

# COLD FACTS



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## NEWSLETTER OF THE ILLAWARRA ALPINE CLUB LIMITED

Volume 49 - February 2009 - Number 1

Cover Photo: Illawarra Alpine Club - Smiggins Bowl weekend, August 2008. Beautiful conditions, will we see a Bowl like that again?  
Photo: Tim Lee

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### Messages from the Editor

An apology to all members as this edition hit the press a little later than planned.

One advantage of producing this newsletter is that I go through all my photos and relive all the fun times. It's got me excited about another year on the mountain with a fantastic bunch of people.

Hope you have all had a nice break over Christmas and are planning your next holiday down the snow. Remember bookings open for members on 1<sup>st</sup> March and 1<sup>st</sup> April for non-members. Put that reminder in your phone now!

Feel free to send me your photos from your lodge stays, as we are always looking for photos from different perspectives.

Have a great year everyone! Adam.

Please continue to contribute to cold facts by sending your snippets to [coldfacts@iacski.com](mailto:coldfacts@iacski.com)

## From the president

### PRESIDENTS MESSAGE – FEBRUARY 2009

Fellow members, greetings, and welcome to another year. I hope this finds you all happy, healthy, looking forward to a bumper Oz ski season, and ready to pursue a "skiers new years resolution", ie. "ticking off all the continents".

IAC-wise we are in pretty good shape for the coming year. By seasons start we will have completed the outstanding works from last years renovations, ie. closing off the old exit door in Room 12 and finishing the stone works / painting / staining around that corner of the building. Beyond that we are scheduling external staining and painting for the end of this season, Nov-Dec 2009. This work however, has left us with little cash reserves, so we need to be prudent regards our fiscal management.

#### A few things to mention

1. AGM – Monday 27 April - please fellow members, put this date in your diary now and block it off. The last few years have seen a disappointing roll-up of the usual suspects at our AGM. This is your club, please make the effort to come along.
2. Booking Officer phone calls – there has been a disturbing trend from members to be calling the Booking Officer on her private home phone number, outside of the nominated calling hours. The Club provides the Booking Officer with a dedicated mobile phone for members to call should they need to. The nominated calling hours are clearly displayed on our web-page and booking forms. These details are shown below. Bookings can be made by Australia Post mail, Online Bookings (through the website), or by Telephone on 0424 617 707, Monday to Friday 7-8pm. If unanswered please leave a message and your call will be returned as soon as possible or email [bookings@iacski.com](mailto:bookings@iacski.com). Please remember, the Booking Officer has a family and a basic right to privacy, and she has the full support of myself and the rest of the Committee if you do not respect this and slams the phone down in your ear should you fail to observe this. Email and on-line bookings are the best methods for contact.
3. Lodge Phone – we have been hanging onto our antiquated phone metering system for many years now, but Telstra are no longer supporting this method of phone calls. The Committee has also considered the fact that despite constant reminders and best efforts of Hut Captains and Lodge Managers we always lose money on the phone, ie. People don't pay for their phone calls. From this season the general lodge phone number will only be available for in-coming calls and an STD-bar will be placed on the phone to prevent other than local (Perisher-Smiggs) calls. The fact that the vast majority of people have mobiles these days means that the impact will be negligible, remembering of course that you need to respect the rights of other members and guests by not using mobiles in the lounge room.
4. Club Finances / Booking Rates – our renovations from last year have left the coffers virtually empty (which we expected). Accordingly members will note a larger than usual rise in booking rates, \$5-\$10/night. This has been necessary in order to stabilise the financial position of our Club. By way of comparison, our recent rate rises

have been very modest, allowing for the fact that we had cash reserves in those years.

See you at the AGM.

Geoff



Photo: Another supporter's vehicle in the car park.

## From the Booking Officer

Hi All,

Get your bookings in early cause this season's going to be a beauty (I hope!)

With your bookings, please take the time to check your dates are correct and you and your group are happy with the trip you are booking. Cancelling or changing a booking takes twice as long as creating a new booking.

Thank you to all who pay their deposits with their original bookings and final payments on time. It saves me a phone call to chase the money up.

As usual the best and quickest way to contact me is via email.

