PERISHER HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER

Issue 8 Winter 2012

PERISHER
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

President's Notes

The AGM in February saw a change in the committee, with Garry Huggett retiring and Chris Brangwin, a member of Munjarra, taking his place. Our thanks to Garry for his contribution and guidance in the Society's formative years. Read more of Chris's background elsewhere in this newsletter.

Once more the Annual Dinner was enjoyed by all and my sincere thanks to each of the speakers, whose entertaining insights and experiences from the 1960s was of course the high point of the evening. Thredbo identities were present in numbers and it was great to see so many former leading lights of the ASF, NSWSA and Ski Council. It was good to see old faces and meet new ones. Thank you all for your support. The White Spider Restaurant at Eiger proved to be an excellent venue.

With the continuing success of the Annual Dinner, the committee has re-confirmed the June Long Weekend as the date for this event. However, next year it will move to the Sunday night, 9 June 2013. The venue is to be announced but you can mark it in your diaries now.

The PHS display case in the Skitube Perisher Terminal has been enhanced by the addition of a TV screen. Perhaps you have film or video that we can add to the presentation.

Zali Steggall, one of Perisher's home grown Olympians, has generously offered the Society memorabilia she has gathered over her racing life, including four Olympics. There is an exciting move afoot to display this collection and other racing memorabilia in a location to be announced.

This year marks the 60th running of the wonderful Perisher Cup inter-club competition. The date is set for 15 September 2012. Start rounding up your four member teams and remember that each skier competes in each of the three events – Cross-country, Alpine and Jump.

Current history gathering projects include Club Lodges, Commercial Business, and the Park itself. Has your club responded or were you involved in a business? Call for a chat and let's take it from there.

Philip Woodman – President
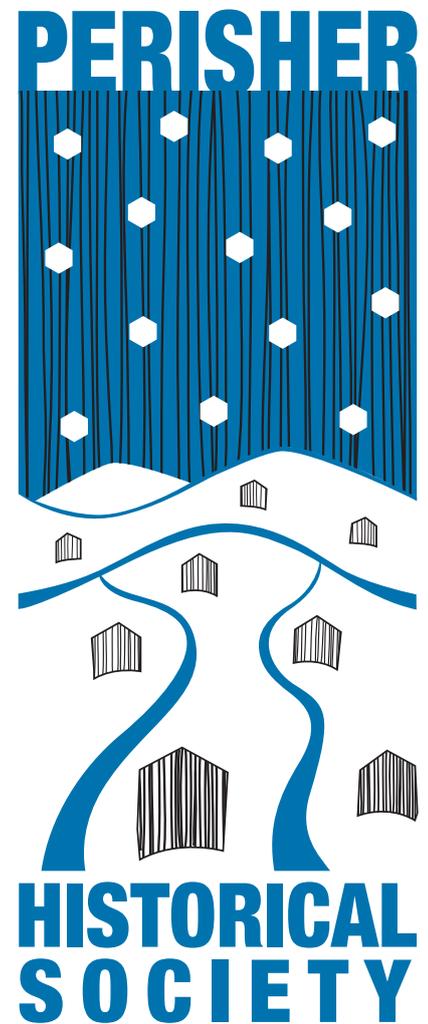
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50 Wonderful Years

By Sally Miller

With the arrival of electricity in the Perisher Range in 1960, an increasing number of sites were released for lease around the Valley. This issue looks at a number of these Perisher lodges that are celebrating their 50th anniversaries around this time.

Whereas a total of 14 lodges had been built in the Valley by the end of the 1950s, around this number were constructed each year through the sixties. Of course Perisher was then still a fledgling venture, offering T-bars and pomas as the main lifts to the top of the runs. The Perisher Double Chair, a new development, arrived in 1961, only 20-odd years after the first chairlift was developed in the USA.

I was privileged to have the opportunity to discuss the foundation and lives of many of the lodges featured here with current and original members. Their stories are a combination of personal memories and historical facts, providing a window back to a time when things were simpler and challenges came from the environment rather than bureaucracy. Building a lodge beyond 'civilization' was an adventure that brought together groups of like-minded families, friends, colleagues, neighbours and, sometimes, strangers. Many of these lodges survive due to the remaining founding members and the descendants of those adventurous souls, but others have changed considerably over the years and are now cared for by new generations, families and young people with very little contact with the original members.

