

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- Ski Photos
- Trip Report
- AGM Notice

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2023, ISSUE 4

25 AUGUST 2023



Marg Hayes skiing on the Perisher trails, Sunday 6 August 2023. Photo: Alan Levy

Next Newsletter

The next newsletter will be produced in early October. Deadline for contributions is 30 September. Please send any articles or photos to cccsceditor@gmail.com

Welcome to the 4th edition of Off-Piste for this season. The ski season hasn't turned out as we had hoped, with almost no snowfall during the month of July, resulting in hard packed and icy conditions for much of the time on a diminishing snow cover. There was finally a good snowfall at the end of last week (18 August) which did improve things, but this has been followed by further warm temperatures and some rain.

Mt Selwyn resort reopened on the first weekend of July but had to close by the end of the month as the snow cover had completely disappeared. Most of the events during Perisher X-Country week (5-12 Aug) went ahead on a thin cover on the Perisher XC trails but grooming of the trails had ceased by mid that week due to lack of snow. While the XC trails have some sections with a good snow cover, breaks in the trails means grooming has ceased until further significant snowfalls. The Snowy Mountains Classic race and our Kosciuszko Tour race which are run on the Perisher trails both had to be cancelled. The road was also cleared from Perisher to Spencers Creek in early August. All of this has reduced the number of places to ski until further good snowfalls.

The Main Range still looks to have a good cover of snow and hopefully with further snowfalls there will be some good spring touring later in September and October. The best snow cover for skiing is currently at the top of Thredbo, around and above Charlotte Pass, across the dam wall at Guthega and around The Paralyser. Anywhere else will be patchy and involve some walking.

Some club members headed to Victoria this week to ski in the Kangaroo Hoppet events and go touring at Falls Creek, Mt Buffalo and Mt Hotham. Whilst there they would have received the unfortunate news that the Kangaroo Hoppet race has had to be cancelled for the first time in its history (apart from Covid). However Worldloppet passport holders will be able to ski and time themselves with an activity tracker over 10.5kms (Silver) or 21kms (Gold) on the Falls Creek trails to still attain a stamp in their Worldloppet passport.

As we leave winter behind and head into spring the hope is for some further snow falls to allow for some ski tours during September and beyond. But maybe best to ski now whilst there is still snow on the ground. The Club AGM will be held on 13 September, and we are hoping to run an October Lodge Weekend, probably at Perisher in early October, but this will be confirmed and advice emailed to members.

Alan Levy, Editor

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

Date: Wednesday 13 September 2023

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 vice-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.

Activities & Dates – 2023

Future CCCSC Social Meetings for 2023

September - Wed 13 September

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

Sat & Sun – Ski tours from Charlotte Pass

Snow Depth Charts

Spencers Creek

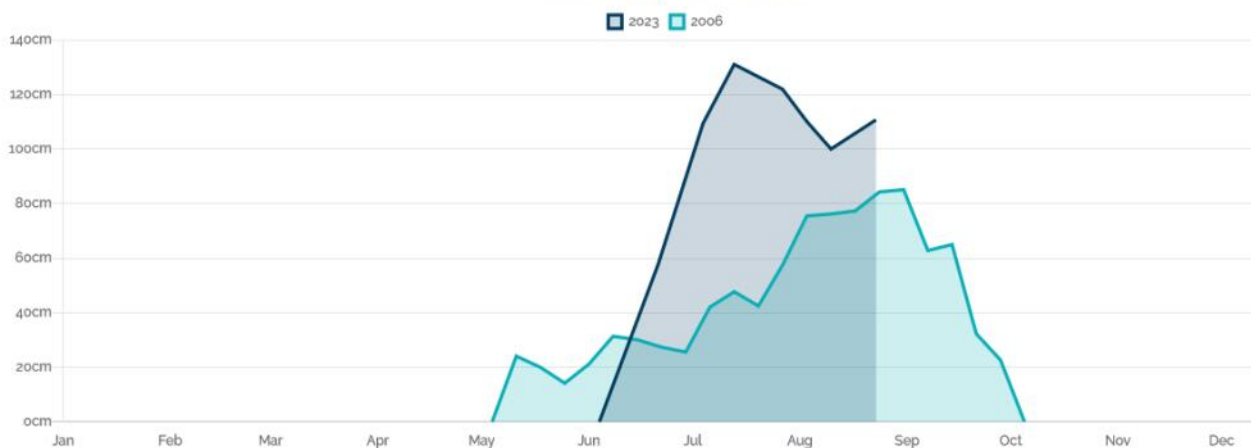
CURRENT LEVEL **110.7cm** AS OF 23 AUG 2023



The latest snow depth chart for Spencer's Creek (as measured on 23 August) compared with last year (above) and with 2006 (below) which was one of the worst snow years in recent times.

