



# RANSKI CLUB

adventure : recreation : relaxation



## RAN Ski Club Newsletter

**April 2011**

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### Presidents Note

After the lower than optimal occupancy of our lodges last year and looking at the membership profile of the Club, we've noticed that we are lacking younger members of the Permanent Navy. To address this, the Board have decided to approach the various Navy training entities including HMA establishments CERBERUS (RAN Recruit School / PTI School etc), CRESWELL and WATSON as well as ADFA and RAAF WAGGA to attempt to increase the club membership's base by:

- a. waive the subscription fee for the first year of membership for all PN members of Midshipmen and Seaman rank;
- b. offer the use of its three lodges for organised adventure training and Defence seminars and workshops during summer; and
- c. offer all PN members a 'try before you buy' scheme, allowing them and their immediate families to book accommodation at guest rates, as Guest of the Manager.

We will also be offering Temporary membership to foreign service people and their families who are serving in Australia.

If you are reading this, then it is more than likely you are already a member and you may think it doesn't apply to you. Not so!

The most effective recruiting mechanism we have is the word of mouth from Members who tell their friends and shipmates about the Club. I ask that each of you help by spreading the word to them about the benefits of membership of the RAN Ski Club. If you are unsure of the benefits, just go online and check out the prices

for accommodation being sought by other operators. I'm sure you'll find we are very competitive.

### New Club Constitution

As previously advised, the Board will now be seeking to ratify the new Constitution at the 2011 AGM. Two documents have been emailed to all members for whom we have an email address, for comment prior to the May 2011 AGM. To save a few trees, we are not including the documents in the Dec 10 or this mailout, but if you haven't received the email Bulletin for some reason and want an electronic copy, please email me at [ranskiinfo@bigpond.com](mailto:ranskiinfo@bigpond.com) and I'll send you copies. If you don't have email access, phone me on 4237 6687 or write to the Club office at PO Box 3484, Manuka, ACT 2603.

### Perisher Redevelopment

The Redevelopment Project is moving ahead fast. We plan to seek tenders in April with responses due by mid May. This will then allow us to consider the Project and costs involved with the aim of signing the contract before the end of this ski season. We would then be able to complete building before the 2012 season commences. Discussions with short listed builders gives us some confidence in this timeframe.

While we are planning to rebuild our lodge, the resort also has big plans for the future. Have a look at their website at

[http://www.perisher.com.au/winter/the\\_future/index.html](http://www.perisher.com.au/winter/the_future/index.html)

## Mt Buller Lodge

A group of our dedicated and hard working members helped Buller kick off the work party program over the weekend of the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of February. We quickly got down to work stripping out the other half of the kitchen in order to complete the kitchen refurbishment project before the start of the 2011 season. It was a great team effort and thanks go to all those who gave up their time for this major refurbishment activity.

The weekend also gave those members in attendance an opportunity to say thanks to Narelle and Mal Peters for the wonderful contribution they have both made to the RAN Ski Club, and in particular, the Mt Buller Lodge over the last 15 years of Mal's stewardship as VP of Victoria has seen him and his Sub Committees' accomplish so much. We wish them both well as they relocate to the North Coast of NSW. I am sure I join with all members in saying that we all look forward to seeing them both back at Buller during the ski season and in the years to come.



*Shane, Brian, Richard, Ashley and Dave hard at it in the kitchen*

The Lodge is in great shape due to the hard work of those who regularly attend our work party weekends and therefore only a minor level of maintenance and housekeeping is required this year. Victorian members who can give a little of their time are encouraged to consider coming up for one of the remaining work party's planned between now and the opening of the season. Work party dates are on the Club's website [www.ranskiclub.com.au](http://www.ranskiclub.com.au)

This year Buller Lodge will be hosting the Annual General Meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> May. The AGM will be followed by the post AGM dinner. As members from interstate will be attending this event, it is important that you let the Club's Booking Officer know that you will be attending and require overnight

accommodation. Buller has an enviable reputation for fine hospitality. Volunteers to assist with preparing the catering for the post AGM dinner are eagerly sought. Please let me know if you can assist on the day.

