

**SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:**

- Trip Reports
- Canadian Ski Lodges

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2023, ISSUE 3

31 JULY 2023



*Rime on rock, 3 Jul 23. Photo: Melinda Brouwer*

## 2023 Membership Subscriptions

Membership Subscriptions for the 2023 season are due, and can be paid on Register Now via the Club website, or by using the pdf form also available on the website and on page 24.

[Register Now](#) is the preferred and easiest method. The Members page log-in details were changed in late July.

## Next Newsletter

The next newsletter will be produced in late August. Deadline for contributions is 22 August. Please send any articles or photos to [ccsceditor@gmail.com](mailto:ccsceditor@gmail.com).

Welcome to the third edition of Off-Piste for this season. We are now over half way through the winter season and there is a good solid base of snow on the Main Range. Unfortunately there hasn't been a lot of soft snow on top of this solid base. Following the good dump of snow in late June there has been little follow-up snowfall, and with warmer temperatures and most recent precipitation being wet snow or rain, this has caused the snow to freeze at night and turn to ice. Even on the sunny days the snow hasn't been softening until after midday. So until we get some decent dumps of snow expect icy or firm conditions for much of the time. Hopefully the spring skiing conditions in September and October will be much better.

A few club tours were held around Mt Selwyn in early July and the skiing was quite good but the snow has now mostly disappeared from this area and the Selwyn lifts have had to stop operating. The focus now turns to Perisher with the Cross-Country Ski Week events (races, coffee tours) in early August and the Kosciuszko Tour race on Sat 19 August which is being run by our club. Contact Jo-Anne Clancy if interested in helping out with the running of this race on the day (drink stations, race timing, bib collection etc).

The Tour Coordinator is seeking members to volunteer to lead ski tours, and for new people to offer to lead a tour, as the tour program is looking very sparse this season. Tours are needed for late August and September. See notice elsewhere on this page. If interested, contact Bill. Without tour leaders there are no tours for the members. Remember to check the Tour Program on the Club website for the most up to date list of tours.

Note that this year we are only having one social meeting in August (due to many people being away skiing during this month) and one in September (the AGM).

Feel free to send any photos or trip reports to me for inclusion in later newsletters, as this is a good way of showing others what the conditions are like in the mountains and on club trips. The next newsletter will be out in late August.

Alan Levy, Editor

## OCTOBER LODGE WEEKEND

The Club is looking at holding a lodge weekend in early October, probably at Perisher. 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 once the accommodation is confirmed.

## WE NEED NEW TOUR LEADERS!

No leaders mean no club tours. Besides a few stalwarts, we've had no tour offers and the tour program shows it.

Tour leading isn't difficult –

- Pick a trip you like (start simply, somewhere you know)
- Ski at your own ability and comfort (tours are for all ski abilities)
- All it takes is some simple arrangements (a few calls or texts)

The rewards are great – you'll have as much fun as the people who come along.

If you think you'd like to try, email me (Bill Stanhope) at [cccsctours@gmail.com](mailto:cccsctours@gmail.com) and we'll start a conversation.

## XC SKI HIRE IN CANBERRA

MONT adventure equipment have expanded their hire range to include good xc touring skis – so xc hire is available in Canberra again.

- easy day skis (light touring) to heavier touring and mountain skis
- Alpina and Madshus skis
- NNBC and Backcountry Explore bindings and boots.

[Equipment Hire - Mont Adventure Equipment](#) – scroll down to Cross Country and Light Touring  
*NOTE – collection and return are in Mont normal business hours – shop is in Fyshwick.*

## KALKITE ACCOMMODATION

Jo-Anne's house at Kalkite is available for use by club members throughout this ski season. It could be a good option for making an early start at Perisher. Contact Gale at [ccsccanberra@gmail.com](mailto:ccsccanberra@gmail.com) if interested.

## Activities & Dates — 2023

### **Future CCCSC Social Meetings for 2023** *(further details on page 23)*

August - Wed 16 August

September - Wed 13 September

### Fri & Sat nights, 4 & 5 August - **Beginners Weekend (Kalkite)**

Sat & Sun - Beginners Instruction & Tours

### Sat 5 to Sat 12 August - **XC Ski Week (Perisher)**

Sat 5 August - PXC Cup

Sun 6 August – Boonoona Open

Mon 7 August – KAC XC Classic

Tues 8 August – Coffee Tour

Wed 9 August – Charlotte Pass Open & NSW Twilight Relays

Thur 10 August – Sundeck Handicap

Fri 12 August – Coffee Tour

Sat 12 August - Snowy Mountains Classic

### Fri & Sat nights, 18 & 19 August - **Kosciuszko Tour Weekend (Kalkite)**

Sat 19 August – Kosciuszko Tour

Sat & Sun - Beginners / Basic Instruction & Tours

### Sun 20 to Sun 27 August - **Victoria Skiing** *(see further details on page 20)*

Sat 26 August – Kangaroo Hoppet

### Fri & Sat nights, Early October - **October Lodge Weekend (Perisher) (tbc)**

Sat & Sun – Ski tours from Charlotte Pass

## Guidance for New Members on Club Ski Tours/Events

- Details of the club ski tours are available on the [tours](#) page and [members](#) page on the club web site.
- Ski tours are graded according to difficulty, distance and terrain.
- Participants should select a ski tour according to their ability.
- 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. The Club web page includes a [Guidance for transport costs](#).
- 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](#)

## Racing News

**XC Ski Week** is on at Perisher from 5-13 August. The week is full of fun events, including races, coffee tours, night relays and prize giving. A bunch of us from the club will be there, and accommodation is available at Kalkite if you want to join us for the week (or just a few days). For more info and to enter events, follow the link on the [PXC website](#)

Our very own **Kosciuszko Tour** will be held on Saturday 19 August at Perisher. We hope to run our usual interesting and challenging course out away from the main trails (snow and weather permitting). Online entry is now up on the club website or through the XC race calendar.

**Urgent call for volunteers:** If you don't fancy racing 18 km but would like to be part of the event, we desperately need volunteers on the day. We need marshals out on the course to point racers in the right direction and help them with drinks, snacks or first aid. Other jobs include helping out with the timing at the finish line and bib collection. Accommodation is available at Kalkite. Please contact Jo-Anne Clancy on 0411 156 959 or [cccscanberra@gmail.com](mailto:cccscanberra@gmail.com) if you are interested in volunteering or want more information.

