



# Snobounds

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

**November 2019**

## **2019 Season**

The 2019 season was the longest on record with record visitor numbers. Perisher Blue opened the first lifts on the Saturday of the opening weekend (Saturday June 8th) and closed them on Sunday October 13th a week after the usual official closing date.



## **The 2020 AGM**

The 2020 Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Sunday 3 May 2020 at the Hotel Kingston, corner of Canberra Avenue and Giles St, at 5:00pm. It is hoped that the 5pm start will encourage attendees to stay on for an informal dinner. Note that the 3<sup>rd</sup> is a Sunday, previous AGMs have been on a Saturday (Sunday venue costs are significantly cheaper), and the change of venue.

## **2020 - Doorack work party**

There will be just one work party next year, on the weekend of 14 and 15 March. The work party will go for the whole weekend. If you may wish to attend and would like to be on the mailing list for more information about this work party, please contact Tony Slatyer (slatyer@velocitynet.com.au).

The Board's intention is that this will be a major club social function, with the 'work' content to be well balanced with the 'party' content. The club will provide accommodation. Doorack Drinkers Club will donate wines, and a joint or communal meal of some kind will be arranged for Saturday night. In a departure from past practice, there will not be any work party credits, and nor will costs of attendance be reimbursed. You will be welcome to come for as much of it as you like and to come up on Friday and leave on Monday if you wish. Families will be welcome. We will provide a safe environment and there will be jobs suitable for kids to do.

The Board's objectives with this 'one-off' major work party, as explained to the AGM, is to create a new social event on the club calendar, make maintaining the lodge attractive to new members and members who would not normally attend work parties, get all the 'routine' maintenance work done in one weekend, reduce the cost to the club of work party credits and remove the 'transactional' nature of the previous arrangements. If it works out, this will become a regular major event on the Club calendar.

## Booking procedures

Members are reminded and requested to carefully examine and confirm the receipts issued by the booking officers when a booking is made. The receipt specifies the final booking dates. Confusion can arise when a booking is requested for a particular date, but confirmed for a different date due to, for example, lack of availability of the initially requested dates. So please check the dates on the receipt that is posted to you and ensure that it aligns with your intended travel dates. The problems that can arise if a member turns up looking for beds on the wrong date in a full lodge are dire, and best avoided.

A second matter that has arisen is the occasional "no-show" of a member or guest who have booked and paid for a bed. If you become aware that you or one of your guests is not going to turn up, please notify the booking officer so that the bed can be utilised by someone else (your payment will be refunded). Empty beds in the lodge, when there are members who would utilise them, is a poor outcome and best avoided if possible, especially when the snow is good as it has been for the last two seasons.

A related issue arises when a member and associate (i.e. two people only) book and pay for a three bed room because a two-bed room is unavailable and they prefer the privacy of a room for themselves. When this happens an additional person can be accommodated elsewhere in the lodge as long as total person-numbers do not exceed 24. Even if there is no actual bed a member can sleep on the mezzanine for a night or two. Again, in the interests of maximising the usefulness of the lodge for all members, if you book and pay for three beds but only intend to use two of them, please let Iris know.



## Summer booking email and phone contacts

The summer booking officer has finally become so exasperated with junk calls that she is abandoning the landline. In the near future the number 02 62474643 will become inoperable.

From now on summer bookings should be requested by:

- *email: [summer@snowyriverskiclub.com.au](mailto:summer@snowyriverskiclub.com.au) (preferable) or*
- *phone: 0400 483 073*

## Lodge host role

Accommodation at our lodge is largely good fun, but also comes with a measure of responsibility. All members and guests need to comply with “the rules” to ensure social harmony and compliance with the clubs legal obligations. To provide for the smooth running of the lodge the club has, since its inception, followed the practice of appointing a “lodge host” to provide a coordination and oversight role, and to arbitrate in cases where differences of opinion may occur. The role of lodge host should not be onerous but does require the acceptance of a degree of responsibility; it is usually allocated to an experienced member, on a week-by-week basis.

For the 2020 season the Committee has decided to trial a system whereby a meeting will be convened of all members and guests staying at the lodge at 5:00pm on every Sunday. This will provide the lodge host with the opportunity to provide information on various aspects of life at the lodge, including room duties and safety and fire matters, and to answer any questions from members and guests. It will also be an opportunity for members and guests to introduce themselves to each other.



## First aid

The Committee has decided to install a first aid kit, for emergency use only, in the first aid cupboard in the change room. This will be managed by Polly Adams who has health sector experience and first aid training and will undertake a regular inspection and refurbishment as required of the kit contents. It is stressed that the use of any of the contents of the kit must be immediately notified to Polly by way of the summer bookings email address ([summer@snowyiverskiclub.com.au](mailto:summer@snowyiverskiclub.com.au)).

