



# RANSKI CLUB

adventure : recreation : relaxation



## December 2024 NEWSLETTER



'Green Season' at our Perisher Valley lodge (photo: John Walker)

### From the President

--- IAN MIDDLETON ---

Season's Greetings fellow members,

Another year gone by and unfortunately a very ordinary snow season. There were some periods of decent snow in early August, but the cover didn't last and once again all resorts closed early. This has been the second poor season in a row which has not helped our efforts to raise capital to fund upgrades to our lodges; more on that later.

This year we have bedded down a new booking system and credit payment facility. We did have some teething problems early in the season, but it now appears to be working well and we will be using it for summer bookings.

Thredbo has lots of activities planned over the summer period including more mountain bike trails, more gourmet foodie events and of course the 30th Thredbo Blues Festival.

We are also going to put a manager in place in Perisher from 1st January to 2nd February as a trial to see if there is sufficient interest. Thredbo Lodge is filling fast for the Bluesfest weekend 17-19 January so an alternative might be to stay at Perisher and travel over or take up fly fishing and try your luck in the nearby mountain streams. Buller Lodge is also planning to open for specific weekends over the summer for mountain biking events. I will certainly be at Bluesfest as it was a great weekend last January!

The Board has decided to adopt a principles-based approach to our annual pricing consideration each November.

These principles will be published in a Bylaw update (Revision 9) which should be out this December. The Board is very aware of how expensive snow sports are as a family activity, particularly in the current economic environment, and we are also focussed on providing "affordable attractive alpine accommodation" for our members.

The principles we have adopted for pricing include:

1. We will generally apply rate increases aligned to the current Consumer Price Index,
2. We will consider varying rates between lodges based on the amenities provided (for example Perisher has ensuite accommodation whereas the other two lodges don't), and
3. The Board will consider applying variable rates where appropriate to attract increased bookings to maximise our lodge occupancy.

You will find next year's rates attached to this newsletter and will no doubt see Perisher is a little more expensive than Thredbo for winter (based on the ensuite amenity), and that we have introduced a significantly lower rate for mid-week at Buller. We know Perisher is the most popular choice for our military members who can take advantage of the Epic Pass, but we hope families will also consider the savings on offer to travel that extra distance to Buller. When the conditions are good, Buller is our only true ski in/ski out lodge, and we must be due a good season next year!

(continued on page 2)

### From the Editor

Welcome to the Christmas edition of the Club newsletter.

You may recall in the May newsletter that I encouraged you all to, "*keep calm and do the snow dance.*" Well what can I say – you are all obviously useless dancers! Who would have picked that we would have two such poor snow seasons back to back!

Notwithstanding the poor snow conditions, many of our members and their guests enjoyed stays at our lodges. Often, a drink with friends by a warm fire can be just as enjoyable and relaxing as standing in a lift queue with sleet hitting your fogged up goggles...

Our new online booking system was in full use throughout the season and by all reports it seemed to work very well. The vast majority of feedback we received was very positive. We've worked through a few teething problems and continue to work on improvements.

During the year we received the sad news of the passing of a number of our founding members. We remember these gentlemen with fondness and gratitude. If it wasn't for their foresight and endeavours, I wouldn't be typing this newsletter.

It's a great feature of our Club that our lodges are for the most part, available for use all year round. With very affordable rates, forget about the snow for a while and enjoy everything the alpine environment has to offer in summer.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

#### STOP PRESS:

**All three lodges available for summer bookings.**

**Further details in this newsletter.**



Another change the Board has agreed on that I know will be controversial with some of our members is to no longer restrict Perisher during the winter to only children four years old and over. The restriction on children was viewed by the Board as counter to our efforts to attract and retain younger Naval members and their families, noting the young families are more likely to use the military Epic passes.

The Board also received questions from our membership on why we restricted Perisher only from children under four noting the resort now has a medical centre during the day and emergency services can access the lodge in the same fashion as they can at Thredbo. I remind all members who are taking children to stay in our lodges that they are responsible for supervising their children, including their guests, and it is not the Manager's job to supervise. Our lodges are meant to be enjoyed by all so please keep this in mind if you do bring young children.