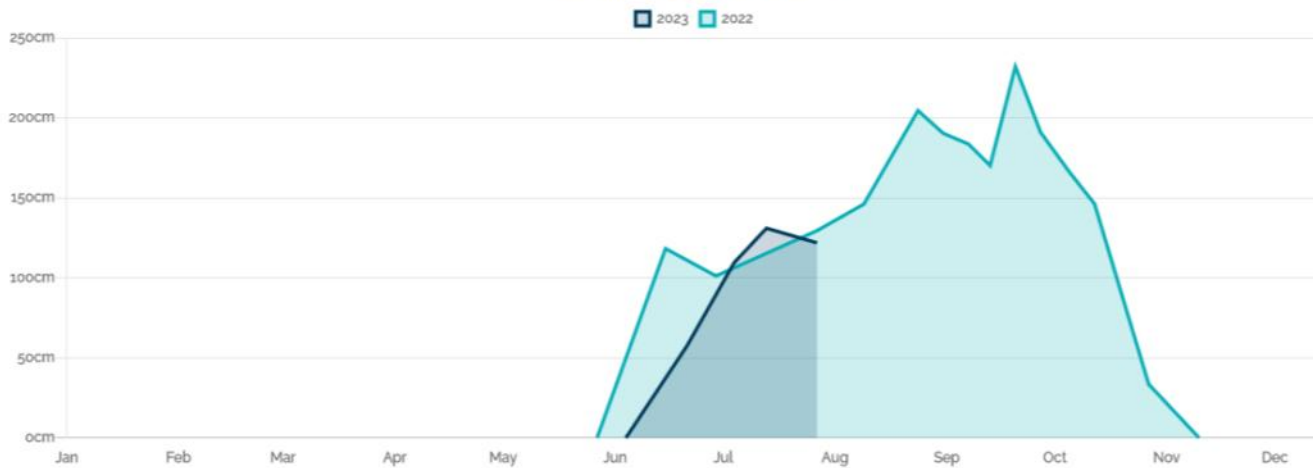
*Jo-Anne Clancy*

*Race Coordinator*

## Snow Depth Charts

### Spencers Creek

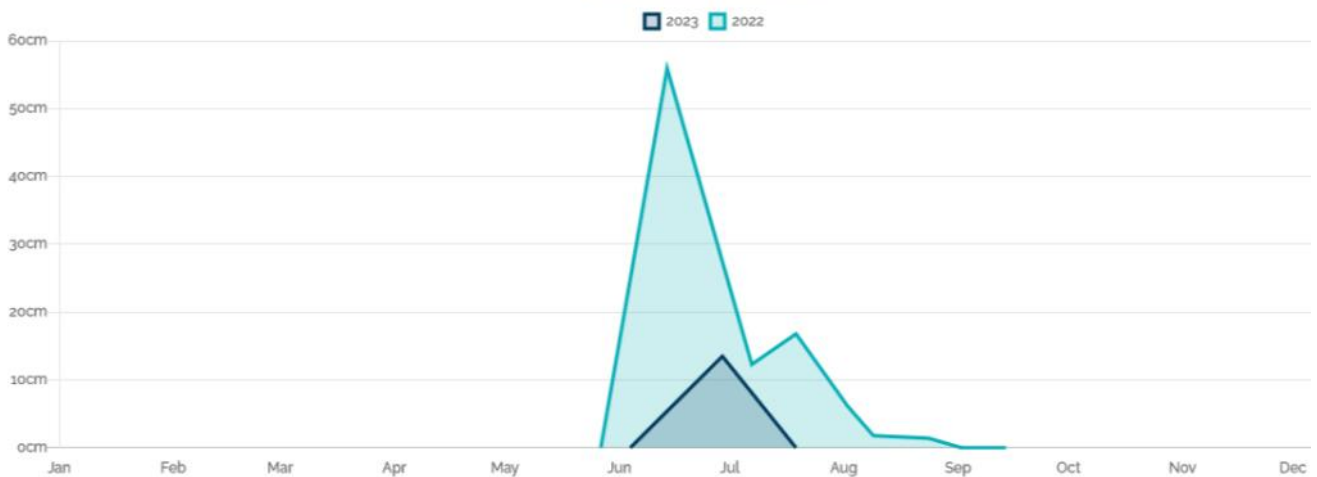
CURRENT LEVEL **121.9cm** AS OF 27 JUL 2023



*The latest snow depth chart for Spencers Creek (as measured on 27 July) compared with last year. Hopefully the 13 July reading is not the peak for this year! Further snowfalls are needed. Maybe Skistradamus can come to the rescue.*

### Three Mile Dam

CURRENT LEVEL **0cm** AS OF 19 JUL 2023



*The snow depth chart for Three Mile Dam (as measured on 19 July) compared with last year. Luckily the club had a few ski tours in this area in early July whilst the snow was there, but it looks like it will be a very short season for the newly reopened Mt Selwyn Resort.*



## CCCSC Beginner's Cross Country Weekend - 22-23 July 2023

The CCCSC Come & Try cross country ski weekend was held on the 22-23 July 2023.

The first Come & Try on 8-9 July was unfortunately cancelled due to the weather with predictions of up to 100km winds on the Saturday. This weekend (22-23) was picture perfect cold at night and warm through the day (perhaps a little too warm).

There was a lot of activity to change members booked into the first Come & Try into the second one. No easy feat most people could move, and with additional accommodation found, 16 CCCSC participants took part in the lessons/tours with 5 members helping.

It was an early start, the intel on the ground gave us a tip that we could get through Jindabyne by 7.30am and still be able to park inside the National Park. This was handy as we had a little more time in the morning.

The mornings were cold however by 10am the sun was out and warming up. The groomed trails had a good cover of snow with the groomer softening the snow, just what you need for skiing. The clear night sky made it icy when off the trails but we were very happy on the trails.

The weekend started with a 2 hour ski lesson on the Saturday morning that was run jointly by NSW & ACT Snowsports and [Perisher X-Country](#). The local ski hire was handy with a number of people picking their skis up from Perisher Wilderness Sports and able to change them the next day to suit their skiing. After lunch there were tours around the trails and more skill building.

On Saturday night a number of people gathered at Kalkite to have dinner together (self catered dinner). There was good conversation, company and laughter.

On Sunday another day up at the Perisher Cross Country ski centre and out on the trails. It started with a skill builder in morning. Then tours, Sam took a careful tour around the trails practicing our snowplough, Garry lead a tour with those who had some off piste skills weaving between the trails to have the experience of touring.

Sam rounded the day off with some telemark skills.

A few slips and thankfully rest will have them back on the mountain.

A great beginners weekend thanks to all who participated and members who help make the weekend great.

*Gale Funston*



*Participants at the Come & Try in front of the Perisher Nordic Shelter, Sat 22 July 2023. Photo: Jo-Anne Clancy*

## Beginners Weekend - 5 to 6 August 2023

Another beginners weekend will be held on Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 August 2023.

CCCSC will also run ski tours and extra skill building sessions on this weekend.

