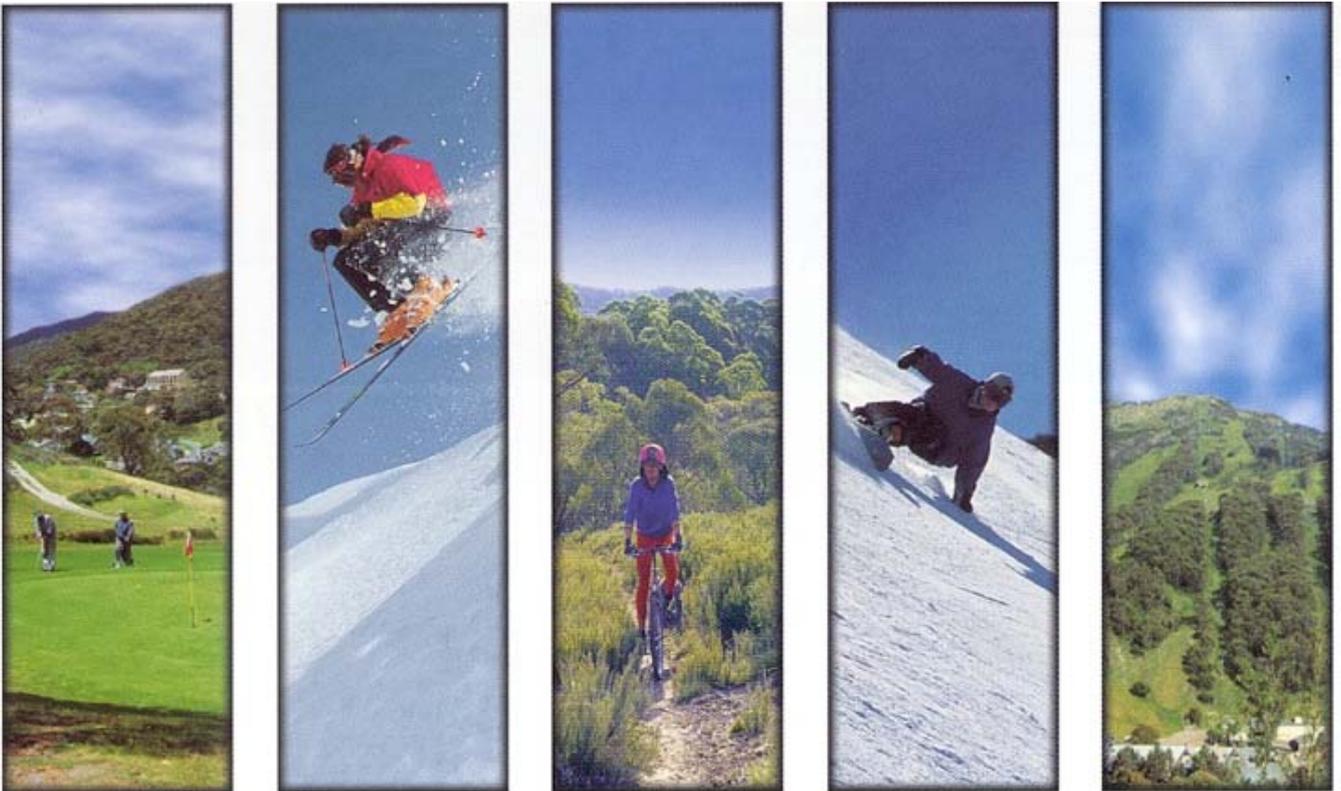


Rascal

incorporated

7–9 Banjo Paterson Cres, Jindabyne, NSW, 2627

... summer, autumn, winter, spring ... summer, autumn, winter, spring ... summer, autumn, winter, spring ...



... skiing, snowboarding, hiking, bike riding, sailing, photography, fishing, relaxing, golf, swimming ...

