



**KCros** PO Box 425 Jindabyne NSW 2627.

[www.kcros.org.au](http://www.kcros.org.au)

## **YOUR VOICE FOR CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING IN KOSCIUSZKO NATIONAL PARK**

NEWSLETTER – December 2009 ISSUE

KCros is a special interest group with a primary focus on the issues of service and facilities for cross country skiers in Kosciuszko National Park. Experience has shown that a unified, well-organised representation is more effective than many small scattered voices. KCros has the mandate of various cross-country organisations and independent skiers to speak to those issues on their behalf with a single strong voice.

KCros exists to ensure that the views and needs of cross country skiers are addressed and met in the operation of and in the future development of the Kosciuszko National Park.

KCros is aware of the differing needs of beginners, novices, children, seniors, racers, the physically disadvantaged, ski orienteerers and biathletes, day tourers, back country tourers and snow campers.

KCros provides the structure for varied and unrelated cross country skiing groups as well as independent skiers to speak with one voice on issues that affect safe and enjoyable participation in their chosen sport anywhere within Kosciuszko National Park. KCros will identify and investigate relevant issues of concern to cross-country skiers. When necessary, KCros will co-ordinate lobbying activities and establish an effective lobby network wherever and whenever it is needed.

### **From the President**

Welcome to the summer edition of the newsletter. We have had a great end to the season with excellent late snowfalls which covered the pink dust for a while and helped the snow last longer. I hope you had the chance to take advantage of the snow out on the main range.

A new KCros committee was elected at the recent AGM. Many thanks to the outgoing president Warren McCourt for his sterling efforts over the last four years. And a warm welcome to the new committee members; details later in this issue.

Recently the committee has been looking at the history of KCros. It was formed in 1995 to be an independent voice for XC skiers (see our web site for more details). Sue Edmondson was a driving force in KCros from its inception and maintains a keen interest in the issues today. I would like to thank her for her great contribution to XC skiing over the years. Her determination and persistence have been vital to the success of KCros as a lobbying and communication organisation.

When KCros was formed, the principle issues were the Perisher Blue franchise and its extension over much of the area of the cross country skiing trails, and the p

proposed development of a village complex taking up much of the car park. KCros lobbied extensively over many years against the franchise and its effects, and to mitigate the effects of the village development on XC skiers. Now this has been resolved with Perisher Resort (formerly Perisher Blue), foregoing the franchise rights to the XC area on the south side of Kosciuszko Road, and the State Government taking over the leasehold of the car park.

Now there are new issues for KCros. The State Government has asked for expressions of interest to develop a village on the car park at Perisher Resort, with the proviso that car parking spaces for the public remain the same. We will continue to ensure that the voice of XC skiers is heard in this process.

There was enough snow for the Cabramurra Trails to be the venue this year for the Cabramurra Tour, part of the NSW racing calendar. Cabramurra is not only a race venue, but with good snow has lovely trails for the whole family, and a road/trail link with Selwyn Ski Fields. Its position provides great access for those who live further west. The trails are becoming overgrown, and some maintenance may be needed on the bridge. We will follow this up with the Department of Environment and Climate Change.

The XC trails at Perisher need continuing development, particularly with new snow fences on the new, easier trail that links with the 2.5 km trail, and with improved access for walkers to the Nordic Shelter from the road (there is a swampy area which undermines the snow and has seen many a person up to their knee or thigh in water).

Another issue is getting the road to Spencers Creek cleared before the end of the alpine skiing season, so XC skiers have easier access to snow at higher elevations. Often the snow has melted all the way to Spencers, but with the road closed, the XC skier has to walk quite a few kilometres before they can start skiing.

I'll finish with some good news for 4WD owners: Nathan Rees has announced that the proposal that four wheel drive vehicles must carry chains in the Kosciuszko National Park will not proceed. However, for your safety please engage four wheel drive when conditions look dicey, and slow down. Speed and ice/snow don't mix.

### **Membership Drive**

Your membership of KCros is important. We need a healthy membership to have an impact in any negotiations we undertake. In the early days there were over 1300 members, but over the years people have

moved and slowly the numbers have dwindled to less than 600. We are having a membership drive to redress this, so please contact any XC skiers you know and encourage them to join. If you move, please let us know. Your KCros subscription gives life membership and KCros is funded by voluntary annual donations.

### **Get your newsletter by email**

We are trying to move into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and cut costs and labour, by emailing as many newsletters as possible. The annual donation form has a section for email addresses, and we ask you to indicate how you want to receive your newsletter, by regular mail or email. Even if you prefer regular mail, your email address will help us contact you regarding any urgent issue that arises. Another way to give us your email address is to email Adrian Blake, [adrian.blake@ieec.org](mailto:adrian.blake@ieec.org) and ask to receive your newsletter by email.

