



RASCAL NEWS

Newsletter of RASCAL INC

Spring 1997



Important news in this issue:



Major revamp of our Internet site (page 5)



Covered pergola and BBQ to be built in November (page 7)



Distribution of Lodge keys by post (page 8)



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(02) 6242-4011



PO Box 99, Curtin, ACT, 2605



{1. 8 Namoi Place, Kaleen, ACT, 2617

{2. By Post



**ALL TELEPHONE
INQUIRIES AND
ACCOMMODATION
BOOKINGS**

Mike Vale 6242-4011

Leave messages on the answerphone when number unattended - please include BH and AH contact numbers

MAIL ADDRESS

PO Box 99, Curtin, ACT, 2605

KEY PICKUP ADDRESS

8 Namoi Place, Kaleen, ACT 2617

INTERNET ADDRESS

<http://www.ozemail.com.au/~mvale>

COMMITTEE - 1997

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

President

Richard Emerton 6286-5134

Vice-President

Monty Fox 6288-3153

Secretary

Lynne Bentley 6248-8897

Assistant Secretary

Doug Capp 6236-3327

Treasurer

Alan Laird 6288-4708

Public Officer

John Kennard 6281-3435

Lodge Manager

Chris Acker 6281-4467

Committee Members

Ian McNeill 6288-4303

Phillip Huntley 6285-3421

Pat Gorman 6281-4101

RASCAL LODGE

7 Banjo Paterson Crescent
Jindabyne NSW 2627
Ph: (02) 6456-2169

1997 Winter Lodge Caretaker:

Alison Bombardier

President's Report Richard Emerton



Thanks for taking the time to read this latest edition of RASCAL News - it's the primary vehicle for members to find out what's happening in the RASCAL world.

After dropping back to 3 editions last year we've made an extra effort to produce one each quarter this year - we hope you appreciate it.

To find out even more about RASCAL why not log on to our HOME PAGE on the Internet - it's new, improved and interactive; our address is on the front page. Also see p5 for details.

If you do get on to "the Net" take a few more minutes to have a look at the Perisher Blue site (<http://www.perisherblue.com.au>), where, amongst other things you will find details about the development plans for the Perisher Valley and the mountain facilities.

If you are a downhill skier the proposed new lifts look exciting.

There will be numerous impacts on the environment, carparking in the valley, the lodges at Guthega, all of which have received coverage in the media. If you have an interest in

what's being proposed you should take the time to find out more about it.

Events in the mountains this winter were completely overshadowed by the Thredbo tragedy. I am sure you will join me in expressing our sincere sympathy to the families and friends of those who died, together with our heartfelt thanks to the volunteer army of rescuers who toiled magnificently to bring out the sole survivor.

The snow season was "ordinary", but lodge bookings held up reasonably well.

Thanks to Alison Bombardier, our lodge caretaker, for keeping the place in good order. Alison has indicated she is willing to return to the lodge again next year which is good news.

We are about to embark on some improvements in the grounds with a new barbecue and pergola, and some new posters to brighten up the walls internally. All are welcome to come and help erect the pergola - see p7 for details.

Longer term improvements are still being developed, including options for funding more extensive renovations/extensions.

And finally, welcome to all of the new members who have joined recently - hope to see you at the Wine & Cheese Night on 31st October.

Richard Emerton
President



Someone passed me these quotes from the Internet - they're so wonderful they have to be fair dinkum!

A sign in an Austrian ski resort: "Please not to perambulate the corridors during the hours of repose in the boots of ascension".

From a Paris hotel: "Please leave your values at home" and; "You are invited to take advantage of the lodge manager" (Alison beware!!!)

From a Norwegian restaurant: "You are requested not to have children in the kitchen."

Japanese hotel on using the room air conditioner: "Cooles and Heates: If you want just condition of warm in your room, please control yourself."

Japanese car rental firm instructions (for driving through Jindabyne): "When a passenger of foot heave in sight, tootle the horn. Trumpet him melodiously at first, but if he still obstacles your passage then tootle him with vigour".

Lynne Bentley

More Hot Water Changes

I think most members, at some point, have experienced the frustration of having their nice hot showers go stony cold in the twinkling of an eye - usually when one has a head full of shampoo. The usual reason is that someone else has just started to have a shower.

In my experience the problem is not confined to the winter peak season - and I have just put it down to our system being cantankerous, or suffering arterio sclerosis.

And of course, the natural reaction when the shower goes cold is to turn up the hot tap. That usually causes the other person's shower to go cold, which means that they crank up the hot tap... Then, of course, both shower turn scalding hot!!!

WELL NO MORE!!!!

