

Snobounds

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

June 2021

The 2021 Season

The Snobounds editorial team can report that, as we sit down to compile this latest edition, the season has already opened early. Perisher opened Front Valley for skiing on Friday 4th June, and there has already been a big dump of snow which will provide excellent early season base for the man-made stuff.

Meanwhile, the Covid situation, while still with us, is much improved. In a recent press release Pete Brulisauer, Boss of Vail Resorts Australia said:

“Through careful planning, in accordance with public health protocols, we are confident we can safely operate all three Australian resorts, all season long. We do not anticipate requiring mountain access reservations this season, but should capacity restrictions change, we will adapt our systems and update our guests.”



Doorack Lodge, Queen's Birthday weekend, 2021

Perisher Vail also advise as follows, specifically relevant for us at Guthega:

- 1. We will not be offering ski or snowboard rental from the Guthega Mountain Centre this season and will review whether it is offered in future seasons due to extremely low patronage in prior years. We would appreciate if Guthega accommodation premises could advise their guests to obtain ski and snowboard rental prior to arriving in Guthega.*
- 2. We are working towards reopening the Café in the Guthega Mountain Centre for the 2021 season to improve access to food & beverage and toilets in Guthega with the Guthega Alpine Inn no longer open to outside guests for lunch.*

The café will be run by Guthega Backcountry, operating out of the Guthega Chair terminal building and offering the full range of backcountry equipment hire, guided tours and advice. The café is scheduled to open on 1 July, construction permitting, and will be open 7 days a week 7:30 'till 5:00pm.

For the 2021 season Guthega Inn will be open for drinks and coffee 3:00 – 5:00pm daily. Dinner by reservation, group sizes limited to 6 due to space and Covid limitations.

So, all the best for a great season.

Annual General Meeting 2021

The 2021 AGM was held successfully as a live event on the 23rd of May. A new venue - the Kingston Hotel - was selected on the basis of cost and comfort and proved to be successful on both counts as well as being a great venue for a drink and dinner afterwards, which most of the attendees took advantage of. As advised in the notice of meeting the Zoom information session a week prior to the AGM allowed members who might have been unable to attend the live AGM to hear from the Board, ask questions and put in their views. This arrangement seemed to be successful, and it is planned to be instituted in future years.

A key message conveyed at the meeting, which will affect all members, was the need that the Board has identified for substantial renovations to the external cladding and windows of the lodge to achieve a necessary degree of bushfire protection. This will be costly and will be the subject of further communications with members as the year progresses.

The terms of four of the current Board members, Matthew Barnard, Tony Slatyer, Geoff Chubb and Iris Bramley, expired this year. All offered themselves for re-election and were elected unopposed. Details of the Board membership are set out in the table at the end of this edition. The draft AGM minutes are being circulated with this edition of Snobounds.

The First Aid Kit

The first aid kit that is now available in the change room is an important lodge resource. Members are reminded that it is for emergency use only, and, to ensure that it is stocked and ready when someone has to deal with a real emergency, it must not be used for non-essential or minor incidents. Members should bring their own first aid supplies with them and there are also some items available in the stores. For example, do not take the snake bite bandages from the lodge kit when you go bushwalking – they are for use at the lodge. It is of course a good idea to have a snake bite bandage with you on a walk – they can be purchased from St John's ambulance for \$10.



Membership matters

The last edition of Snobounds included an error, for which the editorial team is hugely apologetic. The report of Geoff Smith's retirement was greatly exaggerated (to paraphrase Mark Twain). Geoff had two shares, only one of which he sold to his son Julian.

AND: We now have the capability for members to maintain a credit on their accounts to fund future bookings and other charges. You can avoid having your booking delayed because your funds aren't up to date. To make use of this, please email srsc.finance@gmail.com with your intentions.

All members should have received their annual subscription invoices by email. If you haven't received yours please get in touch with Susie at srsc.finance@gmail.com



Spencer's Creek Bridge, Illawong to Charlotte Pass track

The Snowies Track

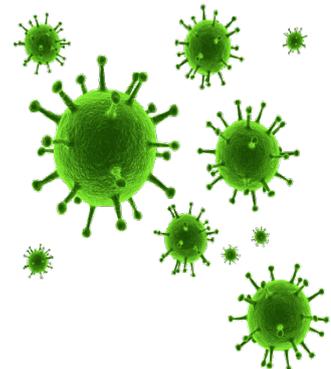
The long-awaited Guthega to Charlotte Pass track, including a fantastic suspension bridge over Spencer's creek is (almost) complete. It is not officially open but the editorial team's mountain walking spies have reported that it is virtually finished and walkable from end to end. So, if you are a walker, give it a try next summer. For the backcountry and cross country skiers, the bridge gives easy access to the excellent Mount Guthrie terrain, through to Charlotte Pass.

The club has an informal 'backcountry enjoyment group', convened by Tony Slatyer.

The idea is to make it easy to find companions if you are planning an outing, and to share information about conditions and experiences. Members of the group are known as 'Snowybaggers'. If you are not already a Snowybagger and would like to be, contact Tony on tony.slatyer.srsc@gmail.com and he will put you on the email contact list for this group.

