



# RASCAL NEWS

Summer 1995/96

Newsletter of RASCAL INC

## YOUR RASCAL SUMMER



The Snowy Mountains offer some of the most spectacular bushwalks in NSW.



Try for the giant trout that inhabit the lake. They're right there by RASCAL's backdoor.



Have a picnic or BBQ by the Lake or in the mountains, or in RASCAL's own backyard.



Honorary membership of the Icebergs club for anyone taking a plunge in the Lake.



Relax with the kids in an idyllic, safe, stress-free environment.



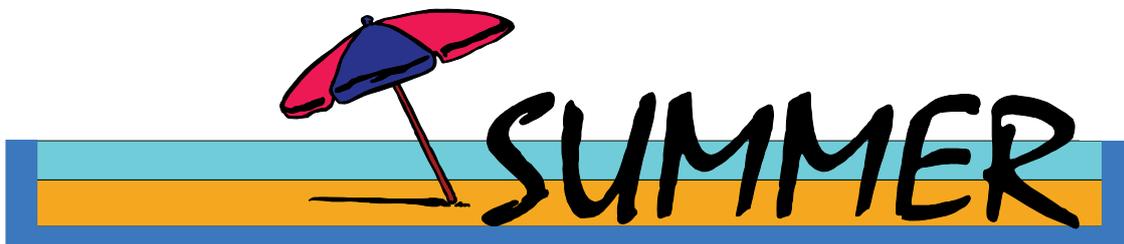
Relax, bask in the sun and enjoy the tranquillity - 15+ sunscreen definitely recommended.



The Lake attracts many trailer sailors - why not arrange to crew for one, or just watch them gracefully glide by?



RASCAL has a dinghy for you to tone up your muscles. But remember the safety gear.



✉ PO Box 99, Curtin, ACT, 2605



see page 2 for changes to booking number

## RASCAL CONTACT DETAILS

Please direct all Lodge bookings and accommodation inquiries to the Booking Officer, and all general and membership inquiries to Mike Vale.

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### BOOKING OFFICER

#### Until 29 February 1996

Dianne Ireland 285 4214  
(10 am - 12 am Tuesday)  
( 7 pm - 9 pm Thursday)

#### From 1 March 1996

Monty Fox 287 4147  
( 8 pm - 10 pm Tuesday)  
( 8 pm - 10 pm Thursday)

please leave messages on the answering machine at other times with return BH and AH contact numbers

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### MAIL ADDRESS

PO Box 99, Curtin, ACT, 2605

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### KEY PICKUP ADDRESS

#### Until 29 February 1996

13 Jennings St., Curtin, ACT, 2605

#### From 1 March 1996

72 Morgan Street, Curtin, ACT 2605

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### COMMITTEE

(ONLY ring between 7pm and 8pm weeknights, please)

#### President

Monty Fox 288 3153

#### Vice-President/Newsletter Editor

Mike Vale 241 2351

#### Secretary

Trish Carroll 241 2351

#### Assistant Secretary

Valerie Hallin 288 9728

#### Treasurer

Steve Ahern 281 3472

#### Public Officer

Richard Emerton 286 5134

#### Lodge Maintenance Officer

Chris Acker 281 4467

#### Committee Members

John Kennard 281 3435

Alan Laird 288 4708

George Malecky

Anne Reed 294 6040

Rod Roberts 230 2436

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### RASCAL LODGE

7 Banjo Paterson Crescent  
Jindabyne NSW 2627  
Ph: (064) 56 2169

# President's Message for 1995



**F**ollowing the 1995 AGM, the Committee began vigorous analyses and evaluations of the Club's administrative, financial, managerial and planning processes.

All Members of the Club were invited to participate in these activities, particularly through the Member survey. I thank those who did so. I particularly thank the Committee members who worked on the three Sub-Committees that undertook the work with enthusiasm, skill and commitment to achieving an outcomes that benefit the Club.

At an early stage, we realised that we knew very little about the profile of the Lodge's use, little about our Members' needs and interests, and almost nothing about what changes would have to be made in order to achieve more use of the Lodge outside winter weekends.

