

SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:

- Trip Reports
- Skiing Photos
- Overseas Ski Trips
- XMAS Party

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2024, ISSUE 4

18 OCTOBER 2024



*Caroline Archer, Rita Berner, Geoff Dawson and Ken Moylan near Carruthers Peak, Wednesday 2 October 2024. Photo: Alan Levy*

This year marks the 40th Anniversary of the Club.

The CCCSC XMAS Party will be held on Wednesday 4 December.  
See inside for further details.

## Next Newsletter

The next newsletter will be produced in late November. Deadline for contributions is 21 November. Please send any articles or photos to [cccsceditor@gmail.com](mailto:cccsceditor@gmail.com)

## Editor's Note

A quick summary of the 2024 ski season. The season started with very little natural snow in June, although cold temperatures did allow what snow there was to hang around, even if it was quite firm or icy. Good snowfalls during the second week of July enabled skiing to be done in the Selwyn area and for the Perisher XC trails to be groomed properly. The four week period from mid-July to the end of Perisher XC week in early August was the peak of the season. The Perisher XC trails were groomed to perfection, races were held and all the events in Perisher XC week were conducted successfully.

Then things took a turn for the worst with an unprecedented run of three weeks of strong winds, warm temperatures and some rain events which decimated the snow cover. The Kangaroo Hoppet ski race at Falls Creek had to be cancelled, and most downhill ski resorts closed in late August or early September. 2023 was also a bad snow year but the snow depth charts for this year show a slower start, smaller peak depth and a quicker decline.

The opening of the road to Charlotte Pass occurred in mid-September, allowing access to spring skiing on the Main Range. The higher parts of the Main Range around Carruthers Peak and Kosciuszko offered good skiing in October, but the skiing will likely finish a few weeks earlier than normal this year.

With the conclusion of skiing for the year the club will again aim to put on some bushwalking and camping trips over the coming summer and autumn period, One particular activity we are planning are bushwalks in the Blue Mountains on the Canberra Day long weekend next March. Further details of this, and other summer activities, will be included in the next newsletter due out in late November, and also on the club website and by email.

The Club's AGM was held on 25 September. Most of the usual suspects are still on the Committee for next year although the President and Touring Coordinator positions are still vacant. We can work around this but it would be good to have these positions filled.

Regarding the Social Meetings for next year, as the meeting room at Hughes has already been booked by another group on Wednesday nights, we have booked the venue for Tuesday nights instead.

The club is looking at organising a trip to New Zealand in late August next year to ski at the Snow Farm near Wanaka and participate in the Merino Muster Ski Race on Sat 30 August 2025. Also, a few of us are considering heading to Sapporo in Japan in January 2026 to participate in the Sapporo International Ski Marathon on 1 February 2026. Further details are included on page 5 and anyone interested in these trips should contact [ccsccanberra@gmail.com](mailto:ccsccanberra@gmail.com)

Just a reminder that the Club's XMAS Party will again be held at Lennox Gardens, on Wednesday 4 December (see page 4).

*Alan Levy, Editor*

## Summer Activities

For the last few years the Club has been running some summer bushwalking and camping trips in the mountains. We intend to do the same again this coming summer and autumn. If anyone is interested in putting on a summer walk or camping trip then please forward any details to [ccsceditor@gmail.com](mailto:ccsceditor@gmail.com) or [ccsctours@gmail.com](mailto:ccsctours@gmail.com) before the next newsletter deadline (21 November) to ensure they get included in the next newsletter. These trips will also be advertised on the club website and by email to members.



# Skistradamus Returns!

It is September and time for Skistradamus to dust off his crystal ball and foretell when the snow will be gone this year.

To recap, 2024 had a slow start. By mid-July, the snow on the Perisher Trails was getting hard and painful to fall on. The welcome dumps of late July and early August saved the season and provided NSW Cross-Country Week with the best cover for years. Sadly, the cover melted so quickly that the Kangaroo Hoppet was cancelled.

Until this week, it was looking like early August was the last worthwhile dump, but this week a good dump of about 9cm fell and delayed the start of the Spring Decline.

Working on 8 September 2024 as the start of the Spring Decline, starting from a snow depth of 75.3cm, my chart predicts another 29 days of snow, i.e. snow depth of zero on 7 October.

