

Dear Guests and Friends of Nelse,

April '08

We are a little late getting this out to you this year owing to the fact that we have had such a very busy summer.

Our regular summer groups have spent more time up here than usual to escape the heat. They included our bike riders (both motor and push), car clubs, walking groups, wine tasters, fisherfolk, indigenous dance groups, conferences and just the hot and bothered. The weather was absolutely glorious, to the point where every time we went off the hill, we couldn't wait to get back! Shorts and T-shirt weather during the day, but usually cool enough to snuggle under a doona at night. Perfect. The wildflowers were spectacular, owing to the regular rain we have had since the winter, with a monthly bout of snow just to remind us of what is to come.

Parker is very pleased with himself, having recently realised one of his long held and much talked about ambitions. Over Easter, he took a group of intrepid guests on his inaugural '**Walk to Hotham**'. I went too and it was indeed a fabulous experience, although harder than I expected. We were a little late for the wildflowers, but it was very beautiful just the same. The Resort Board provided a 9-seater bus for the return to Falls, and we organised the helicopter for the other eight in two trips. Brilliant! We have had a bit of press since then and look like doing another one on Anzac weekend, weather permitting, if anyone is interested. We intend to run them regularly throughout the summer and will keep you posted as to dates.

The **Taste of Falls Creek** was another stand-out weekend in January with the format being a bit different this year. Various wineries in the region attached themselves to a lodge or restaurant and held tastings throughout the day so that people could wander around the village sampling different produce. We held wine-tastings with one of our favourites, Plunkett Fowles, and an impressive local Beechworth winery, Amulet Wines. Sam Plunkett hosted our Winemaker's Dinner and was most entertaining and informative regarding the different varieties of Plunkett's wine which were matched with five courses featuring fresh local produce. Our 36 guests, including the Minister for Tourism, had such a wonderful time that we may have to do it again!

Winter Booking Alert.

Thank you to those who have contacted us so far regarding winter bookings. We are still holding some rooms for our regulars, but we would urge you to ring or email as soon as possible to secure your preferred week as some dates are almost booked out, particularly school holidays. There has been a great deal of early interest after last season and the forecast is looking very good for this year. We spent a couple of fantastic weeks in Colorado in February where they had a huge winter, so we are hoping it has followed us home!

We look forward to seeing everyone during the winter. After our little sojourn in the States we have withdrawals and can't wait to ski out our back door. We hope you can join us!

Kind regards,

Ros and Graham Parker

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