PERISHER HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER

Issue 23 Summer 2019-20

Notes from the President

An extraordinary winter season that simply went on and on. Historically the community noted the passing of two people who were important to skiing – Gunther (Garry) Fisher who built and operated the Eiger Chalet and Paul Reader one of the earliest ski equipment retailers in Sydney.

Garry Fisher (22.11.1931 – 23.07.2019)

Garry built and operated the Eiger Chalet at Perisher, one of the first commercial accommodation establishments, which later included the 'White Spider', one of the earliest quality restaurants in the Valley.

It seemed appropriate that the restaurant should honour one of the world's great climbs situated on the Eiger mountain, the White Spider route of Eiger's North Face, hence its name. The climbing history of this mountain is legendary stuff, even if you just search Eiger on Wikipedia you can't help but be thrilled. If you were around in 1957 you, along with the rest of the world, could follow the rescue of two men from the North Face of the Eiger. Pictures of these poor souls swinging from their ropes for days were riveting stuff (only one was rescued).

Since 1971 'White Spider' has been of particular importance to the community of Perisher lodge dwellers, as it provided one of 'the' dining out options for groups of lodge inmates wanting a break from slogging it out in a lodge kitchen. Many, many happy times are seared into the memories of those who enjoyed the wonderful atmosphere and food, together with an accompanying libation. And it remains so to this day.

The Eiger Chalet and its 'White Spider' restaurant was the venue for the Society's 5th Annual Dinner in 2012. A dinner memorable for the excellent panel of speakers (Chris and Jenelle Brangwin, Bert Gardner, Karl Guenther, Leon Smith) who were jollied along by Garry Huggett as moderator.

Paul John Reader

Paul died on 13 August 2019 aged 90. He was one of the first specialist ski retailers in Sydney and held in high esteem by all who knew him, as evidenced by the huge gathering of friends and ski industry associates at his funeral. Paul played an important part in popularising the sport by providing appropriate equipment and fashionable clothing. As such, he was one of those who helped launch skiing as an Australian mass participation sport. An accomplished Nordic and Alpine skier, Paul was an involved member of Kosciusko Alpine Club and the Ski Tourers Association.

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**Perisher Historical Society Inc.
PO Box 1263 Manly NSW 1655**

**VISIT US AT
perisherhistory.org.au
info@perisherhistory.org.au**

Apart from retail success with his eponymous stores, his many achievements included being a part of the extraordinary July 1954 winter crossing of the Australian alps from Kiandra to the Chalet with his two friends Keith Field and Douglass Baglin (see *PHS Newsletter* 19, pages 7-11).

On a Social Note

During this year's 'Hello in the Snow' gathering, Pamela got chatting with Telemark member Kari Svenson who kindly invited us to drop by 'Telemark No. 1' for drinks and partake in a customary Aquavit. Telemark Ski Club and its members occupy a special place in history of the Perisher ski area. Much of the building is the original pre-fabricated hut ordered and shipped from Fredrikstad, Norway in 1951. Constructed (no nails) in 9 weeks by the members, with enthusiastic voluntary assistance from a few workers involved with the Guthega component of the Snowy Scheme. It is such a long time since I darkened the Telemark door, possibly 1956. I certainly recall being wide-eyed when my uncle spoke of the club's sauna. Telemark is certainly chock-full of atmosphere and embodies the spirit and resourcefulness of those who pioneered skiing in Perisher.

Read more in your copy of *Highway to Heaven* by Peter Southwell-Keely (published by the Society). Additional copies always available as the perfect gift.

Philip Woodman

Copies of John Davis' book, *A History of the Early Development of Perisher-Smiggins,* are available by contacting PHS at: phsadmin@iprimus.com.au
The cost is $49.95 plus postage.

There were six club lodges in Perisher Valley when the author John Davis and his wife Pat Davis came in 1956. This was at the start of a skiing explosion.

They provided the first commercial accommodation at the Tow Hut at North Perisher and operated The Big Tow – a rope tow. A lifetime of involvement made them icons of the area.

A MUST READ for every Perisher / Smiggins skier and beyond

- Wonderfully readable account of the beginnings of the area
- Frank, funny and fabulous recollections
- The real story by the people who were there
- Lovingly documented by John Davis

Season's Greetings to all

Hello in the Snow 2019

This popular mid-Winter get-together, co-hosted by PHS and Perisher-XC, was held in the bar of the Marritz Hotel on Tuesday 6 August. After a blue-bird day with great snow, a large number of PHS members, friends and cross-country skiers gathered to swap stories over a drink and delicious canapés. This event is now an integral part of Perisher X-Country Week and considered essential training for the KAC Cross-country Classic the following day.

