

Kiama Alpine Club Newsletter



Spring
into
Thredbo

October 2013 Newsletter

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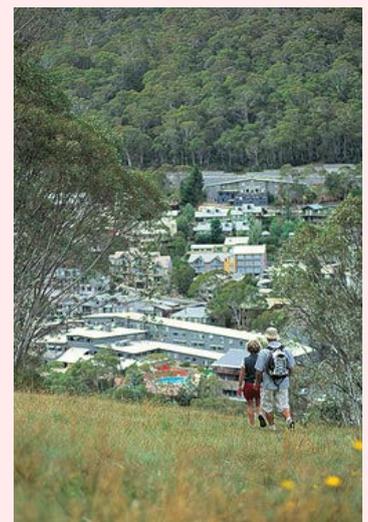
EVER WANTED TO HOST A
FAMILY CHRISTMAS IN
THREDRO?

Christmas lunch is easy in our huge kitchen so why not contact our Lodge Managers Michelle or John about spending Christmas or New Year at the Lodge?

You never know it could be snowy white!

Upcoming events

- 21 October – 9 December
Thredbo Boot Camp
- 25 – 27 October
Kiama Spring Working Bee
- 26 October – 26 April
Walking Season Opens
- 2 November
Snowy Ride
- 16 November
Mountain Biking Season
Opens
- 6 – 8 December
Cannonball MTB Festival
- 17 December
Full Moon Walk
- 17 – 19 January 2014
Thredbo Blues Festival
- 21 – 23 February 2014
Thredbo Fly Fishing Festival



**Bush walking season
now OPEN**

Welcome to spring in the Mountains!

Following an ordinary winter season, spring is slowly on its way to the mountains. With unseasonable snow still occasionally falling, snowshoeing and other out the back activities have been popular in the mountains and the walking season and mountain biking seasons are set to commence over the next few weeks. Fortunately Thredbo has not been affected by any bush fires and hopefully it will stay that way over summer.

Despite the disappointing winter snow conditions, our Lodge was very active thanks to the continued support from our members and their guests. Michelle, John and Liam were kept busy and have kept the Lodge in tip top shape. Our winter booking numbers and revenues are down on previous years due to the poor snow conditions, an early end to winter and a higher proportion of member bookings to guests. But, we have fared much better than many other lodges and properties and by keeping our expenditure low we are hoping to still achieve a break-even operating budget this year.

Thredbo facelift? We like it!

I'm sure everyone was excited to see the article in the Australian Financial Review in September of the rumoured \$135m Thredbo facelift with a new chairlift, major hotel revamp and a town centre redevelopment. MD Jordan Rogers had explained to Phill Deer (Promotions and Village Liaison Director) and I earlier this year that KT have been working on plans to revamp the village, although it was a pleasant surprise to read about a new \$20m lift from the valley terminal to Karels. According to the article, the plans for the new chairlift, expected to run a similar route to Ramshead chairlift only higher, are about to be lodged with the NSW Department of Planning and National Parks. What a fantastic addition to the mountain. The first new lift in more than 20 years, it will open the golf bowl area and provide a whole new skiing and boarding experience to Thredbo mountain.

For those who may not have seen the article visit:

http://www.afr.com/p/business/property/thredbo_facelift_to_attract_more_OGIxnrohUWUEyXiJKpFP

Phill and I are hoping to meet with Jordan again over the next couple of months and we will keep you up to speed of any concrete plans once we have this confirmed. It certainly is long overdue and a welcome improvement to arrest the declining visitor numbers.

What is our future? Strategic Planning Commenced

I am also pleased to report that the Board, along with member and management specialist Stuart Waters, has commenced developing a long-term strategic plan for the Club. In developing the plan we are interested in tackling the dilemma of:

Presidents Update

How do we support our mission in a future of declining snow and other external forces in a way that:

- Meets the aspirations of current and future members
- Strengthens the club's culture
- Improves our long-term financial strength
- Values our history and heritage
- Whilst making the most of current and future assets?"

Over the next few months we will be asking members for input into how you see the future of the Kiama Alpine Club and what direction you feel the Club should be taking. If you are keen to be involved please contact myself, Vice-President Tony Lloyd or one of the directors. Our goal is to share our findings at the next AGM in May 2014.

2013/2014 Summer rates – Now Stay 3 pay 2 nights with only 6 adults

We have now released the 2013/2014 summer rates. Some rates have increased slightly (\$5 per night for adults) to help cover our basic running costs although these are in keeping with other similar lodges/apartments in Thredbo and still offer fantastic value for money.

EVEN EASIER TO STAY AS A GROUP. New this summer, we have reduced the number of adults for a group discount. If you have 6 adults staying, they can now receive the group special of stay 3 nights and pay for only 2 ie 1 night free (maximum 1 night free). We introduced this initiative two years ago and it has been very successful in building our group bookings.

Positive changes to 18 year old membership

The Board has recently reviewed the financial arrangements for our 18 year old members. Traditionally we invite children of members to join the Club when they turn 18 years of age with one year to take up the offer. The fee to join is \$800 (including \$250 share value) and we have received feedback from parents that the fee plus the cost of skiing at that age can sometimes act as a disincentive to joining the Club. So, effective immediately, we have made the following changes:

Children of members turning 18 now have the ability to pay in full (remains \$800), pay in installments (\$300 per year for 3 years ie \$900 total) or defer their membership until 21 years (\$1,000) when they may be in a better financial position to afford their membership.

We have also reviewed the annual subscriptions for our younger members and now members under 22 years will receive a working bee credit in a similar manner to over 65 year old members to reflect their financial situation.

Club Secretary, Karyn Bartholomew is currently contacting all applicable members with the details regarding the installment or deferment plan.

