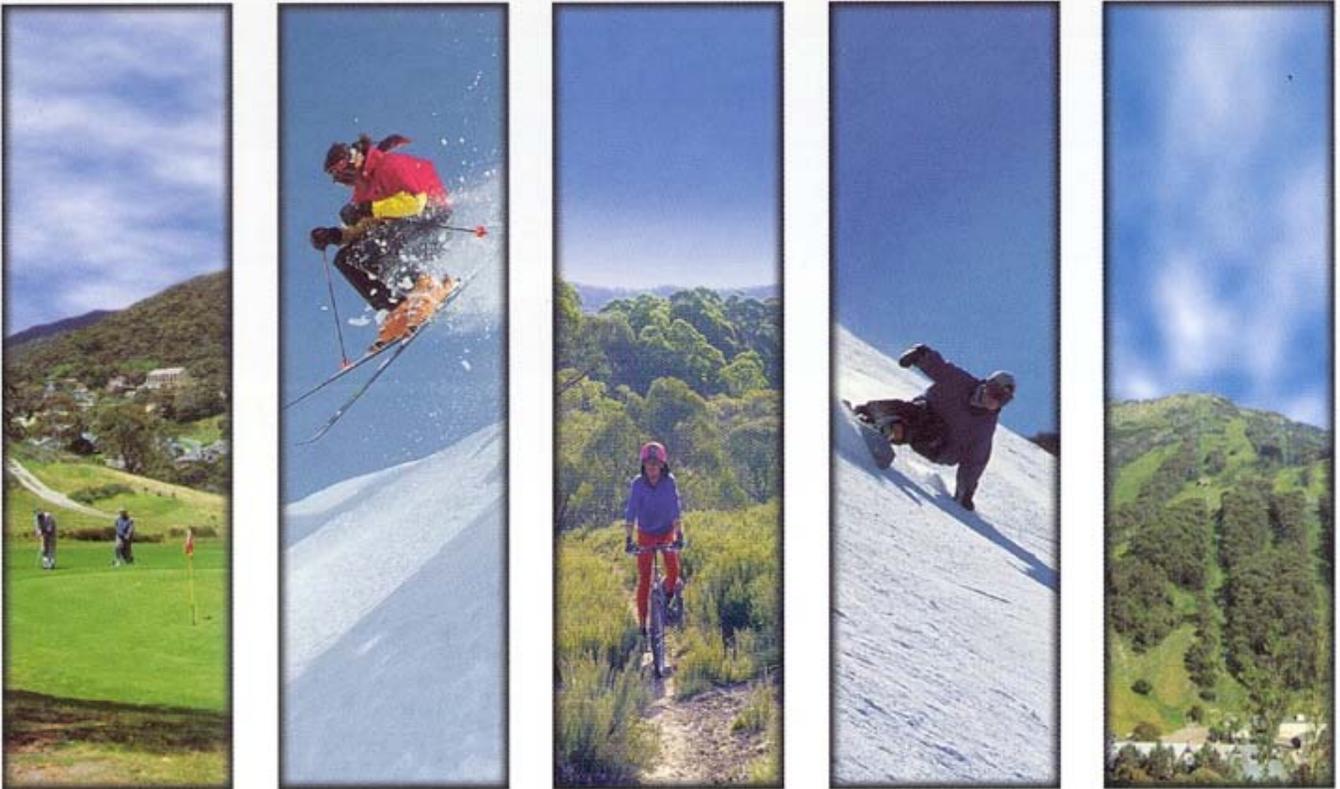


Rascal

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 2008

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Office Managers:

Kim & Tim Dunnet

Mail address:

PO Box 1700,
WODEN ACT, 2606

Phone:

(02) 6282 6912

Web address:

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Rascal Lodge:

7 Banjo Paterson Cres.
Jindabyne NSW 2627
Ph: (02) 6456-2169

Already we have spoken to quite a few members over the phone in regards to bookings and renewals and we look forward to working with you all throughout the year.



