

# 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 ...

*Summer Newsletter – February 2003*

**Note: The contact details below will change from 17 Feb 2003. See opposite page for details.**

**All telephone inquiries and accommodation bookings**

**Mike Vale - 6255 3411**

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

**Mail address**

PO Box 99, Curtin, ACT, 2605

**Key pickup address**

25 Duigan Street, Scullin, ACT, 2614

**Internet address**

<http://www.rascal.asn.au>

**E-mail address**

[rascal@rascal.asn.au](mailto:rascal@rascal.asn.au)

**2002/03 Committee**

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

**President**

Ian McNeill 6288-4303

**Vice-President**

Marg Sharp 6288-4708

**Secretary and Public Officer**

John Kennard 6281-3435

**Treasurer**

Mike Vale 6255-3410

**Assistant Treasurer**

Linda Swift 6254-4754

**Lodge Manager**

Rod Roberts 6230-2436

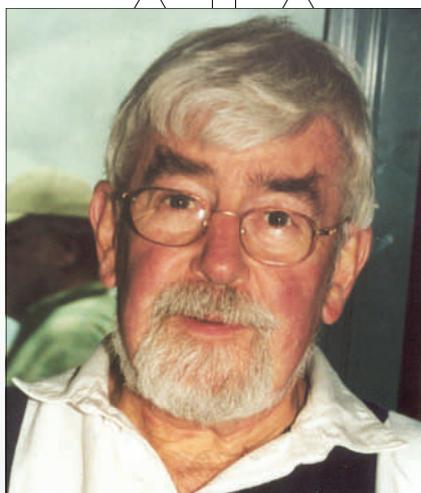
**Committee Members**

Anne Robinson 6257-4297

Richard Emerton 6286-5134

Bruno Zimmermann 6288-0039

**From the President**



Welcome to 2003. The start to the New Year has not been kind to many living on the eastern seaboard of Australia with fires raging from Victoria to Queensland.

The ACT and surrounding regions have been badly affected and it would appear that it is not all over yet with fires in East Jindabyne and close to Katoomba in the Blue Mountains. Fortunately, the Lodge survived the fire unscathed. At the height of the threat, and despite their busy schedules, John Kennard and Bruno Zimmermann made an emergency trip to the Lodge to check that all was well and to clear combustible materials from around the building. I'm proud that we have members like John and Bruno who are prepared to walk that extra mile for all of us. On behalf of the entire membership - a huge thank you.

Those that have e-mail access would already know that Alan Laird (our Treasurer) and Marg Sharp (our Vice President) and their son Rahn (who is also a member) lost their home in Duffy, fleeing the fire with their vehicles and with only the clothes they were wearing. Thanks to Mike

and his e-mail broadcast, Alan and Marg now have a fully furnished rental home courtesy of another Rascal Member. Mike tells me that he has had a huge response from members wanting to help, and one particularly generous donation. Please note that we will be staging a "new beginnings" party sometime in the next few months to help set Marg and Alan set up their new household. Details will be distributed to members to enable all who want to participate to do so.

On behalf of the committee I would like to thank Marg and Alan for their commitment to Rascal over many years and wish them well as they re-build their life and home.

With the loss of Alan and Marg's home went most of Rascal's financial records. While Mike is due to hand over the Office Manager's functions to Jennifer Bryden on 14 February, his expertise will not be lost to us quite yet as he has agreed to become acting Treasurer until the AGM in order to set up a new financial management system using MYOB. Linda Swift has volunteered to become assistant Treasurer with a view to taking over as Treasurer at the AGM.

A very warm welcome to Jennifer and Linda.

As many of you will be aware I am also involved with the Koscuisko Huts Association. All of us who love the 'High Country' for our various leisure pursuits are mourning the damage to the environment and the loss of a possible 20 historic huts. We are planning to have a speaker at the AGM to talk about the effect of the fires on Kosciuszko Nat. Park and the huts lost.

Over the early summer period the lodge was well used but with the coming of the fires, many like myself cancelled their stays. I had intended to re-walk the Stillwell Loop so that I could make sure that the walk that I was to write for this edition of the Newsletter was correct in detail, but now it will have to wait for another time.

