



## DECEMBER 1986 NEWSLETTER

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Rascals,

Since I last wrote we have seen the completion of a fantastic winter and spring with high usage of the Lodge throughout.

I have been to the Lodge several times recently and I have reflected on the improved amenity in the time we have been going to Jindabyne. Over that time major improvements have been made to the furniture and furnishings, cooking facilities, washing facilities and grounds. The recent installation of ladders and reading lights to the bunk rooms has added considerably to the comfort of one's stay.

There is, of course, more to be done. Indeed, the Committee is looking to purchase some new dining chairs and install a sliding screen door to the balcony on the top level. Some members are also keen to improve the amenity of the grounds so that we can capitalise on the magnificent garden planted many years ago.

Our capacity to do this will be limited by the amount of involvement from members. I and other Committee members have been very disappointed by the small attendance at the Spring work parties. It is virtually falling to the Committee to maintain the Lodge and carry out any improvements. I don't think this is good enough!

The Committee has been giving a lot of thought to how the burden of lodge maintenance can be spread more equitably around the Club. One option being considered is the imposition of a compulsory levy on members who do not attend work parties. The levy would be over and above annual subscriptions. This is common in many clubs and has many attractions. As the lodge gets older and requires more maintenance this would provide a good source of revenue to meet those needs.

Registered by Australia Post - Publication No. NBH 3110

The Committee is also looking to require applicants for membership to attend a specified number of work parties before membership is approved. This is one way of testing commitment to the Club in a concrete way

Before I finish on work parties I would like to thank all those members who did give some time for the Spring work parties, which are covered in a separate report. Especial thanks go to Chris Acker who has co-ordinated them and done a lot of extraneous repair, maintenance and other work for the Club this year.

There was an excellent turnout for the farewell to Hans and Eva. By all accounts Bernie Hughson did an excellent job of standing in for yours truly, who had the doubtful "pleasure" of appearing before the Senate Estimates Committee. My thanks to Jan Bailey for her excellent efforts in organising the function.

The Committee has appointed Parvo and Jane Parviainen as lodge managers for next ski season. We will be getting them to write a little introductory piece for the Newsletter about themselves before next season.

May I take this opportunity of wishing all members a very Happy Christmas and New Year

Greg Fraser

WORK PARTY REPORT 24/25 OCTOBER:

A small, dedicated team achieved an enormous amount of repairs and maintenance work inside the Lodge. Chris Acker led this merry band consisting of Paul and Maggie Room, Pat Schmidt and children.

WORK PARTY REPORT 15/16 NOVEMBER:

Attended by Bill Burch, Barbara Brown, Pat Schmidt, John Williamson and Daryl Lawrence.

A highly dedicated team of five braved all adversity on the weekend of 15/16 November to perform various chores at the lodge. As an illustration of the adversity encountered, the advance party found all the power switched off on Friday night. The immediate consequence was that the closed refrigerators had grown wondrous and fruity spores, and had to be thoroughly cleansed before our fodder could be stored. Soon after, we discovered the way to the water heaters barred by a locked games room labelled "private". Humph! A very dusty and awkward entry was gained by crawling through the air intake hole under the heating plant; and apart from the hot water being turned on, the door lock mechanism was removed. By this stage we felt that perhaps we were not supposed to be here!

Real work began next morning in beautiful weather. Thorough cleaning in the kitchen area and an inventory of necessary replacement items, painting of the new guttering outside the entrance, rehanging the fire escape door of the middle level securely and fitting a closer, modifying some bunk ladders to account for the height variation of the lower bunks in some rooms, a first assault on the jungle outside, and what this correspondent hopes will be the last work on the leaking shower recess in the female bathroom. The differential diagnosis sic was two areas of missing grout in the tiles at a height where water cascading from the body of a standard female person would flood into the gaps, down the wall, and into the carpet of the bunkroom. The entire area was regouted and dare I suggest the problem solved! The lower level escape door could not be rehanged as someone had taken the long extension cord, so the masonry drill could not be used! Your stalwart workers were able to compensate for these minor frustrations by taking stacks of hoarded junk to the tip, and a perfectly good piece of the original carpet to the Smith Family.