### **From the (former) Treasurer**

We currently have approximately \$1560 in our account. This will substantially reduce when the costs of producing this newsletter are taken out. Any small donation is helpful to keep us going. Also in this edition we are including a copy of the donation form for the Nordic Shelter. Tax deductible donations can be made to the shelter fund up until the end of April. The Shelter still needs some work and there is a substantial amount owing (see the NSW XCC Report in this newsletter).

Many thanks to those who sent in a donation after the last newsletter: Owen Holmwood, Lyndall Hatch, Kevin and Patricia McHugh, Bill Watson, Ian, Nan, Elizabeth Landon-Smith, Colin Stoner, Andrew Horsley, Sue and Pat Edmondson, Carl, Jeannette and Camille Melvey, Margot and Davin Biggs, Chris, Sarah, Louisa, Tim and Pierre Wall, Wally and Marietta Farbotto, Richard Roe, Nick Bendeli, Peter Freer, Craig Paterson, Attaulf Ihsche, Brian Read, Cecilie Yates, Brendon Hyde, Graham and Diana Jones, Carol and Glyn Peters, Kay Durham, the Shortland Alpine Club, Peter Ward and Leslie Ludwig, Lloyd Missen, James Cryer, David and Anne Roxburgh, Barb and Linda Griffiths, Jen Kromar, Neil and Patricia Miles, Sue Kurrle, Ian Cameron, David, Pip and Roland Cave, Francis Rath, Andrew Molnar, Susan and John Brown, Craig Alexander, Chris Perry, Alex Theakston, Anthony Morrissey.

### **Nordic Shelter and Perisher trails working bees**

The dates for these are: February 7/8; March 6/7; April 10/11; May 1/2. See NSW XC Report for work to be done. Email Peter Ward at [nswxc@bigpond.com](mailto:nswxc@bigpond.com) for more info or to offer your services.

### **Daily Snow and Perisher Trail Reports**

If you would like to receive these in winter, email [nswxc@bigpond.com](mailto:nswxc@bigpond.com) and ask to be put on Peter Ward and Leslie Ludwig's email list.

*Laurinda Allan*

### **From the Secretary**

The 2009 AGM was held in Jindabyne on 26 September. The retiring President, Warren McCourt, emphasised how positive things are now, and that 2009 was a momentous year, with the relinquishing of franchise

rights by the resort operator over the XC trails. The new Nordic Shelter at Perisher was in full use, and NPWS are to be thanked for giving extra funding for grooming and, following an early start in June 2009, there was consistent grooming of trails at Perisher and Smiggins during the season. Welcome improvements were done on the Perisher trails, with the black diamond hill taken out of the 2 ½ km trail and the sharp corner from the 5km to the 2 ½ km trail modified. The 2 ½ km trail is now more a beginners' trail, and another beginners' route was set across from the Nordic Shelter along the facing slope running flat for a fair distance, avoiding the first big hill of the 2 ½ km/5km route. Warren said that, trail control notwithstanding, KCros should continue as issues could arise at any time; there is no other body in place with the numbers or ability to deal with problems. There is a continuing need to be vigilant regarding possible changes, and to keep our members informed.

A new committee was elected, with office bearers as follows:

President	Laurinda Allan
Vice President	Wayne Pethybridge
Treasurer	Cherrie Power
Membership Secretary	Adrian Blake
Secretary	Margaret McCawley
Newsletter Editor	Stephen Poole
Web Master	Ron Perry
Racing Representative	Warren McCourt

Sue Edmondson gave a short history of her work to develop 1000 or more strong voices for XC skiing, and the eventual formation in 1995 of the KCros organization and its aims of effective lobbying and communication for XC skiers in the Park. Sue said that after all the effort put into the lobbying, to have now had the franchise relinquished proves we have a voice that will carry weight and be listened to on big matters. She suggested that we write to NPWS and thank them for their great effort in releasing the XC area.

The newsletter was discussed with a view towards collating members' emails and having a section developed on the KCros web page where addresses could be updated. Walking Trails were discussed as was the often precarious route up to the Nordic Shelter. When building development takes place, keeping car parking spaces, having a free public enclosed space in any new development – particularly for families and those not out skiing, and having child minding closer to the XC areas were issues thought important.

The new committee met in October and these and other issues were discussed, with actions decided. They included the future of the newsletter, a publicity drive and XC skiing issues relating to trails and maintenance. A letter was sent to Dave Darlington at NPWS Jindabyne to thank those who worked on removal of the franchise.  
*Margaret McCawley*

### **Perisher Range Cross Country Trails**

Winter 2009 was the winter for snow fences. At Perisher many fences were full of snow from early in the season until trail closure, despite bare patches away from the

fences. Despite the need for more pushing of snow – due to the generally poor cover – the grooming contractor and XC volunteers ensured that the trails were of a high standard, and that regular quality grooming was maintained until the snow ran out.