We would like to thank Jack Cornell for all of his assistance in regards to handover of the running of the business, and also a huge thank you to Alan Laird (Rascal President) for his support and guidance over the past few months – I think the “L” plates are now off and the rubber has hit the road! :O)

Welcome Note:

Hi Everyone,

Firstly we would like to introduce ourselves as the new Office Managers for Rascal Inc. Tim and I have been members of the lodge for several years with a keen interest in Snowboarding.

Just a quick reminder that we are not always available but we will try to respond to your calls and emails in a timely manner, we welcome any feedback and look forward to hearing from you soon. Cheers

Kim & Tim Dunnet

Presidents Report



Welcome to our first newsletter of 2008, and the first prepared by our new Office Managers, Kim and Tim Dunnet. I hope you like it.

The Club is undergoing significant change at the moment, both in its administration and in activities at the Lodge itself.

New Office Managers

Kim and Tim have experienced their first few months as Office Managers learning the ropes, managing the busy renewal and booking period, responding to member inquiries and generating this newsletter. They came on

board at perhaps the busiest time of the Rascal year and have been doing a splendid job.

2008 Renewals

Membership renewals are now due. Thank you to the majority of members who have already renewed. Renewal before 1 Feb attracts a \$30 voucher for accommodation so if you haven't already done so, please renew yourself, juniors and other members of your family, by logging on to the Rascal web site. Renewal requests were sent out by post or email, as appropriate, in December as part of the President's Christmas and Renewal letter.

AGM

The AGM will be held on Wednesday 26 March 2008 and, as is usual fashion, will be preceded by dinner for interested members. Further information about the AGM is contained in this newsletter. Consider joining us for dinner as this is a great way to get to know your committee and rekindle Rascal friendships.

All the Committee positions will become vacant at the annual general meeting and I strongly encourage any member that is interested in becoming more involved with the management and decision making by the Club to consider nominating for a position. All Clubs need a turnover of Committee members to maintain their vitality by introducing fresh new ideas, concepts and capabilities. Rascal is no exception.

I would also like to say a big thank you to all members of the current Committee for all of their enthusiastic contributions during the current term.

Hike de Femme

This annual feminine pilgrimage to the mountains is on again this year on 29 February to 1 March and under the expert organisation of Lynne Bentley. These events are great fun and a time for our women members to talk amongst themselves about important women things. Or so I am told.

Last Newsletter by Post

The Committee is trialing newsletter distribution to members instead of postal mail. This is cheaper for the Club, both in mail costs and in Office

Manager costs to print and package newsletters in bulk. Printed newsletters will still be mailed to those members without an email address and those members specifically requesting a posted newsletter.

Web site

The web site, particularly the Members Only Pages section, is undergoing constant change to improve its user friendliness and robustness. The site appears well received and is significantly reducing the Office Manager workload. It is not all plain sailing however and there have been a few glitches from time to time.

Changes at the Lodge - Keyless Entry

The new keyless entry system has been working very well. A number of members have commented about the ease of accessing the Lodge by using the internet to make and pay for a booking and of not needing to pick up or drop off a key. You can book right now and leave in five minutes if you like. For security reasons the key code is changed every week.

Middle level bathroom

Lodge users will notice that the middle level showers have been re-waterproofed. Thanks to Ray Atkin for organising and managing this activity. The re-waterproofing will stop water leakage from the showers into the hallway and the adjoining bedroom and paves the way to replace the worn out carpet on that level - which we hope to have completed prior to the winter season. A similar refurbishment is required for the bottom level showers and this is scheduled for next year as our finances will not currently stretch that far.

Security Screens

New security screens are also being installed on the top level sliding door and kitchen-deck door to improve air flow during summer. Again thank you to Ray Atkin for managing and overseeing this process.

Enjoy the Lodge this year. I look forward to meeting you at the AGM and perhaps voting for you for the 2008 Committee !

Alan Laird

President

Stay in touch – Rascal is increasingly moving on-line

Rascal is increasingly moving on-line and will send renewal requests and newsletters out by email.

