

Rascal Inc

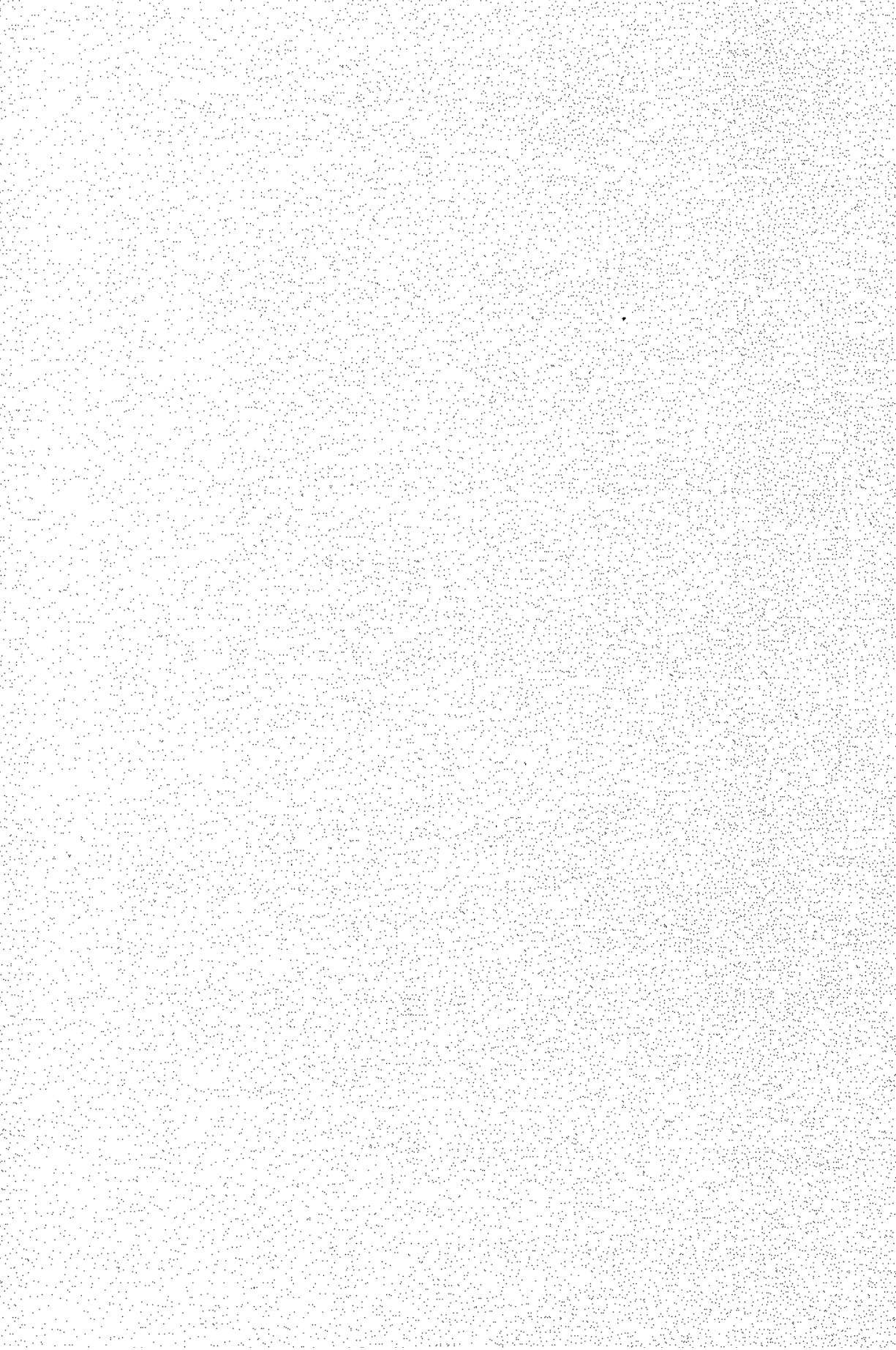
Autumn Newsletter May 2003

In this issue

*Pre season BBQ at lodge and working bee Sat 1
June - free dinner and accommodation!*

*Winter 2003 Lodge Captain and commercial cleaning
arrangements for lodge - we all have to make it work!*

Ski de Femme - upcoming event September



Ski de Femme September 2003

There have been a number of female members of the lodge expressing an interest in another Ski de Femme. We currently have a tentative date for

weekend of 13th & 14th September.

