

WARRUGANG NEWS



Season '73



WARRUGANG NEWS MAGAZINE

15th YEAR OF PUBLICATION

Vol XV No. 1

MAY 1973

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

COVER — Brian Budden

ARTICLES — Barbara Graham, Ann Sefton

DIRECTORS FOR 1973

At the Annual General Meeting held at the Royal Automobile Club on Friday 9th March a ballot was held to elect seven Directors of the Club from eight candidates. The members present elected John Bible, Jim Brennan, Myrna Burke, George Failes, Kaye Mahler, Bram Van der Kaag and Bruce Wilkinson Directors of the Club for 1973.

The first meeting of the new Board assigned the positions of the Board members as follows;

President	Bruce Wilkinson
Vice President	Jim Brennan
Secretary	George Failes
Treasurer	John Bible
Booking Officer	Myrna Burke
Building Director	Bram Van der Kaag
Social Director	Kaye Mahler
Magazine Editor	John Bible
	G. E. Failes Hon. Secretary

The Board also appointed Miss Kaye Mahler assistant Booking Officer and requested that Mr Robert Tobias act as Club Captain.

1973 SNOW SEASON

- TRANSPORT Unknown as yet, but a shuttle Bus will run from Sawpit to Perisher - limited service.
- LIKELY Road open as far as practicable through the Valley, and at least to the quarry below Warrugang.
- Private vehicles allowed into the valley at all times to discharge and load passengers and luggage.
Limited commercially operated car park facilities, day-time only in the valley - probably near the 'Man'.
- LIFT TICKETS \$6 per day, valid in Perisher only
- PERIOD TICKETS Commencing Monday 11th June and terminating Friday 5th October
EXCLUDING
Saturdays and Sundays of Public holidays (June and October)
and the period Monday 16th July to Friday 7th September 1973

In the operative periods the following will apply;

<u>5 Day Ticket</u>	11th June/15th June	\$24
	1st October/5th October	\$24
<u>6 Day Ticket</u>	Sunday 17th June/Friday 22nd June	\$29
	Sunday 24th June/Friday 29th June	\$29
	Sunday 1st July/Friday 6th July	\$29
	Sunday 8th July/Friday 13th July	\$29
	Sunday 9th Sept/Friday 14th Sept	\$29
	Sunday 16th Sept/Friday 21st Sept	\$29
	Sunday 23rd Sept/Friday 28th Sept	\$29
<u>7 Day Ticket</u>	Add Saturday preceding or following the six day period except Queens Birthday and October long weekends	\$32.25
<u>13 Day Ticket</u>	Add 7 day and 6 day periods	\$61.25
<u>14 Day Ticket</u>	Add two 7 day periods	\$64.50

The 5-day periods apply to the two specific periods 11/15th June and 1/5th October only, otherwise the minimum is the 6 day period.

Ski school attendance takes the form of 5 x 2 hour class lessons from Monday to Friday.

CLASS LESSONS ARE INCLUDED IN THE ABOVE PERIOD TICKET PRICES.

Editor's note: "Duughh, I'm confused."

TOURING INFORMATION
HUTS IN THE PARK

1. WHITE'S RIVER HUT (Courtesy of B. Graham and Reet Vallak Canberra Y.M.C.A. Ski Club)

POSITION; Map reference 243 / 817 on Kosciusko (sheet 8525) 1/100,000 map.

Approximately one mile south of Schlink Pass in a sheltered position in the Munyang or White's River valley. A frequent approach is over the Rolling Grounds from Guthega; however, this route can be hazardous due to the uncertain terrain and exposure to the elements. The hut is easily accessible even to people unfamiliar with the area by following the road leading uphill behind Munyang Power Station for about six miles.

FACILITIES; Large lined tin hut with two rooms, entry through woodshed. Smaller room locked, larger room with fireplace open. Wooden floor, eight bunks, large table, some benches. Unusual luxury in an external toilet.

HISTORY; The hut was originally built about 1934-35 and its owner in 1935 is listed as Clarke. By 1939 the Kosciusko Alpine Club had control of the hut and had improved it and extended it by building on an extra room. The control of the hut is now in the hands of the White's River Club, an offshoot of the Alpine Club, who keep one room of the hut locked leaving the rest open for general use.

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FLYING BUS

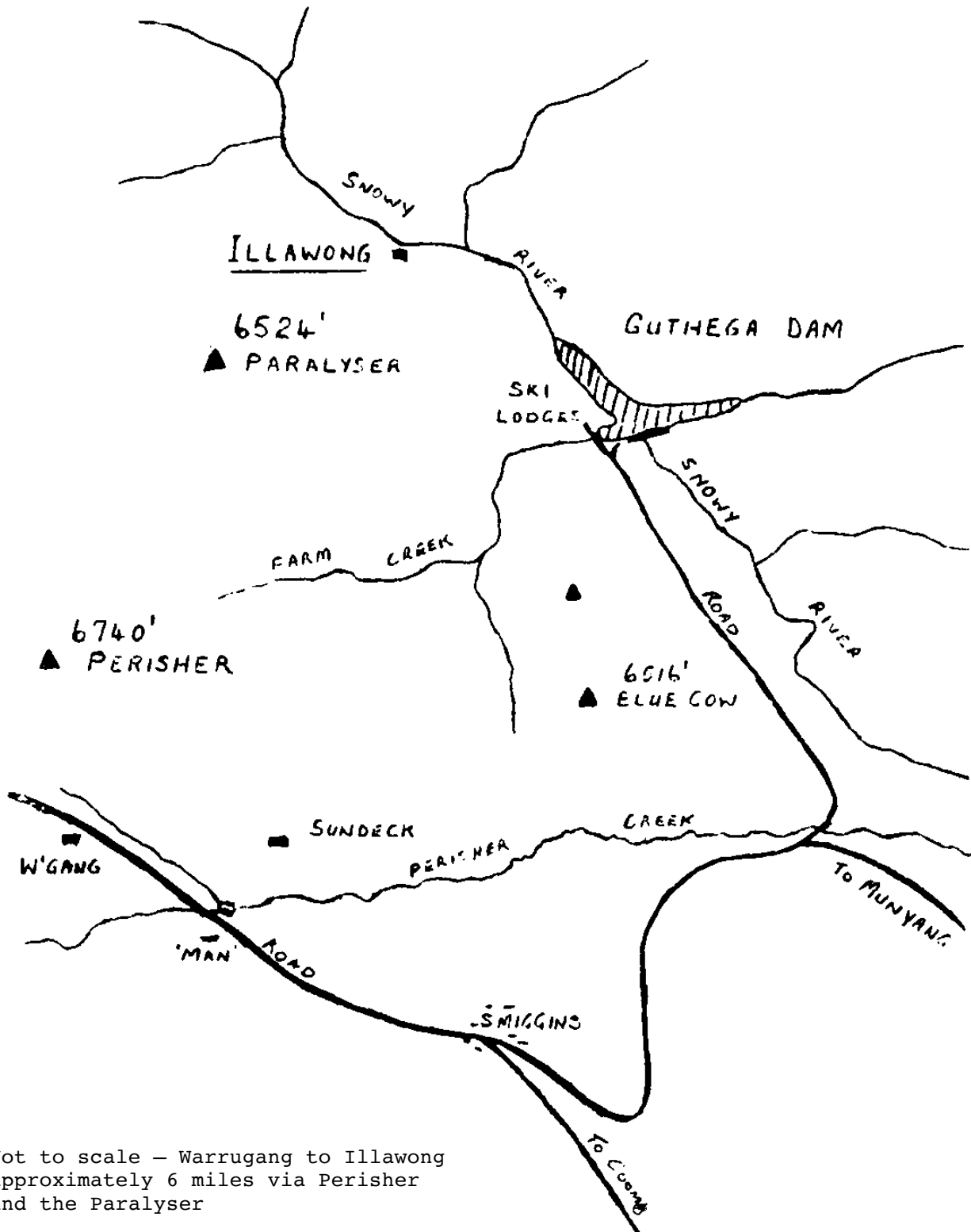
A ski equipped aircraft carried out tests in September 1972 for what could become an aerial bus run between resorts. The tests were carried out at Falls Creek, about 40 take-offs and landings were made on a strip at 5900 ft above the village. Owners envisage extending the service eventually to Thredbo and Perisher Valley. Fares between resorts should be about \$5.