Thanks to the initiative of one of our new members - Simon Matthews of Sydney - and the generosity of one of his mates - Barry Hibbard - a new water management system will be installed at the Lodge on the weekend of 4/5 October. The system will even out pressure fluctuations at each tap and should result in more even shower temperatures - hooray and three cheers for Simon and Barry.

The system should also lead to a reduction in water usage, and therefore, a saving for the club. Double hooray and cheers for Simon and Barry.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a brochure advertising one of the products distributed by Barry's firm. Check them out for yourself at any MagnetMart store.



RASCAL WINE & CHEESE TASTING

All RASCAL members are reminded about the wine tasting to be held on Friday, October 31, commencing at 6pm at the home of one of our more informed wine



connoisseurs.

For a minimal charge of \$5 you will be able to sample top wines and cheeses.

Come and join us!

RSVP to
(02) 6281-4101
by October 24, 1997



**Final
Reminde**

RASCAL
has a fax
machine
connected to
the booking
phone line
(6242-4011)
... save time by
faxing in your
booking sheets
rather than
sending them
by post.



**Final
Reminde**

RASCAL
has a new
telephone
number -
please note it
down:

6242-4011

6242-4011

6242-4011

6242-4011

6242-4011

The previous
number (287-4147)
has had a diversion
on it for the last
few months. This
w i l l b e
discontinued at the
end of October.



RASCAL
now has only
ONE key pick
up
address -
please note it
down:

**8 Namoi Pl.
Kaleen, ACT
2617**

As an alternative to
a physical key
pickup, you now
have the option of
having a key sent to
you by post.

See page 8 for
details.

RASCAL Internet Site Revamped - Mike Vale

Those members who have accessed the RASCAL Internet site in recent times will have noticed that it was starting to look a bit long in the tooth. No - let's call a spade a spade - it hadn't been updated since March 1996 and was obsolete.

But have a look now - we're sure you'll be impressed with the new frames and information available.

As well as containing downloadable copies of the RASCAL Constitution, By-Laws and Lodge Rules, the site also contains a classic picture of the Lodge in snow, booking information for October 1997, a chart showing average booking levels from 1992, a calendar of events, a "things to do" page, etc.

The new introductory screen is shown below. Note the new navigation links in the left-most frame which make moving around the site a breeze.

The site has been optimised for the Netscape Navigator (V3) browser, and an 800 x 600 screen resolution. It may appear distorted on other combinations - please e-mail me your observations.

Additional material (eg other Lodge photos and a page of links to other snowy mountain sites and the weather bureau) will be added shortly. An on-line booking system is being developed and should be in place for the next winter season.

I would love some feedback on the site, and please feel free to make

suggestions for improvements and other material you would like to see made available electronically.

Booking information will only generally be made available via the site for winter bookings, and possibly for other peak non-winter times such as Christmas, Easter and School Holidays. It is proposed that in winter, the booking details will be updated at least twice weekly (now that my system is working properly again).

MikeV

PS The site has been registered with most of the on-line search databases. If you forget the address, just do a search for "Rascal Ski Lodge".

Background

RASCAL Inc was founded in the late sixties by Residents and Sisters at the then Canberra Hospital, hence the name **R**esidents **A**nd **S**isters **C**lub for **A**ctivities in **L**eisuretime.

Contacts

Calendar of Events

October '97 Bookings

Constitution

By-Laws

RASCAL Inc owns and operates RASCAL Lodge on the shores of Lake Jindabyne in the NSW Snowy Mountains. The Lodge is available for the use of members and their guests.

This site contains information on RASCAL Inc, including Membership details, Lodge photos, a usage chart, the latest Constitution, By-Laws and Lodge Rules and downloadable versions of some forms and documents.

A reminder about some important Booking Arrangements

- ☺ Bookings can only be made by Full and Summer members who are financial at the time of making the booking - bookings may not be made by Junior members, non-members, former members, unfinancial members, or by the husbands, wives, sisters, cousins or aunts of members.
- ☹ Junior members and non-members may not use the Lodge unless accompanied by a financial Full or Summer member, or by special arrangement with the Committee or Office Manager.
- ☺ A booking sheet and payment must be sent within five working days of a telephone booking being made, otherwise the booking will lapse.
- ☺ To avoid disappointment - make your booking early.
- ☺ The Rascal phone is attended whenever Mike is home and available (about 12 hours a day) - and is connected to an answering machine when not. You'll get Mike at the oddest of times, but very seldom on weekends. In an **emergency** try Mike's mobile: 041-124-7868.
- ☹ Cancellation fees apply to all bookings from the time that the booking is confirmed, whether by phone or otherwise.
- ☹ Accommodation credits are no longer provided for accommodation cancelled - a refund cheque will be issued (less any cancellation fees).
- ☺ Accommodation credits issued on joining, for early renewal or for proposing a new member can be redeemed at any time except winter weekends, winter school holidays or special events such as the fishing weekends. Credits can be pooled by members within the same family, but cannot be used to cover the accommodation of other members or non-members guests.

november Working bee to erect a new BBQ and Pergola,

The Committee has approved the expenditure of funds to construct a new BBQ and Pergola to the general design shown at right. The BBQ will replace the existing besser brick incinerator and BBQ which will be demolished to make way for the new structure.

