

ULLR BULLRTIN

MARCH 09—EDITION 8

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The eerie and spooky fog of Perisher Valley

Stay Summer and Winter

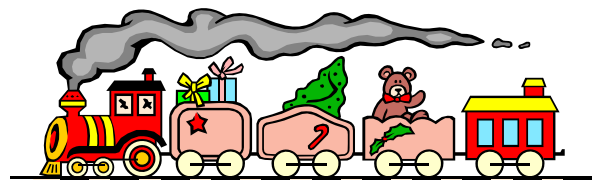
Yea, this is your lodge summer and winter, so book early, stay when it suits & come regularly. But do not miss out so book early.

Commencing dates for winter bookings:

Members:	From March 01
Members and Associates:	From March 15
Members; Associates; Guests and Friends:	From April 01

And, please don't forget about the Lodge's payments terms and conditions.

Please refer to the current Ullr Ski Lodge "By Laws" from our web site: www.ullrlodge.com.au



Get on board the Ullr Ski Lodge Train

Artists and Mountain Dreaming...beats a day at the office anytime



It's hard to believe that it's been nine years since our first Artist's week at Ullr in 2000. At that time we were led by the indefatigable John White, so it was hard not to think of him when we headed back again in

the first week of February. This time, though not by choice, it was an all girls group consisting of Robyn Wight, Jo Hughes, Margo Graham, Sue West, Louise Creasey, Joan Hoare, Carol Hughes and myself.

We met up in Canberra, staying at the Griffin Apartments for our first night. During the day we introduced ourselves at lunch before proceeding to the National Gallery to see the Degas exhibition and check out the new National Portrait Gallery - a must see, and for me it's what the Archibald prize should be about but isn't. That night we dined well at a great little Italian place in Kingston before heading off the next day to Perisher Valley.

After short stops along the way for supplies and fly nets at Cooma - including 'bushman's' insect repellent which I now swear by as more effective against march flies than anything in existence - we landed at Ullr just after lunch. Though still in the low 30's the temperature was a welcome relief from the 40 plus degrees we'd experienced in Canberra.

On our first full day we agreed to start early to escape the hottest part of the day. Subsequently our days typically started at 6am for an early morning walk before breakfast at 7am. By 8am most of us had left the lodge for our agreed outdoor location of the day, working steadily till 1.30. Morning tea, usually fresh cakes, buns or scones out of the oven that morning courtesy Joan and Sandra, was eaten at the easel. By 1.30 we were back at Ullr for lunch.

By the second day most of us were fully attuned to observing and absorbing the detail of our surroundings. Setting off in the early mornings on the cross-country ski trails with the sun just coming up was a magical experience. The dew fresh on the still abundant 'Billy buttons', and 'everlasting daises', each twig and leaf seemed suspended in the crisp high country air. We collected specimens of rocks, flowers and leaves to colour match to our painting later in the day, and examined anew the entwining snow gums clinging for life to

their huge boulders. In the summer there are no ski trails as such, no people, no noise so it's just a matter of following pole to pole so as not to lose your bearings. Perisher is very quiet in the summer, the workers on the ski lifts and a few bush walkers were the only other signs of humanity, so the sense of isolation from the hurly burly of the city is quite profound. But things change quickly in the mountains: one afternoon as we were coming back from painting at Charlotte's Pass, a thick fog rolled into the valley towards us and the temperature dropped. By the time we were back at the lodge, we were in a complete white-out which lasted into the next day.

Afternoons were spent either working on paintings which we'd produced that morning, preparing for the next day, sketching around the lodge, or just relaxing with a book or even a nap. Those whose turn it was to prepare dinner spent an enjoyable hour or so in the kitchen - once we'd worked out how to get the oven going. But that's another story which we are sharing

only with the friendly mountain men from the fire brigade.

Dinners were magnificent. Accompanied by wonderful wines and champagne, roast lamb, lemon scented chicken with olives, beef steak Romano, chilly prawn pasta, lasagne, bocconcini salad, spiced oranges.. and the list goes on.

6pm was drinks time and 'show and tell'. It sounds confronting but it wasn't, was it Sue? Each day the painters arranged their work for a group critique. During this time we each talked about what we were trying to achieve, the materials we used, what we liked about our work and what we didn't. The contributions and encouragement from all the group was I think a tremendously growing experience. Many of us made changes to the way we worked, for some it took the work to a new dimension, for others it enabled them to find the skills they had thought lost, others gained valuable source material for larger works when they returned home. We're all looking forward to the next Painter's Week at Ullr, and hopefully it will be a lot closer than nine years so watch this space.

