



# Snobounds

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

June 2019

## 2019 Season forecast

Your Snobounds editorial team is a bit late with this edition – work pressure and going away too often – but the upside is the fact that we can now report on what looks to be a terrific start to the 2019 season.

The “Snowwatch” website, on Thursday May 30, reported as follows: *“Snowfalls continued in and around the mountains yesterday down to low levels as the temps dropped early in the morning. All resorts have a great early season cover with some already beginning to groom the slopes. The great news is that Perisher has decided to open on Friday for skiing and boarding on Front Valley.....Long range the 10th-11th could see some snow falling .....The 19th-20th is looking good for another decent fall of snow ..... Further out I’m liking the look of the 23rd-25th of June.....”*



So we’ll see you on the slopes, sooner rather than later!

**STOP PRESS!**

***Guthega is opening this weekend,  
Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June – first time ever!***

## The 2019 AGM

The AGM was held on Saturday 4 May 2019, at Eastlakes Football Club, Canberra Avenue, Griffith.

### *Board*

The Chairman thanked members for their attendance including those who had come from afar, and the Club’s office holders for their work in the preceding year.

The Chairman spoke to his written report (a copy of which is appended to this edition of Snobounds). In the absence of other nominations, the four retiring directors (Matthew Barnard, Tony Slatyer, Geoff Chubb and Iris Bramley) were re-elected.

### *Annual fees and charges*

David Hogg spoke to the report circulated with the Club’s audited accounts. The Meeting resolved to increase the annual fee to \$400, as recommended by the Board. The Board confirmed that the sinking fund levy will remain at \$100. No further levy is required.

### *Lodge maintenance and work parties*

Tony Slatyer spoke to the report he circulated before the meeting. Of particular note are the new arrangement for work parties for the summer 2019/10.

The Board has resolved to trial a new work party programme, with changes intended to deal with:

- Improving the safety and quality of maintenance projects
- Reducing the financial cost to the Club of giving credits to work party participants;
- Removing the “transactional” element of participation, and attendant administrative requirements

Next summer there will be one work party only for which participants need no particular skills. Participants will do all the “light maintenance” required (i.e., simple repairs, painting, cleaning, lawn mowing, firewood stacking etc.). Attendees would not earn work party credits but there would be no charge for accommodation and the dinner and evening will be a major social event on the club calendar; “For those who like to plan well ahead, the **weekend earmarked for the first mega work party is 14 and 15 March 2020**. Further information will be in the next Snobounds.”.

All “heavy maintenance” work would be done by members invited to help due to their skills and experience. Their attendances would not earn credits, but their costs of attendance would be met by the club.

## Booking procedures

As members will be aware the opening time for winter 5, 6 or 7 day bookings against entitlements is midnight on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December. This system was established some time back and pre-dates modern communication methods. With the advent of email the practice has developed whereby members send in booking requests by email sometime prior to the 31<sup>st</sup>, these are put aside by the booking officer and dealt with following the 31<sup>st</sup>. This system is somewhat loose and the booking officer (Iris) has determined that in future the following will apply:

*Requests for bookings against entitlements for 5, 6 or 7 day periods should be forwarded to the winter booking officer by email ([winter@snowyiverskiclub.com.au](mailto:winter@snowyiverskiclub.com.au)) at any time during the period 1st to 31st of December of the year preceding the booking. All such requests will be deemed to have been received by the booking officer concurrently at midnight on the 31st of December. Members should use their email tracking facility to obtain a “delivery receipt” to ensure that their email has been received. If in doubt they should contact the winter booking officer by telephone prior to the 31st of December.*

*On the 1st of January or as soon as practicable thereafter the winter booking officer will allocate beds in accordance with requests. In the event of an irreconcilable clash of requests the winter booking officer will determine an allocation by ballot. Members may include preferences in their booking requests – i.e. a second preference week if their first preference is unavailable to them following a ballot.*

*Booking requests for 5,6 or 7 night bookings received after the 31st of December will be dealt with in order of receipt.*

Members should note the booking “window” which opens on December 1<sup>st</sup> and closes on December 31<sup>st</sup>. We will trial this system for season 2020 and see how it goes.