Apart from this modicum of labor, a few worms were needlessly drowned. The boat that was only going to last six weeks, ten years ago, was lugged down to the water and used to tow some lead around in circles on the end of a long length of nylon thread-again without any purpose whatever- then hauled back up again. The workforce(!) was below the critical mass needed for a party, so the simply amazing town of Jindabyne in the off season was visited in search of social intercourse - and food. Doubling its Saturday night population proved to be a bit much for the locals so we repaired to the sanctity of good old RASCAL Lodge for a well earned rest in the knowledge of a job well done!

Why is it that more members have not discovered work parties! If nothing else, they are a superb way to try out your handyperson skills without risking the insurance on your own home. Several structures bear testimony to this learning exercise. There's Clarke's folly, Nugent's curved door, and of course Frazer's tap! Modesty prevents me listing my own atrocities. I would not like to see dragooned labor, but there is real economic benefit for the club to be gained from all levels of skill, or lack of it. The more the club has to put jobs out to contract, the less kitty there is to spend on Gee Whiz tables that spiral upwards at the touch of a well concealed lever, and the other necessities of life!

Bill Burch

#### WORK PARTY REPORT 22/23 NOVEMBER:

This was attended by Chris and Margitta Acker, Mike and Kaely Woods, Tony Matthews and Greg and Mollie Fraser. Work done included:

- gardening - slashing of spring grasses, pruning, etc.
- installation of new stairs to clothes line and repair of stairs on northern side of lodge
- painting of external windows/doors/furniture
- stocktaking of supplies

The work party had excellent warm spring weather on both days. Unfortunately lack of numbers prevented completion of painting of all external windows.

Greg Fraser

The editor is pleased to have succeeded in gaining the services of botanist Susie Gibson. In this article, the first of a short series, she alerts us to a few of the less obvious flora of the high country. The alpine flowers, of course, will shortly be in their full glory, which makes high country walking so special at this time of the year.

#### BOTANICAL NOTES:

It is hard to realise how the plants in the High Plains survive the extreme harsh conditions of winter. To the skier the most obvious plant is the snow gum (Eucalyptus Pauciflora). Sometimes it is weighed down with snow and ice, often losing branches as they snap off and fall into the snow, with raw and ugly fractures pointing skywards. However, this remarkable tree continues to survive.

Hidden beneath the snow, blanketed and protected from the freezing winds, is a wealth of unique and beautiful flora, which blossoms and flourishes in the short growing period of the spring and summer months. People who walk on the High Plains at these times will be familiar with the alpine herb fields full of Snow Daisies, golden heads of Graspedia, Eyebright and Everlastings.

However, because of glacial action in the past and its topography, the Kosciusko area supports a mosaic of different plant communities. Walkers are well aware of the changes from scratchy heath-like vegetation to wet boggy patches with Sphagnum moss, areas of tussocky Snow Grass interspersed with tall alpine herb fields.

The more adventurous walkers, who like to scramble to the tops and along the ridges, where semi-permanent snow patches lie on the leeward slopes, should search for a rare and unique plant community called the Coprosma-Colobanthus alliance. This is found around and above the snow patches on the apparently bare stony areas on the leeward slopes of the main range, for example near Mt Carruthers Peak or Mt Kosciusko.

Colobanthus is a small cushion plant-like a dark green pin cushion - and when it is in flower it is stuck with lots of hard prickly-looking yellowish flowers. There are no petals on the flowers but each has five stiff yellowish stamens alternating with five sepals. The flowers are stiff and upright. There are two types of cushion plant. One, Colobanthus Nivicola is the soft cushion plant. It has narrower softer leaves and the cushions appear to be more moss-like. It prefers moister areas and the cushions appear to coalesce forming extensive mats or carpets on the bare and rocky soil. It is endemic to the Kosciusko area the other type is Colobanthus Pulvinatus or hard cushion plant. It is also endemic

to the Kosciusko area. It is often difficult to distinguish from *c.nivicola* because they both live in similar areas, but the leaves are wider and stiffer and have a definite thickened mid rib on the underside.