Spencers Creek

CURRENT LEVEL **110.7cm** AS OF 23 AUG 2023



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](#)

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 cccscanberra@gmail.com if interested.

OCTOBER LODGE WEEKEND

The Club may hold 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.

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.

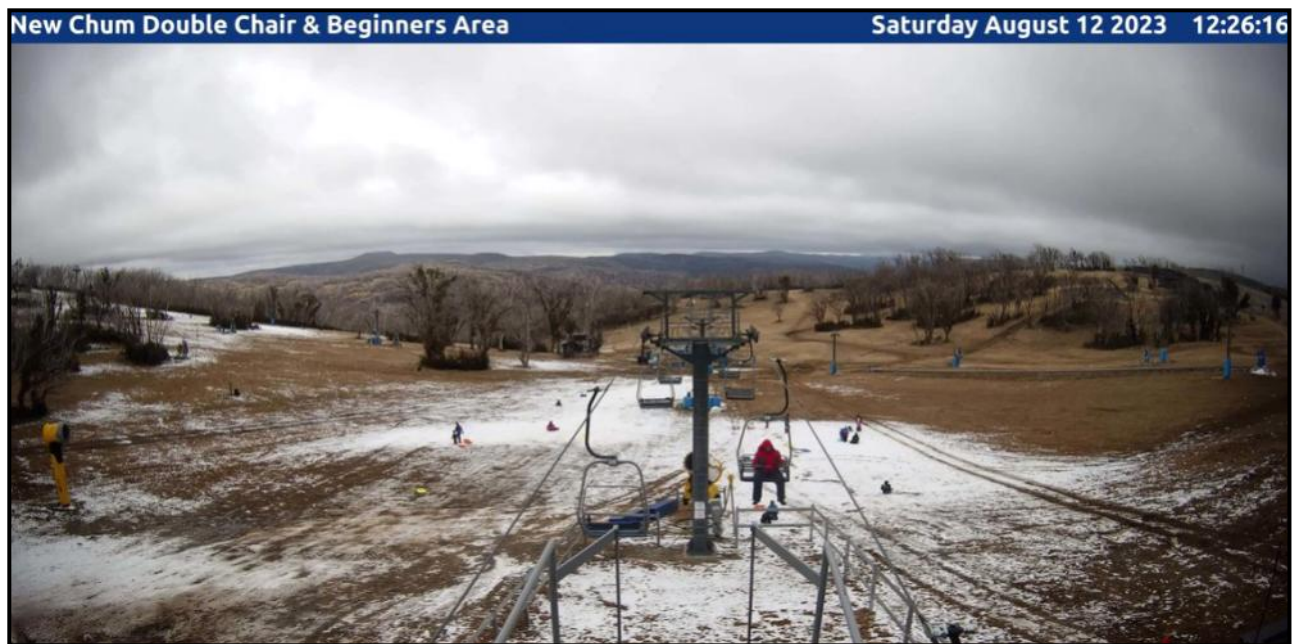
Ski Photos



The Perisher trails in front of the Nordic Shelter, Sun 6 August 23. The groomer did a great job to keep some of the trails groomed in the absence of snowfalls and with continuing warm weather. Grooming ceased later that week until further snowfalls. Photo: Alan Levy



View from the Porcupine towards Mt Guthrie and the Main Range, Sun 6 August 23. Photo: Noel Mungovan



A Selwyn snowcam photo showing a few desperate tobogannners on the slopes at Mt Selwyn Resort, Sat 12 August 23.



Near Porcupine Rocks, Sunday 6 August 2023. Photo: Noel Mungovan



People at the Coffee Tour at Perisher on Tues 8 August 23. Various groups headed out on the trails before meeting up for coffee, cakes, champagne and schnaps on the snow. One of the highlights of Perisher X-Country Week. Photo: Wayne Pethybridge, for Perisher X-Country.