Our thanks to Manager, Simone, and her staff, for another most enjoyable Marritz occasion.
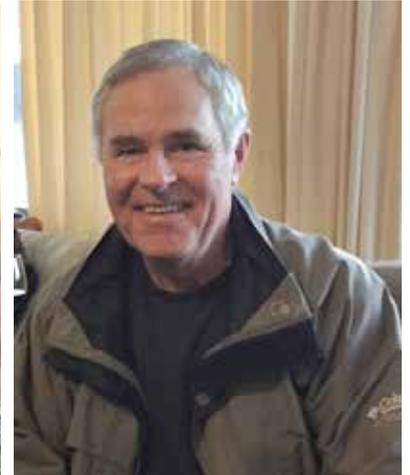
Happy Birthday KAC

In November 2019, The Kosciusko Alpine Club (KAC) celebrated its 110th anniversary with a dinner at the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron, Kirribilli. Club historian, Peter Southwell-Keely, gave a brief talk outlining some of the Club's highlights. An edited version of that talk follows.

Before becoming KAC's first president Charles Kerry, a professional photographer, showed Australia's city dwellers that recreational skiing had been occurring at Kiandra for over 30 years. From 1896 onwards Kerry published accounts and photos of the annual ski races at Kiandra, mainly in the *Sydney Mail*.

In 1897 Kerry led a group of 14 to make the first winter ascent of Mt Kosciuszko. The group took packhorses up the Thredbo Valley and camped at what is now Friday Flat. After a day to get their feet on skis, they climbed Mt Crackenback, reached the summit of Kosciuszko and returned in one day.

The following year Kerry formed a group in Sydney called the NSW (or Sydney) Alpine Club with a view to participating in the annual races at Kiandra. Members continued to go to Kiandra until the formation of KAC, when the earlier club ceased to exist.

The NSW government opened the new Hotel Kosciusko on 7 June 1909 and KAC was formed in Sydney on 3 August, 1909, with Charles Kerry its first president. One week later KAC held its first ski carnival at the Hotel Kosciusko. From 1909 to 1920 KAC was the only club in the Kosciusko area and only the second in Australia after the Kiandra Snow Shoe Club (the third if you include the defunct NSW Alpine Club). The Hotel Kosciusko was the only source of accommodation in the area apart from Betts Camp (12 beds) and remained so until the Kosciusko Chalet was built at Charlotte Pass in 1930.

In 1910, Dr (later Sir) Herbert Schlink led a group (Drs J. Cosgrove, O. Paul and Mr A. Pitt) to make the first winter ascent of Mt Kosciuszko along the Kosciuszko Road starting at the Hotel Kosciusko (54 km return). The group took three days for the round trip, overnighting at Betts Camp (almost exactly half way) each way.

Dr Schlink was so enamoured of the adventure that, in 1913, he proposed that KAC begin the Summit Competition whereby anyone completing the trip in a fixed time (12 hours for women, 10 hours for men) would gain the Summit badge and the fastest man, woman or group in any year would win the Summit Trophy for that year. The Summit Competition became the Holy Grail of skiing in NSW for the next 20 years.

KAC introduced the first skiing proficiency tests in Australia in 1918, which were modelled on the third class test of the Ski Club of Great Britain. There were three parts to the test: climbing, descending and turning. The candidate had to execute various methods of climbing such

Charles Kerry, first President of KAC

as kick turning, herringboning, sidestepping etc. The candidate then had to do a timed descent swiftly, safely and in good form. Finally the candidate had to make four stemming turns at fair speed and stop on a slope by snow plough or stem.

In 1919 KAC published its first Year Book, the first skiing publication in Australia. It produced Year Books in 1920, 1921, 1923 and 1926 before joining with the Ski Club of Australia (formed 1920) and other clubs to produce the first Australian Ski Year Book in 1928.

Also in 1919, KAC announced it was running the Championship of Australia, a one-event, 8 km cross country race. It may seem strange that a club had decided to run the Australian Championship but there were only two skiing organisations in Australia at the time – the Kiandra Snow Shoe Club and KAC. Of the two, only KAC had the resources to run such an event.