These two species of cushion plant are the only ones that grow on the Australian mainland. Many more types grow in Tasmania and the South Island of New Zealand. The cushion plant form is much rarer on the mainland probably because it is not adapted to the dry spells during some summers.

The other plant in the association is Coprosma. This is a prostrate shrub forming mats up to one metre in diameter. The stems creep over the bare ground, trailing over jagged rocks, rooting the plant down flat and firm in the inevitable battle with the strong winds and the leaves are small, shiny and dark green, oval in shape, clustering close to the stems, slightly cupped in appearance. Most flowering plants are hermaphrodite, having both the male and female sex organs in the one flower. Coprosma however is different, it is dioecious, and has either male or female flowers. The female flowers are pale yellow, single, sitting close on the stems, at the ends of the branches. The male flowers have a funnel shaped tube dividing into four shortpointed petals; the stamens push their way out from the centre of tube to shed their pollen beyond the petals. The female flowers also have a short tube with four spreading petals, and two flattened petal-like stigmas poke beyond the other petals.

The fruits are bright orangey-red, rounded, shiny balls with a single stone in the centre. They look like miniature orange cherries sitting on the stems, nestling amongst the fleshy green leaves of the female plants.

This plant is slowgrowing, and a specimen up to one metre in diameter would be of considerable age. It is a rare species and possibly restricted to the Kosciusko area of NSW. There are probably not more than 1,000 plants in the area.

If you can find this association you will be looking at one of the rare and unique plant alliances of Australia. Good hunting!

Enthusiastic gardeners who are interested in establishing a bit of the mountains down here in their Canberra gardens may like to know that the ACT Parks and Gardens Service at Yarralumla sells Podocarpus Lawrencei (mountain plum pine) for \$2.60 (Nursery closed during December and January - ed.)

This is the only alpine conifer on the mainland. It occurs typically on rocky sites including rock faces, screes and moraines. It can form prostrate spreading mats from which roots develop. It has the capacity to fix atmospheric nitrogen because it possesses root nodules. It can thus grow in very nitrogen deficient soils. In the alpine areas it grows very slowly, and if it can survive the ravages of fire - to which it is very sensitive - it can grow to be several hundreds of years old. However, it grows faster in cultivation and can develop as an erect small tree. It bears dark red fruits - hence its common name.

Reference. Costin, Gray, Totterdall, Wimbush  
Kosciusko Alpine Flora CSIRO & Collins  
 Sydney 1979

Did you know that -

- new equipment at Perisher Valley can make 16 hectares of snow?
- this equipment includes over 8 kms of underground piping to convey the required water and air, two 6,000 cubic feet air compressors, storage for 2.3 million litres of water and 40 snow guns?
- a modern snow groomer costs \$200,000?
- Perisher has installed a new high-speed Quad chair which halves the travelling times?
- the Blue Cow day resort is to cost \$22 million and is due to open in 1987, with the only access by Perisher Skitube?
- Guthega restricts ticket sales to 1,800 people per day to prevent crowding?
- Thredbo plans to invest a large sum of money in "redeveloping the mountain facilities" to include the introduction of major snowmaking facilities to provide top to bottom skiing all season and lengthen the season from 100 days to 128 days?
- Thredbo has recently completed a new conference centre and a \$2 million sewerage plant?
- the last Australian glaciers melted some 10,000 years ago?
- you can ski by floodlight at Corin Forest, on person-made snow?
- brumbies can be seen summer and winter in the Horse Camp area of the Cascades, close to the Dead Horse Gap, 6 kms west of Thredbo?
- frostbite is caused by the freezing of fluids within the flesh and in Australia is usually caused by windchill?
- a windspeed of 20 km/h causes exposed flesh to freeze?
- you should not ski in a whiteout? Always walk if you must travel and wax "sticky" to prevent skis sliding.
- the poling action in x-country skiing accounts for up to 60% of the force that drives the skier forward?
- x-country skiing can burn up to 1500 calories an hour?
- you can self-arrest a slide on ice, by judicious use of the point of your ski-pole?
- the majority of skiing injuries are knee injuries?
- There is less tendency to pull or tear muscles in an accident, if you warm up and stretch correctly before you start your first run?