We are hoping that some of our more experienced members will offer some basic tuition to those members who want to try

Cross Country Skiing

for the first time or for those of use who are a bit rusty. Another alternative is that we arrange for some professional tuition through one of the outdoor companies up in the mountains. At this stage we are endeavouring to guage the level of interest amongst the membership. SO if you would like to join us on the slopes in September could you please

contact Judy Roberts on 6230 2436 (AH)

and keep an eye on future Newsletters for further information.



All telephone enquiries and bookings

Jennifer Bryden 6241 9233

Mail Address

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Key pickup address

13/19 Aspinall St, WATSON, 2602

Internet address

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

Email address

rascal@rascal.asn.au

2003/04 Committee - welcome to new members Linda, Michael and Clive

President	Ian McNeill	6288 4303	ian.mcneill@act.gov.au
Vice President	Marg Sharp	6254 5794	alan.laird@industry.gov.au alaird@webone.com.au
Secretary	John Kennard	6281 3435	john.kennard@ga.gov.au
Assistant Secretary	Richard Emerton	6230 5538	rjemerton@yahoo.com.au
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Lodge Manager	Rod Roberts	6230 2436	allwood2@bigpond.com
Committee Member & Newsletter	Anne Robinson	6257 4297	anne.robinson@defence.gov.au ptindale@netspeed.com.au
Committee Member	Michael Stomps	6257-1006	stampsey@yahoo.com.au
Committee Member	Clive Styles	6258-7437	fiona.s@austarmetro.com.au
Committee Member & Public Officer	Bruno Zimmermann	6295 6993	bhps@bigpond.com
Office Manager	Jennifer Bryden	6241 9233 6242690	rascal@rascal.asn.au

RASCAL LODGE
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Jindabyne NSW 2627
Ph: 02 6456 2169

WINTER 2003 - LODGE CAPTAINS

New Winter Commercial cleaning Arrangements at the Lodge

As indicated in the previous Newsletter, the Club will trial new arrangements at the Lodge this winter. The previous Caretakers Room with double bed and more space will be available for member's use, and professional cleaners will be contracted on a weekly basis in lieu of the cleaning duties undertaken by the previous live-in caretaker.

To help facilitate members use of the lodge during winter, especially new members less familiar with the lodge and lodge protocols, a "Lodge Captain" will be identified each week who will provide a point of first contact for any issue or queries that arise during that week. The committee will nominate and contact

potential Lodge Captains from the list of members booked into the Lodge. Our Office Manager Jennifer Bryden will then provide the weekly Lodge Captains with a list of members staying at the lodge and their allocated rooms, which will be placed on the notice board

If it needs doing, please do it!

The lodge captain is not a substitute cleaner and tidy-upper-er. Each member is still required to:

- clean up after themselves,
- keep the kitchen and bathrooms in a suitable condition for the use of all others,
- clean and vacuum their bedroom,
- empty bins,
- replace loo paper and paper towels,
- place bins out on the kerb on garbage collections days,
- replace and wash dirty tea towels,
- advise the Lodge Captain or Office Manager if supplies of consumable items are running low,
- ensure doors are locked on departure etc..

The Lodge Captain can help advise what needs to be done, how to do it, when to do it, where to find it etc., and generally assist member to look after, and enjoy their stay at, the lodge.

These new arrangements will insure that members have greater access to the lodge in winter (an extra double bedroom), will provide a slightly higher standard of accommodation for members who choose to book that room, and insure that the lodge is regularly cleaned to a high standard. The club will in turn receive extra accommodation revenue from member's use of the double room.

Members are encouraged to provide feedback to Committee Members on these new arrangements, especially if they can make positive suggestions that improve the day-to-day running of the lodge, and that add to the enjoyment of all members staying at the lodge.

Quilters "Discover" the Rascal Lodge

A new use has been found for the wonderful facilities offered by the Rascal Lodge. The new Office Manager, Jennifer Bryden, is a keen quilter and so in March she headed down to the mountains with a group of like minded friends, with sewing machines, fabric etc. for 4 wonderful days of sewing,

eating, drinking, sunshine and walking. A wonderful time was had by all and they have promised they will be back again in the Spring. *If you belong to a similar group, why don't you think about this opportunity for your friends in the off-season quieter periods.*





Jenny Emerton HIKE de FEMME REPORT 8-9 March 2003

This must be a record for the Hikes de Femme: three walks in one weekend. The reason, in addition to our commendable fitness and dedication, was the weather. We knew the weather was going to be a factor when the first group to arrive at the lodge on Friday afternoon witnessed an amazing two hour thunder, lightning and hail storm, which left the lodge dripping, and in some places, leaking. Not to be deterred, the group of fourteen starters spent some time on Friday night discussing various options for our walk the next day, finally settling on the Dead Horse Gap walk. We were pleased to learn that all walks in the National park were open after the fires, and that entry to the Park was free.