NEW LIFT

A new lift has been installed to take skiers up Back Perisher, talk is you have to be an expert skier just to ride the lift. Jokes aside though, it is certainly welcome. We have also been assured that the lift enabling skiers to ski to Smiggin Holes via Pipers Gap will be operating this season. If the management get the flat lift to North Perisher operating we will certainly have it made.

SKI ROOM

Our Ski room has been enlarged and the boiler area fireproofed ready for the coming season. New racks should be in place also, with room for those shorter skis.



Not to scale - Warrungang to Illawong approximately 6 miles via Perisher and the Paralyser

Map by courtesy of Geehi Club, from their book entitled 'Snowy Mountain Walks'

SKI TOURING

In August 1972 a band of Warrugangsters set off hopefully to Illawong. After an evening spent planning routes, the group set out next morning on good, but disappearing snow which was still crisp and firm. In the party were Kay and Bram Van der Kaag with young Michael in a "Karrimor" papoose-carrier, Cindy Brew, Gwen Oldfield, Bruce and Helen Wilkinson and Ann Sefton.

The group traversed along the side of Perisher, then had some glorious runs down after crossing the Perisher - Paralyser saddle. But as the snow became unpredictable, with softening patches between the icy sheltered snow, Bram fell while carrying Michael. Although the fall was a light one, on arrival at Illawong, Michael's thigh was found to have been broken by one of the bars of the carrier.

Some aspirin and the measure of tying his legs together were all that the group could do to make him a little more comfortable for the journey to Guthega which was the nearest road. Cindy skied on ahead to phone for the ambulance while the rest of the party assembled the Akja sled. After heaving, tugging and shoving the unwieldy sled about 300 yards down the track, Bruce and Bram devised an ingenious stretcher from parkas and stocks. This proved much more satisfactory but in the hot sun and with a slushy snow surface the journey back for the stretcher-bearers was extremely strenuous. Throughout, Michael was remarkably good.

In the meantime, Helen and Ann expended a deal of energy (and the odd bits of bad language) on the Akja in order to return it to Illawong. Even unloaded it was extremely difficult to shift, either uphill or downhill. They then followed and caught the main party at Guthega.

The ambulance was commendably prompt and the family was despatched to Cooma Hospital. Those remaining, since it was then quite late and would soon be cold, decided to 'hitch' rides back to Smiggins. They spent an uneasy few minutes waiting for their skis which were carried in an obliging utility - while waiting, they realised they knew neither the number of the utility nor the name of the driver! However, all was well and everyone, very tired and cold, made their way back to Warrugang. While waiting at Smiggins Jurgen told them of the birth of his daughter, which news improved the depression of the group.

The day had started so full of promise, with perfect touring, but ended so unhappily. There are two lessons in the episode for everyone. Firstly, don't ski with a child in a back carrier; after the group inspected it carefully afterwards, with hindsight, it was easy to see how dangerous the frame could be in a fall. Secondly, the Akja is impossible as a rescue sled other than on well packed slopes. On the flat, or worse, uphill, it is a disaster. Perhaps our representatives on Perisher Ski Association could press for the use of a new rescue sled, preferably plastic, which is light and easy to drag, perhaps like an overgrown plastic toboggan.

(Continued overleaf)

(Continued from overleaf)

Touring huts in particular should have light, easily handled sleds. Even if these are expensive to have made, they may prove some day to be life saving.

To finish on a more cheerful note, Michael has completely recovered and all members of the party remain convinced and enthusiastic ski tourers.

Ann Sefton

CAMBER: HOW IT AFFECTS YOUR SKIING

The camber of the skis is the built in arch revealed when skis are held bottom to bottom, and is designed to give the skis a springy feeling. If a ski has too much camber for a given skier, exaggerated unweighting will be required to clear tips and tails from the snow.

Camber also plays a significant role in carving turns, if a ski has high camber for a lightweight skier the middle or underfoot section of the ski may not bear down and bite in a turn, producing an erratic control pattern. Alternatively, if the camber is low, the middle section may not distribute sufficient pressure to its extremities, causing the ski to slip and slither, on hard pack particularly. On a stiff ski however, a low camber allows easy, slow speed turns. Many of the so called 'hot' skis have a low camber design which is intended to work with the weight-back skiing technique. Many of these skis have less than one inch of camber per pair.

HIGH CAMBER SKIS - best for heavyweights.

LOW CAMBER SKIS - best for easy christie initiation.

The above information by courtesy of the November 1972 issue of 'SKIING'.

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NEWS ITEMS

SAFETY RELEASE TESTING DEVICE

The Club has purchased a 'LIPE' release testing device that may be used by all members and guests at the Lodge. The device is simple to use, but we suggest you ask Jurgen for a demonstration if you are not sure how it works. Stated simply the device allows you to test the release pressure of the toe binding with your foot in the boot and in the skiing position.

WARRUGANG CHAMPIONSHIP RACES - SEPTEMBER 15 - 16

SKI POINTER: BEGINNING PARALLELBY TOM MULKERN U.S. SKI ASSOC.

