



# Rascal Inc

Autumn Newsletter  
April 2006

In this issue:

Message from the President..... 3  
Working Bee Information.....4  
Introduction to your new Committee Members.....7-8  
Cycling Tour de Femme.....7  
Skiing in Japan.....5-6



The Tour de Femme - Feb 06 (a case of "WISH I WAS THERE!")

## All telephone enquiries to

Angela and Jack Cornell (02) 6259 5980 (9.30 - 4.30 Mon-Thurs please)

## Postal Address

PO Box 3154 BELCONNEN DC ACT 2617

## Key pickup from

30 Pitcairn St EVATT ACT 2617

## Website

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

## Email address

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

## 2006/07 Committee Contacts

POSITION	NAME	PHONE - NIGHT	E-MAIL
President	Richard Emerton	6230 5538	<a href="mailto:rjemerton@yahoo.com.au">rjemerton@yahoo.com.au</a>
Vice President	Alan Laird	6161 4708	<a href="mailto:alanlaird@actewaql.net.au">alanlaird@actewaql.net.au</a>
Secretary	John Kennard	6281 3435	<a href="mailto:john.kennard@ga.gov.au">john.kennard@ga.gov.au</a>
Assistant Secretary	Lynne Bentley	6257 6719	<a href="mailto:nlbentle@bigpond.net.au">nlbentle@bigpond.net.au</a>
Treasurer	Linda Swift	6254 4754	<a href="mailto:liswift@ozemail.com.au">liswift@ozemail.com.au</a>
Lodge Manager	Michael Stomps	6257 1006	<a href="mailto:stompsey@yahoo.com.au">stompsey@yahoo.com.au</a>
Committee Member	Clive Styles	6258 7437	<a href="mailto:thestyles@tpg.com.au">thestyles@tpg.com.au</a>
Committee Member	Ian McNeill	6288 4303	<a href="mailto:ianmcneill69@hotmail.com.au">ianmcneill69@hotmail.com.au</a>
Committee Member & Public Officer	Bruno Zimmermann	6295 6993	<a href="mailto:bhps@bigpond.com">bhps@bigpond.com</a>
Committee Member	Tim Dunnet	6282 8862	<a href="mailto:TIM.DUNNET@housing.nsw.gov.au">TIM.DUNNET@housing.nsw.gov.au</a>
Purchasing Officer	Marg Sharp	6161 4708	<a href="mailto:alanlaird@actewaql.net.au">alanlaird@actewaql.net.au</a>
Office Manager	Angela & Jack Cornell	6259 5980	<a href="mailto:rascal@rascal.asn.au">rascal@rascal.asn.au</a>

Close off date for articles for the Winter *NEWSLETTER* is mid July - email contributions to Jack Cornell at [rascal@rascal.asn.au](mailto:rascal@rascal.asn.au)

## **From the President**

### AGM

Thanks to all of you who attended the AGM at our new venue at the Italo Australian Club. The numbers were down somewhat on previous years, however, it was another successful gathering.

We welcome two new members to the committee, Lynne Bentley (Lynne has served on the Committee previously) and Tim Dunnet, along with those of last year's members who were re-elected.

Thank you for returning me for a third year as President, my eighth in eleven years. I look forward to working with you all.

### BUILDING and FIRE SAFETY AUDIT

In late September 2005, the lodge was subjected to a Council inspection. The inspection was for two purposes: building compliance with lodged plans and fire safety compliance with current NSW regulations.

The written report relating to fire safety has been received, and requires that RASCAL demonstrate compliance with a list of 15 items.

We have sought assistance from TT Architects and Chubb and we will be going back to Council to negotiate our way through the list.

Our advice thus far is that for some items we already comply, others will require some work that is relatively minor, and others could require major work. This work could involve substantial expenditure. The Committee will examine a number of options, obtain costs and then consult with members before embarking

on major works requiring significant financial outlays.

### Anti-social behaviour at the Lodge during Block-Booking.

In relation to the letter of complaint about incidents that occurred at Rascal lodge during Friday and Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> January 2006, I can report the following update.

Rascal records indicate that there was a block-booking in the lodge at that time. Having written to the member who made the booking, he contacted me immediately to explain his version of events. He also attended the next Committee meeting, gave a personal explanation, and wrote to the neighbours with his apology.

The Committee is satisfied with the apology and explanation of events provided and accepted the assurance that he will not put himself, or Rascal, in such a situation again.

I have again written to the neighbours with my sincere apologies for the distress that was caused, on behalf of the Rascal Committee members.

### Working Bees

My usual plea about working bees! We do need your help at working bees, so please make an effort to participate in the one that is scheduled in May. It's an opportunity to contribute to the upkeep of the lodge, perhaps meet new people, and you are guaranteed to have a good weekend, at minimal cost as your accommodation and meals are provided.

A list of tasks will be prepared for the weekend; we welcome your participation and assistance.

