



St. George Alpine Club Winter 2026

Member Newsletter



PRESIDENTS REPORT

Hello and welcome to the 2026 ski season!

The 2026 season is a little slow out of the gate, with the mountains reminding us that timing can matter more than averages and that one big storm can change everything. With the resilience and ingenuity of the resorts, supported by powerful snowmaking, there is every reason to look ahead with optimism as we move toward the mid-season sweet spot, when cold outbreaks could deliver some truly memorable powder days. While the long-range climate signals may lean warm and dry, the early snowfall has already shown that the season can still hold some wonderful surprises.

With the completed upgrades across both lodges, we hope your stays this season feel even more comfortable, enjoyable, and welcoming.

At the 2026 AGM, we were delighted to recognise Chris Bosley as the 2026 Life Member, in honour of his outstanding seven years of service as Treasurer. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to Graham Grigg, who is retiring after 11 years of dedicated service, including 10 years as Secretary, and whose contribution to the Club has been truly valued. As Graham steps down, we are pleased to warmly welcome Keith Farrell as our new Secretary. The Board expresses its gratitude to all members, volunteers, and service providers for their continued support.

A few helpful notes for your stay:

If you experience any issues with the Clubman booking system, please email Karen, our Booking Officer, at bookings@stgeorgealpine.com.au.

If you have any questions or concerns during your stay, please feel free to reach out to your Lodge Captain. They help look after the lodge from week to week and are your main point of contact, helping everything run smoothly and harmoniously. As fellow members enjoying their holiday as well, we greatly appreciate your kindness and consideration when seeking their assistance.

If there isn't a Lodge Captain appointed during your stay and you need any assistance, please feel free to contact Karen Johnson (Booking Officer) or me (president@stgeorgealpine.com.au). We're always very happy to help and support you in any way we can.

Get your skis and boards ready, embrace the season ahead - with a little flexibility, optimism and a spirit of adventure, this season promises plenty of memorable moments.

Cheers,
Jane Courtney

Board for 2026 / 27

- Jane Courtney (President)
- Keith Farrell (Secretary)
- Graeme Beilby (Treasurer)
- Robert Philp (Membership Director)
- Sally Garner (Communications Director)
- Daniel Lees (Property Director)
- Colin Moore (Board member)

Karen Johnson (Booking Officer)



2026 TREASURER'S REPORT

By Graeme Beilby Treasurer

The Club recorded a modest financial surplus for the 2025 financial year. This result was supported by stronger accommodation income and solid trading activity across both lodges, although much of the additional revenue was offset by higher operating costs, particularly at Mt Hotham.

A major achievement during the year was the completion of the long-planned Hotham kitchen upgrade, which enhances the lodge experience for members and guests and positions the Club well for future years.

The Club remains in a strong financial position, with cash reserves that provide an important buffer against poor snow seasons, support ongoing maintenance and capital improvements, and help ensure the long-term sustainability of our lodges.

While challenges remain, including rising operating costs and seasonal uncertainties, the Club continues to generate positive cash flow and is well placed for the future.

PROPERTY DIRECTOR REPORT

By Daniel Lees

Jindabyne

I'm pleased to report that this year we made important improvements to Jindabyne Lodge to make it more comfortable and practical. We upgraded the air conditioning and replaced old ceiling fans in the living room, helping provide a more comfortable stay for members and guests throughout both the winter & summer seasons.

Hotham

These works are part of our ongoing effort to keep the lodges in good condition for the future. We welcome members contacting the Board with any ideas or suggestions for maintenance or new projects at either lodge.

2026 MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORS REPORT

By Robert Philp

Membership interest has strengthened modestly over the past year, with four shares changing hands, reflecting continued steady demand for Club membership. The Club remains well positioned, with over twenty prospective members currently on the waiting list. This ongoing level of interest highlights both the appeal of the Club and the importance of maintaining an active pipeline of available shares. Members who are considering selling their membership, or who know of someone who may be interested, are encouraged to contact me.