As a younger person exploring these anniversaries and the history involved in such a significant event, it is sad to see and hear the wearying of these former daring doers. They built lodges in incredibly difficult conditions, made worse when the winter weather arrived, yet they all spoke glowingly of these times and the friendships forged and memories created. These are the people we should be holding high in our communities for their spirit and the lessons we can all learn from them. Personally, and on behalf of the PHS, I would like to celebrate the efforts of these people as much as the structures they created.

All these clubs have great stories regarding the huge snowfall of 1964, including climbing out 1st floor windows to go skiing, snowmobile trips to transport food to Perisher from Sponars and even parts of lodges collapsing under the weight of the snow and having to be rebuilt. It's been a long time since we've seen snow like that. For these, then fledgling, clubs and lodges to push through and onwards in such conditions is a testament to their love of the region and of the sport of skiing.

The Perisher Historical Society wishes all lodges celebrating their half centuries a very happy birthday and may the next 50 years provide the following generations with as much adventure, respite and fond memories as the first 50.

Beachcombers

This hut's history starts with the enthusiasm for skiing of Rob Grantham. His first taste, at the runs at Sponars in 1953, started him on a path that led to the development of a lodge less than 10 years later. He was joined in this endeavour by his wife, Beverley, and his friends Carl Matthes, Carl Martin, Danny Thompson, Ian Boydell, Les Genner and their wives. Additional friends and friends of friends joined the group until there were 39 founding members. Application for a site was made to the Kosciuszko State Park Trust (KSPT) during the winter of 1959. In May 1960 they were notified that Site 12, Stage 1 was available for their lease. The intrepid Rob, Carl and Ian set off the very next day to inspect this offering. While Site 12 was adequate, they preferred Site 8, which had been allocated to a different lodge. Due to a technicality and following approval from the KSPT, they were allowed to take over the preferred site.

The Lodge, named Beachcombers by Eric Wright of Radio 2UE, was designed by Ian Boydell to be very economical, with a maximum of 16 beds in self-contained rooms, with an additional toilet for visitors and to cater for the needs of those staying in the overflow or emergency accommodation in the loft. The construction was completed by 20 or so of the member families (and an intermittently reliable truck) in six months in order to be open for business in the winter of 1962.

The life of this Lodge so far has been characterised by family and community, with an atmosphere of generosity, sharing and taking turns with the necessities such as cooking and providing food. Renovations during the 1980s built two bedrooms, taking the total to six, and added a living room, extended the lounge room and rebuilt the kitchen. The family and community feel of this lodge was exemplified by the scattering of ashes of a young member who died well before her

time but felt a special bond with the Beachcombers Lodge. It's a common desire amongst this tight-knit community.

This Lodge began with a 'rule' that children couldn't go to the Lodge until they could 'tie their own boots, carry their own skis up the hill and shower at night on their own' which was usually at about 6 years of age. Now they are looking at welcoming their fourth generation. In due recognition of such a strong history held together, sometimes with araldite, over 50 years, many members will be gathering in Mudgee at founding member Bob Oatley's vineyard for a dinner including photographs and speeches. At least 10 founding members are expected to attend and an anniversary sticker has been created from the old parka badge designed in the late 1960s to commemorate this event.

The Beachcombers anniversary sticker, created to commemorate 50 years, inspired by the old parka badge designed in the late 1960s.

Boonoona

The history of Boonoona Lodge is intimately entwined with that of the City Tattersall's Club. It began with a cooperative of City Tattersall's members formed in 1961. This co-op began with 33 members but grew to 80 before the Lodge opened in winter 1962. The cooperative and the Lodge were named Boonoona, an Aboriginal word for 'white ground' and a very apt name for

a ski lodge. The directors elected at the formative meeting of the co-op were: Kevin Martin, Barry Nesbitt, Ted Helier, John Moore, Steve Parry, Russell Betts, John Williams and Barry O'Connor.

The Lodge initially consisted of a dining room and kitchen on the first floor, manager's quarters and two single bedrooms on the second floor and two larger rooms at the top of the stairs, one for men and the other for women. Members at this time were all male and for their 70 guineas fees and debentures they gained the option for three bookings per season which could be spent as either three full weeks for a single member or one week for the member plus two guests. The cost for accommodation in 1962 was 18 guineas per week which would be approximately $38 today.

