

Some much needed maintenance work was carried out at the recent Work Party, with the following participants contributing to keeping our lodge in prime condition:

Peter and Marjorie Melhuish
Chris Melhuish
James Hall
Anita Skelton
Anna Davis

Justin Cunningham
Mel Varney
Talia Davis
Ken Davis

Work Undertaken:

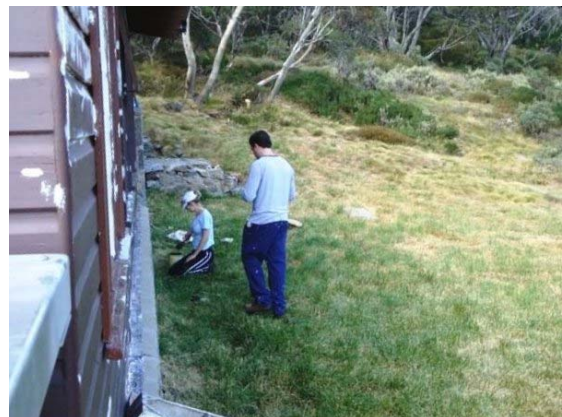
- Waterproofed external masonry joints & brickwork on ITS toilet and SW corner
- Balustrade on north porch
- Primed weatherboard areas
- Prepared and painted upstairs bathroom
- Removed excess fuel around hut
- Prepared and painted ski room
- Repair work on ITS bathroom
- Paint stocktake
- Various cleaning and maintenance jobs inside and outside the lodge



Anna "Up a ladder" - Upstairs bathroom



Chris giving the ski room a facelift



James and Anita applying sealer on the western wall



Talia busy working on the front railings



Anita getting ready to paint (looks like she working with Vegemite)



Ken, Talia & Chris painting the ski room



Peter finishing work for the day—western steps



Anna cleaning up after a hard day

Part 2:

Japanese love gadgetry – and this caused me to have a bit of a Monty Python moment in the loo at work the other day. I was feeling a bit too warm, as the office is generally a bit overheated, so thought I would take my camisole off while I was there. So my elbow knocked against the sensor on the wall and this activated the toilet 'shower'. Madly pushing all the other options on the panel only managed to either increase the strength of the flow, or make it change direction, or spray in circular motions! In desperation I thought I may get it to stop if I alighted from the seat, as in normal circumstances when you do this it causes the toilet to automatically flush. Well, another hint for future travellers – this doesn't work – so then instead of the 'shower' being confined to the inside of the bowl it was now spraying over a much greater area – in particular me. Just when I was thinking that I would need to send out a distress call or rip the control panel out of the wall, somehow managed to push something to turn it off. It took quite a bit of loo paper to mop up – which caused much flushing to get rid of the evidence – then I emerge slightly soggy and flushed with embarrassment! Not a good look!

We are now well past the dead of winter and the days are beginning to lengthen – it now doesn't get dark until a bit after 5, and one day last week we had a balmy 4 degrees. It's interesting how your body adjusts – the first couple of weeks my finger nails snapped off with the slightest impact, and my skin and hair were completely sucked dry of any moisture but gradually it's all seems to have adjusted – guess that's why humans can adapt to live in extreme climates.

As I sit to write the crows in the pine trees opposite have just begun their dusk ritual of wheeling and 'crowing' – hundreds fill the sky line and it makes me feel like I am in Alfred Hitchcock's "The Birds" – apologies to those too young to know what I am referring too. We have also come to realize the crows provide a very good "fresh snow alert". If they are 'crowing' at daybreak we know it is snowing and has been snowing overnight. If they are silent, it's not snowing so we can stay cosy in bed for a while longer. A very convenient system.

Interesting, curious and or odd facts about living in Japan:

Shoes off at the door and only house slippers inside – always.

Kitchen sinks have no plugs! And the outlet is very large – between four and eight inches, actually all kitchen sinks are oversized – the one here is 800x500.

Mostly Japanese wash their dishes under a running tap! – it makes me almost hyperventilate! The alternative is to put a plastic basin into the sink to wash up.

Kitchens don't have ovens. Usually just a three gas burner and a very small fish grill – bit like a camping stove. If you want an oven you buy a portable one and sit it on the bench.

Power points don't have switches – the power is always on – just plug in the appliance and away you go.

Everything comes with instructions. Everything. We bought some flat pack shelves – two sides, back, top, bottom, and two shelves with predrilled holes and screws included (the standard stuff) these came with three A4 pages of instructions. The vacuum cleaner has a 'book' of instructions about how to 'vacuum' – with directional diagrams for vacuuming tatami mats (traditional flooring in bedrooms) or carpet.

The milk cartons even have instructions and diagrams on how to open them out flat for recycling.



STAY TUNED FOR THE LAST INSTALMENT IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER ...

Perisher Centre Improvements: The Lower Arcade of the Perisher Centre is currently undergoing an extensive renovation in time for the 2009 season. The new streamlined layout will assist guests navigating their way through each area, saving them valuable time and improving their experience.