I wish I had better news on the Thredbo Redevelopment front, but we are still in the final throes of responding to questions on our Development Application. This wasn't helped when our architect decided to cease trading in July, however we have found a new architect, and the previous architect has agreed to relinquish all intellectual property rights to the Club so our design effort is not overly affected. The biggest stumbling block has been the southern border retaining wall with our neighbour, House of Ullr, but we are very close to an agreement with them on the revised design and are hopeful we will get DA approval this year. At least the delay has given us more time to increase our capital holdings despite the two poor seasons; the sustained high interest rates have been in our favour and increased our interest returns.

The next AGM will be at Perisher Lodge on Saturday 17 May 2025. Please consider attending and actively participating in your club. We do need volunteers for each of the Lodge committees. I hope to see you there.

Regards, Ian

## Australia's Best Kept Secret is Perisher Valley in Summer



It's Australia's best-kept secret that summer in Kosciuszko National Park is magnificent. It is a sensational place to enjoy the summertime. If you're an outdoors person who likes adventure, this is the perfect place for you. Visiting Kosciuszko National Park is all about deciding which of your next adventures to do in the mountains.

Perisher Valley is famous in winter as one of Australia's best snow playgrounds. People flock to the valley to go skiing, snowboarding, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, or snow playing and that is super fun. However, many of those that know the valley well will tell you that they prefer summer to winter.

In summer, the valley is quite peaceful and easy to explore, with many things to do such as walking, hiking, biking, and alpine swimming. Or you can simply relax and take it easy in the wilderness.

Check out the Perisher Lodge update in this newsletter for more details.

# THE CBD WEB ONLINE SYSTEM

## Some things you might not know...

- Can't remember your member number and password? No problem, all you need is your registered email address and you can retrieve your member number and reset your password.
- In the Manage Account / View My Details section of your account, you can amend personal details such as address, phone number and email.
- Please don't use "defence.gov.au" emails or "admin@" email addresses, as this will often prevent our news emails from getting to you.
- The system allows a live view of the number of beds available in each lodge on each day.
- 73 clubs with 95 lodges use this system. The RAN Ski Club is one of the more complex clients because:
  - we book beds, not rooms; and
  - we have three lodges (most clubs are not so lucky).



## Test Your Knowledge

1. What were the annual subscription fees for a Navy Ski Club member in 1955?
2. When and where were the first Winter Olympic Games?
3. Why is the Navy Ski Club lodge at Mount Buller named the *Breathtaker Lodge*?
4. When did the Navy Ski Club acquire the Army Alpine lodge at Thredbo?
5. What is the highest mountain in Australian states and territories (not including Australian Antarctic Territory)?
6. How much longer is it to drive from Sydney to Mount Buller, compared with Sydney to Perisher Valley?

(Answers on the back page)





# Whole of Lodge bookings

## Excellent value!

‘Whole of Lodge’ bookings are available for all our lodges during the non-snow season.

Members may book to have exclusive use of a lodge for a period at special discount prices. The rates applicable for having exclusive use of a lodge during the non-winter period are published in the Club’s website. A booking of this type at the Mt Buller lodge can cost as little as \$13 per person per night. Excellent value!

‘Whole of Lodge’ bookings can only be made in the ‘green season’ and the set price applies regardless of the number of people or the mix of members and guests (up to the maximum number legally allowed to reside in the lodge).

At least one of the persons must be a member who is deemed competent by the respective Lodge VP to open/close and operate the lodge and they must ensure compliance with the rules for the use of our lodges. Gaining approval from the Lodge VP usually involves having previously stayed in the lodge as well as attending a work party where the member can be ‘shown the ropes.’



The Fleet Arm Association Australia enjoying a Whole of Lodge booking and dinner at the Mt Buller Lodge

‘Whole of Lodge’ bookings may not be available in popular periods (e.g. Christmas, Festival weekends, etc.) when other members may also wish to use the lodges. These booking periods may also be restricted to deconflict with work parties and maintenance activities at the lodges.

In the first instance, all enquiries for a ‘Whole of Lodge’ booking should be made to the Booking Officer. These bookings cannot be made online.

Booking Enquiries  
(02) 6295 6634  
Tuesday to Friday  
0930 – 1430

Membership snapshot (December 2024)	
Ordinary	349
Honorary Life	16
Associate	616
Family (partners & children)	784
TOTAL	1765

Ratio of ORDINARY-HONORARY / ASSOCIATE: 37.2% / 62.8%

# Membership update

## Getting the balance right

--- VP MMC (JEREMY BUTLER) ---

With membership numbers above maximum capacity at this time last year, 2024 saw a temporary restriction imposed on new applications, where the Club only accepted applications for Ordinary memberships and Associate memberships for former child members.