In 1966 a resolution was passed by the City Tatts committee to purchase the assets of the Boonoona Ski Club co-op and retain it as an amenity for all City Tatts members. This cost the princely sum of 14,394 pounds and included an agreement to undertake extensions to the Lodge.

The intervening 50 years have been marked by triumph and tragedy. The managers of this lodge have played a significant role in the atmosphere and the Lodge's greatest tragedy occurred at the end of the 1962 season when then-manager Wally Fick died in a skiing accident. The triumphs have come from the impressive list of highly achieving athletes, in both international and national arenas, predominantly for cross country skiing, amongst its members. This list includes Camille Melvey (over 20 national titles), David Hislop (1984, 1988 Olympics), Vladimir Skop and

Chris Darlington. Alex Almoukov (2010 Olympics) and Lucy Glanville (Winter Youth Olympic Games 2012), members of the National Biathlon and Cross Country Teams, are the highest profile current members.

Boonoona's 50th birthday in 2011 marked another significant anniversary, namely the 30th anniversary of Jeff Davies as manager of the Lodge. He began as a single man in 1981 and has continued in the role, welcoming his (now) wife Lynette as chef in 1989 and then raising their daughters, Peta and Tory, within the Boonoona community. This double anniversary was celebrated with a function at the City Tattersall's Club in Sydney in May 2011 attended by over 175 past and present members.

Boonoona in earlier days.

Dulmison

In 1961 there was a shift in the means by which electricity was supplied to the Perisher Valley when power supply company Dulmison Australia installed a high voltage cable from Guthega Power Station to Perisher. A group of Dulmison employees quickly established the Dulmison Ski Club and Lodge, designed to provide enjoyment in the mountains at a reasonable cost to members, their families and their friends. In 1961, that membership subscription was $140 and with 120 members and a bank loan, a small lodge was built.

Despite its modest size, Dulmison was big on service, being one of only a few clubs in the early sixties which operated with a lodge manager on hand to provide meals and basic servicing during the winter season.

In the years since, the building has been upgraded and extended four times. It now offers a mix of 20 ensuite beds and bunks with ample living facilities as well as the lodge manager's flat.

Early days at Dulmison.

Geebung
Named after the Banjo Paterson poem *The Geebung Polo Club*, this Lodge celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2011. Its final design, by Mick Cox, was created within three weeks after the NPWS reviewed the lodge site and decreased its total dimensions by half. The three storey lodge (including the above-ground basement) was one of the last tall buildings allowed in Perisher Valley at that time. Although it would likely not satisfy today's safety requirements, it was warm and worked well for the residents, even if it did sway a little in blizzards and gales.

The most outstanding happening for the Lodge and its members, for all the wrong reasons, was the razing of the Lodge to the ground in 1977. The fire took all of 20 minutes to completely destroy the building. Its timing was fortuitous though, as visitor changeover time meant most guests had already left or not yet arrived so no lives were lost and only one set of personal items was burnt. The replacement lodge was designed by Malcolm Stanton and built within six months, preventing the Club from missing a season on the snow.

The current directors include the son and granddaughter of the founding chairman of the Club - Hugh Hamilton - demonstrating the continued involvement of the original families and their descendants.

Hus-ski
The building of this lodge was overseen by Ronald Clinton but the work was mostly done by member volunteers led by Ron Inwood and Ian Ward. Ron and Ian were also the founding members of the Club with Bill Hargreaves and about 20 others. When the lodge, which opened with the first paid visitors in 1961, was first constructed it was a small 12 person lodge known as the chook shed, partly thanks to its bright blue colour and the one way sloping roof. At that time it was approximately one third of its current size. A number of renovations have seen the lodge grow in size and comfort although the number of beds hasn't changed. A contractor was employed to undertake the first renovation in the 1980s to satisfy the NPWS minimum bedroom specifications but all renovations since, including the beautiful bay window in 1996, were undertaken by Ian Ward. Ian remains an active member and is the current President.

The site for the Lodge was chosen by Neville Gare of the KSPT and the name was decided by a competition amongst the 25 founding members. The membership of this lodge has changed considerably over the 50-odd years of its existence with a fair turnover of members. The original membership has grown to the approximately 100 members listed today and about eight of the original members still visit the Lodge from time to time although not necessarily to ski.