In the past, high Lodge usage in winter generated enough income to allow the Club the luxury of not needing to be concerned with these issues. The explosion in recent years of cheap accommodation in Jindabyne, against which RASCAL's fees and conditions were insufficiently competitive in some cases, was a factor in causing our Members and their non-member

friends to stay at other places than RASCAL Lodge.

As our major source of Lodge usage is our Members, falling membership is also of concern. In 1995, the Committee decided to reduce accommodation costs and commence the development of a database that would allow the analysis of trends and provide early warning of significant shifts. The database will also allow Lodge usage to be tracked. The next stage will include a link to financial information of all the Club's income and expenditure. In 1996, I expect that RASCAL will have a fully-functional, home-grown (ie no cost) extensive, reliable, user-friendly database from which we will be able to draw meaningful information for planning and reporting purposes.

#### *Jindabyne Committee Meeting ...*

I chaired a marathon Committee meeting at the Lodge in early January at which, amongst other things, we considered in detail the proposed Constitutional changes that Mike Vale and I had prepared. Over nine hours on Saturday and Sunday the Committee examined the Club's present situation and determined actions to be taken.

#### *Constitutional changes ...*

The Committee is proposing that the current Constitution be rescinded and that the new constitution (enclosed with this newsletter) be adopted. The main changes include the introduction of a Summer grade of membership, and various changes to the provisions relating to Junior Members. These seek to restore equity across all Junior Members by reducing the maximum

allowable Junior age limit from 25 to 18, and by providing a concessional

*(President's Report - continued from page 2)*

joining fee for Junior Members to upgrade to Full membership. Existing Junior Members in the 18 to 25 age group will not be disadvantaged by the new rules. Please read the proposed changes and explanatory notes in the attached draft before formulating a view on this important issue.

The Committee also recommends that Members agree to remove the constitutional requirement that at least five members of the Committee belong to the ACT Health industry. For a number of recent years, this requirement has put unreasonable demands on this shrinking group of Members. The result has been that people who didn't want to be on the Committee have allowed themselves to be coerced into accepting nomination simply "to help make up the five". This approach to recruiting Committee members does not encourage enthusiastic participation in Committee business.

#### ***Booking Officer changes ...***

Occasionally, for the benefit of the Club, a decision has to be made that may disadvantage an individual. The Committee has made such a decision by voting not to employ a paid Booking Officer in 1996. This decision was made solely on financial grounds. The Booking Officer's wages are our largest single cost item and the Club, at present, simply cannot afford to continue with this expenditure.

The Committee decided it would be financially irresponsible to continue paying a Booking Officer when there was a viable voluntary alternative. A full report of the Club's finances for 1995 and the outlook for 1996 will be delivered by the Treasurer - Alan Laird, at the AGM.

Dianne Ireland has served RASCAL with enthusiasm, initiative and dedication in the past seven years. She has become a personal friend to many of us and I regret that

RASCAL's employment relationship with Dianne will cease at the end of February. On your behalf and that of Committee Members past and present who have worked closely with Dianne, I thank her and wish her well for the future.

#### ***New Booking Arrangements ...***

The Booking Officer's duties have been allocated amongst various Committee members.

From 1 March I will be looking after accommodation bookings.

Note that the existing booking number will operate until 29 February. After that date, the new number shown on the inside front cover (and elsewhere) will be in operation.

With the odd exception, I will be able to answer the phone in person on Tuesday and Thursday nights between 8 PM and 10 PM. I will also answer the phone at other times, whenever I am available.

At other times, and on the odd occasion that I may not be available on a Tuesday or a Thursday night, please leave your name, business and after hours contact numbers and a message on the machine.

Starting on 1 March, the new key collection and return address will be Chris Acker's home at 72 Morgan Street, Curtin, ACT, 2605.

All other contact details and procedures will remain as they are now.

#### ***See you at the AGM ...***

I wish all RASCALs good things for 1996. On your behalf, I thank the members of the 1995 Committee for their work. It was a year of intense and quality work. There is every likelihood that the same will be required of the 1996 Committee.