This restriction, which is in accordance with the Club’s strategic plans, has been most successful. It has restored the total membership numbers to a more manageable level as well as slowly increasing the balance of Ordinary to Associate members and thus maintaining the Navy flavour of our Club.

Since its inception, the Club has included Associate members as an integral and valued part of the make-up of the Club. It is just a matter of optimising the numbers and getting the balance right.

So, I’m pleased to report that all the above has recently resulted in the Club being able to once again accept several new Associate memberships. These were drawn from a short waitlist of applicants who had expressed interest in joining as Associate members. These new Associate members are a mix of civilian, RAAF and Army.

We have also had a steady flow of Ordinary members joining the Club in recent months.

Welcome aboard to all our new members!

The restriction on new Associate applications will be ‘turned on and off’ as required to maintain the correct membership balance and totals.

Notwithstanding the membership figures summarised in the above table, true membership totals have been notoriously difficult to pinpoint. This is because only a minority of members who leave the Club give notice. The majority who leave just simply don’t pay their annual subscription or are prompted to pay their overdue subscriptions when they try and make a booking, sometimes years later!

As you will appreciate, both the financial and membership issues associated with retaining ‘unfinancial members’ is not conducive to accurate planning. We are primarily a Club but must operate like a business to ensure our ongoing survival. Therefore, we are intending to address this issue by being much more stringent with members paying their invoices.

Therefore, going forward you will receive your subscription invoices early in January 2025 and have until the end of the month to pay. Final reminder notices will be sent out in February, and if invoices remain outstanding, members may be notified that their membership has been cancelled. This will enable the Club to have an accurate picture of the ‘membership’ prior to the opening of bookings in March and allow acceptance of further applications for membership as required.

**Subscription invoices will be emailed early January. To avoid disappointment, make sure you pay your subs by the due date 😊**

## Communications

Stay in touch with the latest Club news

The Navy Ski Club uses a variety of ways to keep you informed of Club business. These include our website, Facebook, newsletters and bulletins.

Like most organisations, email is our primary method of Club communications.

Gone are the days when a few of our dedicated members would hand address and stamp a mailout twice a year. It’s just not practical or efficient to do this anymore with over 1000 addresses in our system.

Therefore, it’s so important that you keep your email address up-to-date. We still get many ‘bounces’ from invalid addresses when we send out newsletters and bulletins.

Data also shows that about 75% of our news bulletins are opened, so many of you may be missing out on important Club business. Please check to ensure emails from **xxxx@ranskiclub.com.au** are not diverting to Trash or Spam folders.

We aim to send out a newsletter biannually (May and December) and periodic bulletins to keep you informed of important business.

Additionally, we use Facebook to advertise various events and activities.

Finally, the Club website should be your ‘go-to’ place for a wealth of Club information.

Suggestions and input from our members is always welcome.

- Email  
[info@ranskiclub.com.au](mailto:info@ranskiclub.com.au)
- Website  
<http://www.ranskiclub.com.au>
- Facebook  
<https://www.facebook.com/RanSkiClub>
- Newsletter editor: Jeremy Butler  
[vpmmc@ranskiclub.com.au](mailto:vpmmc@ranskiclub.com.au)



You can always call Liz if you have enquiries about membership and bookings 😊



17-19 JAN 2025

## The logo for the 30 Years of Threadbo Blues Festival. It features a large, stylized '30' in a light blue color. To the right of the '0' is the text 'YEARS OF' in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. Further right is the word 'Blues' in a large, stylized, light blue font with a thick outline. Above 'Blues' is the word 'Threadbo' in a white, cursive script. Below 'Blues' is the word 'FESTIVAL' in a large, white, sans-serif font. The entire logo is set against a dark blue background with a subtle, repeating pattern of the word 'Blues' in a lighter shade.

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MIGHTY REAPERS • NATHAN CAVALERI  
BONDI CIGARS • FOREDAY RIDERS • ROSHANI  
GENEVIEVE CHADWICK • HUSSY HICKS  
19TWENTY • THE TWO TONES • DARREN JACK  
JESSE REDWING BAND • FRANK SULTANA  
FIONA BOYES • TRIO LIZA OHLBACK • STEVE EDMONDS  
OWEN CAMPBELL TRIO • RORY ELLIS DUO  
JAMES SOUTHWELL • BEK JENSEN DUO • NECKO**

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Mt Buller      *BIKING*

Mt Buller is a beautiful place to ride and explore. It holds a place as one of Australia's special mountain biking destinations and is now even better following a major \$1.3m refurbishment program in recent years upping the ride experience and putting Buller firmly back on bucket lists for bike riders across the land. The vast network has been refined to smooth your roll and if it's been a while since you hit the trails at Buller, you'll be stoked at the upgrades.

Mt Buller Bike Park is home to several firsts in Aussie Mountain biking, including Australia’s first flow trail, Copperhead, and the Southern Hemisphere’s first IMBA Epic Trail, the infamous 46km descending cross-country trail, the Australian Alpine Epic.

**BLUE DIRT BLOWOUT 2025 FULL WEEKEND**

Known as the season closer to end all season closers. Now bigger, better and badder than ever before. Ride the awesome trails at Mt Buller and enjoy an amazing weekend loaded with tonnes of extras. 25-27 April 2025.

**Duration:** 3 Days

Mount Buller lodge ‘green season’ opening times:

6-8 Dec	(Santa's Run on 8 <sup>th</sup> Dec - 5k, 22k, 36k, 45k options)
26-30 Dec	Chillout after the Xmas festivities!
10-12 Jan	No MTB events on so all trails will be open to the public
24-27 Jan	Australia Day long weekend
14-16 Feb	Hut 2 Hut Race
7-10 Mar	Labour Day long weekend
18-21 Apr	Easter weekend (TO BE CONFIRMED)
25-27 Apr	Blue Dirt Blowout MTB weekend

*FYI: Mountain bike shuttles open on 30 November, and they will be open every weekend, and then daily between 27 December and 31 January.*

# Lodge updates

## Perisher Valley

--- VP PERISHER LODGE ---

(ANDREW SMITH)

*Perisher Lodge Open for Summer*

Looking for an affordable holiday location, away from the crowds and summer heat, then Perisher might be the place for you. Our trial open period 1 January to 2 February 2025 provides a great opportunity to try out the lodge in summer and experience the beauty of Australia’s high country.

What to do you say. Perisher is the ideal picturesque base for quiet relaxation and/or for all your outdoor activities including:

Hiking: There are numerous high-country hikes available including sections of the recently opened Snowies Alpine Walk comprising Charlottes Pass to Guthega (9km), Charlottes Pass to Perisher (12.9km) and the newest section opening this month Perisher to Lake Crackenback Resort (11.4km and 620m elevation descending elevation change). See the link below for more information:

<https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/snowies-alpine-walk-2024>

There are also many shorter walks in the valley and of course the iconic climb to Mt Kosciusko itself is popular.

Fishing: Try your hand at fishing (there is every chance you will come across a fly fisher at the lodge) with numerous creeks and rivers to choose from and with Lake Jindabyne and Eucumbene an easy drive.

Cycling: Road cyclists love the challenge of the local roads and if you have a mountain or gravel bike the path from Charlottes to Rawson Pass (foot of Mt Kosciusko) is in great condition and a must for your bucket list. Thredbo is not far for more serious Mountain Biking and the Thredbo Valley track is also an experience not to miss.

Bird watching, painting and drawing are also popular activities in the High Country and why not finish your day with a drink on our deck enjoying the sunset over Mt Perisher.

Remember, Perisher is quiet in summer with no shops open (isn’t that a plus), but Jindabyne is a short 25min drive with all your grocery, bakery, coffee, apparel and outdoor equipment needs catered for, not to mention Wild Brumby Distillery and Restaurant and Thredbo Village also close by.

Book via CBD Web or if last minute during the open period, contact the resident Lodge Manager.

*Other Perisher News*

Snow coverage was again disappointing this year, and fingers are crossed for better conditions in 2025. Your Perisher Committee has, however, been busy with a

complete refresh of linen for the lodge nearing completion (new pillows, doonas, doona covers etc), routine maintenance and cleaning undertaken, optimising Internet and WiFi access and progressing the

DA process for replacement of the south facing windows which have been subject to significant water ingress. The DA application also covers replacement of the fire doors which have suffered weather related deterioration.

## Mount Buller

--- VP MT BULLER LODGE ---

(ADRIAN HILLS)

Dear Buller Members,  
As the festive season approaches, I would like to extend my warmest wishes to each and every one of you. May your Christmas be filled with joy, laughter, and cherished moments with your loved ones. As we bid farewell to this year and welcome a new one, I hope that 2025 brings happiness, prosperity, good health, and most importantly snow!