KAC continued to run the Australian Championship in this form until 1929 when it handed

over to the newly-formed (1928) Ski Council of NSW. From 1930 onward the Australian Championship consisted of four events, Slalom, Downhill, Cross-country and Jump. For a number of years the Australian Champion was determined by aggregate results over the four events.

In 1935 the NSW Government brought to Australia the first overseas ski instructor, Ernst Skardarasy, from Zürs, Austria, who taught Australians the Arlberg technique. KAC made an instructional film featuring Skardarasy which it rented out to other clubs and also an illustrated instruction manual *Frozen Lessons,* which it sold for 2 shillings (20c). *Frozen Lessons* became the ski manual for the Australian Ski Troops in Lebanon during WWII.

KAC had long desired its own on-snow accommodation and, in 1938, acquired an interest in the Clarke family shepherd's hut at White's River for use during the winter. White's River Hut became very popular with KAC members until the advent of the Perisher, Smiggins, Guthega and Thredbo resorts during the fifties. KAC added a room, bringing the total accommodation to eight. White's River Hut is now open to all ski tourers and KAC is responsible for its maintenance.

In 1939 a syndicate of predominantly KAC members, including KAC itself, led by Oliver Moriarty, formed the Alpine Hut Club and bought 40 acres of freehold land on Dead Horse Creek at the foot of Brassy Mountain. There they built the Alpine Hut which, initially, had accommodation for 14, later extended. The club began to lose popularity in the fifties and was wound up in 1968.

The very energetic Charles Anton migrated to Australia in 1938 but did not discover Australian snow until 1945. A member of no club himself, in 1950 he formed the Ski Tourers Association (STA) with the aim of building a chain of touring huts in our alps, much like those in Europe. Within no time STA had several hundred members from all clubs. KAC provided two vice-presidents (Dudley Ward and Ken Breakspear), club architect (Dudley Ward), club treasurer (Bob Ward), club solicitor (Colin Broad) and two of five committee members (Marie Gelling and Don Richardson). STA built Lake Albina Lodge in 1951, Kunama Huette in 1953, the Northcote Ski Tow and Tow Hut in 1954 and Illawong in 1957.

Another of Anton's initiatives was the Golden Eagle Run, a speed trial from the Mt Northcote cornice, parallel to the Northcote Ski Tow and finishing 100 m past Kunama Huette.

In 1948 a syndicate of KAC members (Eric McIllree (pilot), Clive Muir and Bob Ward) plus Wally Reed of Kiandra bought a 10-seat Avro Anson airplane (the 'Ski Flier') and initiated a twice weekly air service from Sydney to Cooma. The service was a great success but the syndicate pushed its luck and continued the winter service through summer. The Department of Civil Aviation claimed that the summer service breached the syndicate's charter and refused permission to operate the following winter. The winter air service was not resumed until 1956 when Butler Air Transport (later Airlines of NSW, and then Ansett) began its service.

KAC opened its first lodge at Charlotte Pass in 1952. The lodge burnt down in 1963, was rebuilt for the 1964 season and remained unchanged until 1999 when the accommodation wing was completely renovated.

A syndicate of KAC members (Dick Toppin, Reg Ray, John Fairchild, Ian Gardiner and Sverre Kaaten) formed the Alpine Transport Company in 1953 and bought two 'Weasel' snowmobiles from the Snowy

White's River Hut

The 'Ski Flier', syndicate member Bob Ward fifth from left

110 years 1909-2019

Mountains Authority. The aim of the company was to provide a transport service for goods and people for the growing Smiggins and Perisher area. After several changes of ownership this service continues as Hans Oversnow.

Sverre Kaaten's syndicate went on to build the first major ski tow in Perisher Valley in 1955, the Big Tow in North Perisher, and the associated Tow Hut. The Tow Hut was the first private, non-ski club accommodation in the Kosciusko area. The syndicate went on to begin development of Smiggin Holes in 1960.

Long-term KAC member, Ken Murray, began his development of Perisher in 1959 with the first Sundeck Hotel and the first T-bar. By the time he sold Perisher and Smiggin Holes to Sir Frank Packer in 1972, he had built three hotels and about 10 ski lifts, including the Mt Perisher Chair.

KAC bought its Jubilee Lodge in Thredbo in 1969 but it did not prove successful and it was sold in 1974. With the proceeds of the sale, KAC purchased Alpenhof Lodge in Perisher. Alpenhof was enlarged in 1974 and 1988 and substantially rebuilt in 2013. The Club returned to Thredbo in 1993 with the purchase of Punchinello Alpine Lodge Apartments.

