



The R.A.N. Ski Club

Adventure Relaxation Recreation

Newsletter December 2018

Newsletter Editor - Geoff Cole

Email info@ranskiclub.com.au

Website <http://www.ranskiclub.com.au>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/RanSkiClub>

Online Membership and Booking System (Club System)

As we mentioned in earlier Newsletters, we are in the process of implementing an online booking system called Club System, which was developed specifically for Ski clubs, and takes account of our unique operating requirements, eg allocating beds, not rooms.

When we are ready to go live, hopefully within the next few weeks, each Ordinary and Associate Member will receive an email with their temporary log on password. Detailed log on instructions were sent out to members email addresses by our electronic bulletin system in March 2018 and will be retransmitted before the log on email is sent. At this stage we will only be using Club System for Perisher until we are able to check that all requirements are met which we have not been able to do without live data. We had problems this year because some of our settings were incompatible with Club System and the financial reports did not provide the information we needed in an 'easy to access' format. We are working with the System Developer to resolve these issues.

However, we had only about 50% of members open our emails and we have no record of accurate email addresses for some members. If we don't have an accurate email address for you, or you don't read our messages, you will not be able to use Club System as the email address is the User address for logging in.

Those without email addresses or who don't wish to use the online system can continue to use the 'traditional' system which is not being decommissioned. These members will, of course, not have access to the online benefits of being able to check on accommodation availability and make fast bookings. So please provide your current email address on the renewal form so you can participate in this adventure.

Instructions for logging on to Club System are at
<http://www.ranskiclub.com.au/home/members-page/>

Instructions to make bookings are on the website at
<http://www.ranskiclub.com.au/home/online-accommodation-bookings/>

Booking Rules

Your Directors have reviewed the Club booking rules

- to align the rules with the Club System functionality,
- support fairer access to accommodation by Club members, and

- to clarify some rules as a result of misconceptions and suggestions by Club members.

The new rules are included in this mailout and have been promulgated on the Club website, in narrative form on the Bookings page as well as within the By Laws document as required under our Club constitution.

Mt Buller

Just when we thought the season 2017 couldn't be topped, it was! Skiable snow from the opening weekend right through to closing weekend which was extended by 2 weeks. With our coveted Standard run open for most of the season, the lodge was a very nice place to be.

The trial fold up beds in room 17 were well received with the extra space and flexible configuration they afforded. Two more rooms are scheduled to be converted this summer as we gradually work towards updating all the rooms in the lodge. The new floor in the kitchen was a great improvement to the area and will serve us well for quite a few seasons to come. Unfortunately, the new(ish) dishwasher did not fare as well and will need a new water pump for next season. It is the same brand as it's predecessor which lasted over 20 years, so we hope it is teething problems. The manufacturer has sent a replacement pump FOC (it was out of warranty) which will be installed over the summer.

The new facias installed by Ash last summer really gave the exterior of the lodge a lift, and the ropes left dangling from the roof all season added to the alpine feel of the lodge...

The club race weekend was (as we have come to expect) a great success. My thanks to the Buller committee for organising and running the event. Special thanks the Jeremy Butler for MC-ing the event, Mike and Kath for the great spread. The herds of lederhosen of 2017 were replaced with bunches of lays for this year's Hawaiian theme with Justine Buckley again demonstrating that lateral application to a theme is where she is most comfortable.

This season the Louise's "I think I've broken something" award goes to Trevor Buckley with the man mountain being felled by a rogue snowboarder late in the season. With the subsequent collarbone injury still not mended, our best to you Trevor for a complete recovery.

The Navy ski club was bravely represented in this year's ponds skim event by Mike Rich, Duncan Moody, Patrick O'Grady and the sirenesque Kylie Heron at the helm. If it was not for catastrophic failure of the vessel on contact with the water, and Patrick almost drowning (in a foot of water?) I think we would have been in the medals. I have sought approval from the board to sponsor our team next year as consistent sinking/ capsizing of vessels by our team in recent years is not a good image for a club associated with the RAN!

On the same day the club successfully bided on one of the retired Blue Bullet chairlift chairs, we managed to secure No47 (our number on The Avenue) . All proceeds on the day went to the Mansfield Hospital. The plan is to mount the chair on an extension to the Barbecue deck looking out over the surrounding mountains.

