

Summer Newsletter

February 2007

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NOTICE OF THE

2007 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of RASCAL INC

8 pm Wednesday
4 April 2007

Lotus Room
Southern Cross Yacht Club, Yarralumla

AGM agenda on page 8

**THE LODGE WILL BE CLOSED FROM 18TH FEBRUARY UNTIL
ABOUT THE 9TH MARCH FOR FIRE SYSTEM UPGRADE WORK**

All telephone & fax enquiries to

Angela/Jack Cornell Ph/Fax/Message 02-62595980: 9.30am-4.30pm Mon-Thurs only 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>

Lodge Vacancies Web-Page

<http://www.rascal.asn.au/nonmemberpages/lvindex.html>

Email address

rascal@rascal.asn.au

2006/07 Committee Contacts

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

From the President

Hello again and welcome to our first edition for 2007. Thank you for your continuing membership of RASCAL and your support of our activities.

A very ordinary winter in 2006, with little snow, has been followed by a very hot summer and a continuation of the drought and raging bushfires. We can only hope that conditions will soon change for the better and we'll get rain to bring relief to so many people in desperate need.

UPDATE ON LODGE FIRE SAFETY AUDIT.

In my President's Christmas letter to members I provided a status report on activities associated with our obligations to comply with the findings of the SRSC audit report.

I can now advise that Rascal has signed a contract with a Sydney based fire services company, Bettafire Protection to undertake the work. We have been advised that work will commence mid-February 2007 and should take 2-3 weeks. Unfortunately during that time we will have to close the lodge to members and that means some bookings will be affected. On behalf of the Committee, I apologise to those impacted, but it is essential that we complete this work urgently. We have struck a deal with Brindabella Ski Club to offer as alternate accommodation one of their lodges at Guthega which may be of some help.

Thank you to all the members who responded to my article in the Spring Newsletter, October 2006, and made contributions to the discussion about the various options on the Rascal website and by emails. In addition to doing the compliance work now, the Committee decided that a 5-10 year development plan for the lodge should be prepared. We will start this after the forthcoming AGM, once the audit compliance is completed. Members who would like to assist by actively participating in this task are most welcome to join us. Please let us know. There will of course, be consultation with members during the development of the plan.

WORKING BEES.

A big thank you to all who attended the last working bee in October 2006, there was a great roll-up and lots achieved. The next working bees and a write-up of the last are advertised elsewhere in this newsletter. We do need your help at working bees, so please make an effort to participate.

AGM

Also in the newsletter there is notice of this year's AGM. You are encouraged to attend. We are returning to the Southern Cross Yacht Club this year, so please give it your support. There will be elections for Committee positions.

After my 8th year as President I am not planning to nominate for next year - it's time to give someone else a go! We do welcome new members on the Committee. Please come forward if you are willing to serve on the Committee.

Wishing you all a safe and happy time in 2007.

Richard Emerton, President

RASCALS' 11th ANNUAL HIKE DE FEMME - 20-21 APRIL 2007

The Hike de Femme is an annual opportunity for Rascal women and their friends to enjoy the great outdoors and have some fun while celebrating International Women's Day. It involves a weekend at the Lodge, a hike of some 10-15 km in the Snowy region, and some wining and dining in between. This year's hike will be on Saturday 21 April.

Participants usually arrive at the Lodge on Friday night and we spend the evening arguing about the route of the hike over a glass of wine or three. Next morning we leave the Lodge at about 9.30am, usually buying a packed lunch at Nugget's Crossing on the way out. We then spend the day walking, and return exhausted to the Lodge late afternoon. We then go out for dinner that evening. Next morning (Sunday) anyone in adequate shape is welcome to participate in another hike of about 5kms before heading back to Canberra at about lunchtime.

The Lodge has been reserved that weekend for participants. If you wish to join in the fun you should book directly with the Officer Manager for the nights of Friday 20 and Saturday 21 April. You may, of course, plan to drive up to the Lodge on Saturday morning and stay only on Saturday night. In this case, you need to be there by 9am.

So dig out the hiking boots and we'll see you there!

(And if you have any queries, please contact me on (ph) 6257 6719.)

