

Mt Buller HISTORY HUNT

CLUES & QUESTIONS

New Summit Road
1. Clue: If you were injured or lost this is who would help you:
Question: How many points are on their cross?
2. Clue: I am a meeting place and lodge for Ski Club of Victoria members:
Question: Who was I built to memorialize?
3. Clue: An apartment building, I am the tallest on the mountain:
Question: How many storeys are there?
Helicopter Flat
4. Clue: I am the oldest T-bar on the mountain:
Question: What type of towers do I have (select one)? A. T-Frame, B. A-Frame, C. U-Frame
5. Clue: It marks the spot where Mt Buller's first lift stood:
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Question: What year was the first lift built?
6. Clue: I am made of bronze and was created by Michael Meszaros:
Question: Who am I dedicated to?

7. Clue: The first word of my name means guest house and the second is the surname of a well-known Mt Buller family:_____

Question: What colour is the middle flower on the sign above the door?_____



The Village

8. Clue: I am located at site no. 1 which is on The Avenue opposite the bottom station for Blue Bullet:_____

Question: To be a founding member of this club you needed to be a ______

9. Clue: This strangely shaped ski club was started by a group of **O**ld **G**eelong **G**rammarians:_____

Question: How many sides does the main building have?______Bonus Point What is this shape called?______

10. Clue: I am one of Mt Buller's newest and most brightly coloured sculptures:_____

Question: What is my title?_____

11. Clue: In the summer this area used to be a watering hole and meeting place for mountain cattlemen:

Question: Which of these three huts used to stand in this area (select one)?



A.





12. Clue: I have been a place to socialise for many years and my current building has been here since 1962:_____

Question: How long has the Kooroora been open?_____

13. Clue: I was made by the ancestors of the earliest inhabitants of this region. You will find me sharing a display case with a mountain pygmy possum:______

Question: What is the name of these people?_____



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DID YOU KNOW

Clue 1: The Mt Buller Ski Patrol is the oldest continuous ski patrol in Australia. It began in 1950 as part of the Red Cross Ski Patrol which provided first aid and search and rescue services at Mt Buller, Mt Hotham and Bogong (Falls Creek). The Maltese Cross was the insignia of the Knights Hospitallers of St John who ministered to sick and injured pilgrims as well as fighting in the crusades. The Good Samaritan purpose of the Order remains today, in both the original Catholic Order and those Protestant Orders which separated from it, and the Maltese Cross has become a well-known symbol of first-aid and assistance worldwide.

Clue 2: The Ivor Whittaker Memorial Loge known as the 'The Whitt' is named after Ivor Kingsley Whittaker. He was well known in Melbourne sporting, social, and business circles attending Scotch College and Melbourne University before joining the family business Whittaker Clothing. He represented Victoria in skiing and was a founding member of the University Ski Club as well as a member of the Ski Club of Victoria (SCV). Enlisting in the Army in 1939 he was presumed dead after he was reported missing on 12th September 1941. In his will he requested a sum be provided to the SCV to build a lodge at Mt Buller for the benefit of Victorian skiing. £500 was donated by his estate in 1944 and additional fundraising and lots of volunteer labour saw the 36 bed lodge officially opened on 4 May 1947. The original building was extended and eventually demolished with construction of the current building beginning in 1968.

Clue 3: Twin Towers was designed by well-known Melbourne architect Peter McIntyre. He first skied at Mt Buller in the 1940s and has built several lodges and apartments around Twin Towers including Andre's at Buller (La Grangette), Cuckoo Lodge and Wombat Lodge. McIntyre believes residential alpine architecture should have an atmosphere, which assists with creating the feeling of refreshment goes with a mountain holiday.

Clue 4: In 1959 John Hilton-Wood of Bull Run Enterprises (later Blue Lifts) opened the Skyline rope tow which followed the same line as the current T-bar. The T-bar was installed for the winter of 1963.

Clue 5: Until 1949 skiers at Mt Buller had no option but to walk to the top of the run they wanted to ski. The first lift opened on 3rd July 1949. Built by volunteers from the Ski Club of Victoria it was a rope tow powered by a truck engine. The engine was modified to run on kerosene due to war-time rationing of petrol. The lift ran up Bourke Street beginning at Helicopter Flat. To reduce the chance for collisions a track was cut through the trees separating the lift from the skiers.

