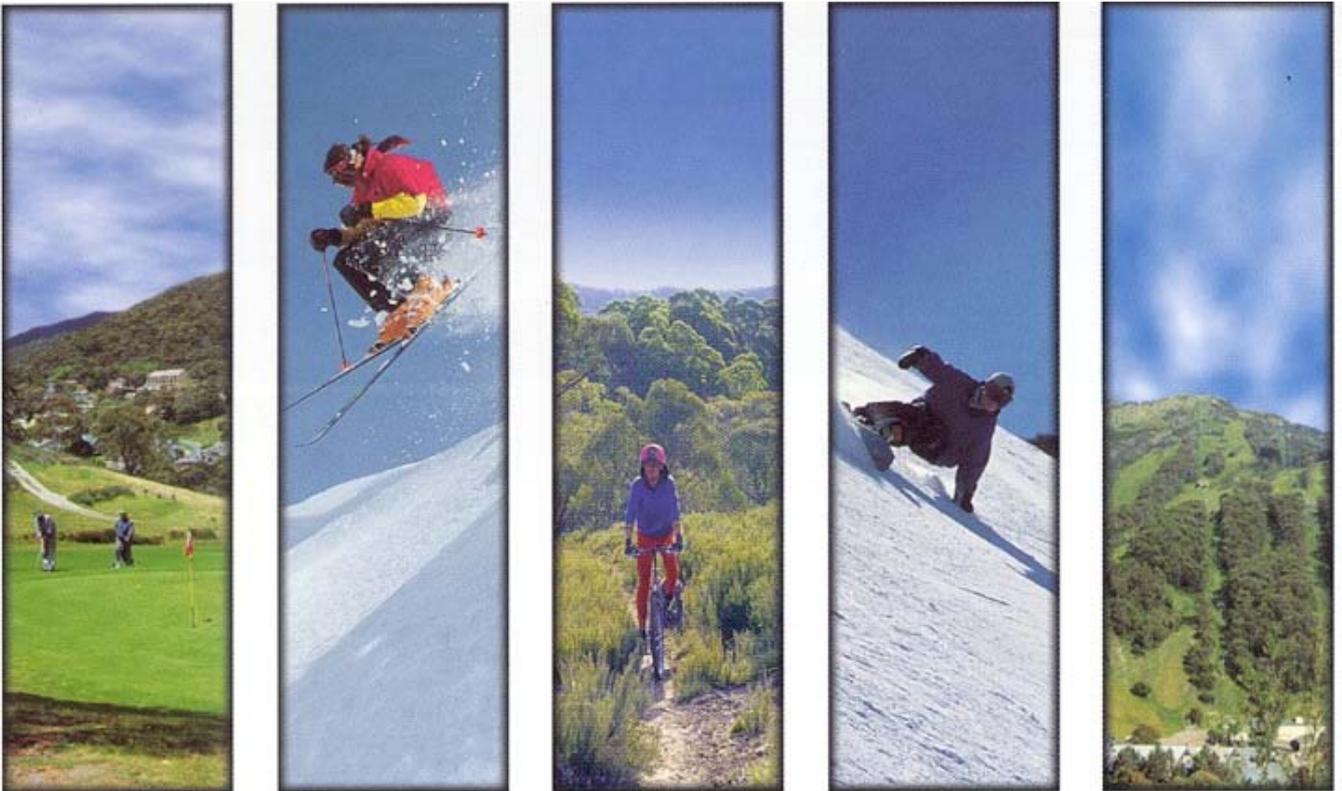


Rascal

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 ...

Spring Newsletter – October 2009

Rascal Inc Information Board

PRESIDENTS REPORT

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Jindabyne, NSW 2627
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(Leave messages on the answer phone
when number unattended - please include
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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
— — — —



Senator Bob Brown – Rascal Patron

I am pleased to report to Members that Senator Bob Brown has accepted the position of Rascal Patron. Welcome Bob and thanks for taking on this position. At the 2009 AGM it was agreed that the Committee would approach Bob to invite him to be Patron of the Club. Senator Brown replied that he would be “honoured” to assume this role. It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the Club, a Club with which you have a long association.