## Late subscription payment penalties

In the last edition of Snobounds we reported that the Board is concerned that a small number of members fail to pay their annual subscriptions and associated costs within a reasonable period (e.g. 30 days). The 2019 subscription notices which have just been posted request payment by 30 June 2019. After trialling a new system the Board has now determined that any members whose annual fees or winter accommodation costs remain unpaid **after 30 November for a given year** will forfeit their priority winter booking entitlement of 28 days per share holding for the subsequent year. This means that any accommodation bookings made under their membership will not be considered until 1 May of the subsequent year.

If there are exceptional circumstances which preclude timely payment of the subscription account, the member should advise the Treasurer and seek special consideration from the Board.

## No more credit card payments

Payments of subscriptions and fees to the club by credit card incur a cost to the club. Usage of credit cards (as opposed to bank transfers) has declined to such an extent that the total receipts now barely cover the cost of maintaining the credit card facility.

The Board has therefore determined that the credit card facility will be surrendered to the bank and no further payments will be able to be made by credit card after 30 June 2019.

In addition to bank transfers, which is the preferred method, payments may still be made by cash or cheque.

## Perisher Blue News

### *Leichardt chair*

As forecast in the last Snobounds, the conversion of the Leichardt T-bar to a quad chair will be ready for season 2019. This will ease pressure on the Happy Valley T-Bar which in turn opens up better access to Mount Perisher. The plan then, as we understand it, is to replace the Mount Perisher Chairs.....

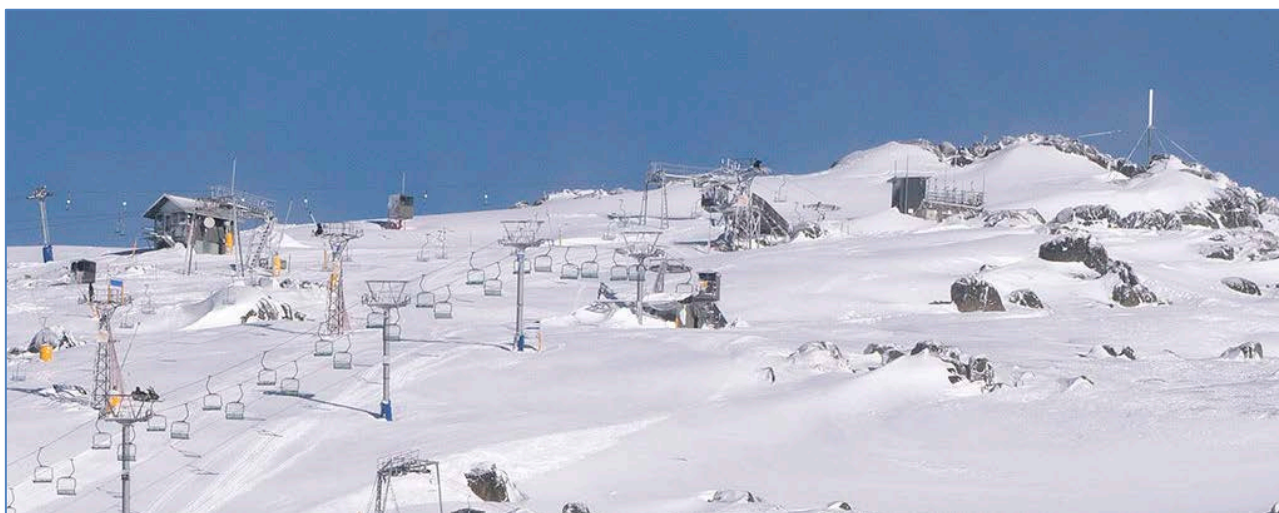
### *New 6 Seat Mt Perisher Chair*

"..... Perisher are getting on with their business of investing in the resort and have been discussing a new 6 seat detachable chairlift that would stay on the approximate triple chair alignment with the unload around the same location as the double chair. It will be interesting to see if they venture another four metres higher to be the highest lifted point in Australia. Thredbo currently have that at 2037 metres. The top of the Mt P double chair is 2034m. Perisher would also be applying to widen the Towers Run, move snowmaking to accommodate a wider run and renovate the Mt Perisher Restaurant." (from Snowy Mountains Magazine)



### *Falls Creek & Hotham*

Vail Resorts have now purchased Falls and Hotham, so your season pass now works at these two resorts as well as at Perisher and numerous resorts in the US and Canada.