In the spirit of the holidays, I ask you consider using the lodge during the summer period. Spending time at the lodge is a wonderful way to create lasting memories with family and friends. Whether you're looking for an escape from Melbourne’s baking heat or an adventurous getaway with biking, amazing walks and don’t forget the serenity, the lodge offers something for everyone.

A chat with Fiona Peden our summer bookings officer at [bullersummer@ranskiclub.com.au](mailto:bullersummer@ranskiclub.com.au) will enlighten you as to the options available.

Dates are listed elsewhere in the newsletter where we plan to have a manager in the lodge. During these periods you can book a bed online as you would during the winter.

The other option is to book exclusive use of the lodge for a significant birthday or large family/work gathering. You can book a whole of lodge weekend by emailing Fiona or calling Liz on (02) 62956634.

If you are unable to attend a work party, these are great ways to support your club and see a totally different Buller in all its summer glory.

On the subject of work parties, our November clean-up work party was a great success. Ably run by Trevor Buckley, a lot was achieved over the two days. As well as reducing the vegetation fuel load around the lodge, two new ovens were installed to replace aging ovens which were getting increasingly difficult to keep serviceable. The new ovens are pyrolytic so will be easier to keep clean.

We also got a head start on deep cleaning some of the cabins.





The 2024 RAN Ski Club Championships were held on 3rd August 2024 at Mount Buller.

An awards dinner took place in the evening to the theme of U.S.A. The lodge was visited by Superman, Wonder Woman and the Simpsons amongst others.

Congratulations to the 2024 Club Champions  
Callum Peden & Saffron Rich



Remaining work party dates for Buller are:

22nd-23rd February 2025 - Major maintenance and repair.

12th-13th April 2025 - Major maintenance and repair.

24th-25th May 2025 - Winter readiness checks. Deep cleaning. Minor repair and Routine Maintenance. The May work party is also our “Kid friendly” workparty - get them involved in their club!

If you can attend one of these dates, please let Greg Williams know at [bullerworkparties@ranskiclub.com.au](mailto:bullerworkparties@ranskiclub.com.au)

This summer also promises the arrival of NBN on the mountain. At long last we should have reliable and consistent internet on the mountain and throughout the lodge!

If you were on the mountain this season and were underwhelmed by the strip of snow down Bourke Street, you may like to sign the petition to increase the water availability to the mountain so we can make more snow during the winter.

Because of the current constraints on pumping, in 2024, the dam was empty at the start of the snow sports season, costing the state an estimated \$95m in economic impact and 532 FTE Jobs. The community needs the ability to fill the dam when environmental conditions provide sufficient run-off to both maintain environmental flows and protect the security of Mt Buller’s water supply. We are not asking for an increase in water allocations, merely the right to fill the dam when the water is flowing.

You can sign the petition here:  
<https://chng.it/CrkQxbZWBk>

Here’s hoping for a better snow season in 2025.

## Thredbo

--- VP THREDBO LODGE ---

(GREG THOMPSON)

Hi Thredbo enthusiasts, I won't worry about updating you on the lodge as this was covered by the Pres' report, so let's talk about what's going on at Thredbo and why you should book some time in your Thredbo lodge this summer. We have managers for the entire mountain bike season so please take advantage of that.

Thredbo is offering some fantastic savings on passes—be sure to check out the [website](#) for the latest deals!

There's no shortage of activities for everyone! For the active, there's mountain biking (of course), the new Alpine coaster (not just for the kids), amazing hiking trails, golf, disc golf, tennis, bungee trampolines, a skate park and even abseiling to test your nerves. For those looking to relax, have a go at trout fishing (no need to be a fly-fishing expert, you can use lures) or use the Thredbo Leisure Centre that has a gym, pool, waterslide, inflatables, sports hall, a bouldering wall, squash courts and trampolines!

If you haven't yet, download the Thredbo app for easy access to everything you need while you're there.

Don't miss the stunning Thredbo Valley Track, a must-for cycling enthusiasts now that it runs all the way to the Thredbo River Picnic Grounds. Find more information about the trail here:

- [Thredbo Valley Track – National Parks NSW](#)
- [Thredbo Valley Track - Thredbo](#)

See you on the trails!



