



Snobounds

*Newsletter of the Snowy River Ski Club Cooperative Ltd
Doorack Lodge at Guthega in the Kosciuszko National Park*

February 2016

Annual General Meeting & Social Dinner

This year's AGM is scheduled for **Saturday 28th May 2016**; so please save the date.

The venue will be the Eastlake Football Club, and the time will be early evening. This will provide the opportunity for members who wish to stay on and share a meal and a drink in the club dining area. Details are as follows:

Date:	Saturday 28 th May 2016
AGM:	5:00 – 7:00 pm
Dinner:	Following AGM
Venue:	Eastlake Football Club, 3 Oxley St Griffith ACT

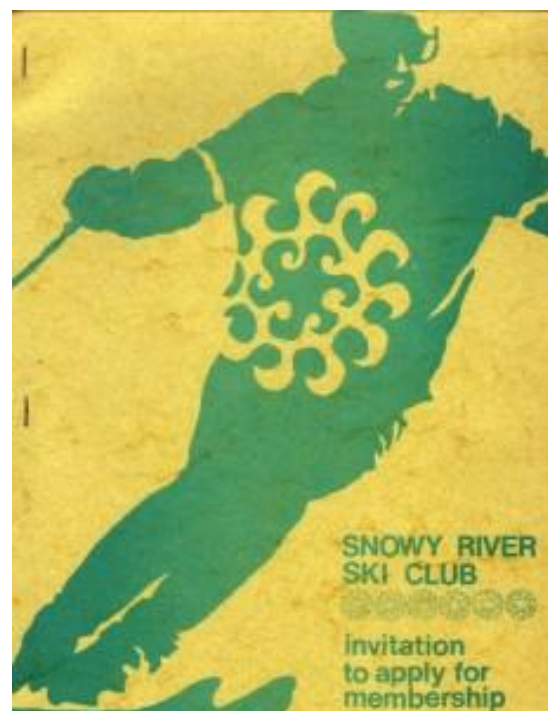
The club menu is attached for your perusal. It would be useful if those members wishing to stay on for dinner could let me know (return to this email) so that we can book an appropriately sized table (or two). For out-of-town members there are a range of accommodation options within walking distance of the Eastlake club in Kingston, and there are a number of other things on in the national capital that may be of interest if you arrive early on Saturday or leave later on Sunday. This website will help you decide:

<http://visitcanberra.com.au/events/find?startDate=2016-05-28&endDate=2016-05-28>

40 Years of Skiing

Tony Van Vugt established the club in 1974 and Doorack lodge was constructed during the 1975-1976 summer and officially opened on the 4th of July, 1976. This July 4th marks 40 years of skiing fun and excitement. If you assume a two month season, 24 beds and 40 years you calculate a total of about 60,000 person days of skiing. Quite an achievement and that's not counting the value of the friendships and support between club members which, for many, is the best part of the club experience.

A fantastic result and hats off to the pioneers who got it all started, and more importantly, put in the hard work all those years ago.



2016 – an El Nino Year

So welcome to 2016 and here's to a great ski season. Serious skiers tend to be keen students of the weather and will have caught up with the fact that we are currently experiencing an el nino event – without going into the detail this means that ocean temperatures across the Pacific go awry and weather in the Americas and Australia becomes unusual. Australia should generally be drier and this should mean less snow. But don't lose heart – we've had truckloads of rain in Canberra (the editorial and spiritual home of Snobounds) this summer and we've found the following expert opinion, from the Bureau of Meteorology website section on el nino, to share with our readers, the important part is highlighted:

“Decreased alpine snow depths

El Niño years tend to have lower snow depths in Australia's alpine regions. On average, the peak snow depth measured at Spencer's Creek is 35 cm lower during El Niño years, and the season length (i.e. the period of time with snow depths greater than 100 cm) is 2.5 weeks shorter. The four lowest peak snow depths on record were all measured during El Niño years; notably, snow depths never reached 100 cm in 1982 or 2006.

However, El Niño does not guarantee a poor snow season. Indeed, three El Niño years (1972, 1977 and 1991) actually had well-above-average peak snow depths. Cooler night-time temperatures and lower rainfall during El Niño years can often mean that the snow which does fall is retained and can aid artificial snowmaking which many resorts use to supplement the natural snow they receive.”

So start waxing now!

New Winter Booking Arrangements

The improved winter booking arrangements set out in our last edition are now in place and all the 5, 6 and 7 day bookings are now finalised. Iris, our indefatigable booking officer, reports that the system seems to be a great innovation with members taking advantage of the 5 and 6 day week options. You can check it out for yourself on the club web site where room availability is displayed in a spreadsheet format.

Remember that 2-day and 1-day bookings against entitlement can be made from 1 March and 1 April respectively.

Summer booking payment technology

Both the summer and winter booking officers have for some years had available to them a device supplied by our bank that enables credit card bookings to be processed. The devices are not free, the bank charges a rental for them and our treasurer has calculated recently that the rental cost of the summer booking device exceeded the total value of bookings processed on it. So it's gone back to the bank. Summer bookings now need to be paid by direct transfer to the club bank account, or by telling the summer booking officer (Polly) what your credit card details are, she will pass them on to the Winter booking officer (Iris) for processing. This of course involves some security risk as credit card details are passed around. Apologies for the inconvenience; please blame the bank. Winter bookings continue as normal.

New Bar B Que (not)

Recently the Board (at least some of the more carnivorous members) have been wrestling with the notion of a new BBQ, the current model being seemingly well past its use-by date. But not so – we've been saved from this not inconsiderable expense by the efforts of a very intrepid member who, recognising the problem, went straight to an effective solution. Using only an old log of wood and a few cable ties the BBQ has been given a new lease on life – good for at least another ten years. The Board extends heartfelt thanks to our BBQologist, whoever you are.



Lodge maintenance and renovations

As reported in our last edition, the deck extension work to take the deck around the corner of the lodge in front of the kitchen, renovation of the two fire escapes on the northern wall, and installation of a new and larger window in the north wall at the mezzanine level, is now underway and will be complete for the upcoming season. There may be a need to manage summer bookings around the building work.

On a more expansive scale, Turnak lodge (next door) is being completely rebuilt from the ground up.

Work parties

One or two work parties will be arranged before the winter, probably in April and May when the current building project is finished. If you would like to assist the club by attending a work party and are not already on the mailing list for these (you will know if you are), then please register your name with the Lodge Maintenance Officer Tony Slatyer at: slatyer@velocitynet.com.au.



Thanks for your interest and see you at the AGM.