

# UAC NEWSLETTER



November 2010



## PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM THE NPWS

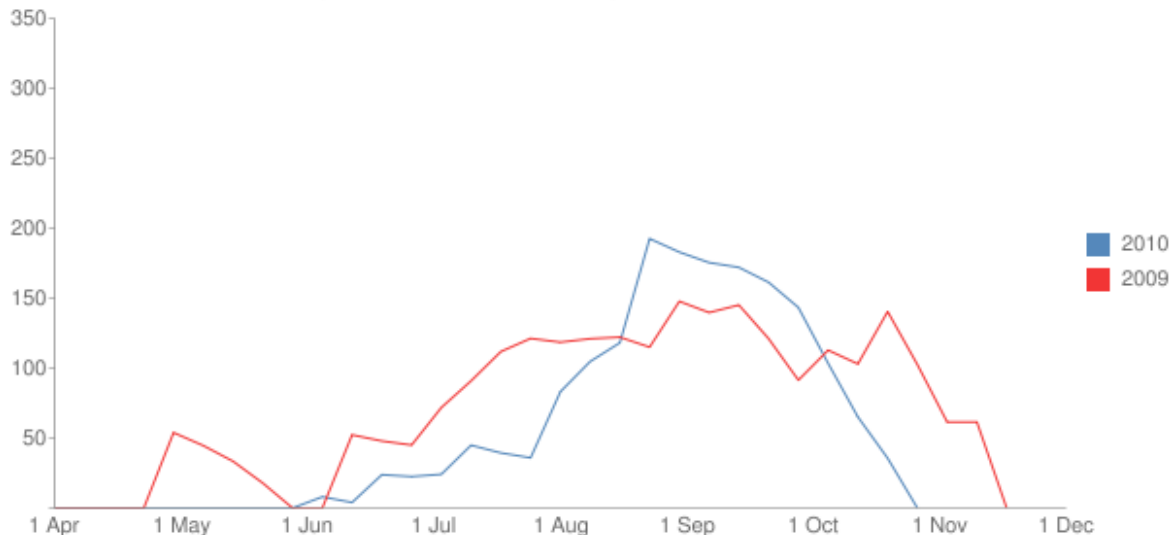
The NPWS is continuing their road upgrade project in 2011. The road in front of the UAC Lodge all the way from Maranatha Lodge will be **closed from early January to 15/4/2011**. There will be partial road closure and stop/go delays continuing through to the June long weekend.

Anyone using the lodge particularly during closed period will likely have to park on the Charlotte's Pass road, and walk up to the lodge from there.

There will be safe pedestrian access through the site at all times.

## THIS YEARS SNOW DEPTH CHART

Spencer's Creek snow depth 2010 vs 2009



## INTERSCHOOLS UPDATE

Following on from the results of the Interschools Competition this year, all 5 Leijer children skied well at State with 4 of them progressing through to Nationals which was held at Perisher from 9 – 12<sup>th</sup> September.

Nicholas placed 9<sup>th</sup> as an individual overall in Division 5 (Kindergarten to year 4 included) and he and Matthew and another boy came 6<sup>th</sup> as a team in Div 5 moguls.

Emily placed 11<sup>th</sup> over all in Div 3 moguls (years 7 and 8) and her team came 9<sup>th</sup> in Ski x.

Natalie's team placed 5<sup>th</sup> overall in Div 4 (years 5 and 6) moguls, 6<sup>th</sup> overall in Alpine with Natalie placing 11<sup>th</sup> as an individual and 1<sup>st</sup> as a team in Ski X and Natalie placed 3<sup>rd</sup> as an individual.

Well done kids!

Following are 2 articles from the Perisher Historical Society Newsletter. I'm sure they bring back some fond memories for members who spent time at Perisher in the 1950's. Thanks to Len Hibble who helps contribute to the Newsletter.

## Front Valley in the late 1950s

This image was given to the PHS by John Green of Merrimont (cousin of Philip Woodman) showing the No.1 T-Bar at Perisher Valley in 1957 or 1958. Tickets were sold in the building until the shed was later extended to the right which contained a shop, office and ticket window. To buy tickets you skied up a ramp covered with snow and tickets were passed through the window.

