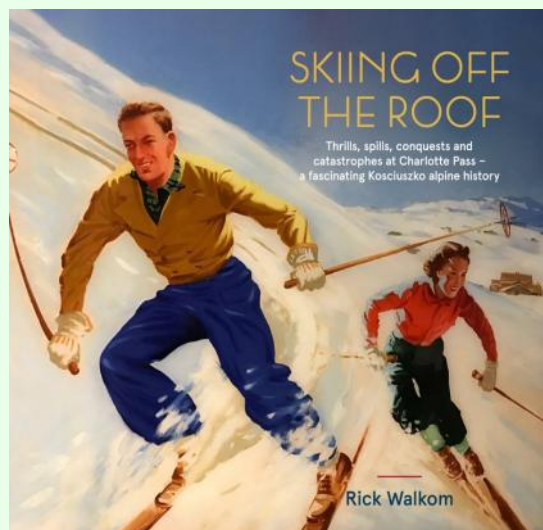


Skiing Off The Roof

Rick Walkom has recently updated his book "Skiing Off The Roof" which provides a comprehensive history of Charlotte Pass, including the pioneer skiers, adventurers, snowboarders, summer stockmen, environmental warriors, ski club members and mountain staff - the colourful denizens who have carved deep tracks on its frozen slopes over the past century. The book covers the history of The Chalet, early skiing on the Main Range, the chairlift from the Thredbo Valley to Charlotte Pass, and a history of the resort itself. This new edition now covers the period from 1980 to 2020. The limited edition book is only available by contacting Rick.

Further details are on his website:

www.skiingofftheroof.com.au



2022 End of Snow Prediction, Evaluated

"It's tough to make predictions, especially about the future." Yogi Berra

A couple of months ago, I tried to predict the end of the 2022 ski season.

Using the same techniques as last year, I felt confident about my prediction that the end of snow, as measured by Snowy Hydro at Spencer's Creek, would happen on 12 November 2022, 53 days after the start of the Spring melt.

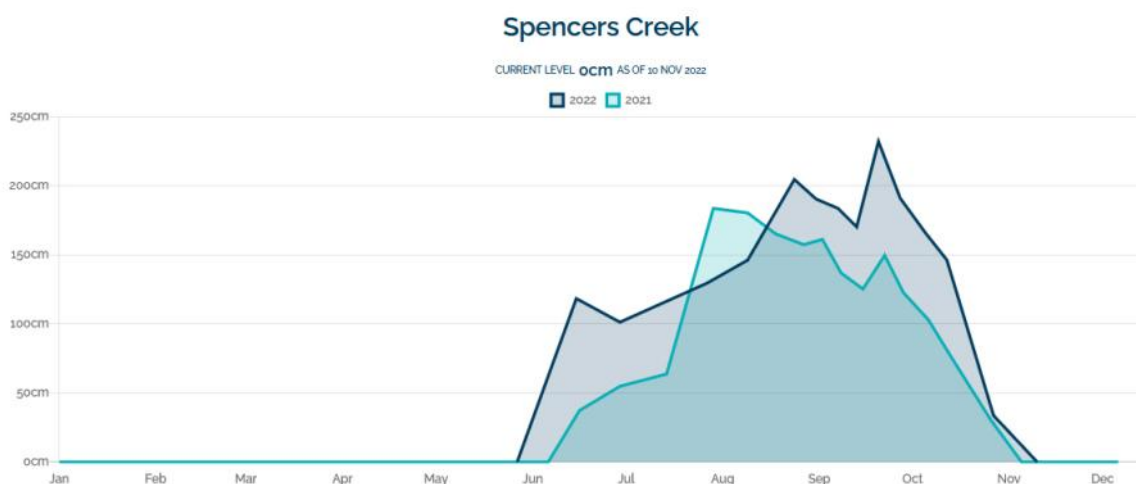
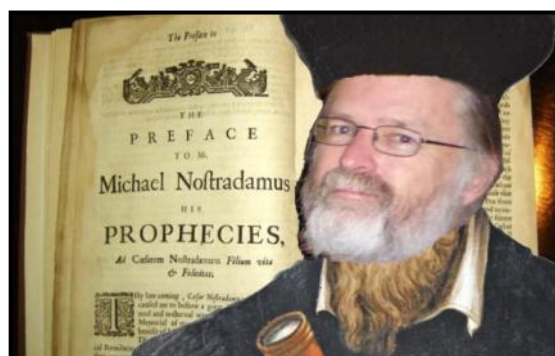
Again, I followed the snow decline, both in real life and on the Snowy Hydro web site. Anxiously, I watched the heavy rain in late October wash away the snow. Looking at the reading of 27 October it was looking like it would be over by 1 November 2022, a whole 11 days (almost 21%) early.

Luckily, the rain turned to snow and a large dump extended the season at Spencer's Creek until 10 November 2022, stretching the season to only 2 days short of my prediction. i.e. 2/53rds early (almost 4%).