Sandra



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From the Chairman

Greetings for 2009. As the crazy weather conditions Australia has experienced in the last few weeks begin to settle our attention turns to the winter ahead with predictions of good snow and great times at Ullr.

Thanks to all 54 members and guests who attended the End of Season function at Nu's Restaurant last November. A great night was had by all, excellent food, sensational company, embellished by the door prizes won by three lucky people.

The season is off to a great start with the welcome return of Emma and Cameron to the Lodge on March 1. Cameron is in the midst of improvements to the kitchen area and reconfiguring storage space in Rooms 1 and 2, all designed by member Alice Kaplun for which our many thanks to Alice.

Two major changes.

- Emma has accepted the responsibility of Lodge Booking Officer after 17 tireless years from Doug for which the Board is extremely grateful. What does this mean? All bookings both winter and summer need to be made directly through Emma who can be contacted by email: emma@ullrskilodge.com.au or by phone on (02) 6457 5200 or fax (02) 6457 5600. Please note the Sydney number (02) 9755 1969 has been disconnected. Accommodation rates and availability are on the Ullr website www.ullrlodge.com.au Bookings are filling quickly so act now to avoid disappointment
- Doug Esdaile is now the Treasurer, however Emma will be invoicing you for your accommodation as per the Lodge's guidelines. We accept MasterCard and Visa as well as



cheques. Doug will continue to send subscription notices and new member instalment invoices.

Jonathan has organised a Working Bee for the weekend of April 17/18. Please confirm to Jonathan if you are available to attend and are prepared to work hard and have some fun as well. These are enjoyable times and of great assistance to the Lodge.

The AGM has been set for Tuesday May 19 at the Crows Nest Community Centre. Details and an Agenda will be sent to you closer to the meeting date. Suggest you enter it in your diary now and it would be a great help for catering purposes if you could indicate your plans for attending to any member of the Board.

Wishing all members and guests another great season and hoping to see as many of you as possible at the AGM or through the season

The 2008 End of Season Dinner Party



What a night! What a dinner party! On Thursday 15 November at "Nu's" restaurant McMahon's Point, around 54 members, guests and friends of Ullr enjoyed an excellent meal, some friendly beers and good Hunter wines - all for \$60 per person. Neither was there any shortage of laughter and conversation! Three door prizes were drawn, with the winners being:

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| First prize: | Caroline Baillie (3 nights at Ullr Lodge) |
| Second prize: | Victoria Marshall (1 case of Wirral Grange gold medal Shiraz) |
| Third prize: | John Brooks (Asquith & Somerset toiletries gift pack) |

If you were not able to make it in 2008, be on standby in 2009 around early November to come along. It's a great night, and bring your friends.





The Accommodation Booking Office

Bookings for the 2009 winter & summer seasons will be managed by our Manager Emma at Ullr Lodge this year. Please contact Emma to make and confirm your bookings and payments. The booking office will firmly comply with the Ullr Ski Lodge booking terms and conditions.

There has been a modest increase on the 2008 rates for 2009 to accommodate increases in costs across the board. 2009 rates and room availability can be found on our web site:

Home page:

<http://www.ullrlodge.com.au/>

Room Rates:

<http://www.ullrlodge.com.au/Attachments/Room%20Rates.pdf>

Room Availability:

<http://www.ullrlodge.com.au/Attachments/Room%20Availability%202009.pdf>

Emma's contact details:

B: 02 6457 5200

Fax: 02 6457 5600

Email: emma@ullrskilodge.com.au

Get in early to secure your accommodation and avoid any hassles.



Please don't forget about me!

E-PAYMENTS AND TAX INVOICE NUMBER

When making an e-payment direct into the Ullr Ski Lodge account, please reference the Tax Invoice number on your Tax Invoice and include the following information. It makes life a little easier for us when we are reconciling. We thank you for your cooperation.