Kind Regards

*Julie Irvine*

[bookings@iacski.com](mailto:bookings@iacski.com)

Ph: 0424 617707 - 7pm to 8pm Mon to Fri.

## From the Club Captain

As I write the leaves in the oak trees beyond my suburban Canberra window are turning fire orange and red – the sure signs that winter bookings are almost due on March 1. As always at this time, it is important for all member families with children 10 years and over who have an interest in participating in the IAC Junior Race Development program or our Junior Recreational Snowsports Development program to contact me before the end of February with enquiries.

Our Club continues to actively encourage and support participation in all Snowsports, the instruction in current techniques, skills and safety on the mountain within a fun-based winter program. Cross-country, skiing and snowboarding form the three disciplines of the Junior

Race program and our team trains to gain appreciation and competency in Alpine and Nordic disciplines.

A proud history of success is evidenced in our Junior racing team's performances in the annual Illawarra Interclub, Smiggins Bowl and Club Championship events, where all the effort and skilling from training pays off. Talent from our program flows upward to our Senior racing ranks, where IAC consolidates our impressive record for competitiveness from ages 17 to 73!

There are necessary mutual obligations involved in participating in the Junior race program, however we are very fortunate to have a progressive Club dedicated to creating opportunities for member families' children, and maximise the fun.

IAC also supports a Junior recreational program that is designed to provide opportunities for children to improve their technique to higher levels and be more confident on the mountain. This may lead to considering the opportunity of joining the Racing Program, and always the invitation & welcome to participate in the season's Racing calendar.

Could I remind all members to view the 2009 Club Program carefully when firming up your bookings before the end of February, and take note of the dates for the Illawarra Senior (17+) Interclub (Sat Aug 15), IAC Club Championships (Sat Aug 22), Illawarra Junior Interclub (-17) (Sat Sept 5) and the Smiggins Bowl on Sat Sept 19 – this year hosted by IAC.

The spirit of 'having a go' in fun and good spirit has always been our reputation as a competitive Club - you and your children are always very welcome to participate and experience an unforgettable time on the snow in great company!

Make 2009 your year to get involved and double the good times!

For enquiries and more detail, you can reach me via [racing@iacski.com](mailto:racing@iacski.com) or by phone on 02 6295 8141 / 0434 602 644

*Jonathan Mandl*  
Club Captain



Photo: Andrew takes home a swag from the Bowl.

## From the Maintenance Chief

Greetings from Whistler Blackcomb!!!!

I'm writing this sitting in my apartment overlooking the girls in the outdoor hotel spa and the Blackcomb gondola... Oh how hard life is!

Working Bee dates- March 20-22 2009

Please call my mobile to book yourself in. There isn't much that needs to be done as the builders are now finishing off the external work to the lodge. However, Karen Irvine MUST attend as the troops will require her cooking expertise.

Works that the builders are undertaking:

- Removal of old fire exit door
- Plaster and paint on inside of room
- Timber and stonework to the outside of the lodge
- Erecting a new footing of the old stonewall which wraps around from the old fire exit to the entrance to the new fire exit, as well as erecting a new stone wall on top of the footing.
- The builders are also bringing a machine to flatten out the soil between our lodge and Smugglers.

If you can attend the working bee please feel free to call. Now if you will excuse me I must get back to my last 14 days of my 18 day holiday stay in Whistler.

*Tony DiMilia*

Ph: 0418 423091

[maintenance@iacski.com](mailto:maintenance@iacski.com)

## Illawarra Alpine Club 2009 Calendar

- **February 1** – Subscriptions due
- **March 1** – Winter bookings open for Members
- **March 20, 21, 22** - Working Bee
- **April 1** – Winter bookings open for Guests
- **April 11-18** – 'Back to Perisher Week' (events/activities)
- **April 27** - (MONDAY) 7:00pm AGM - North Wollongong Surf Club
- **May 22, 23, 24** - Working Bee
- **June 1** – Bookings open for Apres members
- **June 6** – (Sat) Lodge opens for Winter season
- **June 15-19** – Toddlers Week #1
- **July 13 – 17** - Junior Race Dev Program Week # 1
- **August 15** – SENIOR Interclub Races (Hosts: Maranatha)
- **August 22** – IAC Club Championships
- **August 31 – September 4** - Junior Race Dev Program Week # 2
- **September 5** – JUNIOR Interclub Races (Hosts: Maranatha)
- **September 7 -11** – Toddlers Week #2
- **September 19** – Smiggins Bowl (Hosts: Illawarra Alpine Club)
- **October 5** – Lodge Closes for Winter season
- **October 12** – Lodge open for Summer bookings

# Noticeboard

## Rabbit Control Program

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service is planning to undertake a rabbit control program within Perisher Valley and Smiggin Holes from the 17th - 25th of November 2008.

Rabbit populations are currently widespread in disturbed areas of the resorts where they impact on native vegetation, help spread weeds and compete with native animals for habitat. Rabbits have been found to occur in areas identified as important habitat for the endangered Mountain Pygmy-possum. Rabbits also inhibit revegetation projects by digging and grazing on newly planted tubestock. Rabbit burrowing under lodges has also resulted in disturbance to foundations.

The program will involve the establishment of 7 bait stations in strategically located areas where a period of free feeding will be followed by the use of Pindone poison applied to carrots. Mesh fencing will be used to cover bait stations preventing larger non target animals from removing baits. All bait stations will be marked with warning signs.

If you have any inquiries pertaining to this rabbit baiting program or any other weed and pest control programs in the Perisher Range Resorts, please contact Mel Schroder on 64505611 or Dave Woods on 64505616.

## The Ski Lodges Organisation of Perisher, Smiggins, and Guthega

TWO DIFFERENT SPECIAL PERISHER ACTIVITIES IN 2009: We have two First Time Perisher goings on this year.....Easter and June Long Weekend

Firstly is a SLOPES fun week for the first week of the April School Holidays for NSW and ACT . The starting Date is Easter Saturday.

The key event will be a 6.2km fun run from Perisher Gap to Charlottes, and other activities will give you a happy autumn week at Perisher. We have 2000 Club beds in Perisher, and it is the answer for what to do with the kids in the Hols. Only costs are your accommodation in your own Clubs.

Second we have Perishers own Music festival in the June long weekend organized by the Chamber of Commerce with over 35 Musical events. Ticket entries and good value. Might even get some skiing with the new snowmaking equipment.

The big news announced and advertised in the Herald is that Perisher Blue and NPWS have concluded their arrangements for extension of their snow skiing leases to 2067. So our Guthega Clubs can now relax, their ski lift future is assured. The first question is why 2067, when all our leases are 2057? The answer is that in say 2055 Lodges may be looking at lease extensions, but

there would be no certainty of a lifting company, so this way there will be at least 10 years ahead.

The P/B leases are for 40 years and option for 20, compared to the new Club Extended Leases (which are 20 years and 3 x 10 options) .

Email contact: [slopes\\_au@hotmail.com](mailto:slopes_au@hotmail.com)



Dear all

You may have heard that the Resorts Section of National Parks is organising the 2009 Alpine Resorts Sustainability Forum. These forums are held to encourage sustainable management of alpine resorts.

There have been four forums to date and each has attracted over 100 delegates from Australia and NZ alpine resort related industries, government and on-mountain business including: ski lift operators, accommodation providers, municipal services providers, resort operators, retailers and transport. Information on previous forums can be found at <http://www.arcc.vic.gov.au/events.htm>.

The 2009 forum will be held at Thredbo from 30 April – 2 May. It will be the first time a forum will be held in a resort and also the first time with NSW as host.

A program is being put together show casing operators who are leading the way in implementing sustainable projects related to water, buildings and protecting the alpine eco-system. Central to the 2009 program will be an exhibition of products and services related to the Forum theme.

Virginia Logan:  
Environmental Management Officer ( EMS )  
Resorts Section : NPWS : DECC : PO Box 2228 ,  
Jindabyne NSW 2627 :  
phone: 02 64505612 : Fax: 02 64505630  
email: [Virginia.Logan@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Virginia.Logan@environment.nsw.gov.au)



Fletcher Budd enjoys October in the mountains. Awesome!

## Nordic Shelter update and working bee

Hello everyone, Happy New Year!