As has now become a regular feature, the Committee will hold its November meeting at the Lodge on the weekend of 15/16 November. The site will be pegged out on that weekend and the construction commenced the following week.

In order to defray some of the costs, the work will be undertaken as a working bee. Anyone who has a day or more to spare during the week 17-21 November is most welcome to come and lend a hand with the demolition and erection work.

Informal advice from the Planning Department of the Snowy River Shire Council is that no planning or building permits are required, but we are currently getting that in writing.

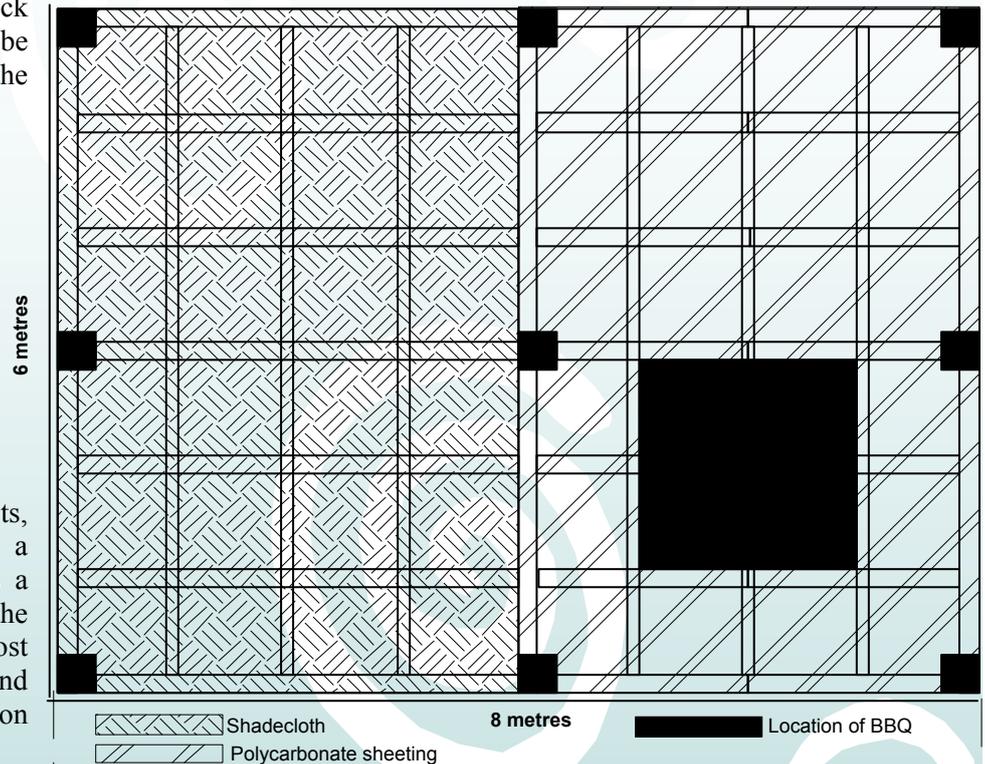
In the event that permits are required, construction of the pergola may be delayed, but demolition of the existing incinerator, and erection of the BBQ will definitely proceed so that the BBQ is available to cook the following weekend's catch (its the fly fishing weekend - remember).