All the best

*Jan*

## Introducing our new Office Manager Jennifer Bryden



berra.

I enjoy travel and over the last few years have enjoyed trips to Turkey, China & just this year to Cambodia & Vietnam. I would also love to get back to Africa in the not too distant future.

I am a keen quilter & although not a skier, I did take up cross country skiing during our time in Poland – but some how or other the interest never continued on return to Aus-

tralia, when the snow was not right outside your back door. I am a keen walker and visitor to the mountains during the summer months, and I am looking forward to a more regular opportunity to pursue this pleasure in the future.

Although I have only met a few members of the committee at this stage I am looking forward to meeting and assisting many more of you in the New Year.

9

I grew up in Sydney & moved to Canberra in 1970. Spent the 70s & early 80s on posting, as a Foreign Affairs wife in Tanzania, Brazil, England & Poland before finally settling back in Canberra in the mid 80s.

When 3 small children were finally all at school, began full time work again at the Australian Institute of Sport, where I worked for 7 interesting & rewarding years establishing and managing the Visitors Tour Program. I then worked for 3 years with the National Capital Authority as the Special Events Coordinator – organizing a range of special events e.g. National Christmas Tree, Anzac Parade – Australian War Memorial Open Day & the annual “Discover Your National Capital” promotion.

More recently I have undertaken a number of part time contract position, co-coordinating events, conference etc with organizations such as Amnesty International, the Community Housing Federation and Community Housing Can-

**Please note these new contact details that will apply from 17 February 2003**

- **New Telephone/Fax number:**  
**(02) 6241-9233**
- **New Postal Address:**  
**PO Box 32  
Watson ACT 2602**
- **New Key Pickup Address:**  
**13/19 Aspinall Street  
Watson ACT 2602**  
(details of the key pickup point will be published—in the meantime, please make appropriate arrangements for picking up keys with Jennifer when booking accommodation)
- **e-mail address (no change):**  
**rascal@rascal.asn.au**

**The old postal address and phone numbers will be maintained (with diversions) for the next few months, but we would appreciate it if members would start using the new contact points from the above date.**

## **Notice of Annual General Meeting and Dinner Wednesday, 2 April, commencing 6.15pm**



**T**his year's Annual General Meeting of Rascal Inc. will be combined with the annual dinner at the Lotus Room, Canberra Southern Cross Yacht Club, Alexandrina Drive, Yarralumla.

The date is Wednesday 2 April 2003.

All Rascal members and their guests are invited to the pre-AGM dinner at 6:15 pm, which will be a set price menu with a choice of entrees, main courses, sweets and tea/coffee for \$25 per person. A menu and booking form is enclosed.

This year we will have an after dinner guest speaker. The topic of the address is yet to be finalised, but is likely to be related to the Kosciuszko National Park Plan of Management and the preservation of cultural heritage in the Park, as reflected in the work of the Kosciuszko Huts Association. The AGM will follow dinner at around 8pm.

Members wishing to attend the AGM but not the dinner will be welcomed with complimentary tea/coffee and a cake trolley in the Lotus Room.

The evening promises to provide a great opportunity to meet with friends, catch up with old and new members, enjoy quality and elect your new committee for 2003.

***This will also be the final function attended by Alan Laird and Mike Vale in their capacities as Treasurer and Office Manager, respectively - how about coming along and expressing your appreciation for the magnificent work that these two have performed on behalf of the Club over the last half decade.***

Make a note in your diary now for **Wednesday 2 April at 6:15 pm** - why not organise a group of members and friends to share the occasion?

### **AGM Agenda**

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of 2002 AGM
3. Business arising from the Minutes
4. Correspondence in/out
5. President's Report
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Office Manager's Report
8. Public Officer's Report
9. Motions to change the Constitution (if any)
10. General Business
11. Election of Office Bearers for 2003

### **Motions to Change the Constitution**

Any Member may propose amendments to the Constitution by written notice of motion to the Secretary 42 clear days before the meeting. No motions received were received @ 28/1/03, and none are proposed by the Committee.

