

Yarra Ranges Photographic Society

Mt. Baw Baw—a Snowy wonderland In October?

Our October trip this year was to Mt Baw Baw supposedly in the "Green Season", which meant that we paid off peak rates for the Lodge and got a beautiful unseasonal snow spectacular. Most of us arrived on Friday afternoon to see a light cover of snow all around us with our first actual snowfall being mid afternoon. Yes it was cold, but absolutely beautiful, a bit like walking into a Christmas card really. We settled in quickly and got the heating, hot water & Fire going before for a walk in the snow.

Kelly's Café and Bar provided a warm place to have a hot Chocolate or Coffee on our walks, also Dinner and Breakfast for some. The rest of us cooked up a storm and stayed indoors for meals.

It was pretty much a laid back weekend for all, with one of the highlights being waking up to a blanket of Snow on Saturday morning, as I said it was like walking into a Christmas card, or Fairyland, with so many photo opportunities all around us. It was great being able to make good use of the Drying Room with our comings & goings and simply relaxing in the warmth of the Lodge. The best part was having this huge Ski Lodge and actually Mt Baw Baw as well (not many people around) to ourselves. No footprints in the snow until we put some there.

Di & Dominic arrived on Saturday (after a vomit filled trip up the winding mountain road! More twists and turns than a politicians campaign speech! Di.), much to Dominic's delight - snow everywhere! Saturday night's dinner was a joint effort to prepare & devour our spectacular menu of Cheeses, Dips, Fried Seafood Marinara mix, followed by Roast Beef with all the trimmings including roasted veggies & snow peas on the side. Dessert was Fresh Fruit Salad and Chocolate Ripple Cake. It snowed again overnight on Saturday night which provided us with a much heavier cover, we even started to hope that we might get snowed in, but alas about lunchtime it was obvious that we were going to get out as it all started to melt. The only downside being that it got a bit sloppy underfoot as we packed up to leave. But all in all, it was a fabulous weekend away—great location, company, food and wine! Jeanie.

And many thanks to Jeanie for organising another brilliant club trip!! Cheers, Di



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Visit to Koukei Studios - by Nick Sage

The visit to Peter Coulson's Studio in Kilsyth was fantastic!! I, and I'm sure the others, were definitely taken aback by the size of the studio and the array of gadgetry that was shown and explained to us all. The huge spotlight that resembled an oversized foxtel dish set many tongues wagging and the mighty power of the light, when explained to us, made us eat our own words. Peter took us for a tour around the studio (all 540 square meters of it) and briefly explained what and how each section worked. The 8m x 8m white corner less cyclorama with its fully positional massive 8 head soft box was sending anyone who stood in it nearly mad. With no perception of depth or bearing, it felt as if you were standing in endless nothing!! Peter finished off with some great tips for photoshopping, which, for those that were left, made us want to stay for the rest of the afternoon and evening and the possibility of ordering in pizza was tossed about by a few of us. Needless to say we didn't want to leave, but rather begrudgingly, we had to. I hope that we can again, go and visit Peter's Studio in the near future, and if we do..... make sure that YOU are there!! It is an experience well worth seeing for yourself.



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