



# Rascal Inc

## Winter Newsletter Aug 2005

### *In this issue*

- Post season lodge working bee ..... p. 4*
- Jennifer Resigning as Officer Manager ..... p. 5*
- President's Report ..... p. 3*
- Sept School Holiday Vacancies ..... p. 4*
- Lodge key returns ..... p. 5*

**All telephone enquiries and bookings  
(up until 31 August 2005 only)**

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**Close off date for articles for next NEWSLETTER is  
Friday 28 October 2005 - email contributions to  
Jack Cornell at [snowsoft@bigpond.net.au](mailto:snowsoft@bigpond.net.au)**

## President's message

You may be aware that Snowgums, the lodge next door to Rascal at Jindabyne (on the south side) is on the market. The Committee considered referring the matter to members via a special meeting as to whether we should make an offer, but at the last Committee meeting in July decided against it.

I would like to thank Alan Laird who did a lot of work considering our options and prepared a paper for the Committee.

One of the many issues that was considered was the timing - the vendors wanted offers by mid-August, which presented us with some very practical difficulties. However, if the vendors do not make the sale and the property stays on the market, then Rascal can revisit its interest. I would be interested to hear any views from members, pro or con.

The bulging wall problem in the games room has now been fixed. There are a number of on-going maintenance / improvement issues that need to be addressed - plumbing, drying room, water ingress, carpets etc so the Committee has decided to bring forward its proposed November meeting at the lodge to mid-September.

This will give us more time to get tradesmen lined up before the end of the year.

As I write this message in the last week of July, we have already had a

lot of snow in the mountains, including the dump at the start of July that impacted roads down to Cooma.

More snow is forecast - looks like being a good season, and there are still some vacancies at the lodge!

Our Office Manager, Jennifer Bryden has advised us that she wants to relinquish the position from end-August. Many thanks for all of your good work, Jennifer, and best wishes for your "new life". We have canvassed Expressions of Interest from members via email for a replacement and will let you know how we go, and what / when there will be changes in contact details.

When you are staying at the lodge, don't forget that you have responsibilities for its upkeep - it's not a hotel! We have professional cleaning twice weekly in the peak winter season, and appoint a lodge captain from one of the members who's staying there, but you need to do your bit. So please make sure you take responsibility for keeping the lodge clean - if you always clean up your own mess, you will never have to clean up the mess of anyone else!

My usual plea about working bees! We do need your help at working bees, so please make an effort to participate in the ones that are scheduled later in the year. Many thanks to those members who joined us at the last one at the end of May - there's an item on the website plus some photos. Our lodge managers, Rod Roberts and Mike Law-Smith do a great job, but they do welcome your efforts of assistance.

Finally, the Committee has a new venue for its monthly meetings, the Italo-Australian Club in Forrest. Come along and join us at one of our meetings. If the venue proves to be satisfactory, we expect to hold our

AGM there next year - will keep you posted.

Richard Emerton

President

### **Lodge working bee 15-16 Oct 2005**

The post season working bee on the weekend of 15/10/2005 sorts out those winter season niggles! A variety of maintenance tasks will be needed to get the lodge ready for summer. Rascal members and friends are invited to attend.

- *Free accommodation is provided for workers on Friday and Saturday night,*
- *Free lunch on Saturday and a BBQ dinner on Saturday night.*

Work is usually undertaken on Saturday only, with Sunday free for your time like that late cross country ski, walking, sunbathing on the deck etc.

Contact Mike Law- Smith 0262572278 for more details or just book by email with our Office Manager on [rascal@rascal.asn.au](mailto:rascal@rascal.asn.au)

Note that there will be a further working bee next year on the weekend of 4-5 February 2006.

### **September/ October lodge vacancies**

The School Holidays are not far away - 24<sup>th</sup> September to 9<sup>th</sup> October. The Rascal Lodge is a wonderful place to spend a few days with the children, and you never know there may still be some snow! At the moment there are virtually no bookings for those dates - have a look on the web site & think about enjoying a few days of the holidays there.

## Good bye from Jennifer Office Manager

I will be finishing my stint as Office Manager at the end of the month, after nearly 3 years.

It has been a most enjoyable time & I have very much enjoyed and appreciated the support of the committee & Rascal members.

My life has moved on - after several years on my own, I have now met a great chap & he has just decided to retire - so we are now wanting to have the time to travel & be free to go and come as we please.

