



# Snobounds

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

November 2018

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## 2018 Season

It doesn't get much better. The official snow depth in late August peaked at 225cm; better still the season started early with a 76cm dump in mid June and continual improvements from there on. The 2017 season depth was a tad higher, peaking at 241cm, but we missed out on the early start. Perisher opened the season early and closed late and the Guthega lifts opened earlier and closed later than previous seasons, so thank you to Perisher Blue. So far this century we've had 6 seasons with a depth exceeding 200cm. So the great years are averaging about 1 in 3.



## Lodge maintenance

### *Summer programme*

Prior to next winter, we plan to replace the refrigerators and install timers on the bedroom heater switches so the heaters will not stay on when rooms are vacated. We are also planning to replace some components of the building that are degraded and leaking: the high windows in the roof, the upper level fire escape door frames, the lounge door to the deck and some external cladding around bedroom 1. A full makeover is also planned for bedroom 9. As the combination lock on the woodroom door is no longer reliable, a keysafe will be installed for emergency access.

As the result of a suspected theft incident this winter, the Board has decided to encourage locking of the entry door at night and to install a doorbell so that persons seeking afterhours entry can be heard upstairs.

And....the set of keys with the bright yellow tag have been AWOL since 2017. Please check your key supply and if you have the Winter keys return them to a director (no questions asked - we just want them back!).

### *Work parties*

As is usual practice, work parties will be scheduled for some weekends in the February-May period. These provide great opportunities for members to contribute their time and skills to maintaining the lodge in tip top condition while also having quality time with other members.

To help defray the costs of attending, members are entitled to a credit on their account of \$140 (calculated as 1/3 of the annual subscription cost) for each attendance by themselves or their associate (subject to a maximum of two credits per membership per work party) and are also entitled to stay overnight at no cost. As an additional incentive, and to assist in recovery from the labours of the

day and preparation for the next day, the Doorack Drinkers Club donates wine (cleanskins) for the enjoyment of attendees who are staying over on Saturday night.

If you would like to participate in work parties in 2019, please register your name with Tony Slatyer (email [slatyer@velocitynet.com.au](mailto:slatyer@velocitynet.com.au)). In January, Tony will inform all who have registered of the work party dates and of the arrangements for participating.

## Membership matters

A hearty welcome to new members Lloyd Noon, Konrad Piotrowski, Francine Paton and Russell Smith (all long time associate members) and fond farewells to Jean Hambley, Allan Baxter and Sandy Smith.

## Summer Bookings charges

For some time now the summer booking rates have contained some odd anomalies with the relative charges for different numbers of days being seemingly irrational. And there were two different rates for a five night stay. The Board has approved a rationalisation of the charges, with the new ones to come into effect for bookings for dates after 30 January 2019. The intent has been twofold; firstly to make all the rates a rational multiple of the “base” rate which is currently \$14 per night for a member, and secondly to keep them as close as possible to the current rate levels. The new rates will be available soon on the SRSC web page. ([https://www.snowyiverskiclub.com.au/?page\\_id=562](https://www.snowyiverskiclub.com.au/?page_id=562))

## Late Subscription Payments

Under existing rules, accommodation bookings (winter or summer) are not accepted while the member has an existing debt to the Club. The Board is concerned that a small number of members fail to pay their annual subscriptions and associated costs within a reasonable period. The Board has determined that for 2018, any members whose annual fees or winter accommodation costs remain unpaid **after 30 November 2018** will forfeit their priority winter booking entitlement of 28 days per share holding for 2019. This means that any accommodation bookings made under their membership will not be considered until 1 May 2019.

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.

## Fire escapes

The fire escapes are a vital element in the safety arrangements for lodge visitors. There are four of them: the front deck, the two doors at the end of each of the bedroom hallways, and the exit door from the wood room. All four must be kept clear of snow to ensure easy egress from the lodge. If they aren't kept clear we are at risk of having the lodge closed down by a fire service inspector. An inspection did happen during the 2018 season and we were found wanting.