I hope you have all had a refreshing break over the Christmas/New Year period. Some are still enjoying their break, some are overseas. Good luck to the Masters, budding Olympians and those who are just having a good time. Next year for us! We are catching up on a few things at home after a hectic year with the Nordic Shelter.

Nordic Shelter Finance Report 21 January 2009

Cost of extensions and upgrades to date (incl GST):  
\$418,180  
Regional Sports Facilities Grant – completely expended  
\$209,000  
Funds currently available: \$ 4014

Outstanding to various debtors:  
Accounts payable \$25,803  
Loans \$25,550

Funds are available in the Nordic Shelter Operating account to pay for summer maintenance, completing some projects and running costs. Arrangements are being made to deal with the accounts payable (the loans are long term). An additional, and yet unknown, expense will be incurred when the low and dangerous eave over the ramp is altered in preparation for the final occupation certificate. We will continue with the fundraising for at least the next 3 years to finalize the debt and pay for repairs to the old section which were held over e.g. small section of roof, windows and cladding.

### Working Bees:

A short-notice working bee for landscaping was held in December. A number of people arrived and tube plants provided by KNP were planted in time to benefit from significant rainfall. John Sim and Graeme Power, organisers, sent this note:

*Thankyou to everyone who helped out on Saturday. We had a very successful morning getting about 120 shrubs and lots of snow grass into the ground. There are lots of areas that still need to be planted out with grass so stay tuned for the next big social occasion. We have a great ski community when people are prepared to drive from as far as Goulbourn, Canberra, Cooma, Jindabyne and even Dalgety just for the day. Any body who may be in the vicinity of the Nordic Shelter and can put in an hour watering the plants please let me know. 64521365 or simbo@snowy.net.au*

*Thanks again, John Sim and Graeme Power*

Aside from work at the Shelter, working bees this summer will involve time on the trails that have been a bit neglected. Another important project will be working with Park personnel to collect seed both for use on Shelter surrounds and to replace seed that has been used at the Shelter but is required in other areas of the Park. It is something useful that we can do to support KNP revegetation activities. KNP have been incredibly supportive of the Nordic Shelter project and have provided seed, plants, materials, time and expertise.

The revegetation would have been very difficult without this support.

2009 XC Working Bee Schedule:

Feb 7/8: March 7/8: April 4/5: May 2/3

Contact Peter Ward 0409 338 978 or Peter Cunningham 0411 129 363.

Accommodation may be available at Canberra Alpine Club. Call PC to confirm

Thanks for all of your support, Peter Ward

## Snow chains Discussion Paper

In September 2008 the NSW Roads and Traffic Authority published a discussion paper on "Introduction of winter tyre and snow chain regulation". A link to the paper, some background information, and information on where to send feedback, can be found at <http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/rulesregulations/snowchains/index.html>

*From the website:*

*"The Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) is proposing a new regulation that will require vehicles with four wheel drive transmission systems to be fitted with winter tyres or to carry and fit snow chains when directed. The regulation will apply on designated snow and ice risk sections in the Alpine Region between the June and October long weekends and will include large off-road vehicles, sports utility vehicles (SUVs) and all wheel drive vehicles (AWDs). The new regulation will be introduced in the 2010 ski season. Throughout 2009 the RTA will communicate the details of the legislation to Alpine Region residents and visitors, allowing a full ski season before the regulation applies."*

The proposal also extends the snow and ice risk sections where chains must be carried. Of note is that the snow and ice risk section on the Alpine Way will be extended to Penderlea - before the Skitube turnoff. In other words, under this proposal, chains would have to be carried to drive to the Skitube at Bullock's Flat. The RTA website does not indicate a closing date for comments, however invites submissions.



Photo: Hopefully that's Akvavit and not Champagne in those glasses!

## CASCADES PROJECT - 8-10 November 2008

It was a hungry, cold and bedraggled group of Illawarra campers who stumbled into Cascades Hut early on Saturday morning. Luckily for them the retiree section of the work party (Pat and Sue Edmondson, Col Wooden and I) had arrived at Cascades the day before and had a large fire blazing and breakfast on the go.