In 1972 KAC began one of its most important ventures, the KAC Cross-Country Ski Race from Perisher to Charlotte Pass. From its inception it has been the centrepiece of Cross-Country Race Week in NSW.

As a consequence of its long history, KAC has had the good fortune to be involved in many pioneering snow sport activities such as the early exploration of the Kosciusko Main Range, the introduction of ski proficiency tests, the Australian Championship, the KAC Year Book, the first ski publication in Australia, *Frozen Lessons*, a ski instruction handbook, air transport to the snow, oversnow transport in the Perisher area and its members Sverre Kaaten and Ken Murray began the development of the Perisher and Smiggins resorts.

Today, with 2000 members, an office in Chatswood and lodges in Charlotte Pass, Perisher and Thredbo the Club is well placed to navigate the future and I wish it well in its second century.

The first KAC lodge at Charlotte Pass, opened 1952

Paddy Pallin: a mountain legend

by Judy Thomson

For nearly 90 years the name Paddy Pallin has been synonymous with high-quality, light-weight gear for walking, camping, climbing and skiing. Paddy also established one of our toughest cross-country ski races in 1965. But who knew that Paddy only started skiing at the age of 54, subsequently made the rugged Kiandra to Kosciuszko winter crossing three times (the last at age 76) and reached the summit of Mount Kala Pattar (5545 m) in the Himalayas in his 70th year?

'Paddy' was born Frank Austin Pallin in Hartlepool, County Durham, England in 1900. Although he disliked the nickname, its alliterative charm was too strong. Interestingly, fellow conservationist, Myles Dunphy, always called him Frank. Paddy developed a love of the outdoors through family outings to the local beaches and walks along the cliffs and in the nearby hills. His first experience of camping was with the scouts in the wilds of North Yorkshire.

After serving in the Royal Flying Corps (RAF) in 1918, Paddy worked as an average adjustor in an insurance office and in 1920 was transferred to London where he lived in the YMCA building in Central London. Weekends were spent in the countryside, cycling, tramping and camping. As a scout leader, he led long hiking expeditions that required camping equipment. It was lucky that his mother had taught him how to use a sewing machine!

In 1926, Paddy and his fiancée May decided that their future lay in Australia. Paddy left first, as escort for a group of migrants known as the 'Dreadnought Boys', and tried his hand at farming near Singleton. By 1927 he was back in a Sydney insurance office and once again spent his leisure time walking and camping. He joined the scouts, helping to build a training camp at Pennant Hills, and got to know the rugged sandstone country around Sydney and in the Blue Mountains. He joined the newly formed Sydney Bushwalkers club in 1927. May joined him in 1929 and they went on many camping trips, including an adventurous 12-day canoe trip down the Shoalhaven River from Marulan to Nowra.

With the Depression, Paddy lost his job and saw it as an opportunity to open an outdoor equipment business. He already made some of his own gear and soon he began to sell groundsheets, tents, sleeping bags and rucksacks (all made in his Lindfield home) to Sydney's growing bushwalking fraternity. He opened his first shop in George Street in 1930. *Paddymade* gear soon developed a reputation for quality and suitability for the serious walker and the business expanded. By 1934 it was generating modest profits. Paddy established a mail-order system and eventually opened shops and outlets throughout Australia, with sales boosted by the boom in backpacking from the 1960s.

Paddy wanted others to share his love of the Australian bush and his *Bushwalking and Camping,* first published in 1933, provided practical advice about equipment and how to camp. A fourteenth edition was published in 1995. He helped to found the River canoe Club in 1935 and the Bush Club in 1939. His vast bushwalking experience meant he was often called on to locate lost walkers and in 1944 he helped set up Bushwalkers Search and Rescue and served as its convenor until 1976. Paddy also played a key role in establishing the National Fitness Council in 1939 and the Youth Hostels Association (YHA) in 1944.

Paddy was passionate about caring for the environment he loved. He was instrumental in establishing the National Parks Association of NSW and became its first president. He was also elected Patron of the Kosciusko Huts Association (KHA) at its formation in 1971. As an avid conservationist, he was involved

in many campaigns to save and protect the bush and in the 1970s established a foundation to provide financial support to bushwalking and environmental causes. In 1975 he was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM).