Lynne Bentley

Please complete all sections of the form and either mail to PO Box 3154, BELCONNEN DC ACT 2617, email to rascal@rascal.asn.au or fax to 02-62595980. Unsigned forms are not processed. Only **ONE** booking period per form PLEASE. (Booking form date: 1 January 2007)

1. Contact Details for Member making the booking (PLEASE PRINT)

Name: _____

Contact phone number: _____

Email: _____

(for booking confirmation)

2. Keys:

No Key 1 key I would like ____ keys (if available at the time)

I will collect a key from
30 Pitcairn St Evatt ACT on: _____(day) ____/____/2007
(date)

OR

Post key(s) to arrive by: _____(day) ____/____/2007 (date)

Post key(s) to:

3. Special Requests (eg particular rooms, Block Booking?)

4. Names of people in party	Member	Under 18?	First Night dd/mm/yy	Last Night dd/mm/yy	Winter Weekend	Winter Weeknight	Rest of Year	Total Cost
					Refer Col A (on back) Nights x Rate = Subtotal	Refer Col B (on back) Nights x Rate = Subtotal	Refer Col C (on back) Nights x Rate = Subtotal	
	Y / N	Y / N			x \$ = \$	x \$ = \$	x \$ = \$	
	Y / N	Y / N			x \$ = \$	x \$ = \$	x \$ = \$	
	Y / N	Y / N			x \$ = \$	x \$ = \$	x \$ = \$	
	Y / N	Y / N			x \$ = \$	x \$ = \$	x \$ = \$	

8. Please Sign and date

(Unsigned forms will NOT be accepted)

Signature of member

Date: _____ / 2007

7. Credit Card Details

MasterCard Visa

Name on card: _____

Card No: _____

Expiry Date: _____

Signature: _____

6. Payment Details

cheque enclosed made payable to "RASCAL Inc"

OR

Please charge my credit card

5. Charge Calculation

Subtotal Accommodation \$ _____

Plus Managers Room Surcharge (see note 2 over) + \$ _____

Minus any Vouchers - \$ _____

Minus 20% discount for 5 or more (Rest of Year only) - \$ _____

Plus \$6 postage per 2 keys + \$ _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

RASCAL Inc. - LODGE BOOKING FORM @ 1 January 2007

Send a completed form to make a confirmed booking. Use several forms for large parties. Be sure to carefully check the booking confirmation sent back to you.

“Col A”	“Col B”	“Col C”
“Winter <u>Weekend</u>” Rates per night (These rates apply to Friday & Saturday nights during the Club’s “Winter Period” – that is: from and including the June long weekend up to and including the October long weekend).	“Winter <u>Weeknight</u>” Rates per night (These rates apply from Sunday to Thursday nights during the Club’s “Winter Period” – that is: from and including the June long weekend up to and including the October long weekend).	“Rest of the Year” Rates per night (These rates apply from the Tuesday night following the October long weekend until the Thursday night prior to the June long weekend inclusive).
* Full Member \$27	* Full Member \$17	* Full Member \$12
* Summer/Junior Summer Member (see Note 1)	* Summer/Junior Summer Member (see Note 1)	* Summer Member \$12
* Junior Member \$17	* Junior Member \$12	* Junior Member \$7
* Non-Member 18 and over \$54	* Non-Member 18 and over \$29	* Non-Member 18 and over \$19
* Non Member under 18 \$34	* Non Member under 18 \$19	* Non Member under 18 \$14
Note 1: Summer Members have non-member status from the start of the June long weekend until the end of the October long weekend inclusive. During this period, these members cannot make bookings in their own right but may stay at the Lodge as guests of a full member, at non-member rates.		
Note 2: A \$10 <u>per night</u> surcharge applies all year to bookings for the Manager’s Room (Room 2). This is per night, NOT per person.		
Note 3: Block Bookings (available during “Rest of the Year” ONLY) are charged at \$460 for the first TWO nights and \$110 per night thereafter.		