Highlights of the early days included the balls held in the Sky Lounge in Sydney, the home town of most of the members, even today. More recently Luke Hargreaves, a renowned Australian windsurfer, brought the Club into prominence when he won a professional ski race.

Hus-ski circa 1963.

Mirrabooka
Mirrabooka was begun when two independent groups of employees of the NSW Lands Department (Goulburn and Sydney) learnt of each others interest in establishing a lodge. They combined forces, selected a site over the Easter Weekend of 1960 and incorporated the club on 1 February 1961.

Mirrabooka is a small family club lodge (12 beds), designed by Ernie and Lorna Phillips, who made use of their knowledge of an earlier lodge in the Perisher area. It originally consisted of 2x2 bunk rooms, 2x4 bunk rooms, 2 bathrooms, a living/dining/recreation room and a small

kitchen upstairs plus a lobby, a drying room and ski room, food store and toilet downstairs.

It was built by a few stalwart volunteers from the original 68 members. Starting in January 1962, with the major construction work by H & H Constructions, the project was supervised by architect member David Hurley and, although tested in very rough camping conditions for a part of the '62 season, was first open for business for the 1963 season, making next year the official 50th anniversary. Mirrabooka's earlier neighbour Orana helped with accommodation during construction, a favour that was reciprocated quite soon whilst Orana rebuilt after a fire.

The granite facing to lower levels had to wait till 1967 and an external deck to the upper level was added in 1969. Minor changes and upgrades, mainly repairs to timber components and adding fire requirements, were made over the intervening years until the main area lease extensions were granted in 1995. Member levies and borrowings funded the main renovation in 1997 using Hal Pratt as architect and Trinder Alpine Constructions as builders. These works converted bunk rooms to bedrooms, adding two more bedrooms and a bathroom downstairs, filling in part of the unbuilt site, enlarging the kitchen and bringing the ski/drying rooms upstairs which effectively brought the entry to the upper level. Mirabooka remains a 12 bed lodge, 49 years after it was first built. Most memberships have been inter family transfers; membership is now 94 with several originals still skiing

Tambaroora
The story of Tambaroora is linked to member Rory McDonald who has been going to the mountains since 1936 when he was a Scots College student. Later, while studying medicine, Rory joined a university alpine club - the Snow Revellers - and together with a few others, applied to build a lodge when land was opened up at Guthega. They missed out then but when Perisher was later opened up, their application proved successful, allocated by the then Parks Superintendent, Neville Gare.

Fifty members were gathered and a six bed, family-sized two-storey lodge was built with three bedrooms, a dining room, bathroom and kitchen upstairs; and one large room for the snow gear, a laundry and toilet downstairs. The configuration and size remain unchanged.

Five families originally made use of the lodge in rotation and the majority of visitors these days are third generation members of those same families. Sitting quietly in the trees next to the Matterhorn, Tambaroora has escaped dramatic happenings during the last fifty years, holding itself in good shape thanks to volunteer maintenance (often Rory and sons).

As for the lodge's name, it comes from the Henry Lawson poem, *Tambaroora Jim*, about a bush publican who never turned away a hungry customer, until the bailiff closed him down. Tambaroora is named for his generosity.

Yaraandoo
Like many of the Perisher Valley lodges, Yaraandoo came into existence thanks to exposure to a wonderful landscape, good timing and the ability to pull together a group of like-minded and hands-on people. Graham French, who has been part of the story since the beginning, describes stumbling onto the Valley with his brother in the fifties and several years later joining a working party at the Technology Ski Lodge. Further exposure to the landscape through working with Kosciusko ranger Jim Govern firmed up a plan - to form a community advancement society of 28 people with funds to build a lodge.

A committee was formed in 1960 which included Graham, Helen McGee, Monica and Wal Kelly, John Chalk, Ric Tanner and Alan Brady. Ultimately, a site was successfully located and secured, and a lodge built and club established which is remarkably similar in philosophy and practicalities to the original dream. In Graham's words, "I saw the club as both a skiing and bushwalking opportunity having very much a 'club' environment, with a building to be first built at minimum cost by members and one that would grow with the availability of funds and our future needs."