It is the responsibility of the lodge host to ensure that the fire escapes are kept clear and it is the responsibility of all members and guests to pitch in and help when some shovelling is required.



## News from perisher Blue

### *Leichardt chair*

As forecast in the last Snobounds, the conversion of the Leichardt T-bar to a quad chair is now underway and will be ready for season 2019.

### *Moguls*

The Cold Shoulder run (the run beside the Brumby T Bar) at Perisher Blue has been renamed “Mogul Matt’s” in honour of mogul skier Matt Graham who won a silver medal at the PyeongChang Winter Olympics. Matt has skied at Perisher since he was three years old and clearly must have spent a lot of time on this particular run. The other Mogul Mecca is Toppa’s Dream beside the lower half of the Ridge Chair. Perisher have committed to an investment of \$260,000 in enhanced snowmaking on this run for next season. Toppa’s is used as a training run by many international mogul teams, down under during their off-season. You get a great view of them from the Ridge Chair, quite often it’s pretty spectacular.

## Charlotte Pass masterplan

For those who make the occasional foray to Charlotte Pass, a \$10m masterplan has just been announced. The investment includes refurbishment of the Kosciuszko Chalet Hotel, a new T Bar lift towards Mount Stillwell and replacement of one of the pomas with a T-bar. Details at <http://www.charlottepass.com.au/10-year-masterplan.html>.

## Breckenridge

*A travelling skiers report by Alison Pearce & Chris Brown (Associate Members) who travelled to Breckenridge, Colorado for their first US snow holiday in January 2018.*

### *Travel*

We flew into Denver via San Francisco (total travel time 19hrs, 20min). Because of the altitude, it was recommended to stay a few days in Denver before travelling up to Breckenridge, and we certainly found enough to entertain us for 2 days (great beer city). Then it was an easy 2hour “Colorado Mountain Express” shuttle (departing from the airport) up to Breck.



### *The town*

Breckenridge is an old mining town, not just a ski resort. Big enough to have everything you need, but small enough that it is super easy to get around on foot, the town is vibrant but really cute. There was an ice sculpture festival while we were there, lots of great restaurants (esp burgers and Japanese), but great coffee was hard to find!



### *The mountain*

Breckenridge has a base elevation of close to 3,000m, and a peak elevation of nearly 4,000m. Although we weren't particularly affected by the altitude (we took anti-altitude sickness tablets), we did notice it.

There are 34 lifts servicing 187 trails, the longest of which is the gorgeously scenic 5.6km long 4 O'Clock run, which ended right outside our hotel! So, we caught the free shuttle from the front door to the gondola in the morning, then skied home in the afternoon.

As intermediate skiers we found the blue and (easier) black terrain ideal. There was lots of variety - wide empty groomers, gorgeous winding trails, mini tree runs, board-X courses, parks - and for the most part we had them almost to ourselves.

The locals were complaining about how little snow they'd had (which contributed to the

low crowds), but we were pretty happy with the amount and quality. The only issue is that the higher peaks, where the more advanced terrain is, were very windy and so were often closed, or were open but very thin & icy. But we had loads to keep us amused even without these runs.

During the week we rarely waited more than a couple of minutes for a lift, although the weekend was MUCH busier, with lift lines (which you can check live on their app) over 30 mins. There were free tissues in the lift queue, friendly lifties and maps on the safety bar (we never got used to people calling us 'wimps' because we wanted to put the 'optional' safety bar down!)

We also skied Keystone (also included in the EPIC pass) which is just a couple of stops away on a free mountain shuttle. We cannot recommend their night skiing highly enough. The lights weren't too bright, so it was atmospheric, there was a good amount of the mountain open, and we basically had it to ourselves.

If you are thinking of a trip we would be happy to share more info - email [alisonm.pearce@gmail.com](mailto:alisonm.pearce@gmail.com)

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*Snobounds would like to wish a merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous new year to all SRSC members, and we'll see you next season.*

