



THE GUNDAROO NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE ST GEORGE ALPINE CLUB

December 2016

Season's Greeting

A very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our members and their extended families.

Well, we hoped for a better season this year and, boy, did we get it. Near record falls at both Hotham and the Thredbo/Perisher area meant a great season that extended beyond the normal close-off weekend.

No Head Lease for Perisher

Despite applications being received, the NSW Government and the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) have not granted a head lease arrangement for the Perisher Range. A head lease arrangement is seen as critical to the development of the area into the year-round tourist venue that the NSW Government wants, and such an arrangement is already in place for Thredbo. At present, Charlotte's Pass is seen as a separate issue to Perisher.

Another major benefit from a head lease arrangement for Perisher would be the development of a Perisher Village setup; similar to that enjoyed by Thredbo. This sort of development has been on the drawing boards for more than 20 years but has not progressed beyond that.

Thredbo Mountain Bike Park...Now Open!

Thredbo Mountain Bike Park is one of Australia's premier mountain biking destinations and this summer it takes gravity riding, cross country exploring and MTB action to a whole new level and elevation. With new trails in the pipeline and revamped existing tracks there is over 25 kilometres of epic riding to enjoy. From downhill, cross country, all-mountain and a fast flowing pump track there is lots to love about riding in the Thredbo Mountain Bike Park this summer from 18th Nov 2017 – 29 April 2018.

Anniversaries

Thredbo's Village celebrated its 60th birthday, this year. At the launch ceremony for a new book by Chas Keys, two new inductees were announced to the Thredbo Hall of Fame, Elyne Mitchell and Rudi Schatzle.

Also celebrating a significant anniversary this year, was the Skitube, ringing up 30 years, having commenced operation in July 1987. Later extensions to Blue Cow opened in 1988. The service was intended to alleviate the traffic congestion and danger on the roads during the winter season and has become the preferred method of accessing Perisher and Blue Cow for many.

Snowy 2.0 drill testing

In late June, the PM visited Cooma to be briefed the drill test that form part of the feasibility study for the Snowy 2.0 project which is a \$2 billion project to expand on the original Snowy Hydro Scheme. The feasibility study should be completed by the end of December.

Ski Scholarships

Applications for 2018 ski scholarships are now open. If you would like to nominate your child for one of these scholarships, please have them write a short letter or email to us outlining their skiing history and what they would hope to gain from the scholarship. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their applications early in the new year.

Accommodation Rates for 2018

Our accommodation rates for both Hotham and Jindabyne remain unchanged in 2018. A full list of the accommodation rates (for both lodges) is at the end of this newsletter.

Subscriptions for 2018

Don't forget that you need to pay your subscriptions by the **end of January 2018**. The annual Subscriptions are the same as in 2017. They are:

- If paid before 31st January 2018 - **\$280**
- If paid after 31st January but before 28th February 2018 - **\$300**
- After 28th February 2018 - \$300 plus re-establishment fee \$45 Total **\$345**

Discounted Subscriptions for Lodge Users:

We continue to offer a discount to those people that have used, or members of their families who have used, the lodges in the last 12 months.

If your membership was used at either lodge from the 1st December 2016 to the 30th of November 2017 then a **\$50 discount** will apply to your annual membership. (We have records from our booking data base to verify memberships that used either lodge).

So, for the members who did use the lodges, the Subscriptions will be **\$230, \$250 or \$295** depending on when you pay them (see the dates above).

As a Board, we believe that this is the fairest way to encourage the utilisation of our lodges.

Please do not pay your subscriptions before January 1st, to assist the Treasurer in his reconciliations.

Room Rates at Hotham

It came to the attention of the Board that at last one member has been canvassing other occupants, at Hotham, as to what they paid to stay. He was apparently concerned that he was paying too much to stay at Hotham. The explanation for this is that Marco's casual residents pay a bed rate, and may be lumped in with up to 3 other people in a room. Lodge members pay for a room, hence the higher rate even though it may be occupied by more than one person. Also, additional people in a lodge members room are known to the lodge member.

Memberships for Sale

If you wish to enquire about the purchase of A, B or C memberships, please contact Bob Philp on 02 6585 5535.

Current Board Members and Booking Officer

The following people are, once again, responsible for making our club run smoothly:

- Keith Monaghan (President)
- Graham Grigg (Secretary)
- Ian Matthew (Treasurer)
- Matthew Boseley (Accommodation Director)
- Bob Philp (Membership Director)
- Eunice Philp (Booking Officer)
- Phill Boseley (Board Member)
- Juha Sillan (Board Member)
- Mark Wong (Board Member)

Quiet please

This year, at Jindabyne, we received complaints from several members about unruly children running around the lodge and playing hide and seek in the lounge and kitchen area whilst members were cooking dinner. Not only is this unacceptable, it's dangerous. It took the lodge captain and other lodge members to talk to the children as the parents, when asked, took no action.