Covid

The Covid emergency is still with us and whilst things have improved recent events in Victoria demonstrate the fragility of the situation. A revised covid-safe plan for the lodge, reflecting current state government requirements will be distributed to all members shortly. Of course the plan, with potential impacts on lodge accommodation and activities, can change at any time. We will do our best to keep members informed.



Snowy Mountains Special Activation Precinct

The Snowy Mountains Special Activity Precinct project is continuing to move forward, managed by the Department of Regional NSW. A draft masterplan will be released for public comment on the 28th of June; among other things it will propose a bypass road to the south of Jindabyne (from the dam to near the Thredbo turnoff) and a major renewal of the Jindabyne town centre and foreshore areas. Of more immediate interest to the resorts they are proposing to trial a shuttle bus from Jindy to Thredbo and Perisher (not Guthega) on weekends during the season to ease traffic congestion, a review and increase of allowable bed numbers at the resorts and a more rational planning approval regime. Focusing on Guthega, there is mention of improved trailhead facilities for the Snowys Walking Track (carparking, toilets and a shelter perhaps) and sealing the Guthega road. But no firm details or timing are revealed. We await the masterplan and the more detailed supporting documents with interest.

Telstra at Guthega

Those of us with Telstra phones have for many years been regularly seen leaning dangerously out from the lodge balcony trying to get some reception. We are not sure how it happened, but Telstra phones now easily get one or two bars reception in the lounge and mezzanine areas, internet and email works fine. Not so good in the bedrooms but a massive leap forward nevertheless.

#LovetheLodge!

By Alma Walter age 9

One of the best weeks of the year is when me and my family go to the lodge and spend time together at Doorack.

There are lots of fun things to do; like skiing, tobogganing, having saunas and making ice slushies.

Let me tell you a bit about the best lodge.

The day starts with getting our ski gear and boots on down in the ski-room, before heading outside up the steep hill behind the lodge, and onto the Norwegian trail along to the Blue Calf T-bar. At the top of the Blue-Calf T-bar we have to decide where to go next. We choose either the Freedom Quad or the Blue Cow T-bar. I prefer the Freedom Quad, unless the queues are too long. On the Freedom quad we usually have some lollies and look to see what family named chair we are riding on.



If it is a nice blue-bird day, we head over to Mt Perisher and do some runs on the lifts over in Perisher. We sometimes have chips and a drink at the Eyre Café outside on the tables and chairs. If it is bad weather we sometimes take the ski-tube back to Blue Cow and hang around there for little while to warm up and have some hot drinks.

- My favourite ski-run is Accelerator – because it is a long smooth way down.
- My favourite lift is the Carpark double – because it a very nice view going up and a steep drop-off at the end.
- My favourite T-bar is Brumby – because it has bumpy hills going up.
- When it is really snowy, and not great weather, we like to build little jumps in the trees on the Blue Calf T- bar.

When we have finished skiing for the day, we ski all the way down to the front door, and then put our gear in the drying room and get some snacks. We play games on the mezzanine level, build cubby houses and go tobogganing down the hill at the front of the lodge.

It is super fun as we go really fast and make really cool courses. Most days we also make an ice slushy with fresh snow and cordial. We usually sleep in room 4 or room 9 with my family of five -- Mum, Dad, my brother and sister.

At the lodge Work Party in March, we do lots of jobs like painting, stocking up the communal stores, stacking wood and planting the garden out the front.

Where's Wombie?

Wombie the Lodge wombat has gone missing, if anyone knows of her whereabouts please let a Committee member know.

Resort safety

Please find attached safety alerts relating to Winch Grooming at Perisher and Uphill Access. This information is important, please read it before your first outing this season.

The following policies are on Perisher's website and should also be reviewed:

ARC Responsibility Code:

https://www.perisher.com.au/images/PDFs/6519_PSR_FA_AlpineResponsibilityA4Flyer_Oct14.pdf

Use of Drones:

https://www.perisher.com.au/images/PDFs/1.5Policy_on_the_Use_of_Drones.pdf

Lift Usage:

<https://www.perisher.com.au/plan-your-trip/new-to-perisher/snow-safety>



Board Contacts

| Position | Contact | Phone numbers | In relation to |
|------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|--|
| MAINTENANCE OFFICER | TONY SLATYER | 02 6260 6696 0417 040 158 | BUILDING AND EQUIPMENT GENERAL MAINTENANCE |
| MAJOR PROJECTS | GEOFF CHUBB | 02 6288 1234 0437 772 860 | BUILDING AND EQUIPMENT MAJOR PROJECTS |
| PROVIDORE | ALLISON JONES | 0433 643 857 | COMMUNAL STORES/ HONOUR SHOP |
| WINTER BOOKING OFFICER | IRIS BRAMLEY | 0402 202 563 | WINTER BOOKINGS AND CANCELLATIONS |
| SUMMER BOOKING OFFICER | POLLY ADAMS | 0400 483 073 | SUMMER BOOKINGS AND CANCELLATIONS |
| TREASURER | SUSIE KLUTH | 0438 663 104 | LOCKERS, REIMBURSEMENTS, FEES |
| CHAIRMAN | TONY ADAMS | 0438 571 511 | |
| SECRETARY | MATTHEW BARNARD | 0449 263 521 | MEMBERSHIP AND SHARES |