The big skill was then to turn around without trampling on the skis of others as the ramp wasn't wide enough; this was a difficult task for beginners.

Now project over 50 years later and this frame would include the Village 8 Express and Village Quad Express Chairlift, Skitube building, Perisher Centre, Perisher Manor, The Man from Snowy River Hotel, Fire Brigade Station, Ambulance Station, Catholic Church, a bitumen car park and thousands of people on what is now known as Front Valley. How times have changed.



## 50th Anniversary of The Man From Snowy River Hotel

When Ken Murray built the Sundeck Hotel in Perisher Valley in 1959, his niece Deirde Turner tells us that he was only thinking of building one hotel and one ski tow. However, the success of the venture prompted him to embark on a second hotel and T-bar for the 1960 season. Construction of The Man from Snowy River began on 6 January 1960 and four weeks later the Sundeck was destroyed by fire. So now there were two hotels to build before the snows arrived.

The completion of the hotels was a battle against the elements. Perisher Valley was snowed in nearly two months early (22 April) and a succession of early blizzards continued to build snow depths. Materials were buried several feet down and had to be dug up. The road head remained a mile away at Smiggin Holes and hundreds of tons of timber and other building requisites plus all the hotel equipment and furniture had to be transported over the snow. Four Weasel machines imported for the carriage of guests achieved the miracle. They even hauled in three emergency

generators weighing five tons each.

The Man from Snowy River was opened on schedule on 25 June 1960, with 39 rooms, 39 bathrooms, a swimming pool in front and a tennis court. The opening was quite something: employees of Architon



*The Man from Snowy River Hotel – the second oldest hotel in Perisher Valley - celebrated its 50th Anniversary in June 2010.*

Constructions, the Cooma builders, many still in their work gear, mountain staff, hotel guests and as many lodge people as could get in packed the place.

The boilers and heating had been commissioned on that day and as the building warmed up snow and ice that had been built into its construction since 22 April began to melt. The party raged on into the night but the next day hung over construction workers and staff had to set to repairing water and party damage.

The new Sundeck opened on 30 July – just three weeks late.

The first manager of The Man was Fritz Feiersinger and when he left to build Marritz with his wife, Margo, he was followed by Ken Murray's sister and brother-in-law, Gwen and Alan Cooper, who were at The Man until the mid-seventies.

The lounge at The Man was ideal for parties, and guest and visitors had many interesting and fun nights with fashion parades put on by Gwen Cooper and entertainment provided by Ken Rouse and his band, Fritz playing his beloved harp and Hans Weikl with his squeeze box. Since 1987, Ann and Brian Smith have managed The Man for the owners, the Bart, Breuer, Burger and Lendvay families. The 50th Year Anniversary Celebrations were held at The Man on 26 June 2010.



*Tunnel entrances like this one to The Man Hotel were a common feature for many buildings during the 1964 epic snow season.*

# Managers and Owners of The Man from Snowy River Hotel

Long term manager, Ann Smith, provided this chronology of owners and managers of 'The Man' since it was built in 1960. Fritz Feiersinger was the first manager in 1960 and 1961 for the owner Ken Murray, and then Gwen and Alan Cooper from 1963 to 1974. When Ken Murray sold the hotel to Kerry Packer, Mr Stan Mouchka was the manager until the current owners, the Bart, Breuer, Burger and Lendvay families, bought the hotel in 1978. At this juncture Chris Brown was the manager for the hotel from 1978 to 1982, then Joe Goddard in 1983, and Chris Brown again in 1984 and 1985. In 1986 Dick and Julie Buelow were managers with Brian and Ann Smith as assistants, until Brian and Ann took over as managers in 1987. Brian and Ann Smith have been at the hotel for 25 of the 50 years, mostly as managers. Ann was also staff for Chris Brown from 1979 to 1981 and lived in staff quarters for the 1977 season.



*Sobriety and decorum at The Man from Snowy River Hotel (Cooper Collection).*



*Gwen and Alan Cooper and their staff – early days at The Man Hotel (Cooper Collection).*



*Smorgasbord (Cooper Collection).*