Saturday 5 August depending on availability there may be a lesson 9-11am. There is a maximum of 6 people to the lesson. Priority will go to the members booked into the previous Come & Try lessons who were not able to make it. For those who have had a lesson on Saturday morning it is a great opportunity for you to practice on an easy trail. Meet 8.30 am at Perisher cross country ski centre.

Saturday afternoon – 12.30pm skill building ski tour with tour leader to suit the skill level of participants.

Sunday 6 August – 8.30 for 9am start Perisher cross country ski centre morning practice on easy part of slope.

Sunday afternoon skill building ski tour with tour leader.

Accommodation available at Kalkite.

Meals all meals are self-catered. Saturday dinner Kalkite bring your own dinner and share company while eating.

Contact Gale at [cccscanberra@gmail.com](mailto:cccscanberra@gmail.com) if interested.

## Beginners/Basic Weekend - Saturday 19 & Sunday 20 August

The beginners/basic weekend on Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 August is being held at the same time as the Kosciuszko Tour XC Ski Race (Saturday). Members participating or volunteering in the Kosciuszko Tour will be given priority for accommodation at Kalkite.

Beginners/basic skiers can volunteer to help with the Kosciuszko Tour in the morning by handing out bibs, helping put the start table in the snow and other race support, and there is also a need for marshals around the field.

Saturday mid-morning lesson/skill building tour with tour leader.

Sunday morning – beginner basic tour with tour leader.

Sunday afternoon – self guided skill building practice.

All meals are self-catered. Saturday dinner Kalkite bring your own dinner and share company while eating.

Contact Gale at [cccscanberra@gmail.com](mailto:cccscanberra@gmail.com) if interested.

## Tour leading — please consider!

Our club ski tours get us onto snow, out into places we'd not see alone, give us great company on snow and a safe, enjoyable experience to develop xc ski skills.

So – we need tour leaders to do this. It doesn't take special training - many of our club members already have experience with weather challenges and varying terrain – all it takes is a wish to share the mountains and to return the benefits we've had from trip leaders ourselves.

If you'd like to consider leading a tour this winter, I'd like to hear from you soon! A good tour program needs a wide variety of tours – from beginners around the Perisher trails to intermediate runs a bit further afield, to longer explorations in rolling and more challenging terrain.

- Tours for beginner and less experienced skiers as well as more challenging tours
- Tours in a variety of places across the high country (snow willing)
- Tours across the winter and spring
- Weekend and mid-week tours (now many of us are retired)
- Longer tours and snow-camps

Experienced tour leaders – please let me know what you'd like to do, and particularly if you're open to filling “gaps” in timing or places.

New leaders - if you're at all interested, we can discuss options and perhaps link up with a more experienced tour leader to give you confidence. Taking an easy tour over familiar ground is good way to start – and provides a great day for newer skiers.

We usually set out tours with these details:

- Name of Tour
- Description
- Terrain: Gentle / Hilly / Steep / Rough
- Length: Short (< 8km & < 200m climb) / Medium (8km - 15km or 200m - 600m climb) / Long (>15km or > 600m climb)
- Skill : Basic / Intermediate / Advanced / Telemark/XC Downhill
- Name of Tour Leader & Contact Details

Bill Stanhope, 2023 tour coordinator. [cccstours@gmail.com](mailto:cccstours@gmail.com)

## 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.	
Wednesday 2 August to Monday 7 August	<b>Tin Hut - Mawson Hut multi-day tour</b> <b>Intermediate Skills, Hilly Terrain, Medium Distance</b> Location: Kerries/Brassy Mountains/Upper Valentine Creek. The leader is looking to do a 4-5 day ski trip using Tin Hut and/or Mawson Hut as a base for tours. Would be in the date range of Wed 2 August to Mon 7 August. Exact details of the tour routes and dates will be decided by snow/weather conditions and discussions of participants. Participants should have solid intermediate skiing skills. Please contact the leader if you may be interested. Further details will be firmed up closer to the time.	
August	<b>Kalkite Accommodation</b> Accommodation at Kalkite is be available to Club members throughout the ski season. Email <a href="mailto:ccsccanberra@gmail.com">ccsccanberra@gmail.com</a> to express interest.	
Saturday & Sunday. 5 & 6 August	<b>Beginners Weekend</b> A lesson on Saturday morning 9-11am. Skill building ski tours on the Sat & Sun afternoons. Accommodation available at Kalkite. See further details on page 7.	
Saturday 5 to Saturday 12 August	<b>Perisher XC Ski Week</b> XC Ski Week is a week for all XC enthusiasts whether you're a beginner, a seasoned racer or a recreational skier. Lots of races and fun events (see below). For more Information visit the <a href="#">Perisher X Country</a> web site.	
Sunday, 6 August	<b>Dainers Gap Area</b> <b>Basic-Intermediate Skills, Rolling-Hilly Terrain, Medium Distance</b> Will start at Dainers Gap, and depending on the snow and weather conditions, will either explore the peaks and valleys near the Plains of Heaven, or climb up towards Thompson's Plain and out to the Pretty Point viewpoint overlooking Lake Jindabyne. If no snow here, then will probably start from Perisher.	
Sunday, 6 August	<b>Race – Boonoona Open</b> <i>A 5km race for all standards around the Perisher Trails, starting at 10:30am. Classic and Freestyle.</i>	<a href="#">Register Here</a>
Monday, 7 August	<b>Race – KAC XC Classic</b> <i>This is the biggest race of the week and has a long history of almost 50 years. It is the only point to point race of the week, starting in Perisher Valley at 10:00am and finishing in Charlotte Pass. Classic and Freestyle. Many Club members participate in this event, then have lunch at the Chalet, followed by a leisurely ski back to Perisher.</i>	<a href="#">Register Here</a>
Tuesday, 8 August	<b>Mystery Coffee Tour #1</b> <i>The Mystery Coffee Tour leaves the Nordic Shelter at 9.45 am. A guide is provided which will take you on a tour over some wonderful skiing terrain. As the name implies, it's a mystery as to where and when the coffee is supplied. It could be out on the plains or via a visit to a warm location within Perisher, Smiggins or Guthega. Tour to be approx 5 - 10 km in length, dependent on the numbers and the prevailing weather. Bring \$10 to cover the cost of having great coffee and food.</i>	Register at the Nordic Shelter on the day