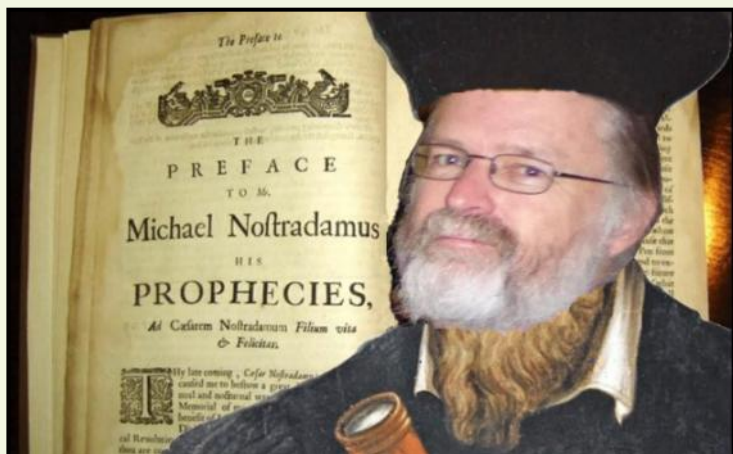
However, I think my chart is too optimistic, so an adjustment is in order.

Another 21 days of snow feels truer, i.e. snow depth of zero on 29 September.

Skistradamus' prediction is that the snow, as measured by the Snowy-Hydro depth gauges at Spencer's Creek, will be gone on 29 September 2024.

Skistradamus

Early September 2024



## Spencers Creek



Comparison of the measured snow depths at Spencers Creek for this year and last year. The snow depth reached zero in both years around 9 October. Overall there was slightly more snow last year.



## XMAS Party

Wednesday 4 December

The CCCSC XMAS Party will be held on Wednesday 4 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.



## Overseas Ski Trips - 2025 & 2026

### Race: Merino Muster

Where: New Zealand, Wanaka

When: August 2025

Some CCCSC members are planning to head to New Zealand in late August next year to ski at the Snow Farm near Wanaka, and participate in the Merino Muster Ski Race events (42km, 21km) on **30 August 2025**.

The intention would be to fly to Queenstown, pick up a hire car at the airport then drive to our accommodation in Wanaka

A few days would be spent skiing the groomed trails at the Snow Farm on the Pisa Range and sightseeing in and around Wanaka before doing the race events on the Saturday.

For more information or to express your interest in joining a Club trip to New Zealand next year please contact [cccscanberra@gmail.com](mailto:cccscanberra@gmail.com) by early next year so that accommodation arrangements can be planned.



### Race: Sapporo International Ski Marathon

Where: Japan, Sapporo

When: January-February 2026

Some CCCSC members are planning to head to Japan in late January 2026 to participate in the Sapporo International Ski Marathon Race events (50km, 25km) on **1 February 2026**. The race is held on the outskirts of the city of Sapporo on the northern island of Hokkaido.

The intention would be to fly to Sapporo, catch the train from the airport into the city to our accommodation close to the railway station and subway system.

A few days would be spent skiing the groomed trails at Takino Park south of the city, practising on the race course once it is open to participants, before doing the race events on the Sunday.

The race coincides with the Sapporo Snow and Ice Festival which means accommodation in the city fills up fast during this period.

For more information or to express your interest in joining a Club trip to Japan in early 2026 please contact [cccscanberra@gmail.com](mailto:cccscanberra@gmail.com) by the end of January 2025, as accommodation may need to be booked early next year.



## Trip Report — Falls Creek - Friday 23 August

13 members of the Club visited Victoria in late August, with some aiming to do the Kangaroo Hoppet ski race events. Unfortunately very warm weather and showers/rain in the preceding two weeks had decimated the snow cover and led to the race being cancelled. Instead of going there to ski or race, we mostly spent the time doing bushwalks in the Mt Beauty area or at Mt Buffalo. Falls Creek was fogged in and damp for most of the time we were there, but the weather forecast looked slightly more promising for the Friday, so four of us (Robin Collins, Lyndel Stuckey, Caroline Archer and myself) drove up to Falls Creek to hopefully do some skiing.