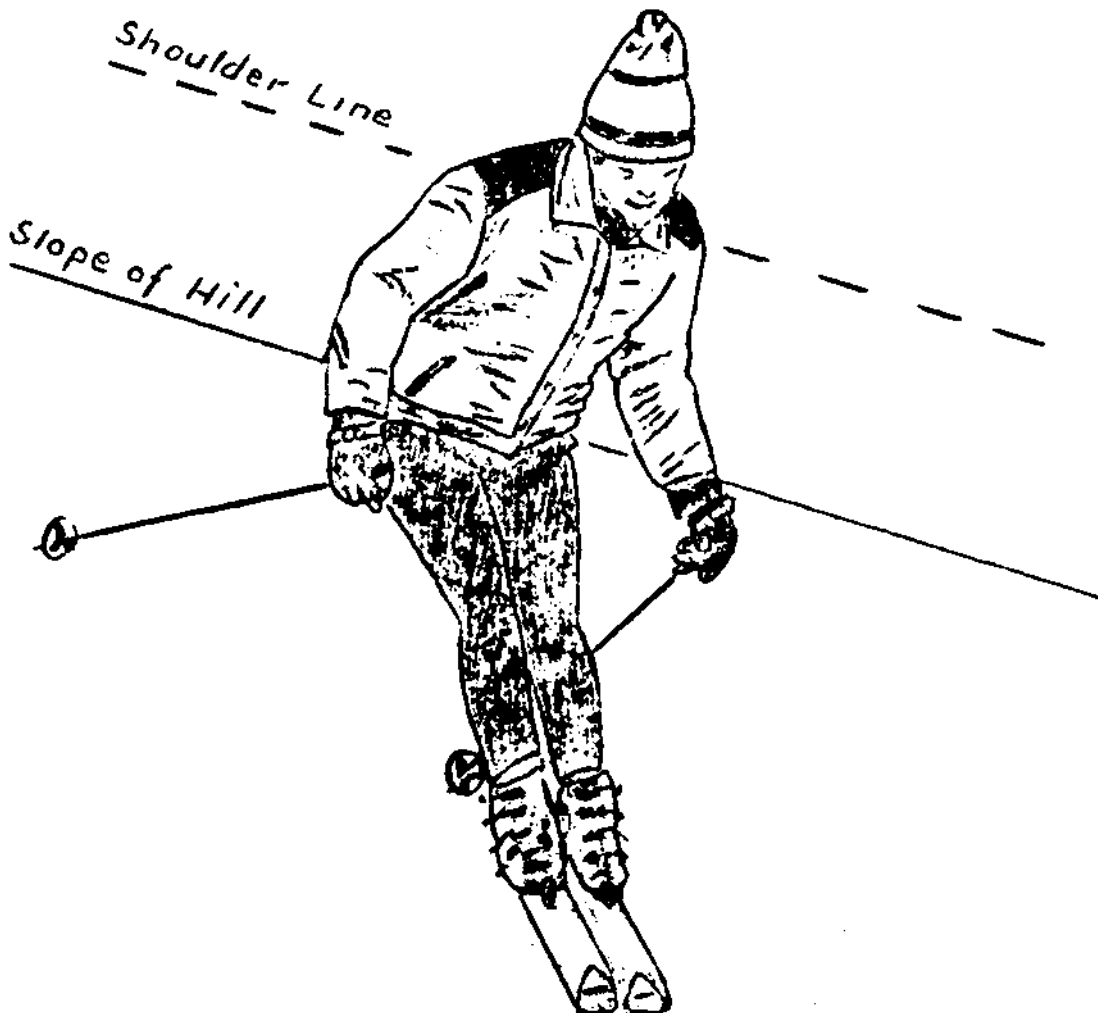
Ski pupils are easily confused by terms such as angulation, and they often forget just which way the upper body should bend at the end of a turn, downhill or uphill.

Here's an easy way to remember the correct body position:

FINISH EACH PARALLEL TURN WITH YOUR SHOULDERS PARALLEL TO THE SLOPE OF THE HILL.

The terrain will act as your constant reminder to bend the upper body toward the bottom of the hill. Keeping your shoulders parallel to the hill is also a good rule to remember when you ski on steeper terrain. On shallow hills it's only necessary to bend slightly at the waist to maintain good balance. However, on steeper slopes you'll need to press your knees further into the hill and bend your upper body more to maintain good balance and control over your turns.

LET THE SLOPE BE YOUR GUIDE.



NEWS ITEMS CLUB SHIELD

Thank you Hylton Mace for reconditioning the shield from the front of the Lodge. Hylton has completely repainted the shield and it looks good as new.

CHILDREN'S RACE

Boonoona Club is conducting an open race for children on 2nd Sept. They have advised us that any child is welcome to enter and hope to make it an annual event. No further details are known at this time, if interested contact John Bible at 451-7332.

MEMBERS OVERSEAS

Anna Funnell and Kaye Mahler have been driving your Editor out of his mind with postcards from St Anton, Niederau, Salzburg, Obergurgl, etc, etc, and describing some of the worlds best ski runs. The girls left on 3rd February and have been enjoying a marvellous ski holiday in Europe.

Other Club members have been skiing overseas too - Michael Wilkinson has returned from his 'working' holiday in St Anton. He worked for Franz Alber who he describes as the KGM of the area (owns everything). Michael skied St Anton, Zurs and Lech when not on duty. He worked from 9 am to 11 am then 3 pm to 6 pm. Amongst other things he visited the Reicher boot factory where they foamed his boots and even gave him a free pair. Michael came back ahead of schedule as he found the European winter very severe and longed to get some Australian sunshine. The long arm of coincidence found Michael and Robert Tobias on the same European train one night - I wonder what they talked about?

Ron and Gloria Campbell have also been skiing overseas as has Wilton Ainsworth, Robert Tobias and Dick Archer. We understand Dick is returning to Australia shortly after a stint with Olympic Airways.

BOB NEIL

We have received a card from Bob and Lillian to say they enjoyed a lovely Christmas with Australian weather sunny and clear. Temperature down to -15° Centigrade. They have been skiing in Skidorf Hinterglemm and met an Australian ski Instructor from Brisbane, he learned it all over there. Bob and Lillian send best wishes to their friends.

MARRIAGE

Ruedi Hoess married Miss Lorna Chong in Singapore in February, Miss Chong was Miss Singapore 1969. Our congratulations and best wishes.

NEWS ITEMSMARRIED

Dorothy Halsall was married recently and is now Mrs Colin Doy. Holly Borga was married last year, now Mrs Smith. Congratulations and best wishes for the future. Also to Christine Tracy, now Mrs Fisher.

STORK

Fran and Ken Wood expected an increase in their family about March, so far we have not had any further information but I'm sure they know we all wish them well.

MISSING PERSONS?

Can any member advise Miss Burke the whereabouts of Tony and Irene CETINICH. When last heard of they were managing the Thoroughbred Hotel in Scone N.S.W. We would also like to get in touch with Brian PERRY who we believe is in Queensland.

WORKING HOLIDAY

Tony Wilkinson is planning to spend this season working as a Ski Instructor in the Valley. Lessons anyone?

TRANSPORT

If any definite details come to hand regarding transport into the Valley we will notify members by circular with booking receipts.

OVERSEAS TRIP

Gus and Lois Green are going overseas shortly on a combined Business and holiday trip. They will be visiting Europe and the United States.

TEA AND COFFEE

Members are reminded that tea and coffee are made available by the Club for morning tea and when skiers return at say 4 - 4.30. The Manager has been instructed to provide the above on the restricted basis of one cup and biscuit per person at those times only. Extras are available at your own cost and request. These items will be supplied at meal times of course and will still be available for the night owls.

