



# Snobounds

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

July 2025



*2025 season 'early birds' built a massive snowman outside the lodge on the June long weekend*

## A weekend to remember

The 2025 season is shaping up to be a classic. It started on the June long weekend which, as we all know, sometimes disappoints those of us eager enough to book a bed. But this year the lodge was nearly full and the early birds had their faith rewarded.

On Friday June 6 the ground was still bare. But on Saturday Doorack residents woke to 30cm of new snow, and then the fun began. They built the largest snowman we've seen for a while between our lodge and Jagungal next door. The lifts at Guthega weren't yet turning but it didn't matter. It turned into a weekend of adventurous snow play and glorious fun.

• [Story and more pictures, p 9-11](#)

• [Guthega in pixels, p 21](#)

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*The Snowy River Ski Club recognises and pays respect to the Ngarigo people as the traditional custodians of the country where Doorack is situated and acknowledges their continuing connection to its land, waters and communities.*



*David King and friends exploring the backcountry towards Valentine Hut on snow shoes*

## The irresistible call of the wild

**Have you ever wanted to explore the mountains we see across the river from the lodge? David King goes there regularly and is super keen to share his story.**

I have been coming to the lodge for, I estimate to be, close to 30 years. Some of you would remember me in the early days as the "mad, ski all day downhill guy". But since then I've changed. I've mellowed into the "backcountry adventure guy".

My many exploits include igloo building, snow camping and occasionally even cold water swimming. I tell anyone who is willing to listen that there's gold out there in the hills beyond the resort and I mean it. The backcountry is truly amazing.

Several of my trips have included building igloos (I've built two so far) and staying overnight in them is an amazing experience. I've also summited Kosciusko in mid-winter and completed many overnight and multi-night snow camping trips. Every time I come down to the lodge, I engage in some kind of excellent adventure in the backcountry. (Weather permitting of course.)

In recent times, in mid-winter, I have been visiting and staying in the huts which are dotted throughout the landscape of the national park.

So far I have completed three trips out to the huts and the more of these I do, the more adventurous and further into the mountains I am keen to venture



*David at Schlink Pass enroute to the Schlink Hilton*



*Kim King enjoying a cuppa in the wilderness*

I wanted to share with you one of my recent trips to the huts, with my friends Peter and Tanya. We started from Guthega Power station, went up the Munyang River valley past White River hut, crossed Schlink Pass and stayed at a hut known as the Schlink Hilton.

We went on from there to visit Valentine Hut, a cute little red shelter with three bunk beds, which was perfect for our expedition of three.

We travelled by snow shoe, as Peter and Tanya didn't have cross country skis. While this took longer, it meant that we were able to appreciate all the sounds of nature. If you haven't tried snow shoeing, I would recommend you give it a go.

Snow shoes are easy to use and you can literally go anywhere. They grip well and you feel safe and secure. It's amazing the country you can cover and the places you can go with them, including walking over bare ground.

Because the snow cover was patchy and icy, snow shoes were actually better than skis for this trip. We would have been continually taking skis on and off, which is not ideal when you are carrying a full pack.

All the huts are warm, comfortable, out of the wind and safe compared to camping out. They have firewood and some have mattresses, but most have wooden bunks for you to sleep on. They are available for everyday use but also function as emergency shelters. They usually contain first aid kits and some emergency food for those who need it.

When you come across one of the huts in the back country you can drop in for a rest, or just simply check it out. Every hut has a story and history that is interesting. You will come across interesting people and sometimes no people at all.



For all of these trips, you need to be well prepared, pick a safe weather window, have the level of fitness required, be able to navigate, and be prepared to camp out overnight. If the hut is full and there is no room to sleep, you will need to sleep outside. There is no phone service, so you must take a personal locator beacon (PLB), also known as an EPIRB.

### How to start out

If you've never done it before, how should you start out? First of all, there is no need to immediately launch into multi-day expeditions. Start with day trips. Also decide whether to ski or snow shoe. If you are not confident in skiing in off-piste conditions then snow shoeing is a good way to begin.

For your first trip look for someone more experienced to go with. A great option is to do a trip with Snowy Mountains Back Country, based at the Guthega Ski Centre. Owner Doug Chatten or one of his staff can give you a guided tour and instruction, as well as rent you snow shoes or back country skis.

If you are a first timer, you could head across the dam and explore up the Guthega River valley. There is also a straightforward day trip (6km return) from Guthega to Illawong lodge. Illawong is not open to the public but it does have a small emergency shelter.

If you would like to explore the back country with other lodge members contact Tony Slatyer ([tony.slatyer.srsc@gmail.com](mailto:tony.slatyer.srsc@gmail.com)) and join the 'Snowy Baggers' group he coordinates. The idea is to bring people in the lodge together to do it as a group.

Also get in touch with David King ([djk0067@gmail.com](mailto:djk0067@gmail.com)) who is very happy to share more details of his trips and how he went about planning them.



*Tanya and Peter at Valentine Hut*



*One of David's back country camp sites*

## 2025 is looking good. Bring on 2026

Thanks for reading this edition of Snobounds as we eagerly wait to see how the 2025 season pans out. But, as you can see from the record so far, it's looking good and everyone planning to spend time at the lodge this winter can justifiably hope for plenty of snow.

That's 2025 sorted, now for 2026. The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of Doorack is exactly one year away (July 2026) and will be something worth celebrating. The Snowy River Ski Club has a fascinating history and the next few issues of Snobounds will give you a window into how the club was established, how our lodge was built, and what it was like to stay and ski in Guthega in decades past.

This is very much a living history. A number of today's members are originals, people who invested their money in an idea and an empty lot, and who put time and effort into getting the lodge built. We also have a generation of current members and other lodge users who grew up with Doorack. It was where they had family holidays and Guthega was the place they learned to ski and enjoy time in the mountains.

So, calling all long-term members (including our band of originals) and those of you who grew up in the club. If you'd like to reminisce about the days of yore – and if you have photos you'd like to share – do get in touch.

Snobounds is sent to the membership email list but we like to spread it widely to include associate members, guests and other friends of SRSC whom we don't automatically have email addresses for. Send an email with details of people who would like to be added to the distribution list and they will soon be receiving Snobounds in their inbox.

**Tim Dodd, Snobounds editor**

[srsc.snobounds@gmail.com](mailto:srsc.snobounds@gmail.com), 0407 440160

Before you set out be sure to check the Mountain Safety Collective website ([www.mountainsafetycollective.org](http://www.mountainsafetycollective.org)) which publishes a daily back country conditions report during the snow season for both the NSW and the Victorian Alps. The daily bulletin also updates warnings of hazards, which can change frequently, and is an invaluable aid to those of us who venture outside of the resort. Consider joining the Mountain Safety Collective (which is a not-for-profit) for \$50 a year to support their excellent work.

## Find out more about Kosciuszko National Park huts

Check the website of the Kosciuszko Huts Association [www.khuts.org](http://www.khuts.org) and this recent ABC news story [www.abc.net.au/news/2025-06-02/kosciuszko-huts-rebuilt-after-black-summer-bushfires/105346718?utm\\_source=abc\\_news\\_web&utm\\_medium=content\\_shared&utm\\_campaign=abc\\_news\\_web](http://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-06-02/kosciuszko-huts-rebuilt-after-black-summer-bushfires/105346718?utm_source=abc_news_web&utm_medium=content_shared&utm_campaign=abc_news_web)

## Message from our winter booking officer

**Introducing Karen Najjar, who has taken over the key role in the club of handling winter bookings. One important request: Karen asks that you use the format below, and include all the listed information, when requesting a booking.**

I'm Karen Najjar, the new winter booking officer. I would like to thank everyone for their patience with me as I try to learn how to best support our members to get as much use of the lodge as possible! I certainly don't have the knowledge or flair Iris did for making bookings fit neatly, but am doing my best to accommodate as many requests as possible.

I do work full time in the APS and so fit bookings around other priorities. Please don't be alarmed if you don't hear from me straight away. If a booking is not immediate (in the next day or two) I may leave it to process on a weekend when I have more time to make sure I get the best possible fit of bookings. Rest assured, all bookings in season are dealt with in receipt order so you are not disadvantaged if I don't get to your request straight away.

It is always a good idea to check the winter availability spreadsheet (accessed via the SRSC website) before making a request. If the spreadsheet indicates there is no space you can still make a request, noting you will be placed in a waitlist for any possible changes that may occur.

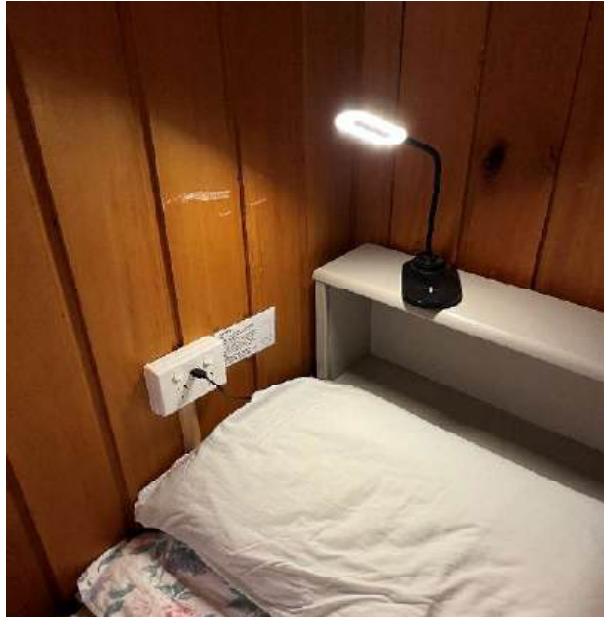
To help me, and to make your booking experience as smooth as possible, here is the preferred format to use when requesting bookings by email to [srsc.winterbook@gmail.com](mailto:srsc.winterbook@gmail.com).

**Member name:** Bookings need to be under a members' name. Please include this regardless of whether the booking is for the member or an associate.

**Dates requested:**

- Arrival: Day X Month (eg Sunday 4 July)
- Departure: Day X Month (eg Monday 5 July)

**Bed usage:** Total beds requested (eg 4 beds)



*Please make your requests for a lodge bed in the recommended format outlined below*

**Names:** Please name all persons in the booking and their status, ie member, associate or guest.

**If there are children:** State their ages. This helps determine if a child is charged for the period, and also whether they count towards our bed nights for lease purposes.

**Special requests:** eg prefer lower level because of bad knees, booking includes multiple children under teens, booking is two couples etc. (Please note these requests cannot be guaranteed but we will do our best to accommodate where possible.)

Please be aware that all associate and guest bookings will be copied to the member, for their visibility. You can read all about our booking procedures and access the availability spreadsheet on the SRSC website under the 'Bookings' page.

I hope to meet as many of you as possible, ideally on the slopes!

## Don't hesitate, it's time to race



*The coveted 'Best Stack' trophy is in SRSC hands*

It's that time of year when there's an opportunity to try out ski racing in the Guthega Interclub races to be held on Saturday July 26. No previous experience is required! All ages (including children) and skill levels are welcome and there is a handicap system for the kids and for those over a certain age. Both skiers and snowboarders can participate. Get your family involved!

Registrations close at midnight on Thursday July 24, but the process is a little complex for a first timer so act soon. For details, see the email which our club ski race captain, Konrad Piotrowski, sent to SRSC members on June 28.

If you have any questions about the race or how to register for it don't hesitate to contact Konrad on [konrad.antoni.piotrowski@gmail.com](mailto:konrad.antoni.piotrowski@gmail.com) or 0410 450 100.

Last year our club went all out for glory at the Guthega Interclub. The result was that Peter Aigner won the coveted 'Best Stack' trophy for his spectacular fall, the first time an SRSC member has brought home this particular piece of treasured silverware.

We wish all the best to our club representatives in this year's Interclub races.



## Get ready for Christmas in July



The ski racing weekend at the end of July will be a full-on celebration this year with a planned Christmas in July at Doorack on the evening on Friday July 25, the night before the races.

Thanks to 11-year-old Olivia Costin for taking the initiative to organise this exciting event. Olivia asks all those who will be at the lodge that night to bring Christmas decorations, Christmas food and other Christmas items. The snow will be provided by nature and the Christmas cheer is free. It is sure to be a wonderful evening and we hope that Christmas in July becomes an annual tradition at Doorack.

## Membership movements

Paul Bombardier, one of Doorack's original members, has passed his share to his daughter Alison Bombardier. Paul has played a major role in the club, previously serving as chair of the board and as winter booking officer. Paul, we thank you for your much-valued contribution over so many years.

Alison is an exceptionally talented skier who grew up skiing in the club and has since established her career (both in Australia and internationally) as a ski racer, a ski instructor and coach, and a ski programs manager. She has previously been both Race and Events Department Manager and Winter Sports Manager at Perisher and is currently Para Programs Manager at Snow Australia.

In the days when the club held races to crown an annual champion in downhill and langlauf, Alison won the downhill three years in a row – 1988, 1989 and 1990. After that the race was never held again (probably the winner was a foregone conclusion) and so Alison remains the club champion!

Welcome to the club Ali.

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 (another past club downhill champion) 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. Prospective new members need to be nominated by two existing club members.





*Early season bounty ... the view from the lodge on June 10 this year*

## 2025 is shaping to be a classic season

Early snow doesn't guarantee a great season but it sure is a good sign. And, after two frustrating snow seasons in 2023 and 2024, no sight was more lovely than what we saw this year – full snow cover around the lodge in early June.

The first major dump of snow of winter 2025 began falling on Friday June 6, just in time for the season's official opening weekend when Perisher started a handful of lifts in

front valley. No lifts operated in Guthega that weekend but that didn't matter to those members and guests who were occupying the lodge. Those who really wanted to ski went to Perisher and others just delighted in the early snow. It was wondrous enough to watch the snow come down in giant flakes and turn the ground white.

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**June 18, 2025**

***One of the best days in 50  
years for skiing Blue Calf***

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The Blue Calf T-bar was the first Guthega lift to open on Saturday June 14. Stephen English was at the lodge and reports that he skied that day on reasonable groomed snow with less than 30 other skiers. Three runs were open – the main run down the lift line, Lindner on skiers right and another run on skiers left. Basinski was closed.



*The sight from Doorack's lounge room as the landscape turned snowy on the June long weekend*



*Down in the car park the snow built up, requiring a lot of shovel work and clearing*

Similarly on the Sunday there were less than 30 skiers on Blue Calf although snow was thin in places. But more snow came on the Tuesday amid “terrible weather and wind”, says Stephen. “About six skiers all day (Tuesday) but at one stage I was the only skier on the mountain for an hour or so.”

Then Wednesday dawned. Stephen went out at 11.45am and could still find ungroomed snow to ski. Again only six people, including a lone snow boarder, touched the slope all day and never more than three at a time, reports Stephen.

“The grooming was immaculate, and the snow was perfect on the main lift line run. The weather was a beautiful bluebird day. I have to rate it as one of the best days in 50 years for skiing Blue Calf,” he says.

Stephen – an original member of the lodge who has been skiing at Guthega for half a century – can say that with authority.

For two weeks Blue Calf was the only Guthega lift operating. Then on Saturday June 28 the Blue Cow T-bar and the double chair opened and, for the first time in the season, some of the higher runs were open. That was the end of Guthega’s glorious isolation. Non-Guthega skiers started to come across from Blue Cow and skier numbers grew.





*Nyrie Dodd approaches the summit of Little Twynam on June 12. Guthega is in the distance*



*Until the Blue Cow T-Bar opened on June 28, skiing on Bloody Mary was human powered. This shot was taken on June 10.*

The early snow also meant it was possible to enjoy some early season back country skiing. Tim Dodd toured out of Guthega with his sister Nyrie, from the NSW Nordic Ski Club, on June 12.

Because the snowpack was so new – only four days since the first substantial falls – the base was still soft and, in some places, they fell through to the bushes.

But they successfully got to Illawong, crossed the Snowy River and climbed Little Twynam where they enjoyed wonderful views down to Blue Lake, back to Guthega and along the whole main range.

The conclusion? When the snow comes early there is great skiing to be had – both in the resort and out of it – if you can spare a few days to get to Guthega.



*They formed a human chain to refill the wood room*



*Tony Slatyer directs operations*

## Autumn working bee prepares lodge for winter

This March, as it does every autumn, a particularly important annual ritual took place at Doorack. On March 29 and 30 a group of volunteers organised by maintenance director Tony Slatyer gathered at the lodge to paint, make repairs and stack the wood room with firewood to see us through the winter.

Each year one bedroom is stripped down and refreshed and this year it was the turn of Room 1. The walls and door were revarnished and the ceiling, bunk and trims were repainted. Many other jobs were completed too. The upper bedroom corridor was repainted, the water damaged ceiling in the mezzanine lounge was repaired, the switchboard in the ski room was made smoke-tight, maintenance was carried out on the lodge's windows, and more native bushes were planted around the lodge.

Thanks very much to participants Nicola Callander, Gerry Harper, Helena Keyworth, Mark-Christiaan Visser, Rob Walter, Andy Hogg, Bill Jones, Beth Slatyer, Eileen Baker, Tim Dodd and, of course, Tony Slatyer who organised and directed the weekend.

If you are interested in joining next year watch out for Tony's email notification giving details of the 2026 autumn weekend working bee.



## Our lodge's communal stores

Here's a guide to using the club's stores from our hard-working providore Allison Jones. It tells you where to find them, what you must pay for, and what is free. And there's also some tips to help you out.

You may, or may not, know that when you, your associates and your guests stay at Doorack we provide a fantastic selection of communal food for you to use at no additional cost.

Of course we cannot guarantee that all items will be available at the time of your stay but generally speaking, the following things are stocked up. If there is a certain item that you must have, you should definitely bring this with you. If you are going to do a lot of specific baking or cooking, then please bring your own supplies and do not drain the communal supplies.

Most of these food items are stored in the "stores room" which is the level between the ski room and the kitchen level. They are in various labelled cupboards, as well as the small fridge, so make sure you check them all if you are looking for something that has run out in the kitchen pantry or fridge. I've had lots of people call me only to find that they had not carefully checked the stores room supply.



*Cereals are among the things which are provided for free*

### Communal food items (provided free of charge)

- **Breakfast cereals:** Weetbix, Cornflakes, Sultana Bran, Rice Bubbles, muesli (toasted and untasted), oats. Transfer these to the plastic containers once they are moved to the kitchen pantry otherwise the wildlife will find a way in to nibble.
- **Spreads and jams:** Peanut butter, Vegemite, butter, Nutella, honey
- **Hot drinks:** Instant coffee, Milo, drinking chocolate, teas (Earl Grey, English breakfast, camomile, plain tea, loose leaf, green tea etc)
- **Sugars:** White sugar, caster sugar, brown sugar, icing sugar - again, these must be moved into the plastic containers in the kitchen pantry otherwise the rats will be visiting.
- **Baking goods:** Plain and self-raising flour, cornflour, yeast, baking powder, powdered milk

- **Cordials:** lots of flavours
- **Condiments:** Tomato sauce, BBQ sauce, mustard, olive oil, soy sauce, vinegars (white, red, balsamic), salt, pepper, assorted herbs, lemon juice, general other condiments

### Honour shop items (pay for these via the honour shop book)



*Honour shop items must be paid for*

We also store yummy food items that you can buy:

- Soft drinks
- Lollies
- Chocolate
- UHT milk
- Ground coffee
- Pasta, rice
- Tuna, pesto, pasta sauce
- Tinned fruit
- 2 minute noodles
- Basic medication/personal items you may have forgotten (toothpaste, deodorant etc)

### Non-food items (free to use)

Most of these are cleaning products, so it's good to know where they are kept if they have run out in the kitchen or in one of the bathrooms.

- Hand soap for bathrooms and air freshener
- Tissues, paper towel
- Toilet paper (stored in the stores room and under various bench seats in the ski room)
- Bin liners of various sizes, including organic compostable bin liners
- Matches/fire starters
- Gladwrap, baking paper, alfoil
- Cleaning products such as toilet cleaner, spray and wipe, dishwashing detergent, dishwasher tablets, Finish, mould off, oven cleaning things, fabric cleaning products, Windex,
- Rubber gloves, scourers, dishwashing cloths,
- Washing machine liquid (stored in laundry)

### When you leave the lodge – a few hot tips!

- DO NOT leave ANY of your leftover food in the communal stores or communal fridge, unless it is really clear that someone has agreed to use it. Do not assume that someone will use it. If in doubt, please take all food with you!

- Before you open/fetch a new item from the stores, check it is not already in the communal pantry, communal kitchen fridge or communal stores fridge. On my last visit in May, I collected eight bottles of opened tomato sauce in various places. Please check.
- Please refresh and stock up the toilet paper and hand wash in your bathroom before you leave.
- In addition to vacuuming your room, please use the cleaning products provided in the stores room, as well as the cleaning equipment, to thoroughly clean your bathroom and toilet after your stay. Cleaning products that are currently in use are stored in cupboards near the vacuum cleaner cupboards, also in the stores room.



*That thing you're looking for might be in the store room fridge*

If you notice something urgently out of stock, please text or email me Allison Jones, [allisonjones@me.com](mailto:allisonjones@me.com), 0433 643 857, and I'll work out how to get it restocked.

Finally, it's important to note that the Doorack Drinker's Club operates separately to the lodge stores which I manage. Drawdowns from DDC should be recorded in the DDC book, not the honour shop book.

## The Mt Perisher 6 is up and running



*The new Mt P6 chair takes skiers to an altitude 2042 metres, Australia's highest lifted point*

Perisher's long-promised six-seater express chairlift is installed and open on Mt Perisher. First hand reports say that the seats are soft and insulated, the 5½ minute ride to the top is extremely smooth, and it provides foot rests!

The run's old name, Towers, has been retired because the towers of the old double chair have gone. It has been renamed Legends.

One possible downside. Because the new Mt Perisher 6 chair has 60 per cent more capacity than the two old lifts it replaces, expect Legends to be a crowded run.

## Lodge hacks

Here's some things which you may already know. But if you don't, they will make your stay go more smoothly.

### Arriving at the lodge

- Put one of these overnight parking permits on the dashboard of your car. The permit is free, there are copies at the lodge, and it can also be supplied to you by the booking officer. If you fill it out once you can continue to use the permit all season and in future seasons as well. Its purpose is to tell park rangers that your car belongs to an overnight guest at a Guthega lodge and is thus entitled to occupy an overnight parking space.

#### Authorised overnight parking



Lodge guest

Doorack

Ph: 6457 5360

Rego / Contact number:

- When you arrive, put your name and the names of others in your party into the lodge accommodation register for the nights that you will be at Doorack. The register needs to be kept up to date because it is subject to inspection by park authorities to ensure that we are abiding by the terms of our lease.

### Staying at the lodge



*Organic waste from the kitchen goes here*

- The park has installed a new receptacle for all the Guthega lodges to deposit their organic kitchen waste. The waste goes into this grey-coloured cupboard that is placed among the bins near the ski centre. Every couple of days please take the bag of organic waste from the kitchen down to this receptacle and put it in one of the black plastic boxes inside.

- This winter we also have a waste bin in the kitchen for used batteries. The park will collect them at the end of the season for recycling.

### Keep warm, sustainably

- We don't need to run the electric heating in the lounge room all night or if people are out during the day. The last person to bed should turn it off at thermostat switch on the lounge room wall. If the lodge is empty during the day, please also turn it off. With the new cladding and the improved insulation, the lodge maintains its heat well and quickly returns to a good temperature when the electric heater is switched back on.

- Run the ceiling fans in the lounge and stairwell at a slow speed. This will ensure that the heat doesn't rise to the top of the lodge. Instead it will circulate and keep the kitchen and lounge room warmer.



## New snow gum seedlings take hold

The good news is that large numbers of the snow gum seedlings planted in Guthega over the past three seasons are thriving, and that many of the first trees, which went into the ground in March 2023, are now healthy saplings.

This year's planting day on Saturday March 15 was a great success with over 70 volunteers from Guthega clubs planting 800 snow gum seedlings supplied by the national park. Areas around the Norwegian Trail, the Burning Log restaurant, and in front of Blue Cow Ski Club and the Guthega Ski Club, received the new seedlings.



*This snow gum seedling, planted in 2023, is thriving*

Teams also weeded, mulched, and took off the protective guards around thriving two-year-trees, and repaired the guards around young saplings which continued to need protection.

Guthega Ski Club's Dwy Jago, who organises the planting day, has tentatively set Saturday March 7, 2026 as the date for the next planting day. Put a 'save the date' in your calendar. The final date will be confirmed by email, and in the next edition of Snobounds, later in the year.

On next year's planting day Dwy expects to have 400 snow gums and 400 native shrubs to put in the ground.

The annual planting day is intended to offset the damage caused to snow gums by the longicorn beetle, a wood eating native insect which, in recent years, has devastated large numbers of snow gums near Guthega and elsewhere in Kosciuszko National Park.

Dwy reports that Australian National University researcher Matthew Brookhouse and his team are continuing their efforts to curb the longicorn beetle's damage to Australia's limited population of snow gums. Over the coming summer they will be carrying out intensive field work in the Guthega-Illawong and Perisher-Charlotte Pass areas.

You can learn more about Dr Brookhouse's work to save snow gums here <https://science.anu.edu.au/news-events/news/were-going-beetle-hunt>



*The new automated Spencers Creek snow depth data, sampled on July 13, already shows the impact of the heavy snow falls of July 10-11*

## Snow depth data now available in near real-time

What's this? It's Snowy Hydro's new experimental snow depth chart for the 2025 season which offers a daily reading from an automated station near Spencers Creek. It holds the promise of giving skiers a more reliable and up-to-date measure of snow depth in the Snowy Mountains than what has previously been available.

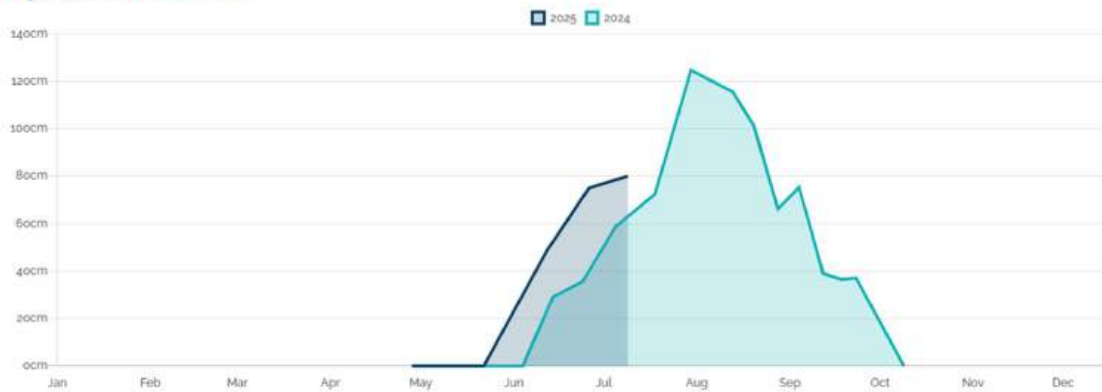
At least for the moment, Snowy Hydro is also continuing the decades-old practice of making manual snow depth measurements at its 1830 metre high site near Spencers Creek. Data has been gathered there since 1954, providing Australia's most valuable historical record of snow depth at alpine altitudes.

Spencers Creek measurements – as well as giving Snowy Hydro useful information about water flow, predicted dam levels and hydro-electric generation capacity – have long been valued by skiers and serve as a proxy for snow depth in the resorts.

For example, the “natural” snow depth which Perisher quotes on its website and app is simply the latest data from the Spencers Creek manual depth measurement.

But the problem is that the Spencers Creek snow depth data is losing its usefulness to Snowy Hydro. In 2022 the company announced it would make the manual measurement on a more irregular and less frequent, “as needed” basis. It cited advances

## Spencers Creek



*The old manual snow depth data from Spencers Creek, sampled on July 13, has no granularity. It doesn't yet show the substantial snow falls of July 10, 11. The new data does (see previous page)*

in technology which meant that snow depth data was less critical for its capacity forecasts. In particular, it said that early season snow records were less important than measurements later in the season when snow was melting faster and making more impact on water flows.

In 2024, after push back from skiers and the skiing industry, Snow Hydro undertook to return the manual readings at Spencers Creek to a “weekly to fortnightly” basis. It also announced a trial of the automated system at Spencers Creek which would give “near real time” data, although it also warned that “as an experimental site, there may be gaps in the provision of data at times”.

Now we can see 2025 data from the automated snow depth measuring system on the Snowy Hydro website and, so far, it looks pretty good. See the screen shot on the previous page and judge for yourself. To see this data, along with more information about the changes in snow depth measurement, go to this site.

<https://www.snowyhydro.com.au/news/category/weather/snow-depths-weather/#:~:text=Snowy%20Hydro%20collects%20snow%20depth,on%20an%20as%2Dneeded%20basis.>

By way of comparison, the manual measures of snow depth at Spencers Creek can be seen here <https://www.snowyhydro.com.au/generation/live-data/snow-depths/>

We don't know what the future holds for manual snow depth readings, but Snowy Hydro says it is “committed to remaining flexible and exploring new technology to maximise the value of Spencers Creek, which is regarded as Australia's premier long-term snow record”.

## 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	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	Karen Najjar		srsc.winterbook@gmail.com (Note new email address)
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
Snobounds editor	Tim Dodd	0407 440160	srsc.snobounds@gmail.com
Ski racing captain	Konrad Piotrowski	0410 450100	konrad.antoni.piotrowski@gmail.com



## Guthega in pixels



*Olivia and Abby make snow angels outside the lodge*

We close this edition of Snobounds with a shot Lyndon Costin took of his daughters, Olivia and Abby, enjoying sublime and heavenly fun outside the lodge on the June long weekend this year. After all, when providence brings snow what better way to respond than with angels?

If you have an interesting photo taken in, or around, Guthega which you'd like to offer as a candidate for the 'Guthega in pixels' page please send it to [srsc.snobounds@gmail.com](mailto:srsc.snobounds@gmail.com)

It could be a landscape, a building, an object, an animal, or people. We're looking for images which capture the mysterious and ineffable spirit of Guthega.