Clue 6: The *Spirit of the Skier Statue* also appears in Mansfield and in Mt Buller's sister resorts in Nagano, Japan and Vail, Colorado. The Mt Buller statue is dedicated to Bernd Greber who died in an avalanche while skiing alone in Schruns, Austria on 27th December 2001. At the time of his death Greber was Director of the Mt Buller Ski School. A highly accomplished ski racer, coach and instructor he had a 16 year association with Mount Buller.

Clue 7: Hans Grimus migrated to Australia from Austria in 1960. He arrived at Mt Buller in 1961 after working as a carpenter on the Snowy Mountains Scheme and playing soccer. With little skiing experience he managed to stay upright on his first run down Federation and got a job as a lift operator for Ernest Forras. He continued working for Ski Lifts Mt Buller (Later Orange Lifts) eventually as manager. In the early 1970s he built the Tyrolean style Pension Grimus intending it to be a bed and breakfast but creating a restaurant as well when Orangs Lifts requested that Grimus house 17 ski instructors and provide them with breakfast, lunch and dinner.



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Clue 8: In 1932 when the Australian Women's Ski Club was established most ski clubs would not accept women as full members. The club was selective in that members had to pass the third class ski test before being accepted. With branches in New South Wales and Victoria the club aimed to foster interest in and improve the standard of women's skiing. Their activities extended to all women skiers conducting ski tuition and advocating for improved facilities and accommodation at established resorts such as Charlottes Pass.

Clue 9: Started by a started by a group of former Geelong Grammar students in 1953 OGGs was designed by Melbourne architect and Olympic skier Barry Patten.

Clue 10: *Emergence* by Deborah Redwood won the people's choice award in the inaugural Mt Buller Sculpture Award in 2013. This is a biennial competition which invites artists to submit works to be considered for permanent installation in the beautiful alpine environment at Mt Buller. It is one of the country's richest sculpture awards with the main prize equal to Australia's most prestigious sculpture prize, the McClelland Sculpture Survey award. *Emergence* is a symbolic representation of growth following the harsh conditions of winter. Skis emerging radially from a central point represent flora. The shapes created by the skis reference sedges (Carex appressa) and the Yam Daisy (Microseris lanceolata) which can be found on Mt Buller.

Clue 11: What is today Village Square Plaza (formerly Cow Camp Plaza) and the Village Square was a popular summer grazing spot for cattle and it is from this activity that the area took its name. In 1930 the small hut pictured was built where the Kooroora now stands. Though the area has a long association with mountain cattlemen this first hut was built for skiers. Just 3 meters by 3.3 meters it was originally a lunchtime refugee. In 1946 an entrance porch, new chimney and two bunks (4 beds) were added in an effort to help ease the bed shortage on Mt Buller. It burnt down in 1951.

Clue 12: Built by brothers Aurel and Ernest Forras in 1953 the Kooroora Chalet provided some of the first commercial post-war accommodation on Mt Buller. Their mother and sister came out from Hungry to assist; cooking and serving in the Chalet's dinning room. It burnt down in 1961 and was rebuilt and re-opened for the 1962 winter. For a short-time it had a swimming pool which became trout fishing before being covered over when the ski hire business was extended. It became a focal point for live entertainment when it was purchased by Richard Paine in 1994.

Clue 13: This Boomerang was presented to the Mt Buller and Mt Stirling ARMB by elders of the Taungurung clan. The Taungurung people occupy much of central Victoria. Their country encompasses the area between the upper reaches of the Goulburn River and its tributaries north of the Dividing Range. From Kilmore in the west, eastwards to Mount Beauty, Benalla in the north and south to the top of the Great Dividing Range. Together with the Woiwurrung, Boonwurrung, Wathaurung, and Djadjawrung they form the Kulin Nation. Mt Buller and other alpine regions were an important summer meeting and hunting place for the indigenous peoples living in the lower surrounding countryside. The mountains provided access to an important food source for the Taungurung people, the Bogong moth.