NEWS ITEMSSPECIAL INTER-CLUB RACE

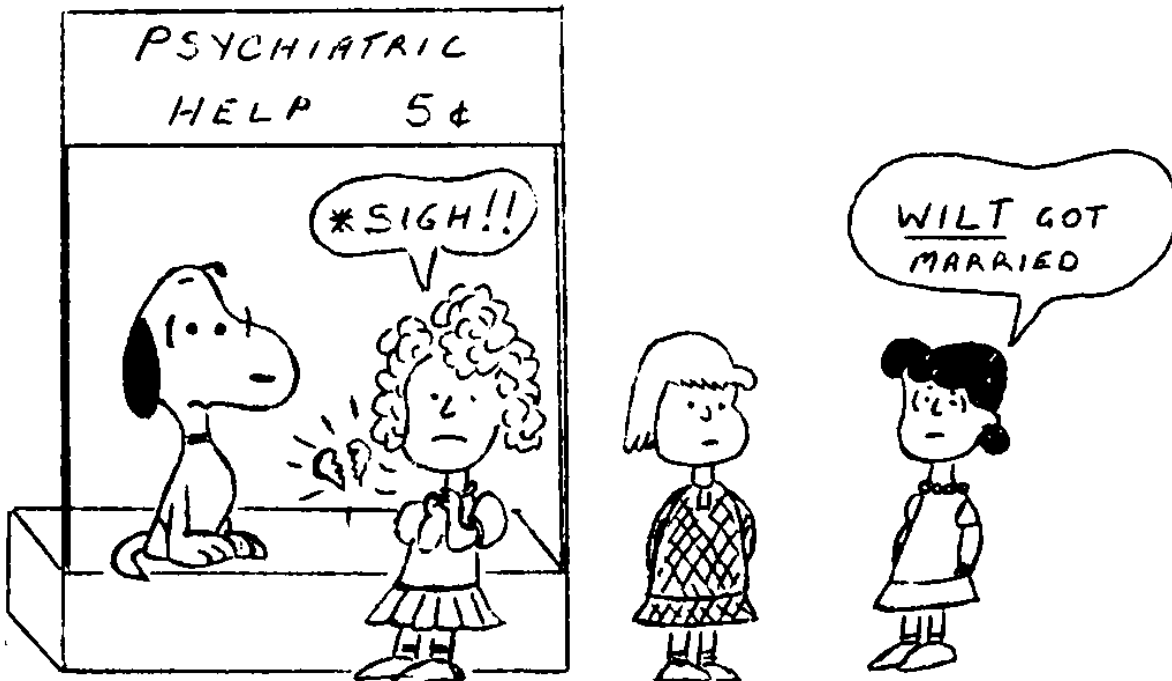
A race weekend between Boonoona, Maranatha, Oldina and Warrugang has been arranged for 14th July 1973. If successful this will be an annual event. A prize will be given to each member of the winning team and the Club in question will hold a plaque suitably engraved until it is won by another Club.

The race will be conducted on similar lines to the Perisher Cup, 4 competitors and 4 officials from each Club. Races will take the form of a Slalom, Downhill and Langlauf - all will be held on the Saturday so the result will be known and celebrated on the Saturday evening. This year a 'bring your own grog' party will be held for all competitors, officials and guests of the Clubs involved, at Boonoona. Please contact the booking officer if you are able to assist as a racer or official.

..... REMEMBER, SATURDAY 14th JULY

THANK YOU JOE GOIS

Members and friends will be delighted with the very fine photographs Joe Gois has donated to the Club. The photographs have been taken in the vicinity of Warrugang in the snow season and are being given pride of place in the Lodge.

BACHELORHOOD OVER

Yes girls, our Wilt has been married, never more will he be able to leap over the dining table during meals to get that extra serve!

THE NEW SOUTH WALES SKI PATROL ASSOCIATION
GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE USE OF SAFETY BINDINGS

1. DON'T MIX BINDINGS. Some toe sections will work with a heel of a different brand and others won't. Therefore it is advisable not to mix brands.
2. FIX ANTI-FRICTION PLATES TO SKIS UNDER THE BALL OF THE FOOT. Except in certain types of bindings (e.g. Gertsch) these are necessary to obtain a setting at the toe which will release when the skier has his weight thrown FORWARD in a twisting fall.
3. REMOVE ALL PROJECTIONS FROM THE SOLES OF BOOTS AND WHERE THE BOOT FITS ON THE SKI. (e.g., protection and toe plates on boots and friction plates on skis) these can cause failure to release in a twisting fall.
4. FREE FROZEN BINDINGS. Knock the ice off and keep binding lubricated where recommended by manufacturers.
5. CORRECTLY FIT THE BOOTS TO THE BINDINGS. Some bindings require the boots to be notched, ensure this is done correctly.
6. KEEP BINDINGS CLEAN. Mud and dirty snow can jamb a binding and also cause it to wear out quickly.
7. MARK YOUR SKIS LEFT AND RIGHT. Always put the same ski on the same foot. This is especially important with compression type bindings as any difference in boot length changes the setting.
8. REPLACE OUT OF DATE BINDINGS. If your bindings are 10/15 years old think about replacing them.
9. USE NON-ELASTIC SAFETY STRAPS. Elastic types cause injury by whipping the ski back at the skier after a release.
10. FIND OUT WHAT TYPE OF BINDING YOURS IS AND HOW IT WORKS. So that you can adjust it properly.
11. NEVER SET BINDINGS TOO TIGHTLY. Set to a minimum and work up.
12. CHECK BINDING SETTINGS DAILY. Some change their settings hourly and require constant re-adjustment.

If you observe all the above the chances of you injuring yourself are considerably reduced. In the case of another skier injuring himself do as little as possible as far as moving the patient is concerned, and try to get a ski patroller as fast as possible; he knows how to deal with the problem.

... Ski safely, ski safely, ski safely, ski safely, ski safely ...

.....

WARRUGANG SKI CLUB LIMITEDSERVICE PAGE

Address all correspondence to - Warrugang Ski Club Ltd., Box 1075,
G.P.O., SYDNEY 2001 N.S.W.

All cheques should be made payable to Warrugang Ski Club Ltd.

Lodge address for mail - Warrugang Ski Club Ltd, Post Office,
Perisher Valley 2630 N.S.W.