Racers walking on the 2.5km trail at Perisher for the start of the KAC Classic race, Mon 7 August 2023. This race normally goes from Perisher to Charlotte Pass, but with the road having been cleared to Spencers Creek and bad snow conditions, the race was held around some of the Perisher trails. Photo: Alan Levy

Trip Report — Munyang Aqueduct Track — Sunday 20 August

Tim Wright, Daniel Parsons and myself spent the Saturday night at Kalkite. As this is the busiest time of the season we left early at 6:20am on the Sunday morning and drove to Guthega Power Station. We arrived there around 7:15am and met Helen Crompton who had camped overnight at Island Bend and was already there having breakfast at the table near the Munyang parking area. We joined her for coffee, sat and talked and waited for Andrew Palm to arrive, who had driven down early from Canberra. He arrived just before 8:30am and we headed off shortly afterwards.

The weather was sunny with little wind and there were remnants of fresh snow on the ground down to the power station from the snowfall two days earlier. We had to walk up the road but were able to ski from the plateau at the top of the zig-zags. We visited the remains of a large winch used during construction of the penstock pipes above Guthega Power Station then skied further up the road through the trees on a thin snow cover to the top of the pipes and the surge tank. There was a good cover of snow up high but it was soft and heavy, and also crusty in the shadows of the trees. From the surge tank we were able to ski along the aqueduct track which heads south high above the Snowy River for about 1.5km towards the Guthega Trig / Falls Creek area. From the track we had good views across the valley towards Mt Blue Cow and Guthega.

We stopped for morning tea along the aqueduct track and waited for Tim to catch up. This stop eventually turned into lunch. Tim was happy to head back to the cars by himself so we left him about 12:30pm and retraced our tracks before joining the aqueduct track which heads north up the western side of the valley past Horse Camp Hut. The skiing along this track was quite good on a good cover of snow which had been packed down by snow shoers. We arrived at the hut around 1:30pm. There were a few tents set up nearby. Away from the cover of the trees the open areas had much less snow. After about 20 minutes at the hut

(Continued on page 9)



Skiing next to the penstock pipes above Guthega Power Station.



Skiing south along the aqueduct track, with the Guthega Road opposite.



Horse Camp Hut.

(Continued from page 8)

we decided to return to the cars via the Schlink road which goes down the centre of the valley. Even though this route is shorter than the aqueduct track it was mostly devoid of snow and also had a very big hill to climb.

We were able to ski some of the way back on the road on a thin soft cover trying to avoid the hidden rocks underneath but when it got too marginal we had to walk. Much of the snow that had been on the road during the morning had melted away by the afternoon. There were a few groups heading up the road to Horse Camp Hut on our way out, so it would likely have been busy at the hut that evening. We arrived back at the cars just before 3:30pm and went our separate ways. Another enjoyable tour in an interesting area in perfect weather. Good snow up high and in the trees, but disappearing quickly in the open areas.

Alan Levy



On Mt Feathertop, Wednesday 23 August 2023. Photo: Monika Binder

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. cccsctours@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.	
August	Kalkite Accommodation	
	Accommodation at Kalkite is be available to Club members throughout the ski season. Email cccscanberra@gmail.com to express interest.	
Monday to Saturday, 3 to 16 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.	
	The ASC lodge landline 0264575296 is the most reliable way to contact me. My general enquires contact details are If people use the email will receive a reply in appropriately 48 hours.	
	I am staying at The ASC lodge Guthega from the 28 August for three weeks. I am a qualified ASPI X-C instructor and I have a Cert. IV in Back Country (National Training Package). I am a retired Outdoor Education Teacher in the ACT school system. I have been leading tours since the eighties and have been a member of the CCCSC since the nineties, when I did a few CCCSC tour leader's courses.	
Sunday, 10 September	A Perisher-ish ramble, or wherever there's snow	
	Basic-Intermediate skills, Rolling terrain, Short-Medium distance	
	We'll start from wherever there's enough snow, now the summit road is cleared to Spencer's Creek.	
Sunday, 17 September	Snow willing wander to Illawong	
	Intermediate skills, Rolling terrain, Medium distance	
	If there's snow, along towards Illawong and the suspension bridge from Guthega carpark.	
Friday to Sunday, 6 to 8 October (tbc)	October Lodge Weekend tours	
	The Club is looking at holding an end of season lodge weekend 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. If insufficient snow at this time then bushwalks will be conducted instead.	
Saturday & Sunday, 14 & 15 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 (or walk) in to the campsite. After camp is set up there are a variety of hills and destinations to explore on skis. If there is little snow around at this time the camp will still go ahead but we may do some walks in the area instead.	