2026 BOOKING OFFICER REPORT

By Karen Johnson

The update of our booking program did not seem to cause any difficulties for those booking for the ski season. The interface is now easier to work with.

The only complication was the usual one, where only one room is left available and more than one member is attempting to book it at the same time it is difficult to secure the room. There can only be one winner in that case and those that miss out can become frustrated. It is always good to have a plan B for the most popular ski weeks.

Jindabyne is proving to be more and more popular during the summer months and out of season school holidays as people take advantage of the excellent hiking and cycling in the region. Being close to both the lake and the town makes it very appealing for summer holidays. It has become obvious that going forward a lodge captain needs to be appointed for summer stays.

Please take all your gear with you when you leave. The drying room is not a storage locker and the store room is only for storage of club supplies and should not be accessed by anyone other than the lodge captain. Bikes cannot be left in the bike shed unless you are staying at the lodge.

I will always assist with bookings and other queries where I can.

The best way to contact me is to email me at bookings@stgeorgealpine.com.au.





2026 ACCOMMODATION DIRECTORS REPORT

By Keith Farrell

During the year there were several significant activities completed at both lodges

- Mt Hotham Lodge
- Kitchen and flooring upgrade
- External door repairs
- Installation of a defibrillator (AED)

Jindabyne Lodge (Gundaroo)

- Window cleaning
- Ceiling fan replacement works
- Air conditioning replacement works
- Installation of a defibrillator (AED)
- Urgent repairs including oven and water heater maintenance

Repairs and Member Support

If there are any urgent issues or repairs required during your stay, please inform the Lodge Captain, who will coordinate with the Booking Officer so that the Board can manage the issue promptly. Thank you to members who raised issues or maintenance concerns during their stays, and especially to those who completed assessments or minor repairs—your help is greatly appreciated.

Member Conduct Reminder

Some avoidable incidents occurred during the year, including:

- Guests overstaying
- Unregistered guests in rooms
- Rooms and bathrooms left uncleaned

As a reminder, please follow booking rules to ensure everyone enjoys their stay and to avoid placing Lodge Captains or other members in difficult situations. The Board may enforce rules and apply additional charges where required for non-compliance.

Let's all remain mindful and work together to ensure the lodges provide a positive experience for everyone.

Members are asked to familiarise themselves with the current Accommodation Booking Rules and Code of Conduct available on the Club website:

Code of Conduct (2025):

<https://www.stgeorgealpine.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Code-of-Conduct-2025.pdf>

Accommodation Booking Rules (2025):

<https://www.stgeorgealpine.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Accom-Booking-Rules-2025.pdf>

*Spotlight - If you have a story to share,
please let me know for the next
newsletter*



By Keith Farrell

BOGONG MOTHS – A SMALL VISITOR WITH A BIG ROLE IN THE ALPINE ENVIRONMENT



Each year, Bogong Moths migrate to the Victorian Alps, including the Mt Hotham region, where they shelter in cool alpine environments over summer. While they can sometimes be an unwelcome presence inside the lodge, they are a vital part of the alpine ecosystem and an important species in the Australian High Country.


Bogong Moths are considered a keystone species and are a crucial food source for the critically endangered Mountain Pygmy-possum, as well as many other alpine animals. They also contribute to pollination and nutrient transfer throughout the Alps. In recent years, their populations have declined significantly due to drought, bushfires, habitat loss and light pollution, and they are now listed as endangered.

While it is not possible to completely prevent moths from entering the lodge during migration season, members can significantly reduce the impact by:

- Keeping internal and external doors closed
- Ensuring windows are closed, particularly when leaving the lodge
- Taking extra care during summer and low-occupancy periods

This small effort helps minimise moth entry, reduces cleaning and maintenance requirements, and supports the protection of an important alpine species that contributes to the unique environment we enjoy at Hotham.

We recognise that, despite best efforts, Bogong Moths may still enter the lodge even when doors and windows are kept closed. This may occasionally result in additional cleaning requirements, which is unavoidable. We appreciate members' understanding and cooperation in managing this natural seasonal occurrence.



August night 2025 - Jane viewing of the Milky Way at Hotham. It just adds to that little bit of sparkle to end a perfect day.

COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR REPORT

By Sally Garner

Newsletters - Please do send photos and any information you would like included in future newsletters. It is great to have members photographs and stories to share.

Facebook - We now have 143 members in our group.

All new members need to complete our club qualifying questions to be admitted.

Please share your photos and experiences at both lodges. We love seeing our members enjoying themselves.

Contact details - If you have changed your address, phone number or email address to email secretary@stgeorgealpine.com.au so we can update our club records.

We are always looking for ways to improve our communication with members – so if you have any ideas, please let me know.

HOTHAM KITCHEN

If you haven't been to the Hotham Lodge since the new kitchen has been finished, you are in for a treat! The new kitchen boasts a great Island bench with under bench storage for all bedrooms and the pull out bins located at the far end. Great for preparing your platters and food prep. The back wall is dedicated to cooking with the left side cupboards full of crockery and glassware near the dishwashers. The old fridges are still in use at this stage in the same location they have been in the past.

You will notice new cooktops and ovens, the preloved dishwashers are still working well.

Thank you to everyone for thier patience as we had a few hiccoughs with delays along the way. We still have an oven that needs to be returned to E&S Trading sitting under the windows in the dining room. We are unable to get it collected to return to Noble Park at this stage.

We welcome any feedback as we get used to this great new space in the lodge.

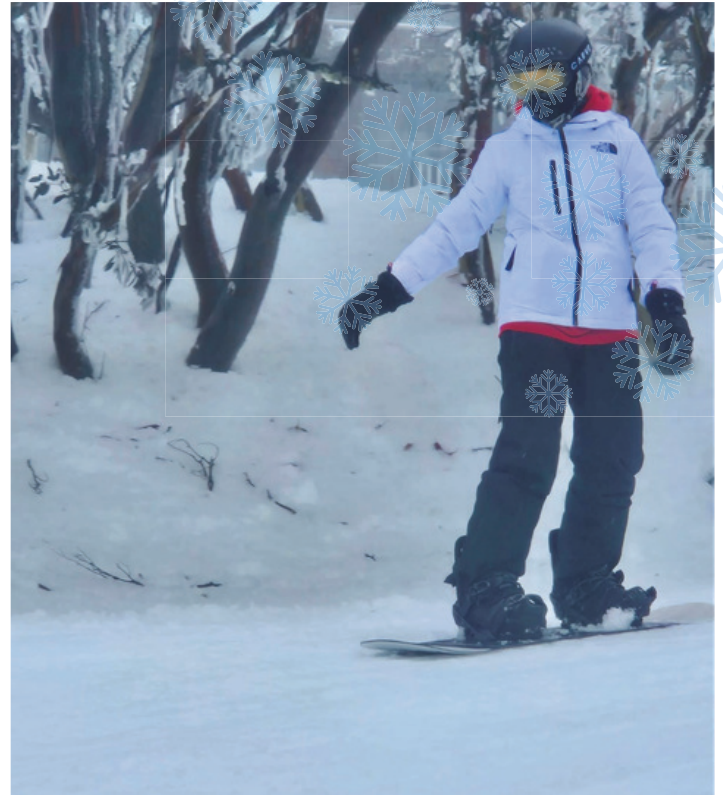


ST GEORGE ALPINE JUNIOR SCHOLARSHIP

It is great to see our club continuing to support our junior members.

Lucy Moore received a scholarship in 2025. Lucy used this money to buy some improved equipment. Her snowboarding has improved greatly through this and along with some (unpaid) tutelage from the esteemed St George Club Treasurer Graeme Beilby. This has meant now being able to navigate the dreaded and feared Mary's Slide at Mt Hotham with confidence and being able to undertake all level of black runs in varying conditions in France and Japan on an amazing end of year trip.

Well done Lucy!



JUNIOR SKI SCHOLARSHIPS 2026 FOR 2026

In its efforts to promote skiing as a sport, St George Alpine Ski Club offers (up to 5) scholarships to school aged children of financial lodge members for them to further their pursuit of the sport.

The scholarship provides a financial contribution for the child to use in furthering their skills in the sport of skiing. This donation can be used to cover things such as the cost of lessons, training or inter-school competitions.

Eligibility: Scholarships are available to juniors (under the age of 18) and can be reapplied for after 5 years since their last scholarship. This year we had 9 applications add thank all those that took the time to apply. If you were not successful this year please consider applying again next year.

Successful recipients this year include:

- Oakley Lees
- Madeline Green
- Jaz Davidson
- Harper Birch
- Amelie Bowen

Ski Season 2026

We are all waiting with bated breath for the snow to really start falling. After such a fabulous season last year you may be getting nervous. But mother nature usually delivers in late June / early July so most of us are crossing fingers and toes and waiting.

Opening weekend was filled with many activities across the mountains and remember there are still great things to do.

Road Safety

Please always check the weather and roads reports before heading up the mountains. Black ice, animals and other drivers are all important in your consideration of the drive.

It is vital you carry wheel chains and fit them when directed.

Keep an eye on the snow APPS to see the up-to-date status of the roads and requirements for 2 and 4 WD's Drive safely and have fun!

CHANGES AHEAD THIS SEASON

PERISHER

- Mid Station redevelopment - being redesigned in stages with first phase open this year
- New "Sugar & Snow" Lolly shop
- Enjoy the lift upgrades with Pretty Valley lift refurbished & updates to Perisher Express quad
- Expanded snow making and reliability

MT HOTHAM

- Major snow making upgrade in Sun Run area
- Village Chair lift upgrade
- Ticketing scanning upgrade - hopefully less stops at the gates
- Night skiing will be back at NBIG D Wednesdays and Saturday nights

Ski Season 2026

Helpful Links for Thredbo

Lift passes:

<https://www.thredbo.com.au/pass-es-rentals/winter-passes/>

Lessons and programs:

<https://www.thredbo.com.au/lessons-programs/>

Winter activities:

<https://www.thredbo.com.au/activities/>

Thredbo Winter Calendar of Events:

<https://www.thredbo.com.au/activities/?category=winter>

Helpful Links for Perisher

Ski Tube timetable:

<https://www.perisher.com.au/resort-info/mountain-operations/skitube-timetable>

Lift tickets and lessons:

<https://www.perisher.com.au/tickets-passes>

Epic Pass info:

<https://www.perisher.com.au/epic-australia-pass>

Perisher Events:

<https://www.perisher.com.au/events>

Helpful links for Hotham

Activities

<https://www.mthotham.com.au/resort/things-to-do/activities>

Lessons

<https://www.mthotham.com.au/resort/things-to-do/activities/group-lessons>

www.mthotham.com.au

Stay up to date with everything happening at Jindabyne, Thredbo & Perisher

www.perisher.com.au

www.thredbo.com.au

www.hotham.com.au

Share breaking news on stgeorgealpine facebook page

REMINDERS FOR LODGE USE

Courtesy & Consideration

- Please keep noise to a minimum both early in the morning and later at night.
- Staying in the bunkroom - please use ear plugs provided if you are sensitive to noise.
- Clean up in the kitchen as soon as possible so others can use the services, especially at mealtimes.
- Be considerate of those wanting to use the dining room areas. If the lodge is full and you have finished your meal, please consider moving to the lounge areas.
- Supplies running low - please let the lodge captain know so other guests are not inconvenienced.
- Complete your daily duties - check the duty roster
- Before departure - clean, vacuum and tidy your room and ensuite, empty bins and take all your belongings
- Empty the food cupboards and fridge
- Jindabyne - leave your room key in the door

Lodge Captains

The Lodge Captain represents the Club's management. If you require assistance or advice, or you would like to make a suggestion or complaint, please see them. Remember that they are also on holiday like you.

The Lodge Captain (after notifying the Accommodation Director of the Club) is empowered to take any necessary action to ensure the proper running of the Lodge. Please review the duties on our website.



A little piece of history - can you guess?



HAPPY SKIING, BOARDING AND HOLIDAYING!