In 1955, after spending time in Kiandra building a snowfield Youth Hostel, Paddy decided it was time to learn to ski – at the age of 54. A Kiandra legend, Bill Paterick took him under his wing and in no time Paddy was hooked. Despite breaking his leg twice he remained a devotee. The beauty of the winter landscape, the snow gums in particular, captured his imagination. As he said in *Never Truly Lost,* his recollections published in 1987:

"After 30 years of bushwalking in Australia, skiing proved a pleasurable means of locomotion, and ski touring a gateway to new experience and adventure...To the bushwalker, the descents are sometimes as exhausting as the climbs, but to a skier they are pure joy."

He first skied at Perisher in 1955 and, in 1958, after helping to build the YHA lodge in the new resort of Thredbo, swallowed his pride and took some beginner lessons in downhill technique. Now he could tackle any terrain on skis and many ski touring expeditions followed, both in the Kosciuszko National Park and on the Bogong High Plains in Victoria.

The Kiandra to Kosciuszko crossing made by Schlink and his party in 1927 had always intrigued him and in 1957 Paddy and YHA friends skied from Guthega Power Station to Kiandra, staying in mountain

Paddy on Twynam West trig 1965. Photo by Tom Moppett

huts along the way. He made the crossing again in 1972 to make the film *Kosciusko the Cruel Country* and in 1977 (aged 76) he took part in the 50 th anniversary commemoration of the first crossing, organised by the Kosciusko Huts Association. This trip was very nearly fatal for Paddy who ended up face down in a pool of watery snow when a snow bridge collapsed under him. With a heavy pack pressing him down, he remembered thinking "What a way to die!" Finally he extricated his hands from the stocks, removed the pack and was hauled out by his companions. Along with 150 other KHA members, Paddy and his group then completed

the crossing from Kiandra to Guthega.

This epic ski crossing also inspired Paddy to establish the Paddy Pallin Cross Country Ski Classic in 1965. The initial aim was for a 60 km race between Kiandra and Perisher Valley. However, because the snow around Kiandra could not be guaranteed, the first race was run from Round Mountain to Perisher. There were only six competitors in this first Classic – Ross Martin, Kore Grunnsund, Robbie Kilpinen, Otto Pinkas, Charlie Derrick and Bob Maddison. Bad weather set in early and visibility was so poor the competitors stayed

together for safety. After leaving Bob Maddison at White's Hut, the other five drew up in a line a metre from the finish at Guthega and stepped over it together, a five-fold dead heat. Subsequent races were run in the more sheltered area between Perisher Valley and Charlotte Pass, with hundreds of skiers competing over distances up to 46 km. The 'Paddy' was run for the last time in 1999.

Paddy continued walking and cross-country skiing well into his eighties. His last camping expedition was to the top of Pounds Creek (under Mount Twynam) with son Rob and old friend Rex Cox.

After Paddy's death in 1991, Ross Bill organised 'The Crossing', a special event to commemorate Paddy's life, essentially a re-run of that first race from Round Mountain. Because of concerns about the weather, as in 1965 it was decided to abandon the idea of racing and for the skiers to keep together. All 50 skiers made it safely to Perisher, with the last arriving just before dark but in time for the celebratory dinner at the White Spider.

Paddy is also remembered by the Paddy Pallin Reserve at Lindfield and a bronze bust outside the National Parks Headquarters in Jindabyne. Paddy Pallin equipment stores remain a family business and the Paddy Pallin Foundation continues to fund conservation issues and environmental research.
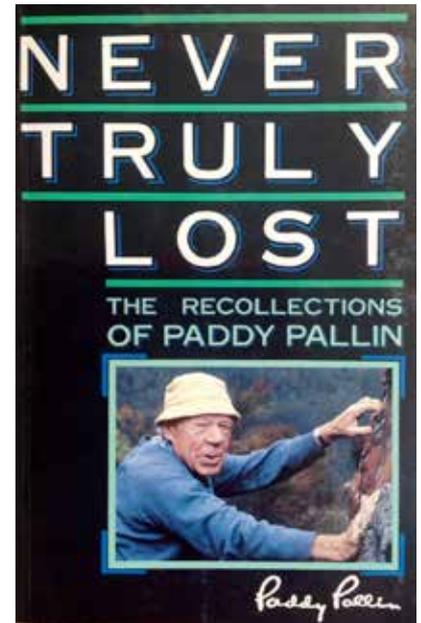
Advertisement in the Australian Ski Year Book 1938

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Kiandra Courthouse Mural

by Jan Glover

There is not much left of the town of Kiandra, which housed up to 10,000 people during the gold rush in the 1860s. Although the gold rush was short lived, the town survived with a declining number of inhabitants into the 1970s. The Courthouse, built in 1890, is the only significant building of historical interest left standing. After it closed as a police station in 1937, it was used as a private residence for a time, before becoming the Kiandra Chalet (until 1953) and later the Kiandra Chalet Hotel. The Chalet closed in 1973 and the building was then used as a Main Roads depot. After the last resident left in 1974, the NPWS took over the town and demolished most of the other buildings.