Winter season

As you would expect the Lodge was very heavily used over the winter season, especially during the school holiday period. July usage was the highest for the last three years.

This is despite warmer than average temperatures and higher than usual rainfall – the rainfall in July of 90 mm was the heaviest recorded in the past 20 years (Canberra Times 19 Sep 2009). Nevertheless the accumulated snowfall at Perisher and Thredbo was about 2.8 metres, which is apparently good.

There is still plenty of delightful spring season cross country skiing opportunities at the top of the Thredbo Chair and on the Main Range from Charlottes Pass, so book some beds at the Lodge and enjoy the mountains!

Winter function enthusiastically supported

We had a great turnout for the Winter Function this year with about 27 Members and guests attending, a number being new to the Club.

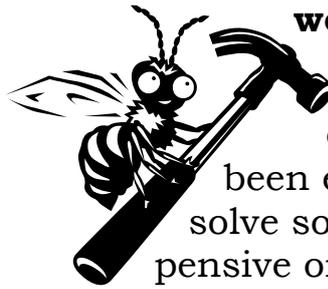
Thank you to Alan and Linda Swift who kindly offered Rascal the use of their home for the event. We all gathered around a warm fire feasting on Rascal wine, home cooked slices and scones and plenty of tea and coffee while being entertained by short talks about snow camping, fly fishing and skiing in Japan. Thanks Rod Roberts, Kim Serjeant and Richard Emerton for sharing your enthusiasm, images and experiences.

Thanks also to Di Beaver who organized the Rascal Wine label.



Well done Di! The wine is quite pleasant and I encourage Rascal members to use it to promote the Club at summer BBQs and other get togethers. Rascal red or white wine can be purchased using the order form on our web site.

Lodge maintenance, upgrade and working bee



A small sub-committee has been established to resolve some of the more expensive or significant issues facing the amenity or running costs of the Lodge. Included among these is the desirability of reducing indoor summer temperatures, reducing our expensive electricity costs (largely hot water), upgrading the top level sliding door, and how we manage the limited life of the kitchen hydrotherm units. The sub-committee comprises Rod Roberts, Tim Dunnet, Mike Stomps and Clive Styles.

The water leak on the middle level has been repaired again. The leaks have been occurring because the hot water pipes are embedded in the middle level slab but were not lagged when installed. Hot water flowing through the pipe causes it to expand but without lagging it has no-where to expand. Stresses are introduced and these lead to joints cracking and leaking. The only real solution is to replace the hot water pipes. The maintenance group is looking at this issue.



One of our members, Phill Coltman

recently undertook a comprehensive checked out of the space heater and gave it a clean bill of health.

Thanks Phill for your assistance in maintaining this important piece of Lodge equipment.

Like Phill's contribution, you can also become more involved with the Club and have a greater sense of being part of the Rascal community by attending the post winter working bee on 31 October. All you need do is book in for the working bee using the web site.

Vale Philippa Crossley.

Rascal extends its condolences to the Geoff, Stephen, John and Nerida Crossley on the passing away of Philippa Crossley on 9 August 2009. Philippa and the Crossley family have been long standing and active members of Rascal. A small number of Rascal members attended Philippa's service on behalf of the Club.

I look forward to seeing you at the Lodge this summer season.

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.

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Post winter working bee – Sat 31 October 09



A special invitation is made to those who used the Lodge during winter to attend the working bee on Saturday 31 October. The Club is a communal arrangement and this is one way Lodge users can contribute to the upkeep of the Lodge and to join in the camaraderie with other Members. Just book a room on the web site for the working bee weekend and be sure to indicate it at the free rate. Saturday lunch and dinner are provided by the Club and the Sunday is free time. Working bees are usually hard work and very satisfying.



Introducing.....

Rascal Inc Wine

Rascal Inc labeled bottles of red and white wine can now be purchased for any occasion.



**Dry Red
Big River N.S.W**

OR

**Classic Dry White
Franklin River W.A.**



- *Minimum order of 6 bottles and total order of bottles must be in multiples of 6 ie. 6, 12, 18*
- *Mixed orders must be half white and half red wine*
- *All costs shown include GST*
- *Mail or fax orders to PLONK - Please see order form included.*

....it's how you play the game.