We arrived at Falls Creek resort around 10am. There was absolutely no snow at Windy Corner or on the road to the Nordic Bowl, and most of the snow in Sun Valley and over the dam wall had disappeared. The only good skiable snow was higher up in the Mt McKay area. After changing our gear in the Windy Corner shelter we walked to the nearby Wombats Ramble ski run and put on our skis then proceeded to ski up the edge of the downhill slope to the Mt McKay Road higher up. The snow was wet and soft, but easy to ski on with good glide. We then skied along the Mt McKay Road on a very thin and marginal snow cover. Many of the adjacent downhill slopes were patchy or bare of snow so there weren't as many downhill skiers crossing our path.

Above the resort we reached the XC trail heading towards Mt McKay. This had been groomed and provided some good skiing in places. We followed the Mt McKay trail in an anticlockwise direction. The weather was coming from the north-west which meant this side of the mountain was mostly fogged in, but it did clear slowly to reveal views of Mt McKay and Frying Pan Spur. There were a few sections without snow where we had to take off our skis and walk, but overall the skiing was easy and enjoyable. Many of the other skiers on the trail, including some international skiers originally here for the Hoppet, were using skating or

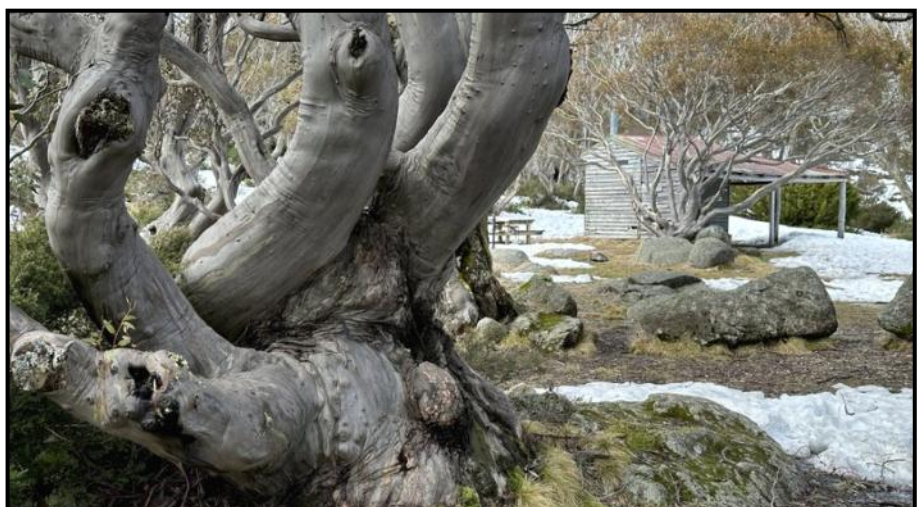
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**Robin, Caroline and Lyndel on the Mt McKay trail, Friday 23 August 2024.**



**Robin and Caroline skiing near Mt McKay. The best snow and skiing was on this section of trail. Friday 23 August 2024.**



**Large snowgum near Pretty Valley Hut, Friday 23 August 2024.**

*(Continued from page 6)*

track skis which looked difficult in the very soft snow.

After we passed the trail leading up to the summit of Mt McKay we stopped out of the wind for a late morning tea. The weather was clearer to the south and we had some good views towards Pretty Valley and Mt Jim in the distance. Pretty Valley was mostly devoid of snow but with large snow drifts on the surrounding slopes. Following our break we had a good ski on the XC trail to the start of the groomed trail heading down to Pretty Valley Hut. This track is often icy or fast but it was very soft and easy on this day following all the recent rain. After about two km of skiing down the road we arrived at Pretty Valley Hut where we stopped for lunch. The hut was surrounded by a patchy cover of snow and we had to walk to the hut from the road. Whilst having lunch on the table outside the hut the sun came out and we had a close view of a red robin fluttering nearby. A few other skiers appeared at the hut and also stopped for lunch. As this was the only place with reasonable snow and a groomed trail it was a popular destination.