## Telstra phone tower

We were advised in May by the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage that Telstra had lodged a development application to install a mobile phone “omni antennae” on a light pole on Mt Tate Road at Guthega, to improve the woefully poor reception. Unfortunately, they then proceeded to withdraw the application, but apparently intend to re-lodge in the future. When and if this eventuates then a lot of Telstra subscribers will be very happy.

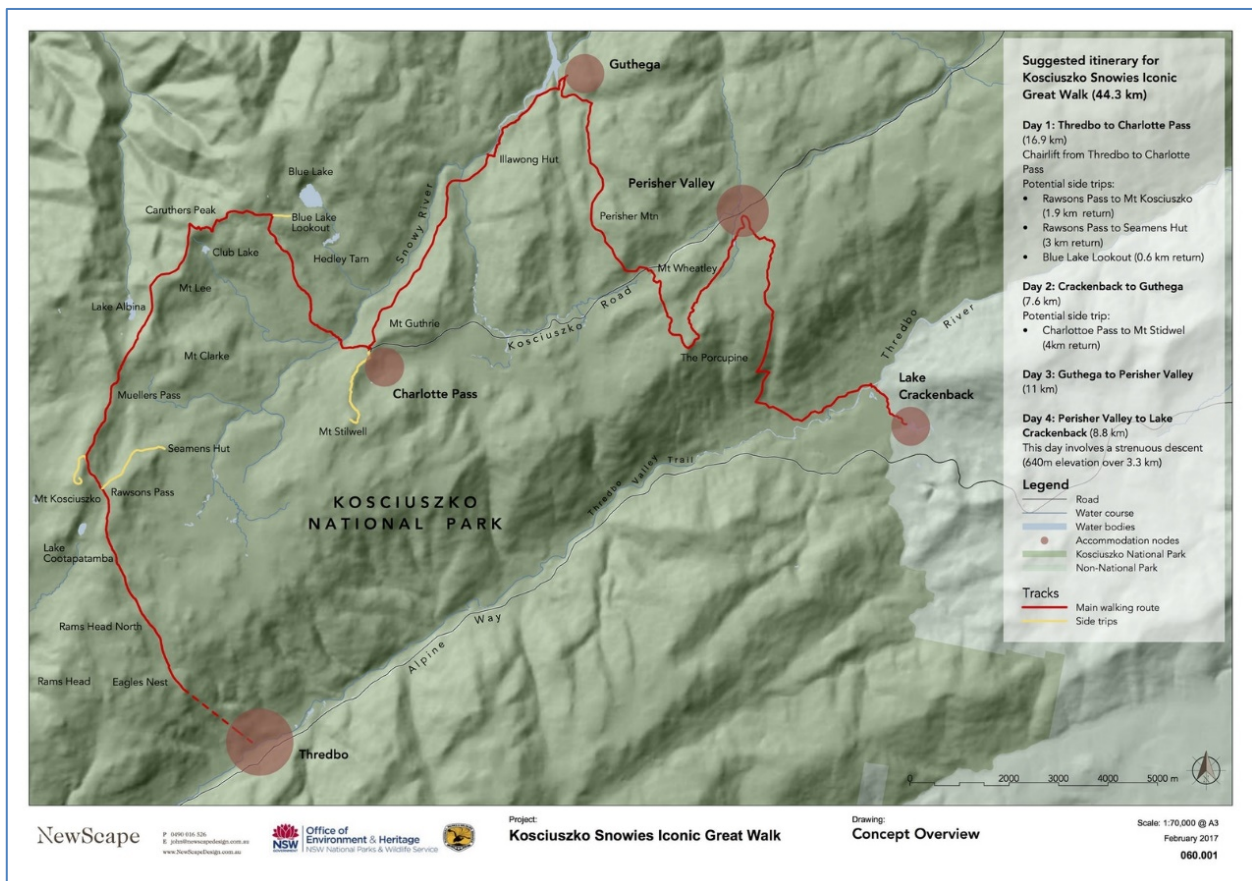


## Guthega interclub race

Members are encouraged to participate if they can in the Guthega Interclub race scheduled for the 20th of July, a highlight of the year. Minimal or no racing skills or experience are necessary and handicap points are available for older and younger team members. The Guthega interclub is a great chance for socialising with the Guthega Village community, including at the pub after the event.