At the time of this writing, there have been fresh dumps at Thredbo and Perisher, which might register at the Snowy Hydro Spencer's Creek measuring station. However, that will be a footnote in my prediction, if at all.

Look for another prediction in next October's issue of Off Piste. Can I repeat the last two seasons' accuracy? Keep your membership and find out.

Skistradamus,
November 2022





16 October 2022



30 October 2022



5 November 2022



10 November 2022

The gradual disappearance of the snow cover on the Main Range this spring, as viewed from the walking trail on the walk down to Foreman's Crossing below Charlotte Pass.

Skiing Photos



*Adam Lilley & Ian Turland skiing at Club Lake below the cliffs of Carruthers Peak, Sunday 30 October 2022.
Photo: Alan Levy.*



The Stilwell Restaurant ruin on the October lodge weekend, Saturday 15 October 2022. Photo: Alan Levy



Mike Hinchey and Ralph Gailis in the bowl below Mt Lee, on a trip to Kunama Hutte ruin and Club Lake, Sunday 30 October 2022. Photo: Adam Lilley



Mike Hinchey showing Dave Drohan and Gale Funston how to telemark down Mt Guthrie. On a Club trip from Charlotte Pass to Mt Guthrie and Guthrie Ridge. Sunday 16 October 2022. Photo: © Ken Moylan.



Did he make it? Some of the many crossing the Snowy River at Foreman's Crossing. On a Club tour from Charlotte Pass to Blue Lake. Saturday, 5 November 2022. Photo: © Ken Moylan.



The stepping stones on the Snowy River arm of Foreman's Crossing. On a tour from Charlotte Pass to Carruther's Peak. Thursday, 10 November 2022. Photo: © Ken Moylan.



Look at the clouds! Mt Clarke, Mt Lee, Carruther's and the sky, viewed from the tree on the walk down to Foreman's Crossing. On a tour from Charlotte Pass to Carruther's Peak. Thursday, 10 November 2022. Photo: © Ken Moylan.



Adam Lilley enjoying a lunchtime siesta at Club Lake. Sunday 30 October 2022. Photo: Alan Levy

Summer Walks Program

The following walks program is offered to club members to enable them to appreciate the seasonal beauty of the areas they love to ski or maybe one day get to ski. The dates suggested are approximate to allow for inclement weather or the preferences of those expressing interest in participating. It would help planning if those interested could register well in advance with the nominated trip leader so that the dates and transport could be agreed to suit both the weather and member's preferences.

Early December 2022 - Snowy Plains to Kidmans Hut (overnight camp)

The sub alpine parts of the park are at their most splendid in early summer when the shrubs are in full flower. While skiing in this area is a hit and miss affair the walk will familiarise us with the rebuilt Davies hut on lower Snowy Plains pioneered by the Boltons family. There were once 13 families eeking a living out of the Snowy Plains area before the Park was declared. The walk will visit the site of Snowy Plains House, the principle homestead once on the plains and even the venue for local dances. We will then follow the fire trail till it intersects the trail to Brassy Gap, once the route for re-supplying the Alpine Hut in its heyday. The track then drops down into the upper reaches of the Burrungubuggee River to the tiny Kidman's hut, which is a skiing destination in winter from the Bulls Peaks. The vehicle track into Snowy Plains is a bit rough and more suited to those with 4wd or awd vehicles if wet. *(Due to other commitments in December, the preferred time for this trip is anytime during the last week of November up until 6 December).*

Leader:

Late January 2023 - Mt Anderson west ridge (overnight camp)

The aim of this trip is to experience the high altitude wildflowers at their peak along with spectacular views down Siren Song Creek and across to Watson's Crags. Last summer we camped on the western edge of the Abbotts range and were well rewarded. The trip will leave from Guthega and aim to put in a high camp on water at the most advantageous spot. Fine weather will be imperative because of the exposure.

Leader:

11-12 February 2023 - The Sentinel (overnight camp)

Will start at Charlotte Pass and follow the walking track past Blue Lake out to The Sentinel to set up camp. There is a great sheltered campsite and amazing views of the steep western side of the Main Range.

Leader:

18-19 March 2023 - Geehi Flats (overnight car camp)

Drive to the Geehi Flats camping ground to set up the tents for an overnight stay. Will spend the Sat afternoon and Sun morning doing easy walks to the nearby huts (Geehi, Old Geehi, Keebles, Doctors and Doctor Forbes huts). Some river crossings involved.

Leader:

March/April (3 days) 2023 - Pretty Plain (2 night camp)

Not many members have skied this country but those that have, remember it fondly. We will leave from the Tooma Dam and follow the fire trail into the upper Tooma River on Pretty plain to put in a base camp. On the middle day people can either visit the nearby Wheelers hut – a slab classic, or walk up the valley to the rebuilt Pretty Plain hut. Some might prefer to spend the day fishing the Tooma River for the legendary trout.

Leader:

April or May 2023 - Gavels and Vickerys Huts (overnight car camp)

Will do day walks from the Snowy Mountains Highway to Gavels Hut and the newly rebuilt Vickerys Hut, with a car camp in between either at Long Plain Hut or Three Mile Dam.