The striking design Is Terry Dorrough's, and it amply met the brief: to hold a total sleeping accommodation of 12 single bunk beds in two rooms, each with its own toilet and shower; for these bunk rooms to be located around a common living and

Yaraandoo during first stage construction (1962) and 50 years later.

dining area and kitchen; all in a building orientated to the north and horizontal to the natural site contours to allow sideway additions in the future.

The structure was also designed to minimise work on site and be built by unskilled members. Cut and built in Graham French's parents' back yard in Sydney, it was then collapsed and re-built on site. The design avoided excavating in and around granite, and the pay-off was speed, as the frames, footings, concrete wall and roof were put up by seven members in 10 days from arriving on site.

And as expected, there were many additions - a total of five with the most recent completed in 2005 - which progressively met the changing accommodation needs and improved comfort. Thanks to the foresight of the early committee members, the original format and footprint made the series of additions and tweaks relatively straightforward.

As for the name, Yaraandoo comes from *Australian Legendary Tales* by K. Langloh Parker: "The Southern Cross is known as Yaraandoo, the place of the white gum tree".

A Golden Anniversary for our Mountain Home - Fjellheim

By Sandra Dwyer (nee Cook)

2012 is a celebratory year for our Ski Lodge. We were delighted to gather our members for a function in late March to mark our 50th year. What a landmark for this Club, founded by a small group of keen skiers (Foundation Members) in the early 1960s, pioneers really, who funded the co-operative, determined the site, spent weekends travelling to the mountains during the early site and construction periods, and then brought their young families into the fold by instilling in them a love of skiing.

Our function saw a gathering of Foundation Members with their children and grandchildren – we even have great grandchildren in the mix - a truly amazing testament to the strength and determination of every member to work together for the good of the Lodge and the sport of skiing. In our 50 years we have had only two Presidents and a handful of Secretaries – and we were fortunate to have our founding President, Hans Trumm, at our celebrations. Here are some excerpts from his speech on the night….

"Here is a wonderful sea of faces….many of whom I met a little more than 50 years ago…. one of my fellow Foundation Members, Philip Cook, had been staying in Orana and saw Hus-ski being built, and said 'how do we do that?'. We investigated with NPWS and then set about gathering the ingredients we needed….to 'found' the Lodge we needed 30 members….money and security for a loan to build the lodge.

"We have had a wondrous 50 years and I couldn't envision that we would be here 50 years later gathered with our children and grand children. We built a wondrous Lodge and we have all had a great time there – we love the place dearly.

Of course the most often asked question has always been – but how do you pronounce it? We decided to name the Lodge in the Scandanavian tradition not the Austrian tradition…and so after talking with the Norwegian Consul General he suggested Fjellheim-Mountain Home….(pronounced F-yell-hime).

"We are the greatest Lodge on the Mountain – administered by people who care and understand the importance of Club living and belonging to a Co-operative.

As Foundation Members we were very proud to place that first peg in the ground and build a tradition."

Our state-of-the-art, cutting-edge Lodge opened for the 1962 season. We had such radical designs as individual bedrooms with one bunk bed (innerspring mattresses, no less), a common room, an electric kitchen, and male and female bathrooms. Founding member Jack Marvell was awarded the construction contract. Some 50 years later we have seen many refurbishments and we now enjoy king size beds with larger bedrooms, a larger common room and new larger kitchen facilities.

Our club membership remains open only to those descendants of the original founding members, along with two new families who joined our 'family' in 2010. We remain a group of people firmly committed to providing a terrific, enjoyable place for skiers to enjoy their sport. So on the 31st March 2012, at Newport Surf Life Saving Club, our celebrations really felt like a gathering of relatives!

Fjellheim, current day.

Ku-ring-gai Alpine Lodge

A love of mountains and skiing aside, the origins of ski clubs are many and varied. Some clubs, such as Brindabella, begin with a bus; Ku-ring-gai emerged from a chance meeting on the steps of the New South Wales Public Library. Maurice Buckley, Paul Edwards and Robert Miller were enjoying a break from their late night studies and still reeling from the expense of a ski holiday at Thredbo organised by their Rover Crew in the winter of 1960, when the idea of a ski club with its own lodge was born. They decided that if skiing was to be affordable they should form a club and build their own ski lodge.