If you don't have internet access let the Office Manager know – Stay in touch

In promoting on-line activity, Rascal is always conscious, that some Members do not have internet access or much prefer the personal interaction a pleasant Office Manager provides. **In these cases please let the Office Manager know that you want paper copies of renewal forms and other relevant Rascal communications.**

The Office Manager is happy to make bookings and process renewals and respond to Member requests for those Members who choose to not operate on-line, **however Members should be aware that it may be a couple of days before the Office Manager attends to your request.**

Japan 2007 - 2008

A letter from Barbara, Mike and the boys:

Hi Kim and Tim,

Greetings from Barb, Will and the two Michaels. We have spent the last six weeks in Japan with only one week to go before returning to the OZ summer. We have toured around for the first two weeks. Getting about has been a lot less daunting than anticipated. Relatively easy, fast, cheap and efficient.



We are staying in a lodge in our own room in Hakuba for five weeks and have season passes at Happone Ski resort. We have plenty of snow but it has not snowed as often as we would have liked. It is snowing now and will

snow for the next 5 days for a last hoorah. The lodge owner lets us use old powder skis when we want. We have had full sunshine, prefrontal rain and a huge fall of one and a half metres in the valley at new year. Visibility is excellent, the worst days affect only the top one or two lifts. Temperatures are down to about minus 8 in celsius. Wind is uncommon except up high or in occasional gusts. Infrastructure is rusty and the ski areas have not recovered financially from the 1998 Olympics. Safety bars are non existent on double chairs. Gondolas and 85 model doppelmeier high speed quads are to be found. From a handful of Australians in 1996 there are now a hundred or so around even a lifty.



Unfortunately a snowboarder asphyxiated in Happone after he fell face down and his mates couldn't reach him in time. We became bogged on piste even on steep slopes and were happy to find powder board and ski tracks out.

We three boys have taken a harden up backcountry tour to the crest of one of the few lower gentle passes and were amazed how extreme conditions were on top. We had guides, trekker bindings and skins on our borrowed powder skis. Out of bounds everywhere is extreme and avalanche beacons, probes and shovels are a minimum along with experience, training or guides.



There is plenty of powder to be had inbounds when it snows and those in the know with the skills are still finding it many days after it stops snowing. The fatter skis

make it easy for anyone to ski deep snow. It appears steep trees or out of bounds require further skill.



There are onsens everywhere and we keep finding nicer ones. All the ones we have been to have both inside and outside pools. The temperatures have been perfect. The boys are keen to go after being unsure at first.

The Japanese are polite and pleasant and we all bow at one another and exchange pleasantries. The cleanliness is bizarre particularly the trains and stations. Food is great, usually cheap and once inedible.

We have survived so far with limited damage, a great experience to enjoy and we would recommend Japan to all Rascal members.

Michael, Barbara and sons.

Rascal Inc. AGM

Wednesday 26 March 08

8:00 PM

***Southern Cross Yacht
Club***

**Lotus Bay, Mariner Place
Yarralumla ACT 2600**

A table has been reserved for Rascal members for a **Pre-AGM dinner at 6.15 PM** at the at the Southern Cross Yacht Club, meals can be ordered on the day, please **RSVP: 18th March** by either emailing Linda Swift (laswift@ozemail.com.au) **or** the Rascal Office Manager (OfficeManager@rascal.asn.au) (ph): 02 62826912

This year's Annual General Meeting of Rascal Inc. will be combined with the annual dinner at the Canberra Southern Cross Yacht Club, Lotus Bay, Mariner Place, Yarralumla ACT 2600

The date is **Wednesday 26 March 2008**.

All Rascal members and their guests are invited to the pre-AGM dinner at the restaurant from 6: 15 pm. A table will be booked under 'Rascal members' at the restaurant. There is no set menu or prepayment for the dinner as in previous years. Member can order from the restaurant menu and pay for your meal on the night. The menu can be viewed on the Yacht Club web site. To help with the booking numbers could you email Linda Swift on laswift@ozemail.com.au or the Rascal Office Manager by 18 March, however bookings are not essential.