I intend to make myself available to be on the 1996 Committee, but I will not

be standing for the position of President. Please join me at the AGM to hear what your Club is about and to help shape the Club's future.

#### ***About this Report ...***

I decided to make my annual report in this Newsletter so that all Members have the opportunity to read it before the AGM, together with the proposed new Constitution and the explanations of the significant changes.

If you have a question about, any of the Committee's decisions in 1995, or want to question or raise objections regarding any of the Constitutional changes proposed, please call me or



leave a message on the answering machine.

Your feedback will allow the Secretary to put the general business for the AGM into order and to make sure that all relevant information is brought to the meeting to answer your questions.

I look forward to seeing you at the AGM - 8 PM Tuesday 26 March in the ground floor Auditorium of Woden Valley Hospital.

Monty Fox  
President

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## Snowy River Winery (Review) - Mike Vale



**M**any times as I've made my way to and from the Lodge, I've noticed the small "WINERY" sign at Berridale pointing down the road towards Dalgety. Always being in a hurry, I've never taken the time to make the diversion to check out what sort of winery it might be - but always thought that someday ...

I guess that lurking in the back of my mind was the thought that a winery at Dalgety just didn't add up. I mean I've been to Dalgety and what I remembered of it was scabby, starving sheep; heavily cleared and over-grazed countryside slashed with deep erosion gullies; miles of stony pasture and great piles of granite boulders. It just didn't square with my recollections of the Hunter, or of Coonawarra, McLaren Vale, Rutherglen or Margaret River (I like my drop and have been around most of the main wine growing areas.)

Trish and I spent this last Christmas at the Lodge and had a glorious time with the few others there. We ate, drank, window shopped, bush walked and played Pictionary. I also drafted up the RASCAL constitutional changes on a portable computer. We had a wonderful time. On the morning of our departure, we decided to leave early and do a bit of meandering on the way home rather than taking the direct route. And so we ended up in Dalgety at the winery turnoff.

It being lunchtime, and given our states of mind and the leisurely approach we had decided on to get home that day, we decided to wander

down and take a look. The winery is about 10 kms from Dalgety via a gravel road and every km convinced me that the trip was probably a waste of time. I envisaged us back in Cooma enjoying a counter lunch before the hour was up. We only saw one other car, the countryside had a green tinge but was still fairly depressing and we saw no sign of any vineyards.

But how wrong I was. The winery is a real gem and in retrospect, I kicked myself for not having made the time to visit there sooner. The Restaurant and tasting room sits above a bend in the Snowy River nestled amongst giant granite boulders, some of which have been incorporated into the structure of the building. There is also a small craft shop. It is a beautiful oasis in an otherwise not very pleasant landscape. The Restaurant might seat fifty or sixty, and was packed. We were a bit concerned at how efficiently they would cope with such a lunchtime rush, particularly on the day after Boxing day, but were very pleasantly surprised.

The menu was not extensive, but was interesting and traditionally Continental. Prices were quite modest given the location and (presumably) strong seasonal patronage. The food came quickly, was well prepared and presented and the portions were quite generous. We were both very satisfied. With lunch we had a bottle of the 1995 Sauvignon Blanc - an unexpectedly lovely drop with lots of initial flavour that quickly dissipated into a crisp acid finish. It was definitely the pick of all the wines we tried, but the Sylvaner/Muller Thurgau blend might be preferred by slightly sweeter palates. We ended up buying a dozen of the Sauvignon Blanc (and were given an additional 2 freebies) to enjoy at home. If nothing else, the wine will make an interesting talking point. Some of the wines on sale and their prices follow - the descriptions are those provided.

If you have some time to spare, go and check out this little beauty.

**1995 Alpine Dry White (\$10.00)** - This aromatic, fresh wine is delicate and light with distinct citrus flavours, typical of the cold climate Snowy River Vineyard fruit. The good natural acid gives a crisp palate and ensures cellaring. Ideal with seafood.

**1995 Sauvignon Blanc (\$12.50)** - A crisp, light Chablis style wine showing delicate cool climate fruit with a balanced acid finish. A fresh drinkable wine ideal with salads, fish or as an aperitif. The wine will cellar well.