Over the summer these three made several trips to Perisher Valley and Smiggin Holes – always calling to see the Park Ranger, Jim Govern, and the Park Superintendent, Neville Gare – to obtain a site and ascertain the Trust's requirements for development. They looked at the available sites but one, alas already allocated, especially caught their imagination. After some smooth talking and a display of youthful enthusiasm, the favoured site was recalled and made available. That was, of course, the present site of Ku-ring-gai Alpine Lodge, without doubt, one of the best anywhere in the snowfields.

Plans were hurriedly prepared, an estimate of cost obtained, arrangements for a loan negotiated and a prospectus drawn up and printed in record time.

Ku-ring-gai Alpine Lodge Co-operative Limited was incorporated on 22 June 1961 and then the hard sell began.

The aim was to find 80 members, each contributing $160, to provide the funds for construction and at the same time to meld together a band of volunteers to actually build the lodge. After months of haranguing friends and friends-of-friends, the 80 members (mostly students) were found and committed themselves to this huge personal expenditure.

The name 'Ku-ring-gai' was chosen, first because it indicated the source of the bulk of the membership and secondly because it recognised the club's beginning within the Second Gordon Rover Crew which was, at that time, in the Ku-ring-gai Scouting District.

The plans that had been prepared by several of the members were put into final 'shape' by a young member architect, Jeff Jonas, who also prepared the specifications for construction and called tenders for the foundations, frame work, roof and external cladding. It was decided that the members themselves would do the rest.

Work commenced just prior to Christmas, 1961, with a work party camped on the site to dig the septic and drainage trenches. The builders soon followed and then began the long task of the members finishing the building and furnishings between their studies and exams. Strangely, until many years later, the club did not have a single certified tradesman amongst its members.

The official opening of the Lodge by the Park Superintendent, Neville C. Gare, took place on the Queen's Birthday weekend, 1962, with the hut just weatherproofed but housing some 80 people.

Over the 50 years of the Club's existence the physical structure has been expanded and upgraded several times. There has been a transition of the membership from mostly single students to engaged and later married young couples, then young parents to the present, where we are now not-so-young parents watching our grandchildren growing up and showing us how to ski.

The original dream of good accommodation and skiing at an affordable price has been more than realised.

Ku-ring-gai Alpine lodge under construction in summer 1961/62. Photo: Jeff Jonas

Ku-ring-gai Alpine Lodge as it was in winter 1964. Photo: Jeff Jonas

Ku-ring-gai Alpine Lodge as it is today, summer 2012. Photo: Jeff Jonas

Vale Adrienne Smith OAM

By Philip Woodman and Ron Finneran

In February 2012 the sporting world was saddened to learn of the death of Adrienne Smith, a sports administrator of significance and a person who was especially dear to the world of skiing, disabled skiing and disabled athletes generally.

Adrienne's love of skiing came from her early days, first at the YMCA hut at Guthega and then as the Office Girl at The Kosciuszko Chalet at Charlotte Pass in 1956. Here she enjoyed ice skating on Spencers Creek in May: now it is rarely frozen at any time. (Ade has given her skates and action picture to the Perisher Historical Society.) She later enjoyed ski club life as a member of Geebung Ski Club.

As Executive Director of the NSW Ski Association, now NSW Snowsports, Adrienne oversaw the creation and staging of the 'Sydney Ski Show'. It grew to be a massive event for a voluntary body and a huge cash generator that assisted in funding the overseas tours of many athletes.

In 1979 she became Executive Director of the Australian Ski Federation (ASF) where she applied her enthusiasm and personality to charm them out of the trees in Canberra.

In 1983 ASF won the right to stage the week-long bi-annual FIS Congress in Sydney. Adrienne was the linchpin in this exercise and the event remains a 'best ever' favourite conference of FIS. She took all this in her stride and was seen as the 'Can Do' lady who just got on and 'Did It'.

In 1984 Adrienne joined the Australian Bicentennial Authority and was appointed National Coordinator for Sport & Recreation. It was from here that she was able to apply her influence to bring about a marked change in the provision of resources for disabled athletes, aided and abetted by the indomitable Ron Finneran (another legend in his own lifetime).

Amongst many other initiatives she was also a founding member of the Bicentennial National Trail Network and NICAN, the National Information Community Awareness Network, an invaluable resource used by many underprivileged Australians.