Cancellation fees apply to all bookings from the time a booking has been confirmed, at the following rates:

Standard Bookings	20-14 days notice = 25% of the accom cancelled	13-7 days notice = 50% of the accom cancelled	Less than 7 days notice = No refund
Block Bookings	6-4 months notice = 25% of the charge	4-2 months notice = 50% of charge	Less than 2 months days notice = No refund

Booking Procedures:

First check the web-site www.rascal.asn.au/nonmemberpages/lvindex.html for bed availability. Members may book & confirm accommodation by emailing (preferred) or phoning or faxing the Office Manager on 02-6259 5980. An answering machine is available when the phone is unanswered – leave your name, contact and a message. For further details about bookings, refer to the RASCAL By-Laws. For every booking, a booking form must be completed and sent to the Office Manager together with full payment, within **5 days** of receipt of email confirmation of the booking, **otherwise the booking will lapse**. If you are paying by credit card, make sure you fill in all details (exactly as on your card) and sign in the credit card box area. We cannot accept forms that are not properly filled in and signed. If accommodation is booked and confirmed by phone or email less than 5 days before the booking start date, a completed booking form and cheque (or credit card details) must be provided when the Lodge keys are picked up. Key postage is not available for such short-notice bookings. Accommodation Vouchers may not be used to pay for accommodation during winter season school holidays nor for any winter weekend night and are not refundable.

Working out the cost of your stay:

On the other side of this form, enter name and details of EVERY person in your party, then complete the per-person charge calculation of the number of nights in each category, multiplied by the appropriate rate. Sub-total this, then subtract the value of any accommodation vouchers you hold. If you have 5 or more people in your party AND the booking falls in the period from Tuesday following the October long weekend and Thursday prior to the June long weekend, you may subtract a further 20% discount (on the sub-total after any vouchers have been deducted). Add \$6.00 per 1 or 2 keys if you want the key(s) posted to you (\$12 for 3 or 4 keys, \$18 for 5 or 6 keys, etc) – this amount includes return postage (by using the bar-coded **Reply Paid** label provided in the package with the keys). A receipt for your payment will be included with your keys.

Working Bee**13/14/15 October 2006****Attendees**

Gabe, Vera and Jack Bloxham, John Kennard and Margaret Bromley, Kerri West, Peter, Nicola and Stephanie Kaylock, Mike Stomps, Keith and Dianne McLaren, Tony, Meg, Jordan and Daniel Krizan, Gary, Sue and Patrick Caitcheon, and Richard Emerton

Tasks Completed

- Install screen door (this turned out to be a major task that occupied John and Tony for quite some time!) and Sails
- Removal of garden waste and Tidy front and back gardens
- Check the Deck and oiled it
- Check deck furniture and repaired it
- Deck tarps replaced
- Check and clean Bar-b-q area, check gas cylinders
- Stock take all pillows and doonas and laundering
- Check all window winders and windows, Check/fix operation of Fire doors
- Check drains, toilets and shower outlets and shower curtains,
- Check light switches and globes and replaced faulty tubes
- Clean Kitchen drawers, cupboards and stock take cutlery and crockery,
- Check exhaust fans, Check ZIP water heater, Check exit lights,
- Clean leather furniture
- Clean fridge filters
- Clean central heating filters
- And a bonus was an army of painters who made short work of repainting the games room.
- Cleaned drying room
- New washer for laundry tap
- Paper towel dispenser for ladies bathroom
- Repairs to dining chairs

The major focus was to get the lodge ready for summer.

Special thanks to all who attended, did lots of good work, excellent catering for everyone and an enjoyable après-work dinner.

Richard Emerton
President

2007 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of RASCAL INC

AGENDA

8 pm, Wednesday 4 April 2007

Lotus Room, Southern Cross Yacht Club, Yarralumla

1. Apologies
2. Confirmation of Minutes of 2006 AGM
3. Business arising from previous Minutes
4. Correspondence In/Out
5. Committee's Report to Members on the Club's affairs in 2006
 - President's Report
 - Treasurer's Report
 - Office Manager's Report
 - Public Officer's Report
 - Lodge Manager's Report
6. Motions to change the Constitution
7. General Business
8. Election of Office Bearers for 2007
 - Appointment of Returning Officer to conduct election for President
 - Election of President
 - Election of following Committee Members conducted by newly appointed President
 - Patron
 - Vice President
 - Secretary
 - Assistant Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Public Officer
 - Lodge Manager
 - Immediate Past President
 - Up to three Committee Members

Please note that the Rascal Constitution provides that:

- Only Financial Members of the Club may vote.
- Junior Members are not eligible to vote.
- Proxy voting is not permitted.
- Items of general business may be raised from the floor at the meeting.
- Nominations for Committee positions must be proposed and seconded, and may be put in writing or may be made from the floor at the meeting.