Telephone INWARD CALLS, Smiggin Holes 75.215
STD from Sydney 0648-75215

DIRECTORS FOR 1973

President	Mr B. Wilkinson	523-3941
Vice President	Mr J. Brennan	40-4086
Secretary	Mr G. Failes	412-2771
Treasurer	Mr J. Bible	451-7332
Bookings	Miss M. Burke	631-9479
Bookings Assistant (27 July-12 Aug)	Miss K. Mahler	54-2934
Building	Mr B. Van der Kaag	48-4517
Social	Miss K. Mahler	54-2934
Magazine	Mr J. Bible	451-7332
Club Captain	Mr R. Tobias	
Lodge Management	Jurgen and Leslie Manthey	

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WARRUGANG NEWS

CHRISTMAS 1973



SKI

PERISHER

WARRUGANG NEWS MAGAZINE

15th YEAR OF PUBLICATION

Vol XV No 2

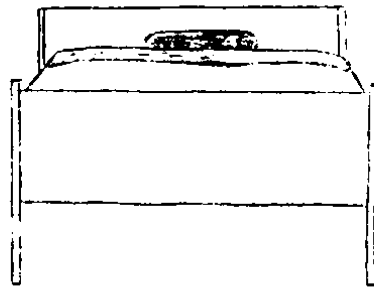
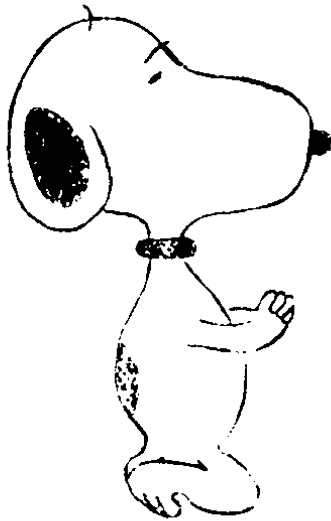
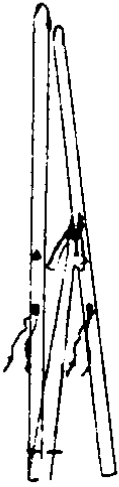
DECEMBER 1973

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

COVER - Brian Budden, Bram Van der Kaag

ARTICLES - Barbara Graham, Kaye Mahler

..... and, could we have some
snow in 1974Please?



WARRUGANG ANNUAL CHAMPIONSHIP
1973

In true Warrugang tradition our annual championship events were held on minimal snow cover on the weekend of 15/16 September. The Saturday was a dismal day, snow and rain falling most of the time making skiing difficult. Sunday however was a beautiful sunny day, most of the competitors and helpers getting very sunburnt during the Langlauf event. The stalwart skiers were there and enjoyed a very convivial atmosphere among themselves and members of 'Ku-ring-gai' and 'Technology' clubs who were hosts of our racers allowing us to use their Downhill and Slalom courses. These courses were set alongside No. 1 T-bar Where the Instructors sometimes hold dual 'Tatra' races. The Langlauf course was set near the water tanks in the vicinity of 'Yeti' lodge.

RESULTS

<u>Grand Champion</u> -	Robert Tobias
<u>Ladies Champion</u> -	Kaye Mahler
<u>Langlauf Men</u> -	Elton Squires
<u>Langlauf Ladies</u> -	Margaret Emery
<u>Downhill Men</u> -	Robert Tobias
<u>Downhill Ladies</u> -	Kaye Mahler
<u>Slalom Men</u> -	Robert Tobias
<u>Slalom Ladies</u> -	Kaye Mahler
<u>Two Scorers Trophy</u> -	Myrna Burke and Peter Roberts

A special Visitor's Trophy was presented at the Annual Dinner Dance to DON WIDDICOMBE the 'Mad Skier' from Tasmania. Don has been a guest of Warrugang for a number of years and is well known to many club members, it is only a matter of time before he becomes a member - then watch out.

NEWS ITEMSAnnual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting is normally held on FIRST FRIDAY IN MARCH that makes it 1st MARCH 1974. Please make a note of that date and watch for official notification that will be posted to all members.

N.S.W. Ski Association

The New South Wales Ski Association was inaugurated on 20 November 1973 to promote skiing in all areas of endeavour in New South Wales. Perisher Valley clubs are well represented on the general committee under the President, Bert Gardner who is so actively representing skiers in such fields as Ski Patrol, Australian Ski Federation and on the committee of the shortly to be disbanded Perisher Ski Association. Your club is represented by four delegates attending general meetings to be held approximately four times each year.

Annual Subscriptions

The Board has suggested that the present Annual Subscription of \$6 should be raised to \$10 commencing with the subscription due January 1974. Accordingly, accounts forwarded will be for the increased amount even though this decision will require ratification from members at the Annual General Meeting. We feel sure all members will realise the necessity for the increase forced on us by rapidly increasing costs. The last increase in subs was in 1968.

Snow Depth

Snow depth, along with rainfall and wave height go metric on 1st January 1974. Snow depth will be given in metres, one metre being the equivalent of 3.28 feet. Hopefully there will be many metres to measure in coming snow seasons.

Technical InformationCourtesy of 'Skiing' Nov 1972

The flex of a ski is a governing factor in overall performance. To choose a ski wisely, after size, the flex pattern should be the next consideration. Unfortunately, most manufacturers don't indicate the flex of their skis either in the advertising or on the ski itself. The companies that do offer this inscribe cryptic figures on the undertip that are relative to an unknown standard. For modern technique, most hot skis have a stiffer tail flex than the models suited for traditional techniques. Only a few models have a forebody flex stiffer than the tail flex. And, probably to many skiers surprise, the skis generally considered as hot aren't all that super stiff in overall flex. In fact, they are softer overall than most of the recreational skis! Lightweight skiers should choose a ski that is soft; bulky skiers, a pair that is stiff. Flexes generally range from a very soft $5\frac{1}{4}$ in. to a stiff $2\frac{3}{8}$ in. These measurements are obtained by supporting the ski at shoulder and hip, upside down, and then applying a weight of 85 lbs at the mid chord spot.

NEWS ITEMSChains

After many experiments in the frozen wastes of Perisher Valley and the very wet ground of the Windeyer mud flats Brian Budden has come to the conclusion that it is definitely necessary to jack up your car when fitting chains.

Langlauf Skis

This year's winner of Warrugang Langlauf trophy used the new 'Fish Scale' skis. They can only be described as 'terrific'. Anyone who has tried them will agree they are the best thing the ski manufacturers have come up with in a long time. NO WAXING AT ALL.

A.S.F.

Don Widdicombe, well known to many members, has been appointed as the Tasmanian Councillor on the Australian Ski Federation. Anyone who is familiar with the enthusiasm Don puts into his skiing will agree that Tasmanians are lucky to be represented by a man of Don's calibre.

Peter Roberts

Congratulations to Peter Roberts who won the 51 and over section of the KAC Martini & Rossi Cross Country Classic. This race is always keenly contested, the normal course from Perisher to Charlotte Pass. Owing to poor snow conditions this year it was run on a 2½ Km course near Cooma Hut, contestants completing 3 circuits. This area was also used to contest the National Championships and the Annual Cooma Club Race. Peter contested the Cooma Club Championship as well as the KAC. Very modest as usual, Peter attributes his win in the KAC to the fact that he put Purple Klister on his skis thinking it was BLUE! This year the Langlaufers had the best deal and anyone who was prepared to climb to the top of No. 5 could clap on the toothpicks for a good days touring.

FASHION

MARGARET EMERY HAS A NEW GOLD PARKA!

Safety

The situation regarding the rescue sled at Illawong lodge was reported to Ski Council earlier this year. During the snow season several representatives of the Council's safety committee visited the lodge and inspected the sled giving regard to those comments made by members of Warrugang. The safety committee reported that, in their opinion, the type of sled currently kept at Illawong is the most suitable bearing in mind the varied terrain and conditions under which it is expected to be used. We are convinced that the committee gave this matter considerable time and attention and pass on their decision and commendation to the Warrugang members for their interest in skiing safety.

