



Asparations

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE AUSTRALIAN SKI PATROL ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED
Newsletter No.1 2014

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

The ski season is upon us again. We all look forward to a bumper season in 2014.

The commencement of the ski season marks the conclusion of ASPA's training season. In 2014 we successfully trained 250 patrollers at 7 different venues across 3 states. Thankyou to our training team who travelled between venues ensuring consistency and improving the standard of training Australia wide.

from ASPA. They requested a review of the ASPA Constitution. This process has almost been completed. Currently members are reviewing the updated Constitution prior to a Special General Meeting.

ASPA is continually looking for ways to improve safety for the skiing public. We developed a new website www.snowsafes.com.au. Please have a look and share this with your contacts.

Peter Mowbray



The Education Committee has improved the course to reflect 2014 new manual and the additional units of competency that ASPA now offers. Our candidates evaluated the changed emphasis to hands on training highly.

Many of you will have noticed that the ASPA Manual was reviewed and updated since last season. Thanks to the medical professionals who ensure our resources are current.

In 2011 Perisher Volunteer Ski Patrol resigned

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50 Year Celebration

Barry May

1964—2014



Barry May has patrolled at Thredbo for 50 years, and on 24 May 2014, his family, current and past patrollers, Thredbo residents and many friends of Patrol gathered to celebrate this milestone at the Thredbo Alpine Hotel. There were speeches, presentations and acknowledgments from political leaders of Barry's extraordinary career in volunteer service. Barry was presented with the 50-year service medal from the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association – which was only the second time it had been presented. All in all, the evening was the perfect start to the 2014 ski season.

A key reason for Barry's longevity on the Patrol is the camaraderie among the Thredbo patrollers, who hail from many different backgrounds, yet all share a great love of the mountains. Barry believes that "in terms of skier rescue time, Australia probably has one of the best patrol services in the world", however in terms of his own personal contribution, he modestly says "It's just a case of being on the hill and doing what needs to be done."

Barry grew up in Narrabeen, Sydney, and did not start skiing until he was 26 – and he has not missed a season since. He joined the Thredbo Ski Patrol in 1964, which had been started six years earlier by two Snowy Hydro Scheme workers, Tommy Tomasi and Danny Coleman.

Barry's career spanned professional underwater construction – originally diving with a homemade version of the Aqua Lung breathing regulator – to owning a sporting goods business in conjunction with Ron Harding. During the winters, he used to shuttle fellow Sydney-siders to Thredbo for weekends on a bus, staying at a local farm.

His love of the mountains and of skiing have influenced his family, with his wife and all five children being very keen skiers. His eldest son David May became a patroller, and Barry's younger sons, Anthony and Nick have both been ski instructors, with Nick specialising in racing.

Barry will be patrolling this coming 2014 season and has no immediate plans to hang up his radio.



Congratulations Barry on your 50th year



National Patrol Ski Patrol On Snow Manual can now be accessed through the ASPA website. www.skipatrol.org.au

ASPARations Ed Committee

2014 has been a very busy year for the Education team. Many hours have gone into the development of the ASPA online learning web site and further enhancements will be made later this year.

New first aid theory lectures were introduced for this year's course and during the 2014 season it is planned to film new videos demonstrating the use of equipment on snow.

The Medical Advisory Committee completed a full review of the ASPA Advanced Emergency Care Manual in late 2013/ early 2014 so that this was available for the 2014 AEC courses. Thanks to all the MAC members for the many hours of work that went into this review.

Seven ASPA AEC courses were held prior to the snow season this year. There were three 'long courses' for new and re-certifying patrollers held in Melbourne, Sydney and Launceston, followed by four 'short courses' for re-certifying patrollers held in Melbourne (for Mt Buller), Thredbo, Falls Creek and Jindabyne. A core group of instructors travelled around to each of these courses to ensure continuity and consistency of standards.

Due to new RTO requirements, all active ASPA instructor/assessors will be required to hold a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment prior to the commencement of the 2015 AEC courses. At present many of our experienced instructors are working hard to complete this task within the required time frame. Those who are interested in instructing at the ASPA courses, you are encouraged to send in a CV (including details of relevant experience in education and training) and a written recommendation from their Patrol Director to Kirsten Campbell, ASPA VP Training at vptraining@skipatrol.org.au.