Our first adventure will hopefully be next year when I hope to make a much longed for return trip to East Africa! John is still deciding if it is a safe journey, hopefully I will manage to convince him!

Thank you all for your support, and don't worry, I will still be a member of Rascal so will see you all around, and will certainly be using the Lodge with

my quilting group, which is a visit that we try to do twice a year & all thoroughly enjoy.

Best wishes to you all & be kind to who ever takes over the job!

Jennifer

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## Lodge Key Returns

Lodge users are reminded of the arrangements for key returns.

- If you pay for postage (ie.\$6 on booking form), then you will have a return paid sticker & are entitled to post your key back using that address label.
- However if you opt to pick up your key & then want to post it back to Rascal - you are responsible for the postage & have not paid to use the "reply paid" facility.

Please keep this in mind when returning keys.

## Agenda Items for Committee meetings

Committee meetings are held monthly on the third Wednesdays, at 6.30pm for 2005 at the Italo-Australian Club in Forrest, ACT. Please get your agenda items to John Kennard at [john.kennard@ga.gov.au](mailto:john.kennard@ga.gov.au). Future meeting dates are 21 September and 19 October at Forrest and Saturday 5 November down at the Lodge.

## Richard's Trip to the French Alps

Our family was lucky enough to spend two weeks skiing in the French Alps at Chamonix in January 2005.

We had beautiful weather and enjoyed the fabulous scenery, but we could have done with some more snow! There was a great cover when we arrived, but no new snow for our two weeks. By the end of our holiday it was getting very patchy on many of the runs - we were very pleased that we hired skis rather than taking our own, as I'm sure they would have been trashed.

Chamonix is a lovely town on a valley floor in the corner of France very close to Switzerland and Italy. In fact we flew into Geneva (via EZYjet from England) which is a little more than an hour by road to Chamonix. We rented an apartment (via the Internet) close to the centre of town, easy walking to the shops and restaurants. And we had a bus stop only a few metres away to catch the shuttle bus each day to the resort we had selected that day.

We tried all of the resorts in the mountain around Chamonix including Le Tour (Domaine de Balme), Le Brevant, La Flegere, and Les Grands Montets that were included on the one mountain pass. As an extra bonus, the pass including one day's skiing at Courmayer in Italy, only a short bus ride through the Mont Blanc tunnel.

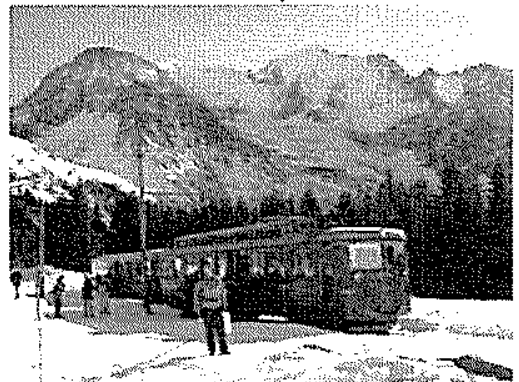
In one of the many on-mountain cafes and bars we discovered a local dish to

'fill you up and warm you up' - tarteflette - a recipe of potatoes, cheese and ham, prepared in huge wok-like pans.



Julia and Gordon relaxing after lunch at Courmayer

On our "rest days" between bursts of skiing there were plenty of sightseeing opportunities including the tramway which takes you two thirds up Mont Blanc, the train to Montenvers which takes you to the foot of the glacier in the Valle Blanche (and lets you explore tunnels under the ice),



Jenny in front of the tramway and Mont Blanc

and the awesome cable car ride to the summit of the Aiguille du Midi at the top of the Valle Blanche (altitude 3842m or 12602 feet).



Richard and Jenny with the Aiguille du Midi and Mont Blanc in the background

These structures are incredible feats of engineering, especially considering when they were built last century.

I guess the general lack of snow was our biggest disappointment - there's plenty more than we get to ski on in Australia, but we could have done with more. It meant that we were unable to ski the 20 kilometre run down the glacier in the Vallee Blanche, because of thin cover, crevasses etc. (Of course the week after we left there was a big dump!).



Richard, Jenny and Julia at Le Tour

But otherwise we had a great holiday, very comfortable apartment, good food and wine, and one we will remember as we do battle with the slopes in Perisher this winter. I'm happy to pass on more of our experiences if anyone wants to contact me.

Richard Emerton

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28 October 2005 - Send contributions by email to  
Jack Cornell at [snowsoft@bigpond.net.au](mailto:snowsoft@bigpond.net.au)**

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