# Navy Ski Club traditions (did you know?)

## Australian White Ensign

The Australian White Ensign (AWE), also known as the Australian naval ensign or the Royal Australian Navy ensign, is a naval flag used by ships of the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) from 1967 onwards. From the formation of the RAN until 1967, Australian warships used the British white ensign as their ensign. With Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War, it was deemed inappropriate to fight under the flag of a different nation, and so the AWE came into being.

Under normal circumstances, the AWE can only be flown by commissioned ships and shore establishments of the RAN.

However, special permission can be given for certain other entities to fly the AWE, such as the museum ship HMAS VAMPIRE (in Darling Harbour, Sydney) and the sail training ship YOUNG ENDEAVOUR (which is not a commissioned ship).

So it is with much pride that in 1982, the then Chief of Navy granted permission to *The R.A.N. Ski Club* to 'fly' the AWE at each of the Club's lodges.



With each change of Chief of Navy, the Club seeks ongoing permission to fly the ensign.

But with this permission comes much responsibility. Like the Australian National Flag, men and women of the RAN have served and fought and died under this flag. It demands respect.

In ships and naval shore establishments, the AWE is usually hoisted at the 'Colours' ceremony at precisely 08:00. It is then lowered in a further brief ceremony at the exact time of sunset each day.

Some of our conscientious Lodge Managers will observe this tradition. The AWE must never be left in the dark. It must never touch the ground. If damaged it must be repaired or replaced.

However, protocol allows for an official flag, like the AWE, to be left hoisted indefinitely, as long as the flag remains appropriately illuminated at night.

Thus, it is normal practice at our lodges during the winter that the AWE remains flying for the duration of the lodge winter occupancy, so long as it lit.

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## Membership: To be, or not to be, that is the question

There is a common misunderstanding regarding membership of The R.A.N. Ski Club. Here is some clarification:

When someone applies for membership and their application is approved, they pay a once only 'joining fee' which incorporates the 'guarantee' they must pay in accordance with the Club constitution. This person becomes the 'primary member' as we sometimes refer to it. This is the same for Ordinary and Associate members.

In accordance with the constitution, a member's spouse/partner and children (under the age of 21) may become 'family members'; however, the use of the term "members" in this case is a little misleading. Although "family members" can book into our lodges at members' rates, they are not a Club member in the same sense as the primary member.

That is why when a child member is turning 21 years old, they must join as a 'primary' member in their own right. Likewise, if a spouse/partner is no longer listed as a family member, they must 'join' to continue membership of the Club.



# Booking Rules & Pricing

## New cheaper midweek Rates

--- VP MMC (JEREMY BUTLER) ---

### Accommodation Rates

A lot of effort goes into setting accommodation pricing for the coming year. As the President outlined at the top of this newsletter, a number of principles are applied.

Amongst other things, the Board takes into account feedback from members and data on booking patterns at all of our lodges.

For 2025, this has resulted in significant midweek discounts at the Mt Buller lodge, making a week-long or midweek stay at Mt Buller a very affordable option, especially for families.

There is even more flexibility than before, as after the start of the season, non-standard bookings can be made, meaning any combination of weekdays can be booked. Why not add some days to your weekend and stay for three or four or five days!

2025 Rates & Charges are included in this newsletter and will soon be promulgated on the website.

### Online Bed Availability

Due to our need to closely manage bed allocations to take account of the gender and age mix of members and guests, we cannot allow all beds to be available for online bookings. We must keep a certain number available for the Booking Officer to manage these issues. At times it is not possible to use all beds in the lodges.

This means that at some busy periods, Online Bookings will show no beds available when some might be. In these circumstances, members should contact the Booking Officer by phone to check whether individual bookings can be taken, and to register interest in being placed on a waiting list in case of cancellations.

Of course, you can always phone the lodge manager to check if any last-minute beds are available. Conversely, offline group bookings may suddenly take up a lot of beds, so don't delay an intended booking because it looks like there are still lots of beds available!

### Booking Changes

Members are not to transfer bookings between themselves. Please remember that all transfers of bookings from one member to another for the same period must be handled by the Club's Booking Officer.

### Priority Bookings

Please note that only one priority Booking can be requested per year per member.

At the moment, these bookings are handled offline as it is not possible to easily identify who has work-party credits through the membership database.

