

# WARRUGANG NEWS



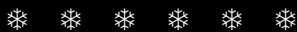
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## AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS

Myrna Burke has alerted me to the award of a Member of the Order of Australia to Wilton Everett Ainsworth.

Myrna writes "Wilton Ainsworth was a member of the Club for many years - I don't know when he joined nor when he resigned that he was still a member around 1986."

The citation reads - "For service to the community of Newcastle and the Hunter region through a range of infrastructure, business, educational and tourism organisations".



## AGM

Our AGM will be on Friday 15 May at 7:30 pm at the North Sydney Leagues Club.

Directors nominations are due by Tuesday 31 March (form enclosed).

## LODGE CLADDING

Members who have stayed at the lodge in recent times will have noticed that the cladding is deteriorating; warping in several places while the paint is appearing very thin and flaking in parts.

The Board is of the opinion that the fault of this lies with the builder and in early March a building inspection was held over six hours in early March with Peter Funnell & Tim Doubleday representing Warrugang, together with the project manager, the building inspector/certifier and representatives of the manufacturer, the builder and the cladding fixing contractor.

The builder has to make its own investigations of the technical aspects raised.

The issue is complicated. It would be easy to say that the builder built to the specifications we provided but there are distinct indications that the fixing of the cladding was not to the manufacturer's specification and there is an issue as to whether the reverse of the cladding should have been painted.

The latter aspect devolves upon the issue of moisture penetration

but not, as one would expect, ensuring moisture from outside does not reach the interior of the building but, rather, that moisture from inside seeking to exit the building does not dampen the cladding.

As the building inspector put it, each person generally puts 2 litres of water vapour into the air every day and in alpine environments, that is probably doubled by the moisture from wet clothing; then compounded by the interior temperature of lodges being around 20°, while the exterior goes down to -5° and less at night.

In his view, the cladding was warping and paint was peeling off not because of lack of maintenance by Warrugang but because up to 80 litres of water every day was trying to escape from the building and, without the reverse of the cladding being painted, it was coming through the back of the cladding.

Discussions continue. We have no illusions that building disputes can take some time to resolve but are hopeful that we will have the cladding rectified during the next summer.

## **CLADDING** (continued)

We have also raised with the builder that water is entering in the foyer. The opinion appears to be that this is unrelated to the cladding problem but, irrespective of that, it is a problem the builder needs to resolve.

We have removed the old map from the foyer so that it does not sustain any further damage and are hopeful that this water entry problem will be resolved at the same time as the cladding issue.

**Not long before bookings open for  
2009**

**Check [www.warrugang.com](http://www.warrugang.com)**

## **HEAD COUNT**

Your editor has finally succumbed to wearing a skid-lid/brain bucket; yes, a ski helmet.

The reasons? Well, partly because his skiing isn't that good he can stay out of trouble all of the time, plus you never know what the other person is going to do.

As usual, once you buy something you start to observe others with the same product. A headcount in lift lines and on chairs seemed to indicate that about 50% of people away from Front Valley were wearing a helmet in 2008. A similar check four or five years ago (when I started to notice an increase in people wearing them) showed around 10% use.

There are, of course, pluses and minuses. The new helmets are quite light, comfortable and come with "ear-warmers" in the securing straps, but without making a significant difference to hearing. The ventilation adjustment is effective in catering for colder and warmer days and, quite importantly, they're great to put your gloves and phone in when you're having lunch. On the other hand, you realise you have quite a selection of caps and beanies that don't seem to fit on top of (or underneath) the helmet!

Check out a helmet during the current sales. You never know when you might need it - and it's best if you're wearing it at the time.

## **CHAINS - AN UPDATE**

The RTA's proposal that chains be carried from Pender Lee to Bullocks Flat all winter long from 2010 is now "on ice," Premier Nathan Rees announced recently, and is unlikely to be passed due to the possible impact.

Obviously, SLOPES, Perisher (they've dropped the "Blue" from Perisher Blue) and others with commercial interests such as Pender Lee Chalets were lobbying heavily, but thanks to all of the members who submitted feedback to the RTA. It worked!

It's now up to the RTA - having identified a problem on that stretch of road to justify their recommendation that chains be required - to come up with an appropriate solution.

## **JUNE LONG WEEKEND MUSIC FESTIVAL**

From Friday 5 June to Monday 8 June, the Snowy Mountains of Music at Perisher is a chance to experience the wonder of the high country in Winter while listening to some great new sounds of world, folk, roots, Celtic, acoustic, traditional music, song, dance, poetry and yarn-spinning.

The festival will consist of jumping rhythms, late night jam sessions, acoustic sessions and themed concerts, even daily poetry breakfasts — over 100 performances in up to 10 diverse indoor venues across Perisher Valley and Smiggin Holes. Prices start at \$20 for a night ticket for adults to \$90 for a three day pass. Kids to 15 years are free! And there's early bird discount rates!