The BBQ to be purchased will be Gas-fired and will be set

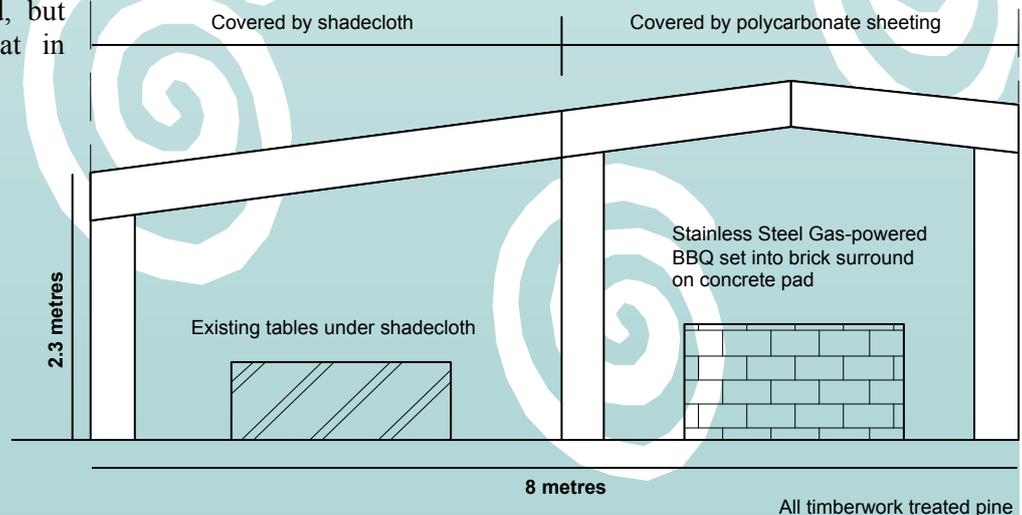
into a brick surround. It will probably have a stainless steel top to allow easy cleaning..

The work will be undertaken under

the direction of Lodge Manager Chris Acker and Assistant Secretary Doug Capp. If you would like to come, please contact Mike Vale

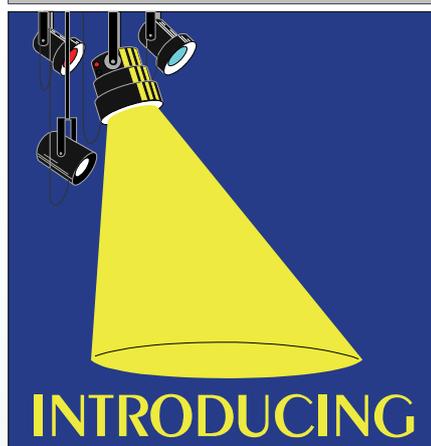


Top View



End View

Membership News - Mike Vale



OUR NEW MEMBERS

A very warm RASCAL welcome to the following new Members:

- John Ainge
 - Heidi Ainge
 - Timothy Ainge
 - Lucinda Ainge
- Penelope Ainge
- Jane Button
- Jim Castles (summer)
- Barbara Hakes
 - Andrew Hakes
 - Katherine Hakes
- Duncan Ironside
- Paul Mackay
- Peter Murray
- Graham Redman (Summer)
- Kim Serjeant
 - Max McGregor
- Malcolm Whitecross (Summer)

And also to the following members on the waitlist who have been accepted as members, subject to payment of Joining Fees:

- Christopher Hogan
 - Samantha Hogan
 - Vanessa Hogan

We also renew our welcome to the following Junior Members who have upgraded to Full membership:

- Frances Dunbar

Distribution of Lodge keys by post

Over this last winter, we have been trialling a system for the distribution of Lodge keys by post.

The trial has shown that the system is popular, convenient and well regarded by the members who have used it, particularly those interstate.

So far, Australia Post has not lost any of the keys posted, and they all arrived within a couple of days of posting. Three cheers for AP - hooray.

Of course there's always a dark lining to every silver cloud (say what?) - and so there is in this case. The gremlin in this woodpile is a \$5.00 surcharge to cover the cost of postage. But when you consider the convenience of delivery to your door, and the saving in time and petrol, I reckon that's pretty cheap. ESPECIALLY when you also get a reply paid sticker for the return postage. That's right, \$5.00 is all that it will cost you for both outwards AND return postage.

Of course, you will still have the option of picking up a key at Kaleen, free of charge.

Enclosed with this newsletter are new booking sheets which implement the new system. You will see that as well as cleaning up the booking sheet somewhat, a new box (labeled KEY

DISTRIBUTION PREFERENCE) allows members making bookings to opt to pick up keys, or have them posted. To avoid any confusion, please discard any old forms you have and use the new forms instead.

Space has been provided for members to request more than one set of keys (where large parties are booked in), and to specify when a posted key should arrive by. While the "arrive by" date would normally be only a day or two before the date of the booking, the trial showed that some interstate members left home up to a week prior to their booking date, mainly to visit relatives on the way. The new system builds in the flexibility to take account of these needs.

Posted keys will be sent in a Postpac with a note confirming the booking and a reply paid label - please make sure you confirm that the details are correct when you receive the key. As mentioned previously, included in the postpac will be a reply paid address label. Postpacs are wonderfully tough and will remain in one piece through several return trips though the mail - please open the postpac with some care. When you want to return the key, simply stick the return label on the front of the postpac, on top of the one addressed to you, and pop it in a letterbox - QED.

As you will appreciate, all these keys floating around our mail system will put extra pressure on the key distribution system at peak times. We are ordering additional keys and will monitor the level of demand - but you too can help by ensuring that keys are returned promptly after your stay.

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