

UAC NEWSLETTER



March 2009

WORK PARTIES FOR 2009



Inside this issue:

PHOTOS OF FEBRUARY WORK PARTY 2

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: UAC GARBAGE BIN 3

"EASTER IS LOOKING GOOD AT PERISHER BLUE" 4

(INFORMATION FROM SLOPES)

STORY FROM A MEMBER'S FRIEND WORKING IN NISEKO, JAPAN 5

The first of 2 work parties for 2009 has been well attended with some new work, and ongoing jobs undertaken:

Attendees: Len Hibble
Julie and Richard Brooks
Denis Hyett
John Russell - 3 days
Peter and Marjorie Melhuish - 4 days
Geoff and Jill Dale -2 days

NPWS granted park fee exemptions to attendees who did not have an annual pass.

Work undertaken:

- Replaced missing pop rivets in roof sheeting
- Progressed electrical and plumbing items in 2008/2009 program
- Prepared garbage bin stand area ([see Page 3](#))
- Completed stock take
- Rationalized contents of hut cupboard in hut room
- Repaired W steps (ongoing)

The second work party will be held on 21-22 March (Sat-Sun).

Please contact Ken Davis if you're interested in attending.

Phone: 9484 0510

It's always hard to find interesting news for the Newsletter. If you have any stories on the UAC, Perisher Blue or skiing in general, contributions are most welcome.

Please email: 1jayne@optusnet.com.au

PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE OF
JOBS DONE ON RECENT WORK
PARTY IN FEBRUARY

March 2009 — Page 2



“You Can’t Rush Things” Len Hibble



“Is It Beer O’Clock ?” L-R Peter Melhuish & Denis Hyett



The New Bin Stand—Richard Brooks With
Weapon in Hand



“Only a Short Break” L-R Peter Melhuish, Denis Hyett, John Russell,
Len Hibble, Julie Brooks, Marjorie Melhuish

“Deep Thinkers” John Russell & Len Hibble



For some years the Building Committee has been wrestling with how to protect the yellow Hans Oversnow garbage bags from the predations of crows in the period between when they are put outside (before 8am Mondays and Thursdays) and when they are actually picked up, which can be some hours later. The crows can pierce the plastic and scatter foodstuffs over the area.

UAC has purchased a 240L Sulo bin and prepared a stand area against the front stone wall near the downstairs entrance where the bin will be secured at the start of the season. The bin will have drain holes in the bottom and a method of holding the lid down.

The Building Committee requests hut managers to place putrescible garbage such as food stuffs and wastes and non-putrescible garbage such as cans, bottles plastic etc into separate yellow bags. The putrescible yellow bags (usually 2 per garbage day) should be placed in the bin and the lid secured. Yellow bags of non- putrescibles should be placed outside as usual near the bin. The crows can't scatter rubbish from these.

UAC will inform Hans Oversnow that their people should empty the bin on their rounds.

Hut mangers are requested to comment on how useful the system is in their reports and recommend improvements.

A MESSAGE FROM SLOPES:

SLOPES have been down in Jindabyne running through the Easter Week program with NPWS AND IT IS LOOKING GOOD.

We will have over 20 Clubs occupied, with 300 people, and are expecting more. Some clubs have full time working bees on, but we expect to see them at the Man Hotel on Sunday evening at 5pm.

So there are going to be more people in Perisher for Easter than ever before..

We are putting out a detailed program, but some highlights are:

Easter Sunday 13th 10am The Fun Run to Charlottes from Perisher Gap. 6Km.

Sunday 5pm A buy your own get together for everyone at the Man Hotel to mix and match between Clubs. Children allowed with adults. We can't feed you all, but will have a few hundred nibbles for the lucky. Swap your downhill stories which no one will believe.

Tuesday 10am and 2pm The Ski Tube will run from Perisher to Blue Cow and return for those who want to walk one way over the areas they ski on.

The chairlift will be operating at Charlotte's to see the top of the world.

The Man will be open 5pm all week except Easter Friday. We will show in the evenings some historical (hysterical) films.

National Parks have an excellent summer brochure that you get handed to you when you enter the park which is pages long listing things to see. So that you can prepare your week beforehand we will ask for a mailing address from the clubs who have indicated they are going, and will mail a brochure to them.

Every day different guided walks to different scenics. Some extra special longer guided walks.

Trips from Guthega past Illawong.

We can't coordinate it for you, but the finest walk is to send half your lodge to Thredbo to use the chair up to the top, half start from Rawsons pass, walk across and drive the cars back. (Don't forget to swap the keys). Go via the summit and it is the full day walk of a lifetime. Takes some planning, and you get a chance to use the highest official toilet in Australia near the summit.

Speaking of Toilets we are also having guided tours of the Perisher Sewage Plant. You often wonder what happens after you flush the loo. Now is the chance to find out.

Detailed itineraries to follow.

Part 1:

Today (15/2) I am sitting in the office protected from the wild weather outside – very high winds and snow being whipped up and blown away. In the last few days have had a lot of very high winds and some rain also. Friday night hardly slept at all as the old house we are living in was creaking, groaning and windows rattling all night. Yesterday was so bad that only 3 of the 38 lifts were running for those desperados out skiing – maybe their brains have snap frozen! I read a disturbing report today that some scientists believe the projections of the severity of global warming have been considerably underestimated, particularly in regard to the melting of the polar ice cap and releasing the billions of tons of stored carbon dioxide. Pretty bleak reading I have to say.

Life here continues to be interesting and fascinating. Had a weird moment in Kutchan in the first few weeks we were here, load-speaker announcements transmitted from a van as it drove around along the street. This happened every few days. Of course we had no idea what it was about – could have been an early earthquake warning for all we knew! Japan supposedly has one of the highest levels of activity – and I have woken up more than once in the night with the sensation of the house shaking (the snow clearing machinery sometimes makes the house vibrate) and wondered if we should be evacuating. The house has a slight tilt anyway, and we have been advised if it does to 40 degrees to get out and run – just in case that hadn't occurred to us! Then there is the sound of snow falling from the roof – not only does the sound wake you up but the house shakes slightly when it hits the ground. It actually reminds me of my Dad as it invokes a memory from childhood – it's a similar sound that bags of cement make when dropped onto the ground from the tray of a truck.

Another strange happening is that apparently the word has gone around the world that we need to be saved and enlighten by 'the truth' – and the local Jehovah Witnesses have come to our door. Well, whoever said you can run but you can't hide knew what they were talking about! We are very careful not to be culturally insensitive but this is a bit tricky when we don't actually want to be saved or enlightened and have to stand in the freezing doorway for twenty minutes reading highlighted passages from the bible. The last two times I have taken the cowards way out and just stayed very quiet and still inside until Mr Jehovah goes away.

I have been taking Japanese Home Cooking classes in Kutchan – the first week included a supermarket tour, so I now have a much better idea about all the varieties of mushrooms, tofu, noodles and the endless array of fresh and dried fish and other sea products. I can now make miso soup from scratch and have a repertoire of five different ways to cook three different varieties of tofu!

We have discovered some great little local places to eat particularly the Izakaya which is recommended for 'a quick bite and booze' – much more authentic and a lot cheaper than eating in the village. Often we are the only gaijin in the place. These

places don't serve meals as such – it's sort of like Japanese tapas – mostly cooked on a charcoal grill in the middle of the room. Here is a hint to all you may one day visit Japan – salt and vinegar squid – is served RAW – very slimy and very, very chewy!



STAY TUNED FOR MORE TALES IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER.