



# Snobounds

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

February 2024



*Our lodge was wrapped in scaffolding in January. The first task was to replace the roof.*

## Work starts on our ‘project of a generation’

It has begun. The picture above shows the lodge as you’ve never seen it before as work started on our lodge’s biggest renovation since it was completed in 1976.

On Monday 29th and Tuesday 30th of January a team of six builders and three club volunteers, led by Geoff Chubb, removed the old roof and secured the new one. It wasn’t all plain sailing. The job was delayed a few days because of wind but the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> were the perfect weather window to get the job done – calm with blue skies.

The longest sheets of KlipLok are about 11 metres and handling these up on the roof, at a 35° pitch, is impossible even in a light breeze.

Members will be pleased to hear that the roof structure is remarkably sound after almost fifty years, which is a credit to the original builders and club volunteers, and the materials that they used. The roof structure has been upgraded to current building requirements with added tie downs and batten fixation. The dormer roof has had tie downs newly installed. New rear wall bracing and ties have been installed.

Much of the insulation was looking quite sound and left in place, and a complete coverage of new insulation was added underneath the KlipLok. This and the new



***Top: The new roof goes on. Bottom: New windows ready to install.***

insulation installed in the walls should keep us toasty warm in winter and have a positive effect on our energy bills.

As at 18 February all the bedroom windows are installed and the rear wall has been reinsulated and covered with battening and a double vapour barrier in preparation for cladding. The upper dormer windows are installed and cedar cladding on the wall facing Turnak is being removed, reinsulated and prepared for Colorbond cladding.

The work on the rear wall has revealed water damage to the upper fire escape supports above Room 1. While this possibility was suspected before work began, the extent of the damage meant that the structural engineer has required replacement of two timber joists (under the floor of Room 5) with steel and rebuilding of the upper fire escape with steel. This will involve expenses not included in the original budget, but at this stage still covered by the current building levy.



*Left: At work on the steep front roof. Right: The crane comes in handy.*

## Can you assist with the lodge renovation?

Members and/or associate members wishing to volunteer can assist with practical work during the renovation project. As this is a cost-plus contract, any voluntary labour that can be provided by members will reduce its overall cost.

Most work is unskilled labour such as site preparation and clean up, and finishing work such as painting. Anyone authorised to assist with the project as a volunteer will have their direct costs (e.g. any petrol and park entry) reimbursed and would be covered by the club's insurance.



***Top: New insulation is installed in the rear wall. Bottom: Bedroom windows are installed and the wall is ready for cladding.***

If you and/or your associates would like to help with this 'once in a generation' renewal of our lodge, even if only for occasional day visits, please register your name(s) with our Maintenance Director Tony Slatyer ([tony.slatyer.srsc@gmail.com](mailto:tony.slatyer.srsc@gmail.com)) as soon as possible and advise him of any trade qualifications or other building experience you/they have.

Tony maintains this list of volunteers and, whenever support is needed, will notify everyone on the list of the dates and type of work required. People indicating their availability for those dates will then be contacted by Geoff Chubb as the Major Projects Director on the detailed arrangements including any clothing or other requirements.

Thank you in advance to those who can volunteer to assist the club in this way.

To see more photos of the renovation there's a link on our website homepage [www.snowyiverskiclub.com.au/](http://www.snowyiverskiclub.com.au/)



**500 snow gum seedlings were planted around Guthega village last March.**

## **After a first time success, tree planting is back on March 16**

If you've been at Guthega since March last year you will have seen a profusion of planting – 500 young snow gums (*Eucalyptus pauciflora*) which volunteers planted in the village in the first Guthega tree planting day on 18 March 2023.

Our Horticulture Officer, Polly Adams, led a group of 10 members and friends from our club who joined the community effort to replace the many trees killed by a native beetle, the longicorn (*Phoracantha*), which burrows into the branches and trunks of snow gums and ringbarks them.

This year the Guthega tree planting day is going ahead again on Saturday 16 March 2024, with the stepped up goal of planting 1000 young trees. The national park will again supply the trees, as well as mulch, straw, tree guards and lots of advice and assistance. The park will provide free park entry for those who need it. A free BBQ lunch is being sponsored by Straight Line Sports Canberra and everyone is asked to bring a plate for afternoon tea.

Many jobs need to be done including drilling and digging holes, dropping compost into holes, planting the trees, putting straw around the trees, making tree guards, hammering in tree guards, watering newly planted trees, and cooking the BBQ.

It is hoped that many more people from Guthega lodges will be inspired to assist in this great project. It's our backyard, our view, our environment. Please contact Polly Adams, [srsc.summer@gmail.com](mailto:srsc.summer@gmail.com) to get involved. Because of our renovations accommodation is

not available at Doorack on the March 16 weekend but Polly may be able to find you an alternative if you wish to join the tree planting.

Thanks to Dwy Jago of Guthega Ski Club who led this wonderful initiative and made sure it got off the ground.

## A note about soil pathogens

Polly Adams passes on this important advice for preserving the health of trees and plants at Guthega and in the national park generally:

When bringing tools and footwear to Kosciuszko National Park it is beneficial to brush off any loose dirt, and then spray with a solution of 70% methylated spirits and 30% water. It's easy to carry a spray bottle in the car and use it between locations. Phytophthora (a pathogen which could threaten native species) may not be present in the Kosciuszko National Park, and eucalypt dieback is probably related to longicorn beetles in a changing climate, but limiting the spread of soil pathogens is prudent.

## Green light for new Mt Perisher chairlift

Perisher resort has announced that the long-planned, six-seater express chair for Mt Perisher will be installed in the 2024-25 summer, ready for use in the 2025 season.

The new lift will replace the two current chairlifts on the mountain, the historic double which was built in 1961 and the more recent triple. The resort says the new chair will reduce the current 10 minute travel time to 5½ minutes and be quicker to load and unload.

Removing the double chair will take away a piece of Australian skiing history. The double has long been Australia's oldest alpine chairlift, after Thredbo replaced the original Crackenback double chair (opened in 1957) with an express quad in 1990.

It was a visionary move to install the chairlift in 1961 when lift skiing at Perisher was very scattered. The Perisher chair, as it was known, opened up new ski terrain way larger than previously existed and turned Perisher into a resort to be reckoned with. All the runs accessed by later lifts on Mt Perisher – Eyre, International and Sun Valley – could be skied from the chair.

Today the two chairlifts on Mt Perisher are almost synonymous with the Towers run. But in the 1960s and early 1970s, before grooming and snowmaking, skiers weren't channelled as much onto specific routes and it was more natural to ski and explore the whole mountain. And, using the Perisher chair, that's what people did.

The only problem was that the chairlift was isolated in its early years – there was no Happy Valley, Leichhardt or Perisher Quad – and getting to the chair and back required



***These two lifts will soon be history.***

epic cross-country traverses. The return was particularly tough. Try skiing from the top of Mt Perisher to just below the mid-station restaurant on the Perisher quad in one go. It requires a lot of poling, which the Snobounds editor did not relish as an 8 year old.

The new six seater express will go higher than the current lifts, requiring the destruction of an elegant rock formation near the top of Mt Perisher, something which evidently has environmental approval. It will be just high enough for Perisher to steal from Thredbo the dubious honour of having Australia's highest lifted point at 2042m.

## Jenny and Nick move on from Guthega Inn

Guthega Inn has new owners after Jenny and Nick Kennedy sold the business last year.

Many of us knew them well and they left a message for the Guthega community dated 7 May 2023.



To our friends in Guthega Lodges,

Thank you for having us in the Village over the past 17 years. We have made many strong and enduring friendships during that time.

As you may or may not know, the Inn has been sold and settlement occurred last week. The new owner is Brad Fuge and we are currently assisting him with handover. Contact details for Guthega Inn remain the same and we understand Brad will communicate his operating plan shortly.

We have thoroughly enjoyed our time at Guthega and would like to thank you for making it so special. We have decided to have "a gap year", take a breath and consider our options. We do intend to be at the next Guthega Tree planting day and look forward to catching up then.

Thank you again and best wishes for the future.

Kind regards,  
Jenny & Nick Kennedy



*Is it scenic enough? What trekkers will see on the new Perisher-Charlotte Pass walk.*

## **New section of Snowies Alpine Walk is complete**

Another section of what the world now bills as the “iconic” Snowies Alpine Walk – about 8km from Charlotte Pass to Porcupine Rocks – is open this summer season.

It joins up with the existing track from Porcupine Rocks to Perisher (which has also been upgraded) creating a very scenic 13 km route for foot travellers between Perisher and Charlotte Pass.

There are superb views of the Thredbo Valley and Bullocks Flat and, of course, it offers another opportunity for quiet enjoyment of the alpine environment away from roads, buildings and other intrusions.

Construction of the last piece of the Snowies Alpine Walk, a section from Perisher down to Bullocks Flat at the base of the ski tube – a 700m elevation change – is underway and planned to be complete before next summer

Those wanting to avoid paying for an exorbitant ski tube ticket from Bullocks Flat to Perisher will soon have an alternative – an 11km walk!



## Your ideas and contributions most eagerly sought

Apologies to all members for last year's interruption in Snobounds. We are back on track and this year plan to bring you three editions of our club's newsletter, the next in May to preview the ski season and bring news of Doorack's once in a generation renovation that is now underway.

Then there will be a post ski season, pre summer edition in November with news of what we, with utmost confidence, assert will be a terrific winter. This edition will also look forward to the summer and the things people will be doing in the alpine environment in the warmer season.

Looking further forward, our club has a major anniversary – its 50<sup>th</sup> – on the horizon. Doorack opened in 1976 and a handful of today's members were members then. We will bring you their recollections and sift through the records as we look back on what has been achieved in half a century,

As always, we seek your ideas for things to cover and also your contributions. Do send stories and pictures of the enjoyable and enviable things you've been doing around Guthega.

Please also spread Snobounds to your associate members and anybody else who has an interest. Many associate members have joined the email distribution list and if your associates and friends would like to receive Snobounds, please send their email address and they will be included.

**Tim Dodd, Snobounds editor, [srsc.snobounds@gmail.com](mailto:srsc.snobounds@gmail.com)**

## Membership movements

We give a warm welcome to new members of the Snowy River Ski Club and our best wishes to departing members. To the latter we thank you for your participation in the club and we'll keep the memories of great times together.

- Noel Cock's share has been transferred to John Cock
- Margaret Adamson's to Richard Wood
- Bernard Doube's to Ben Rattray
- Ian Morse's to Jacqui Morse
- Zbigniew and Halina Kraszewski's share to Grzegorz and Kinga Fitzryk
- Harry Pratt's to Martin and Karen Najjar
- Philip and Denise Darby's share to Claire Darby

A reminder that if you wish to sell your share, or you or someone you know wishes to buy a share, let club secretary Matthew Barnard know on [srsc.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:srsc.secretary@gmail.com).

Matthew keeps a register of potential buyers and sellers, and can help match one with the other.

## Doorack Drinkers' Club new account details

Doorack Drinkers' Club cellar master Ross Humphreys advises that, because the Service One Alliance Bank has been sold to Bendigo Bank, the Doorack Drinker's Club has a new account number. Please make all future payments to the Drinker's Club to this account:

Bendigo Bank  
Doorack Drinkers' Club  
BSB: 633 000  
Account: 203 696 844

All funds that were in the Service One account have been transferred to Bendigo Bank.

## Learn how to use our defibrillator

The club has a St John Ambulance automated external defibrillator (AED) which is located downstairs in the ski room.

It is a potentially lifesaving piece of equipment if somebody has a serious heart episode and, when activated, is able to monitor the patient's heart. It gives oral instructions as to what you should do restart the patient's heart (if required) and keep them alive until an ambulance arrives.

You can find more information about how to use a defibrillator online in videos such as this one from St John Ambulance [www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fs5-EF9PQb4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fs5-EF9PQb4)



*Our defibrillator is on the wall in the ski room ready for use.*

But it is most effective if you know what to expect when using the machine and have some training in what to do. We have been given ten access codes for a 30 minute online AED learning module, which teaches basic knowledge about how to use a defibrillator. Participants will receive a St John Ambulance Certificate of Completion.

The more members who have familiarity with our AED the better. If anyone would like to access the training, please contact Polly Adams, [srsc.summer@gmail.com](mailto:srsc.summer@gmail.com). An access code will be given to the first ten members who ask for one.

The course is available to anyone for a cost of \$25:  
<https://shop.stjohn.org.au/products/defibrillation-awareness-stj>



*From left: Chris Czarnik, Aleks Piotrowski, Zbigniew (Tony) Piotrowski and Konrad Piotrowski at the 2022 Guthega Interclub race.*

## Hold the date for the 2024 Interclub race

We have confirmation that the Guthega Interclub 2024 will be held on Saturday 27 July.

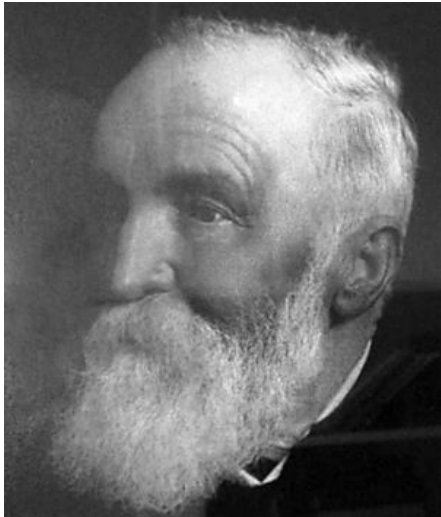
This race is extremely social and meant for a wide range of ages and skill levels. It is overall a very fun day and not only gives everyone an opportunity to experience a racing environment, but also to meet and socialise with all our neighboring lodges!

Generally, the location of the race will be located on the Lindner Run off the Blue Calf T-bar but this will be confirmed closer to the day of the event.

If you are booked at the lodge during that weekend or if you can get to Guthega that day, please consider giving it a try.

Last but not least, if you have children that might be interested feel free to pass this information on to them to see if this would be something they would like to participate in.

If you have any further queries, our race captain Konrad Piotrowski will be more than happy to answer any questions you might have. [konrad.antoni.piotrowski@gmail.com](mailto:konrad.antoni.piotrowski@gmail.com), 0410 450 100.



**John Bulmer (left) and pictured with the Lake Tyers Aboriginal community in Gippsland in 1910.**

## What's in our name?

As is well known from our club website the name of our lodge, Doorack, is an Aboriginal word for the Snowy River.

It's a reminder to us that Indigenous people lived in the Snowy Mountains – and established deep connections with their land and their environment – for tens of thousands of years before the arrival of European settlers ended their way of life.

But how do we know that the word “doorack” refers to the river in an Aboriginal language? A bit of Google research reveals some fascinating details.

The “doorack” name was recorded by John Bulmer, a missionary and clergyman who came from England to Australia as a young man in 1852. Working in the Victorian goldfields in 1855, he observed the “wicked way in which the Aborigines were treated” and resolved to help them by doing missionary work. He spent the rest of his life working with Aboriginal people. ([www.portrait.gov.au/people/john-bulmer-1833](http://www.portrait.gov.au/people/john-bulmer-1833))

Bulmer worked as a missionary first at Mildura on the Murray River and then, in the 1860s, he set up a mission at Lake Tyers in Gippsland, near the mouth of the Snowy River. He remained there until his death in 1913.

‘Despite his typical evangelical zeal, Bulmer was unusual among his contemporaries for recognising the merits of Aboriginal customs and laws. A sympathetic and accurate observer of Aboriginal life, Bulmer's personal papers are now in the collection of Museum Victoria and are considered among the most important early accounts of Gunai/Kurnai culture,’ says the website of the National Portrait Gallery. ([www.portrait.gov.au/people/john-bulmer-1833](http://www.portrait.gov.au/people/john-bulmer-1833))

Bulmer's list of Aboriginal place names for the Gippsland area is included in an 1878 book *The aborigines of Victoria: with notes relating to the habits of the natives in other parts of Australia and Tasmania*, which was compiled for the Victorian government by R. Brough Smyth.

Bulmer gives the local name for the Snowy River as Kiirang gil, words which describe “great quantities of water weed about”. But the book also includes a note from Bulmer: “The Snowy River is also called Doorack; but I could not get the meaning from the blacks. The name I have given refers to its lower part near the sea.” (archive.org/stream/aboriginesofvict02smyt/aboriginesofvict02smyt\_djvu.txt)

From this we can infer that the river was known near its mouth as Kiirang gil, and further upstream as Doorack.

But many questions remain. Was the river known as Doorack as far as its source in the mountains, near where our lodge is located? Did the Gunai and Kurnai people who lived in Gippsland (where Bulmer got his information) share a common name for the river with the Ngarigo people who lived in the Kosciuszko and Monaro region? Or did the people who lived in the alpine region give it a different name? The Snowy River, which cuts a deep gorge from the Monaro to Gippsland, was a transport and communication route so it’s not impossible there was a shared name.

All of which suggests there’s room for a lot more research and understanding. We would be particularly interested in hearing from any members who have First Nations heritage or connections, who may be interested in taking this work further.

## The electric mule

### Tim Dodd discovers something surprising next door.

If you’ve chanced to look recently at Jagungal, our neighbouring lodge, you may have seen a curious piece of equipment near the front door. It’s a strange beast consisting of the track of a snow mobile, wrapped around a red steel frame with a long handle at one end. It’s often seen attached to a wire emerging from the front door of the lodge.

What could it be? With the benefit of an explanation from a Jagungal member I’m here to tell you that it’s not some useless Heath Robinson device. It has a real purpose which it fulfils successfully. It’s an electric mule (my term, not their’s).

Inside the “mule” is an electric motor, two rechargeable batteries and a gearing system linked to sprockets which drive the snow mobile track. The “mule” can be attached to a large, sturdy aluminium sled in which Jagungal members place



*The operator walks in front and the “mule” follows. The shackle (visible) is hitched to the sled in the background to pull baggage.*



*The mule is powered by two car batteries.*

their belongings. And in winter, over the snow, this astonishing contraption can tow a load of baggage up the hill from the car park while the load's owners walk alongside with carefree abandon.

Steering is accomplished with the long handle at the front of the "mule" (which also has the on-off switch). Like a real mule – assuming it's not acting stubborn – the electric one will simply follow the person walking in front who is holding the long handle.

Speed is not great – far less than a brisk walk – which is a good thing considering the potential for the situation to unravel. But they swear that it works. And I have witnessed the "mule" move under its own power across grass.

On the downside, what will be the long-term impact on Jagungal members' cardio fitness? Surely it can't be good. An electric mule? Who'd want one!

And neither can you order it from Amazon. You have to build it.

## Join us on Facebook

If you would like to be added to the club Facebook page, email Iris Bramley, [srsc.winter@gmail.com](mailto:srsc.winter@gmail.com), and a link will be forwarded to you.

## Board contacts

Board position	Contact	Phone	Email
Chair	Tony Adams	0438 571 511	srsc.president@gmail.com
Maintenance director - Building and equipment, general maintenance	Tony Slatyer	02 6260 6696 0417 040 158	tony.slatyer.srsc@gmail.com
Major projects - Building and equipment, major projects	Geoff Chubb	02 6288 1234 0437 772 860	srsc.majorprojects@gmail.com
Providore and housekeeper - Communal stores, honour shop	Allison Jones	0433 643 857	allisonjones@me.com
Winter booking officer - Winter bookings and cancellations	Iris Bramley	0402 202 563	srsc.winter@gmail.com
Treasurer - Fees, reimbursements, lockers	Susie Kluth	0438 663 104	srsc.finance@gmail.com
Secretary - Membership and shares	Matthew Barnard	0449 263 521	srsc.secretary@gmail.com

## Other club contacts

Position	Contact	Phone	Email
Summer booking officer - Summer bookings and cancellations - first aid manager - horticulture	Polly Adams	0400 483 073	srsc.summer@gmail.com
Doorack Drinking Club cellarmaster	Ross Humphreys		ddc1650@iinet.net.au
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Ski racing captain	Konrad Piotrowski	0410 450100	konrad.antoni.piotrowski@gmail.com