Back-country skiers are a wierd mob. The following entry in the Valentines Hut Log Book dated 20-21/7/85 may be of interest to the saner section of the community.....

The Rhyme of the Ancient Mountaineer

It was an ancient mountaineer,  
that seized the tourist's arm.  
His snow-encrusted fingers shook;  
his frosty features had a look  
that filled him with alarm.

"Unhand me, haggard mountaineer!  
I'll not stop in the snow!  
See yonder, where to disco beat  
snow bunnies dance on nimble feet:  
that's where I now must go!"

The other turned a wild eye  
toward the beckoning light,  
whence noise of evening revelry  
came drifting, yet he seemed to see  
a different, distant sight.

"I have a strange and doleful tale,"  
he croaked, "that I must tell,  
and whom fate places in my way  
must listen, or a price he'll pay -  
So do thou listen well!"

"I fear thee, haggard mountaineer,"  
the round-faced tourist cried;  
but all the same he tarried still  
as though some strange hypnotic will  
had bound him to his side.

"We were a merry company  
that set out, "he began,  
"The breeze was brisk, our spirits high,  
the sun was laughing in the sky  
and followed as we ran.

"We left the cars, we left the tows,  
we left the crowds below.  
We climbed into a trackless place  
where snowgums stood with wordless grace  
against the gleaming snow.

"Ever on and on we skied,  
shedding our worldly cares  
beneath that vault of heavenly blue,  
invigorated by the view  
and pristine mountain airs.

"We came at last to Mawson's Hut  
where we had never been.  
It nestled on a wooded hill  
above a pretty tinkling rill:  
it was a pleasant scene.

"As we arrived the native rats  
that lived beneath the floor  
came out to gambol at our feet  
in expectation of the treat  
they knew they had in store.

"They were furry, small and cute,  
they wandered without fear.  
They scuttled into little cracks  
and nibbled holes in all our packs  
and tasted all our gear.

"We saw the chiefest rat of all:  
of rats he was a lion.  
But all at once an evil whim  
came on me, and I clobbered him  
with my trusty jaffle iron.

"My friends, who were all gathered round,  
laughed at the witless deed,  
and heeded not the fate in store  
for those who chuckled when they saw  
a native creature bleed.

"For that same day the weather changed:  
a bitter storm arose.  
Nor forward we could go, nor back,  
because our former carefree track  
was lost in freezing snows.

"My friends all railed at me now:  
they said the fault was mine.  
They cried and cursed, and clamoured that  
I'd killed the great good-omened rat  
that made the sun to shine!

"They hung the carcass around my neck  
to expiate my crime.  
Its little eyes, erstwhile so bright,  
now made a blank and dreadful sight  
as they stared up at mine.

"Yet still it snowed with no respite,  
and still the gale blew  
around our cold beleaguered hut,  
the whole world might have vanished but  
for our unhappy crew.

"And now our food and fuel failed,  
and we grew weak and thin.  
Most horrible, it fell to me  
to watch my comrades' agony  
because of my own sin.

"Half crazed with horror I saw my friends  
all perish one by one.  
Alone, alone, I could not hide  
from lifeless stares on every side,  
and still the storm raged on.

"Till on the twentieth day the sun  
broke through a wrack of cloud.  
But 'twas a cold and cheerless sun  
that brought no comfort to the one  
who'd shed marsupial blood.

It was a cheerless sun that shone  
on my delirium.  
The universe seemed white and dead  
and yet a frozen voice ahead  
was calling me to come.

"I followed, though I knew not where,  
although I knew not why.  
Possessed like an automaton  
on frozen feet I followed on  
beneath a frozen sky.

"My comrades' spirits followed me  
all through that desert bright.  
They made a moan like wind on ice,  
but if I turned, then in a trice  
they vanished in the white."

"I fear thee, haggard mountaineer,  
thy visage gaunt and pale ... "  
"I am no ghost. Impassive fate  
chose me to linger and relate  
the burden of my tale.

