

Order of Australia (OAM) awarded to Myrtleford Ski Club members

On behalf of all members, the Myrtleford Ski Club Committee is extremely pleased to congratulate Val McPherson, George McPherson and Malcolm Milne who are three long term members (Malcolm is a Life Member) of the club, on being named in the Australia Day honours list as Order of Australia medal winners.

Val and George were nominated for the many years of community work that they have undertaken. One thing that was omitted was the time and effort they both put into our ski club in the early 'foundation' years.

Malcolm was nominated for his skiing success and also the effect this has had on the Australian Ski industry.

A more detailed account of their club work and connections to the ski club and their OAM citations can be found below.

Read about

- [George & Val](#)
- [Malcolm](#)

George and Val McPherson

George and Val were part of the group that was instrumental in reforming the club in 1947 after it went into recess during World War 2. They remained active members of the club for many years and Val served on the committee for 5 years from 1957 to 1961. During this time she served as secretary for three years and also took on the role of club booking officer.

George, along with several other 'founding' members, worked as part of the 'crew' that actually constructed the lodge in 1948/49. There are several photographs hanging on the lodge walls that were taken at that time showing the work that George and the others undertook during this construction. It is a testament to their skills that the lodge foundations are still solidly intact to this day. Those of you who have stayed in Room 8 (or 'the dungeon' as some call it) will have seen some of the original rockwork that George and the construction crew put in place over 60 years ago.

[Read George's OAM citation.](#)

[Read Val's OAM citation.](#)

Malcolm Milne

Malcolm joined the Myrtleford Ski Club in 1961 and was initially coached by the older, experienced racers of the club including John Robertson and Dick Walpole then by Sigi Habertzettl who was the chief coach at Falls Creek for 17 years.

Malcolm competed with distinction for the club in several N.E.D.S.A championships and the improvement in his skiing was quite dramatic. A summary of his achievements by year follows:

1964 -- Starred at the National Junior Championships.

1965 -- Member of the Australian team which competed in the Inter-dominion Championships in NZ.

1966 -- At the age of 17 went to Europe to train with the French skiers at Val D'Isere and competed on the European circuit. Represented Australia at Portillo

1967 Became the first Australian to qualify for the gruelling Lauberhaun race

1968 Selected in the 1968 Winter Olympic team to compete at Grenoble. He finished 24th in both the downhill and the slalom events, the best results ever recorded by an Australian skier.

Carried the Australian flag in the Opening Ceremony

1969 Became the first Australian skier to win a World Cup race when he won the downhill in Val-d'Isère. This made him the first non-European to win a men's World Cup downhill event.

1970 Won the bronze medal at Gröden-Val Gardena, won a United States title race at Bear Valley, California.

Finished third in the World Championships.

1972 Selected for the 1972 Winter Olympics held in Sapporo, but suffered a cartilage injury to his left knee which threatened to cause him to withdraw. He didn't withdraw, raced but a near fall (from which he recovered superbly) cost him any chance of a place.

1973 Malcolm was made a Life Member of the Myrtleford Ski Club

1985 Inaugural inductee into the Sport Australia Hall of Fame

2000 Received the Australian Sports Medal for his contribution to skiing.

2004 Ski & Snowboard Australia elected Milne a life member for the contribution he has made to the sport

[Read Malcolm's OAM citation](#)

Mr George Albert McPHERSON, Myrtleford Vic 3737

For service to disabled winter sports, and to the community of Myrtleford.

Service includes:

Member, Disabled WinterSport Australia (*formerly known as Australian Disabled Skiers Federation*), 20 years; Developed a sit-ski for paraplegics, 1985.

Foundation Controller, Myrtleford Unit, Victoria State Emergency Service, 1979-1993; Member, since 1978.

Operational Support Member, Myrtleford Brigade, Country Fire Authority, since 1952; Life Member.

Venturer leader, Myrtleford Venturer Unit, Scouts Victoria, 1975-1990; Member, Northern Region Rock Climbing and Abseiling Council, 1979-mid 1980s.

Safety Officer, Myrtleford Show Society, 10 years; Committee member; Member, since 1993. Master, Myrtleford Lodge 222, Freemasons Victoria, 1968, 2004; Treasurer, 2012; Treasurer, Myrtleford Masonic Board of Management, 2012; Member, since 1955;

Awards and recognition include:

National Emergency Medal, Victorian Bushfires, 2012.

National Medal, Victoria State Emergency Service, 2007.

Australian Sports Medal, 2000.

Citizen of the Year, Myrtleford Shire, 1980.

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Mrs Valerie Margaret McPHERSON, Myrtleford Vic 3737
For service to the community of Myrtleford.

Service includes:

Treasurer, Wangaratta Family History Society, 2000-2012; Member, since 1984.

Area Co-ordinator, Myrtleford District, Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal, 1989-2008; Assistant to Area Coordinator.

Venturer leader, Myrtleford Venturer Unit, Scouts Victoria, 1978-1987.

Operational Support Member, Myrtleford Unit, Victoria State Emergency Service, since 1979; National Medal, 1995.

Member, Auxiliary Committee, Myrtleford Brigade, Country Fire Authority, since 1952; Life member.

Member, Ladies Committee, Myrtleford Lodge 222, Freemasons Victoria, since 1955.

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Mr Malcolm James MILNE, 80 Merriang Homestead Road, Myrtleford Vic 3737

For service to snow skiing.

Service includes:

Australian Representative, Downhill Skiing, Winter Olympics, Grenoble (France) 1968; Sapporo (Japan) 1972.

First Place, World Cup Val d'Isere (France), 1969.

Bronze Medalist, World Championships, Val Gardena (Italy), 1970.

Awards and recognition include:

Life Membership, Ski and Snowboard Australia, 2005.

Inaugural inductee, Sport Australia Hall of Fame, 1985.

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