Ullr Ski Lodge bank account information:

Account name: Ullr Ski Lodge Co-operative Ltd
Bank: National Australia Bank
BSB: 082 067
Account No: 51990 0419
Tax invoice number: XXXXXXXXX
Your name: John Smith



Write me down for next time

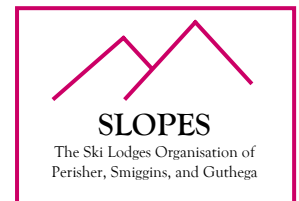
The April Pre-Season Working Bee

The Ullr Ski Lodge pre-season Working Bee has been scheduled for the weekend of 18 & 19 April, details to be provided. So come along for a great weekend at Ullr Lodge Perisher Valley.



All members, friends and guests are invited. The Working Bee is a well managed and co-ordinated fun weekend. All accommodation at Ullr Lodge for the Working Bee is at no charge. **Park entry is also free.** The weekend is a self-managed and self-catered arrangement. All linen/bedding and towels will be provided. You will be responsible for providing your own food and supplies. If you would like to make a long weekend of it, stay for the Friday and/or Monday.

Please email me at: jon@ullrskilodge.com.au and let me know who will be coming. Thank you.



Who are SLOPES?? What Do They Do??

SLOPES is the acronym for the Ski Lodges Organisation Of Perisher Smiggins and Guthega. Members are the 88 Ski Clubs of the Perisher Range. Slopes consults with and represent some 55,000 skiers including Club members, friends and associates who stay club lodges like Ullr.

1990: SLOPES was formed. The Committee was very aggressive and made representations to all NSW MPs and a Parliamentary Select Environment Committee on leases. Finally the Government came down in favour of issuing new leases to all Clubs and some commercial lodges. SLOPES represented the Clubs in the negotiations, and in 1996, 88 new Club leases for 1620 beds were issued with an expiry date of 2025.

It had become apparent that all Clubs had common objectives, namely the promotion of snow sports for members by providing a community of varying ages and experiences who could cross-pollinate and encourage the young. The absence of a profit motive and a congenial low cost friendly residential atmosphere among the lodges brought about true friendships, mutual support and skills development in SLOPES.

1995: Around 1995 a major problem arose: current NSW Health legislation required all bedrooms to measure 5.5 sqm floor area per sleeper. Research showed the 5.5 sqm legislation went back to the fear of the "miasma" in the

Crimean War. SLOPES commissioned an excellent lawyer, and with the aid of an Associate Professor Club member, managed to point out the absurdity of the legislation to the Department of Health. With heavy political lobbying the legislation was changed in the last week of the Liberal Government to 2 sqm per bed for non permanent accommodation.

1996: Land valuations used for setting rentals paid to NPWS arose as an issue. The values were random, varied immensely and had no logic. SLOPES negotiated with the Valuer General on behalf of all 88 Clubs and arrived at a logical valuation process that relied on both bed numbers and lodge locations relative to services.

1997: A Commission of Inquiry was called to look at increasing bed supply and consider NPWS's desire to close all Guthega Lodges. SLOPES participated strongly and results reflected very closely its input. The NPWS submissions were changed considerably and a decision to allocate 800 new beds to a Village centre and 520 beds elsewhere was released by the Commission. SLOPES had proposed a total of 1300 beds and felt listened to.

In this period SLOPES worked with NPWS to obtain more transparency in monies spent in the area that were charged to Clubs as Municipal Service Fees. Biannual joint meetings were established with full tabling of all



(Continued from page 5)

cash flows and budgets and round table discussions, and this continues today. This was a major step forward in liaison with NPWS.

2002: Again in 2002 a full round of land valuations were negotiated with the Valuer General.

2003: In 2003 the cost of Liability and Lodge insurances through Sentinel had become very very high. Club premiums had been over \$1m per year and the sums insured over \$100m, so it was a small but workable pool. SLOPES negotiated new arrangements that all lodges could participate in. The savings results have been spectacular. As the total pool increased with some commercial lodges joining in, some Thredbo lodges and now most of the Clubs, the premiums have rocketed downwards, and some savings of 50% and more achieved.

2004: In 2004/5 heavy pressure by the EPA forced a review of the whole Perisher area to upgrade the roads, water, sewage to more modern standards. This was also a condition of the approval to increase bed numbers. A reference to IPART called for a full pricing and works listing program to be planned and adopted. SLOPES made strong contributions. The main Club problem was from Perisher Blue endeavouring to push the costs onto the overnight lodges. With detailed presentations to IPART, SLOPES achieved a reasonable cost distribution across all the parties involved.

2007: The direct involvement and negotiations of issuing/selling of 520 beds, and to make them attractive a co-issue of extending leases to 2057.