### **Election of Office Bearers**

Elections will be held for:

- President
- Vice-President
- Secretary
- Assistant Secretary
- Treasurer
- Public Officer
- Lodge Manager
- Immediate Past President, and
- up to 3 Members

A number of the current Committee are expected not to stand again in 2003. If you would like more information about what each position on the Committee is responsible for, please contact Mike Vale who will provide copies of duty statements for each position.

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 eligible to vote.
- Proxy voting is not permitted.
- 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 may be made from the floor on the night.

## Hike des Femmes 7/8 March 2003



To celebrate International Women's Day, this year's Hike des Femmes will be held on the weekend of 8/9 March.

All Rascal Femmes are invited to participate.

The Saturday walk, usually rewarded by a Mugaccino at some exclusive mountain cafe, will be decided by participants at a Friday evening pre-walk meeting at RASCAL...all levels of fitness and walking ambitions can be addressed, so don't be shy!

The Saturday evening meal is usually at some exclusive, inexpensive restaurant in Jindabyne and Sunday can be another walk or a relaxed time on Rascal's new deck...whatever the mood takes!

There has been some discussion about whether the weekend is strictly female or if male "associates" could be included. The issue has been strongly resolved in favour of an all female affair, so work out a list of jobs to keep your "associates" busy while you go and have a weekend out with the girls.

Please call Colleen Fox (6288-3153) or Judy Roberts (6230-2436).

## Full details of changes to fees and charges for 2003

### Annual Renewal fees

- no changes

### Joining Fees

- no changes

### Junior Upgrade Fee

- no change

### Accommodation Fees

- no changes except that the Caretaker's Room will be available for the use of members during winter. Because of the higher standard of comfort in this room, there will be a surcharge of \$10 per person per night for the use of this room, throughout the year.

### Standby accommodation rates

- no changes

### Block Booking Fee

- no change

### Key Postage

- increased from \$5 to \$6 for each pack of 1 or 2 keys sent (ie) if you want 2 keys, the cost is \$6, but if you want 3 keys, the cost is \$12.

### Cancellation fees:

- 21 clear days: \$25 administrative fee
- 14 clear days: \$25 or 25%, whichever is greater
- 7 clear days: \$25 or 50%, whichever is the greater
- <7 clear days: \$25 or 100%, whichever is the greater

## Working Bee 1/2 March 2003



The first working bee for 2003 is scheduled for the weekend of 1/2 March 2003.

A variety of maintenance tasks will be tackled, including work in the garden, plumbing, painting and cleaning.

Rascal members and friends are invited to attend. Free accommodation is provided for workers on Friday and Saturday night, as is lunch on Saturday and a BBQ dinner on Saturday night. Work is usually undertaken on Saturday only, with Sunday free for private interests like walking, sunbathing on the deck etc.

Please contact Rod Roberts (6230-2182 or [allwood2@bigpond.com](mailto:allwood2@bigpond.com)) if interested.

## Lost & Found at the Lodge

Found at the Lodge last September - ring, white gold, small finger size.

Green plastic bottle cooler.

We regret to advise that our Treasurer (Alan Laird) and Vice-President (Marg Sharp) lost their house in the fire that swept through Duffy on Saturday, 18 January. They escaped the blaze with their cars and the clothes on their backs. Please keep them, their neighbours and the other victims of the fire in your thoughts. From a ring around of Rascal Members in affected suburbs, it would appear that a number of other members had extremely close shaves with one losing a garden studio and others losing their gardens. But fortunately, no injuries and only one total loss. However, if you know of any other Rascal member who has been affected by the fires, please let us know.

All of Rascal's financial records were destroyed when Alan and Marg's place was lost. As you can imagine, the furthest thing from Alan and Marg's minds at the moment is Rascal business so interim arrangements are being made until the AGM. Fortunately, all of Rascal's Office records (accommodation bookings and the membership database) are safe as are all of Rascal's important documents, which are kept in a safe deposit envelope at the bank.