NEWS ITEMSStork

Fran and Ken Wood report the birth of a son last Easter. It takes a little time for news to filter down from Queensland, congratulations we hope you are all enjoying the 'sunshine' state. Peter Towson is another club member proud father of a son born in August.

World Travellers

Should be some smart skiing on Perisher slopes in 1974, nearly everyone is going overseas to practice this summer. Hylton and Phyllis Mace and family, Cindy Brew, Brian Budden, Bruce and Helen Wilkinson (grand tour), Robert Tobias, Anna Funnell still hasn't made up her mind. There are probably many others we don't hear about. Bos Brown was last heard of in South America preparing his boat for the run to Europe on his round the world cruise. The Neville Ellem's are expected back in New South Wales after their stay in Western Australia, should be here in the New Year.

Joys of Skiing 1973 Style

Walking to the 'chair' on a muddy road in new plastic ski boots. Queuing at the 'Chair' with those 'Thredder' people. Skiing among the toboggans on the lower slopes of Mount Perisher. Being woken at 1.30 am to push cars out of the drift in front of the Lodge, to find all the snow melted away by lunchtime next day. Oh joy!

Lodge Management

Some members may not know that Jurgen and Leslie resigned at the end of 1973 season hoping to move to New Zealand. They gave the Board plenty of notice, and after interviewing several applicants we have already engaged Peter and Carol Grant to manage the Lodge in future. Peter and Carol have managed a lodge at Smiggin Holes for a number of years and only the imminent birth of their first child forced them to change. We feel sure all members and friends will find Peter and Carol competent helpful managers.

Dinner Dance

The annual dinner dance was held at the Pickwick Club on Saturday 27th October. We had 97 members and friends attend and thoroughly enjoy themselves dancing to music from a terrific 'mod' band. Bruce Wilkinson made a short speech and presented our Annual Race winners with their trophies as well as a special 'snoopy' trophy to Don Widdicombe the winning race guest. These dinner dances are a very good way of getting together after the season and renewing friendships, and of course our thanks go to our Social Director Kaye Mahler for ensuring that these functions are so enjoyable.

TOURING INFORMATION
HUTS IN THE PARK

2. TIN HUT

Information by courtesy of B. Graham, and Reet Vallak Canberra Y.M.C.A. Ski Club

LOCATION - Map reference 278 855 on Kosciusko 1/100,000 map 8525.

The hut is located in a belt of snow gums on the eastern side of the saddle between Valentine River and Finn's River. This hut is notoriously difficult to find and several people with previous knowledge of the hut have spent a considerable time looking for it in bad weather or in the dusk.

FACILITIES - small lined tin hut with wooden floor and entrance through woodshed. Contains eight bunks of varying sizes also a table and high bench under the window. There should be an axe, a shovel or two and some crockery, as well as a fireplace which, after 43 years, still smokes badly if the wind is from the wrong direction. There are now doors by which the fireplace can be shut off from the rest of the hut if it becomes too unbearable.

HISTORY - In the 1920's there was much talk in skiing circles of a winter ski tour from Kiandra to Kosciusko (i.e. the old Kosciusko Hotel). The main obstacle was the lack of shelter between Farm Ridge Huts near Jagungal and Pounds Creek Hut near the Snowy River at the location of the present Illawong Lodge.

On a summer exploration ride from Kiandra Dr Schlink noticed a tumbledown shepherd's hut at the head of Finn's River. Mr Litchfield the owner of the snow lease for the area gave permission to make it habitable. With his help a small hut was built within a few hundred yards of the old site in the summer of 1925/26. The hut was stocked with food and fuel for a winter tour.

On August 3rd 1926 a reconnaissance of a short route from the Hotel to Tin Hut took place. The party crossed the Snowy at Island Bend and followed up Finn's River to Tin Hut. They discovered that there was very little food and that the fireplace smoked badly. Six men set out from the Hotel on the 7th August to go to Kiandra. They spent the first night at Bett's Camp and continued on from there to Tin Hut on the next day. However, bad weather confined them to Tin Hut for three days, which they spent in misery in the dark smoke filled hut. On running out of food they beat a retreat down Finn's River to the Hotel. It was not until July 1927 that 5 men successfully crossed from Kiandra to Kosciusko in three days. They took one day to Farm Ridge, the next day to Pounds Creek Hut and the third day to the Hotel.

The Y.M.C.A. Ski Club of Canberra now looks after the hut and has carried out major work during summer months. A new woodshed and entrance has been added to the hut.

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SKIING IN EUROPE

by Kaye Mahler

The peak ski season in Europe extends from the beginning of February to the end of March. This is when the snow and weather conditions are at their best ... and the number of skiers on the slopes at its greatest. Don't be deterred by this, as I feel that this is the best time to ski in Europe, and if you plan your days - to be out on the slopes early, and to ski through the lunchtime break - you will have as much skiing as you are able to handle.

I can speak only of Austria and the provinces of Tyrol and Vorarlberg as my skiing has been confined to these two regions. I would recommend that it is well worthwhile varying the types of resorts you visit from experiencing life in a small farming village to that of a large international resort.

The majority of tourists in Austrian ski resorts are Germans who can enjoy this type of holiday regularly, so they tend not to be the first to rise each morning ... for at least one and a half hours first up in the morning you have the mountains virtually alone .. they also take a long midday break, eating a big meal and soaking up the sun for about two hours .. so here again, plan to ski these hours, doing it this way you won't find even the largest resorts too crowded.

Your skiing day in the high resorts such as Hochgurgl, Sölden, St. Anton, will end rather early, 3.30 - 4.30, although the sun is still shining the temperature drops so incredibly that your fingers and toes start to go numb. Although the snow conditions are still fabulous you just can't continue in the cold. We thought we could at first and poo poohed the locals stopping ... but frost bite taught me the lesson and we descended from 10,000 ft. at 3.30 p.m. with the hardiest of the lot!

GENERALLY ... some packing and shopping hints ... If you are planning on buying ski clothes you would be well advised to shop in the larger cities such as Munich or Zurich where prices tend to be lower than for clothes purchased in resorts, and where you also have the advantage of shopping at Sales. For instance, we shopped this year in Munich in early February and every store (and their sports stores are

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4-5 floor department-style stores with variety that has to be seen to be believed) had an "End of Season Sale". The locals of course buy all their equipment at the very beginning of the season - November/December, when there is obviously more choice, but we were still wide-eyed with what was available on Sale in February.

DON'T take any heavy jumpers ... you will find them a complete waste of space and time, as they are much too warm to wear. Everywhere you go indoors is centrally heated and a skivvy or a lightweight sweater is sufficient. You will find, generally speaking, that it is never necessary to wear more than a skivvy and parka when skiing, or perhaps a lightweight jumper as well on a particularly cold day. You will certainly never find "Perisher-Valley-type" winds, and there is enough variety of slopes that even on a colder day you can choose to ski in a sheltered valley, thus avoiding the higher open slopes of the mountain peaks.

DON'T take too many changes of clothes because, with the central heating, things rinsed out will dry overnight.