At Perisher two new trails were trialled in 2009 and were well received by all. Both options were aimed at making the trail system friendlier to entry-level skiers; however reports were that all made good use of them.

New “interpretation signage” around the 2.5km at Perisher was introduced this year and also received many positive comments. It is planned that we will be extending this signage in the future.

With previous seasons experience we can be confident that our snow fence installation, and other summer trail improvement works (eg: rock splitting and tree branch removal), will continue to enhance the Perisher Range Cross Country Trails.

This summer we anticipate installing up to 300m of new fencing in approximately 7 locations. Locations have been assessed by representatives of the NSW Cross Country community, NSW NPWS officers and the grooming contractor. Transport of some fence material has already occurred over snow as a cost saving measure.

In addition to the new snow-fencing we anticipate that many large rocks that have caused problems with the grooming in the past will be split and re-distributed.

In winter 2010 some new signage will appear on our touring trails, and the whole trail system infrastructure will undergo a large amount of maintenance.

*Tim Greville*

## **NSW XCC report Dec. 2009**

### **1. Nordic Shelter**

There were many favourable reports from users of the Nordic Shelter during the past winter. Although heavily used at times everyone seemed to find a niche for themselves to enjoy some rest and relaxation. The event management room upstairs is also working well and removing that extra bit of congestion and crowding from the public area. The race result staff also enjoy the peace and quiet in their own room.

The emergence of K7 as a force in cross country teaching and instruction was beneficial to the sport as a whole and their presence at the Nordic Shelter was also beneficial; the return in exchange for desk and storage space also helps pay the bills.

The fund raising campaign via the ASF will finish at the end of April 2010. We will be making one last appeal for a tax deductible donation to pay out the remaining debtors and maybe replace the window and cladding on the Northern end of the building.

We have paid all external debtors and presently owe \$25,000 in total - \$15,000 to the NSWXCC and a \$10,000 personal loan.

At the present time we have approx \$13,000 in the building fund. We estimate we need to spend up to

\$10,000 on the Northern end to bring it up to the standard of the rest of the building and to make it waterproof.

KCros members and the organisation have been very supportive of the project so far and we are confident that the support will continue until the project is completed.

There is a small amount of work to be completed on the steel fencing around the top of the building and when that is completed during the summer we will receive our full occupation certificate.

Running cost for the past year was very close to \$10,000. Costs include: Insurance, Electricity, NPWS Fees, Cleaning products and other small items of expenditure. Income for the past year was also around the \$10,000 mark including \$5000 from the barbeque, \$2000 from K7 and \$3000 from the donation box.

### **2. Trails and Grooming**

Co-ordinating of trail grooming transferred from NPWS to the PRCC Inc for the first time during the past season. Leslie, Alan Civil and myself were responsible for sending the grooming request to the grooming contractor, on a daily basis, often after discussion with the grooming contractor and NPWS re weather and snow conditions. A weekly grooming budget was given to us from NPWS and we had regular reporting/reconciliation meetings each Wednesday between PRCC, NPWS and Hans Oversnow representatives. I believe the standard of grooming and the variety of trails to ski were an improvement on past years and if we are lucky to have a reasonable snow year I believe the trails will improve even further. The valley trail in front of the Nordic Shelter was appreciated by many people and we hope to install fencing in this area to ensure reliable conditions for this great beginner trail. NPWS continue to fund the grooming and have assured us that funding will continue for the foreseeable future. We can't thank them enough for their ongoing support for the trails and the grooming.

Leslie's trail reports each morning are one of the benefits of having a fulltime presence at the Shelter.

*Peter Ward*

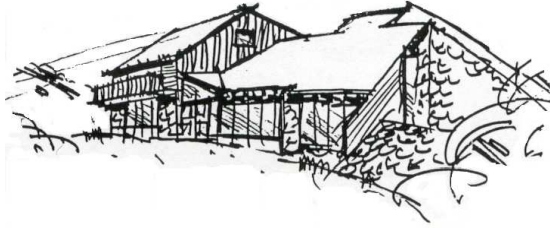
### **A plea from the editor**

If it is possible, *every single member* should receive the newsletter by email, not on paper. Why?