Jobs for the summer work parties include installation of more folding beds, relocation of the laundry to the old double shower room downstairs, installation of a single shower in the toilet next to the sauna, levelling of the floor in the basement in preparation for new lockers, and new lounges for the main lounge area. Clotted cream eradication as always is on the menu as well as an upgrade to the Managers shower.

Work party dates for 2019 are:

16/17 Feb 2019

13/14 Apr 2019
25/26 May 2019

As with last summer the May Work Party will be the child friendly one.

Wishing you all a happy festive season.
Adrian Hills
VP Buller

Thredbo

Thredbo Redevelopment Update

Our plans for the rebuilding of the lodge accommodation wing are progressing well. A geotechnical investigation of our lodge site has been conducted which confirms the feasibility of undertaking the work we are currently planning. Following this positive geotechnical survey, our concept design was informally presented to KT and the NSW DPE for comment. Feedback from both parties has been generally positive and constructive.

The main focus at present is on the design of the retaining wall structures necessary for this project (in its current form) to proceed. Concurrently, minor changes to the concept design are being made to incorporate the feedback from KT, the NSW DPE and some suggested changes from our members. Once these tasks have been completed we will be in a position to seek a more accurate estimate of the total cost of this project, a vital step in determining the way ahead!

The Board is determined to get the best feasible outcome for the club within our financial means. This means starting with the optimum solution for the site and determining the cost of achieving it. This is exactly what we are doing in this process. As a consequence, we are unlikely to be in a position to lodge a Development Application until around the second quarter of 2019.

Thredbo Lodge Committee - Accommodation Survey

As most members will know, the RAN Ski Club aims to set prices to support member utilisation of its facilities while generating sufficient revenue to cover expenditure for short and long term expenses without the need to impose additional levies on its members. Our mission is to support and encourage alpine sport participation by Navy personnel and associate members. This means the Club aims to set modest entry fees to encourage new ordinary and associate membership, annual fees to cover administrative expenses and bed rates to ensure our leases and lodges can be maintained into the future. The club also seeks to manage accommodation prices and membership levels with fair and reasonable booking rules so that all members have an opportunity to use club facilities and enjoy the alpine environment.

While annual fees have reflected CPI increases in recent years, it is prudent every so often to 'compare the market' to gauge where the club's fees actually sit in comparison to other ski lodges and accommodation providers in the local area. With this in mind Thredbo Lodge Committee members conducted a comparison survey of local accommodation at the commencement of the 2018 ski season. While the survey was relatively comprehensive in that it obtained pricing information from around 30 accommodation providers, the number of lodges/ski clubs which can be directly compared to our club is a relatively small subset (6) of the total numbers surveyed. This is because of the varying nature of the accommodation and the basis on which membership/accommodation is offered and it is

therefore difficult to compare 'apples with apples' in a lot of cases. Also some information was not available for privacy reasons at the time of the survey.

However, overall the survey found that RAN Ski Club's fees for the 2018 season represented good value for money and were in the lower one third of the accommodation price range compared to other clubs/lodges/hotels in the Thredbo and surrounding area as follows:

Joining Fees: RAN Ski Club was 2nd lowest* out of 11 accommodation providers who provided this data. *Note: The lodge with the lowest joining fees also charged daily accommodation rates which were more than double the RAN Ski Club's daily bed rates.

Annual Fees: RAN Ski Club was 2nd lowest* out of 6 comparable accommodation providers. *Note: The same lodge with the lowest annual fees also charged daily accommodation rates which were more than double the RAN Ski Club's daily bed rates.

Daily Rates: RAN Ski Club was 9th lowest* out of 30 accommodation providers surveyed. *Note: Of the eight cheaper providers, four were located in Thredbo village but all charged significantly higher joining fees (individual memberships, if available, were in the range of \$6k - \$12k while family memberships were about \$12k - \$24k) as well as higher annual fees. The other 4 providers were commercial accommodation providers in Jindabyne and surrounding areas and generally charged on a per room basis.

The survey we think proved useful and will be conducted at regular intervals in the future to ensure that the fees charged continue to support the mission and aims of the club for the benefit of all our members.