At a cost of approximately \$600,000 the remodelled Perisher Centre will see snowboard hire combined in the one area with ski hire (to be known as Snowsports Hire), Mountain Passes and Snowsports School products all available from one integrated office. The office is conveniently located closer to the slopes and there is also a new Slopestyle Mountain Sports retail outlet close by for quick accessory purchases.

An important part of the upgrade is an expansion of the Kids Snowsports School facilities in the Perisher Centre. The expansion will make the check-in process quicker and easier and will provide better indoor facilities for kids when having lunch or simply taking a break. Snowy Daycare has been relocated to the Lower Level making it easier to access with prams direct from the Perisher Carpark or Skitube.

New Identity

A new year, a new look and a subtle change to our name! Perisher Blue now becomes simply "Perisher" from 2009, which best reflects the fusion of all 4 resort areas under one name. The new Perisher identity signifies the enormous size and diversity of the terrain that distinguishes it as Australia's premier snowsports resort.

New Ski Carpet: A welcomed addition for our Snowsports School Milo Discovery Kid's area in Perisher Valley, the new ski carpet has been added to compliment these popular programs. At a cost of approximately \$170,000 the carpet will expand the capacity of the programs, make learning easier and most importantly more fun for our youngest guests.

Also, in the Milo Discovery Kid's area will be a mini terrain park - the Milo Mini Park, with miniature low to the ground features, to enable introductory freeride tuition. This is sure to be popular!

Kids Snowsports School: Perisher has been listening to its youngest customers and as a result our children's programs have been given an overhaul. Our newly designed programs and facilities for all ages offer more flexibility, more fun and peace of mind for parents, while enjoying all the resort has to offer.

Snowsports School's Milo Discovery Kids program (3 to 4 year-olds) will now operate out of Perisher's daycare facilities, which means if the kids are tired and don't feel like skiing they have the option of staying indoors and joining with Snowy Daycare. In addition, Perisher's daycare staff will now supervise all indoor activities, while outdoor activities will be the responsibility of our qualified instructors.

The newly designed Milo Adventure Kids (5 to 7 year-olds) program specifically caters for the needs of this age group, which means more time on the snow and extra age specific activities.

Lessons: Snowsports School's 'Mum and Me' private lessons are a great new product being introduced in 2009. During a one-hour lesson, qualified instructors will teach the kid's how to ski while giving Mum and Dad insights on how to further develop their children's skills.

Also new in 2009, Perisher's Snowsports School is now offering a two-and-a-half hour Telemark group lesson with a qualified instructor.

Extra Fun: Thursday is Perisher's night of lights. A Fireworks display will start at 7pm after extended opening hours at Tube Town. There will also be night skiing for the tiny tots on Zoe's ski carpet with a special display of fireworks for the kids at Smigin Holes on Wednesday nights.

More snow for your dough: The Station Resort is offering 5 nights accommodation from only \$409 per person during Perisher's Early Season. If customers book and pay by the 31 May each adult will receive up to \$150 (child \$75) in vouchers to be spent on Snowsports hire, food and beverages at The Station.

EXPERIENCE A WORLD OF MUSIC AMONGST THE SNOW GUMS

Perisher Resort will mark the opening of the *2009 Australian Snow Season* with a bang with a vibrant, new 3 day festival packed with live music at the snow over the June long weekend. **From Friday 5 June to Monday 8 June**, the **Snowy Mountains of Music** is a chance to experience the wonder of the high country in Winter whilst listening to some great new sounds of world, folk, roots, celtic, acoustic, traditional music, song, dance, poetry and yarn spinning.

Artists already confirmed include the honeyed vocals of gorgeous songstress **Ami Williamson** (pictured - daughter of John Williamson), and the infectious rhythms of guitar maestro **Bruce Mathiske** who will astonish audiences with his signature mix of flamenco, swing and steel string blues. Look out for further artist announcements coming soon.

The **Snowy Mountains of Music** will take place in up to 10 diverse indoor venues across Perisher Valley and Smiggin Holes. There's a wide variety of music to suit everyone's tastes. There will be over 100 performances, including concerts, workshops, dances and much more. Curl up around the fire and let your soul sing with intimate acoustic sessions and songs from around the world. Get out on the floor with some jumping rhythms, late night jam sessions and themed concerts and learn something new at the many workshops and wake up to daily poetry breakfasts in your very own Winter wonderland.

The **Snowy Mountains of Music** promises to be a very unique festival, so get out your favourite winter woollies and book now to get your early bird discount rate, which includes some fantastic festival pass, lift ticket and accommodation packages.

Snowy Mountains of Music Festival

June Long Weekend : 5-8th June

Tickets : 3 Day Weekend Festival Pass + 3 Nights Bed & Breakfast from as little as \$300 per adult

**Festival Earlybird Special closes April 30th

***Lift passes at Adult \$56 per day and Child \$28, when booked by 31 May 2009**

For more information: www.snowymountainsofmusic.com.au