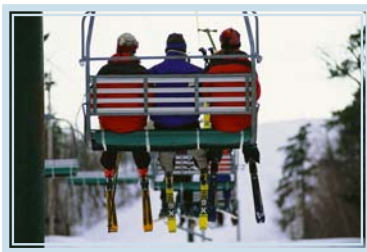
2007: Land revaluation for 2007 increased valuations was to be used for rental calculations under the old leases and as the starting point for the new leases. We were taken by surprise with an increase in valuations of 40% average. SLOPES managed to negotiate a lower increase average of 30% with NPWS and the Valuer General. The \$900 average annual savings per club will be repetitive until 2027.

2008: A SLOPES representative was very active in working as liaison with NPWS on the road designs and implementations currently across the resort areas.

2009: SLOPES would like to see more active Club usage in summer and is working with NPWS to achieve a **Back to Perisher Week** starting in Easter 2009, with a target of 600-800 Club members attending.

Support SLOPES they support us: we all are SLOPES.

(Summarised from SLOPES publication)



Contributions to Bullrtin

Please send photos as jpegs and text in Word

Lodge Bookings

Email: emma@ullrskilodge.com.au
Phone: +61 2 6457 5200

PLEASE REMEMBER TO UPDATE YOUR CONTACT DETAILS IF THEY HAVE CHANGED



Stay Safe in the Snow

Stay “Safe in the Snow” with “SnowSafe’s Alpine Responsibility Code” rule number 1 of 10:

“Know your ability and always stay in control and be able to stop and avoid other people or objects. It is your responsibility to stay in control on the ground and in the air”

Know and observe the code: it’s your responsibility, and have great snow fun.

Regardless of how you enjoy your snow sport, always show courtesy to others and be aware that there are inherent risks in all snow recreational activities that common sense, protective equipment and personal awareness can reduce. These risks include rapid changes in the weather, visibility and surface conditions, as well as natural and artificial hazards such as rocks, trees, stumps, vehicles, lift towers, snow fences and snowmaking equipment.

“RESPECT GETS RESPECT”

FROM THE LIFT LINE, TO THE SLOPES,
THROUGH THE PARK AND THE RESORT

SO, STAY SNOWSAFE

What’s new at the Lodge for 2009

We now have a newly designed pantry and meal preparation room off the kitchen. After consulting with Emma last winter, over summer member Alice Kaplun, an architect, designed the new layout for the pantry and storage areas behind the kitchen and project managed construction of the fittings.



Emma

Bedrooms 5 to 8 (upstairs) have new double-glazed fixed windows facing west. These are the windows high above the bedroom door and in the bathroom. The timber in the originals was rotting and water was leaking into the rooms.

The internal staircase has been sanded and finished with an epoxy coating.

Ullr’s fireplace has been repaired and regouted after forty years of continuous use. Loose, damaged or burnt stones have been replaced with new granite in keeping with the character and ambience of the original fireplace.

Bedrooms 1 & 2 (downstairs) have received a make-over including new wardrobe shelving with a smaller foot print and increased storage and hanging space. The pull-down beds have been removed to provide larger floor space. Two bedside tables and bed lamps have been added to increase the comfort of each of these bedrooms.



Alice

Electric, centrally-timed convection heaters (no noise) with individual adjustable thermostats have been installed in all bedrooms providing an updated and modern bedroom heating system for the lodge. The individual thermostatic control environment will accommodate everyone’s personal comfort. The new heating system will provide an effective heating source while its efficiency will decrease our over all energy costs. This initiative also complies with the National Park’s policy to reduce the burning of fuel oil (hydrocarbons) in the Park.

Outdoors at Ullr, member and architect Bert Peters has designed and specified changes to the stainless steel straining cable around the deck, and its correct installation, to comply with the Building Code of Australia Standards 2008 and the requirements of the National Parks Building Audit of Ullr in 2006.

Bert also sourced the materials required for delivery of the project.

Cam has been very busy installing all those new shelves!



Bert



The best little ski lodge in Perisher Valley



Ullr Board Members

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David and Tonia Soden

House

Carol Hughes

Newsletter

Jonathan Lillis

New Memberships

Ray Bennie

Bookings

Emma Allen
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Should you wish to unsubscribe to the Ullr Ski Lodge mailing list
please let us know, thank you.



Ullr Ski Lodge
cosy intimate unique