- \* No trees required = more environmentally sound
- \* Less work and running around required of volunteers
- \* Lower costs – important for a not-so-wealthy organisation; no printing, labels, envelopes, stamps, etc
- \* Reduced lead times, thus speedier delivery
- \* Newsletters are much easier to archive
- \* Can have as many or as few pages as desired without constraints due to mailing costs – potentially the newsletter could come out as often as needed if issues arise
- \* If there's even one paper copy it gums up the whole works.
- \* I'd prefer to move solely to email delivery (in PDF format), preferably from the next issue, or at worst from the one after.
- \* NB: Many ski club newsletters are now wholly paperless, or close to it – and their annual subs are much higher!
- \* Please contact Adrian Blake ASAP so we know where to email your newsletter. ( [adrian.blake@ieec.org](mailto:adrian.blake@ieec.org) )

Please return this form to:

Nordic Shelter  
 Cross Country Committee  
 PO Box 107  
 Jindabyne NSW 2627  
 Ph. (02) 6457 1161  
 Fax (02) 6457 1161  
 e-mail: [wardp@snowy.net.au](mailto:wardp@snowy.net.au)



**Sverre Kaaten Nordic Shelter**  
**"100 people / \$100"**

NSWSA Cross Country Committee  
 ASF project # 202240

**Pledge/Donation Form**

<b>Personal Details</b>				Please print clearly so we can issue correct details on your receipt			
Title							
First Name							
Last Name							
Business Name							
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Town/Suburb				State			Post Code
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Fax ( )							

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I/We pledge the sum of: \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1000 Other-\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per year over \_\_\_\_ years,  
 (I understand that any pledge intention is not binding and may be altered by me/us should circumstances necessitate.)

**Pledge Payment:**

Please find attached my annual pledge payment of \$ \_\_\_\_\_, **OR:**

**Donation (Single):**

I/We donate the sum of: \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1000 Other-\$ \_\_\_\_\_ .

*I would like my gift to benefit the Sverre Kaaten Nordic Shelter.*

*However I understand that my donation is made unconditionally to the Australian Sports Foundation Limited. \**

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date / /

**Payment Details:**

Please indicate your payment details by ticking the appropriate box. **AMOUNT**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_  Cheque\*\*  Cash  Visa  Bankcard  Amex   
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\*\* Please make cheques payable to **Australian Sports Foundation Ltd**

~~ Notes: The ASF places an administration levy of 2% on all donations made by credit card.

Credit card charges will also be deducted from donations made by credit card.

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The Australian Sports Foundation Ltd. (ASF) was established by the Australian Government to assist organisations to raise funds through public & corporate donations for the development of sport in Australia. Pursuant to the ASF's listing in the Income Tax Assessment Act (1997) (div 30, S 30-90), donations of \$2 or more to the ASF are tax deductible.

Donors must contribute unconditionally to the ASF to claim a tax deduction, however the ASF's structure makes it possible for you to indicate a registered project as the preferred beneficiary of your gift. The Sverre Kaaten Nordic Shelter (NSWSA XCC)-202240 is a registered project.

All claims are subject to being accepted by the Commissioner of Taxation. If either an individual or business is uncertain of their position they should seek their own professional advice.

**ANNUAL DONATION FORM**

*(This form can also be downloaded from the website)*

**Send to: KCros PO BOX 425 Jindabyne NSW 2627**

***We are the lobbying and communication group for XC Skiing***

Donations fund the running of KCros. We are a non-profit organization.

All committee positions are voluntary.

(PLEASE PRINT ALL DETAIL)

Family Name..... Continuing member/New member

Family Members Names *(Include ages where under 15 yrs)*

.....

or Organisation.....

Mailing Address *(must be filled in)*

.....

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**Your email** .....

Please either tick below that you would like future newsletters to be sent by email or email Adrian Blake on [adrian.blake@ieee.org](mailto:adrian.blake@ieee.org) to achieve the same goal.

For those of you that need a hard copy of the newsletter i.e.; don't have a computer or do not have a printer please comment below that you still need a mailed copy of the newsletter.

How to pay: Make Cheque/Money Order payable to **KCros**

No Cash through Post *please* and we are **unable** to take Cards

Single \$10	Family \$20	Donation \$.....  <i>Donations always welcome</i>
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*(Cash Donations can be placed in the secure box marked 'KCros donations' in the Nordic Shelter)*

**Feedback on Issues – Your answers are important. We need your feedback.**

Please tick .....if you think one of our issues should be the boggy area on route to the Nordic Shelter

Please tick.....if you are wanting more walking tracks for snow shoeing developed

Please tick.....if you found the new 2 ½ trail easier last season

Please tick.....if you have had any problems using the signage around the trails

Please tick.....if you were happy with the 2009 snow grooming

Please tick.....if you are concerned that the road to Spencer's Creek is not cleared early enough

Please tick.....if you would like to have your newsletters sent by email

Comments on the above or other concerns:-



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