The Lodge's Annual Race Day is planned for the weekend of the 13th August. Our Race Director Richard Skews will be hard at it again planning for this event as it is one of the highlights of the season in the Lodge community. The occasion merits your participation as it is a great time to get together for a bit of friendly competition. Please mark this date in your diary and book early to come on up to Buller for what promises to be an exciting and enjoyable weekend.

Once again I would like to thank all members for their continued support of the Club and I look forward to seeing you all in the near future whether it be at work parties or during the 2011 ski season.

*Steve Sewell (Acting Vice President Victoria)*

## Around the Resorts

A troll around the internet doesn't show much new happening in our resorts this season though there are significant plans for the future. There will probably be more news in the next couple of months, so it's worth making the resort websites 'Favourites' or 'Bookmarks' on your browser.

## New Perisher village is 'shot in the arm'

Reported in the Canberra Times recently, the NSW Government has given its approval for an 800-bed village at Perisher, which is expected to generate up to \$2 million in local income.

Member for Monaro Steve Whan announced that the Government had awarded the tender to Perisher Village Development, the only developer to submit an application, after months of intense negotiations.

The new village will be built in several stages, with the first to include 66 apartments, 218 beds and 1000sqm of retail space.

This would expand over time to include 800 beds and a central hub providing retail, commercial and entertainment space.

Mr Whan could not confirm when construction would start but said the centre would be on the existing Perisher car park, with plans under way for replacement parking.

The \$112million project would be a shot in the arm for the local economy and tourism sector.

"The construction of stage one will mean 65 full-time jobs in the local region and 35 jobs elsewhere in NSW," he said.

"The addition of the first 218 beds is likely to translate to another 16,000 skiers taking to the slopes, generating a further \$500,000 in local income with about four times that amount expected when it's all finished."

Perisher's Village Centre has been in the pipeline for at least three years and has already received some opposition.

The National Parks Association of NSW has previously expressed fears that further development in Kosciuszko National Park will "spoil the quality of the park experience by creating small townships within".

The NSW Government also drew criticism in December last year after it was discovered its Environment Department fined itself \$80,000 for spilling 150,000 litres of partially treated sewage into a creek in Kosciuszko National Park.

Mr Whan said the development would be undertaken "within the strictest environmental standards".

Perisher Ski Resort Chief Executive Peter Brulisauer said the village will provide a balance of recreation, education and retail opportunities.

"Most importantly, the village is the centrepiece of our vision to create Australia's best four-season mountain resort based on ecologically sustainable development principles," Brulisauer said.

"The village will be a major economic boost to the Snowy Mountains region," he added. "The village development complements the AUD \$30 million Perisher has invested into snowmaking, upgraded resort facilities and improved environmental management over the past five years to ensure that Perisher remains Australia's favourite ski resort."

Brulisauer stressed that environmental principles have governed the development plan. "The village development has been subject to rigorous environmental assessment, and has been modified in response to various submissions and consultations with Government and stakeholders over many years. We are one step closer to having a village development that delivers on our vision for a world class, ecologically sustainable all-year-round resort," Brulisauer said.

## Thredbo

Meanwhile Thredbo has announced that they will be operating an online purchasing system. Visitors will be able to pre-purchase tickets, lessons, Thredbo Card and season passes. Once the pass is loaded skiers go through "specially designed gates that verify the pass ensuring a quick smooth ride to the lift" according to the Thredbo online brochure for 2011.

Sounds to me like the electronic systems used in other parts of the world (eg Japan) for some years now.

## What Vehicles Are Best For Driving In The Snow?

(From OnTheSnow.com)

The driver is more important than the car under any driving conditions, but never more than on snow and ice, when experience, skill, and caution are needed to match slick roads and poor visibility. Cold, dry snow often gives good traction, while heavier, wetter snow is slick and treacherous. This is the norm in Australia.