MINUTES OF THE 2006 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: 8:00 pm, 4 April 2006.

Place: Italo-Australian Club, Canberra.

Present:

Members: Richard Emerton, Linda Swift, John Kennard, Alan Laird, Clive Styles, Jack Cornell, Angela Cornell, Margaret Sharp, Ian McNeill, Tony Booth, Wal Costanzo, Jenny Emerton, Margaret Bromley, Alan Swift, Nerida Crossley, Lynne Bentley, Noel Bentley, Greg Fraser, Molly Fraser (19 Members).

There being a quorum present, Richard Emerton (Chair) declared the meeting open.

1. Apologies: Kerri West, Bruno Zimmermann, Hedy Zimmermann, Michael Stomps, Monty Fox, Colleen Fox, Rod Roberts, Judy Roberts, Mike Vale, Trish Carrol, Rahn Laird, Pam Bossard, Satch Campbell.

2. Confirmation of Minutes of 2005 AGM

Motion proposed Ian McNeill and seconded Mollie Fraser "That the Minutes of the 2005 AGM, 6 April 2005, be accepted as presented". Carried.

3. Business Arising from the 2004 AGM's Minutes.

Item 5 of previous Minutes:

- Richard Emerton replied to question raised by Tony Booth at 2005 AGM regarding decrease in accommodation receipts in 2004, yet number of bed nights increased relative to 2003. Richard's report attached to these Minutes (see page 4). Committee will endeavour to record data and receipts that this analysis will be possible in the future. Tony thanked Richard for his reply.
- Interest bearing deposit: Richard advised that \$50,000 has been deposited in an interest bearing deposit.

4. Correspondence in/out. Nil

5. Committee's Report on the Club's affair in 2005

5.1 Richard Emerton presented the President's Report (as tabled).

- General discussion of fire compliance report received from Snowy River Council.
- Membership waiting list: Tony Booth asked how long the current 5 potential members have been on the waiting list. Richard replied since November 2004, and advised reasons why wait list was introduced (difficulty getting Winter bookings; new members tend to be most active). Tony thought it was a bit tough that potential new members should have to wait so long to join the Club. Tony requested that the new Committee re-assess closure of membership, and if membership is re-opened, membership be offered according to the date potential members were wait listed and that priority be given to current Summer Members.

5.2 Linda Swift presented the Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2005 (as tabled).

5.3 Angela and Jack Cornell presented the Office Manager's report (as tabled).

- Tony Booth asked if it is possible to provide more detailed Lodge usage statistics showing number of week day and week-end usage.
- Noel Bentley suggested that off-season Lodge usage be promoted, including special interest activities, and that some funds could be allocated to such promotion.

5.4 John Kennard presented the Public Officer's Report on behalf of Bruno Zimmermann (as tabled).

5.5 Lodge Manager's Report - Nil. Rob Roberts recently resigned due to ill health.

6. Motions to Change Constitution. Nil

7. General Business.

Greg Fraser moved a vote of thanks to Richard and the Committee.

8. Election of Office Bearers for 2005.

The Chair declared vacant all elected positions on the Committee.

With the meeting's agreement, the Chair appointed Alan Swift as Returning Officer for the election of Office Bearers.

- **Election of President**

Nominee: Richard Emerton

Nominated Alan laird, Seconded Bruno Zimmermann

Richard was declared Elected.

- **Election of Patron**

Nominee: Tony Booth

Nominated Richard Emerton, Seconded Marg Sharp

Tony was declared Elected.

- **Election of Vice President**

Nominee: Alan Laird

Nominated Linda Swift, Seconded Bruno Zimmermann

Alan was declared Elected.

- **Election of Secretary**

Nominee: John Kennard

Nominated Clive Styles, Seconded Jack Cornell

John was declared Elected.