Date	Event Description	Leader
Wednesday, 9 August	<b>Race – Charlotte Pass Open</b>  <i>A 2-3km Classic sprint race held at Charlotte Pass. Skiers leave the gate at 30-second intervals which are different to all races during XC Ski Week. This race has traditionally been a club race for Kosciusko Alpine Club (KAC) members but it is open to all. An excellent lunch is provided after the race at the KAC lodge at Charlotte Pass.</i>	<a href="#">Register Here</a>
Thursday, 10 August	<b>Race – Sundeck Handicap Race</b>  <i>A 7.5km handicap race around the Perisher trails, starting at 11am. After the event as part of the entry fee, the Sundeck Hotel puts on a great lunch and drinks. This is also a fundraising event where all monies go towards XC Skiing.</i>	<a href="#">Register Here</a>
Friday, 11 August	<b>Mystery Coffee Tour #2</b>  <i>As per the Tuesday event, the Mystery Coffee Tour leaves the Nordic Shelter at 9.45 am. The same format will apply as per Tuesday event, it's a mystery.</i>	Register at the Nordic Shelter on the day
Saturday, 12 August	<b>Race – Snowy Mountains Classic</b>  <i>2.5, 7.5, 15 &amp; 30km Freestyle races held around the Perisher trails, starting at 9:30am.</i>	<a href="#">Register Here</a>
Saturday, 19 August	<b>Race - Kosciuszko Tour</b>  Our Club is running this ski race, which will start at Perisher and likely be held on the Perisher trails, starting at 10am. This will be a good warm up for the races being held during Perisher XC Week in early August. Participate in the Kosciuszko Tour ski race either as a racer or volunteer helper. Further details are included on the Club website. Let Jo-Anne know if you can help out as a volunteer on the day.	<a href="#">Register Here</a>
Sunday, 20 August	<b>Rock Creek</b>  <b>Basic-Intermediate Skills, Rolling Terrain, Short-Medium Distance</b>  Starting in Perisher, we will ski up Rock Creek for a couple of hours before turning around. We expect to be back at the Perisher Nordic Shelter for lunch.	
Saturday & Sunday, 19 & 20 August	<b>Beginners / Basic Weekend</b>  Another opportunity for beginners/basic skiers to have a lesson or do easy tours on the XC trails at Perisher, and to volunteer to help with the Kosciuszko Tour on the Sat morning.  Saturday mid-morning - lesson/skill building tour with tour leader. Sunday morning – beginner basic tour with tour leader. Sunday afternoon – self guided skill building practice.  Accommodation available at Kalkite. See further details on page 7.	

## Snowy Mountains Bus Service

The Snowy Mountains Bus Service will run from Jindabyne to Perisher or Thredbo return every day during the ski season from 10 June to 1 October 2023. With pick up spots in key locations across both Jindabyne and East Jindabyne, the morning commute this winter should be a lot easier. It is an affordable and stress-free way to get to and from the ski resorts, with services running every 60 minutes Monday-Thursday, with the added convenience of every 30 minutes Friday to Sunday (Jindabyne service only).

The service allows Snowy Mountains visitors to avoid driving in poor weather conditions, icy roads or heavy traffic. Return fares include entry into Kosciuszko National Park and each bus has room for gear including skis or a board, and a day backpack<sup>^</sup>.

Ticket type	Adult	Child/Concession
Return Journey	\$21	\$11
Single Journey (one way)	\$12	\$6
Weekly Pass	\$135	\$69
16-week Season Pass	\$400	\$200 - Child only
Weekly Family Pass	\$350	-
Return Family Pass	\$57	-
Single Family Pass	\$32	-
Return Jindabyne to Skitube*	\$15	\$7
Single Jindabyne to Skitube*	\$8	\$4

GST and NPWS entry fee into Kosciuszko National Park included in fare

\*NPWS entry fee into Kosciuszko National Park not required

Customers can [book ahead](#) to secure their seat on the Snowy Mountains Bus Service or just turn up and go.<sup>†</sup>

\* Traffic conditions may impact running times

<sup>†</sup> Subject to seat availability

<sup>^</sup> Baggage is limited to 1 x 20kg per person

Further details are at: <https://transportnsw.info/news/2023/snowy-mountains-bus-service>

### Perisher Services Timetable runs Friday to Sunday: 23 June to 17 September 2023

#### Route 1 – Jindabyne to Perisher

	G	G	G	G																
Station Resort	5:55	6:25	6:55	7:25																
Reedys Cutting Road, Jindabyne	6:00	6:30	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	11:00	12:00	13:00	14:00	14:30	15:00	15:30	16:00	16:30	17:00	
Gippsland Street, Jindabyne	6:05	6:35	7:05	7:35	8:05	8:35	9:05	9:35	10:05	11:05	12:05	13:05	14:05	14:35	15:05	15:35	16:05	16:35	17:05	
Banjo Paterson Crescent, Jindabyne	6:10	6:40	7:10	7:40	8:10	8:40	9:10	9:40	10:10	11:10	12:10	13:10	14:10	14:40	15:10	15:40	16:10	16:40	17:10	
Snowy Region Visitor Centre, Jindabyne	6:15	6:45	7:15	7:45	8:15	8:45	9:15	9:45	10:15	11:15	12:15	13:15	14:15	14:45	15:15	15:45	16:15	16:45	17:15	
Perisher Valley – Ski Tube Terminal	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	12:00	13:00	14:00	15:00	15:30	16:00	16:30	17:00	17:30	18:00	

Notes: G. The service will commence from Station Resort

#### Route 2 – Perisher to Jindabyne

																			H	H	H	H
Perisher Valley – Skitube Terminal	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	12:00	13:00	14:00	14:30	15:00	15:30	16:00	16:30	17:00	17:30	18:00	18:30	
Reedys Cutting Road, Jindabyne	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	12:00	13:00	14:00	15:00	15:30	16:00	16:30	17:00	17:15	17:45	18:15	18:45	19:15	
Gippsland Street, Jindabyne	8:05	8:35	9:05	9:35	10:05	10:35	11:05	11:35	12:05	13:05	14:05	15:05	15:35	16:05	16:35	17:05	17:20	17:50	18:20	18:50	19:20	
Banjo Paterson Crescent, Jindabyne	8:10	8:40	9:10	9:40	10:10	10:40	11:10	11:40	12:10	13:10	14:10	15:10	15:40	16:10	16:40	17:10	17:25	17:55	18:25	18:55	19:25	
Snowy Region Visitor Centre, Jindabyne	8:15	8:45	9:15	9:45	10:15	10:45	11:15	11:45	12:15	13:15	14:15	15:15	15:45	16:15	16:45	17:15	17:30	18:00	18:30	19:00	19:30	
Station Resort																		18:05	18:35	19:05	19:35	