Winter Newsletter – June 2009

Rascal Inc Information Board

Rascal Lodge

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Jindabyne, NSW 2627
Ph: (02) 6456-2169

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02 6282 6912

(Leave messages on the answer phone
when number unattended - please include
BH and AH contact numbers)

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2009/10 Committee

committee@rascal.asn.au

President

Alan Laird

Vice-President

Keith McLaren

Secretary

Lynne Bentley

Michael Stomps (Assistant)

Treasurer

Linda Swift

Public Officer

Jack Cornell

Lodge Manager

Rod Roberts

Committee Members

Clive Styles

Wendy Zarb

Diana Beaver

— — — —

PRESIDENTS REPORT



The last three months have been a busy time for the Club in the holding of the AGM, in dealing with a new water leak in the middle level, and in running the May working bee.

AGM

The 2009 AGM was attended by 35 Members, most of whom also dined at the Club beforehand. It



was pleasing to see such a good turnout. All of the proposed amendments to the Constitution were accepted, as were the tabled reports and documentation detailing the activities of the Club over the previous year. The 2009 Committee was elected and I welcome and congratulate all Committee members on their election. Many of you will know

Jack Cornell, who served as the Office Manager for a number of years and Diana Beaver, a long standing member of the Club. Both Jack and Di have a wealth of insight about issues facing the Club and I am sure both will make a solid contribution to the Committee's deliberations.

Di and Jack fill two positions made vacant by the departure of Ray Atkin and Ian McNeill. Ian has been on the committee for at least eighteen years. A key role Ian played was as part of a small group who undertook the running of the kitchen refurbishment and the design and construction of the outside deck. Both are enduring legacies of Ian's long term commitment to the Club. Thank you Ray, whom I spoke about in the last newsletter, and Ian, for the strong contributions you have both made to the Committee.

The 2009 Committee membership is listed in the cover of this newsletter.

Middle Level Water Leak

Some things just do not seem to go away. Indeed the appearance of a new water leak in the middle level shower reflects the declining condition of our hot water piping. The leak itself has been repaired and the intention is that the shower is operating for winter.

In investigating the leak it became apparent that the hot water reticulation system is in need of replacement. Much of

the water reticulation system is laid within the cement slab that forms the floor of the middle level. The hot water pipe is surrounded by cement and does not have any lagging that enables the pipe to expand when hot water flows through it. The inability to expand causes internal stresses which eventually crack the pipe. Installing a new set of hot water pipes is the only real way to deal with this on-going problem. This work will be scheduled for after the winter season.



Winter Function 5 July

Rascal is holding a winter function in the afternoon of 5 July. The function is designed to build on the sense of a Rascal community and I encourage all members to use this as an opportunity to catch up with friends and meet new members. Thank you to Linda and Alan Swift for making their home available for this function. Details of the function are found in this newsletter and on the Rascal web site.

Previously such functions have included a gear swap, but this year we decided to use the web as a market place. If you have gear that you would like to sell or you would like to buy then advertise it on the Rascal buy and sell page. This page can only be accessed once you have logged on.

May Working Bee

Thank you to the fifteen members and family who so diligently worked for the good of the Club at the May working bee. As



usual everyone had a great time working and socialising with fellow members of the Rascal community. Working bees are essential for the on-going maintenance of the Lodge, but they are also a lot of fun. The



ice-breaker game of 'spoons' played that evening was so inclusive and 'howling with laughter-ish' that everyone became in-

involved. No one, however, needed to dive across the reeling table to capture a spoon, but I am reliably informed this has occurred in the past.

Well I hope the snow continues to fall and this turns out to be a great winter season.

I look forward to seeing you at the Lodge.

Alan Laird

President



Wait-list bookings

Bookings are automatically wait listed if rooms cannot be found. Later, if rooms are found, say because someone cancels, then the web server will set these rooms aside for you and send you an email notification. Wait-listed bookings expire three days before the booking's first night.



RASCAL COMMITTEE 2009

Left to Right: Keith McLaren (Vice-President), Diana Beaver (Committee Member), Lynne Bentley (Secretary), Wendy Zarb (Committee Member), Rod Roberts (Lodge Manager), Alan Laird (President), Linda Swift (Treasurer), Clive Styles (Committee Member).
Absent: Michael Stomps (Assistant Secretary), Jack Cornell (Public Officer).

May Working Bee

Thank you to the fifteen members and family who so diligently worked for the good of the Club at the May working bee.



Scott Turner, Duncan Herbert & Simon Matthews starting the foundations for the bin enclosure

The work continues, no rest for the wicked.....



