

CANBERRA
CROSS COUNTRY
SKI CLUB, INC

Off Piste



SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- XMAS Party
- Summer Activities

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2023, ISSUE 6

16 NOVEMBER 2023



*The upper snowfield on Carruthers Peak approaching the false summit - Wednesday 18 October.
Photo: Mike Hinchey*

Next Newsletter

The next newsletter will be produced in early May 2024.

The CCCSC XMAS Party will be held on Wednesday 6 December.

See inside for further details.

Welcome to the 6th edition of Off-Piste for this season. This is just a short edition with details of some summer activities - the Club's XMAS Party on 6 December and a few summer walking and camping activities.

Mike Hinchey has booked the Snowy Vale lodge on Snowy Plains for club members for the weekend of 2-3 December (see details on page 5) and this is a good opportunity to explore the area close to Cesjacks Hut. But access to this area requires a proper 4WD to negotiate the rough road and some creek crossings, which could determine who will be able to attend.

The dates for the Perisher Nordic Shelter and XC trails work parties have now been advised and are included on page 3 for those interested in attending.

A few club members will be heading overseas in February to participate in the Japanese, Canadian and US Worldloppet ski races. Hopefully the northern winter will be better than what was experienced this year in Australia, so that all these races will be able to go ahead.

Alan Levy, Editor



Summer trips

A number of club members lead walks over the summer, and they are quite popular.

If you are interested in leading a walk, single day or more, please email our tour coordinator, Bill Stanhope, at cccstours@gmail.com

Some planned walks are listed on page 5.

Skistradamus Reviews 2023

It is November, the snow has gone, and time for Skistradamus to review his 2023 prediction.

Back in Late September, I predicted that the snow would end, as defined by the snow depth at Spencer's Creek and measured by Snowy Hydro, on 18 October 2023.

This turned out to be wildly wrong.

The official Zero Snow Depth was 10 October 2023, eight days earlier than my prediction.

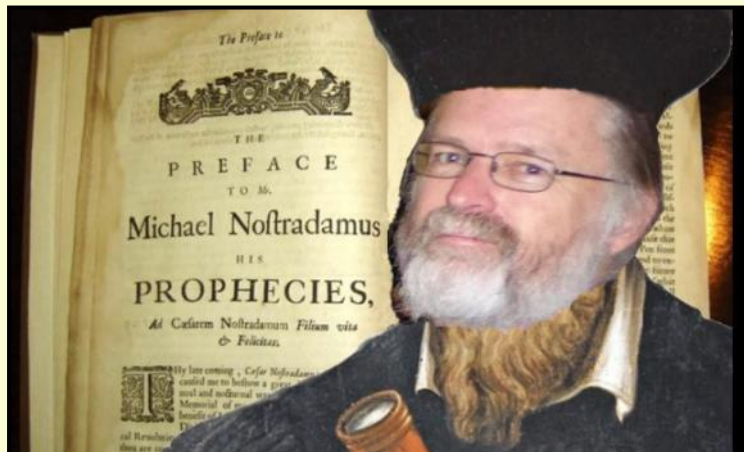
I have seen a chart separating snow depths into decades and one notable observation is that the snow depth decline in the last decade has sped up.

I will need to include that into next year's prediction.

Ski Heil!

Skistradamus

Early November 2023



Roller Ski Training / Coaching

NSWACT XC has organised Roller Ski training/coaching - very affordable and fun with top coaches.

Coached dryland training sessions are available either as Single Sessions or by the Term in the NSWACT XC Team App Store and apply to dryland training sessions in all of the regions, where available. Be sure to RSVP so that you will be expected.

You need to register through the NSWACT XC team App at:

https://nswxc.teamapp.com/clubs/18595?_webpage=v1

Related Articles:

https://nswxc.teamapp.com/articles/7951853?_detail=v1

https://nswxc.teamapp.com/articles/7907901?_detail=v1

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 6 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 5)

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

Dec 23:

- Introduction to Snowy Plains (overnight lodge)

Jan-May 24:

- The Sentinel (overnight camp)
- Gavels and Vickers Huts (overnight car camp)
- Other walks to be advised.

Nordic Shelter & XC Trails Summer Working Bees

The good work done by the XC Summer Work Parties continues in 2024 with work to be done on the trails and in and around the Perisher Nordic Shelter.

The 2024 XC Work Party dates are as follows:

- Feb 3/4
- Mar 2/3
- April 6/7
- May 4/5
- June 1/2 (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 2024

Early May 2024

First Social Meeting for 2024

Wed 22 May 2024, at the Hughes Community Centre.

Trip Report - Postscript to a Troubled Winter

By the middle of October I had become resigned to hanging up my skis and getting stuck into the walking and fishing season. But on the 16 October snow lay on the ground in Jindabyne and my local buddies rang me to see if I'd "like to go find some snow".

So we headed up to Charlotte Pass on the Wednesday and sure enough the high peaks were again clothed in bridal white. We elected to strike out for Carruthers which has offered us so many good late season runs. The stepping stones on the Snowy crossing were under a little water but I made it in my boots.

We pushed on up the Blue Lake track finally donning skis just before the first high point from which we struck out along faint quad tracks on the ridge towards Carruthers. When we reached the upper snow fields we spied a solitary skier, the only other skier on the mountain, a lady from Cooma.