Richard Emerton, President

## **Next Lodge Working Bee**

*Saturday 13 MAY (book for nights 12-13 May)*

Rascal members and friends are invited to attend. Work is usually undertaken on Saturday only, with Sunday free for your time like walking, sunbathing on the deck, shopping for next season's gear. Just book by email (or fax a form) to our Office Manager on [rascal@rascal.asn.au](mailto:rascal@rascal.asn.au).

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

## **Report on the Recent Lodge Working Bee**

The recent working bee carried out some repairs and gave the lodge its post summer holidays "spring cleaning".

Mike Law-Smith dealt with some toilet cistern leaks, Craig Honeybrook and Simon Lim tamed the garden with whipper snippers and shears whilst Kim Serjeant degreased the kitchen. Mould was removed from bathroom walls and ceilings.

The dining room windows were cleaned by yours truly and son William after which, considerable help was mustered to replace the cleaned flyscreens!

As if this wasn't sufficient, Ingrid Laidlaw-Baker whipped up a mini-banquet to keep us all sustained.

In February, Simon Matthews repaired, re-surfaced and re-varnished the two dining tables - a feat which was admired by all of us!

Looking to the coming working bee, which will be the one to prepare the lodge for winter, we will need to remove the screen door from the entrance, do a bedding inventory and cleaning, clear some old furniture and other clutter plus re-oil the deck. The leather furniture will be cleaned with leather restorer and a general tidy-up and final check performed (isn't there always that last task you only notice as winter approaches!)

Michael Stomps  
LODGE MANAGER

## LAND OF THE RISING FUN

It's not often I get to ski with a view of a perfectly formed, snow-capped volcano across the valley, but our family did this in Niseko in January. As increasing numbers of Australians are finding, Niseko on Japan's north island Hokkaido offers long runs, good facilities, no crowds, great food and best of all, powder snow and lots of it. Strawberry fields forever! Just like Perisher and Thredbo I hear you say, except for the powder snow. And maybe the long runs, and the crowds, and the volcano view. Another difference is that Niseko has traditional Japanese hot mineral spring baths to soak those tired muscles at the end of a long day and night on the snow - yes lifts operate until 9:00pm every night! It did get cold however, with daytime temperatures in the minus 10 - 15 degrees Celsius range.

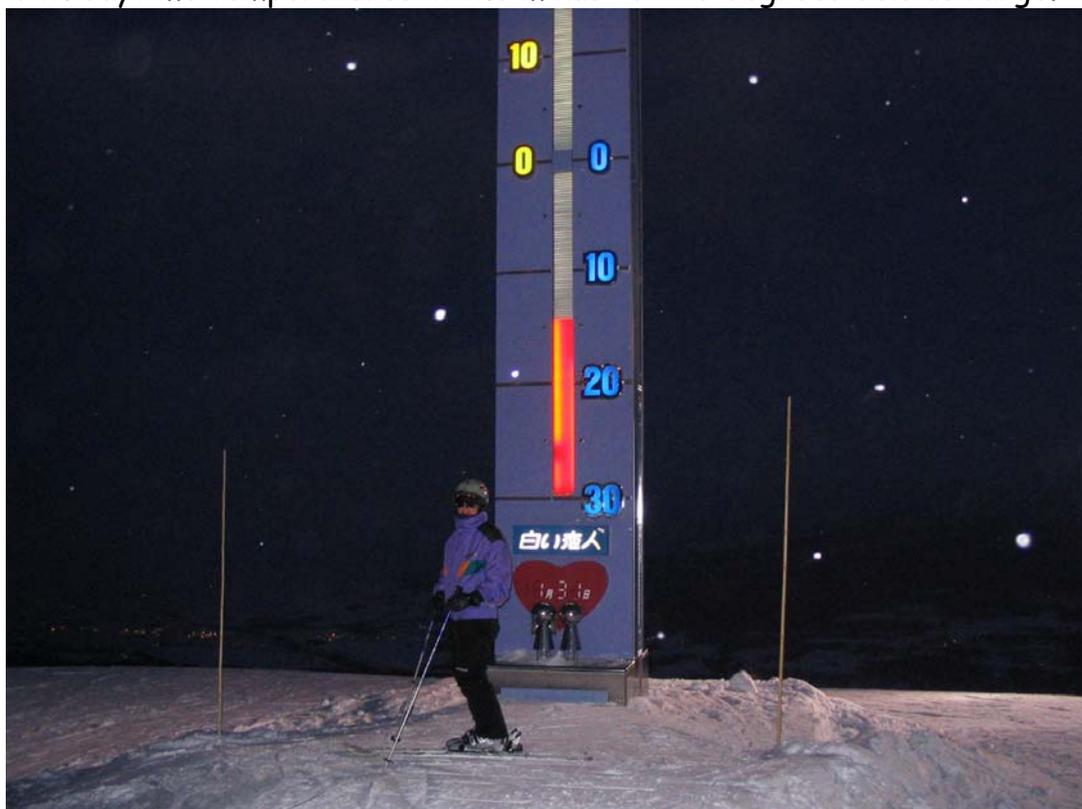


Photo 1 - On slope thermometer to prove how cold it was.