- **Election of Assistant Secretary**

Nominee: Lynne Bentley

Nominated Richard Emerton, Seconded Marg Sharp

Lynne was declared Elected.

- **Election of Treasurer**

Nominee: Linda Swift

Nominated Alan Laird, Seconded Bruno Zimmermann

Linda was declared Elected.

- **Election of Public Officer**

Nominee: Bruno Zimmermann

Nominated Linda Swift, Seconded Alan Laird
Bruno was declared Elected.

- **Election of Lodge Manager**

Nominee: Mike Stomps

Nominated Clive Styles, Seconded John Kennard

Mike was declared Elected.

- **Election of Immediate Past President** - not relevant

- **Election of up to three Committee Members**

1st Nominee: Clive Styles

Nominated Mike Stomps, Seconded John Kennard

2nd Nominee: Tim Dunnet

Nominated Richard Emerton, Seconded Jack Cornell

3rd Nominee: Ian McNeill

Nominated Richard Emerton, Seconded Jack Cornell

Clive, Tim and Ian were declared Elected.

Richard Emerton welcomed the new Committee Members.

There being no further business, Richard Emerton (Chair) thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 10:00 pm

John Kennard - Secretary

*****Action Item AGM 2005*****

Tony Booth noted that accommodation receipts for 2004 have decreased, yet number of bed nights have increased relative to 2003.

ACTION: New Committee to investigate accommodation receipts versus bed nights.

This turned out to be a non-trivial task with no obvious answer. There are more than 12 categories of bednights resulting from senior and junior members, senior and junior non-members, over three periods summer, winter weeknights and winter weekends. The price paid for a bednight can be 5, 10, 15, 25, 30, and 50 dollars depending on the category as above. The situation is complicated further by use of free accommodation vouchers, block bookings and discounts.

So, there must have been a different "mix" in 2004 compared to 2003, eg:

More summer use in 2004 versus 2003 (summer bednights are cheaper),

Greater use of free accommodation vouchers in 2004 versus 2003,

More use by children in 2004 versus 2003,

More block bookings in 2004 versus 2003,

More use of 20% discount for greater than 4 people in summer in 2004 versus 2003,

More use by members rather than guests in 2004 versus 2003.

Unfortunately the permanent data we retain is not sufficiently detailed to support the analysis required to determine which of these are the case. The booking forms that contain the raw data are destroyed for privacy reasons as they contain personal data.

Another possible explanation is the impact of the January 2003 bushfires which destroyed some of Rascal's records relating to 2002 and 2003. It is possible that, in reconstructing the records for the auditor, some data that should have been allocated to 2002 was attributed to 2003, resulting in a higher than accurate amount of accommodation receipts being reported for 2003. This would then distort the comparison with 2004.

It is also worth noting that bednights went up from 2001 to 2002 but total revenue went down from 2001 to 2002, further supporting the suggestion that receipts for 2002 were under-reported.

It is also interesting to note that accommodation receipts for 2005 are greater than 2004, whilst bednights are slightly down. So there is seldom a direct correlation.

The Committee is looking at ways of retaining sufficient data to enable us to conduct detailed analysis of this kind in the future.

Richard Emerton
President April 2006

Absence of the Office Manager

We will be taking a break from the role of Office Manager from Saturday 10th February until Sunday 26th February 2007. We are heading for Japan to stay with a close friend and (hopefully) try our luck in some power snow at Hirafu in the Niseko Hokkaido area. For the second week of this absence, the lodge is closed for construction work.

During our absence, our son Mick will be covering matters but ONLY for those members wanting a stay between 10th Feb until the lodge closes for the fire system upgrade on the 18th Feb. Mick will not be processing payments. For urgent bookings for 10-17th Feb inclusive, leave a message, spoken slowly and clearly, on the Rascal Message system (Ph 02-62595980 and wait till you get the message prompt). Otherwise, let the matter wait till our return. You can, for urgent but non-booking-related matters, contact a member of the Committee - the contact list is on page 2.

We will process, in order of receipt, all renewals, booking requests and payments received during that time on the 27th February and you will hear back from us about these shortly thereafter. We thank you for working with us on this - we need the break!

Angela and Jack