**1994 Chardonnay (\$14.50)** - This full bodied, medium oaked wine is mouth filling and has a pleasant and lingering aftertaste. An ideal wine with rich aperitifs and lighter main courses. Twelve months in wood has begun the ageing process which will continue for 3 years.

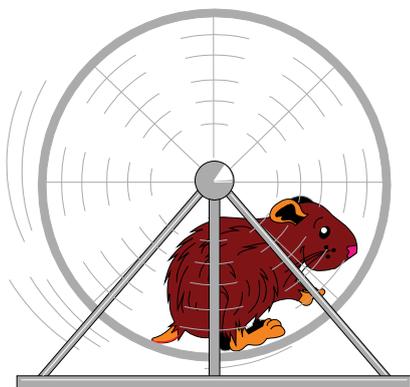
**1994 Sylvaner/Mueller Thurgau (\$13.50)** - A unique cold climate wine blend made from Snowy River Vineyard grapes. The well balanced palate gives hints of fruit salad. An easy drinking wine suitable for most casual occasions. A multiple medal winner before release.

**1994 Semillon (\$8.50)** - This soft bodied, firm finished Semillon has a warm honey taste. Serve this wine chilled with curries and Asian foods.

The winery also makes and sells other wines including Sieger Rebe, Trocken Beeren Auslese, Cabernet Sauvignon, Snow Bruska, Snowy Port and Tawny Port.

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# Vice-President's Report for 1995



**T**he Committee is nearing the end of its term in what has been a full on, demanding and ultimately, very productive year.

I am very happy to report that the Committee has achieved a great deal in 1995 and will be leaving the Club's operations in very good shape for the incoming 1996 Committee to manage.

A lot has been achieved and I would like to thank those Committee Members who worked so unstintingly and gave up large amounts of their valuable time to help overhaul the Club's operations. Particular thanks to the members of the three Sub-Committees that worked long and hard to review and update various aspects of the Club's operation

Members will have noticed some of the more obvious improvements such as the new format newsletter, the personalised membership renewal reminders and the production of the colour brochure. (Having mentioned the colour brochure, I would like to credit Tim Acker for two of the photos used and would also like to thank Heinz Buettikofer for producing a fine map at short notice. Thank you both.)

But there were many other less obvious activities that I would like to put on record. While several Committee members contributed large amounts of time and energy, the award

for consistent contribution again goes to Chris Acker.

Chris is arguably the most important member of the RASCAL Committee. His job sounds simple - to keep the Lodge functioning properly, but as is often the case, that simple description belies the amount of effort and hard work required to perform it. And the fact that Chris has been doing that job for several years now makes his continuing efforts on our collective behalfs much more creditable.

Chris spends many of his free weekends and RDOs travelling up to the Lodge to fix some problem or other, to negotiate with tradespeople and to arrange quotations for work to be performed. This year in particular he had his work cut out for him getting quotes and arranging replacements for the failed hot water service, washing machine and microwave oven; arranging the installation of the outside security light and reflective film on the lounge windows; negotiating a cleaning contract and repair options and quotations to fix the water entry problem under the stairs.

And we can all sleep easy at the Lodge knowing that Chris has tested the smoke detectors, emergency lighting and fire extinguishers, has replaced light bulbs, cleaned the filters in the furnace etc etc.

Without labouing the self-congratulations, the Committee's other significant achievements for the year were:

- ✓ Redrafted Lodge Rules
- ✓ Redrafted By-Laws
- ✓ New Membership Database
- ✓ Development of a Strategic Plan and future Lodge development options
- ✓ Development of a Membership Plan
- ✓ Development of Committee Duty

Statements

- ✓ Drafting of proposed constitutional changes
- ✓ Review and analysis of comparable accommodation costs in Jindabyne
- ✓ Review and analysis of membership demographics
- ✓ Review and analysis of Lodge usage statistics
- ✓ Review and analysis of payment by Credit Card option
- ✓ Review of Booking Officer duties

whew ... what a list.

There will be several members of the Committee not offering themselves for re-election in 1996. For any Club to remain relevant to the needs of its members, it has to have a regular turnover of ideas and interests.