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[^].

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.†

* Traffic conditions may impact running times

† Subject to seat availability

[^] 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



HP Inc.

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 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.

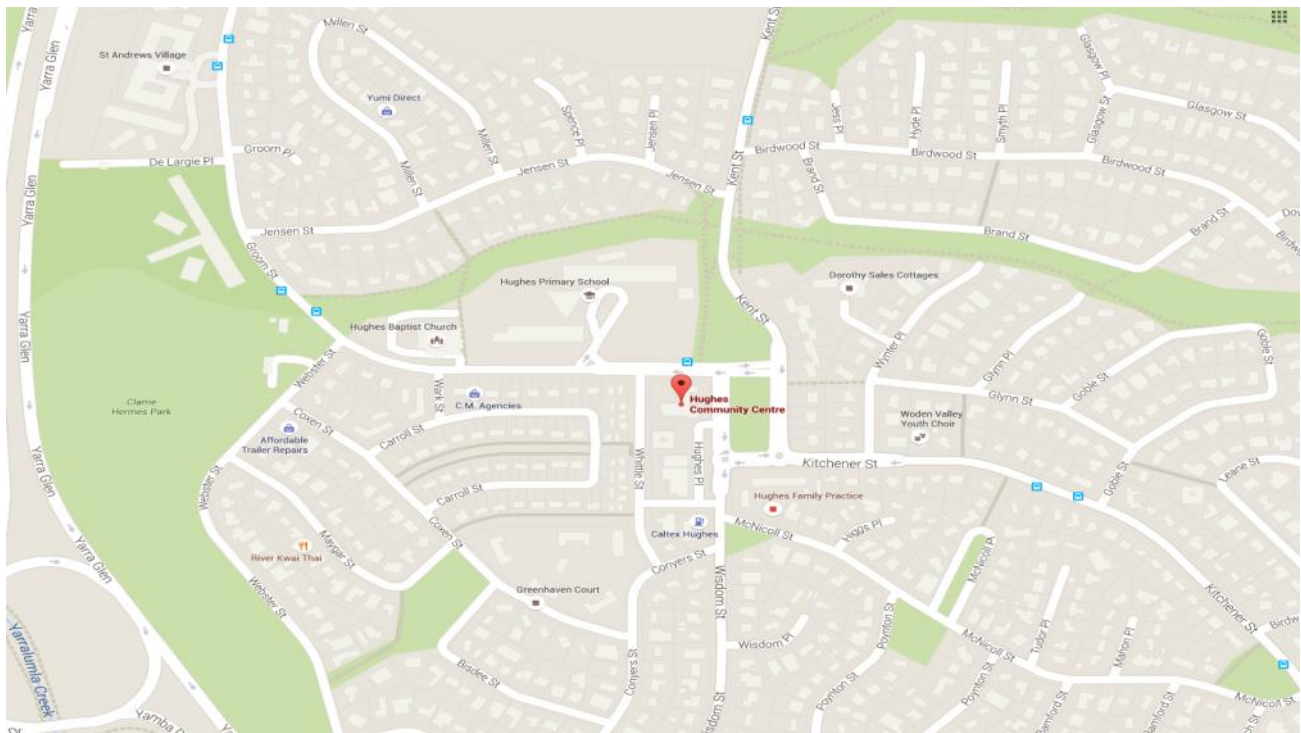


Social Meetings 2023 (All Welcome)

Wednesday 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 are on page 2 of this newsletter. Afterwards there will be a chance to socialise and show some photos from this ski season.