I Finished Last in a Ski Race and Still Won a Prize!

The Kosciusko Alpine Club (KAC) runs a popular cross-country ski race on the 2nd Wednesday of August every year, over an 8km course that mostly follows Kosciuszko Road from Perisher to Charlotte's Pass.



2009 marks the 100th anniversary of the KAC and to celebrate the centenary of the club skiers were invited to race on wooden skis.

Way back in 1994, I had taken part in a ski making weekend run by the (temporarily) revived Kiandra Snowshoe Club. Over the course of 2 days, about half a dozen enthusiasts took 3m planks of mountain ash and adzed, spokeshaved, and boiled them into shape. Although we had real Kiandra butterpats and other ancient wooden skis to base our creations on, the skis we finally produced were limited more by our ambitions and wood working abilities. My skis end up as the longest pair of the weekend, with a slight waisting and the longest, curliest tips I could work. Sadly, the Leunig inspired tips broke off after a couple of outings.

Sadly, the Leunig inspired tips broke off after a couple of outings.

This year's KAC race was held on Wednesday, 12 August. The day was less miserable than it could have been, with only a very heavy mist tending to rain. Some competitors complained about the poor visibility, but at my speed that wasn't a problem. For much of the race I followed whoever was in front, and when their silhouettes became too indistinct I just followed the marks their ski tracks made in the snow. Near the end of the race I was thinking 'this isn't a real whiteout - I can still see texture in the snow in front of my skis'. I was also thinking that it seemed like a long way to the Chalet. Racing to Charlotte's Pass on those 2.5m long planks was one of the toughest races I've been in because the skis had no glide and plenty of weight. During the course of the race, my unvarnished skis actually got heavier as they absorbed moisture from the snow and heavy mist.

In keeping with the spirit of Kiandra butterpat style, I used only one stock, also known as a lurk. (This was a broom-stick given a new

purpose.) It has no basket, so poling only resulted in it making a hole in the snow every couple of feet. Only later, in an old photograph in Larry Adler's shop in Jindabyne, did I see men using their lurks like oars, and using them to paddle along the snow.

Normally, I would finish this race in about 55 - 60 minutes, recover my breath and ski back to bring Gale in. This time, I took 112 minutes and came in 229th! The 2nd last finisher had finished more than 2 minutes ahead of me. My time was more than four and a half times that of the winner's. Gale had finished before me!

The effort brought three rewards. I was the only man to finish the race on wooden skis, so I won a prize. Woo hoo! I now own a small KAC daypack and a KAC Centenary shirt. While walking past the ski-tube building in Perisher, through the coach pick-up area I passed a bunch of high school boys and received a priceless reaction. I heard one voice say 'have a look at those skis', followed by a second, 'what the _ _ _ _!'

And I got a good handicap for the Sundeck Hotel Handicap race, the following day, but that is a story for another day.



Ken Moylan



For Sale/Wanted to Buy - now on the web site

If you are interested in buying or selling skis or other outdoor gear then try looking on the Rascal web site. Anyone can view the pages but only Members can place a notice.



Items currently offered for sale are:

- Northwave snowboard boots, mens size UK 8.5/9
- Protec Helmet: Dark Blue, Size Large, Only worn once
- Blizzard skis: Blizzard World Cup Edition GSX20. 197 cms, Marker Bindings, V Good condition
- Snow Chains Konig - "No Problem" Quick fit. No need to move vehicle.
- Snow Chains: Autotechnica "one-touch" snow chains. Quick fit, Diamond pattern. As new, not used.

And wanted items are:

- Hard boot back country skis and boots Suit female average
- Koflach Womens Ski Boots Size 24 (about ladies size 7.5) - these are boots suitable for wide foot
- Small bookcase/shoe rack for Foyer in Lodge

Visit www.rascal.asn.au to view the full list.

If undeliverable, return to:

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

New: Members Buy and Sell and RASCAL Inc Wine