## The Snowies Walking Track

More news on the proposed walking track, from the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage web site: “The Snowies Iconic Walk concept aims to showcase the unique alpine ecosystems and breathtaking views of the Kosciuszko summit precinct and provide better experiences for visitors. It arose from a need to better disperse visitors to reduce overcrowding issues around Rawson Pass and the summit of Mt Kosciuszko and to provide a diversity of walking experiences. The concept reflects the vision for Kosciuszko National Park to be recognised as the premier destination for walking in Australia, with world class sustainable facilities that protect the alpine environment, as outlined in the draft Kosciuszko summit precinct walking tracks strategy.



This project involves linking existing resorts, accommodation and services at Thredbo, Charlotte Pass, Guthega, Perisher and Lake Crackenback with the existing Main Range and Summit walking trails to provide a 44km, 4-day hiking experience. The work includes 25km of new walking track and realignment of existing tracks to protect threatened alpine grasses. Each track section is approximately 10–15 kilometres long. Walkers can choose to do any section of the track as single day walks or longer overnight walks. This iconic walk has been awarded \$17 million funding by the Regional Growth – Environment and Tourism Fund, funded through Restart NSW, that provides funding for infrastructure that supports regional economic growth, creates local employment opportunities, and drives growth in the visitor economy”.

Closer to home, it will bring people through Guthega on a year-round basis, maybe the pub will even stay open through summer? The proposed route is on the map above.

## Membership matters

As members will be aware, SRSC club membership shares can be sold by members to prospective purchasers who have been approved by the Board; typically, one or two memberships change hands each year.

The process is facilitated by the club secretary (Matthew Barnard). Periodically the secretary invites members to let him know if they are interested in selling or know of potential buyers. The secretary maintains a list of those interested and puts them in touch with each other. He provides both buyers and sellers who are genuinely interested in transacting with a range of recent sale prices which may be used as a guide. It's up to the seller and buyer to negotiate a price, and obviously it depends in part on who is most keen to transact.

Buyers are usually friends or relatives of existing members, who have visited the lodge as guests or associates. Approval of the new member is subject to the Board's discretion. Typically the Board requires two members (neither of whom are the intending seller) to vouch for the potential new member, confirming that he or she is familiar with the way the lodge works and the nature of the club and the accommodation, and would be able to provide a positive contribution to the club.

## New fridge

The long serving, iconic purpose built fridge/freezer has finally been replaced. Removal of the old fridge, now past its use-by date after about 40 years of service, was itself an effort; manhandling the new ones up the stairs with sub-millimetre clearances on all sides was even harder. The new fridges have greater capacity, better energy efficiency and easier access. A new freezer is now located in the store room. Thanks to all who helped on the day.





## Doorack Drinkers Club

Letter to the editor from Ross Humphreys:

The Doorack Drinkers' Club has been going since the lodge started way back in the mid 70's. Paul Isaks was the first Kellermeister and I took over in 2007. The system Paul set up has stood the test of time.

When you make purchases at the lodge please record exactly what you have taken out of the cellar.

When people make deposits please understand those deposits are the DDC float. I purchase wine/beer/cider/fortifieds and sometimes wine glasses and carafes. So, if you are a member of the DDC then remember that a credit balance is what allows the stock to be available for consumption by members. When you make a deposit, I will endeavour to reply and inform you of your new balance. This may not occur if I am in parts of the country/world yet to be determined. I don't carry the DDC spreadsheet with me. At the moment, before the winter, we are pretty much fully stocked and there is a balance (float ) of about \$3000.

The important numbers are BSB:801009 A/C:001042225 and the account name is Doorack Drinkers' Club.

The system works when everybody keeps their balance in a healthy credit and records precisely what they are drinking in the Blue Book at the lodge. An early start to the ski season. Let's hope it continues.

Ross Humphreys  
Kellermeister

## Snobounds

As ever, members contributions to Snobounds are always welcome.



**Snowy River Ski Club**  
**Annual general meeting 2019**  
**Chairman's Report**

**Fellow members,**

I am again pleased to be able to present this annual report following another successful year for the club, and, again, for the 2018 winter, some more legendary snow depths. I welcome all members who have been able to attend the AGM and acknowledge those members, locally and interstate, who are unable to attend. I know that they maintain a keen interest in the operation and management of the club.