VP Training

Kirsten Campbell

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Course dates 2015:
 Sydney- 7/8 March, 14/15 March

Tasmania – 21/22 March, 28/29 March

Melbourne – 18/19 April, 2/3 May

Jindabyne – 16/17 May (Stuart to look at venues)

Falls Creek – 30/31 May

19th FIPS Congress at Big White, Canada - April 2014

The 19th FIPS Congress was hosted by Canada and held at Big White resort from 30 March to 4 April 2014. This report has been prepared by the Australian Ski Patrol Association Inc attendees, VP International Liaison, Rik Head, Dr Rowena Christiansen and Duncan Isaksen-Loxton. Presentation documents were collated by Tom Tull from Canada.

Thirteen countries participated in the Congress. There were approximately 110 attendees. In addition, a number of local Canadian patrollers from Big White attended various sessions.

After the flag raising and the Welcome to Canada ceremony the Congress consisted of a series of in-door presentations and workshops, outdoor demonstrations and multi-country practical scenarios as well as Special Interest Group & FIPS Board meetings.



Opening Ceremony

Each country's nominated delegate attended the FIPS Executive Board meetings, on the Sunday, Tuesday and the Friday. On the Wednesday participants enjoyed a free ski day or met as part of the work of the special interest groups.

The FIPS in-door presentations and workshops covered a range of topics relevant to ski patrol and included:

- An introduction to the ski industry in Western Canada;
- Details of the preparations for the Sochi Olympics;
- Smart phone apps for accident and casualty information;
- Design and safety of terrain parks;
- The Canadian 'Racer Down' protocol;
- Operation of Whistler/Blackcomb;
- Silver Star resort GPS tracking on the ski hill;
- Swiss Patrol education system;
- CSP avalanche training;

- Off-piste skiing and avalanche risk research completed for the International Snow Science Workshop;
- Legal update for ski patrollers;
- The avalanche risk and mitigation measures at Big White;
- The Canadian Avalanche Association and public safety strategies;
- The Canadian Avalanche Association and professional training programs;
- The Avatech prototype snowpack profiler for snow pack measurement in avalanche areas;
- Panel discussion on avalanche;
- CSP pain management research pilot program at Silver Star;
- Non-pharmacological pain management;
- Australian Ski Patrol Models of Casualty Care, Medication Administration and our Medical Milieu;
- Management of fractures and dislocations in the field;
- A short practical workshop on femoral fracture traction devices used in Canada;
- French Ski Patrol and the CARDIAN telemedicine project;
- Australian Ski Patrol education and training;
- Korean medical and surgical management of hand injuries in winter sports;
- An update to congress participants from the FIPS medical, avalanche and technology special interest groups;
- Challenges today and tomorrow for patrols - a forum lead by Canada, USA and Australia; and
- A forum to provide feedback on the current Congress and ideas for future congresses.

In addition, at meal times there were short introductions by FIPS member nations detailing their ski industry, patrol structure and issues of international interest.



On-snow scenario

Outdoor demonstrations and training included:

- Global first aid comparison with mixed country groups working through scenarios;
- Cascade equipment demonstration;

- Inspection of the Big White avalanche areas and associated mitigation actions
- Avalanche search and rescue demonstration using avalanche transceivers, Recco and an avalanche dog;
- Avalanche probing and digging exercises;
- Avatech field demonstration; and
- International teams using toboggans to achieve a safe descent through a defined course. After a series of controlled descents Italy was declared the lead team
- Italian demonstration of on-snow techniques;
- Chairlift evacuation techniques; and
- Big White medical clinic and patrol base.

FIPS Special Interest Groups:

The interest groups met at various times throughout the Congress.

- A Technology group was added to provide support the FIPS Board and the special interest groups as well as a focus on what technology can assist patrols and patrollers;
- The facilitators for the special interest groups are: Medical group - Dr John Holmes (UK), the Avalanche group - Ed Carlson (USA) and the Technology group - Duncan Isaksen-Loxton (Australia);
- Each country has been invited to nominate a medical doctor member for the Medical group;
- A number of tasks are planned over the next eighteen months by the individual groups and program planning for the next congress is underway; and
- Patrollers interested in joining any of the three on-line groups should contact ASPA VP International Liaison, the moderator for each SIG Yahoo group.