### Guest Bookings

Guests can only stay at our lodges as part of a booking made by a financial Member. The host member must be present at the Lodge for the duration of the booking, meaning that if the host member is unable to stay or needs to depart prior to the end of the booking, the guests are unable to remain at the lodge.

Payment for a member's guest booking must be made by the host member. This also applies to any amendments, cancellations or requests for refunds made to the booking.

### Children

Family Members 18 years and over may stay in the lodges without their related Ordinary or Associate Member. Family Members under 18 years must be accompanied by an adult member (i.e. a member aged 18 or over).

There are now no restrictions on accommodation of children at our lodges; however, you are reminded that parents are responsible for the behaviour, safety and supervision of the children in their charge at all times.

Children pay the same rates as adults. This is due to the fact that all our lodges are governed by strict limits on the number of persons that can be accommodated on any one night. So, because children, no matter how little, effectively take up a bed allocation, there is no special rate and they are classed as either a member or a guest, with the applicable member or guest nightly rate being charged.

The Buller lodge provides 'porta-cots' and 'hi-chairs' for our little folk. Check with the lodge manager prior to arrival.

### Cancellations & Refunds

We continue to get large numbers of applications for refunds. Two poor snow seasons have demonstrated a correlation between poor snow conditions and members becoming sick or injured prior to their planned holiday!

The conditions for full refunds (more than 42 days' notice) and partial [50%] refunds (14 to 42 days' notice) are clearly articulated in our By-Laws and on the Accommodation Rates Form on our website.

Remember that there are no refunds for cancellations with less than 14 days' notice unless for exceptional circumstances (see below).

In exceptional circumstances, the Board of Directors may approve a full refund for a cancelled booking. Exceptional circumstances are those where the reasons for the cancellation could not have been foreseen and/or are outside the member's control. Changes in work and family commitments are not considered exceptional circumstances. Members are encouraged to consider travel insurance to protect themselves against these types of events.

Whether you are seeking an 'exceptional circumstances' refund or not, members are encouraged, as a matter of courtesy, to contact the respective Lodge Manager if plans change at the last minute.

**IMPORTANT: Bookings must be cancelled with the Booking Officer prior to submitting a Request for Refund application.**

# CLASSIFIEDS

**R.A.N. SKI CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**MT BULLER**

**SATURDAY 2nd AUGUST 2025**

*X-country  
Giant Slalom (skiers and snowboarders)  
All ages and abilities welcome  
Celebration and fancy-dress Awards dinner  
2025 theme; “Disco!”*

**Save the Date**

**R.A.N. SKI CLUB AGM**

**PERISHER LODGE**

**SATURDAY 17<sup>th</sup> MAY 2025**

Work parties

Work parties generally commence early on a Saturday morning and conclude Sunday afternoon, although individual lodge work party leaders will specify particular timings to attendees as required.

Each of the lodges has work parties scheduled in 2025, before the start of the winter season.

See the website for details and registering your interest to attend a work party.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
(Extract from Clause 19 in The RAN Ski Club constitution)

**“If, six (6) weeks after the due date for an Annual Subscription Fee, a Member has failed to pay the Annual Subscription Fee, the Directors may declare that person’s membership forfeited and must inform the Member in writing accordingly.”**

Quiz Answers:

1. One pound! (About \$40 in today’s money)
2. The first Winter Olympic games were held in Chamonix, France in 1924.
3. It’s located on a part of Mount Buller called ‘Breathtaker Point.’ (The view takes your breath away!)
4. April 2000.
5. Mawson Peak (Heard Island), 2745m / 9006 feet high.
6. An easy 3 hours!

(based on a mid-sized family sedan, mostly adhering to the published speed limits, but excludes a lunch stop in Glenrowan, Ned Kelly country, and a stop at il salotto in Mansfield for coffee & cake)

**Best coffee in Victoria is on the way to Mount Buller!**

**il salotto.**

ITALIAN KITCHEN & CAFFÈ

Navy Ski Club members Mike Rich and Kath Bier run a fantastic little café in Mansfield. Open every day except Tuesdays and powder days.