A night of rain and thunder, continuing threatening weather, and advice from the Visitors' Centre, convinced us next morning to change our plans to a more sheltered alternative: the Pallaibo Track which leads from Sawpit Creek to the Thredbo River picnic area near the Park entrance on the Kosciuszko Road. Driving up to the start of the walk, there were signs on the roadside warning motorists of wildlife on the verges, refugees from the fires: we saw kangaroos, wallabies and a very brazen fox. We also noticed that many of the blackened eucalypts are already regenerating after the rain.

The Pallaibo is 5.6 km of varied terrain, which follows Sawpit Creek down past Sawpit Falls and Charlie's Cascades. Some of the bush we were passing had been severely burned, including much of the creek valley, which is normally a beautiful, shaded and relatively lush area. We also braved the elements - thunder showers overtook us on the track, but soon passed. I wished I had managed to photograph the line of 14 women in their assorted rain attire, complete with open umbrellas in some case, as we valiantly walked on. As we descended towards Thredbo River, we again entered a burned area, but here the fire must have been less intense. We were aware of less wildlife than usual, especially birds.

Lunch was consumed with enthusiasm in the picturesque and well appointed picnic area, and soon we were ready for another adventure. One of our group had never been to Thredbo, so we piled back into the cars and drove around to Thredbo for a coffee and, if the weather held, another (short) walk. The journey to Thredbo was remarkable for the apparently random nature of the fire damage: some species seem to have been particularly flammable, some wetter areas had escaped, and some had burned. There was also great variability in the severity of the damage, and some infrastructure such as signs and retaining walls had disappeared.

The showers continued as we drank our coffee, and some of the party decided that discretion was the better part of valour. The comfort of the Lodge and a pre dinner nap beckoned. The remaining seven organised another car shuffle to get the party to Dead Horse Gap, with the intention of doing the Thredbo River Track (down hill of course), which is a pleasant 4km walk

back to the village. Once again the fire damage was variable, with some species such as mint bushes (*prostanthera*) and tea trees devastated, and others faring better. There were stretches of the path that were intact and others where the fire had affected one side of the narrow track but not the other. Near the golf course there were lots of burned or melted lost golf balls, once obscured by thick bushes after erratic shots by golfers, but now exposed on bare earth.

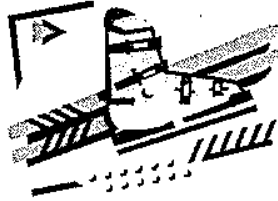
Fortified by another cup of coffee, the intrepid walkers returned to the Lodge for a quick shower and change in preparation for dinner in the town. However, before we could eat there was one important task to be done: one of our number Marg Sharp, was not only having an important birthday, but also she and her family had lost their house and possessions in the Canberra bush fire storm. A quick whip around among the femmes resulted in a generous sum being presented to Marg in what else but a hiking sock, with the idea that she could put the money towards new boots ready for the next Hike de Femmes in 2004 (or anything else she chose). Then it was off to



dinner, where before long, under the influence of good food, wine and company, many of us were ready to face another adventure the next morning, weather permitting: Porcupine Rocks near Perisher Village.

So next morning, the weather was fine and nine of us were ready for the challenge. We set off to do the 5 km round trip to this spectacular rocky vantage pint overlooking the Thredbo valley. On

this walk we saw survivors of the fire, including flowers, magpies, a pair of flame robins and some silvereyes. There was also much fire damage. The view from the rocks was fabulous and demonstrated clearly the extent of the fires in the Thredbo valley. Despite the cold wind a great place to eat lunch. In contrast to the previous day, there were quite a few other walkers out on the track. Then it was back into the cars and down the road back to the Lodge to pack up, clean up and set off back to the "real world" after a very satisfying and absorbing break from our routines.



BUY SELL & EXCHANGE

CANBERRA SKI SALES

Smith Family - no more ski sales

ACT Ski Association Sale 17 May 2003

- Old Bus Depot Markets , Kingstan
- Drop off goods - Fri 16 May, 12.00 - 7.00
- Ski sale- Sat 16 May, 9.00 - 2.00

For Sale, Karhu XC skis, 170's, auto release bindings, good condition, recently stone ground (nice 'n slippy), suit beginner not ready to spend up on new kit. \$50.00 Ray 6242 9724

For Sale Jindabyne's Snowy Mountains Reservation Centre (established 1984) combined with Ski'n Save Snow Centre (established 1988) is for sale! **SALE PRICE: \$650,000**