Notes: H. The service will terminate at Station Resort

Blue cell = operated by resort bus

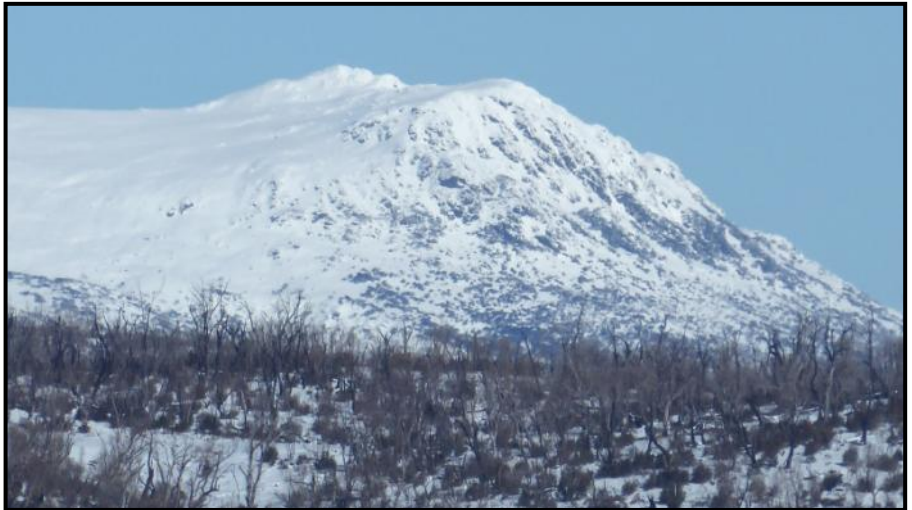
## Trip Report — Mt Selwyn — Sunday 2 July

Ten of us (Bruce Porter, Adam Lilley, Greg Lawrence, Ralph Gailis, Ken Moylan, Gale Funston, Mal Gould, Mike Hinchey, Kathryn Dwan and myself) met up for coffee at Adaminaby then proceeded to Mt Selwyn Resort. This was a perfect weather day and the newly opened resort was quite busy with the school holiday crowd.

We headed off from Mt Selwyn resort at 10am and skied east onto the open plateau from where we had great views south to Mt Jagungal and beyond. The snow was a bit firm at the start but quickly softened to provide some enjoyable skiing. After looking at the views we skied northeast amongst burnt trees to meet the trail coming from Kiandra. We headed north following the ski pole line then veered east to a great vantage point overlooking Commissioners Gully. We stopped here for lunch and enjoyed the views to Tabletop and its surrounds. Commissioners Gully was devoid of snow, as were the lower elevations around Kiandra, but higher up where we were skiing the snow cover was good.

From here we headed back across the plateau towards the resort but took a detour to climb the actual Mt Selwyn peak. From the top we had great views east towards Tantangara Mountain and the Brindabellas, south to Jagungal and north to Three Mile Dam. We descended the peak and had a final ski down the slopes of the resort before stopping for coffee in the main building. We then left around 3:30pm to head home. A good day out.

Alan Levy



*Mt Jagungal, Sun 2 July 23.*



*Group having lunch overlooking Commissioner's Gully, Sun 2 July 23.*



*Someone forgot to open the gate!*





*The group having a rest stop on the plateau east of Mt Selwyn resort. Sun 2 July 23.*



*Ralph on Mt Selwyn peak, looking east towards Tantangara Mountain, Sun 2 July 23.*

*Photos: Alan Levy*

## Trip Report - Tour to somewhere 'not so different after all'

### - Tuesday 11 July

The weather forecast had been optimistic and up to 17 of us contemplated a 'different' trip in the Kiandra country at some stage. But the snow cams, and finally a first hand report from Linda Groom put paid to that optimism. "The lowest skiable snow was at the altitude of Three Mile Dam."

So in the end only 10 of us met up at the Adaminaby Bakery on the Tuesday morning under a pall of low cloud that just got thicker and damper the closer we got to Selwyn. By then the only logical destination was to good old Broken Dam Hut.

Miraculously the Scots mist abated as we set off and we only had to follow the newly refurbished pole line in the fog to the junction with the trail to Pollocks Gully before following the trail to the slip rails saddle.

The snow was relatively firm and fast despite being freshly rained on and we then made good going over a complete cover to the hut for lunch. The hut now sports some new chairs and just gets more welcoming.

After a quick lunch we struck off back along our trail at 2pm and made quick time arriving at Selwyn at 4.15 tired but accomplished.

We were Monica Binder, Nicole Havranack, Michelle Frost, Melinda Brouwer, Adam Lilley, Alan Levy, Ken Moylan, Ken Smith, Greg Lawrence and Mike Hinchey.

*Mike Hinchey*



*Michelle, Nicole, Monika and Ken S at Broken Dam Hut, Tues 11 July 23.  
Photo: Mike Hinchey*



*Group skiing through the burnt forest near Broken Dam Hut, Tues 11 July 23.  
Photo: Mike Hinchey*





*Group arriving at Broken Dam Hut, Tues 11 July 23.  
Photo: Mike Hinchey*



*Mike leading his group in the mist towards the hut, Tues 11 July 23.  
Photo: Monika Binder*



*Group at Four Mile Saddle at the turnoff to Four Mile Hut (currently a ruin), Tues 11 July 23.  
Photo: Nicole Havranek*

## Some Back country lodges in Canada

By Lachlan Kennedy

Obviously this is not a complete survey.

But with enough subscriptions from my fellow club members I would be willing to complete it with further field research on lodges in Canada. Until then, here is a brief summary.

There are over 80 back country lodges and huts in the mountains of British Columbia. I have visited only 4 of them, and my bucket list is not yet empty.

### Firstly, a note about accessing these lodges

You will need to hire a car. There is no other way. In winter in BC all cars travelling the roads must have snow tyres. So far as I am aware, the hire car companies comply, but check before taking delivery of your car.

Canadian snow ploughs do a really good job of clearing the main roads of snow in winter. However, they sometimes can't keep up with the weather, so you rarely may be delayed.

### Which hut?

Access to BC lodges and huts can be by helicopter or on skis - which do you prefer?

The best skis for a lodge access trail are back country skis, but these may not be the best skis to explore the terrain around the lodge.

You must also consider what sort of terrain you want to ski when you get to the lodge. Do you want a lodge where you can ski meadows, low hills and flatish forest trails, or one where you can climb big slopes to ski down them?

Do you want to cook for yourself or do you want full board? Full board is naturally more expensive, but the accommodation is much more comfortable than bunk rooms in log cabins. And the lodges compete with each other on the quality of their menus.

Do you know how to assess avalanche risk? Can you navigate with map and compass? If not, keeping to meadows

etc close to the hut should be OK if the weather is fine. But on the other hand a lodge guide will make well informed decisions about routes based on avalanche risk, and the lodge will provide you with an avalanche transceiver.

Do you need a lodge with electric power? Many lodges, and all Canadian Alpine Club huts, do not have power, so you cannot recharge mobile phones or GPS for navigation. And remember very cold weather can cause the batteries in these devices to shut down quickly and without warning.

Do you have full length climbing skins? If not, get some. Don't go in the Canadian back country without them as waxless skis don't work in unpacked Canadian powder snow.

### Researching huts in BC back country lodges is messy.

2 go to websites are:

Backcountry Lodges of BC Association - <https://backcountrylodgesofbc.com>.