 I visited the courthouse at Easter 2019 and was intrigued by a partially restored mural in the front room depicting two men (one without a shirt) carrying skis over their shoulders.

A sign on the wall read:

"A MURAL, PAINTED, FORGOTTEN AND RECOVERED. When National Parks started restoring this building in 2009 this mural of two skiers had been forgotten. At the time of restoration a coat of paint and 1960's fire stair from the first floor accommodation concealed the skiers. University of Canberra museum conservation students have, on two occasions, come to Kiandra to carefully remove – with tiny scalpels – the paint from over the mural."

Kiandra Courthouse, April 2019

An interview recorded by ABC Radio refers to the probable identity of the artist who painted the murals – Rufus Morris.

http://www.abc.net.au/local/stories/2012/05/17/3505244.htm

Rufus Morris was a watercolour artist, children's book illustrator and a regular cartoonist for *The Bulletin.* He was renowned for his work on the 'It's moments like these you need Minties' advertising campaign. He had regular gallery exhibitions of his watercolour works, and art site listings of some of his works including 'Snow Storm from Grey Mare Hut', 'Jagungal Peak, Snowy Mountains', 'Cup and Saucer Peak and Valentine River from the Kerries', 'Sunlit Trout Stream', indicate that he was a regular visitor to the mountains, and a keen fisherman. Arthur Polkinghorne's Diary in 'The Sun' in the 1950s regularly reported Rufus' fishing anecdotes.

The mural in the front room of the courthouse

'Dry Fly Man', a mural on the wall in the old Talbingo Hotel is attributed to Morris.

On the Blowering history website Fred Vines tells a story relating to the murals.

"One of the people I met was Rufus Morris an artist and cartoonist with I think The Bulletin. Some years before he had been held on a bar stool rather inebriated while he drew with charcoal on the wall above the fireplace a cartoon of a fisherman trying to catch a grasshopper while he was watched disapprovingly at a distance by his purist friends. Next day he had painted in the bar-length drawing. It was a well known feature mural of the pub (Talbingo Hotel) until the hotel demolition when Jounama Dam flooded it."

http://blowering.com/vines.html

The charcoal drawings of nude figures on the walls in the Grey Mare Hut (c1954-55) are also attributed to Morris.

Klaus Hueneke, in his book *Huts of the High Country,* includes an image of the Grey Mare murals which are fading over time. They have been a topic of conversation for skiers and bushwalkers over the years, and the subject of a poem by Ted Winter.

At the time, the name 'Rufus Morris' seemed rather familiar to me – and it led me to check the signature on a watercolour of Mt Jagungal which belonged to my parents, and now hangs in our lounge room. I recall my mother telling me that he was the cartoonist for *The Bulletin,* and also a very accomplished watercolourist. The back of the painting is inscribed:

"THE VALENTINE RIVER. SNOWY MOUNTAINS"

RUFUS MORRIS F.R.A.S.

(JAGUNGAL MOUNTAIN IN THE BACKGROUND)

