

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

December 2010

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Peter Fraser and Geoff Walker

Summer Activites



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2011 DATES **JANUARY**

14 – 16 JANUARY

THREDBO BLUES FESTIVAL

22 JANUARY

CLIMBING/ABSEILING AT CATHEDRAL ROCKS.

FEBRUARY

26 FEBRUARY

KIAMA WALKING WEEKEND AT THREDBO

MARCH

31 MARCH

KIAMA MEMBERS WINTER PREFERENTIAL BOOKINGS CLOSE

APRIL

1-3 APRIL

THREDBO JAZZ FESTIVAL

MAY

14 MAY

KIAMA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

21 – 22 MAY

KIAMA LODGE WORKING BEE

JUNE

11 - 13 JUNE

THREDBO OPENING WEEKEND



WELCOME

To the new 18 year old
Members:

Maddison Deer
Avalon, NSW

Calle Wallberg
Wheeler Heights, NSW

President's Report



Merry Christmas and a happy New Year from Kiama Alpine Club

Wishing Kiama Alpine Club members and their families in Australia, New Zealand, UK and Asia, a very memorable Christmas, and a New Year full of excitement and joy.

I start this update on a sad note with the recent passing of two long-term members - Geoff Walker and Peter Fraser.

Life member Geoff Walker died suddenly in October from a stroke. Geoff's contribution to the Club as a builder was invaluable, and he was recognised for his 19 years on committees with Life Membership. Two of Geoff's children - Lodge Manager Rob Walker and Club Treasurer Steven Walker - have themselves contributed over 10 years as Directors. Our sincerest condolences go out to Geoff's wife Barbara and the Walker family.

In November we received the sad news that Peter Fraser, son of life members John and Joan Fraser, had passed away from lymphoma. Peter had been an active member of the Club since his childhood and his stories kept us very entertained at the 50th anniversary dinner. Peter will also be sadly missed and we extend our deepest sympathies to Peter's wife Chris and children Lucy, Alice and Scott.

On a positive note, it's been a very busy and fruitful year for the Club, with many of the Board's 2010 objectives and targets being realised. These include:

- ✓ Finishing the year in a strong financial position and a better than expected operating budget
- ✓ Reducing our loan down to \$232,000 with an investment of \$70,000 set aside for the future bathroom renovations
- ✓ Achieving strong accommodation revenues, helped by some of the best ski conditions in over two decades
- ✓ Significantly reducing a number of major expense items
- ✓ Well supported club activities such as working bees, club weekend
- ✓ Our junior and senior racers achieved good results
- ✓ Installing a new booking system, which is in the process of being tested
- ✓ Re-signing our Lodge Managers, Rob and Sally Walker, to manage the Lodge until Jan 2012
- ✓ Commenced scoping a 10 year capital works program and have established structured purchasing criteria
- ✓ Receiving constructive feedback to shape the Board's recommendations on the future bathroom renovations and timing
- ✓ Updating our Club history book "Kiama in the Mountains" to include some additional chapters, with Chas Keys commencing interviews and background research
- ✓ Introducing new, competitive summer rates as well as a group discount rate; and
- ✓ Making our Lodge 'bike-friendly', ready for a targeted campaign to Kiama and Illawarra sporting clubs to attract mountain-bikers and hikers over the Summer.
- ✓ Progressing our Part 2 history DVD to be released in 2011

Join the Board and contribute to driving the future of our Club

We are always looking for enthusiastic members to join the Board and actively contribute to the running of the Club and Thredbo Lodge. If you are interested please contact me at liz.wynn@hotmail.com or on 0417 437 779. We encourage and welcome your involvement and look forward to having even more new faces join the Board.

Interested in becoming a Lodge Manager in 2012?

We have now extended Rob and Sally's contract to the end of January 2012, therefore we will be looking for a new Lodge Manager(s) to manage the Lodge for a minimum period of two years, from 1 February 2012.

If you have the desire and capability to manage accommodation bookings, liaise with members and guests, and manage the day-to-day operations of the Lodge then please contact either Tony Lloyd (0419 448 092) or myself (0417 437 779) and we will gladly take you through the job role and the competitive remuneration package.

Summer Club Activities – abseiling and bushwalking

Karyn has also arranged two exciting new weekend club activities – abseiling and bushwalking. The details are on the last page of the newsletter. I'm looking forward to joining the Lakes Walk and hope to see you there.