We left just before 2pm and began the climb back up the road to the Mt McKay trail then continued to follow the track and poles across the top back towards the top of Falls Creek resort. To our right we could look down to an almost snowless Sun Valley and Rocky Knolls area. We had a good ski down the Wombats Ramble ski run to just above the Windy Corner shelter. We were back at the shelter around 3:15pm, having skied about 13km.

I did the first Kangaroo Hoppet race in 1991 and have been going back to Falls Creek almost every year since, and this is the worst I have seen it for snow cover and for continuous fog and rainy weather all week. We made the most of the conditions and had an enjoyable ski to the hut, but there was only about 4 or 5 km of good snow covered trails, the rest being very thin, narrow or patchy. Hopefully the conditions next year will be more normal and allow us to venture further afield on the Hoppet course and out to many of the interesting huts on the Bogong High Plains.

Alan Levy



*Having lunch outside Pretty Valley Hut, Friday 23 August 2024.*



*The start of the road to the Nordic Bowl at Windy Corner, usually snow covered! Friday 23 August 2024.*



*Two red robins! One at Pretty Valley Hut, the other on the ski trail.*

# Trip Report - Charlotte Pass to Blue Lake View and Carruthers Peak - Wednesday 2 October

On Wednesday, 2 October 2024, Ken Moylan led Alan Levy, Caroline Archer, Rita Berner and Geoff Dawson on a tour to Blue Lake and Carruthers Peak.

## The Route

From Charlotte Pass we walked down to Foreman's Crossing and across the ford. A long walk along the Main Range Walking Track, on the formed track and over snow drifts, got us to a tributary of Soil Conservation Creek, where we finally put on our skis, followed by a short ski down to the main creek for morning tea. From there, we skied up to the lookout over Blue Lake, left the course of the Main Range Walking Track and headed up to the top of the glacial valley that feeds Blue Lake. We decided to not ski down to Blue Lake as no-one was looking forward to skiing back up to the crest of the Main Range.

We had lunch at the top of the valley, taking in the view of Blue Lake and across the Snowy River to Guthrie and Kangaroo Ridge. We followed the lee-side snowdrift remaining along the ridge all the way to Carruthers, bagged the peak and skied almost 370m vertical to get most of the way down to Club Lake Creek. From there it was the usual walk across the grass and low scrub to Foreman's Crossing and the 120m vertical climb up the path to Charlotte Pass.