My father, Bill Kenyon, was the Chief Squirrel of the Exclusive Squirrel Club, a group of skiing friends who maintained Mawson Hut for several years in the 1960s. Mt Jagungal was his favourite mountain, the Valentine River his favourite fishing spot. No wonder Morris' painting appealed to him.
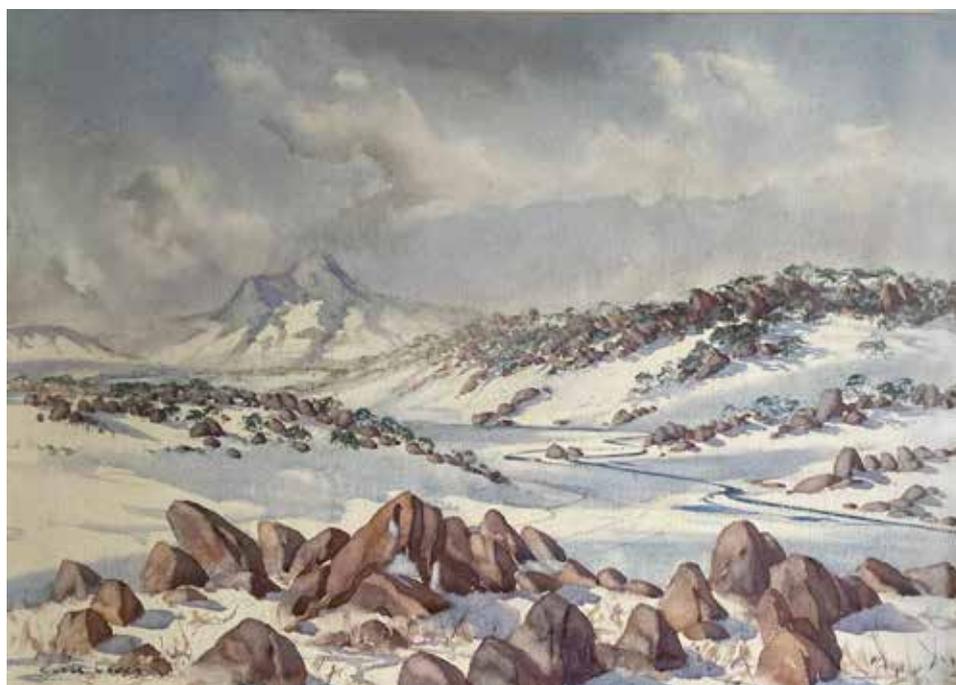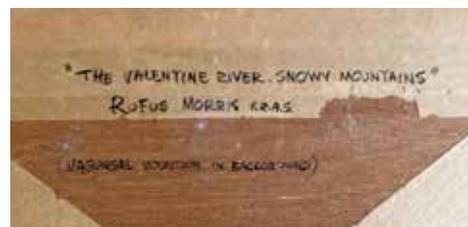
Watercolour by Rufus Morris - "The Valentine River. Snowy Mountains"

Stop Press: After initial publication of this article, we heard that the Kiandra Courthouse has been left in ruins during the devastating bushfires in January 2020. More information will be provided in the next newsletter and on the revised PHS website perisherhistory.org.au

Thirroul Ski Club 50th Celebration

by Bruce Norton

2019 marked the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Thirroul Ski Club (Maranatha Lodge located at South Perisher). The celebration took place in the suburb where it all began, at the Thirroul Bowling, Leagues & Recreation Club on Sunday afternoon the 27 October 2019.

The event was very well attended, with some 130 plus people making the celebration a great success. It was a real family affair with an excellent cross section of our membership from original, newer and junior members. A number of third generation and one fourth generation family took part.

Thirroul Ski Club members and friends shared a most enjoyable afternoon of great food, drinks and company. There was much catching up and reminiscing about the club and its history with old ski friends.

Club history was also reflected in the decorations, with documents and memorabilia displayed on walls and tables around the room. A video interview captured early recollections of the club by two of our long standing and still active members Gordon McComb and Hans Buettner.

Three celebration photo cakes were produced for the occasion, with one showing our club logo, the second with an old 1970s photo of the lodge and the third the lodge as it looks today. Speeches and presentations during the afternoon acknowledged those who made our great club what it is today.

Finally, a big thank you to all the people who contributed to various aspects of making the day come together and to all those who turned up and made our 50th celebration an afternoon to remember.

The Thirroul Ski Club was founded in 1969 by a small band of members from the Thirroul Leagues Club with a desire to establish a club for skiing enthusiasts. The purchase of the already named Maranatha Lodge in Perisher Valley occurred in 1970. The lodge was fortunately purchased with fittings and basic stores so by the time the snow was falling in 1971 the club had employed a manager, had an enthusiastic committee and by the end of the year a membership of 220 people.

Since those early days the club has grown to about 300 members of all ages. It is a family lodge that provides accommodation in a location with one of the best views of Mount Perisher and Centre Valley.

Christine McComb and Jim Spiers

Celebration cakes

John and Claire Crockett, Catherine Muir

Daniel Quinn, Lesley and Heather Snell, Robyn Quinn

Caleb Barnes, Zoe Pearcy, Barb Frankum, Lyn Dblasi