Just as the retirees crawled into their tents on Friday night the heavens opened up. This not only eliminated any bushfire risk but for the late arrivals at Dead Horse Gap it ruined any dreams of midnight muffins and a comfortable night under the majestic Snowy Mountains sky. Undeterred by the wild weather David Irvine, Craig Fairweather and their young sons bravely struggled along the trail to a pre-arranged spot where they set up a hasty camp. A miserable night followed.

Wisely our President, Geoff Mettam, Jenny Charker, Murray Lang, and Karen and Narelle Irvine made an executive decision to remain firmly within the confines of their vehicles for the night – a little squishy but a better option than camping in the rain. Meanwhile, back at Cascades the wind gusts were so strong it seemed like they would suck up our tents and deposit us back over the range.

The wet and dispirited group were picked up early the next morning and transported to Cascades - minus David and Craig who had no other option than to return to Jindabyne and dry out all their gear. It was not a good start for the uninitiated. Fortunately, soon after arriving at the hut the rain stopped and the sun smiled on our activities for the rest of the weekend.

Before the overnight drama, the advance party had taken the opportunity to give the hut and fireplace a good clean, cut firewood for the work party, and ensured an emergency supply for the winter. Rangers, Rob Gibbs (the new ranger in charge of our area) and Brett McClelland had also arrived on Friday bringing with them 4 unmilled replacement posts to support the Hut structure. The original posts obtained by the NPWS for the working bee were unsatisfactory, so Rob and Brett had to hurriedly find and cut 4 new posts but unfortunately didn't have time to mill them first. As a result, the flat sides of the posts had to be prepared on site using less powerful equipment. It took some time to develop a satisfactory technique that minimised clogging up of the chainsaw mill.

All the boards on the eastern wall of the Hut had to be removed and labelled to facilitate replacement of the posts. (One wall section came down much more quickly than the others, didn't it Geoffrey)? Three posts, together with two bed logs, were trimmed and manhandled into place. Pat and Col did a fine job of rehanging the door while David and Craig dug a deep, long trench to improve drainage around the Hut and Murray mowed the "lawn". Of course, they all helped with the other work as did Narelle and Karen who showed their versatility.

Before any construction work could commence Ranger Rob provided a thorough overview of OH&S expectations and procedures. Reflecting on our working bees over the last 30 years without such instruction, it certainly made us appreciate our incident-free record.

It was great to have Murray Lang with us again at Cascades. He travelled down from Tamworth to join his sister Jenny Charker in carrying on the good work of their late father, Bruce "Boris" Lang, who had done so much to maintain these historic huts.

There was a lot of hard work involved over the weekend but like all working bees, everyone enjoyed the camaraderie around the campfire and Jenny's ample catering – not to mention the odd glass of red or two. David and Craig's boys honed their skills for future working bees by building an aboriginal shelter and a bark bridge across the little creek. Unlike our earlier working bee at Tin Mines, an exploratory trip up Cascades Creek failed to locate any brumbies. Maybe next time!

Pat Edmondson and ranger Rob followed up on 2-3 December with another working bee at Cascades and Tin Mines. At Cascades they made some repairs to the roof including replacing the plastic sheeting. At Tin Mines some temporary support was provided to five rotten posts, and some wire stays put in to prevent further movement of the roof gables.

The good working relationship developed with our new Ranger, Rob Gibbs, was appreciated by all. He toughed it out with all the hard work, provided guidance, and even joined us camping. Brave man!

### Next Major Working Bee – 4-6 April 09

Another six posts still need to be replaced at Cascades during the next major working bee, which is scheduled for the weekend before Easter (4-6 April). Having the posts milled previously should speed things up considerably. We look forward to further help from energetic members of IAC – your opportunity to get fit, experience the uniqueness of this part of the Snowy Mountains, and to enjoy life around the campfire. If you can possibly help out please contact Jenny Charker on 0421 245580.

Some photos of the working bee have been sent to the website.

Rhonda Boxall



Tyler hits another box on front valley.

# In the News

## No rabbit out of council's hat (Summit Sun) 24/10/2008

It may take more than a magician to pull Rabbit's Corner out of the hat for the developers after Snowy River Shire planners have stated council has a directive from the Planning Minister that the Department will not consider spot amendments to LEPs.