An added luxury which you will find provided on ski lifts is the lap-cover. So: gone are the days of arriving at the top of the lift frozen ... and, of course, when using the cable cars and cable railways you are completely sheltered. What I am trying to point out is that it is unnecessary to be rugged up like an Eskimo when skiing in Europe, so leave all those heavy clothes at home for the Perisher blizzards!

TAKE your goggles with you and a woollen ski hat is essential ... as a heavy snowfall is certainly not enough to keep you inside in Austria ... It doesn't fall horizontally with gale force strength as in Australia, but flutters down very gently and builds up incredibly quickly. These are the most beautiful conditions to ski in provided you are equipped with goggles ... DON'T ever sit inside when it is snowing in Europe, you won't know what you are missing!!

STAY at a small pension (a private home whose owners take in boarders on a bed and breakfast basis). Hotels are hotels everywhere, and it is much more fun to meet a local family who are only too happy to keep you up with the latest village happenings. This also gives you the opportunity, too, of trying different eating spots for lunch and evening meals. You will probably find, as we did, that a light snack at lunch time - a bowl of goulash soup, bread, and a beer will be sufficient and take up very little of your skiing time. Also, you can eat wherever you happen to be - at the top of the mountain, half-way down in one of the many alpine huts, or

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anywhere in the village, rather than being tied to having to return to your hotel for meals.

TRAVEL within Austria by public transport .. It is economical, runs regularly and is worry free. The main train line through the centre of the Arlberg-Tyrol is met at its various stations by government Post-Buses which, as well as carrying the mail, ferry passengers, skis, bags etc. up and down the valleys ... and when you arrive you have no worry about your car getting snowed in, freezing etc. etc ..

TAKE an additional half-dozen passport photos with you. In most resorts it is necessary when purchasing a weekly ski lift pass to provide the company with your photo which is then attached to the pass. You can buy a weekly pass on any day e.g. from a Tuesday to a Tuesday, it is not necessary to buy it at the beginning of a week. The price will vary from resort to resort and I will outline prices further on.

MORE PARTICULARLY to mention a few different resorts. We arrived by plane in Munich where, after spending a day shopping, we caught a train to Wörgl (1½ hours), an important rail junction just inside the Austrian border. A further in a post-bus brought us to Niederau.

NIEDERAU is a small farming village which, in winter, is transformed into a ski resort, but which loses nothing of its village charm - from the farmer leading his cow along the main street - to the old man who goes up the mountain each day in his handmade skis taking fodder to the deer to the postman who on skis delivers the mail to the small farms dotted along the mountain side - to the village elders who gather in all their finery after church each Sunday for a few beers and a game of cards. As an example of the many small village/resorts I will describe Niederau to you.

Number of lifts: It has two chairlifts (one double) and each take 15 minutes to the top, and eight t-bars. The two chairlifts between them open up 15 different routes down to the village. The height at the top of the chairlift is only 5,000 ft. and so the temperatures are relatively mild and skiing is possible from 8.00 a.m. (when the chairlift commences with the "milk run" which services the hotel at the top of the mountain plus taking anybody sufficiently awake to don ski gear). After a snow fall the previous evening what a line-up for the first lift, with everybody anxious to make the first tracks down the mountain, and the Austrians racing one another down in training for their weekend races.

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At 5.00 p.m. the last lift operates to take the people who live up at the top and who work in the village home for the day. The pension at which we lived was a 3 minute walk from the chairlift, and we could ski home to the front door.

Our daily expenses were as follows: Bed and breakfast - \$2, lift pass - \$1.70, lunch - \$1.00, Dinner (incl. wine) - \$2.50, miscellaneous - \$1.00, which totalled approx. \$8.00 a day!! I should add that our weekly lift pass not only entitled us to ski on any lift in Niederau, but also any other lift in the two other villages in the valley ... only a short post-bus trip away! In Niederau a lift queue is virtually unheard of and the variety of slopes ranges from straight down underneath the chair to a meandering trek of about 45 minutes, through fields, farmyards and across bridges.

Niederau has a particularly good ski school - four hours a day is normal class time - 10.00 til 12.00 then 2.00 til 4.00, 6 days a week, and the average cost for this is \$13-\$15 a week, with a private lesson costing \$4 an hour! This ski school price is fairly standard to the whole of Austria as the prices and qualifications of the instructors are government regulated. At \$12.00 a week the price of the lift pass is particularly cheap and in fact would have to be one of the cheapest in Austria. I should add here that the world famous ski resort of Kitzbühel is only $\frac{1}{2}$ hour by road from Niederau and a popular day outing. Other similar types of villages are Alpbach, Westendorf, Gerlos and Fieberbrunn, all in Tyrol.

ST. ANTON am Arlberg: is another story altogether.

Four cable cars, one cable railway, 2 double chair lifts and 15 T-bars!! Greatest drop in altitude of a ski run - 4,600 ft., longest run served by cable car, 5 miles, longest run served by helicopter 12.5 miles, total distance of all marked runs 44 miles, total distance of all runs served by normal facilities 94 miles. St. Anton, rather than a village community, is a full-time tourist resort with as many tourists in summer as in winter. This provides a totally different atmosphere altogether. The price of the cheapest pension was \$5.00 a night, the weekly lift pass \$4.50 a day, with food and drink all rising proportionately. The variety of runs as shown by the foregoing statistics is mind-boggling with the highest cable car station for skiers being 9,000 ft. The view from the top of that station must be one of the most breathtaking in the world - the highest peaks of the Austrian/Swiss Alps!! You could almost forget that you are there to ski as you stand transfixed by the view, and that first plunge over the top on the start of your 4,600 ft. vertical drop to the valley below is, I must admit, rather intimidating. But

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once under way what an exhilarating experience ... with nothing to hold you back (except trembling knees), wide open spaces and the most perfect snow conditions imaginable.

Après-ski life in St. Anton gets off to an early start with tea dances, get-together/drinking session/dance, which start at 5.00 p.m. in several of the largest hotels and end at 7 p.m. when people wander off to dinner .. then afterwards to the discos. St. Anton is a very bustling, exciting town, with many large stores, restaurants and hotels and many facilities such as a cinema, bowling alley, skating rink, curling, sleigh rides, heated swimming pools, saunas etc. which cater for all tastes. The ski school with 280 instructors in high season is the largest in the world, and the standard of the classes is incredibly high - what a sight to see a Class 1, hot on the heels of their instructor, racing down the mountain. The quality of the runs too is quite incredible, with routes marked according to their difficulty, and well-used corners etc. being constantly attended to be kept in peak condition. A most incredible place and not to be missed.

OBERGURGL, HOCHGURGL, : SOLDEN, HOCHSOLDEN

These four ski resorts are situated in the Otzal Valley, with Obergurgl being located at the extreme end of the valley, actually built on the glacier. At 6,303 ft. the village of Obergurgl is the highest village in Austria. Hochgurgl which is 500 ft. higher than Obergurgl is only a complex of modern hotels, built in the last ten years. It is only in Obergurgl that pension-type accommodation is available and even this is very limited as most of the accommodation is hotel-type and the cheapest \$15 a day (3 meals included) ... and no choice as to whether you take meals in the hotel or not. The prices of the lifts and the ski school are on a par with St. Anton, but basically this resort would work out more expensive because pension-style accommodation is not readily available. Obergurgl is serviced by four chairlifts, the highest reaching to 8,810 ft. and six T-bars. Obergurgl is subject to very strong winds, which tend to make the upper slopes rather icy and certainly not to be attempted by beginners.

