

THE KAC REPORT - 11 August 2010

Ten days before the 39th KAC, I walked the road from Perisher to Charlotte Pass carrying my skis, hoping to find a few patches on the side of completely bare tarmac where I could get a few skates in. The road was like a river, great torrents from fast melting snow, almost covering the boots. I got no more than a couple of hundred metres skiing over the 8km.

Thankfully we got a few days of snow a week before, followed by fine weather, and then – of course – more snow on the day before and day of the race. Just enough to groom and set a full course and track in the morning. Pity the wind blew it all to shreds even before the start. It was a slow course and tough race: as one bloke quipped, it wouldn't be any fun doing the KAC without the extra challenge from the weather.

With the non-existent early XC season, the late snow arrival did not really encourage turn-out. One hundred and eighty six entrants came down to 168 finishers, with 101 Classic aficionados and 67 freestyle modernists. We even had three of the four recent Olympic representatives.

Overall winners were Olympians Ben Sim (for the sixth time) and Esther Bottomley in Freestyle, and Camille Melvey and Tom Landon-Smith in Classic, with the Geoff Nott Trophy to overall handicap winner Alex Almoukov and the Carl Bongers shield on handicap won by Tim Greville. KAC took out the Club trophy for most finishers with 16.

On a sad note, one of the race's long-time supporters, Bill Findlay of Technology Ski Club suffered a heart attack as he was passing Eyre at Perisher Gap. He did not recover. The Committee and the Club extend their sympathies to his family.

My thanks to all the supporters and volunteers from KAC and other organizations who give their holiday time to make this the biggest event of XC Race Week.