



# THE GUNDAROO NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE ST GEORGE ALPINE CLUB

June 2018

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## Greetings

Welcome to the 2018 ski season. What a great start to it!

In case you missed it, 'Stormin Norman', as Thredbo labelled the storm, came raging through with blizzard conditions, very cold weather and, more importantly, over 85cm of snow.

On top of this great start, the resorts have been pumping out snow-making and we start July with the resorts almost fully open and operational.

Given the great base, and further falls will have mountain managers fine-tuning the runs for great riding.

## Vale Ian Matthew

It is with regret that we inform you of the passing of Ian Matthew, our long-term Treasurer and a founding member of the Club.

Ian served on the Board in a number of capacities over many years, most recently as Treasurer. His contributions are largely responsible for making the Club what it is today, and he will be sorely missed.

## Current Board Members and Booking Officer

The following people are, once again, responsible for making our club run smoothly:

- Keith Monaghan (President)
- Graham Grigg (Secretary)
- Chris Boseley (Treasurer)
- Matthew Boseley (Accommodation Director)
- Bob Philp (Membership Director)
- Eunice Philp (Booking Officer)
- Phill Boseley (Board Member)
- Juha Sillan (Board Member)
- Mark Wong (Board Member)

## Accommodation Rates for 2018

Our accommodation rates for both Hotham and Jindabyne remain unchanged in 2018. A full list of the accommodation rates (for both lodges) is available on the website.

## **Memberships for Sale**

If you wish to enquire about the purchase of A, B or C memberships, please contact Bob Philp on 02 6585 5535.

## **Lodge Maintenance** (since last Newsletter)

### ***Jindabyne***

- All beds have been replaced. New mattress & pillow protectors also be provided.

### ***Hotham***

- Some of the mattresses and mattress protectors and pillows/pillow-protectors have been replaced.

## **Missing Keys at Jindy!**

When you leave your room, **leave the key in the door!** If you take it home or lose it, you will be charged for a replacement. If someone has locked themselves out of a room at Jindabyne, there is a master key in the locked box next the top of the stairs. Call Eunice to get access, or to get the local site manager to call in.

The master key will also unlock the storeroom where there are more cleaning products, toilet paper, etc., if required. There are also some limited tools in the storeroom if you need to do so repairs.

Alternatively, you can contact the Booking Officer, Eunice Philp, on 02 6585 5535, or the Accommodation Director, Matthew Boseley, on 0411 730 380, and they can arrange for the local site manager to call in.

## **Leaving Earlier than Expected?**

If you're leaving before your scheduled departure date, it is *imperative* that you let the Booking Officer know as there is almost always a waiting list for those days. Just a reminder that you must clean your room, before you leave. There should be cleaning products in your room for this purpose. If more is required, supplies are in the cupboards over the ovens.

## **Charlotte Pass Secure Lease**

A review by NPWS of the management arrangement for the Perisher and Charlotte Pass Resorts has now reached a conclusion for the Charlotte Pass area. A new head lease for Charlotte Pass Village has been signed by the Minister. The lease is for 40 years and 6 months, commencing 1 May 2018. The current lease has been extended to 30 April 2018 as have all the sub-leases at Charlotte Pass.

At this stage there has been no further news on the Perisher Range head lease, we believe there are ongoing discussions between Perisher representatives and NPWS.

## **Looking for something different?**

Looking for an exciting new family adventure? Visit Yarrangobilly Caves and explore a whole new world, mostly underground.

There are six caves to explore, including the self-guided South Glory cave. All other tours are guided and best booked in advance during busy holiday periods.

Jillabenan and Jersey caves have regular year-round schedules, while Harrie Wood cave, where you can view the Temple of a Thousand Idols, is only open at select times of the year.

Castle Cave is one of the more remote caves. On this tour, you'll get a chance to view one of the unlit caves, which was developed in the 1900s and is rarely seen by visitors. After a 30 minute hike up the valley, an experienced NPWS guide will lead you on an underground exploration, with helmets and lights provided.

Yarrangobilly is a full day of activities, so don't just limit yourself to exploring caves. There's a river walk to the Thermal Pool which is heated to 27 degrees all year round.

## **Thredbo wins World Ski Award**


Record-breaking snowfalls, incredible conditions and more apres than ever saw Thredbo recently recognised with top honours and industry awards when it was announced as the "Best Australian Resort" at the World Ski Awards held in Kitzbuhel, Austria.

The awards are voted on by thousands of travel professionals and snow enthusiasts.

## Having no Snow is Normal – But Where Do We Go From Here?

by Pete Taylor ([www.snowwatch.com.au](http://www.snowwatch.com.au))

With the official start to Snow Season 2018 starting on June 9<sup>th</sup> and there being virtually zero natural snow on the ground and only a smattering of the man-made stuff, I'd thought I'd go back over the last 25 years to show that this is actually quite normal and there is no need to panic. This year we have been unlucky in that temperatures in the resorts have not been great for making snow, so things look quite dire in the resorts.

Slow starts to the snow season and how it finished 			
Year	Date	Snow Depth	Peak Depth
2014	June 12	0cm	168.5cm (Jul 24)
2013	June 13	0cm	185.9cm (Aug 29)
2010	June 4	0cm	192.5cm (Aug 26)
2008	June 12	0cm	172.4cm (Aug 14)
2005	June 6	0cm	150cm (Aug 11)
2004	June 10	0cm	228.2cm (Aug 19)
2001	June 7	1.8cm	195.9cm (Aug 23)
1999	June 4	0cm	154.9cm (Aug 12)
1998	June 11	0cm	<b>138.2cm (Aug 20)</b>
1997	June 12	0cm	150.2cm (Aug 28)
1996	June 25	0cm	<b>254.2cm (Oct 3)</b>

Depths are from Spencer's Creek taken by Snowy Hydro

**SNOWWATCH**

Over the last 25 years we have had 10 years with 0cm as the official snow depth in early June at Spencer's Creek taken by Snowy Hydro (11 years if you count 2001 that only had 1.8cm depth on June 7). Of these years of no natural snow to start us off we have had good, bad and average seasons so there is no real correlation pointing to what we will end up with this year.

In 1996 there was zero natural snow on the ground as late as June 25 but it ended up as a massive season with a peak depth of 254.2cm taken on October 3rd. On the other side of the ledger 1998 had zero snow on June 4 and only struggled to a paltry peak depth of 138.2cm on August 23.



Season 1996 ended up a big one after no snow for most of June. Photo: ABC Gregory Nelson

The last season to not have natural snow at season opening was 2014 and what at the time looked like it was going to be a big but peaked very early on July 24 with 168.5cm.

If we were to take an average from these 11 years that the snow season struggled to get off the ground then we would come up with around 161cm and the peak would be in the third week of August. Over the last ten years or so snowmaking has papered over the fact that early June is usually sketchy. With a couple of good weeks of cold nights leading up to opening weekend the resorts can be top to bottom.



*Falls Creek 2014, the last time we didn't have natural snow to start the season.*

The good news is that we have snow on the way next week, and things look like they will start to pick up fairly quickly with cool temps also allowing the snow guns to fire for extended periods. We should see some lifts running by next weekend, although only on a thin base.

Keep an eye on the [Snowwatch 15 day](#) resort and [Long Range forecasts](#) for developments.

## **Ski Scholarships**

Applications for 2018 ski scholarships are now closed. Congratulations to the 2018 recipients, who have been notified.

If you would like to nominate your child (or grandchild) for one of these scholarships in 2019, please have them write a short letter or email to us outlining their skiing history and what they would hope to gain from the scholarship. Applicants are notified of the outcome of their applications after the AGM, in May next year.

## Presidents Report 2017

The season was one of the best on record with a number of resorts extending their closing dates into October. The feedback I got from the members that used our lodges was it was some of the best skiing they have had for a long time.

The excellent season showed in the income for Jindabyne with a 36% increase over the 2016 season.

The Hotham income was down on the 2016 season by 10%. This can be partially attributed to the accommodation mix but the utilisation, even though good compared to previous years, is still down compared to where it should be. The Victorian Government has now deemed that the Hotham lodge is required to be registered for Prescribed Accommodation with its ongoing annual fee and requirements.

We have continued our maintenance program for both lodges with the major items for the year being the replacement of the front windows and the bedding at Jindabyne.

In lead-up to this meeting our Treasurer Ian Matthew passed away. Ian was a major contributor to this club being an original member and serving on boards from the start of the club up until his passing. Ian loved skiing and worked hard to support the club that supported his skiing passion. In 2017, Ian was awarded a Life Membership for the work he did for the club. Our condolences go out his family and friends.

I would like to thank Chris Boseley for taking on the role of Treasurer, at short notice, and not only working out where the currents system was but also changing over to a new financial system.

I would like to thank all our members that used our lodges over the year and wish them a great coming season and hope they have a great time on the snow.

The club would not function if it wasn't for the committee and the helpers that keep the lodges maintained and the systems running. These people are volunteers and I thank them and their families for all the work they have done over the last year.

To all I hope you have a great holiday at our lodges.

Keith Monaghan  
President  
St George Alpine Club Ltd.  
17 May 2018

## Summer Accommodation Rates Gundaroo, Jindabyne & “Unit 21”, Mt Hotham

Summer Season: 9 October 2017 to 1 June 2018

These rates include a 10% GST component

MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATION	WEEKLY	DAILY
<b>LODGE MEMBER</b>		
Adult	\$72	\$14
Child	\$32	\$7
Minimum fee for bedroom	\$143	\$29
Minimum fee for a family room [Gundaroo]	\$239	\$48
<b>ORDINARY MEMBER</b>		
Adult	\$95	\$19
Child	\$48	\$10
Minimum fee for bedroom	\$190	\$39
Minimum fee for a family room [Gundaroo]	\$317	\$68
<b>NON-MEMBER</b>		
Adult	\$119	\$24
Child	\$59	\$12
Minimum fee for bedroom	\$239	\$47
Minimum fee for a family room [Gundaroo]	\$419	\$79