The proposed 90ha multi-million dollar development on the corner of the Alpine Way and Kosciuszko Road would include residential, tourist accommodation, a service station, retail superstore and cultural uses.

The land is part of the Jindabyne rural locality and under the recently approved Rural LEP 2007 must be a 40ha minimum size for a dwelling.

Planners have said that as yet they have not received a formal development application (DA) but as it stands, the proposal contains a mix of uses.

Strategic planner, Liz Rankin, said: "Under the current LEP the developer could lodge a DA for a 'cultural facility'. The other uses are probably not permitted. So to move ahead as proposed, the developer would have to amend Rural LEP 2007. Council has a directive from the Minister that the Department will not consider spot amendments to LEPs. Council must have good strategic grounds to amend its LEP."

The proposed development is a particularly timely example as council has embarked on a process to prepare an Action Plan for Jindabyne.

Mrs Rankin said: "The Action Plan is to focus on the urban areas of Jindabyne including the outlying villages. It has prepared a workbook as the primary tool with which to engage with local stakeholders."

The workbook will be launched in November, and will provide information about Jindabyne and invite feedback on a range of issues and ideas.

Two main themes of the Action Plan centre on the viability of the town and its appearance and function.

Mrs Rankin added: "Council has had expert architects, urban designers and traffic engineers develop concepts including a pathways plan, a built form plan and improvements plan. These plans aim to address issues relating to the integration of Nuggets Crossing with the Town Centre, improving on the accessibility of the town, creating a town heart and a main street." The workbook asks whether council's infrastructure spending for Jindabyne be focused on improvements to the town core such as pathways, lighting, landscaping, and public space, to try and enhance what we already have.

"The workbook will help council gauge the community's views. Should council support a new commercial node some distance from the existing town core, or is it better to stimulate economic activity by 'revitalising' and 'integrating' what we already have," Mrs Rankin asked.



John, Margaret, Iris and Brooke enjoy the 2008 Bowl presentation.

## Snow season a stunner: Australian Ski Areas Association

The Australian Ski Areas Association has confirmed what many of us suspected: 2008 was a bumper year for the white stuff.

The association's executive director Andrew Ramsey says the total national "skier days" (the equivalent of one adult day ticket) reached 2 million, with NSW resorts clocking 1,148,000 skier days and Victorian resorts 891,000 - a 2.6 per cent increase on the 10-year average. Ramsey says skiers flocked to the slopes this year because "consistently low maximum daily temperatures meant that the regular snowfalls from mid-July provided some of the best dry and light snow most skiers and boarders crave".

Mount Hotham, for instance, recorded more than 55 days when the mercury never peeped above zero. Perisher experienced snowfalls on more than 71 per cent of days over a six-week period in July and August.

## KNP Heritage Listing (ABC South East news)

Not everyone is pleased with the Snowy Mountains being added to the national heritage list.

More than a million hectares of alpine reserve has been placed on the register in recognition of its outstanding heritage value.

Conservationists have welcomed the move, saying that it will stem the growth of development in the Kosciuszko National Park.

But Jindabyne real estate agent of 30 years, Tom Barry, says the extra bureaucracy associated with developments will deter investment.

"When they can't do something constructive and they're not real sure what to do they either set up a committee or they declare a national park or a heritage area," he said.

"It doesn't do much for the people that live here - it gives them a warm and fuzzy feeling and in the long run it probably just creates a hurdle for people who want to do something."

## Australia's highest toilet completed - 24 November 2008

NSW Deputy Premier and Minister for Climate Change and the Environment Carmel Tebbutt said today that Australia's highest toilet had been completed at the top of Mt Kosciuszko.

Ms Tebbutt said that the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) had overhauled the roof of Australia - building a toilet between snow seasons at more than 2,000 metres and greening what used to be a car park at Rawsons Pass just below the summit of Mount Kosciuszko.