Following her tenure with the Authority, she dedicated all her time to establishing the Confederation of Sport for the Disabled, which she followed up by founding the Australian Paralympic Federation, now the Australian Paralympic Committee. She worked tirelessly in nurturing this organisation, which continues to produce outstanding results in both winter and summer Paralympic Games.

One of her many outstanding contributions was to personally underwrite the costs to outfit and send Australia's winter Paralympic Team to Albertville, France, in 1992. Michael Milton, a member of that team, went on to win the first ever gold medal for Australia in either a Winter Olympic or Paralympic Games.

The very essence of the quiet achiever, Adrienne with her calm demeanour, when confronted with problems that others would consider insurmountable would, with quiet confidence and infectious enthusiasm, turn these obstacles into advantages.

This was amply demonstrated in the years leading up to the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. Adrienne was instrumental, with others, in lobbying the leaders of the Federal and NSW Governments to ensure Sydney also hosted the Paralympic Games. The results of those tireless representations are now committed to history, as the 2000 Sydney Paralympic Games were an outstanding contribution to Australian culture.

Twenty years ago Adrienne moved to Grassy Head to grow mangoes, but kicking back in her leisure moments was not an option for Ade, so, apart from being up to her

neck in community activities, she produced a 100,000 word historical work on the Australian Paralympic movement. This document is the foundation for an online book to be continually updated to preserve the history of the Paralympic movement. Ade complemented this work with a detailed oral interview as part of the National Library's Historical Program.

Adrienne's true and unfailing love was for skiing and Disabled WinterSport Australia. Her enormous contributions to winter sports and indeed to all sports for people with disabilities will be her everlasting legacy.

Australian sport and the community at large have lost a great lady who gave so much to so many people, always with dignity and with the balance to know what was important and what was not.

Adrienne is survived by her daughters Nicky and Celia and three granddaughters.

Hello in the Snow 2012

Once again, the PHS is planning an informal get-together in Perisher during Nordic Week in August. Please join us in the bar of The White Spider, Eiger Chalet, from 4 to 6 pm on Tuesday 7 August for drinks and nibbles and a yarn about the 'good old days'.

Klaus Hueneke AM

By Graham Scully, Kosciuszko Huts Association (KHA)

On the Queen's Birthday, I was delighted to learn that Klaus Hueneke has been awarded an AM (Member of the Order of Australia) for his contributions over many years to the recording of the European history of the Snowy Mountains.

Klaus was born in 1944 in a small village in northern Germany and arrived in Australia with his family in 1955 under the then skilled migrant program. He describes himself as a photographer, writer, historian and publisher. His book, 'Huts of the High Country', is a classic and copies are held by many people. Klaus was a pioneer oral historian in the NSW Snowy Mountains and more than 40 oral histories collected by Klaus are held in the National Library for access by future researchers and families. Many of his photographs are in now in the NSW State Library, the National Library and NPWS archives.

A passionate hut-lover, his film 'Huts of the Snowy Mountains' was a huge help in awakening community awareness of the value of the mountain huts.

On a personal level, Klaus has become a firm friend and we have shared much over many years. My first contact was when I wanted directions to visit Vickerys Hut and, with some trepidation, phoned him. He welcomed my call, and generously shared what he knew of the hut's history, a generosity he continues to this day.

Klaus would be thrilled to be contacted by anyone wanting to congratulate and share a story with him. His email address is: tabletoppress@bigpond.com.au
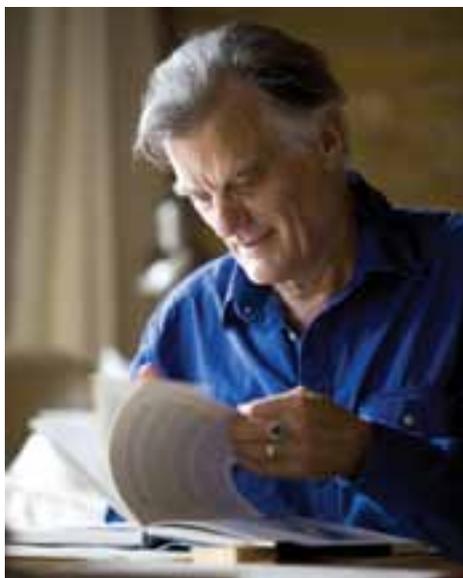
Chris Brangwin AM

Chris started skiing in 1957 at Betts Camp and later at the Chalet, where he was taught by Heli Summerauer and Larry Adler. A couple more seasons at the Sydney University Ski Club at Guthega under the watchful eye of Walter Spanring, including racing in the Intervarsity Ski Team, ensured his life-long love of skiing. With three friends and a huge dream, he set about forming Munjarra Ski Club, which in the early days consisted mainly of university students. With a lot of naïve enthusiasm and much help from the Kosciuszko Park, they somehow managed to raise enough money to build the Club, which opened in 1961.