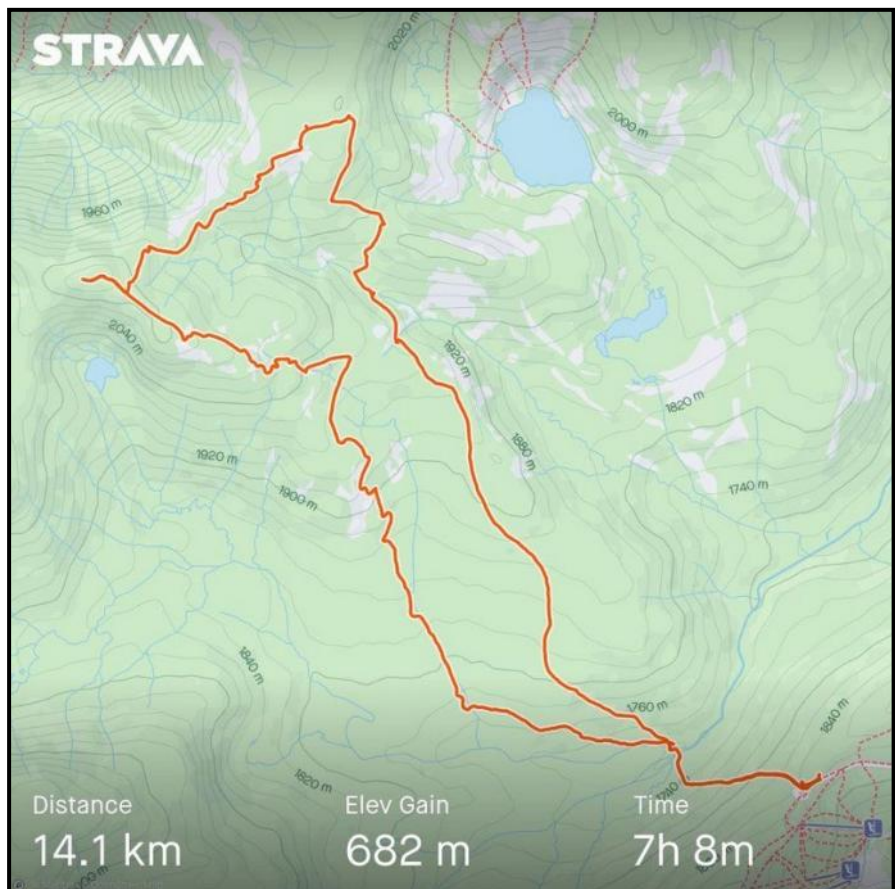
## Best Bits

- Skiing again after missing all of September.
- Traversing along the Main Range's leeside snowdrift. It fell as we headed towards Carruthers. The others took the direct way, letting gravity power their dropping traverse. I, on the other hand, skied the horizontal traverse, staying high until a good downhill section appeared, whereupon I carved two nice telemark turns to drop a few more vertical metres. Got this in about half a dozen times before we reached

*(Continued on page 9)*



*Caroline Archer climbing up Soil Conservation Valley, on the way to morning tea. Wednesday, 2 October 2024 Photo: © Ken Moylan.*



*The Strava map. Wednesday, 2 October 2024. © Ken Moylan.*



*(Continued from page 8)*

the saddle for the final climb to Carruthers Peak.

**Worst Bits**

- There was light rain in the afternoon. At one time it became heavy enough to warrant me donning my Goretex coat, and then it shortly thereafter stopped. I now had a wet coat to look after.
- This was my last ski of 2024, the earliest cessation for a long time.

**Map of the Day**

Snowy Mountains Outdoor Recreation Map

Ken Moylan



*The group at morning tea. Near Soil Conservation Creek. Wednesday, 2 October 2024. Photo: © Ken Moylan.*



*Geoff Dawson climbing up the walking track from Foreman's Crossing to Charlotte's Pass. Wednesday, 2 October 2024. Photo: © Ken Moylan.*



*Caroline Archer, Alan Levy and Geoff Dawson on the Main Range, between Watson's Crags and Carruther's Peak. Wednesday, 2 October 2024. Photo: © Ken Moylan.*

*Caroline Archer, Rita Berner, Alan Levy and Geoff Dawson on the Main Range, between Watson's Crags and Carruther's Peak. Wednesday, 2 October 2024. Photo: © Ken Moylan.*



## Other Skiing Photos from 2024



*Robin Collins, Garry Boxsell, Lyndel Stuckey & Caroline Archer on the Ramsheads, Tuesday 3 September 2024. Photo: Alan Levy*



*Lyndel Stuckey, Garry Boxsell, Robin Collins & Alan Levy near North Ramshead peak, Tuesday 3 September 2024. Photo: Caroline Archer*



*Ice on the south ridge of Mt Kosciuszko, Tuesday 3 September 2024. Photo: Alan Levy*



*Alan Levy & Caroline Archer climbing up towards Mt Stilwell, Monday 23 September 2024.  
Photo: Garry Boxsell*



*Caroline Archer and Garry Boxsell on Kangaroo Ridge, Monday 23 September.  
Photo: Alan Levy*



*At the Stilwell restaurant ruin, Monday 23 September 2024.  
Photo: Garry Boxsell*



*This photo sums up the season. A wet and snowless Perisher in what would normally be the time of peak snow depth at the end of August.*

*Mike Hinchey, Lyndel Stuckey, Robin Collins and Caroline Archer walking into Biilmans Hut, Wednesday 4 September 2024. Photo: Alan Levy*



*Mt Jagungal and Biilmans Hut on Snowy Plain, Wednesday 4 September 2024. Photo: Alan Levy*



*Groomed ski trails at the Snow Farm near Wanaka, New Zealand, 28 August 2024. Photo: Monika Binder*





*View of the Main Range from Charlotte Pass, Saturday 28 September 2024. Photo: Alan Levy*



*People swimming amongst the ice floes at Blue Lake! Saturday, 28 September 2024.*

*Photo: Alan Levy*



*Ken, Caroline and Rita having lunch overlooking Blue Lake, Wednesday 2 October 2024.*

*Photo: Alan Levy*



*Echidna near The Paralyser, September 2024. Photo: Monika Binder*



*Small snow cave at Soil Conservation Creek, Wednesday 2 October 2024. Photo: Alan Levy*

# Canberra Cross-Country Ski Club Webmaster's Report

## Maintenance

I have continued to maintain the Club's website by:

- Keeping the software driving the website up to date;
- Adding recurring events;
- Performed a major security update.

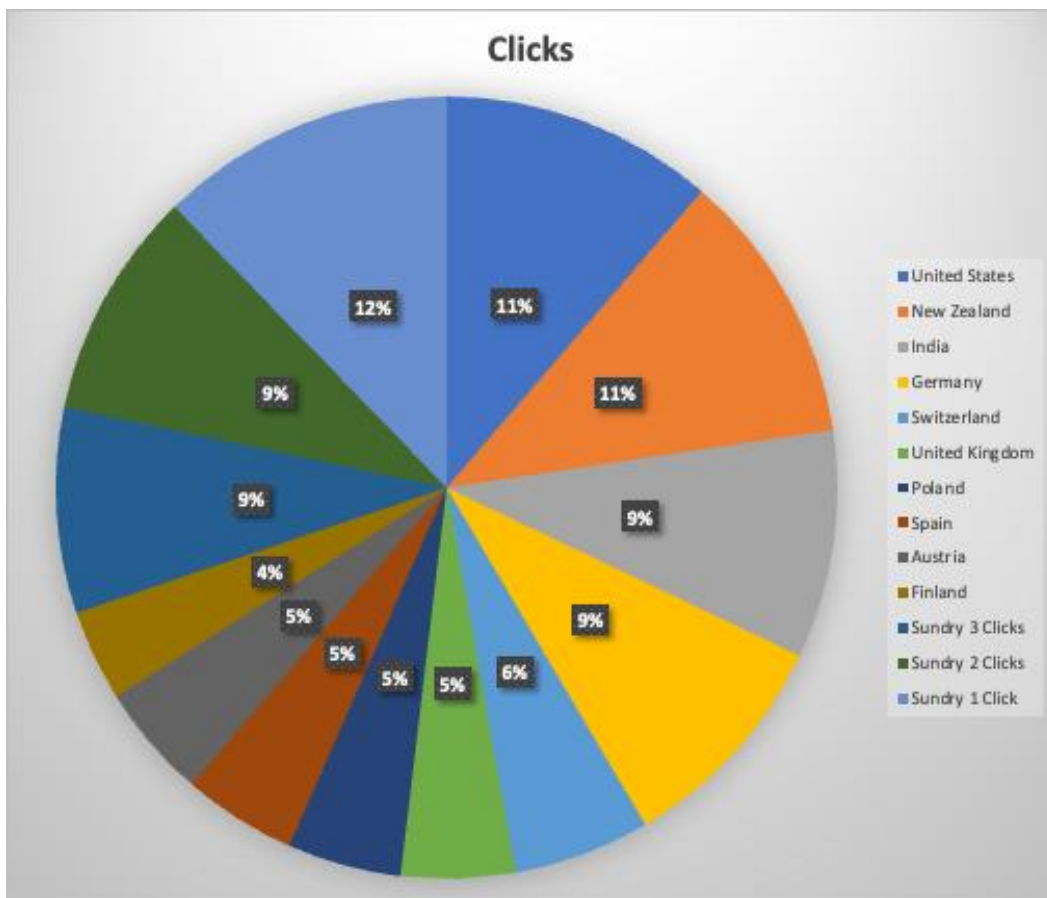
## Functionality

Functions of the Club's website are:

- Provide a gateway to the membership joining and renewing service provider (Revolutionise Sport) (administered by Jo-Anne Clancy and Gale Funston);
- Provide up-to-date information about:
  - Tours;
  - Social meetings;
- Provide information to both the public (unrestricted pages) and Club members (restricted pages) about:
  - The Club;
  - Ski touring, general and Australian;
  - Off Piste.

We also run a Facebook page that has a few contributors (thanks to Alan Levy and Monica Binder for your many trip reports & photographs) and 661 member/observers.