Which reminds me, that in order for us to send you an invitation for your children to join when they turn 18 years, we need to have their details recorded in our database.



Liz enjoying the Deadhorse gap trail

If you have recently added a child to your family or have a child who has turned 18 years and has NOT received an invitation to join, please contact karyn.bartholomew@kiamaalpineclub.org.au or liz.wynn@kiamaalpineclub.org.au with all the details.

Bathroom Working Bees in 2014

In February/March we hope to be upgrading our upstairs bathrooms. Pending our financial position at the end of 2013, we are intending to have Member and builder, Craig Morris renovate the upstairs bathrooms. To keep our costs low, we will need your help with some additional working bees to remove files, paint etc and I hope to be in touch with in December with dates and details.

Your feedback

Look out for a member's survey which is about to be emailed to everyone. We greatly appreciate the feedback as it really does help us to improve so I encourage you to spend 5 minutes and let us know your thoughts.

Finally, a massive thank you to those members who attended the Club Weekend this year. It was a super weekend for everyone with quite good snow conditions for the races (considering the poor season we had), some off-piste skiing led by Club Captain Anton Lindell, drinks by the pool, animated medal presentations and excellent costumes in the evening. The Club Weekend is an integral part of the Club's culture of encouraging winter alpine sports and I think everyone would agree that moving the date to earlier in August was a positive change to be continued for future years where possible.

I encourage everyone to visit Thredbo this summer and use the group special.

Liz Wynn
President



SPRING AWAITS YOU IN THREDBO!

We have golf clubs and
tennis racquets at the
Lodge for some summer
fun.

John says the golf
course is better than
ever!

From the Lodge

Got to love spring in the Mountains!
As everyone is aware, winter 2013 brought extremely rare snow conditions with rain impeding or washing away almost every snowfall. This led to far from ideal snow cover this time around, but as this is nowhere near the norm, we think it is best to draw a line under it and look forward to a monster 2014!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Kiama Members and Guests for their continuing high spirits and patronage during this unusual season. Your support meant that Kiama fared much better than most Thredbo establishments.

One silver lining of such a warm winter was the advent of an early spring. Kosciuszko Thredbo dropped their winter lift ticket rates in September to summer prices, allowing patrons cheap access to the limited available snow. Those that joined us had a great time

Liam was lucky enough to participate in a survival course with K7 Adventures on the closing weekend and found himself snow shoeing, building a snow shelter and wielding an ice pick much to his delight. And now of course summer is on its way and there is so much to do in Thredbo.

We have lots of availability left and many key dates still available. The warmer than expected weather brings its own opportunities to enjoy the mountain's summer sports and multitude of activities.

We hope to see you there.
Happy holidays,



Michelle, John and Liam.

Berry and Meringue Ice Cream Slice



A number of members at the Club Weekend asked for this dessert recipe (it's actually from the Delicious Magazine) so I thought I would include for everyone. It's very simple, and literally delicious. Enjoy! Liz

Ingredients

350g mixed berries, halved if large, plus extra to serve
600 ml thickened cream
2T castor sugar
2t vanilla extract
50g store-bought mini meringues, broken into chunks
Honey to serve



Grease a 1.5L loaf pan. Line with plastic wrap, leaving plenty overhanging. Drop some berries into the loaf pan (these will be at the top of the slice) Whip cream with sugar and vanilla to just before soft peaks, then fold in meringue and remaining berries. Pour into pan, giving it a shake to remove any air bubbles, then cover with overhanging plastic wrap. Freeze for 3 hours or until frozen. Remove from freezer for 20 minutes before serving. Pile extra berries on top and drizzle with honey, then slice and serve.

Have you paid your
2013 Annual
Subscription?

Your annual subscription is due
by 31 December 2013.

A \$50 late fee will apply if
unpaid by 31 December



Club Weekend 2013 – a huge hit

What a weekend... new date, new faces, blue skies and the best snow of the season! It was a welcome change bringing the Club Weekend forward to late August to coincide with Thredbo's kids ski free weekend.

Club weekend was a full house with lots of smiles and laughter from the heroes, villains and movie stars fancy dress, the wood chopping golf course, cocktails by the Alpine Hotel pool complete with a visit from Delta Goodrem, to racing the gates on Rossi Race Course.

This year saw a 3rd generation Baranowsky (Julia Balak) hitting the slopes for the first time and continuing her great grandfather, Eugene Baranowsky's original vision of establishing a family ski Lodge over 50 years ago.

This year's Club Champions are:

2013 Skiing Champions:

Girls Amy Kaleski
 Womens Chaylee Kaleski
 Boys Liam Callaghan
 Mens Andrew Balak

2013 Snowboarding Champions:

Womens Belinda Wearne
 Boys Josh Telford
 Mens Andrew Wearne

A special mention goes to Paula Heggie who had an interesting disagreement with a race gate. We all hope the knee gets better soon!

Look forward to seeing you all there next year for Club Weekend 2014. See you in the mountains!

Checkout all the photos on FaceBook thanks to our Communications Director Ian McKnight

Cheers Anton, Club Captain



Our superstar Club Captain, Anton Lindell





October Working Bee - fit for spring and summer

Thanks to a dedicated team of members and our Lodge managers, the Lodge is looking sparkling for spring and summer. The team cleaned the lodge from top to bottom, chopped a dead tree, painted up a storm and replaced the skirting boards in the back rooms – amongst lots of other great stuff and plenty of cuppas, oh and a few beers.



Our wonder working bee
Director Drew Waters



Have you lost these over winter?



We have various tops, shoes, boots, gloves, beanies and ski pants that have been left at the lodge this winter. Please contact our Lodge Managers Michelle and John or Liz Wynn on liz.wynn@kiamaalpineclub.org.au if you think you own these.