Only years of driving allows people to develop a feel for the conditions, and the experience to handle a car with confidence. The primary rules: Drive more slowly than normal, drive at a greater distance from the car ahead, start to stop or turn earlier, and handle the car more gently.

Still, some cars are just better than others in snow. Front-wheel-drive cars are better than rear-wheel drive vehicles, because they pull through the snow rather than push, and the weight of the engine helps give traction. Four-wheel-drive vehicles go better than two-wheel-wheel vehicles, especially uphill in slick conditions, but the extra drive train makes them heavier and they take longer to stop.

Many people give all-wheel-drive vehicles an edge over all others for driving in snow, although some models go through tires at a fast clip, and burn more gas overall than two-wheel drive vehicles.

One of the biggest differences between all-wheel-drive (AWD) vehicles and four-wheel-drive vehicles (4WD) is in who decides when all four wheels get power. With AWDs, electronic sensors play this role; with 4WDs, it's the driver who throws a lever or flips a switch to give power to all four wheels.

AWD is always "on," meaning that the electronic sensors can send power to all four wheels anytime they decide it's necessary.

4WD is engaged manually, and usually has a high range for highway speeds, and a low range for driving off-road or in heavy snow.

Both systems work well in slippery conditions. Indeed, both are superb, especially when compared to the performance of rear-wheel-drive vehicles on snow or ice. AWD may have the edge for suburban drivers who don't face snow and ice very often; 4WD may have the edge in places where winter comes early, stays long, and is fairly harsh. Both systems affect gas mileage because they add weight to the vehicles, and both mean more wear and tear on tires.

Vans of any type are poor snow vehicles, because they have little weight over the drive wheels. The best snow vehicles are probably those that combine all-wheel-drive with computer technology that detects when cars are skidding and wheels spinning without traction, and adjusting power accordingly.

### **Back Page Fillers**

A sales rep, an administration clerk, and their manager are walking to lunch when they find an antique oil lamp. They rub it and a Genie comes out. The Genie says, "I'll give each of you just one wish" "Me first! Me first!" says the admin. clerk. "I want to be in the Bahamas, driving a speedboat, without a care in the world." Poof! She's gone. "Me next! Me next!" says the sales rep. "I want to be in Hawaii, relaxing on the beach with my personal masseuse, an endless supply of Pina Colodas and the love of my life." Poof! He's gone. "OK, you're up," the Genie says to the manager. The manager says, "I want those two back in the office after lunch."

Moral of the story: Always let your boss have the first say.

This explains a lot...

On the first day, God created the dog and said, "Sit all day by the door of your house and bark at anyone who comes in or walks past. For this, I will give you a life span of twenty years."

The dog said, "That's a long time to be barking. How about only ten years and I'll give you back the other ten"?

So God agreed.

On the second day, God created the monkey and said, "Entertain people, do tricks, and make them laugh. For this, I'll give you a twenty-year life span."

The monkey said, "Monkey tricks for twenty years? That's a pretty long time to perform. How about I give you back ten like the Dog did"?

And God agreed.

On the third day, God created the cow and said, "You

must go into the field with the farmer all day long and suffer under the sun, have calves and give milk to support the farmer's family. For this, I will give you a life span of sixty years."

The cow said, "That's kind of a tough life you want me to live for sixty years. How about twenty and I'll give back the other forty"?

And God agreed again.

On the fourth day, God created man and said, "Eat, sleep, play, marry and enjoy your life. For this, I'll give you twenty years."

But man said, "Only twenty years? Could you possibly give me my twenty, the forty the cow gave back, the ten the monkey gave back, and the ten the dog gave back. That makes eighty, okay"?

"Okay," said God, "You asked for it."

So that is why for our first twenty years, we eat, sleep, play and enjoy ourselves. For the next forty years, we slave in the sun to support our family. For the next ten years, we do monkey tricks to entertain the grandchildren. And for the last ten years, we sit on the front porch and bark at everyone.

Life has now been explained to you. Now go forth.