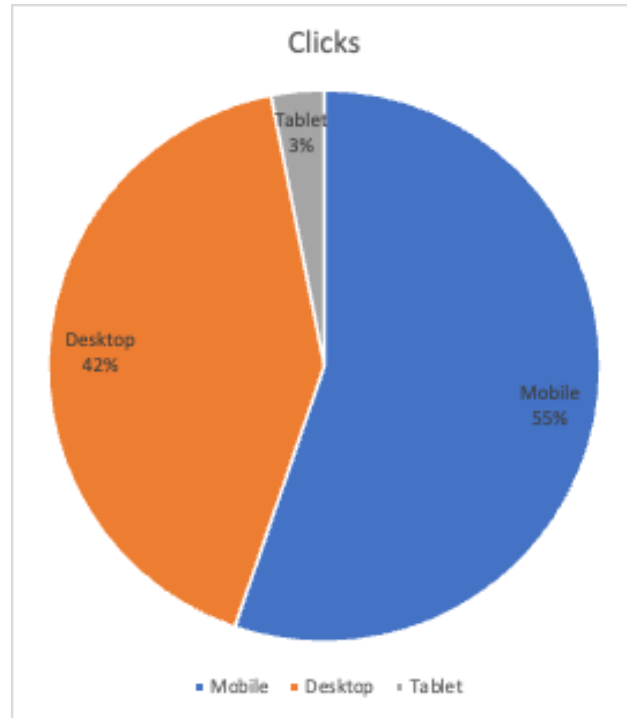
Ken Moylan  
Webmaster



Countries using cccsc.asn.au (excluding Australia). (For the 13 months September 2023 to October 2024)

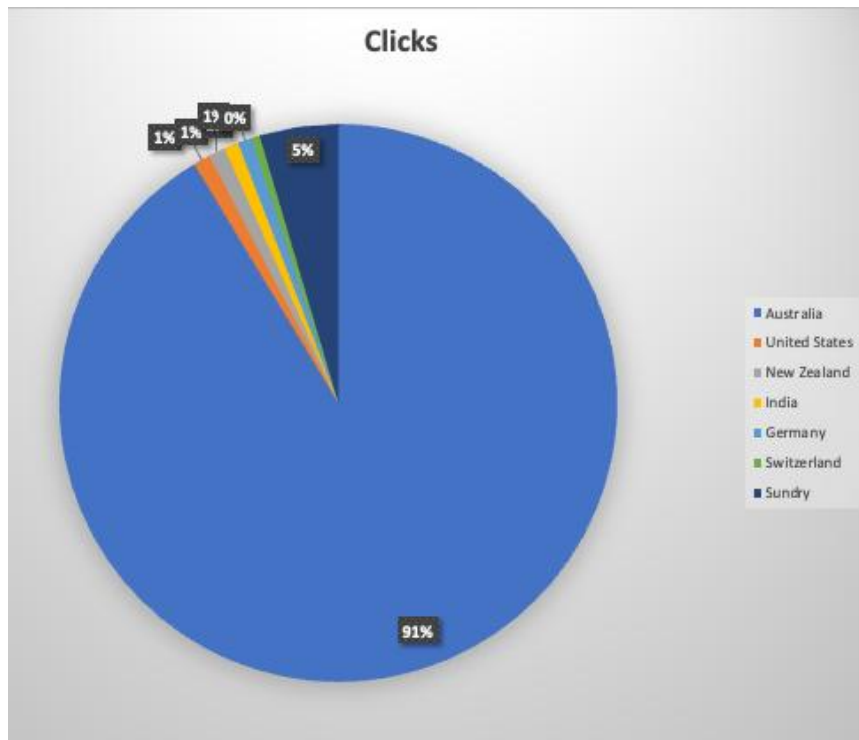


Some Graphs Showing Popular Pages, Where Visitors Come From, What Devices Visitors are Using



Devices using [cccsc.asn.au](http://cccsc.asn.au)