There are several matters that I would like to refer to particularly in this report.

**Finances**

The club finances continue in a healthy and sustainable state, as you will see from the Treasurer's report later in the meeting. The excellent snow season is again reflected in a good level of income from accommodation bookings. Running costs continue to rise, and this year the treasurer has recommended a modest increase in subscription fees. The Committee continues to be vigilant with regard to costs.

**Perisher range resorts governance review**

We understand that, following the failure of the tender process embarked upon by the NSW Government in 2017 (with a view to selling a Perisher range resorts head lease to a private sector investor) the Government is now dealing directly with the Vail Resorts company, operator of Perisher Blue. It is likely that at some time in the near future an arrangement will be reached whereby Vail becomes the head lessee of the Perisher Range resorts. This would be like the situation at Thredbo. We would then become lessees under the head lease, with Vail being the landlord, replacing the NSW Government.

SLOPES (Ski Lodges Organisation of Perisher Smiggins and Guthega) have been representing all lodges, including us, in the consultation process that the Government has been conducting. I continue to hold a position on the SLOPES committee which enables me to keep abreast of developments on this important issue as well as on other matters affecting the club.

**New Members**

During the last twelve months we have accepted a number of new members, some of whom have been long standing associates. We welcome the following:

Russell Smith  
Konrad Piotrowski  
Francine Paxton  
Glenn Forrest  
Lloyd Noon

**Lodge security**

The Board is aware of an incident involving theft of some ski gear from the lodge during the 2018 season. The Board has taken measures to improve security by requiring locking of the front door at night.

## **Ski Racing**

I again urge members to participate if they can in the Guthega Interclub race scheduled for the 20<sup>th</sup> of July, a highlight of the year. Minimal or no racing skills or experience are necessary and handicap points are available for older and younger team members. The Guthega interclub is a great chance for socialising with the Guthega Village community, including at the pub after the event.

Information on the timing and the range of competitive events for the season can be found on the Perisher web site and also on the Slopes website (<https://slopes.org.au/>.) This is an excellent web site with a wealth of information and worth a look.

The Doorack Lift Challenge continues in popularity, and there is now a kids version. Last year's champion, Peter Aspro, has been knocked off his perch by a stellar performance from a team – Harry and Tony Slatyer and Tom Shafron (1 hour 33 Minutes and 45 seconds); The current kids champion is Hamish Anderson (28 minutes, 27 seconds). Two great challenges for season 2019.

## **The Kosciuszko Snowies Iconic walk**

I reported last year that the NSW Government had announced a \$27 million investment in Kosciuszko National Park over the next five years. Of this, some \$17 million will go to a Kosciuszko Snowies Walk from Charlotte Pass, via Guthega and Perisher, finishing at Lake Crackenback Resort.

When completed it will create a world-class 44 kilometre multi-day walk from Thredbo via Mt Kosciuszko, to Charlotte Pass, to Guthega along the Snowy River valley and via Illawong Hut, then on to Perisher via the back of Mt Perisher and the Porcupine, and then to Lake Crackenback Resort.

This facility is likely to deliver a steady stream of overnight visitors to Guthega throughout summer.

## **The Committee**

Our club works as well as it does because good people make it so. I will take this opportunity to sincerely thank each of the committee members:

Matthew Barnard, secretary  
David Hogg, Treasurer  
Tony Slatyer, Maintenance officer  
Geoff Chubb, 2<sup>nd</sup> maintenance officer  
Pierre Delarue, Providore  
Iris Bramley, Winter bookings officer

Without them, and their hard work and enthusiasm, nothing would happen.

It is also important to acknowledge the hard work and enthusiasm of the Doorack Drinking Club coordinator Ross Humphreys. An essential role that is in very capable hands.

And Alison Humphreys who has taken on the role of club housekeeper, created last year and proving to be a very worthwhile initiative.



Finally I'd like to thank my wife Polly, for her overall help and support, but especially for doing all the real work as summer bookings officer.

Polly has also continued removing the exotic grasses from the front of the club and replacing it with native plants, much more in keeping with our national park location and ultimately, especially when the flowers are out in summer, much more attractive.

I wish all members and their families and friends all the best for the upcoming season.

**Tony Adams**

**4 May 2019**