HOCHGURGL is a 20 minute bus trip from Obergurgl and is well worth several days spent there. Your lift pass operates in both resorts. To ski the top T-bar in Hochgurgl, reaching to a height of 10,200 ft. is awe-inspiring. You are literally standing, your head in the clouds, with shimmering specks of moisture all around, as though someone had rained a box of glitter on to you. You can dangle one ski into Italy as the border runs right along the summit, but only for the sure-

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footed as below you is a sheer drop of 4,500 ft ... breathtaking, and I mean this literally too, as after a few turns at this altitude you find yourself panting.

The day we skied this top lift was a picture-postcard day, not a cloud in the sky, as blue as blue, and not a puff of wind. There had been several days of snow and the lift had not operated during it ... so there was a build-up of snow that was unbelievable ... it took the lift operators all morning to walk up to the top station of the T-bar to dig out a landing platform. When the lift commenced at 1.00 we were the first up!! The depth of the snow was waist-level and completely weightless, you could just explode through a snow embankment up to your shoulders without even feeling it! We shared this lift with only about 10 other skiers until 3.30 when it was closed ... because at that stage, even though the sun was still shining brightly, we were beginning to get frostbite in our toes and fingers, so off to the lower slopes. This is an experience not to be missed don't worry about the spills ... take it from me they are painless - it is just like falling into a mountain of feather down, and so dry, impossible to even get wet, in fact it is impossible even to make a snowball!

Solden and Hochsolden are similar to Obergurgl and Hochgurgl. The town of Solden is 4,544 ft., Hochsolden, 6,897 ft., the highest lift being the Glacier Cable Car which whisks skiers to 10,100 feet, the highest cable car in Austria. Solden is connected with Hochsolden by a chairlift and a mountain road (hourly one-way traffic), which is crossed by the ski trail in four places!! Two more chairlifts and 11 T-bars also service these areas.

I could go on describing similar types of resorts ad infinitum, but I think the areas I have singled out provide you with enough of a cross-section of Austrian skiing to give you an idea as to what is involved. Bon Voyage!!

Kaye Mahler

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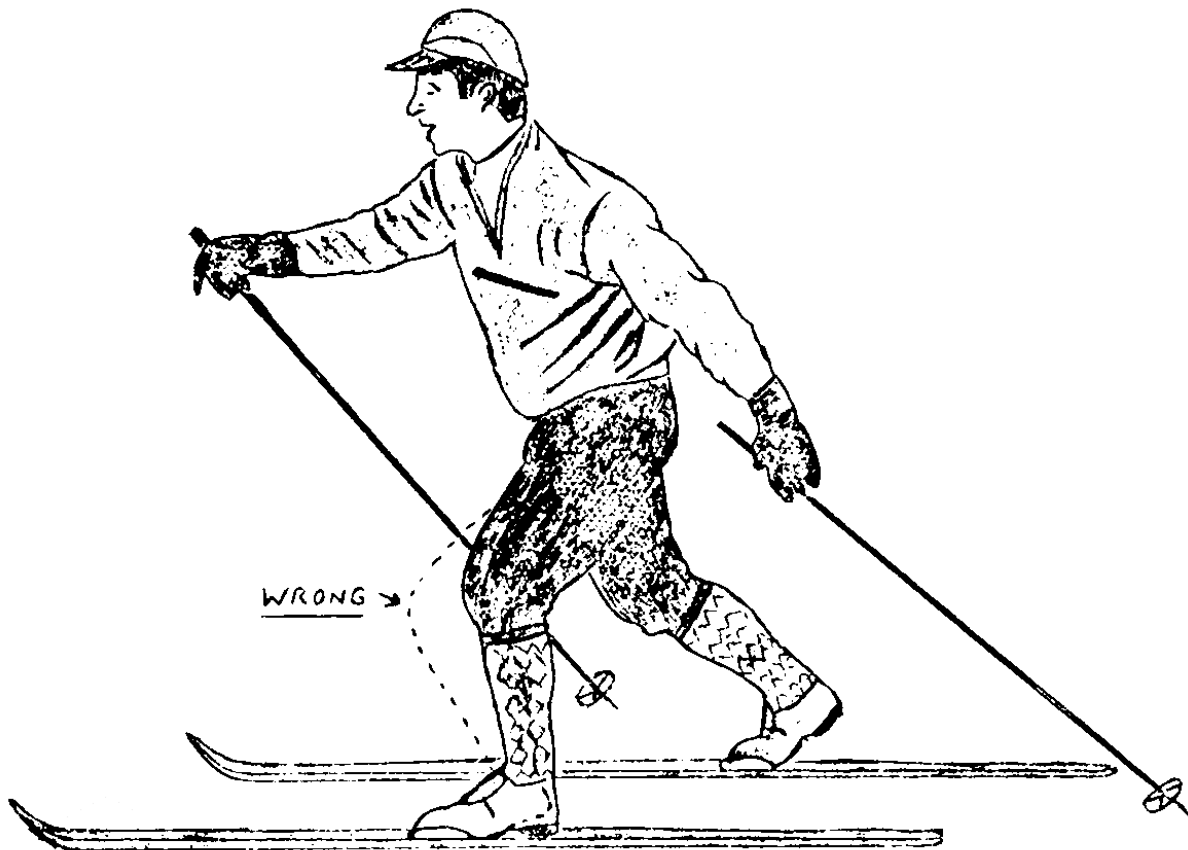
NEWS ITEMSNullarbor Trip

Erwin and Gerda Feeken are planning a car safari to the Nullarbor early in the new year. As well as their own children they are being accompanied by another four cars of friends, including some Warrugang members - Ian Kershaw for one. They should be able to give us some interesting stories when they return, it is certainly a contrast to a ski holiday.

SKI POINTER - TOURING

Courtesy Larry Damon, Director of Ski Touring, Stowe, Vermont U.S.A.

Many cross-country skiers try to glide through the snow with their body weight balanced precariously on the ball of the foot. In my classes, I tell my students that the leading foot should be kept flat on the gliding ski, carrying the skier's weight as comfortably as possible. Try not to bounce up and down while sliding the ski forward. With your weight on a flat foot, you will ride more securely on the ski and will find cross-country touring less tiring.



WARRUGANG SKI CLUB LIMITEDSERVICE PAGE

Address all correspondence to - The Secretary, Warrugang Ski Club Ltd.,
Box 1075 G.P.O. SYDNEY N.S.W. 2001

All cheques should be made payable to - Warrugang Ski Club Ltd.

Lodge address for mail - Warrugang Ski Club Ltd, Post Office, Perisher
Valley N.S.W. 2630.

Lodge telephone - Smiggin Holes 75.215
STD (Sydney) 0648-75215

DIRECTORS

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