Nominations are open for Life membership

With the passing of Life Member Geoff Walker, the Club is able to accept Life Membership from a suitably qualified member. The Club Rules state "to be eligible for election as a Life Member, a Member must in the opinion of the Board have rendered exceptional services to the Club for a period of not less than 10 years."

I would like to encourage members to nominate those who they believe have made an outstanding long-term commitment to the Club, worthy of consideration for Life Membership. Nominations should be in writing and sent to the Club Secretary – Julie Christensen - outlining the efforts and achievements of the member for the Board to consider before bestowing a Life Membership.

Life Members receive recognition of their commitment, as well as the waiving of annual subscriptions and capital levies (as per the club rules).

Our current Life Members are: Barry Booth, Geoff Boxsell, John East, John Fraser, Joan Fraser, Alan Fredericks, Anne Honey, Geoff Honey and Val Wynn.

Deceased Life Members who contributed extensively to the club have been Lala and Eugene Baranowski, Geoff Walker, Howard Waters, Fred Wynn, Ron Wynn and Keith Young.

Leading the way in Thredbo as 'Mountain Bike Friendly'

Mountain-biking and hiking in Thredbo and the alpine regions is certainly developing a strong following and over this summer we are making a concerted effort to capture this growing market as a means of improving our summer utilisation and finances.

After consulting a number of mountain-biking members, a number of cost effective bike-friendly features are being installed to set us apart from other Thredbo lodges. These include:

- ✓ Removable bike racks in the drying room for lockable storage (mountain bikes can be worth over \$10,000)
- ✓ Bike maintenance equipment situated near the wood pile – under cover and out of the sun
- ✓ Availability of hoses and mats to manage muddy conditions; and
- ✓ Friendly signage to encourage positive behaviour.

Promotions Director Karyn Bartholomew is contacting biking, hiking and sporting clubs and secondary schools in the Kiama and Illawarra regions with a new summer flyer and has introduced a number of attractive accommodation specials to entice them to our Lodge. Why not recommend our Lodge to your biking or hiking friends?

My thanks

I would like to extend a BIG thank you to our Lodge Managers (and long-term members), Rob and Sally Walker, for their outstanding job throughout the year. They have provided a warm and friendly welcome to members and guests, maintained a spotless Lodge and provided prompt responses to booking requests. Feedback from members has been very positive and we thank them for their efforts throughout the year.

Rob and Sally are holidaying in Europe over January 2011 and a number of members have volunteered to manage the lodge in their absence. My thanks to Alan and Kate Fredericks, Barry and Sandra Booth, Geoff Wilson and Tony and Anna Lloyd who all responded to the newsletter request. Booking Director, Tony Lloyd will manage all bookings from Sydney and our volunteer members will manage all onsite aspects including meet and greet, cleaning and general maintenance in between enjoying the Thredbo Summer themselves. Look out for their smiling faces.

I would also like to pass on my thanks to Alan Fredericks for all his hard work as President over the past 25 years; the many volunteers for their participation in working bees, club weekends and other club activities; and to the 2010 Directors - Trevor Wilson, Steven Walker, Julie Christensen, Tony Lloyd, Rob Molino, Tatiana Maxwell, Gayle Pugh, James Garner, Kathryn Bartholomew, and retiring directors Alan Fredericks, Craig Morris and Louise Anderson, for their outstanding voluntary commitment. I am privileged to work with such talented and enthusiastic people and I eagerly look forward to achieving further positive outcomes in 2011.

After a very eventful year personally, I am looking forward to a peaceful and relaxing Christmas break. My husband and I were lucky enough to have walked the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu and snorkeled with sea lions at the Galapagos Islands in October, and are now looking forward to spending some 'quiet' time renovating our new home in Rozelle over Christmas.

With that, I would like to wish you and your family a safe and enjoyable festive season, and look forward to seeing you on the Lakes Walk in February 2011.

Liz Wynn
President Kiama Alpine Club

Achieving our 2010 goals

1. Monitoring and maintaining a positive operating budget. We expect to achieve a better than expected operating result in 2010. With the end of our financial year approaching, the Club is forecasting to come in very close to budget.

Accommodation, subscriptions and membership entrance fees are all on target or better. Whilst total room nights are lower than previous years, a higher proportion of winter guest bookings boosted our total accommodation revenues.

Our expenditure is set to come in under budget after having negotiated a 22% reduction in our insurance premium (one of our largest costs) and maintaining a tight control over our general operating expenses.

For example – through the efforts of some of our members during the May working bee, the Club was able to save over \$2,000 on firewood.

We have reduced our debt arising from the Lodge renovations by \$18,000 to \$232,000 and have reinvested \$70,000, earmarked for the future bathroom renovations.

2. Progressing the implementation of a new booking system. The new booking system replacing Guestmaster will be implemented in early 2011.

Work is well underway to implement the new booking system and we expect this to be fully operational before the Winter preferential booking period, which ends on 31st March. The new system (called 'Reservations') will manage all accommodation bookings and receipts, and will act as a new central club database for all member details. The new system has been installed on a server managed in Sydney by Alistair Waters and allows for greater accessibility - with remote access by the Lodge Managers in Thredbo or the Booking Director in Sydney. We have also budgeted for a replacement PC at the Lodge to keep our systems efficient.

One of our new Directors (and an experienced IT project manager), James Garner, is leading a group to upgrade the website with the goal of completing this by the start of the winter season. If you have an interest in websites please contact James on jamesgarner.is@gmail.com or 0419 010 486.

3. Considering future capital works programs including the refurbishment of level 3 bathrooms. A new 10 year capital works / sinking fund estimate has been partially completed.

The Board embarked on a project this year to identify the expected future capital works and maintenance costs for the Lodge. This will act as the basis for strategies to fund major building programs over the next 10 years. We hope to have this completed in the first quarter of 2011 along with our recommendations for the level 3 bathroom renovations.

4. Endorsing and implementing the amended Club Rules. The Board is currently finalising the new Club Rules based on the recommendations made by the Club Rules Sub-Committee (consisting of Alan Fredericks, Club Secretary Julie Christensen and Club Solicitors Sandy Rendel and Kathryn Telford). There are no significant changes to the rules, as the purpose of the review was to incorporate the adhoc changes that have been approved by members since the last review in 1997. They incorporate future needs, such as providing for the ability to electronically send AGM notices. We hope to have this finalised in time for the AGM in May 2011.

5. Building a productive working relationship with the Lodge Managers and reviewing the contractual status beyond 2010

Rob and Sally have agreed to stay for one more year as Lodge Managers which is great news for Kiama Alpine Club members. The Lodge and our Club have definitely benefited from Rob and Sally's personal touch and organisation abilities. Just recently, a visiting Thredbo architect commented that Kiama was the cleanest and best Lodge in Thredbo.

6. Achieving a target of over 70% winter usage (Jun – Sep) of the Lodge

The winter season was quite challenging in 2010 with either feast or famine snow conditions.

Our average winter utilisation over June to September was 66% compared to 67% in 2009 and 73% in 2008. As we achieve 80% of our total accommodation revenues over winter, remaining focused on maximising our winter bookings has been a critical strategy for the past 2-3 years to increase the club's cash position. By comparison our winter utilisation 10 years ago was only 50%.

7. Promoting summer usage of the Lodge (over 20% usage Dec – Mar)

The non-winter periods offer considerable availability, however, the demand outside the major Thredbo activities is very low. This summer we are piloting a campaign to attract the emerging demand from mountain-bikers and hikers. We have introduced a reduced nightly rate to attract families who have been utilising super summer specials from commercial apartments in Thredbo and Jindabyne. Following some negative experiences with muddy bikes we have introduced some specific initiatives to make the Lodge more bike-friendly and less likely to need additional cleaning from muddy bike gear.

Achieving our 2010 goals continued

8. Building members participation in winter racing activities

All of our racing activities were well patronised this year. The Juniors achieved outstanding results with some first and third placings and 5 making it to the Australian. The Seniors came in 7th overall and the 'Top to Bottom' included 5 Kiama members this year. Unfortunately 'Club Weekend' was a complete wash out and whilst we all had a great time with egg and spoon races, we awarded our club champions based on the earlier junior and senior participation which we will recognise at the May 2011 AGM in Kiama.

Well done to all those who raced this year. In 2011 the Club will be funding downhill race gate training as well as providing practice time on the race track.