The FIPS Board met three times during the Congress with the key outcomes being:

- Acceptance, with minor modification, of revised Articles of Continuance for FIPS as a not-for-profit corporation to comply with new Canadian Government requirements;

Report by the President;

Following a contested election the new office-bearers for FIPS are:

1. President: Jean-Louis Tuailon – France;
 2. At the request of the newly appointed President the meeting agreed that Bruce Lochhead – Canada (previous FIPS President) should co-preside as President for the next two years to assist Jean-Louis with his transition;
 3. Secretary: Rik Head – Australia;
 4. Treasurer and Canadian Government Liaison: Hugh Thomassin – Canada;
- The Board commended Bruce Lochhead for his time of some ten or more years as president of FIPS;
 - The Mark Labow Award was made to Marie Nordgren of Sweden for her continued contribution to FIPS over many years, congratulations Marie;
 - Reports from the medical, avalanche, technology and con-

gress program special interest groups;

- The application by Romania for membership of FIPS was accepted by the Board;
- A push to encourage FIPS members to send younger patrollers to attend congresses so they can become the FIPS leaders of tomorrow;
- FIPS will work towards a formal relationship with the International Commission for Alpine Rescue (IKAR-CISA). Given the IKAR expertise this relationship will benefit FIPS members in the areas of medical, avalanche and search and rescue and offer IKAR access to FIPS;
- There will be a mini three-day FIPS somewhere in Europe (*now known to be at Montgenevre, France*) on 21-24 January 2015. This mini-congress will provide easier access for European patrollers, provide an opportunity for some of the emerging European ski patrol countries to consider joining FIPS and provide an update check-point for the special interest groups. All member countries are welcome to attend;
- After consideration of proposals from Russia and Italy, the Board decided that the 20th FIPS Congress will be at Ponte di Legno in the Ademello ski area, near Milan, Italy on 2-9 April 2016. The next congress will focus on training with certification and each special interest group will coordinate their own program; and
- Consideration will be given to the possibility of international sponsorship for FIPS and the next congress.



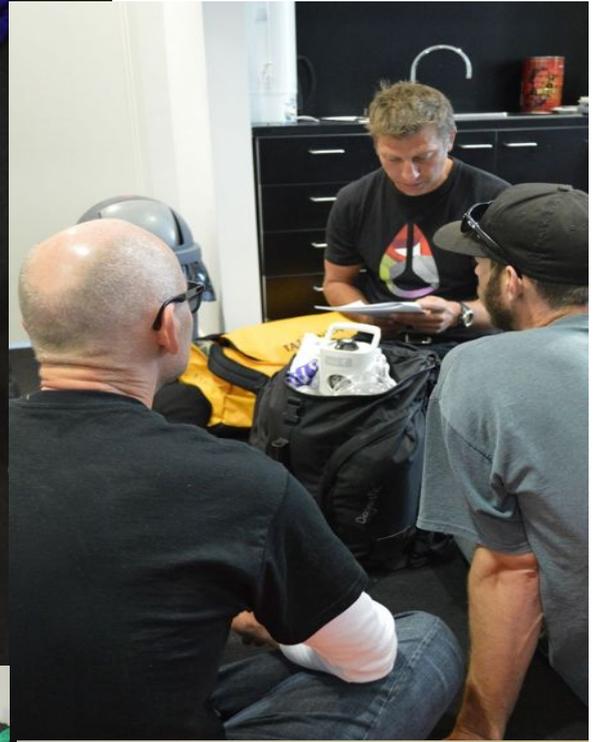
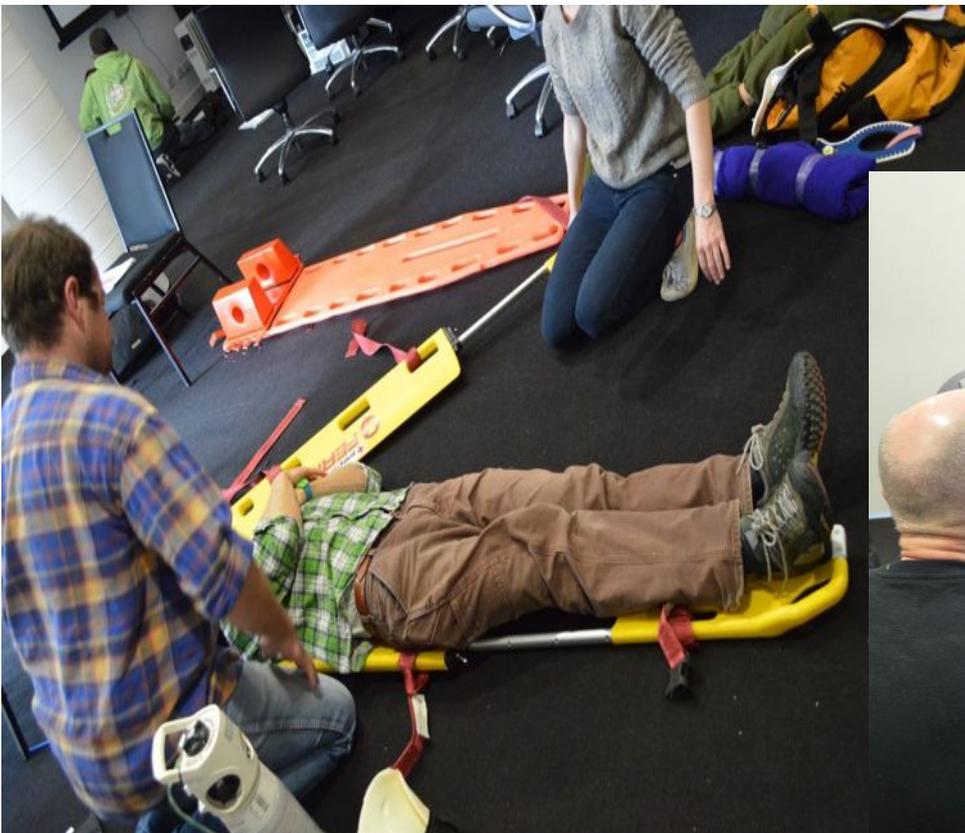
Some members of the FIPS Board, in session