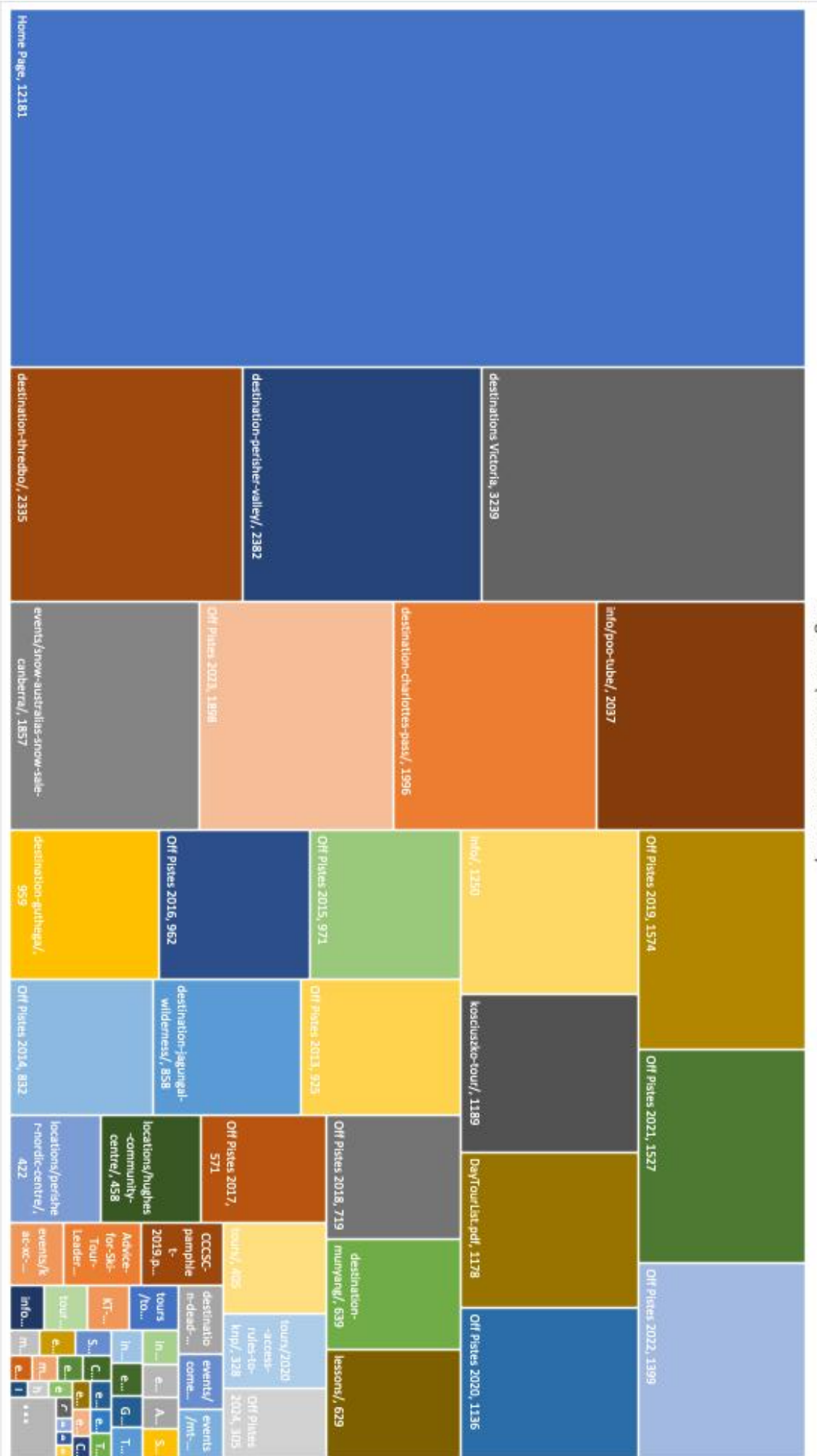
(For the 13 months September 2023 to October 2024)



Countries using [cccsc.asn.au](http://cccsc.asn.au)

(For the 13 months September 2023 to October 2024)

Page Hits (with consolidations)



Popular pages  
(For the 13 months  
September 2023 to  
October 2024)



## Canberra Cross Country Ski Club

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

Email: [cccscanberra@gmail.com](mailto: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 .





*Enjoying Mike Hinchey's home made cider on his deck at Kalkite overlooking Lake Jindabyne. A great way to finish the day!*