Liz Wynn



BLUES FESTIVAL in Thredbo January 14-16 2011

It's year 17 for the Thredbo Blues Festival and it is again shaping up to be big one, with a great mix of performers, covering a broad spectrum of Blues all performing around the picturesque village from January 14th to 16th.

Contact Tony Lloyd 0419 448 092

For more information go to www.thredbo.com.au

SNOW IN DECEMBER IN THREDBO



Photos courtesy of Facebook 21st December 2010
www.facebook.com/Thredbo.Resort

Accommodation is still available at the Lodge over the Christmas & New Year period.
Call Tony Lloyd 0419 448 092



VALE - PETER FRASER
1956 – 2010



It is with great sadness we inform you that our dear friend Peter Fraser passed away on the 9th November after a year long battle with non Hodgkin's lymphoma. Peter was 54.

Peter's parents, Joan and John Fraser were foundation members of the Kiama Alpine Club, so Peter had a long association with the Club, skiing with his parents and sister Chris, and later with his wife Chris, and their three children, Lucy, Alice and Scott. Peter was an active member of the Alpine Club being on the committee and Club Captain for many years.

Peter attended The Kings School from the age of twelve, where he was hugely popular. At the recent celebration of Peter's life, many of his old school friends spoke of his great sense of humor and spirit of adventure, and how he was valued by all of us for his loyalty, integrity and the great courage he displayed in adversity, particularly over the past 12 months as he battled his illness.

After Graduating from Sydney University in Chemical Engineering, Peter moved to Florida USA and on returning to Sydney he did his MBA and then moved into the Banking world. He married Chris and after their first child, Lucy, was born they moved to Singapore for six years, during this time Alice and Scott were born.

Peter's family was always his first priority, not only to his wife and children, but also to his parents and sister. To us he was a wonderful, loyal, caring friend and he will be sadly missed by us all.

On behalf of the Ski Club, we extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Chris, children, Lucy, Alice and Scott, and to his sister Chris and his parents Joan and John Fraser.

Terry Gallagher

VALE – GEOFF WALKER
1929 – 2010



Geoff Walker was born on a farm in Foxground in 1929 and grew up and conducted his building business largely in the Berry and Nowra environs. Geoff was to play a major role in the birth of the first Kiama Alpine Club Lodge in Thredbo and subsequent lodges that have followed over the next 50 years.

Geoff joined the club in 1959 and being a builder, immediately was drafted onto the committee. He was quickly involved in reporting on the proposed design and the two tenders received for the initial lodge. He went on to serve on the committee in numerous roles in the 11 years from 1959 to 1969 and again for a further 8 years from 1977 to 1985. He was Club President in 1962 and 1965.

Members will remember him for his wide and very practical knowledge as a builder. He played a significant part in assisting the Wynn brothers in the major 1983/84 renovations. His opinions were always valued by the membership and he gave professional leadership at club working bees. He was always strongly supported in these activities by his wife Barbara.

This community spirit extended to volunteer projects for Nowra Rotary, Nowra Presbyterian Church and the Masonic movement. Many building in the Shoalhaven region bear testament to his work and community contributions.

Geoff was made a Life member of Kiama Alpine Club and his four sons have all been members with Robert and Steven also contributing to the club in important roles on the Board of the Club in what has almost become a family tradition.

I know that all members join me in extending our sympathy to the Walker family.

Alan Fredericks



Summer Activities at the Lodge

Please join us for a couple of great summer activities we've arranged in conjunction with K7 Adventures:

22nd January 2011

Climbing/Abseiling at Cathedral Rocks. This half-day activity is suitable for everyone, including families with young kids. K7 will supply all climbing gear. You will need to bring a packed lunch.

Cost (based on a min. 10 people):
\$50 per person plus lift pass.

26th February 2011

Glacial Lakes Walk. This guided 5+ hour walk from Thredbo to Charlotte's Pass is beautiful but not suitable for young children.

Cost (based on a min. 10 people):
\$60 per person plus lift pass.

Please let me know by 10th January if you can make it: barthwaters@internode.on.net or 02 4271 7986.

Karyn Bartholomew
Promotions Director



Thredbo is fast becoming the place to be for great mountain biking with trails for the experienced riders looking for a thrill or those wanting to explore the village. We are making the Lodge Bike-friendly so why not try out Mountain biking in Thredbo and tell your friends. The new summer rates are included.



The Board would like to wish you all a
Safe and Happy Christmas.