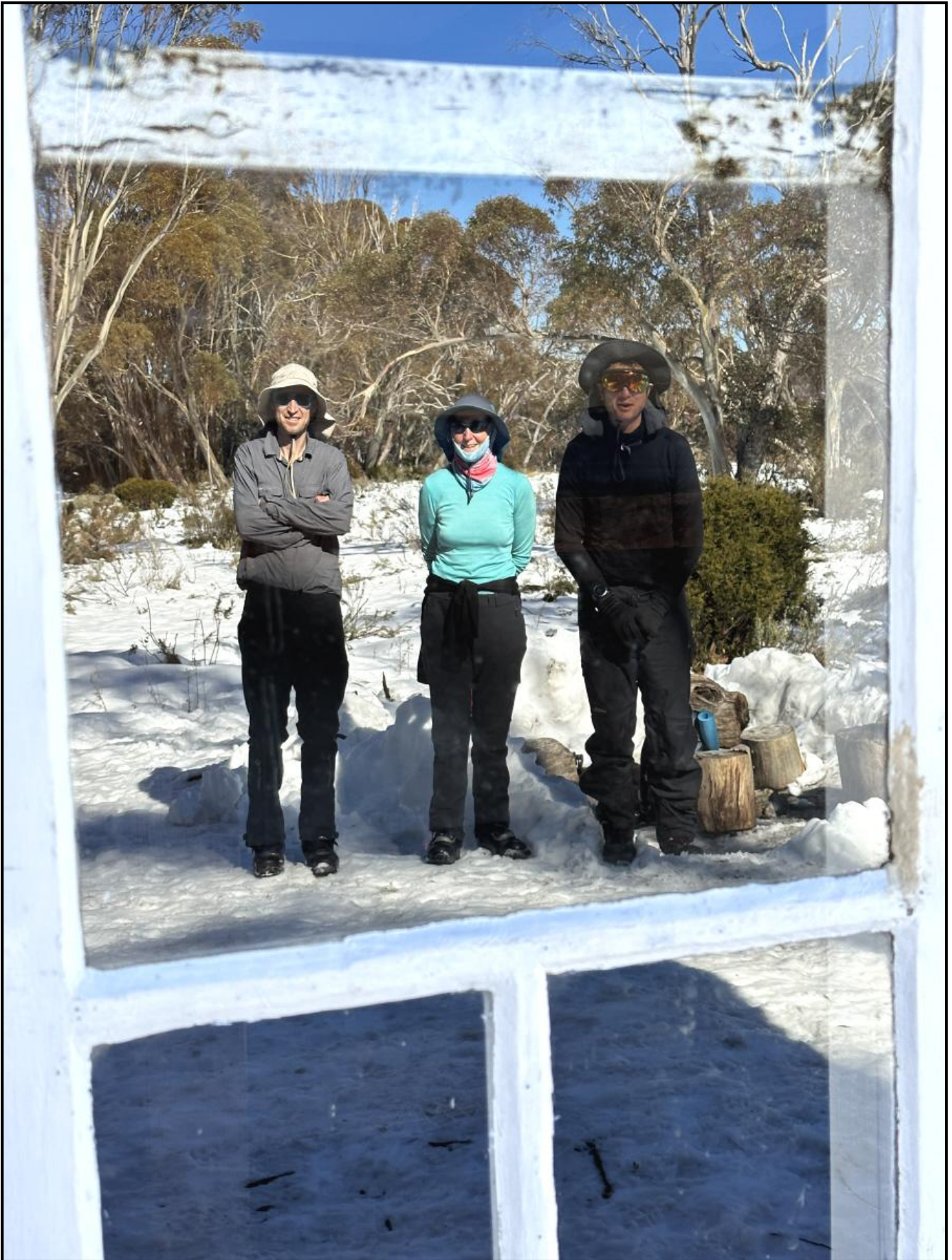
Meetings are held at the Hughes Community Centre, Hughes Place, Hughes, Canberra, Canberra on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month from mid May to late September. Door opens at 7.30 pm for 7.45 pm start. Light refreshments will be provided.



David Drohan and Mt Feathertop. On a tour to Mt Loch and beyond. Thursday 24 August 2023. Photo: Ken Moylan



Bruce Barnett on Mt Feathertop, Wednesday 23 August 2023. Photo: Monika Binder



Andrew Palm, Helen Cromb and Daniel Parsons reflected in the window of Horse Camp Hut on a club tour along the Munyang aqueduct tracks, Sun 20 August. Photo: Alan Levy