Leader:



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			
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



Map Review: Snowy Mountains Outdoor Recreation

Publisher: Topograph.
Published: May 2022

I am an easy sale whenever I see a new map of the Snowy Mountains, so when I saw the Snowy Mountains Outdoor Recreation Map pinned up outside the Snowy Mountains Backcountry (SMBC) shop inside the Guthega Centre, I had to buy it.

\$60 later, I had in my hand a detailed, double-sided, A1 sized, map printed on tough, waterproof tyvek.

So what did I get?

Half a dozen maps fitted onto 1 sheet of tyvek, paper that will stand up to being used in a blizzard.

The main map covers from Tate West Ridge & The Rolling Grounds in the north, down to Thredbo Village in the south and from Hannells Ridge & Simkin Peak, near the drop, in the west across to Ngarigo camp ground, Back Perisher & Falls Creek in the east, all at the scale of 1:25000.

The other side has 5 maps:

- 1) Main map covering from Round Mountain & Far Bald Mountain South to Smiggin Holes, Grey Mare Bogong East to Island Bend, at the scale of 1:50000;
- 2) Watson's Crags, 1:15000
- 3) Blue Lake, 1:12000
- 4) Lady Northcote Canyon, 1:12000
- 5) Dead Horse Gap, 1:25000

All maps are very detailed, with 10m minor contours & 50m major contours, showing huts (standing and historic) and walking tracks.

It is so up-to-date that it includes the Spencer's Creek footbridge.

3/16ths of the back side has useful notes, covering topics such as: camping in KNP; navigation (place finding); lists of operating and destroyed huts; URLs to further information; and telephone numbers for emergency help.

It covers all the skiing areas in NSW, except for the Tabletop, Cabramurra, Mt Selwyn and Kiandra areas, the Teddy's Hut and Mt Leo area, and Perisher trails and Pretty Point escarpment.

The 4 largest scale maps seem to have been chosen for heavy duty adventuring skiers, rather than the distance eating tourer I consider myself.

One drawback of starting with an A1 sized sheet is that it is pre-folded to A5 size and maybe will be happy at A6 size.

At this size, it is more suited to living inside a pack or map case rather than a pocket.

Availability

I bought my copy from SMBC, in the Guthega Centre.

It is also available from the publisher's website, at <https://www.topograph.net.au/>

Summary

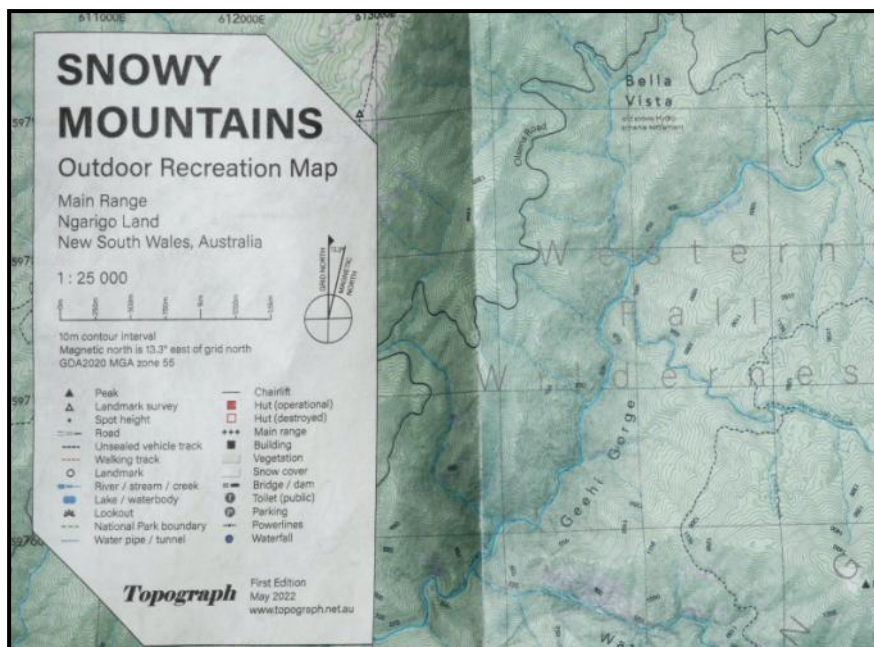
I thoroughly recommend this map to anyone who does not yet have contour maps of the the Great Dividing Range from Dead Horse Gap to the Jagungal Wilderness.

It costs more, but it covers several other maps, both in print and out, and the tyvek paper promises to stand up to the worst weather.

If you already have other maps of the area, consider buying this one for the comprehensive detail and at-a-glance view of most ski touring areas (instead of piecing together smaller maps).

It was worth the money to me and might be worth it to you.

Ken Moylan



Cropped section of the map, showing the Title, Scale, Legend and some of Geethi River.



Pointing to the snow yet to come. Lake Jindabyne, at its fullest level, surrounding Strzelecki's statue. 5 November 2022.
Photo: © K. Moylan