Many happy years followed, some of them spent in the early days of the NSW Ski Patrol, where membership involved simply putting on a bib! Chris also raced in the Perisher and Balmain Cups and once in the NSW and Australian Ski Championships (not with a great deal of success!). However, he always loved jumping and often wished he'd followed that dream and gone to Europe to further it. He greatly admired Kore

Grunnsund, who had taught him so much.

Chris sat on the Perisher Ski Association Committee in the 60s, and remained a director of Munjarra for fifty years until 2011. Although by then the Club had built a second, larger lodge at Thredbo, his responsibility and passion has always been to look after the Perisher Lodge.

His working days were spent teaching and in Educational Administration at The Scots College, Geelong Grammar and SCECGS Redlands. From there he moved into international education, becoming the Australasian Representative for the International Baccalaureate Organisation. In 2005 he was made a Member of the Order of Australia for his work in establishing the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program as a recognised pre-university qualification In Australia.

Chris is now retired and living in Kangaroo Valley but skiing and Perisher are still very much part of his life.

Chris (middle) with his wife Jenelle and Iain McDonald.

New Members

We are delighted to welcome the following new members and thank them for their support.

Roger & Jan Glover #

Chez Jean Apartments

Margaret Hookham

David Rushton

Jason Slingo

Five year membership

Fifth PHS Annual Dinner at The White Spider

Queen's Birthday Weekend at Perisher – what a wonderful start to the snow season! Blue skies, plentiful snow, ice-covered snow gums glinting and tinkling and a great evening at the White Spider Restaurant, Eiger Chalet, for the 5th PHS Annual Dinner. Pre-dinner drinks around the bar were a real buzz and many old friendships were renewed over canapés and a glass or two.

PHS President, Philip Woodman, welcomed the 70 members and friends, who then sat down to a delicious three-course meal. Next we were treated to a series of fireside chats about 'the good old days' by a panel of speakers introduced (and kept in line) by Garry Huggett.

Chris and Jenelle Brangwin, founder members of Munjarra, spoke of the excitement and satisfaction of building their club in 1961 and stressed the importance for all clubs to make a record of their early days. Leon Smith (Southern Alps) took us back to the 1950s and the arduous trips needed to get to the Valley. Somehow, the skiing and the pretty girls made it all worthwhile. The early days of skiing at Guthega came alive with Karl Guenther's (Guthega Ski Club) tales of building ski tows and developing runs that made Guthega a venue for international races. Bert Gardner (Orana) rounded off the evening with his reminiscences of his time as a Perisher and NSW 'ski politician', always enlivened by dealings with the pesky lot south of the border.

Many thanks to Garry Fischer for offering The White Spider for the dinner and especially to Sue Randall and her team for their part in making the evening such a success. Thanks are also due to Jan Glover (KAC/Karalika), our roving photographer for the night.

Tim Wheeler and Madeleine Hamilton (Geebung) with Pam Woodman.

Andrew Harrigan (Resorts Manager NPWS), Kevin Blyton, Nick and Marcia Elliott.

The crew who gave us such wonderful stories of the past: Kurt Guenther, Chris Brangwin, Bert Gardner, Leon Smith and 'Ringmaster' Garry Huggett.

Kurt Lance (a past President of NSWSA, ASF and FIS Representative, Alpine Technical Director) and Bert Gardner (last President of NSW Ski Council, NSWSA, Hon Treasurer NSWSA and ASF and member of Kosciuszko Advisory Board).

Nan Adler, Garry Huggett and Larry Adler.

How can you help?

Promote our new website - www.perisherhistoricalsociety.org.au

Do pass on the address to your friends and club members.

Record conversations with older skiers about what they did.

This is history; don't let it be lost.

Ski Magazines or Ski Year Books

Have you got any to add to our library?

Films and photographs.

Yes please – need to have dates, who, where and why.