"With more than 100,000 walkers outside of winter each year, a better solution than portaloos was needed for such an iconic site," said Ms Tebbutt. "This unique block has been built into the side of the mountain and we have landscaped the outside with grass tussocks and native plant seedlings. "After consultation with the local community, it was decided to build a permanent amenities block at Rawson's Pass. "With that decision came other issues such as deciding just how to build Australia's highest loo". "This is, after all more than 2,100 metres above sea level and subject to all manner of weather at all times of the year". "NPWS also upgraded the nearby car park, which was originally constructed decades ago to cater for the tourist vehicles and buses making their way to Mt Kosciuszko on a road built almost a hundred years ago".

NPWS Alpine Area Manager, Arthur Willis said the area was in desperate need of an overhaul. "The road was closed to public vehicles in the 70s and so today the car park was redundant as well as being an eyesore," he said. "We have now re-shaped and rehabilitated the site and soon it will look as though the carpark was never there. Altogether including the amenities block we have moved close to 2,000 cubic metres of soil."

"I congratulate all those involved repairing the roof of Australia," said Ms Tebbutt.

### Irrigation cuts Snowy lifeline by 70%

Canberra Times 6/02/2009

Water intended to restore the health of the Snowy River has been cut back by almost 70 per cent to meet rising demands for electricity and irrigation, a scientific report says. The river's pools and channels are shrinking, becoming increasingly clogged by sediment, algae, debris and weeds, as environmental flows are scaled back and "compromised by the need to meet water supply requirements".

The damning report, by the six-member Snowy scientific committee appointed last year to advise NSW, Victorian and Federal governments on the river's health, was handed to the NSW Government more than four months ago. It reveals that despite a \$375million rescue package approved in 2000 by the three governments, environmental flows to the Snowy have been cut "to less than one-third" of the amount agreed under a 10-year plan. It says flows have been too meagre to maintain river health or aquatic habitat, and institutional arrangements to deliver water are "fixed and inadequate". The water quality of environmental flows

into the Snowy are not checked despite the risk they could affect the river's health and ecology.

The variability of the current flow regime is "quite unnatural", with environmental flows dropping by 6 billion litres (6 gigalitres) in the past two years to meet demand for electricity and irrigation.

The 40-page report has not been made public by NSW Water Minister Phil Costa, and the federal Labor member for Eden-Monaro, Defence parliamentary secretary Mike Kelly, has not received a copy.

A spokesman for Mr Costa said the NSW Government was "still reviewing the report", and although a public issue date had not been set, it would "tend to be sooner rather than later". But documents obtained by The Canberra Times reveal a bureaucratic bungle has resulted in copies of the controversial report being circulated to Snowy Hydro, local environmental activists and catchment management groups.

A spokesman for Dr Kelly said although he was aware of the report, he had not seen a copy and was "looking forward to its release when he can carefully examine the findings".

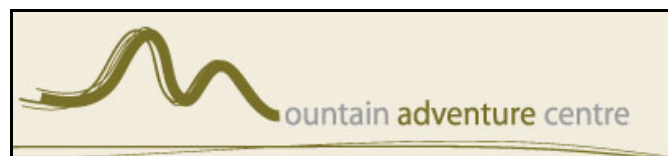
Craig Ingram, the Independent Victorian MP who made saving the Snowy a key election pledge more than a decade ago, has accused the NSW Government of "running the river like an irrigation channel". He called for the Rudd Government to intervene. He said the Snowy was a test case for returning water to stressed rivers across the Murray Darling Basin.

Under the agreement between the three governments, flows in the Snowy River were to be progressively increased from less than 1 per cent of previous historic levels to 21 per cent by 2012. The committee's report also says the current system of water quality monitoring stations is "inadequate to track changes in turbidity and nutrients down the Snowy River" and calls for new stations to be set up "as a matter of urgency".

## Last Run

For the Lexophiles:

*"A chicken crossing the road: poultry in motion"*



**Paddy Pallin** Store Manager and IAC contact: John Weir  
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Ph: (02) 6456 2922,  
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Web: [www.mountainadventurecentre.com.au](http://www.mountainadventurecentre.com.au)

**Opening Hours – Winter 2008**

**Monday to Sunday 7:00 - 7:00pm**

**Friday nights open till Midnight when snow falling**

**\*Paddy Pallin are the suppliers of Cross Country hire equipment to the Illawarra Alpine Club Junior Development Squad**