Other problems were children playing table tennis at 5am waking up all the people down stairs and playing cricket in the hall upstairs at 6am on a Saturday morning. These members, who were responsible for these children, are on report and if there are any further problems they may lose their membership.

Please be considerate of other members who may be sleeping and try not to bang the bedroom doors when entering or leaving.

Also, if you are in the bunkroom and coming in late maybe carry a torch rather than putting on a light and waking up others.

It is our lodge and we are all on holidays. We must consider other members when assessing our behaviour.

If you have any problems with your accommodation, or the behaviour of other guests/members, contact Matthew Boseley, Accommodation Director, in the first instance on 0411 730 380.

Winter Occupancy Rates

Accommodation occupancy at the Hotham Lodge was disappointing again this winter. Despite an excellent snow season, occupancy rates were only 41.7% over the extended season (1 June - 4 October). Of that, Marco accounted for only 8.3%, the remainder being booked online and through Eunice. At the end of this newsletter is a chart showing the occupancy for each room over the whole season.

Jindabyne enjoyed its usual high occupancy rate at 73.9%, being 92.8% booked throughout July and August.

Booking Dates for Winter 2018

- **A & B Members:** can book Jindabyne from 1st week February 2018
- **C & B Members:** can book Hotham from 1st week February 2018
- **A Members** can book Hotham and **C Members** can book Jindabyne from 1st week March 2018
- 2nd round of **lodge member** bookings from 1st March
- O Members can book from 22nd March 2018
- Non-Members can book from 20th March 2018

Lodge Maintenance (since last Newsletter)

Jindabyne

- All beds have been replaced. New mattress & pillow protectors also be provided.
- Old shutters windows have been removed, in the lounge areas, and replaced with commercial grade aluminium windows and thermal glass (special commercial 10.38mm glass that won't transfer heat or cold – no more shutters required).
- Leaky pipe in Bunk Room has been repaired
- The heater in the Drying Room has been replaced.
- The fascia boards outside the building need work and will be capped and repainted soon.
- Bathroom ceilings in all rooms need repainting. This will be done in the coming months.
- Curtain in all rooms to be replaced in the coming months.

Hotham

- Some of the mattresses and mattress protectors and pillows/pillow-protectors have been replaced.
- Shower heads to be replaced before next winter.
- TV problems rectified, by plugging the TV into the correct socket.
- Ongoing boiler problems have been resolved with the replacement of a faulty gas valve.
- The lino in the kitchen is to be replaced in the coming months.
- All carpets are to be steam cleaned in the coming months.

Coming events in the Snowy Mountains for Summer/Autumn 2017/2018

December 2017

Cannonball Mountain Bike Festival

December 6 - 10

The Thredbo Cannonball MTB Festival 2017 celebrates 5 years as Australia's biggest gravity inspired MTB festival, and once again will set the standard with an array of unrivalled events and nonstop entertainment. Cannonball will again see amateurs; rising stars and the world's best descend on Thredbo for 5 days of gravity fuelled action and the chance to take home their share of \$70k in cash and prizes, making it the biggest prize purse ever seen at an Australian gravity inspired event.

January 2018

Thredbo to Top of Australia Walk

Dec 23 – Jan 6

Families can ride to the top of the Kosciuszko Express chairlift to downhill on a bike or take a leisurely walk to the top of Australia. With the wild flowers out and about, it's the best time of year to put on your walking shoes and explore the mountains!

New Years Day Tumbarumba Rodeo

January 1

This is a full APRA Championship Rodeo with a host of fun-filled events including local barrel race, poddy ride, bucking ponies, stallion chute out, poly saddle ride, Aussie Rules versus Rugby League steer ride challenge, saddle bronc and bareback, and bull ride featuring the big ScreenBull cam, chute cam and instant replays.

There are full bar facilities and evening entertainment.

Australian Speed and Marathon Water Skiing Championships - Lake Jindabyne

January 9 – 13

Thredbo Blues Festival

Jan 19 - 21

The Thredbo Blues Festival is back in 2018 for its 24th year with another amazing program of exceptional Australian and International blues players getting up close and personal in a music festival like no other. With intimate bars and restaurants, spectacular outdoor venues and the whole of Thredbo Village given over to the blues, Thredbo sets the stage for an atmosphere that musicians and blues fans love.

44th Numeralla Folk Festival

January 26 - 28

McLean Street, Numeralla

February 2018

Snowies MTB Festival

Feb 9 - 11

The iconic Snowy Mountains will once again play host to the ultimate mountain bike experience in 2016 where riders will be challenged with 5 stages across 3 days in rugged mountain terrain. Starting at an altitude of 1260m, riders will be tested with over 100k of rugged mountain terrain, technical single track, a mammoth ascent, and some awe-inspiring downhills, making this one of Australia's most iconic mountain bike stage races.