About 30 lodges have registered with this association. A link on their webpage to their Mountain Escapes podcast, featuring conversations with lodge owners.

Other lodges have to be found by the usual internet research methods. Search 'Back Country lodges in BC' in google maps for a start. Youtube has videos of many of the lodges.

## Lodges that might work for an Australian back country skier

### Journeyman Lodge



<https://www.callaghancountry.com/>

The trail head is about 14 kilometres back from Whistler on the main highway from Vancouver. From there you ski along a rolling 11 kilometre route negotiable on back country skis from the trail head. Journeyman has a reputation for having gentle terrain, and also some steep slopes if you want them, but it is close to the ocean, and so has maritime snow which can be wet - so I am told. They offer to transport your luggage to the lodge (which would include an alternative pair of skis).

### Elizabeth Parker Hut. - since 1919

<https://www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/elizabeth-parker-hut/>

This is the jewel in the crown for a self catering and self guided trip. It is probably the most popular Canadian Alpine Club hut, and a small fraction of the cost of a catered lodge. There are a few options around the hut for gentle ski touring, and the mountains on the way in, and around Lake O'Hara, are spectacular beyond words.

The trail head/parking area is near Lake Louise. Grab your pack and back country skis and ski up the 11 kilometre access road to Lake O'Hara (allow 3 - 4 hours - 400 metre ascent). This road is not snow ploughed, but the snow is usually packed down by the snowmobiles coming and going to service Lake O'Hara lodge which makes it ideal for back country skis. You will need full length skins once you start day tripping from the hut on the unpacked snow.



*Elizabeth Parker Hut*

### Skoki Lodge - since 1932

<https://www.skoki.com>

This is the jewel in the crown for a catering lodge accessible on back country skis. The ski in from Lake Louise is 11 kilometres (allow 3-4 hours). The gradients mainly are gentle, but depending on the condition of the snow pack, and the cold, sections of the trail could be challenging. We climbed the slope up to Deception Pass without putting our skins on, but only because it was too cold to stop to put our skins on.

The lodge was built in the 1930s, and retains its original atmosphere, with kerosene lamps assisting some LED lighting. There is a 4 hour ski loop from the lodge which goes around Mt Skoki via Red Deer Lake on very flat terrain, that is, until you get to the last section where there is a short challenging descent through the pine forest back to the lodge. Some folks find it easier to walk this section. The food is fantastic, and the shared sense of remoteness creates a great social atmosphere. Skoki's food is famous. If you stay at Skoki you will never forget it.



*Skoki Lodge*



## Helicopter Access lodges

### Mt Assiniboine Lodge (since 1928)

<https://assiniboinelodge.com/>

Arriving at a fully catered lodge by helicopter is a wonderful experience. I have only had the privilege once, when we found a vacancy at very short notice at Mt Assiniboine Lodge. Think of it as a fully serviced hotel in the back country - although it does have outside toilets. You get the helicopter from Canmore, one hour drive west from Calgary.

The lodge provides guides, and if you arrive with back country skis, you will probably be put in the flat land touring group, which will include the snow shoers. If you have alpine terrain or telemark skis, you get to ski the steeper country.

But it really doesn't matter. The Canadians consider the Matterhorn to be the Canadian version of Mt Assiniboine, and the lodge sits in a meadow from which there is an unobstructed view of the main face. Once at the lodge, you don't really need to go anywhere else at all.

Assiniboine also has self catering cabins for rent in winter - the Naiset Cabins. These are about 400 metres from the lodge, and a world away in terms of comfort. They are cold, and some people in the huts when we were there moved into to the lodge after one night.

### Lake Diana hut

<https://dianalake.ca/>

I have not visited this self-catering hut, but it is on my bucket list because, according to its website, it has lots of gentle terrain, and you can take shorter wide powder skis with full length skins with you on the helicopter (as opposed to dragging them in along a ski trail), which are much better at dealing with back country powder snow than back country skis.

The heliport is in Golden, 3 hours drive west from Calgary.



*Mt Assiniboine lodge*



*View to the Matterhorn-like Mt Assiniboine from the lodge*



*Near Lake Diana Hut*

### Purcell Mountain Lodge

<https://www.purcellmountainlodge.com/>

This lodge promotes itself as a lodge giving access to runs of 1,400 - 2,000 metres vertical, but having entertaining terrain for less ambitious skiers who 'will find their challenges in the mountains and alpine meadows around the lodge. There are ample gentle slopes in all directions and perfect slopes for casual telemark turns and snowshoeing, or introducing younger skiers to the backcountry. Adventure awaits just out the front door and fantastic terrain to suit all abilities.'

*At Purcell Mountain Lodge*



### Luxury Back Country Hotel - Lake O'Hara Lodge

This lodge prioritises bookings from returning guests, so it is a break through to get your first booking. It is fully catered, with internal toilets and showers. They prioritise social interactions with other guests, so join in, or you may not get another booking.

Access is the same as for Elizabeth Parker Hut.



*Lake O'Hara Lodge*

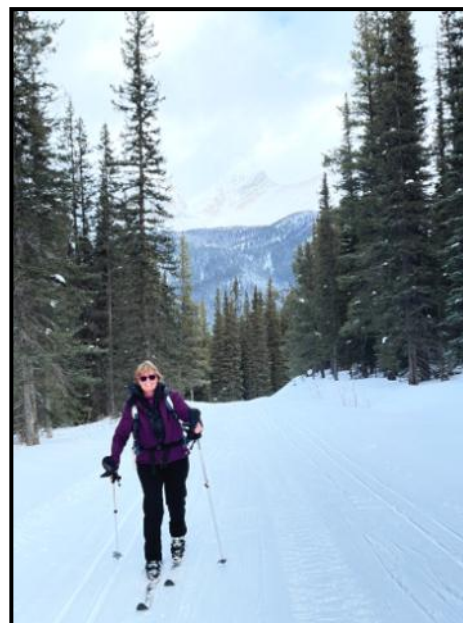
Sking into  
Elizabeth Parker  
Hut and Lake  
O'Hara Lodge

LET'S GO!!



### Steep terrain back country lodges

There are so many. A representative one with a wonderful name is Battle Abbey Lodge. Its terrain would mainly be of interest to intermediate to advance skiers, with 1,400 metre runs. But see for yourself - have a look at their photos - <https://www.battleabbey.ca/>, and then note that the lodge is fully booked for the next Canadian winter.



## Victoria Week - Kangaroo Hoppet

Sun 20 - Sun 27 August 2023 - changes to arrangements

### Accommodation

There are accommodation moves through the stay.

Bright: Sunday 20 to Friday 25 August:

The remaining accommodation (for 1 or 2 people) is at the NRMA Bright Holiday Park in a shared room/dorm.

Howmans Gap: Friday to Sunday 25 to 27 Aug – 2 female and 2 male spots available.