## Noise in the lodge

Members are reminded that, since the beginning, the use of radios and televisions in the lodge has not been permitted. Increasingly, members and guests are using various screen devices for personal entertainment and sometimes for work. Remember that these are only acceptable if they remain personal and silent, that is, with earphones. Group viewing of movies and the like, similarly to TV, is against club rules.

## Fire alarm action

For some time we have been plagued with the problem of fire alarms being set off very easily by things such as steam from the showers; the problem being that each time an alarm was triggered this resulted in a call-out from the fire brigade for which a hefty fee is charged. The Alarm has now been able to be reconfigured such that a call out is only triggered by the activation of the sprinklers. This should address the problem of call outs from false alarms. Members must nevertheless ensure that all alarms are taken seriously and responded to appropriately.



## SLOPES

The Snowy River Ski Club is one of the 88 club lodges that are members of the Ski Lodges Organisation of Perisher Smiggins and Guthega (SLOPES). SLOPES was formed in 1991 when the owners of Perisher had nearly convinced the Government of the day to give them a head lease over all the Clubs and commercial operators in the Perisher area. Almost all clubs at that time had leases that expired in 1996 to 2002.

The head lease matter is on the agenda again and SLOPES is engaged with the NSW Government to protect member clubs interests as the process moves forward. In addition to this issue and a range of general advocacy matters, SLOPES also works for beneficial outcomes for clubs in a more immediately financial way. In 2003, due to rising costs and the increasing difficulty of obtaining satisfactory insurance cover SLOPES found a broker willing to shop around with the major insurers, local and overseas. A pool of Clubs was formed resulting in a managed group insurance program delivering better cover at less cost for participating Clubs. In 2019 a similar group purchase of electricity supply has been negotiated, saving costs to clubs.

If you would like to know more about SLOPES there is an excellent web site at: <https://slopes.org.au>.

## Perisher Blue News

At the SLOPES annual general meeting, held in Sydney in early November, Pete Brulisauer, Vail SVP and Chief Operating Officer, Australia and Perisher, provided an update on Perisher's upcoming plans. The highlight is a proposal to install a six seater chair to replace the two Mount Perisher chairs (three and two seater – the latter generally known as the “rickety chair”). The new chair will take off from below the exiting three seater and terminate above the existing two seater.

There will also be a new, upgraded restaurant. The Development application is expected to be lodged shortly, installation would be possibly in the 2020/21 summer.

## Guthega interclub race

The 2020 date is Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup> of July. Be there and be a winner! Members are encouraged to participate if they can be in Guthega on race day, a highlight of the year. Minimal racing skills or experience are necessary and handicap points are available for older and younger team members - a great chance for socialising with the Guthega Village community, including at the pub after the event.



## The Snowies Walking Track

Also at the Slopes AGM, Maggie Sutcliffe, from the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, provided an update on the proposed Snowies Walking Track (type “snowies iconic walk” into your favourite search engine for more detail).

Maggie advised that the Guthega to Charlotte Pass link (via Illawong) will be constructed this summer, Charlotte to Perisher the following year, and the Perisher to Bullocks Flat link in the 1922/23 summer.



## Membership matters

There have been a few membership movements since the last edition of Snobounds: Fergus Nelson has passed his share on to daughter Sophie, Christine Aigner has bought a share from Alison Humphreys, Paul Isaks has passed his share on to stepson Peter Aigner, John Kjar has sold to Julia Keyworth, Kimberly Dripps has sold to Peter Siminski and Geoff Smith has passed his share on to his son Julian.

We extend a big welcome to all new members and wish retiring members all the best for their futures.

## Backcountry

The Snowy Mountains Backcountry touring company commenced operations at Guthega for the 2019 season. Operating from the carpark chair terminal building SMBC offer programs from introductory Back Country courses through to expert customised tours and snowshoeing as an easy way to gain a winter experience without having to concentrate on mastering a new technique. There is a pathway from a beginner BC skier to a Ski Mountaineer. Several of our



members, including your Snobounds editor, had some great backcountry experiences during the season. Guthega offers possibly the best backcountry touring opportunities in Australia and we can attest that it is well worth a try. Check them out at:

<https://www.snowymountainsbackcountry.com.au/>

The club also has its own 'Backcountry Enjoyment Group' convened by Tony Slatyer. Contact him directly (slatyer@velocitynet.com.au) if you would like to join this group.

## Doorack Lodge sign

At some stage during the new deck construction program over the last few years the "Doorack" sign on the lodge front porch went missing. So we need a new one. The Board has proposed to run a competition for members for the design of a new "Doorack" sign to be put outside the front door of the lodge. A brief supplementary Snobounds will be circulated in a month or so with details of the dimensions for the sign, acceptable materials and so-on. So, members and Associates with a flair for design, watch your email in boxes.

## Snobounds for associates

The mailing list for Snobounds is limited to the SRSC membership. This is generally adequate but not so in some cases. Often, associate members share a household with "their" member, but sometimes this is not the case.