Please don't feel reticent about nominating for a Committee position - above all, the only qualification you need is enthusiasm.

The bulk of the major upgrading work has been undertaken, but there are many interesting projects that need attention. And of course, if you have particular ideas about how the Club should or shouldn't be run, the Committee is the forum to put those views.

*And now for something completely different ...*

The Committee held its January meeting at the Lodge on the weekend of 13/14 January. There were four main items of business:

- completion of the formal workplan for 1995 including proposed Constitutional changes to put to the 1996 AGM

*(Continued on page 6)*

*(Vice-President's Report - Continued from p5)*

- a physical inspection of the Lodge with a view to drawing up a priority list of repairs, refurbishments and proposed new facilities
- a meeting with a local builder to discuss affordable options to permanently stop water entering the lower accommodation floor, under the stairs, and
- budget issues including the Club's financial capacity to continue to employ a part time booking officer.

In a separate article in this issue, Monty Fox explains what the proposed constitutional changes are and why the Committee is proposing them. Further elaboration is contained in the enclosed draft of the new Constitution which has been marked up with the proposed changes and explanatory notes, using revision marks.

With regard to the Lodge, the Committee developed a long list of projects which will be drawn up into a priority list for implementation this year. The most urgent project is remedial drainage works to prevent water entering the building. Chris Acker has been authorised to negotiate with the builder to proceed with the first Stage as soon as possible. The second stage which involves enlarging the ag drain around the affected corner of the building will be done by a workparty later this year.

A problem of water seeping from the showers into the adjoining bunkrooms has been identified and will be corrected by regrouting of the shower recesses. Chris has also been authorised to get all of the Lodge carpets cleaned and deodorised, which should get rid of the damp smell in the lower accommodation level.

Finally, and most importantly, the Committee took a long hard look at the financial results for 1995 and the

financial outlook for 1996 and decided that the Club could not, for the foreseeable future at least, afford to continue to pay a Booking Officer to take Lodge bookings and attend to the administration of the Club's membership records, accounts etc.

This decision was taken after extensive discussion of alternative money saving options and with a great deal of regret since Dianne Ireland has been an integral member of the RASCAL family for many years and has been the main contact point with the Club for many Members. The Committee also recognised the decision would mean a considerably higher administrative burden would have to be carried by Committee Members.

The decision will be reviewed on a regular basis in the light of the way the new arrangements are working, Members' acceptance of those arrangements and an assessment of the Club's financial means.

Dianne will be finishing up as Booking Officer on 29 February. From that date, the following new administrative arrangements will apply:

- Monty Fox will handle accommodation bookings. The RASCAL phone number, the hours that the phone is attended and the key pick up point will change, but all other procedures will remain the same. The Committee also proposes later in the year to trial the introduction of a pay-by-credit-card facility which means that many Members will be able to make accommodation bookings in a more timely, reliable and convenient manner. Details in the next newsletter.
- Alan Laird will handle the payment of accounts and all banking transactions. This is a side of the Club that is reasonably hidden from most

Members, although it is the Club's lifeblood. Members should not notice any change. However, if you discover a money problem (cheques not cashed, accounts not paid etc), please contact Alan.

- I will handle membership records and take over the role of Membership Secretary. I have built a new Membership database and will be managing the flow of information to Members through the Newsletter and direct mailings. Please direct all questions about membership to me.

While the Committee is confident that the new arrangements are workable, Members are asked to be patient during the changeover period and to try and make bookings as far in advance as possible.

It would also be very helpful, where Members write to the Club, that they clearly address their letters to the Membership Secretary or Booking Officer, as appropriate. That way your letters will get to the right person more quickly. And thank you in advance for your understanding and patience.

On behalf of the 1995 Committee, I would like to wish you all a very happy New Year and a safe and prosperous 1996 - we all hope to see you at the AGM. And remember ... the AGM has the power to impose a levy on all Members, so if for no other reason than financial self interest, please come.

Mike Vale  
Vice President

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# Notice of Annual General Meeting



**T**he Annual General Meeting of RASCAL Inc will be held on Tuesday, 26 March 1996, at 8.00 PM.

Light refreshments will be provided.