**Opened** - to all club members. Non club members are welcome to register an interest. If you have not joined us previously you will need to be a member to take up a booking.

**Skiing** - Ski tours will be organised throughout the stay at the surrounding cross country ski fields. While in Bright it will be at Mount Buffalo and Hotham.

Most of our ski tours are intermediate skills. The Kangaroo Hoppet is on Saturday 26 August—register at <https://hoppet.com.au> for those who are joining the participant event.

**Cost** - It is expected to be not more than \$100 per night per person for Bright.

Howmans Gap: depending on numbers (e.g. 3 to a room \$150 per night, includes dinner and breakfast).

Meals in Bright may be shared or organise own meal. We will work it out closer to the time.

Howmans Gap provides Breakfast and Dinner, however you will need to organise your own lunch.

**Contribute to household activities** - everyone will need to contribute to keeping the kitchen and common areas clean.

**Register Interest**: Contact us about Howmans Gap before 18 August, and Bright 22 August , via email at [cccscanberra@gmail.com](mailto:cccscanberra@gmail.com).

Gale Funston

*Skiing at Mt  
Buffalo below  
The Horn..*





## Trip Report - Perisher to Charlotte Pass - Tuesday 25 July

Seven of us (Ken Smith, John Giacon, Mike Hinchey, Sunny Giam, Ken Moylan, Gale Funston and myself) headed off from Perisher around 10am and skied along the road to the lookout at Charlotte Pass.

Absolutely perfect weather and absolutely icy conditions off track. By going along the road we were able to ski on the softer snow which had been churned up by the oversnow vehicles heading to Charlotte Pass, but as soon as we left the road we found the skiing difficult. Even by 2pm the snow hadn't really softened and was still firm and slippery to ski on away from the road. It has been over a month since the last decent snow fall, and whilst there is still a good snow base, it is quite wet and ices up at night and takes all day to thaw. What we need is a good fall of colder, drier snow to freshen the surface up.

We stopped for morning tea at the tables at Spencers Creek and continued skiing up the road to the lookout at Charlotte Pass where we had lunch and enjoyed great views of the Main Range. The downhill runs along the road on the return trip were quite enjoyable. We arrived back at the cars around 3:30pm before heading to Jindabyne for coffee and heading home.

Alan Levy



*At Spencers Creek, and skiing on the road towards Charlotte Pass. Photos: Alan Levy*



*The Main Range from Charlotte Pass, Tues 25 July 23. Photo: Mike Hinchey*



**HP Inc.**

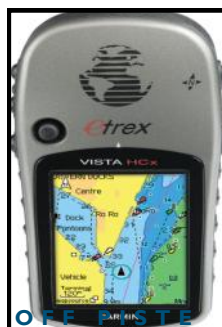
Web: [www.cccsc.asn.au](http://www.cccsc.asn.au)

Email: [cccsc Canberra@gmail.com](mailto:cccsc Canberra@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 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 2023 (All Welcome)

## Wednesday 16 August 2023

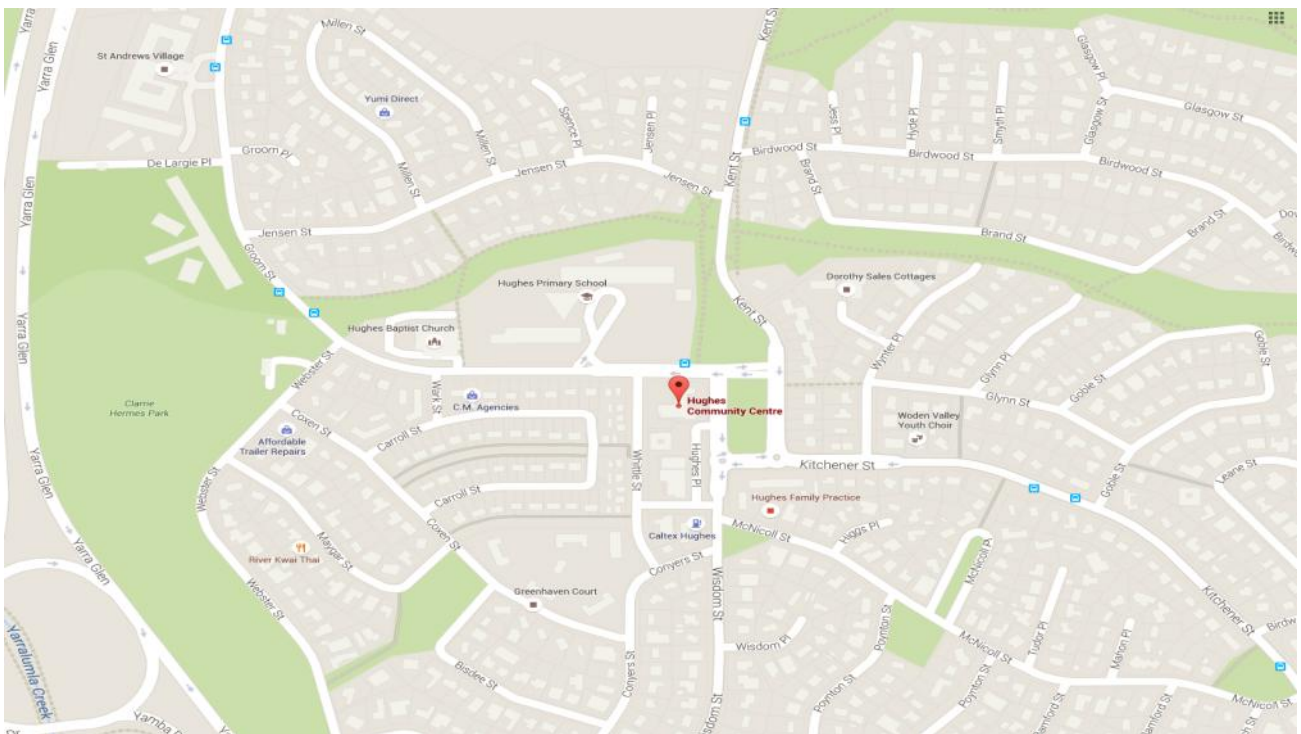
### Skiing in Victoria

Club members will show photos and talk about cross-country skiing in northeastern Victoria at Falls Creek, Mt Buffalo and Mt Hotham. The different scenery, numerous huts, the large groomed xc trail network and the Kangaroo Hoppet ski race are just some of the reasons to ski south of the border.

## Wednesday 13 September 2023

### 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. The AGM agenda items will be in the next newsletter.



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.