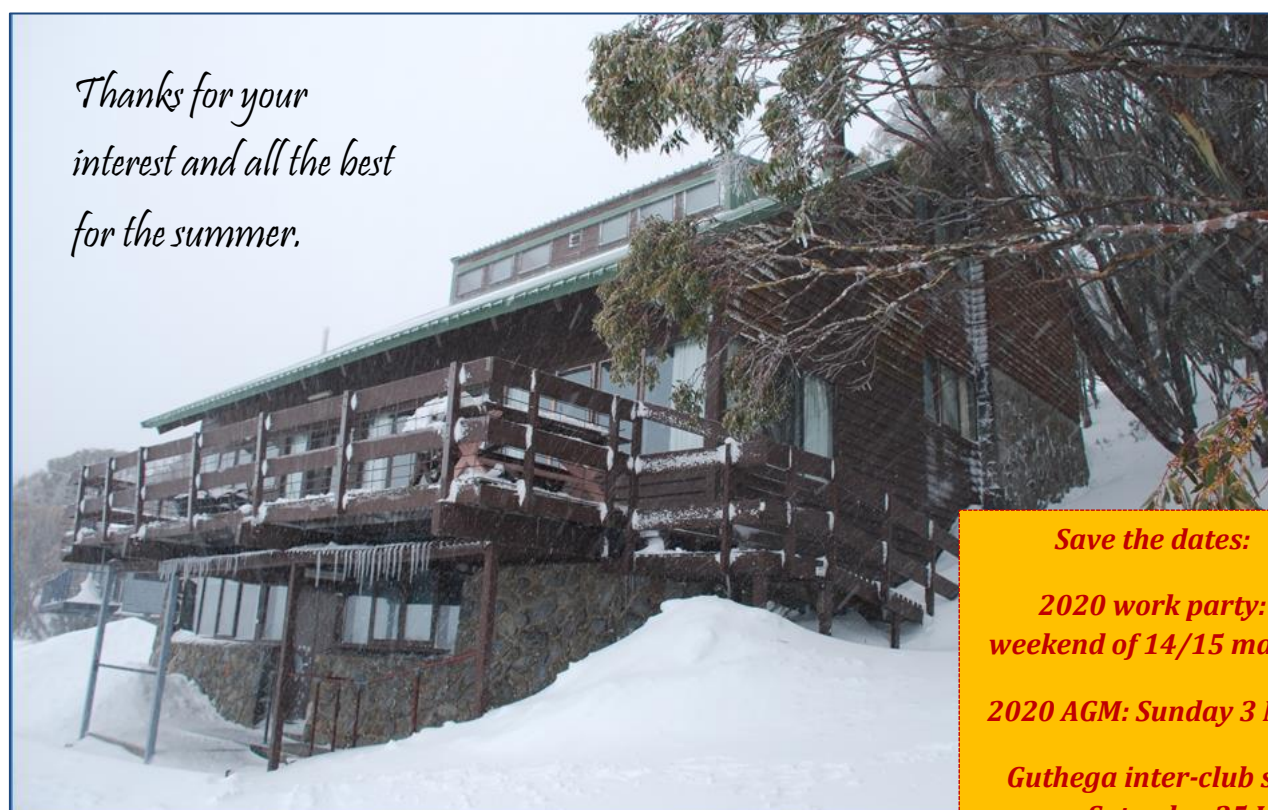
Could all members please forward Snobounds to their associates if the associates are unlikely to otherwise get it. The information in Snobounds (much of it anyway) is important for all club users.

And as ever, members (and associates) contributions to Snobounds are always welcome.

## The club board

Members who may wish to raise matters of interest with a Board member are always welcome to do so. Currently the Board members and their responsibilities and contact details are as follows:

<b><i>Board members</i></b>		
Matthew Barnard	Secretary	srsc.secretary@gmail.com.au
Tony Slatyer	Maintenance officer	slatye@velocitynet.com.au
Geoff Chubb	Building Projects Officer	glchubb@gmail.com
Pierre Delarue	Providore	pierre.delarue@iinet.com.au
Iris Bramley	Winter Booking Officer	winter@snowyiverskiclub.com.au
Tony Adams	Chair	tony@atadamsconsulting.com.au
David Hogg	Treasurer	dhogg@homemail.com.au
<b><i>Ex officio Board members</i></b>		
Polly Adams	Summer booking officer Horticulture officer	summer@snowyiverskiclub.com.au
Alison Humphreys	Housekeeping manager	humphrey@webone.com.au
<b><i>Doorack Drinkers Club</i></b>		
Ross Humphreys		humphrey@webone.com.au



*Thanks for your  
interest and all the best  
for the summer.*

***Save the dates:***

***2020 work party:  
weekend of 14/15 march***

***2020 AGM: Sunday 3 May***

***Guthega inter-club ski  
races: Saturday 25 July***