Cooma Rodeo

February 11

Tumut Cup Races

February 17

Gates will open at 11am for the Tumut Cup, with the first race starting after 1pm. Admission \$20 Pensioner \$10 Children under 16 yrs FREE (in the company of a responsible adult)

2018 Australian National Cross Triathlon & Aquathlon Championships

February 24 – 25

In 2016 Lake Crackenback Resort & Spa was home to the ITU World Cross Triathlon Championships, the Trex team are returning to the Resort and bringing another action packed multi-sport festival to the Snowy Mountains in 2018.

Tumbafest

February 24 – 25

A festival in Tumberumba to celebrate cool-climate wines and fruits and provides a variety of food sources locally, with some music thrown in for good measure.

March 2018

High Country Wine & Cheese Festival

March 9 - 11

Chase cheese to glory, taste some of Australia's best wine and cheese and tour Thredbo Village on a Progressive Dinner

Thredbo Interschools Mountain Bike Championships

March 15 – 18

The Interschools Mountain Bike Championships give young riders that special chance to experience mountain biking and the enthusiasm and energy of this rapidly growing sport in a competitive, educational and supportive atmosphere.

April 2018

Man From Snowy River Festival – Corryong

April 5 – 8

Tumut Falling Leaves Festival

April 28

Autumn in Tumut offers one of the most spectacular displays of seasonal colours to be found anywhere in New South Wales. In 1954, the Festival was created to celebrate the arrival of autumn and the falling leaves which characterize the town's many parks and gardens.

Winter Accommodation Rates – Gundaroo, Jindabyne

Ski Season: 2nd June 2017 to 2nd October 2017

These rates include a 10% GST component.

Short week special: 5 nights' accommodation at a cost of 3 nights. (except bunk room)

CLASSIFICATION	WEEKLY	WEEKLY	DAILY	DAILY
	<i>Off-Peak</i>	<i>Peak</i>	<i>Off-Peak</i>	<i>Peak</i>
LODGE MEMBER				
Minimum fee for a Bedroom	170	200	43	50
Minimum fee for a Family Room	236	276	59	69
Lodge Member (LM)	65	76	16	19
Lodge Member's Child (LMC)	41	48	10	14
ORDINARY MEMBER				
Minimum fee for a Bedroom	520	611	115	136
Minimum fee for a Family Room	720	846	160	188
Ordinary Member (OM)	200	235	44	52
Ordinary Member's Child (OMC)	120	141	27	31
NON-MEMBER				
Minimum fee for a Bedroom	686	806	152	179
Minimum fee for a Family Room	950	1116	211	248
Non-Member (NM)	264	310	59	69
Non-Member's Child (NMC)	158	186	35	41
BUNKROOM				
Adult Member	61	73	11	14
Child Member	39	46	7	8
Adult Ordinary Member	178	209	32	38
Child Ordinary Member	97	114	19	23
Adult Non-Member	234	275	68	50
Child Non-Member	128	150	26	30

Winter Accommodation Rates - "Unit 21" Mt Hotham

Ski Season 2nd June 2017 to 2nd October 2017

These rates include a 10% GST component.

CLASSIFICATION	WEEKLY <i>Off-Peak</i>	WEEKLY Peak	DAILY <i>Off-Peak</i>	DAILY Peak
LODGE MEMBER				
Minimum fee for a Bedroom	547	700	119	140
Lodge Member (LM)	247	350	60	70
Lodge Member's Child	159	203	35	41
ORDINARY MEMBER				
Minimum fee for a Bedroom	774	910	155	182
Ordinary Member (OM)	387	455	77	91
Ordinary Member's Child (OMC)	224	264	45	53

Summer Accommodation Rates Gundaroo, Jindabyne & “Unit 21”, Mt Hotham

Summer Season: 9 October 2017 to 1 June 2018

These rates include a 10% GST component

MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATION	WEEKLY	DAILY
LODGE MEMBER		
Adult	\$72	\$14
Child	\$32	\$7
Minimum fee for bedroom	\$143	\$29
Minimum fee for a family room [Gundaroo]	\$239	\$48
ORDINARY MEMBER		
Adult	\$95	\$19
Child	\$48	\$10
Minimum fee for bedroom	\$190	\$39
Minimum fee for a family room [Gundaroo]	\$317	\$68
NON-MEMBER		
Adult	\$119	\$24
Child	\$59	\$12
Minimum fee for bedroom	\$239	\$47
Minimum fee for a family room [Gundaroo]	\$419	\$79