"I followed, till upon a crest  
the resort lay spread below:  
the cars, the tows, the laughing hosts,  
and all at once my comrades' ghosts  
fled crying in the snow.

"Among strange faces I arrived;  
the children fled from me,  
a gaunt and ghostly, hoar-rimmed sight:  
I was enough to waken fright  
in any company.

"And now it is my lonely lot  
to wander without cease  
and tell my tale, year on year  
to all who I can force to hear  
until death brings release.

"When you go skiing, have respect  
for creatures cute and furred.  
Though they may nibble at your food  
it's all part of God's greater good  
and shouldn't be deterred."

The round-faced tourist shivered once  
and knew the spell was gone.  
Toward the hostelry he turned;  
a wiser man for what he'd learned  
and humbler, he moved on.

MEMBERSHIP LIST

A current list of members is now kept on the notice board in the entrance foyer of the Lodge. The list will be updated twice each year - Summer and Winter.

Details include the names of members, their spouses and the given names of children under 21 years of age together with their date-of-birth.

This membership list has been prepared from membership records and the recent membership audit.

Please note:

1. If details of your family are incorrect, please send the correct details to the Secretary.
2. Lodge bookings cannot be accepted at the rates for members or members' children for those members who have not responded to the Membership Audit.

Would the following members please complete the audit over the page?

## List of members

CORNELIA ANDERSON	BARBARA MATHEWS	CORINNE ROBERTS
HELEN ATTERBURY	PAUL MCCANN	ALENA SCOTT
JILL BELL	DIARMID MCKEOWN	NANETTE SIMPSON
PHILLIP BENJAMIN	YVONNE MCMURRAY	MARIA SPRINGOLD
ELIZABETH DAVIES	MARY-LYN MITCHELL	HILTON STONE
RICKI DEAN	BARRY MORAN	ANNE STRACHAN
KERRY DOUGLAS	STEPHAN NOGRADY	JOCELYN SUTHERLAND
MARGARET DUGUID	JOAN NORMAN	GEORGE SZMERLER
MURRAY ESLER	RICHARD NUGENT	IAN TRETHEWEY
FRANCES EXELL	HELEN O'BRIEN	ROBERT VANCE
ANNE FILLERY	JEANINE PERRIMAN	MARIE VAUGHAN
ANITA HUETTNER	MICHAEL PROUST	GLENYS WALKER
SHEILA JACOBS	ROBERT QUACH	CAROL WALL
COLIN JOHNSON	PETER QUACH	PETER WALSH
JUDITH KELTON	MICHAEL REARDON	MARGARET WILLIAMSON
JENNIFER KUZEK	DAVID REITH	JOYCE WOOD
PATRICIA MACCALLUM	SUSAN RINTOUL	

Barbara Brown  
Secretary



FULL NAME OF MEMBER \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please give the first name by which you prefer to be known)

FULL NAME OF SPOUSE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH

NAMES OF CHILDREN	
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Please return to:

Barbara Brown  
Secretary  
RASCAL  
C/- Woden Valley Hospital  
P.O. Box 11  
WODEN 2605

DECEMBER 1986

RASCAL INCORPORATED

ACCOMMODATION BOOKING FORM

All enquiries and applications should be forwarded to  
The Booking Officer  
RASCAL Incorporated  
Woden Valley Hospital  
PO Box 11  
WODEN ACT 2606  
Telephone 824914

Block bookings \$160 per night and \$270 per two nights

	<u>WINTER TARIFF (per night)</u>		<u>SUMMER TARIFF</u>
	<u>FRI &amp; SAT</u> & all Public & School holidays	<u>SUN - THURS</u> excluding Public & School holidays	
MEMBERS	14	12	9
CHILD OF MEMBER	9	7	6
NON-MEMBERS	20	18	12
CHILD OF NON-MEMBER	16	14	10

I wish to reserve the following accommodation at RASCAL Lodge

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

<u>FULL NAME</u>	<u>M F</u>	<u>MEMBER/ NON-MEMBER</u>	<u>AGE</u> if under 18	<u>DATES OF ACCOMM.</u>	<u>COST</u>
------------------	------------	-------------------------------	---------------------------------	-------------------------	-------------

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

I enclose cheque for ..... to cover ..... nights.