Wanted Does anyone have a ladies black skiing helmet- medium - with ear flaps for sale.
Anne 62664557

Wanted Kids all-in-one ski suit- 3/4 yr old. Anne 62664557



KOSCIUSZKO PLAN OF MANAGEMENT REVIEW

KEY DATES 2003-2004 :

- *March - September 2003* Preparation and review of preexhibition draft
- *Oct 2003 - Jan 2004* Public exhibition of draft PoM
- *Feb - March 2004* Review public submissions and update draft PoM
- *April - May 2004* PoM finalisation

MOUNTAINBIKE RIDING in KNP - submission

Tourism Snowy Mountains submitted a paper to the Kosciuszko National Park Plan of Management Community Forum on behalf of it's members particularly Mountain Biking (MTB) Adventure Tour Operators in and around the Park - specifically for the Plan of Management (POM) community forum. If you are interested read the submission at www.rawng.com.au - all comments welcome!!

RASCAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS OUTCOMES

Committee meetings are held monthly on the third Wednesdays for 2003. Get your agenda items to John Kennard.

What the Committee achieved for members March/April 2003:

- Upgrade of junior and acceptance of new adult members
- Insurance premiums paid - specific cover for people at Working Bees (for \$671) and one for "the rest" (\$5,882.92)
- Auditing financial statements.

Next NEWSLETTER due August 2003 - Send contributions to john.kennard@rascals.com.au

RESORTS DEVELOPMENT SKI SEASON 2003



Thredbo News- Merritts Chairlift On The Move

- Work has started on Merritts chairlift to move the base in line with the bottom of Snowgums. This is being done as the first stage of the redevelopment of the Valley Terminal area and to modernise the lift itself. The development includes the construction of a new operator's hut and a new chairlift drive station by Doppelmayr. The old drive station will be stored for possible future use as a museum display piece.

Perisher 8 Seat High Speed Detaching Chairlift

- The new 8 seat high speed chairlift located on Front Valley replaces the old duplex on Front Valley. The chairlift is longer starting closer to the bridge from the Perisher Valley Skitube and finishes 20 metres further up the slope. The 90 degree load station at the base of Front Valley will consist of a timed gate entry associated with a moving carpet designed to bring all 8 skiers to the load point at the same time before accelerating away to the top station. The unload at the top of Front valley is a 90 degree unload to the right (skiers left) onto a newly crafted and engineered ski out surface that will take all 8 riders off the chair in the same direction at an easy and gentle gradient.

Perisher nightskiing

- Night skiing and snowboarding improved with new metal halide and halogen lighting attached to the top of the chairlift towers to light up the slope.

CHEAP SKIING PERISHER - JUNE 2003

Early Season Day Special Prices - Prices valid to 27 June 2003 when less than 10 lifts operating.

**OR EARLY SEASON PRICES ARE GUARANTEED ALL MOUNTAIN ACCESS UNTIL 27 JUNE
WHEN PAID IN FULL PRIOR TO 1 JUNE 2003.**

Call 1300 655 811

15yr/Over \$54

6 to 14yr \$29

15yr/Over (skitube) \$70

6 to 14yr (skitube) \$38

PRE SEASON BBQ AND WORKING BEE AT THE LODGE

Where: RASCAL Lodge, Jindabyne
When: Weekend 1 June 2003

Book early with Jennifer Bryden - filling fast!

All enthusiastic workers get:

- * FREE WEEKEND ACCOMODATION
- * FREE LUNCH & BBQ DINNER SATURDAY NIGHT
- * BYO

What we need to achieve at the working bee before the winter season:

- * winter cleaning
- * garden work - cutback shrubs under deck
- * toilet repair - plumber
- * deck furniture repainting
- * door vents
- * skirting board - games room
- * repaint games room corner

What we achieved at the April 2003 working bee

Rod Roberts and his small team of 6 workers, including members from Sydney, did wonders

