

Mt Mawson Ski Patrol Annual Report 2018

We had but four weeks of downhill skiing, hence active patrolling, due to the slow build-up of snow. Nearly all tow operations weekends had poor weather. One had the worst ice-related problems for many years. All the poor weather kept patronage low. A pity as there was good snow cover for the first three weekends.

This year we got a slight taste of the new patrol quarters, still under construction – to be fitted out, with balustrading, ceilings, electrical and plumbing to start or complete. While we had more room than in our former micro-quarters, we needed to keep most equipment in another building due to the lack of shelves and cupboards. Also, the builder insisted on emptying the patrol room at the end of each weekend.

The building constraints meant a lot more time went into setting up for and ending the skiing season. (We think there are more fun things than carrying a heavy timber patient bed with 'under-bench' through soft snow covered rough ground in one's spare time.)

Ice was a persistent issue on the approaches to the building, resulting a few hard falls – the landing choice was solid concrete or solid gnarly ice over concrete. Funnelled wind facilitated many a fall.

Fortunately, there were very few accidents on the slopes. We had one serious knee injury requiring a full 2 km akja descent, then the return uphill of the akja by hand. Exhausting for those who did it. A child, under the guidance of a parent managed to get their hand jammed between a moving tow rope and pulley. All other accidents and incidents we know of were minor.

It was good to have our own cert 4 trainer / assessor, Paul Vince. This conveniently expedited our recertifications. We now have four medical doctors in our small patrol, with the possibility of a fifth.

We thank ASPA for the transceivers we gained via a grant application. They were very handy, much used this year because of their faultless performance in contrast to our very few 'working' items with poor to fleeting battery performance.

We look forwards more than ever to the completion of our new patrol HQ, which our Premier has agreed to officially open when completed. We intend use that opportunity to award our longest serving patrollers. Our patrol will 57 years old! (It started as a group of Honorary Rangers who had to be first aid certified, and tend any unfortunate skier casualties.)

Thanks go to those few of us who put in more weekends than rostered in order to help keep the skifield running as well as helping the patrol. It's indispensable that some of us are multi-skilled in our small skifield.

Andrew Davey