The finished product! Duncan, Simon & Scott in the completed structure.

Rascal now sports a fantastic kerb-side garbage bin enclosure that was built to thwart the exciting winter sport of bin-kicking from the top of the embankment. Thanks to Simon Matthews, Scott Turner and Duncan Herbert for such a great effort.



Tony Krizan

Thanks also to Simon for donating a smart looking kitchen hot water dispenser. Tony Krizan and his son Jordan replaced the skirting boards and repaired the old deck furniture, Julie Drew cleaned all the windows, the old deck furniture was repainted by Wendy Zarb and



Jordan Krizan & Wendy Zarb

Tim Dunnet and a multitude of other tasks attended to.

Thanks also to Linda and Lee-Ann Swift who toiled to prepare delicious meals and great morning and afternoon teas for fifteen hungry souls.



Julie Drew

All attendees put in a great effort and I know had a fun and rewarding time.

Images of the working bee can be seen on the rascal web site.



Above: Alan Swift & Tim Dunnet. Left: Linda & Lee-Ann Swift





F.Y.I.

What's on in the Snowies

JUNE 2009

5th - 8th June: Inaugural 'Snowy Mountains of Music' - Perisher. The long weekend marks the

opening of the 2009 Australian Winter Ski Season. A new and vibrant 3 day festival in the Perisher Valley will kick off the season with live music performances such as that of the gorgeous songstress Ami Williamson and guitar maestro Bruce Mathiske. Further details: www.snowymountainsofmusic.com.au

6th - 8th June: Thredbo Opening Weekend. Celebrate the official opening of the winter season with a weekend of entertainment and activities for the whole family. Further details: www.thredbo.com.au

JULY 2009

Markets and theatre productions at Cooma

AUGUST 2009

1st Aug: Woodchop Event – Centennial Park, Cooma
Contact: 02 6452 5838

15th Aug: Gunther Gorman & Lisa Baier Exhibition
Raglan Gallery

SEPTEMBER 2009

6th Sept: Snowy Monaro Arts Council - Cooma
Presents David Pereira & Glynnies Allen

OCTOBER 2009

3rd Oct: Monaro Art Group Students' Exhibition Raglan Gallery

NB: There are also:

- Markets at Bombala, Nimmitabel and Cooma June through to December
- Art Exhibitions at the Gallery in Cooma.

For Fuller information on any Snowies events go to:

www.snowymountains.com.au.what_to_see_and_do.html



If you see something that needs to be done in your Lodge, then do it.



Rascal is a communal Lodge and depends on the efforts of its Members to keep the place looking clean and tidy. If a waste bin is full then empty it yourself – don't wait for someone else to do it. If the kitchen floor is dirty then take the initiative and sweep it or use a mop.

Rascal is not a commercial Lodge with the resources to maintain full cleaning and maintenance staff. If we were then you would be paying far more to maintain your membership and to use the Lodge.

Dragon Boat Challenge

In February this year the Diamond Phoenix Women's Dragon Boat team took up residence at the Rascal Lodge to compete in the 2009 Lake Jindabyne Dragon Boat Challenge, on of the many events in the town's annual Flowing Festival.



Watching the dragon boat races from the deck.



Something we don't see very often - we found the ski racks a perfect place to store the dragon boat paddles.

The team really enjoyed their stay at the lodge, the deck proving to be a firm favorite, it provided a great

view point of the dragon boats racing on the lake below.

A great weekend was had by all, topped off by Diamond Phoenix coming in second overall in the women's competition.

We are always looking for other women to join our club, if you're interested please refer to the website www.diamondphoenix.com for further information or email me on: barblaw49@yahoo.com



Diamond Phoenix Womens' Dragon Boat Team



Earn accommodation vouchers by participating in a Rascal working bee: Early renewal vouchers and vouchers from attending working bees can now be used for any casual booking, including High Season bookings. **NB.** vouchers can now be used for any casual (non-block) booking. Vouchers cannot be used for block bookings.

Book Review

Snow in Australia? That's news to me.

Every member of Rascals will be familiar with Sponar's Inn, that magnificent Swiss chalet-style building perched on the site of the old Kosciuszko Hotel, en route to Perisher Valley. I was always interested in the Sponar family, having coached a very young Louise Sponar in softball in my school days. Even then, tall and athletic Louise was known to be a champion skier, an exotic rarity in the 1960s when most of us had never even seen snow.