**Application for Membership 2023**  
Canberra Cross Country Ski Club Inc  
ABN 55 670 450 108

**To join ONLINE go to**  
[www.cccsc.asn.au](http://www.cccsc.asn.au) **and click REGISTER NOW**

**MEMBER DETAILS**

**Tick the box** if you **do not** wish your:

- email to be distributed on the email list ☐;
- Information on the members only area of the website that includes your name ☐ suburb ☐ email ☐ No ☐ and preferred phone numbers ☐ No ☐
- Blank box means agreement to information on members page

All other information will be kept confidential with only summarised results reported.

**Postal address** (Number, Street, Suburb or Town, State, Postcode)

<b>Member 1</b>			<b>Year of Birth</b>
First Name	Last name		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> email			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phone		
<b>Member 2</b>			<b>Year of Birth</b>
First Name	Last name		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> email			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phone		
<b>First and last name of other household Members and Year of Birth</b>			<b>Y o B</b>
<b>Member 3</b>			
<b>Member 4</b>			<b>Y o B</b>
<b>Member 5</b>			<b>Y o B</b>

I/we apply to become members of Canberra Cross Country Ski Club (CCCSC) and agree to be bound by the Constitution of CCCSC while members.

**Signed** by or for each member above:

Have you ever been a member of the CCCSC before?    YES ☐    NO ☐    What Date did you join .....

Make cheques payable to: "CCCSC"

Mail this form and your cheque to "PO Box 799, DICKSON ACT 2602" or

Bring this form and your cheque or cash to a CCCSC meeting.

Membership fees:

\$50 for single membership

\$75 for household membership

\$

Canberra Cross-Country Ski Club  
**KOSCIUSZKO TOUR ENTRY FORM**  
**10:00 am Saturday 19 August 2023**

<b>Family Name</b>			
<b>First Name(s)</b>			
<b>Address</b>			Postcode:
<b>E-mail address</b>			
<b>Telephone</b>	Work	Home	Mobile

<b>Birth year</b> _____ <small>(Entrants must be at least 14 years old)</small>	<b>Gender</b> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/>
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<b>Club name</b>	CCCSC <input type="checkbox"/>	Other Club <input type="checkbox"/> Name of club: _____
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<b>Technique:</b>	Classic <input type="checkbox"/>	Freestyle <input type="checkbox"/>
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<b>Team Entry (Optional)</b> <small>(must have 3 people per team)</small>	Fancy dress	<input type="checkbox"/>	Family	<input type="checkbox"/>	Club	<input type="checkbox"/>	ADF Service	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Team name</b>								
<b>Names of other team members</b>	1. _____				2. _____			

<b>The Entrant, by entering and starting agrees to:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>be at least 14 years old,</li> <li>be responsible for their fitness and ability to take part in the event,</li> <li>report to the nearest official if withdrawing from the event, &amp;</li> <li>absolve the Canberra Cross Country Ski Club (CCCSC), Kosciuszko Tour Coordinator, organising committee, Technical Delegate, marshals, individuals, sponsors, or associated authorities from any liability for any injuries or loss that he/she may incur.</li> </ul>
<b>Canberra Cross-Country Ski Club (CCCSC) reserves the right to:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>vary or cancel any race arrangements to suit weather or snow conditions,</li> <li>post variation or cancellation notices on <a href="http://ccsc.asn.au">ccsc.asn.au</a> and at the race office,</li> <li>refund the entry fee paid less expenses if the race is cancelled before 16 August,</li> <li>make no refund if the race is varied or cancelled on or after 16 August,</li> <li>make no refund, credit or exchange if the Entrant withdraws before starting,</li> <li>close the Drink Stations and Finish at the times advertised, assist unfinished Entrants to these points and exclude them from the results,</li> <li>refuse entry or participation to any Entrant,</li> </ul>

<b>Signature of Entrant (or parent/guardian if entrant under 18 years of age)</b>  
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<b>Standard Entry Fee (received by Friday 18 August)</b>	<b>\$30</b>
<b>Late Entry Fee (to 9.00 am Saturday 19 August)</b>	<b>\$40</b>
Enter online (Visa/Mastercard) - <a href="https://www.perisherxcountry.org/events/local/">https://www.perisherxcountry.org/events/local/</a>	Or send completed entry form and payment (cheque) to: <b>CCCSC Race Secretary</b> <b>303 Hindmarsh Drive</b> <b>Rivett ACT 2611</b>



## THE COURSE

**Course** - The Kosciuszko Tour will, weather and snow conditions permitting, start from Perisher and use the XC trail network to the Porcupine and return for 18km. This makes it a great warm-up event for the Kangaroo Hoppet.

**Changes** - The exact course on the day will be advised at Perisher Nordic Shelter and the Start.

**Tracks** - A classic track and freestyle track will be set and marked with flags where necessary.

The Kosciuszko Tour is open to both Classic and Freestyle (Skating) skiers. Freestyle skiers will start after the classic skiers. Any skier who starts with the Classic technique group and is observed skating will be disqualified.

**There will be a drink station on the course, but it is recommended that entrants carry additional water and snacks.**

### **RACE OFFICE - Perisher Cross Country Centre (Nordic Shelter)**

	<b>TIME</b>
Open for late entries	7:45am to 9:00am
Pick up bibs and ankle transponders	9:15am to 9:45am

### **START**

	<b>TIME</b>
Pre-race briefing	9:45 am
<b>Race Start</b>	<b>10:00am to 10:15am</b>

**RACING** - This is a tour race so there is no calling of "track" – please go around slower skiers.

**FIRST AID/DRINK STATIONS** – drink station(s) on course and at Perisher Cross Country (Nordic) shelter after finish line.

**SAFETY** - Sustain your fluid intake and wear adequate clothing. The course will be patrolled by skidoo and swept by skiers. Please note that snow conditions can range from ice, deep snow or slush. Natural hazards include rocks, bare patches and vegetation. Other skiers also use these trails. Skiers must ensure that they ski in control at all times to minimise risk of collisions and injury. In sunny weather use sunscreen, sunglasses and carry sufficient water.

If the weather deteriorates ski together and help each other as much as possible. If you come across another entrant in difficulty or distress, assist and/or report to the nearest official on skidoo or at a first aid/drink station, giving a bib number, problem outline and location.

Bibs/transponders will be accounted for at the Finish and a missing bib/transponder may initiate a search at your expense.

**If you withdraw from the Tour report to the nearest official and hand in your bib and transponder.**

### **TIME**

#### **FINISH: Outside Perisher Cross Country Ski Centre (Nordic Shelter)**

Each finisher will be timed and have their bib exchanged for a presentation ticket	10:30am to 2:00pm
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#### **PRESENTATION:**

### **TIME**

Presentation (includes nibbles, tea and coffee – drinks can be purchased at bar)	2:15pm to 3:30pm
Individual, team and spot prizes will be awarded	
Results will be posted at the presentation and posted on the PXC events web page	





*Lichen covered snowgum, 5 Jul 23. Photo: Melinda Brouwer*