The Treasurer's position is a crucial one and the Club cannot function without one. We are delighted that Mike Vale has agreed to be co-opted onto the Committee to become interim Treasurer and has agreed to set up a new financial management system based on MYOB. Linda Swift also responded to Mike's e-mail asking for urgent assistance and has agreed to be co-opted onto the Committee as assistant Treasurer until the AGM, and has agreed to stand as Treasurer at the AGM. A very warm and grateful welcome to Linda.

Please note that while rebuild our financial system, there will be a slowdown in processing of payments. Please bear with us through the next few months. Please note also that all payments received and processed between 1 and 17 January were destroyed. Mike has duplicated all credit card payments from original documents but all cheque and Money Order payments have had to be replaced. By the time you read this, Mike will have separately contacted all affected members to ask that replacements be sent. If you paid by cheque around this time and haven't heard from him, your payment is not affected.

The Rascal Office has been unaffected by the fire and will continue business as normal until mid February when Jennifer Bryden takes over as Office Manager. Please note the new contact details on page 3, and note particularly that **keys will no longer be available from or be able to be returned to Mike's place in Scullin from cob 14 February.**

Several Rascal Members are organising a "new beginnings" party for Alan and Marg to allow the large number of members who have contacted us to ask how they can contribute practically to Alan and Marg re-establishing their household. Details have not been finalised, but if you are interested in helping organise the event, or contributing more practically, please contact Trish Carroll (6255 3410), Jenny Emerton (6230-5538) or Colleen Fox (6288-3153) to register your interest. More details as they come to hand.

**List of Weekends reserved for Block Bookings up to June 2004**



Members will recall that the Committee published changes to block booking rules in the last newsletter. The changes aim to strike a balance between the competing objectives of maximising access for all members and catering for those times when some members may wish to have exclusive use of the Lodge for special functions.

The way the rules work is that the Committee decides and publishes a list of those weekends outside of winter which are "reserved for Block Bookings" (called "reserved weekends") and, by implication, those that are not. Block bookings can be made for any "reserved weekend" at any time after the list is published.

If a block booking isn't made for a reserved weekend 6 weeks before the relevant date, the reserved weekend becomes available for casual bookings. Similarly, if there are no casual bookings for a weekend that is NOT a reserved weekend (and is not a weekend from which block bookings are expressly excluded) 6 weeks before the relevant date, then that weekend becomes available for block bookings.

The full text of the new By-Laws was published in the last Newsletter. A reprint is enclosed for you to insert into your copy of the Rascal Constitution document (please contact Mike Vale for another copy if you don't have one, or download one from our Internet site).

New By-Law 5.2.6 requires that at the beginning of each calendar year, the Committee designate and publish the dates of Reserved Weekends for the following 18 months.

Having regard to the dates of public holidays, and Casual Bookings already made, the following weekends are Reserved Weekends as per the meaning of new By-Law 5.2.3.

**2003**

- 8/9 February
- 22/23 February
- 22/23 March
- 5/6 April
- 3/4 May
- 17/18 May
- 31 May/1 June
- 18/19 October
- 1/2 November
- 15/16 November
- 29/30 November
- 13/14 December

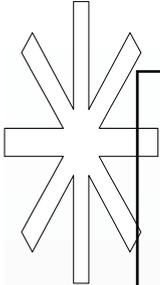
**2004**

- 7/8 February
- 21/22 February
- 6/7 March
- 20/21 March
- 3/4 April
- 17/18 April
- 1/2 May
- 15/16 May
- 29/30 May

**Early notice about Pre season function Sunday 1 June**

Here's early warning for your calendar.

Make a note of this date now and reserve this Sunday lunch-time.



RASCALS News is going electronic

(where we can anyway!)

I am investigating dropping snail mail and sending the newsletter by email or notice by email with link to website. Faxing is another option.

The benefit to members is up to date information and more time and money spent on improving club benefits.

What do you think? If you haven't already supplied email address or fax, please do so to (Mike insert appropriate contact here)..... With any comments on the possible change.

I will be taking over as newsletter editor from Mike in 2003 - a very hard act to follow! But I am looking forward to it.

Anne Robinson