So when I saw a book on the shelf at the Visitors' Centre in Jindabyne, an auto-biography penned by Louise's father Tony Sponar, I bought it on the spot. A hard-cover publication priced at \$29.95, it was not cheap for an impulse buy. But what a great read, about an extraordinary character!



Tony Sponar -1948 Olympics St Moritz

Tony Sponar was a national and Olympic ski champion in Czechoslovakia in the 1940s. Politics in Europe and the impending invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1949 drove Tony, his wife Liz and other skiing friends, then all aged in their late twenties to Australia, where they were immediately given employment in the Snowy Mountains.

Like many migrant employees in the area, Tony and Liz were accommodated at the Kosciuszko Hotel and were there when the hotel burnt down. They had to jump out of a 2nd floor window to escape the flames. They were then housed at Charlotte Pass and it was from here that Tony started rambling about the Snowy area, on skis or skidoo in winter and on foot in summer, memorizing every nook and cranny in the

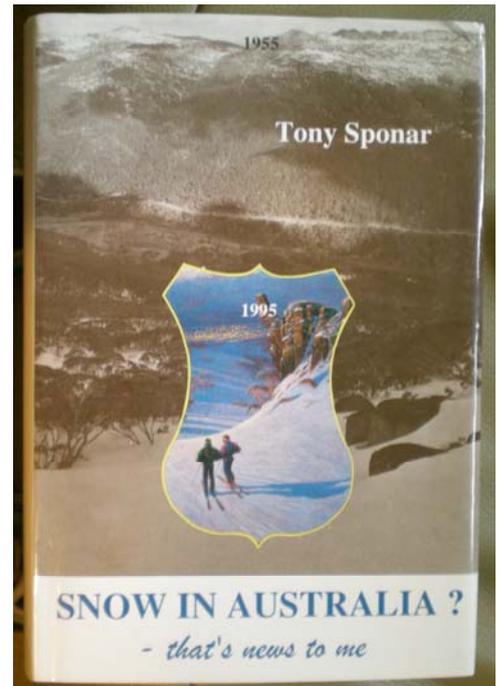
mountains in the process. Tony had brought with him from Czechoslovakia a disassembled ski lift, the latest thing in Europe, and he was determined to find a suitable place to install his new lift and start a new resort. He found a suitable site at what is now Thredbo, and the rest, as they say,

Book Review Continued.....

is history.

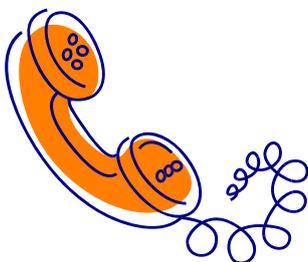
Tony was a character. He was eccentric, egocentric and pig-headed, but he was full of energy and entrepreneurial flair. When his skiing started to slow down, he taught himself to sail on Trout Lake in front of Sponar's Inn, then sailed solo around the Pacific. Just like that. He was a film-maker, inventor and an intrepid world explorer. He had a wicked sense of humour and I laughed out loud on many occasions while reading the book.

The book includes a great many interesting and historical photos. It's well-written, in an amusing and honest manner, although it's disjointed and repetitive in parts as the author switches back and forth between his old life in the ski resorts of Europe and his new life in Australia. But it's a great read for anyone interested in the history of the Snowy Mountains ski resorts and the characters involved in it. Or even just for someone curious about a person who, angry at the speed of motorists passing his Inn, painted a pedestrian crossing on the road and erected a sign "Nudists Crossing".



“Snow in Australia? That's news to me.” by Tony Sponar, published by Tabletop Press 1995 ISBN 0959084169

Review by: Lynne Bentley



The Gold Phone has been removed!

Telstra had advised that it would no longer be offering the Gold Phone service and as a result the phone has been removed.

In pre-mobile days the Gold Phone provided a convenient and useful means of phoning to and from the Lodge. The phone also served as a means of contacting emergency services should that be necessary.