## **FIRE AT WARRUGANG**

Early in the morning on Australia Day, Warrugang experienced a minor fire in the vicinity of the floodlight on the south western corner of the building (on the exterior of room 3).

The cause was not electrical, but a failure in the support mechanisms of the floodlight which allowed the light to swing down so that it contacted the cladding – the heat eventually causing the cladding to ignite. We were very fortunate that some people from Maranatha were passing when the fire broke out and not only raised the alarm with the Fire Brigade but also roused those who were staying in the lodge.

The Fire Brigade attended and checked the electrical system. As the contact breakers had not tripped, we're quite satisfied that this was solely related to the support mechanism failure.

There is some minor damage to a small section of cladding (which the Fire Brigade removed) and the interior stud wall, but not to the two layers of fire rated gyprock that line the interior.

The builder has provided some exterior cladding for us to re-clad that area and we aim to have repairs completed by Easter.

## **SNOW ON MT PERISHER – SOONER**

If you travelled on the Mt P lifts last year you probably noticed the advertising signs "It's okay to come early in 2009. We'll be making snow on Mt P".

Perisher now claims it has the highest snow gun operating in Australia at 2036m. \$5.7 million dollars has been spent this year with new snowmaking covering Happy Valley and top to bottom on Towers Run as part of a three-year \$19 million dollar snowmaking upgrade, including significant rock removal on Towers, 68 extra automated snow guns covering nearly 11 hectares & nearly 9km of piping.



**The Towers work site in early March 2009**

## **LIFT PRICING**

Perisher has released the 2009 pricing – and the \$100 barrier has finally been broken!

- \* 1 Day Pass \$102 up \$3
- \* 2 Day Pass \$204 up \$8
- \* 3 Day Pass \$285 up \$12
- \* 5 Day Pass \$449 up \$18
- \* Season pass \$1249 up \$70
- \* Early bird season pass \$1099

## **EASTER WORKING BEE**

Can you paint, drill holes, use a screwdriver or make coffee? If you can do any of these then you have all the skills needed to join the Warrugang Easter Working Bee that Peter Funnell is organising.

With the club lodge now six years old there are a number of repairs needed to maintain our fabulous lodge in top shape. SLOPES is encouraging all the lodges to carry out their maintenance at Easter as part of the "Back to Perisher" weekend so there should be plenty of life and activities (even the supermarket & The Man will open) in the Valley throughout the long weekend.

If you can spare a day or two or better still all of Easter, then please contact Peter Funnell on 0423-111-392 or [funn@bigpond.com](mailto:funn@bigpond.com). All tools and materials will be provided. We need you!

## LEASE & RELEASE

In February we finally received the new lease that takes us through, including options, to 30 June 2058.

That lease has been executed and the previous lease surrendered.

The lease follows the form agreed with SLOPES and includes—

- \* We need to keep an accommodation register of persons staying overnight that shows—
  - \* The maximum number of persons (5 years and over) staying overnight.
  - \* The names of all of those persons and their room numbers.
  - \* The numbers of all persons under five years of age.
  - \* The times and dates the persons arrived at and departed from the Lodge.

This register has to be in a NPWS approved format and will enable NPWS to more closely monitor visitor numbers. We'll have to upgrade our records system and ask members & friends to provide arrival and departure information.

- \* We can have more than our 24 beds — so long as the number of persons staying who are five years and over does not exceed 24 (which includes the two beds in the manager's flat) and that the number of beds in each room is approved by NPWS.
- \* Rent is determined on the basis of 6% of market land value for the first five years and then is the greater of either 6% of market land value or 6% of audited gross revenue.

## DIRECTORS & OTHER OFFICERS 2008/09

*If you've got a question, query or just a comment to make, please phone any one of us - but here's the specific areas we look after:*

### President & Newsletter

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### Treasurer

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### Booking Officer:

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*David & Cristina Arens organised a group that won the "Pub to Pub" costume award in September 2008. Don't they look great!*

*Now, which one is David and which is Cristina?*

## HUMOUR

\* I pulled into the crowded parking lot and rolled down the car windows to make sure my Labrador pup had fresh air. She was stretched out on the back seat and I wanted to impress upon her that she must remain there. I walked to the curb backward, pointing my finger at the car and saying emphatically, 'Now you stay. Do you hear me?' 'Stay! Stay!' The driver of a nearby car gave me a strange look and said, 'Why don't you just put it in park?'

\* A teenage boy had just got his driver's license and inquired of his father about his use of the car. His father said he'd make a deal: 'You bring your grades up from a C to a B average, study your Bible, and get your hair cut. Then we'll talk' After about six weeks his father said, 'Son, you've brought your grades up and you've been studying your Bible, but I'm disappointed you haven't had your hair cut.' The boy said, 'I've been thinking about that, and I've noticed in my Bible studies that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair ... and there's even strong evidence that Jesus had long hair.' To this his father replied, 'Did you also notice they all walked everywhere?'