You can hear Australian accents everywhere in Niseko - on the slopes, in the shops, in travel agencies, instructing, guiding, offering real estate deals, working and eating in restaurants. We were able to hire our skis from familiar sources - Rhythm and Beats, a joint enterprise between Rhythm of Cooma and Beats of Jindabyne. We were there for Australia Day, and found that the village and many businesses made a special effort to welcome and feature Australians on that day, from an Australia versus Japan paintball game, to fireworks and special barbecues.

Our hotel offered ski in / ski out access to the snow. We were located at Hirafu, one of three villages of the Niseko ski area, which are distributed around the base of Mount Annapurni and probably the largest. You can stay in one of four or five hotels, or rent an apartment, or stay in one of the many small family run guest houses or pensions. There were a variety of restaurants / cafes both on the

mountain and in the village, and in our week we didn't manage to try them all. One of the food highlights was crab noodle soup at one of the quieter ski areas, Hanazono. Meal prices were generally cheaper than in Oz. For those with the energy to party, there are many interesting little bars hidden away in many corners of Hirafu.

There are four main lift systems from the villages at the base of the mountain, and these converge near the top so it's easy to ski from one area to another. There are three gondolas and plenty of chairlifts - no draglifts!



Photo 2 - We only found out later that the volcano was dormant, not extinct!

You can buy either a Niseko United pass which gives you access to all four lift areas, or buy a ticket for a single area which you can supplement on any day that you wish to ski in another area. The combined ski passes are electronic, and can be detected by the scanner from the depths of your pocket. Lift prices equate to about half of those we're used to here. There is a free bus for skiers / riders around Hirafu village, and another bus which links the four main ski areas.

Don't expect ATM's in Niseko - for that you need to catch the local bus into Kuchan, about 10 minutes away. But everything else you need is right there in Niseko. There are now some direct flights from Sydney into Hokkaido's main airport Chitose at Sapporo, which is about 2 hours by coach from Niseko.

Are we planning to go back? Definitely!

Richard and Jenny Emerton

## Rascal Tour de Femme

Following the Hike De Femme this year, it was decided to form a team for this year's cycle race. We welcome any members and friends who would like to participate. The team will have RASCAL cycling jerseys and there is no limit on the numbers. The first four riders over the line will determine the time of the team. The idea is to build some fitness and have fun!!

The entry fee was \$30 last year and the jersey will be an extra cost. We anticipate conducting some regular weekend training sessions in the lead up to the race. The Canberra Cycling Club site can be accessed with the following URL: [www.canberracyclingclub.org.au/cccl/tourdefemme/index.asp](http://www.canberracyclingclub.org.au/cccl/tourdefemme/index.asp)

For information: contact Cathie Stoffell on (02) 6295 7540 (H)

## Meet our new Assistant Secretary - Lynne Bentley

Membership of RASCALS has meant a great deal to me since I joined in the early 70s when I was a nurse at Canberra Community Hospital (as it was called then).

The Club has always been well organised and well supported and it's been a pleasure and a privilege to have been part of it for so long. The Lodge has been a home away from home for me and my family; we've enjoyed some great skiing and bush-walking holidays, and have met and made many like-minded friends there.

I was on the Committee about ten years ago and, now that I've retired from the workforce, I am looking forward to another period of involvement, without having to get up next day for work after a committee meeting!

## Meet our new Committee Member - Tim Dunnet

I have been a Rascals member for approximately 10 years, joining at the ripe old age of 18 years of age to make the pilgrimage from Jindabyne to the snow. Previous to this winter ski holidays with the family were at the Australian Ski Club at Guthega where I developed my love for winter sports



In 1994 I made the transition from Skiing to snowboarding and did not return to two planks until last season. As the weather was incumbent on a number of days and visibility was to a few feet Kim (my lovely wife) and I decided to try our hands (or legs if you will) at cross country. This experience was very enjoyable and quite painful at times.

I have worked in various roles after completing college in 1996 - Firstly working as Retail Department Manager for Woolworths for several years. I completed a Bachelor of Education at The University

of Canberra whilst working full time with Woolworths then worked as a relief teacher until I landed my current permanent position with The NSW Department of Housing.

My wife, Kim, joined Rascals 2 years ago and we both have plans to enjoy the facilities at Rascals for years to come. The club has given us many memorable experiences over the years and we look forward having many more. As we have had such a great time at Rascals, I would like to give something back to the club as a member of the Committee and be part of the Club's progress into the future.

Catch you at the Lodge!

Cheers

Tim

