

# Lysaght Alpine Club News

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## Powder man returns.

Your editor Noel, and Betty have returned from 3 weeks of skiing in powder snow in Aspen, Steamboat and Vail, and 4 weeks in places like Disneyland, Mexico, Las Vegas, Grand Canyon, Yosemite and Hawaii. It was very tough and difficult, but someone has to do it. Some interesting experiences included;

In Vail one morning we joined the queue to the main chair lift and who should be alongside us but Bob McCulloch (sen) and Marie. Marie was pleased as punch in a new ski outfit including new boots and skis. When I commented that Bob must be very wealthy, he hung his head a bit while Marie gleefully explained that Bob had trodden on her old ski bindings and broken them, so naturally she had to get new skis and bindings. She also got new boots earlier in the week which Bob put on the room heater to dry out. The next morning when she went to pick them up, the bottoms had stuck to the heater and the tops stretched up like hot cheese in a pizza. So she was wearing her second set of new ski boots for that week. As I said, Bob used to be wealthy.

One evening in Vail when the outside temperature was -10 c, Betty and I were sitting in a Pizza bar when in came a beautiful big blonde wearing a pure white ermine fur coat that oozed luxury from the hood down to where it scraped along the ground. As she went by a young lady at the next table rudely said at the top of her voice, "can you imagine how many animals had to suffer to make that coat?" The blonde calmly draped the coat over a chair revealing a see-through blouse, pink satin shorts, and beautiful bare legs that ran down into a pair of white cowboy boots and turned to the young lady and said "that's nothin honey, can you imagine how many animals I had to sleep with to get it?"

It really happened.

## How do we get hooked?

Did you know that one of our members runs a ski equipment sales, repair and hire business? Ollie Specia and his wife Rene have done so for many years and they have survived by giving an excellent service at very competitive prices. Ollie is retiring from S & CP Springhill this year, (another VRS volunteer because like me he is really too young to retire,) so his personal attention to your needs will be even more personal and Rene told me special discounts will be available to our club members.

Ollie tells the story about one of his customers who hired complete sets of skis, stocks, boots and clothing for his family for their first trip to the snow a few years ago. When they arrived at their lodge on the Sunday early in the season, there was no snow and the fellow thought it was great that he could park his car at his lodge which was up behind the Man From Snowy River Hotel. Unfortunately there was no snow for skiing all through the week but on the Friday night and Saturday it came down in buckets. The poor fellow then spent all Saturday trying to dig his car out. Things looked so bad on the Sunday that he sent his wife and children home on a bus while he continued to dig. He eventually got the

car out late Sunday night and home to Wollongong early Monday in time for work. Amazingly he came back and hired another lot of gear the next year, and is now a regular customer every year.

Of course we all know of stories like this, especially the members who recall the times in our old lodge at Wilson's Valley. Surprising isn't it? How people get hooked on skiing in spite of less than perfect starts?

Of course that fellow wouldn't have come back if he had not had good gear, which is still available from;

**SPECIA SKI HIRE**  
420 Princes Highway  
Corrimal, Ph (042)844448.

## The AGM was fun.

It was! About 50 people attended (including many from Sydney and the Zellers from Canberra,) and gave strong support to the 1990 committee and the annual report. As usual, President Mike moved the meeting swiftly through the formal reports which all indicated the club is operating really well and is in a strong financial position. Bob Henson then took the chair for the election of officers for 1991 who are:

President	Mike Salon.
Vice Pres	John Dengate.
Treasurer	John Henry
Secretary	Warwick Kelly
Directors	Noel Arnold Gerald Brock Kevin Burke Keith Chapman Ron Fitzgerald Mal Grantham Rhonda Knowles Peter McCulloch Simon Smart

President Mike advised that committee meetings are held at Springhill Works at 5.15 pm on the second Monday of each month. All members are welcome to attend these meetings and may address the meeting if invited but may not vote. He also advised that there will be an OPERATIONS MANUAL at the lodge which will provide guidance for all aspects of the lodge activities. (Ed comment: If you want to know something and all else fails, then read the manual. If you have a difference of opinion with someone and they say their view is in the manual, then you have lost the argument.)

A pretty blonde at the back of the room caused a stir when, quite rightly, she kicked up a fuss about not being able to hear what everyone was saying.

It was pleasing to hear that Keith Chapman has negotiated for Allan and Alecia to be our lodge managers again in 1991.

Some discussion followed in general business re. whether we should expand our operations to include a facility at Thredbo or elsewhere. It was agreed that John Henry and Mal

Grantham should investigate and prepare proposals for members' consideration.

The formal meeting was over in about half an hour and then we all adjourned to a few hours of very enjoyable informal meetings.

## They don't know what they don't know

Dianne Fairbrother has a sign up in her kitchen that says;

"Children, if you think you know more than your parents, and if you think you can support yourself, then it would be wise for you to move out now, while you are still young enough to know everything."

Dianne had had a few drinks when she told me this so the quote may not be word perfect, but you get the idea. (Your editor had a few drinks too).

## It wasn't Gorbachev, it was the Smiths.

When Les and Vicky Smith left on an overseas tour in July last year, the world was a fairly peaceful place. While they were in the Eastern countries like Russia, Bulgaria, the Balkans, Poland, Hungary etc, perestroika and the Russian economy collapsed, and Irak attacked Kuwait. While they were in the West Europe like Scandinavia Austria, UK, and Ireland, the two Germanies combined and their economies started to collapse. The West attacked Irak.

After stirring up Europe Les and Vicky took a well earned break in late December and skiied for two weeks in Hopsgarten, Austria where the snow was good enough to ski every day but not much powder.

They then spent 7 weeks in Africa including 4 days climbing to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro (5900m) and 2 days sliding down and went on a safari across a number of countries including Zaire where they got right along side some wild gorillas. (So when Vicky is in the Spa with you and says you look like a hairy gorilla, just remember, she knows what she is talking about. That applies to the men also.) After stirring up South Africa (you all read about the riots,) and Zimbabwe, they returned home in March after 8 months and 26 countries.

They had only been home for a few weeks when they got the wanderlust so strong they just had to go somewhere, so where do you think they went? Last weekend they went up to our lodge at Perisher and you know what? They reckon it is better than anywhere else in the world, and they know.

What worries me is ..... well... have you noticed that since Les and Vicky returned to Australia the rest of the world is calming down but the Australian economy is really going bad and the industrial scene could really blow up and politicians are being sent to jail, and.....I wonder how they would react if we all chipped in for their next overseas travel fund?