More details on all presentations, indoor workshops, outdoor activities and FIPS Special Interest Group notes are provided in Part B of this report. Where available, the presentation, web site and other contact details for each activity have been identified.

A very big thank you to Big White and their staff, the Canadian Ski Patrol, Tom Tull (CSP) and his congress organising team as well as the FIPS Executive for an excellent, well run congress.

For a number of the indoor presentations electronic copies are available for individual private use. If you would like a copy of a specific item contact VP International Liaison at vpintlai-son@skipatrol.org.au

Falls Creek ASPA
Training



Jindabyne Training



Sydney Training





Melbourne Training



Buller Training





SKI PATROLLER OF THE YEAR 1999



Raoul was a foundation member of Mt Baw Baw Ski Patrol and has had a history of active service with the Patrol for over 25 years. Over this time he has been a leading light in the promotion of excellence in patient management. He has provided guidance for many young patrollers following his lead and made constant, positive contributions to the operations and morale of the Patrol.

Raoul has earned respect from not only past and present patrollers at Mt Baw Baw, but also from the wider Patrol community as he has endeavoured to advance the professionalism and standards of ski patrolling both in Victoria and Australia. He has made ongoing contributions to ASPA through his involvement in the Advanced Emergency Care Courses, donating his time year after year to assist with organisation, administration, training and examining for as long as many of us can remember. He has held several positions of responsibility on the ASPA Executive during the 20

years since its foundation. Raoul has also been active in promoting, seeking and obtaining high quality equipment for Australian Patrols, and has recently given more of his time to assist with the establishment of PatrolQuip, a not-for-profit company dedicated to importing equipment at fair and competitive prices for Australian Ski Patrols.

Even after being diagnosed with cancer late in 1998, Raoul has continued to work tirelessly for the benefit of Ski Patrollers, finding time and energy between episodes of medical treatment to assist with the running of this year's ASPA course, arrange the order of replacement Akja liners for our patrol and to attend our weekly tutorial nights to assist with the training of our new recruits.

Over 25 years, Raoul has demonstrated an extremely high level of commitment to Mt Baw Baw and Ski Patrolling in Australia. He has earned the respect and admiration of all of us who have been fortunate enough to have the opportunity to work beside him, and learn from the depth of his experience. We will never be able to sufficiently thank Raoul for all his efforts and contributions, and his legacy will continue long after he eventually retires from the Patrol.

*Peter Watts
Mt Baw Baw Patrol Captain*

Raoul was unable to attend the Ski Australia presentation dinner as he was committed to the Mt Baw Baw Ski Patrol seminar weekend (pre season training)!