The phone service costs Rascal \$420 just to rent the line and the number of calls made is relatively small. Mobile usage is increasingly popular, and usually someone, even in a small group, will have a mobile phone that can be used in an emergency. Phones are also available in the immediate neighbourhood should the need arise.

For these reasons the Committee felt the need to maintain an expensive phone line was no longer warranted.

13th Annual Hike De Femme 2009

15 of us gathered for the 13th Hike de Femme, March 20th – 22nd, 2009. Participants were Alice Buckley, Megan Roberts, Wendy Prowd, Bjorg Sherman, Karen Renfrey, Fiona Davey, Sally McCartney, Robin Neideck, Judy Roberts, Lynne Harwood, Colleen Fox, Sandra Wood, Kim Serjeant, Sue Caitcheon and Marg Sharp.



Fifteen eager women at the start of the walk at Charlottes Pass.

The Snowy Mountain weather was at its best – our intrepid and seriously-challenged travelers battled 5 knot winds and 20 degree heat (although it felt hotter and the winds stronger at times). We leapt between the boulders of the trying-to-be mighty Snowy River and battled the uneven terrain (some scampered up, some hobbled but we all reached Blue Lake “base camp”). Then Megan and Lynne, our younger members, sped/ loped effortlessly along the main range ridge line towards Kosciusko and beyond. This was at their optimum fat burning efficient walking pace (obviously necessary and gauged by their ability to talk and continue to just maintain a conversation!) Other intrepid walkers (largely from Sue’s soccer team) followed in their wake... or their slipstream.

And then, there were the other two groups. Both managed to get as far as the saddle of Carruthers Peak, offering magnificent vistas of the Victorian Alps. The even more intrepid of this lot climbed to the top of Carruthers Peak where they lunched and looked down on the circling eagle looking for the weakest member of the party!

The fast ones had their own adventures. Out of the corner of Lynne’s eye, this enormous spider jumped up and they set a sprint speed to get away from it... quite forgetting to talk and screaming instead “Megan, oh bloody hell??? Oh, sh...!!!”... And then there was the fake red belly black snake, some joker had placed on a rock at the top of Mt Kosciusko, scaring some unfortunate hikers (A candid camera moment).

Meanwhile back at Blue Lake base camp, Wendy photographed every bloomin flower but thanks to Sandra’s binoculars, we were all able to appreciate them. Also, it was thanks to Wendy that those of us who walked 12km arrived back at Charlotte’s Pass with stunning synchronicity, with those who had walked a mere 23km.

Main injuries were sunburn, blisters, sore buttocks and joints that Judy's 1st Aide kit could not help out with – I think it may have been left in the boot of the car.

The recipient of the Order of the Boot went to great lengths to win this prestigious award, by having major hip replacement surgery less than 12 months ago – a bit extreme and a highly competitive woman!!.... Congratulations, Sandra.

Another significant awardee was Colleen Fox, who instigated the highly successful annual Hike de Femme and who has never missed a hike. What a woman!!! Since she is the heart and soul of this event, her brass plaque will be placed on the sole of the boot.

We had a relaxing evening back at the lodge, celebrating our personal bests with champagne, cheeses, dips and nibbles (carb loading for the next day?!!)

Sunday saw the Weston Creek Soccer team take the treacherous track along Lake Jindabyne to the Nugget's Crossing bakery whilst the other femmes went to Thredbo Diggings from the ski tube car park and back



Tired but happy survivors drinking yet another cappuccino at the end of the Sunday walk.

along the Thredbo River to Bullock's Hut. It was a very different day – windy with the sky threatening rain. The final rest stop was at the Crackenback cottage with each of us ordering a different type of coffee or drink (Colleen and Marg chose to carb load.... Just in case!! by sharing a Devonshire tea). The restaurant had underneath each cup a proverb written on a slip of paper – so we shared our saying, remarked on the synchronicity

of it all and generally philosophized on life and the talent of the resident barista. We all toddled off home after a clean up of our lodge, having met new friends, reconnected with longer standing friends – once again rejuvenated by the mountains and guaranteed good female company.



A. *An embarrassed Sandra Wood being awarded the coveted 'Order of the Boot' by Judy Roberts.*

B. *But the embarrassment didn't last long.*

If undeliverable, return to:

**Rascal Incorporated
PO Box 1700,
WODEN ACT 2606**