

# NAMA NEWS

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NATIONAL  
ALPINE  
MUSEUM  
OF AUSTRALIA

## Fresh Tracks: NAMA Update

*From the editor*

We've had lots of visitors in during summer and autumn seeing the 'Winter Games' and 'Visions of Port Philip' exhibitions before they disappeared. Although highlights for many visitors remain seeing how skiing in Australia used to be, for both those who have lived it and those that haven't, and pouring through NAMA's archival material finding images of family or friends or reliving and sharing old memories.

Our new winter exhibition explores the history of INTERSKI, which was first held in Zürs, Austria in 1951 as a way for European ski instructors to share and compare technique and teaching methodology. Since 1971 it has been held every four years and attracts the top ski instructors from around the world. Mt Buller instructor Ant Hill was selected for the 2011 Australian INTERSKI team and later in this edition, he shares his INTERSKI experiences with us.

One of the biggest projects completed over the summer and autumn months has been the reorganisation of our collection store due to changes to our storage space, and the cataloguing, photographing and relabelling of the entire ski collection, over 300 pairs of skis. This has been a mammoth undertaking and could not have been completed without the hard work of NAMA Manager Marg Franke-Williams and a dedicated team of volunteers.

NAMA is always looking for new volunteers so whether you're available in summer or winter, one day a week or on an ad hoc basis, can come into the museum or want to do a bit of work from home, we want YOU. Please contact Marg on [museum@mtbuller.com.au](mailto:museum@mtbuller.com.au) or 0419329768 for more information.



### Opening Hours

#### Winter

Daily 1pm - 4pm

#### Summer

27 December to 7 January: Daily 1pm – 4pm

January: Weekends 10- 4, Super Saturdays 10-4, Easter Daily 10-4

#### Contact Us

Phone: (03) 5777 7235

Email: [museum@mtbuller.com.au](mailto:museum@mtbuller.com.au)

Website: <http://www.nama.org.au/>

Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/nationalalpinemuseumaustralia>

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## INTERSKI 2011: Interview with Ant Hill

Ant Hill was part of the team of ski and snowboard instructors selected to represent Australia at the 19<sup>th</sup> INTERSKI Congress held at St Anton am Arlberg from 15<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2011. Here are some of his experiences.

### Set the scene for us, what was St. Anton like?

Each day the town bustled with the Interski vibe. The main street transformed into a festival for après ski. The fairy lights in the trees throughout the village added to the romance of the town, it is a place that every skier dreams to go. All the formalities were conducted across the town, which gave foreigners a great feeling for Austrian hospitality. Our pension was delightful. Every morning began with a typical classic Austrian breakfast (wow!), cosy boot room, and a ten metre walk to the gondola.

### Describe a typical day at INTERSKI

The day was split into morning indoor presentations, followed by on hill workshops and concluded with main keynote lectures. The workshops ranged from children focused to high end, off piste skiing. There really was something for everyone. The exciting ski shows were held on the demonstration hill each evening.

### What were some of the ideas you took away from INTERSKI 2011?

The Finland cross-country workshop was based on learning basic alpine skills on cross country skis. The idea is that the lighter equipment improves balance and develops different balance stimulus. The focus was on learning by skiing different conditions on different equipment. I am keen to try this concept with cross country skiing this coming year.

I believe Australia can learn much from Sweden. The Swedish Ski Council is the pinnacle winter sport body in Sweden. Their mission is to promote a lifelong interest in winter sports. The council incorporates all organisations which control the various aspects of winter sports. It is such a body that Australia is lacking. I am a realist and I understand we have only a short season, however with the co-operation of existing bodies we would have a better chance of creating lifelong interests in winter sports. The benefits of working together to encourage people to try winter sports will benefit all winter sport organisations. In my twenty year experience the present framework is segmented and each looks to their own rather than to each other.

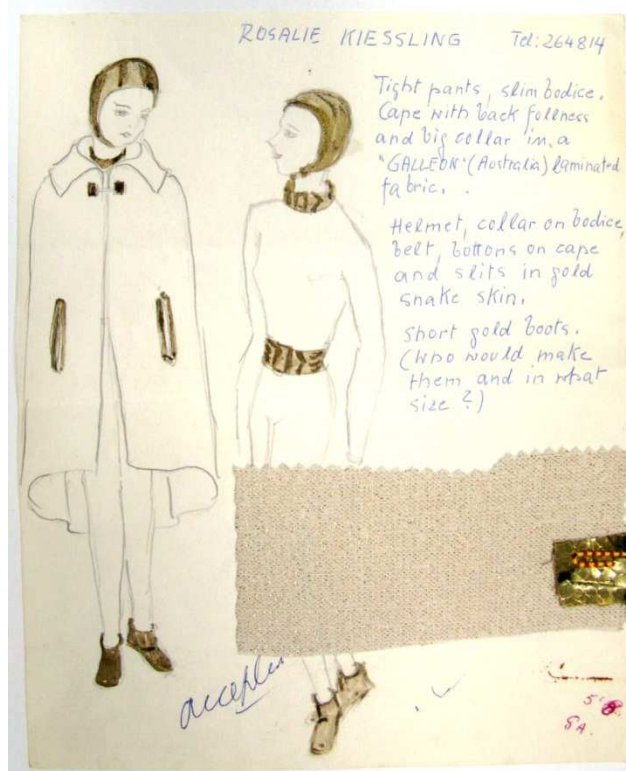
Over the coming season I will engage various winter sports organisations to various avenues which we could create a lifelong interest in winter sports.