Shop 3, 69 High Street, Mansfield VIC

[www.ilsalotto.com.au](http://www.ilsalotto.com.au)



2025 FEES & ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Membership type	Joining Fee (one-off fee)	Annual Subscription
Single Member	\$ 395	\$181
Over 65	\$ 395	\$ 67
Family Membership (per person) <i>Member, spouse &amp; one child</i>	\$ 395	\$ 181 each
Family CAP Membership <i>Member, spouse &amp; two or more children</i>	\$ 395	\$ 600
Former Child Member <i>Joining in the year they turn 21years old</i>	\$ 175	\$ 181
Other Charges	Administration Fee	Annual Subscription
Temporary Membership*  <i>For visiting foreign military personnel and for a non-member to use the lodges (with guests) for a one-off stay only. (This does not constitute joining the Club)</i>  <i>* Approval by RANSC Board</i>	\$50	N/A
Overseas Temporary Hold  <i>Members being deployed overseas may apply to put their financial membership on temporary hold for the period of their deployment. This status removes access to lodges during the period.</i>	N/A	\$51
Buller locker (family size)	N/A	\$57
Buller locker (large single)	N/A	\$34
Buller locker (regular)	N/A	\$23
Perisher stowage	N/A	\$25

2025 ACCOMMODATION RATES

PERISHER VALLEY				Member rate	Guest rate
Summer 24/25		to	Thu 05 Jun 25	\$43	\$59 (see Note 1)
Low Season	Fri 06 Jun 25	to	Thu 19 Jun 25	\$55	\$94
High Season	Fri 20 Jun 25	to	Sat 06 Sep 25	\$103	\$157
Low Season	Sun 07 Sep 25	to	Mon 06 Oct 25	\$55	\$94
Summer 25/26	Tues 07 Oct 25	to	Thu 04 Jun 26	\$49	\$68 (see Note 1)
THREDBO				Member rate	Guest rate
Summer 24/25		to	Thu 05 Jun 25	\$43	\$59 (see Note 1)
Low Season	Fri 06 Jun 25	to	Thu 19 Jun 25	\$53	\$90
High Season	Fri 20 Jun 25	to	Sat 06 Sep 25	\$99	\$151
Low Season	Sun 07 Sep 25	to	Mon 06 Oct 25	\$53	\$90
Summer 25/26	Tues 07 Oct 25	to	Thu 04 Jun 26	\$48	\$65 (see Note 1)
MOUNT BULLER				Member rate	Guest rate
Summer 24/25		to	Thu 05 Jun 25	\$43	\$59 (see Note 1)
Low Season (weekend)	Fri 06 Jun 25	to	Sat 14 Jun 25	\$53	\$90
Low Season (midweek)	Sun 08 Jun 25	to	Thu 19 Jun 25	\$43	\$59
High Season (weekend)	Fri 20 Jun 25	to	Sat 06 Sep 25	\$99	\$151
High Season (midweek)	Sun 22 Jun 25	to	Thu 04 Sep 25	\$60	\$95
Low Season (weekend)	Fri 12 Sep 25	to	Sat 04 Oct 25	\$53	\$90
Low Season (midweek)	Sun 07 Sep 25	to	Thu 02 Oct 25	\$43	\$59
Summer 25/26	Mon 06 Oct 25	to	Thu 04 Jun 26	\$48	\$65 (see Note 1)

Standard Booking Periods:	5-day 7-day Weekend	Sunday PM – Friday AM Sunday PM – Sunday AM or Friday PM – Friday AM Friday PM – Sunday AM
Non-Standard Booking Periods:	May be available once the snow season has commenced; however, Friday and Saturday nights must always be booked together.	

Whole of Lodge Bookings: (During the non-snow season)	Thredbo Perisher Buller	\$850 per night (inclusive of resident on-site Lodge Manager) \$400 per night (see Note 2) \$800 per night (see Note 2)
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Cancellation Policy:	
Cancel with more than 42 days’ notice – Full refund.	Contact Booking Officer (see Note 3)
Cancel with 14 to 42 days’ notice – 50% refund.	Contact Booking Officer (see Note 3)
Cancel with less than 14 days’ notice – No refund.	Contact Booking Officer

Booking Enquiries:	Contact Booking Officer between 0930 and 1430, Tuesday to Friday
	Telephone: 02 6295 6634
	Facsimile: 02 6189 2271

- Notes:
- 1. Non-winter bookings are subject to a lodge manager being available during the booking period.
  - 2. For ‘Whole of Lodge’ bookings, either the Member making the booking, or a member in the group must be trained/qualified in Lodge Opening/Closing procedures and must be in situ for the duration of the booking.
  - 3. Bookings must be cancelled with Booking Officer prior to submitting Request for Refund application (available at our website under Members Bookings/Refund Request Form).