Name of member \_\_\_\_\_

Address of member \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone of member \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of member \_\_\_\_\_

Work address of member \_\_\_\_\_

Please photocopy if you require any more of these forms

JULY MID-TERM BREAK BOOKING

Charges

Adult Member \$14  
Child of Member \$9

Closing Date 31 March 1987  
Cheque for full amount must  
be enclosed

Name: .....

Address: .....

Phone: Home: ..... Work: .....

PLEASE NOTE: Bookings must be for three nights (Friday, Saturday & Sunday)

Booking Sought

Number of persons in Party .....

I wish to be considered for the ballot for the following accommodation at RASCAL Lodge:

Arriving..... and Leaving.....  
.....

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Membership Status</u>	<u>Date of Birth of Juniors</u>
1.	.....	.....	.....
2.	.....	.....	.....
3.	.....	.....	.....
4.	.....	.....	.....
5.	.....	.....	.....
6.	.....	.....	.....

I enclose a cheque for ..... for ..... nights accommodation.

Signature of Member .....

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER  
SCHOOL HOLIDAY BOOKING FORM

School Holiday Charges

Adult Member \$14  
Child of Member \$9

Closing Date 31 March 1987  
Cheque for full amount must  
be enclosed

Name: .....

Address: .....

Phone: Home: ..... Work: .....

PLEASE NOTE: In the event of your 1st preference not being drawn, no further consideration will be given to your booking if other preferences have not been listed on your application.

Bookings must be from Saturday to Saturday

Booking Sought

- Number of weeks required..... Number of persons in Party.....
- Preferences for accommodation of one week:

	<u>Dates</u>	
1st preference.....	to	.....
2nd preference.....	to	.....
3rd preference.....	to	.....

- Preferences for accommodation for a second week (if available)
- 1st preference..... to .....
- 2nd preference..... to .....

- Party:

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Membership</u> <u>Status</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u> <u>of Juniors</u>
1.	.....		
2.	.....		
3.	.....		
4.	.....		
5.	.....		
6.	.....		

12 (RASCAL Inc By-laws December 1986 )

SCHEDULE TO RASCAL INC. BYLAWSAccommodation Charges - Jindabyne lodge 1987

	<u>WINTER TARIFF (per night)</u>		<u>SUMMER TARIFF</u>
	<u>FRI &amp; SAT</u> & all Public & School holidays	<u>SUN-THURS</u> excluding Public & School holidays	<u>(per night)</u>
MEMBERS	\$14	\$12	\$9
CHILD OF MEMBER	\$9	\$7	\$6
NON-MEMBERS	\$20	\$18	\$12
CHILD OF NON-MEMBERS	\$16	\$14	\$8
BLOCK BOOKINGS - WEEKENDS	TWO NIGHTS	\$270	
	ONE NIGHT	\$160	
BOOKING CANCELLATION FEE	\$5		

\*\*\*\*\*

JOINING FEE \$400ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS 1987

FAMILY \$40  
 COUPLE \$35  
 SINGLE \$29  
 WAITING LIST \$15

7.0 CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS

- 7.1 A cancellation of a booking should be made with the Booking Officer as soon as possible.
- 7.2 The amount to be forfeited for non-use of accommodation shall be calculated on the following basis;

<u>Booking Period</u>	<u>Notification Received</u>	<u>Amount to be Forfeited</u>
School holidays	- On or before 1st July	Nil
	- After 1st July	As assessed by the Committee
	- No notification	100%
All other bookings	- 14 clear days or more	Nil
	- 8-13 clear days	25%
	- Up to 7 days	50%
	- No notification	100%

- 7.3 A minimum cancellation fee of \$5 will be retained for administrative costs.
- 7.4 Notwithstanding the provisions of Clause 7.2, the Committee in extenuating circumstances, may waive in whole or in part the amount to be forfeited. Where a member seeks exemption from 7.2 the member is required to set out the circumstances in writing to the Committee.