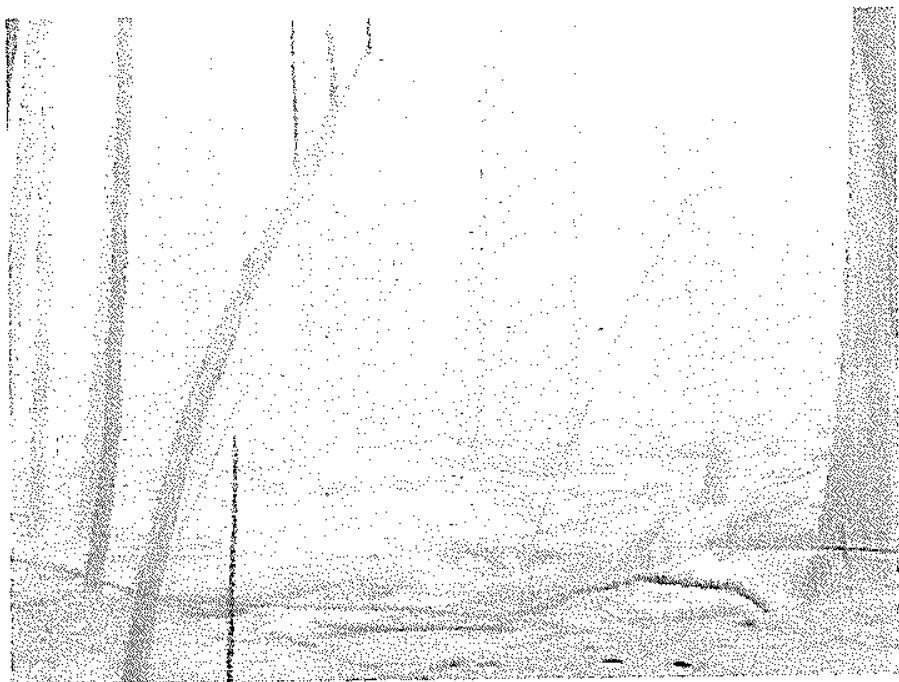
- * runners for sliding patio door,
- * general cleaning,
- * replace door closer in middle passage,
- * new shower roses and hoses,
- * maintenance to taps and toilets,
- * Blue chairs sent for reupholstery.

Kosciusko and Vic Huts - aftermath of the bushfires

Excellent photos and details on Kosciusko & Vic Huts web site with aftermath of fires, Visit www.kosciuskohuts.org.au and Victorian High Country Huts Association www.vhcha.org.au

Below "Aftermath" Photo by Dave Lucas, Victorian High Country Huts Association

Made all the more poignant as a result of the excellent talk given by Olaf Moon - on issues relating to the Kosciuszko NP, at the RASCAL AGM at the Yacht Club.



We need to replace RASCAL promotional material lost in Canberra bushfires - can you help?

Contact Anne Robinson or Marg Sharp if you have any

- photos (digital or print)
- posters, brochures, display stands etc

Thank you Rascal Friends – From Marg & Alan

The reversion now seems complete. Our block at Duffy, and those of our near neighbours, was once a sheep paddock thirty years ago. The paddock has been called home since then for ourselves and our neighbours.

We always thought we lived in a special neighbourhood. It felt different. It was open and bushy and welcome. Our neighbours were our friends.

It still is a special neighbourhood, but now in a very different way, and perhaps in a stronger way. It's certainly more open physically. After the disastrous fire storm of 18 January and the efforts of demolishers, the immediate neighbourhood is now a flat, dusty, cleared and largely treeless landscape dotted by isolated green regrowth and furry limbs on the few blackened trees remaining.

But our neighbourhood is also still very welcoming. Indeed it is much more welcoming. We have always been pretty open with each other - and after the fire we quickly got together to provide support and exchange

ideas about how to move forward. The questions weren't many, but they were pretty big and were not questions any of us had been considering prior to the firestorm. Do we rebuild or sell up? What could we get for the block? How much will it cost to rebuild? What about an architect and builder? How do we best invest the insurance funds? Are we still looking for a family home with a yard or should we be downsizing? Other questions were of a more personal nature such as how are we feeling about the loss of our material possessions, of our memory prompts, photos, stories we may have written, special birthday gifts from loved ones and the like.

We are still moving through this gradually clearing fog.

Communities seem to pull together and help each other out in times of adversity, and our neighbourhood, and indeed our friends in Rascal and the Canberra community are no exception.

The warmth and support shown by Rascal members

has been touching and humbling. Humbling in a very positive sense. Humbling in the sense that Rascal members have tangibly shown us a high level of regard and concern. This runs deeper than the usual supportive comments and friendliness people make to each other in the normal course of business. For me it is a deep heart-felt feeling of love, support and regard that lies at the core of being human. This is humbling.

Many Rascal members have spontaneously offered assistance in one form or another, for which Marg and I thank you. However I would especially like to thank Trish Carroll, who instigated the idea of the 'New Beginnings Party' and her willing helpers: Colleen Fox, Judy Roberts, Jenny Emerton and Julie Pettit. The party was held on the lawns of the Southern Cross Yacht Club on Saturday 29 March 2003. A party like this is not something that happens every day and it is an exemplar of the love, support and regard bestowed on us by our Rascal friends and for this we say a very heartfelt thank you.

