



# THE GUNDAROO NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE ST GEORGE ALPINE CLUB

November 2018

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## Greetings

Here we are at the end of another ski season; one that was another great season thanks to those huge early drops that provided a good base for the rest of the season, allowing us to ski right up to the end.

This year topped the 2 metre snow depth mark for only the 8<sup>th</sup> time in 26 years and the season was extremely busy at most resorts, with sensational Spring skiing and snowboarding conditions.

## Booking Officer Changes

After more than 30 years as your Booking Officer, Eunice Philp has decided to retire from the position. A stalwart of the club over a very long period, Eunice was most people's main point of contact with the club. Her efforts are greatly appreciated by the Board and, I know, by the membership. Thank you, Eunice, for your many years of service.

We welcome our new Booking Officer, Karen Johnson, to the role. Please be patient with Karen, as she learns the ins and outs of the job and manages our transition to a web-based booking system that is currently in development (see later in Newsletter). Karen's contact number, when you're making your bookings is 02 4261 9191.

## New Website and Booking System

The Board has decided to move to a new website which will include a new, custom-built booking system for accommodation, integrated with membership. Testing is currently under way, and we hope to have the new system live early in the new year.

When we've ironed out any kinks, as a result of testing, we will re-issue the booking system instructions to all members, but we don't anticipate many changes to the current procedures.

When the goes live, invoices for your annual membership fees will be sent out automatically by the new system; by email for those that have it, and by post for those that don't. The membership database will also be maintained through the new system and bookings will be linked to the membership database for the purposes of pricing and eligibility to book.

The process for booking accommodation will change, with the new website. You will be able to see what's available at each lodge, and book accordingly. The Booking Officer will still retain the overall approval of all bookings, however.

The development team at CBDWeb are currently working through our booking rules and building them into the system, so there should be no change to anything in that regard. There won't be a booking 'form', like under the current system, but you will fill in all your booking details online and submit them through the new system.

### **Accommodation Rates for 2019**

The Board has reviewed accommodation rates for both Hotham and Jindabyne and has decided that they will remain unchanged in 2019. A full list of the accommodation rates (for both lodges) is available on the website.

### **Current Board Members and Booking Officer**

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

### **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.

### **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.

### **Ski Scholarships**

Applications for 2019 ski scholarships are now open.

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.

## Lodge Maintenance (since last Newsletter)

### *Jindabyne*

- Bollards reinstalled in carpark to prevent dropping off the paved area on backing out of carpark. These have already been hit by reversing vehicles.
- Construction of the new deck on the Northern side of the lodge will commence shortly. It is proposed to extend out the width of the current bridge, and run back to the rear corner of the lodge, an area of approx..3.5 x 5.5 metres.
- Quotes are still being obtained for repairs to the fascia boards.
- Quotes are still being obtained for new blinds for the lodge.
- A study is be undertaken into the lighting in the halls and common areas with a view to replacing them with LEDs.

### *Hotham*

- Quotes are being obtained for the replacement of the second gas hot water heater.
- One faulty stove burner has been disconnected, pending possible replacement.

## **NSWIS invest \$100K annually for athletes**

Snowsports begin another 4-year Olympic cycle and will be investing \$100,000 annually into scholarship programs to support snow athletes.

We had 38 NSWIS representatives at the recent Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, with 2 winning silver medals and another winning two bronze medals. Currently, we have six athletes ranked in the world top 5 in their sports, so this is a truly world class program.

## **New Work in Kosciuszko National Park**

Work will commence, this summer, on the new \$17 million Snowies Iconic Walk, completion of the lower Thredbo Valley Track (TVT) in 2019, and a new TVT extension to Dead Horse Gap, in 2020, as part of a further \$9.8 million.

In addition to the two larger items, there will be a new toilet bock at Seaman's Hut, renovation work at Cootapatamba Hut, upgrades to the walking path from Thredbo to Mt Kosciuszko and renovation of Bullock's Hut on the Thredbo River.



## **\$10 Million Masterplan for Charlotte Pass**

Charlotte Pass has announced a \$10 million, 10-year investment program for the resort. The project, announced in July, will include an increase in lifting capacity, refurbishment of the Kosciuszko Chalet Hotel, and extending their season to open on the June Long Weekend.

Highlights of the project include the addition of a new surface lift towards Mount Stilwell and the replacement of the Basin Poma with a new surface lift. New automated snow making will also be installed to cover the Kosciuszko Triple Chair (to mid-station), Kosi Carpet, and Basin Poma areas.

## **Jindabyne Boat Ramp Upgrade**

The Jindabyne boat ramp was closed from August for a huge upgrade. The \$400,000 upgrades were part of the NSW Government's Boating Now program.

From Kosciuszko Road there will be a totally new alignment with full asphalt road and an increased turning circle at the ramp. In addition, there will be vastly more trailer parking, which will be a grassed area.

The new ramp is scheduled to be open in early November, before the Trout Festival.

## **Nature Play and Caves**

Families can choose from exploring Yarrangobilly Caves or registering their kids for the WilderQuest Nature Play activities. Nature Play activities are open-ended, driven by children's interests and the natural elements, and provide an opportunity to take challenges, explore new places, and learn from their own experiences.

### *Bug Hunt*

Armed with magnifying glasses, kids explore the world of bugs. This activity enables kids to follow their trails and find out what they look like, where they live, and how they hide from predators.

### *Little Caves for Little Kids*

Children test their climbing, crawling and balancing skills as they explore some of the smaller caves. They will adventure through the Big Rock and Meat Safe caves, before testing their abilities with the Little Chimney Climb and Glory Scramble.

The activities are for 4–12 year old children, are supervised by qualified staff, and all equipment is provided. For details phone 02 6454 9597.

## Upcoming Events in the Snowy Mountains

- November 25 Bredbo CWA Village Markets**  
9am – 3pm  
Bredbo Hall, Bredbo
- December 1 Wild Brumby Makers Market**  
10am – 2pm  
Wild Brumby Schnapps Distillery, Thredbo
- A celebration of locally made art, craft and design.
- December 1 L'Etape Australia 2018**
- L'Etape Australia is the most premium and the only Tour de France event to be held in Australia. The event is open to everyone and proposed two distances: The Race (170km) and The Ride (108km). Entries are available now at [www.letapeaustralia.com](http://www.letapeaustralia.com)
- December 1 Historic Burnima Homestead Tour**  
Burnima, Bombala
- Journey back to the 1890s with this magnificent Victorian time capsule: Burnima Homestead. Tours available at 10am and 12pm
- January 11 Kid's Fishing Workshop**  
10am – 2pm  
Gaden Trout Hatchery, Jindabyne
- Kids 8 – 14 are invited to come and learn to fish safely and responsibly.
- February 16 Lake Jindabyne Flowing Festival Dragon Boat Challenge**  
All Day  
Banjo Patterson Park, Jindabyne
- February 23 Trex Snowy Mountains Cross Triathlon and Aquathlon Championships**  
8am – 5pm  
Lake Crackenback Resort and Spa, Thredbo
- March 23 Australian Alpine Ascent Ultra (AAA) Festival**  
Thredbo