As ever, it seemed to take forever to finally reach the summit where we enjoyed lunch in sunny bliss. The view towards Kosciuszko was impressive.

Donning skis we headed back down the usual creek run towards the river and were surprised to make it most of the way down on a beautiful corny piste, courtesy of the fresh fall. This was a surprise as we could not see a way through from the Lake track. Then it was just a matter of a long sidle through the snow grass back to the track and the crossing.

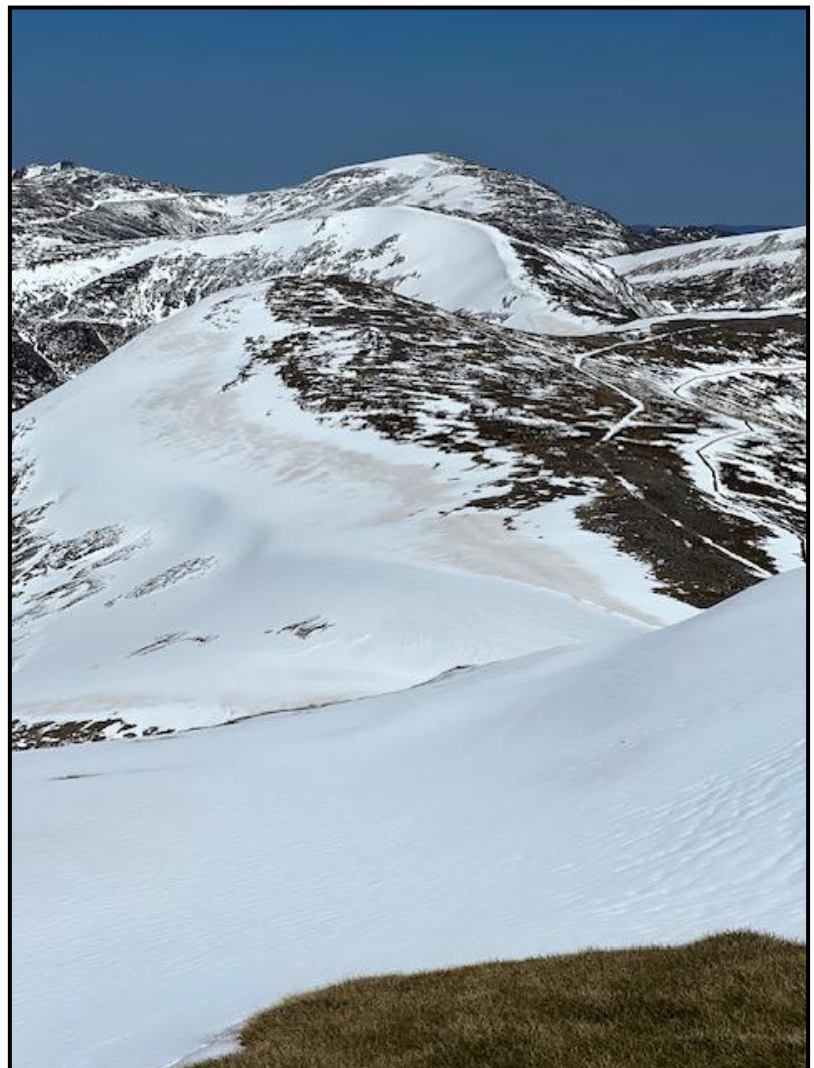
As usual the climb back up to Charlottes seemed to take the last energy out of us but overall our descent took an hour less than our upward climb.

So if we learned anything from this it was take nothing for granted but the surprising opportunities nature throws up at us.

Mike Hinchey



*The high peaks were again clothed in bridal white - Carruthers - Wed 18 October
Photo: Mike Hinchey*



The view from the summit of Carruthers towards Kosciuszko. Photo: Mike Hinchey

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.

2-3 December 2023 - Introduction to Snowy Plains (overnight lodge)

Snowy Plains, comprising much of the catchments of the Gungarlin and Bulls Peaks Rivers is an extensive salient of private land extending into the middle of the Kosciuszko National Park approximately half way between Kiandra and Guthega. It offers superb sub-alpine scenery and often rewards skiers with good nordic skiing opportunities, though this past winter was not forthcoming. Part of its charm is its remoteness which is reinforced by its 4WD access limitation. So the proposed trip, staying or camping at one of the private lodges in the area (SnowyVale) will be limited by the number of seats available in 4WDs registering for the trip.

Early December is the prime time for the sub-alpine wildflowers to be in bloom and to enjoy spring coming to the mountains – warm days and cold nights. People can explore the country around Cesjacks Hut in the park and out towards the Bulls Peaks or Jagungal or wander up the delightful Bulls Peaks river towards the privately owned Flanagans Hut.

There will be limited bunks available in the lodge on a first registered / first served basis. The lodge offers full household facilities and the surrounds offer good car camping.

Leader:

Grade: Distance and length to suit yourself.

20-21 January 2024 - 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:

April or May 2024 - 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. Date to be advised.

Leader:

Other Trips

Other members have expressed interest in leading some walking trips in the new year. Details of these walks will be put onto the club website and advised by email to members once they are confirmed.



XMAS Party

Wednesday 6 December

The CCCSC XMAS Party will be held on Wednesday 6 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.





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 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 .

