

Mt Mawson Ski Patrol Annual Report 2019

With ten weekends of tow operations, it was a good year, though rather average cover for the last few weeks. Parts of Rodway and Mawson Tows were buried early on, while University cover thin in places. Mawson took a lot of work to free most weekends. Only University and Mawson Tows operated as battery flat at Rodway. Patrol frequently helped with tow operations. Still, it was fun usually due to the good snow cover enjoyed after helping.

Most weekends were immediately preceded by wild weather, this extended into several Saturdays and a few Sundays. This limits patronage (and incidents) on relevant days.

With decent snow covering rocks, accidents were very few. The main accidents related to some heavy face- or body plants. Only 6 required and received significant attention by patrol, and all were able to leave without help.

It was the first year in our new patrol HQ that was opened by the Premier in late March where awards to three patrollers for 25+ years' service were made. I managed to get the Premier to do the opening; that resulted in some help to fitout the new rooms, mainly office equipment. We still need some further first aid gear and an oversnow / gravel vehicle for evacuations, and return of akja (a 2 km uphill slope). Thanks also to Stephen Webber who made a donation in the form of a few needs.

Icing of the entry, storage and gas locks was a considerable problem at times. The gas cage lock is right under the roof overflow when snow on the roof, and the services roller door can be barred by snow, sometimes ice. Once inside with gas and water on (iced locks overcome), it was so good to have some heat (need more), gas, water, good ventilation (too good when windy) and electricity. Unfortunately, with too much ventilation built in for a much larger heater, it looks like we have to put in a larger gas heater, with plumbing works, to meet Parks expectations that we do not adjust the excessive ventilation – an expense beyond our means. (On colder than usual or windy days the current heater can't warm the patrol room much. On one cold occasion, there were indications of icing inside as the water header tank was slower to fill than it should have been. Lots of door opening, and its slow closure took heat away quickly no matter how mild in winter.)

At least everything was largely free from condensation, and the temperature more liveable than the container was.

The stalwart patrollers of the year were again Paul Vince, Liz Koolhof and Andrew Davey. Just as well as patrollers George Brettingham-Moore, Andrew and Paul and Craig Larsson (former full patroller who will recertify soon) have some very useful tow skills – often called upon.

I thank all those who patrolled this year or otherwise helped. More thanks are due to those few who turned up to many extra days patrolling when needed – most weekends as it happened - or / and those who helped with tow duties while on patrol. Perhaps tow-rope splicing, the electrical safety circuitry and diesel motor use should be introduced to our potential patrollers?

Special thanks go to Paul Vince our ski patrol trainer / assessor! This can consume a lot of his time.

Andrew Davey,
President Mt Mawson Ski Patrol