The Venue will be the Woden Valley Hospital Auditorium which is off the foyer of the main building.

Please note that the RASCAL Constitution provides that:

- Only financial Members of the Club may vote (but subscriptions may be renewed on the night).
- Junior Members are not entitled to vote.
- Proxy voting is not permitted.
- Any Member may propose amendments to the Constitution by written notice of motion to the Secretary 42 clear days before the meeting.
- Items of general business may be raised from the floor on the night.
- Nominations for Committee positions must be proposed and seconded and may be put in writing or made from the floor on the night.

The Agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of 1995 AGM
3. Business arising from the Minutes
4. Correspondence in/out
5. President's Report
6. Committee Report and Financial Statements
7. Motions to change the Constitution
8. General Business
9. Election of Office Bearers for 1996

### *Motions to change the Constitution ...*

Re Item 7 - Motions to change the Constitution: the following two motions will be put to the AGM:

1. "That subject to Motion 2 being carried in original or amended form, the current RASCAL Constitution be rescinded.", and;
2. "That the RASCAL Constitution as distributed to Members in February 1996 be adopted."

Both motions have been proposed by Mike Vale, and seconded by Rod Roberts.

Both motions are unanimously endorsed by the eight members of the Committee who attended the special Committee meeting held in Jindabyne over the weekend of January 13/14.

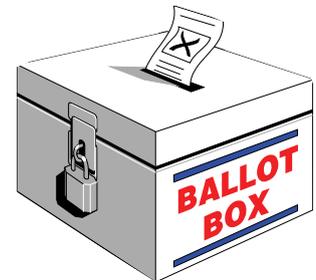
**Explanatory Note:** Enclosed with this newsletter is a draft of the new RASCAL Constitution referred to in Motion 2.

The draft is a copy of the current Constitution with proposed changes highlighted using revision marks - words that are struck through are proposed to be deleted; words that are underlined are proposed to be inserted. All changes are identified using vertical side bars in the margins. Self explanatory changes such as the replacement of gender specific references with gender neutral

references, the addition of new definitions and changes of wording that do not alter the meaning of a Rule, do not have accompanying explanatory notes.

However, changes that involve the introduction or deletion of Rules, or change the effect of Rules, are accompanied by explanatory notes at the end of each relevant section.

Also attached at the end of the marked up pages are copies of those pages of the Constitution that are the most



heavily amended, with the changes incorporated into the text as if agreed; ie this is how the relevant Rules will read if Motion 2 is carried. They are included for convenience - they are easier to read.

If anyone would like a full copy of the proposed new Constitution with all the changes incorporated as if agreed, please contact Mike Vale.

### *Election of Office Bearers ...*

Elections will be held for the following positions:

- Patron
- President
- Vice-President
- Secretary/Assistant Secretary
- Treasurer, and
- Public Officer, and
  
- Members

If Motion 2 is accepted, Members will

*(Continued on page 8)*

*(Notice of AGM - Continued from page 7)*

also be asked to endorse the filling of the position of Immediate Past President, which is a new position proposed to be created under the new Constitution.

Any Member may raise items of General business from the floor. However, it would help me to arrange the order of business for the meeting if I could have notification of items of other business at least a week in advance of the meeting date. I will also then be able to collect whatever

information may be required to respond to your particular issues of interest and have it available at the meeting.

Thank you

Trish Carroll  
Secretary

(First Fold)

## Welcome to the following New Member(s)

- Michele Barson
- David Nolan

Welcome and happy skiing. Please make yourself known as a new Member to others using the Lodge and to the Lodge Caretaker - they're a very helpful bunch.

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## Look what's inside your RASCAL News :

- ✓ **IMPORTANT - Changed booking arrangements start 1 March 1996**
- ✓ **President's Report for 1995**
- ✓ **Vice-President's Report for 1995**
- ✓ **Notice of 1996 AGM including proposed constitutional changes**
- ✓ **Copy of proposed new Constitution**
- ✓ **Review - Snowy River Winery**

(Second Fold)



# RASCAL NEWS

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