## Australia's First Designer Ski Wear

In 1939 Rosa Kiessling arrived in Australia from Germany via New Zealand. She was quickly forced to fend for herself after her husband, Walter, was interned at Tatura shortly after their arrival. The couple were renting an apartment in the Beverly Hills complex in Darling Street, South Yarra before Walter's internment. To help pay the rent Rosa began dressmaking for Mrs Lawson Snr, mother of apartment designer Howard Lawson.

News of Rosa's talents spread and she was approached by some RAAF test pilots, who asked her to make them ski jackets. The pilots were able to provide parachute material and japara, and thus began Rosa's involvement with ski wear manufacture. Despite wartime travel restrictions placed on her as an enemy alien, she made illegal skiing and bushwalking trips to Bogong and Kosciuszko, and was famous for carrying a pack almost bigger than herself!

Rosa continued to design and manufacture functional ski wear until the late 1970s. Drawing on her training as a fashion designer and combining innovative fabrics with international fashion trends she created original and interesting designs. Although Rosa's business was never large, at its peak she employed three other staff, she was the first Australian ski wear manufacturer to bring high fashion to ski wear design.



Original Rosa Kiessling design about 1970

## AHW at NAMA: Smash that Showcase

Our heritage contributes to our sense of place and to our community and personal wellbeing, it informs us about where we have come from and who we are, and is fundamental to our national identity.

As part of the inaugural Australian Heritage Week (AHW) NAMA ran a 'Smash that Showcase' event on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of April. Over the two days visitors were able to get up close and personal with Australia's Alpine history, touching a number of collection objects and talking to volunteers about the collection and some of the stories it tells.

Over the two days we had many visitors who all enjoyed having the opportunity to talk to volunteers about the collection.



## Museum Developments

The Easter Break saw some changes happening at NAMA. Our new shop area provides a great selection of Mt Buller Souvenirs including postcards, books and DVDs. Visitors and Buller regulars alike can now browse through our image catalogues more easily as well as seeing some hung on the wall.



The large number of families visiting NAMA over Easter provided the inspiration for the establishment of a kid's corner where they can do puzzles and write to the gnomes while mum and dad look around the museum.



## All About NAMA by Ed Adamson

What a dynamic group of people National Alpine Museum taps into!

We have people with expertise in architecture, museum curation and management, the snow industry and its origins, film and the moving image, textiles and design, teaching and learning, business management and the environment to name a few fields of relevant expertise.

But who owns NAMA and who owns the material it holds in its collection?

NAMA is constituted as a not for profit organisation with tax deductible status for donations and bequests. The material it holds is there on behalf of its stakeholders, who are members of the public; in short, you are included; even more so as you become a member of NAMA. When you do that, for a small annual fee, you subscribe to the objectives and become a stakeholder with voting rights.

Should it ever be disbanded, NAMA's assets (the collection is most of its assets) would be given over to an organisation with similar not for profit objectives, such as another alpine museum or to a State or National museum, gallery or archive. So, apart from items which are on loan, where permissions would need to be obtained, the collection is securely in your hands.

Membership application details can be found in this newsletter, so you can come on board immediately.

White season or Green season, volunteers are welcomed at the Mt Buller and other venues to help welcome visitors, care for and catalogue collection items, apply for funds, help with sales or promote the alpine heritage experience.

*Ed is NAMA Treasurer and keen high country historian*

## Pop Quiz

1. Which runs at Mt Hotham were named after Mary Wallace and Joyce Brockhoff?
2. Which brothers built the original Kooroora Hotel at Mt Buller?
3. In what year?
4. Which Victorian Ski Resort is this?
5. What run is it?



6. How much was a Mt Buller Blue Lifts Adult Day ticket in 1970?
7. Who invented the snurfer in 1965?
8. Which Australian town has private skiing facilities for residents?
9. What is Australia's highest ski resort village?
10. Who is it named after?

### Answers

1. Mary's Slide and Brockhoff's 2. Aurel and Ernest Forras 3. 1953  
4. Mt Baw Baw 5. Hut Run Platter 6. \$3.50 7. Sherman Poppen  
8. Cabramurra 9. Charlotte Pass 10. Charlotte Adams the first European woman to climb Mt Kosciuszko

### NAMA News

Any assistance in compiling the NAMA Newsletter would be appreciated, if you would like to be involved or contribute a one off article.

Please e-mail [museum@mtbuller.com.au](mailto:museum@mtbuller.com.au) with NAMA News as the subject or leave your name and contact details with NAMA staff to be passed onto the editor.

NAMA Thanks



Principal Sponsor

## Members Corner

### Members Event

On the afternoon of Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June NAMA invites members and patrons to come and celebrate 150 years of Australian skiing heritage and the opening of the new ski season. This event includes exclusive access to the museum, kid's activities, the opportunity to meet NAMA staff and volunteers, and a raffle with prizes from local businesses.

### How to join/renew

Membership forms can be found on the NAMA website or filled out in person at NAMA. Renewal forms are sent out at the end of each financial year.

Fees	One Year	Five Years
Individual	\$40	\$175
Family	\$60	\$275
Club	\$250	\$950
Patron	\$1500	

*NAMA welcomes these new members*

### Last Word from the editor

Museums are generally defined as institutions which acquire, conserve, research, interpret, communicate and exhibit material for the public benefit.

However museums become little more than storage places for collections if they cannot be easily accessed by or engage with the community and visitors.

At NAMA we are continually trying to improve the experiences we offer visitors, whether it's creating dedicated activities and spaces for kids, or finding new ways to make the collections and stories they tell more accessible both in person and online.

We can only do so much without your support and input. So next time you're up on the mountain drop in and have a look at the changes that are happening, tell us what you like and what you'd like to see more of.

Or find us online via our website or Facebook and see more of the collections and what's going on behind the scenes.

We want to provide the maximum 'public benefit' we can to the Mt Buller and greater Alpine community but we need your support and feedback to do that.