The AGM will start at 8pm in the function room. Members wishing to attend the AGM but not the dinner will be welcomed with complimentary tea/coffee and a cake.

The evening promises to provide a great opportunity to meet with old and new members, catch up with friends and elect your new committee for 2008.

Make a note in your diary for **Wed 26 March from 6:15 pm**.

AGM Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of 2007 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 2008

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.

Motion to Amend Clause 6.6.2 of the Constitution

On behalf of the Committee the President will propose a motion at the AGM to amend Clause 6.6.2 of the Constitution. The current clause reads:

6.6.2 Summer Members shall have the same rights, privileges and responsibilities as Full Members for the period commencing on the first Tuesday following the long weekend in October until the Friday immediately proceeding the long weekend in June, inclusive.

The motion is to replace the current clause with:

6.6.2 Summer Members shall have the same rights, privileges and responsibilities as Full Members for all months of the year other than July and August.

The reason for the motion is two fold:

Firstly, at its November 2007 meeting the Committee restructured booking rates to better accord with actual seasonal demand, rather than traditional seasonal definitions. This meant that instead of winter rates extending from the June to October long weekends, peak rates now only apply for July and August. Applying higher rates outside this period was seen as counter productive as few skiers use the Lodge in June, September and October and the Club would benefit by encouraging non-skier usage.

The proposal is therefore to enable Summer Members to book to the Lodge outside of the peak July and August period. At present the Constitution only allows Summer Members to book the lodge outside of the June long weekend to October long weekend period.

Secondly, the proposal would also attract more summer memberships - something the Committee is keen to do as a way of increasing Lodge revenue and Lodge usage and without impacting on the availability of beds during the peak winter period.

Election of Office Bearers Elections will be held for:

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

A number of the current Committee are expected not to stand again in 2008. If you would like information about what each position on the Committee is responsible for, please contact Ray Atkin, Secretary, who will provide copies of duty statements for each position. Ray can be contacted at secretary@rascal.asn.au.

NB: 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.



RASCALS' 12th ANNUAL

HIKE DE FEMME

29th Feb - 1st March
2008



Calling all Rascal Femmes! Our annual Hike is on again, on the weekend of 29 Feb/1 March 2008. 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 kms in the Snowy region, and some wining and dining in between.

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 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 around lunchtime.

The Lodge has been reserved that weekend for participants. If you wish to join in the fun you should book directly on the web site for the nights of Friday 29 Feb and Saturday 1 March. 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.

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

Lynne Bentley



RAYS REVIEW:

Waterproofing and retiling of the female shower room is completed, providing an enhanced shower experience for the ladies and stopping leakage into the bedroom and carpet. Other maintenance works are proceeding.

These current works and the recently completed fire safety upgrade are indicators of the finite life of the existing building. We must direct our attention to replacement of the building in the long term and in the medium term to increasing bed capacity on the site.

The existing building was already redundant in 1990, probably earlier if one cared to delve into Ordinance 70, the old NSW Building Code. Sooner or later the authorities will impose another requirement to upgrade which will not be economically feasible for such an old structure.

Ray Atkin

WORKING BEE DATES:

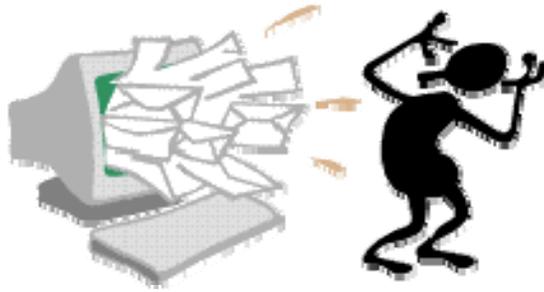
22nd – 23rd February 2008

2nd – 3rd May 2008

24th – 25th October 2008

* If you are able to help out at on any of these dates please let us know





Give us some feedback by:

Writing to: Rascals Inc Feedback
 PO Box 1700
 WODEN ACT 2606

OR

Emailing us at: rascal@rascal.asn.au: