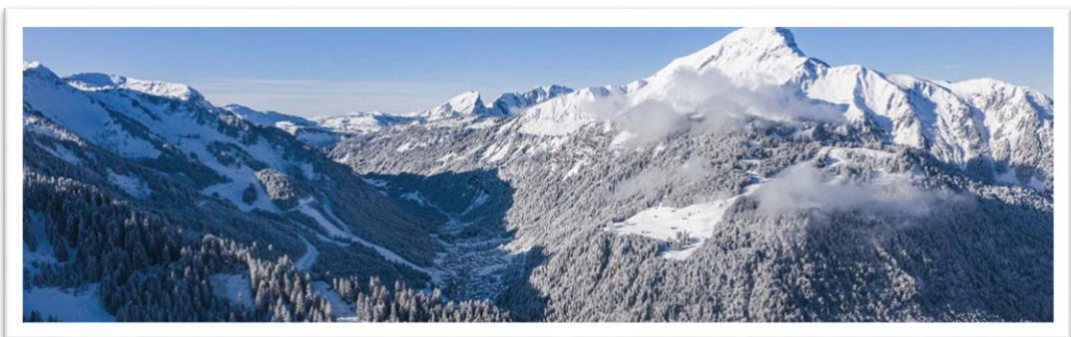




April 2025 NEWSLETTER



Chatel, (Portes du Soliel), France

President's Intro

--- IAN MIDDLETON ---

Fellow members,

Welcome to your Club's newsletter for April 2025. We aim to produce two newsletters each year, one before Christmas wrapping up last season, and this one prior to the next season starting.

The past two years have seen some of the worst snow levels in decades. By mid to late August last year, most resorts were down to minimal snow levels with most closing for the season a month before the usual October long weekend. This has had an effect on our earnings for 2024, which we will discuss at the upcoming AGM on Saturday 17 May. I encourage you to either attend the AGM at Perisher lodge in person or join us online from 3pm on the day. Details will be published shortly for the virtual attendance details and if you want to attend in person please give our Booking Officer Liz a call. In the meantime, let's all keep everything crossed for a much better season in 2025.

Bookings opened for winter in March as usual through our online platform or by calling our Booking Officer. So far, the response has been disappointing and we still have lots of vacancies at all three lodges, including school holidays. I suspect this has been due to the poor snow we have had in past seasons and the uncertainty about our economy. Skiing for a family is expensive and your Board is well aware of that. At our price setting session last November, we kept our accommodation rate rises in line with our principles-based approach I described in the

Christmas newsletter (and now reflected in our by-laws). Our high season mid-week rate for members at Buller this season is \$60 a night, dropping to \$43 a night in low season, which is as low as I can remember. These prices are designed to "persuade" members to try Buller out rather than pay 40% more to stay at Perisher or Thredbo; for Sydney-siders Buller is just another two to three hours drive further than the Snowy Mountains' lodges.

The Ski Resorts are also feeling the economic pinch and we have already seen Thredbo Resort offering a significant deal on seasons passes compared to previous years. Here's hoping all resorts keep their daily pass rates low as well!

Good news...it looks like Mt Perisher will finally have their new lift operational for the upcoming season; no more horrible slow jerky and old two seaters and long ski tows!

Our Thredbo Lodge redevelopment effort has continued to progress and we are closer now to final development application approval than we were this time last year. Unfortunately, the cost of building has continued to rise and our last two year's poor revenue results means we can't start this year; we need to raise more money. The Board will discuss this in more detail at the upcoming AGM.

See you at the AGM.

From the Editor

Like many of you, I ventured to the northern hemisphere in recent months, in search of the good snow that has eluded us in Australia the past couple of winters. By all accounts, Europe and North America have enjoyed a generally good snow season, with above average falls in many parts, so fingers crossed this translates into a snowy winter this year for us down under.

From time to time, many world-class athletes have stayed at our lodges. A young lady by the name of Charlotte Wilson recently won gold in a World Cup dual moguls event in Livigno, Italy. Just a few years back, Charlotte stayed at our Buller lodge while she was training and competing in the Australian Interschools events. Glad we could play a very small part in helping her sporting career.

Email scams and other malicious emails are becoming an everyday annoyance. Unfortunately, many junk-mail filters also sift out important emails such as those from the Club. Please regularly check your junk/spam email folder to ensure you don't miss out on anything important!

Don't forget some key dates in the RAN Ski Club social calendar; namely the AGM at Perisher on 17th May and the Club Championships at Buller on 2nd August.

STOP PRESS:

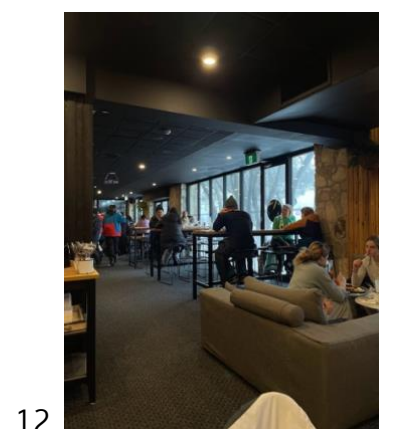
If you put your name down to attend a work party, please turn up! Or give plenty of notice if you can no longer make it.

We get a number of 'no shows' for work parties from members who have said that they will be attending. Particularly in our smaller lodge, Perisher, this deprives others of the opportunity to participate in a work party.

Know your alpine pubs!

Test your knowledge and see if you can name all these Australian alpine watering holes. There are a couple of obscure photos so it's not too easy. Answers page 5.

(If you haven't been to all of them on numerous occasions, you need to get out more – Ed.)



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 avoid using "defence.gov.au" emails or "admin@" email addresses, as this will often prevent our Club 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 was the highest mountain before Mount Everest was discovered?
2. What's the difference between God and a ski instructor?
3. An RAN Ski Club member can log in to the online booking system, even if they can't remember their own name! True or False?
4. How many beds are there in the Club's Mount Buller lodge?
5. What is the difference between a snowboarder and a snowboard instructor?
6. How do mountains hear so well?

(Answers on the back page)



Membership snapshot (March 2025)	
Ordinary	352
Honorary Life	15
Associate	626
Family (partners & children)	764
TOTAL	1757

Ratio of ORDINARY-HONORARY / ASSOCIATE: 36% / 64%

Membership update

Getting the balance right

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

In accordance with the Club’s strategic plans, new Associate memberships have continued to be limited from time to time and this is working to restore a better membership balance.

Total membership numbers are now at a much more manageable level and currently below maximum capacity.

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.

As reported in the last newsletter, the Club accepted a number of Associate memberships in December 2024. These were drawn from a short waitlist of applicants who had expressed interest in joining as Associate members.

Once again, an invitation has gone out in March 2025 inviting another group of interested parties to submit an application for Associate membership. These are from a mix of Army, RAAF and civilian applicants.

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

Welcome aboard to all our new members!

The Associate membership ‘waitlist’ will continue and 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.

Members will receive subscription invoices early in January and have until the end of the month to pay. Final reminder notices will be sent out in February and March, 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.

The **vpmmc@**, **info@**, **membership@** email addresses and website enquiry form all come to me, so no need to send multiple about one issue/request. 😊

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 (April 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

Website

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

Facebook

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

Newsletter editor: Jeremy Butler

vpmmc@ranskiclub.com.au

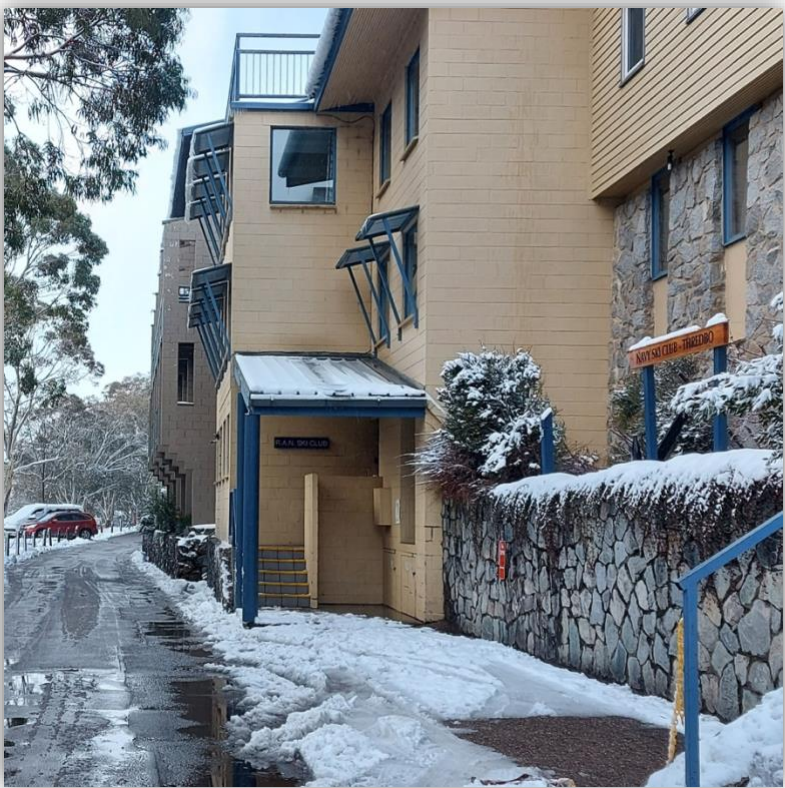


You can always call Liz if you have enquiries about membership and bookings 😊

One man’s loss is another man’s gain ...

On 26 May 1990, the then Chairman of the Army Alpine Lodge (Thredbo), Brigadier A.S.DHAGE, wrote the following for inclusion in the *Army News* publication.

“At the outset, let me make it clear that the Board of Directors shares the disappointment over the sale of the Army Alpine Ski Lodge.



The facility was built by Army and the current Board of Directors have worked very hard for some years to try and keep the facility in Army hands.

This issue has been the subject of a great deal of debate and discussion at Annual General Meetings which are open to all members of the Army.

As advised by a notice in a previous issue of *Army*, several years ago, a previous administration of the AAL, incurred a large level of mortgage debt.

A membership drive did not achieve its target, and low occupancy rates during recent ski seasons and at other times of the year have required a restructuring of that debt.

The only feasible way to achieve the restructure was a sale of the asset to Army Amenities, or to the RAN Ski Club which has shown an interest in purchase for some time.

Army Amenities have declined the offer of sale, and the offer has passed to, and been accepted by, the RAN Ski Club.”

... and as they say, the rest is history.

Answers from Page 2 Quiz: 1. The Hunt Club, Merrijig on the way to Mt Buller 2. The House of Ullr, Thredbo 3. The Man from Snowy River, Perisher 4. Herbie’s Bar, pension Grimus, Mt Buller 5. Black Sallees, Thredbo 6. Sundeck Hotel, Perisher 7. Koflers Hutte, Mt Buller 8. Lake Jindabyne Hotel 9. RAN Ski Club, Mt Buller 10. The Schuss Bar, Thredbo 11. The Pub Family Food Court, Perisher 12. The Bird Cage, Mt Buller

Helmets - no longer a matter of choice*

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

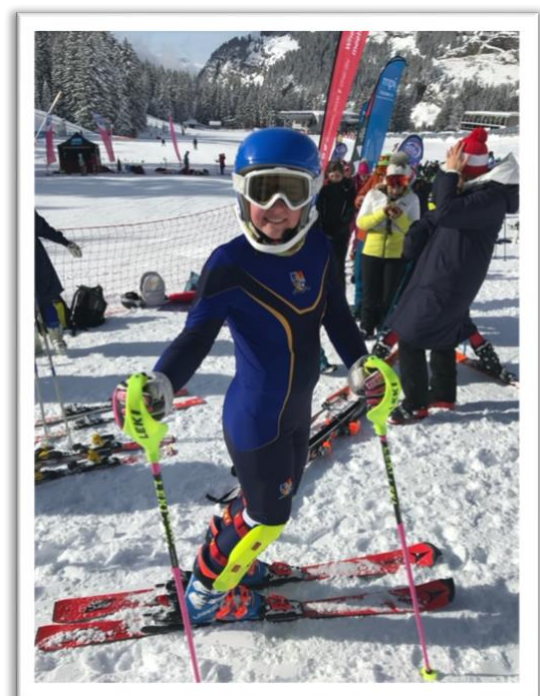
Helmet usage in snowsports has grown significantly over the last two decades. The overall percentage of skiers and snowboarders wearing helmets has increased from approximately 25% in the early part of the century to over 90% in the 2024 season. Although the greater number of people wearing helmets hasn't decreased how frequently head injuries happen, it has lessened the severity of such injuries.

This is true especially for skull fractures and subdural hematomas or bruising and bleeding inside the skull. According to a US study in 2011, in snowsports accidents, 5% of helmet wearers suffered skull fractures, as opposed to nearly 37% for those not wearing helmets. Helmet use additionally influenced the severity of the fracture type, with non-helmeted riders experiencing a more dangerous, depressed skull fracture at rates about 60% higher than those who wore helmets.

Helmet design has improved over the years and helmets now incorporate important features such as the patented 'Mips' system. MIPS stands for "Multi-directional Impact Protection System." It incorporates a low-friction layer inside the helmet, allowing the helmet to slide slightly relative to the head during an impact. This sliding action helps to redirect rotational forces that can cause concussions and other brain injuries, especially from angled impacts. Look for the 'yellow dot' when you buy your helmet.

Although helmets can't stop accidents from happening, they add to overall safety and cut down on the incidence of serious head injuries. They take nothing away from your appearance or your performance and don't compromise vision or reaction time. When you weigh up the evidence, there's really no reason to take the chance of suffering a head trauma, particularly when quality ski helmets are so widely available on the market these days.

Helmets should no longer be a matter of choice.



Above: A young ☺ Navy slalom skier of the 1990s, compared to a young slalom skier of today. Note the difference in personal protective equipment! Any resemblance to the author is purely coincidental ☺

*This article was not written by a medical or legal professional. It is based solely on the author's personal experience and information gleaned from a number of online sources including:

- March 2011 issue of *Journal of Neurosurgery: Pediatrics*, entitled *Helmet Use Reduces Skull Fractures in Skiers and Snowboarders Admitted to the Hospital*
- *National Ski Areas Association (USA)*
- *Canadian Ski Council*

Lodge updates

Perisher Valley

--- VP PERISHER LODGE ---

(ANDREW SMITH)

Summer Bookings

The trial opening of the Perisher Lodge in Summer during the January school holiday period indicated sufficient interest to continue the practise in 2026. Consequently, the Lodge will be open for either Whole of Lodge or individual Bed bookings from 2 Jan 26 – 15 Feb 26. Whole of Lodge Bookings will also continue to remain available throughout the summer period. Bikes, Hiking Gear, Fishing Equipment or just a good book is all you need to enjoy the stunning Snowy high country. So don't miss out - plan your 2026 summer now and put a placeholder in your diary. Summer (Green Season) Bookings can be made after the October long weekend.

For safety and operational reasons members wishing to make summer whole of lodge bookings must complete a Summer Manager induction. Induction sessions are scheduled in conjunction with Work Parties and conducted by VPP or his delegate. If you are interested in completing an induction session, please indicate to the Work Party Coordinator when you register for a Work Party.

Work Parties

Your Perisher Committee and Work Party volunteers have continued their excellent work maintaining the Lodge and its administration. Focus areas in 2025 have included:

- South Facing Windows and Fire Doors: A Development Application amendment was required for this work and was lodged in December 2025. Funds have been allocated, and the work will be initiated as soon as planning approval is received. It is hoped the replacement windows and doors will be installed before the end of the year. Together with recapping of the stone façade it is expected this will address the water ingress issues the lodge has faced for many years.
- Cabin 13: Cabin 13 (aka Garbage Hut) has been constructed and installed (see photo)



- Lodge mobile phone reception: Options for a 4G/5G repeater are being investigated to improve internal

mobile signal strength in the lodge for the Manager and members.

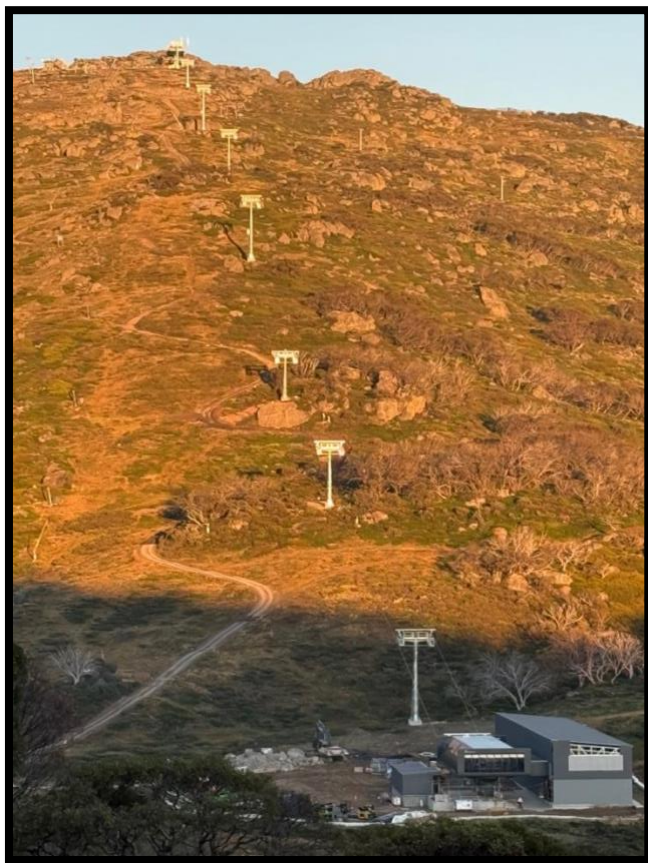
- Electrical Work. Resolving a number of issues, particularly fans and lighting in cabin bathrooms (ongoing).
- Numerous routine maintenance tasks have been completed, and the lodge is in excellent condition overall.



Other Perisher News

Progress on the new Perisher 6 Chair is progressing at pace and expected to be operational this season providing greater capacity, speed and wind tolerance. Although not evident from the photo, cables have been strung.

The photo below is a view of Mount Perisher from our Lodge. You have a box seat when you are here.



Thredbo

--- VP THREDBO LODGE ---

(GREG THOMPSON)

Summer Season

The 2024/2025 summer season in Thredbo, commenced mid-November last year and will conclude at the end of April. Bookings at the lodge were down compared to last summer, so please look at supporting the lodge for next summer. This summer at Thredbo saw the introduction of several new activities and events, enhancing the resort's appeal to visitors.

Mountain Biking Enhancements

Thredbo expanded its mountain biking offerings by introducing the 'Gravity Pass,' providing unlimited lift access to the Thredbo Mountain Bike Park throughout the season. In addition to lift access, the pass included benefits such as access to the Thredbo Leisure Centre and discounts on food, beverages and retail items. The resort also upgraded its rental fleet to feature premium Norco Sight C2 bikes, catering to both novice and experienced riders.

Hiking and Night-Time Adventures

Building on the popularity of guided hikes, Thredbo reintroduced night-time hiking experiences, including sunset, new moon and full moon hikes, offering unique perspectives of the alpine environment. The Dead Horse Gap Hike also gained attention for its diverse landscapes, traversing alpine regions and riverbanks.

Events and Festivals

The season featured a variety of events, such as the Cannonball Mountain Bike Festival, which attracted riders nationwide. The Snowies Beer, Food & Wine Festival showcased regional culinary delights, enhancing Thredbo's reputation as a year-round destination. Overall, the 2024/2025 summer season in Thredbo was marked by significant enhancements in outdoor activities and events, reinforcing the resort's status as a premier destination for summer alpine adventures. On the lodge front, we are really in 'maintenance only' mode for the next couple of years as we move towards the submission of the Development Application for the Thredbo lodge redevelopment.

Work Parties

Work parties have been a little light on for volunteers this summer and we could do with some more to assist with the final summer work party in May - details on the website. Please let Damian know if you can help.

And finally, please plan your winter season now and book early to support your club.

Looking forward to some better snow this year!

Mount Buller

--- VP MT BULLER LODGE ---

(ADRIAN HILLS)

Summer Bookings

Despite some exceptional work by Fiona Peden to have the lodge open and managed during holiday periods over the summer and advertising of the same by Jeremy Butler, the summer utilisation of the lodge remains low. Whilst we are experiencing disappointing ski seasons, it is more important than ever to support the club during the summer by booking a short staycation at the lodge. We did have some whole of lodge bookings including the Navy Cadets weekend which is becoming an annual fixture which is encouraging. If you would like to use the lodge for an upcoming family event, or want to help by booking in for one of our managed weekends, get in contact with Fiona BullerSummer@RANSkiClub.com.au

Work Parties

We have had a couple of very busy and productive work parties since the end of last ski season. First was the November clean up weekend designed to reduce the fuel load on the mountain in preparation for the summer. A hardy band of members pitched in get the vegetation around the lodge under control, as well as start on the deep cleaning of the interior of the lodge. The work party was run by Trevor Buckley, and a lot was achieved. Additionally, two new Pyrolytic ovens were installed to replace some of our ageing and increasingly temperamental standard ovens.



In February we had our second work party, this time run by Greg Williams. Again, a good turnout of members with a long job list to attend to. I brought up my scaffolding which allowed Gianpaul Perpoli to work his magic repointing the rock wall at the front of the Lodge. It is looking great, but will take a few work parties to complete. Once finished it should be good for another 30 years. The rear fire exit stairs got some love, with rust removed and a new coat of paint. With two builders on hand, some of the issues raised in the recent structural audit were rectified. With two more work parties before the winter season, the lodge is on track to be in good shape for what we all hope will be a good snow season.

I trust you are doing your snow dances in preparation for a bumper season this winter. Keep an eye out for cheap midweek beds on sale now for season 2025!

Thredbo Lodge Redevelopment Plans

--- VP THREDBO LODGE ---

(GREG THOMPSON)

As many members would know, the RAN Ski Club lodged a redevelopment application for the for Thredbo lodge some time back – January 2023. This is part of the club’s ongoing mission to provide “an attractive, affordable and friendly environment, [the club] will serve the alpine leisure needs of its members and their guests.” To achieve this mission, the club looks to upgrade each lodge every 30 years (i.e. one lodge every decade). It’s now Thredbo’s ‘turn’.

Since submitting the re-development application (DA) to the NSW Department of Planning & Environment (DPE) we have encountered a number of issues which have taken some time to resolve, slowing the progress of the application. Each issue has been addressed in a highly professional and remarkably patient manner by Phil Gregory and the redevelopment committee. The club’s Board expresses its profound thanks to Phil and his team for their work on this project. The main issues addressed have been:

1. The DPE requested more detailed information on a number if elements in the development proposal – most of these would normally be addressed later in the process (i.e. Construction Certificate) but the DPE is very sensitive about developments in Thredbo. So, it has been work that we would have had to do anyway, just earlier in the process. These clarifications included:

a. Geotechnical: the retaining on the western boundary adjacent the House of Ullr required a very detailed engineering solution that has only recently been resolved to a level that will satisfy both the DPE and the House of Ullr.

b. Building Code of Australia (BCA) accessibility: significant redesign was required due to changing BCA accessibility requirements that were not in force when the DA was developed.

c. Statement of Environmental Effects (SEE): the original SEE was prepared in June 2021 and needed updating to reflect compliance with later legislation such as the Snowy Mountains Special Activation Precinct provisions for Thredbo, adopted in December 2022.

2. During the process of updating the DA, our original architect retired which forced the procurement the services of an alternate architect. Sourcing architects that understand the complex requirements of building in alpine areas was not easy, however Phil has managed to find a firm in Canberra that has made a tremendous impact since commencing and has revitalised our DA process.

It is worthwhile to mention that the club started the Thredbo lodge redevelopment project in 2017. There were a number of potential scenarios to work through regarding benefits and costs before deciding on the initial design. We then engaged Goaland Constructions as our project manager (the Perisher lodge builder), Maco Project Designs (MPD) as the architect and Grounded Engineering for structural design work. Since that time, we’ve had to contend with the nature of a difficult site, changing government legislation, guidelines

and regulations, COVID and requiring to change both the project manager (to Grounded) and the architect (to SQC Group). However, we are now very close to achieving our goal of having a solid lodge reconstruction plan approved and ready to implement when the club is ready to proceed.

In summary, the redevelopment calls for the demolition and rebuild of the accommodation wing of the lodge and a considerable refurbishment of the existing communal areas. The Board will release the detailed plans once they are finalised for submission and these will be available for members perusal displayed in the Thredbo lodge prior to the AGM this year. However, in the interim, this is an image of how the external will look.



More detailed plans to follow in the next couple of months. If you have any questions, please email Greg Thompson, VP Thredbo at: vpthredbo@ranskiclub.com.au

Once again, a huge thank you to Phil Gregory for his dedication to seeing the DA through to this point.

Treasurer’s Corner \$\$\$\$\$\$\$

(SEAN NOBLE)

I confess I have turned on my heater here in Canberra before Anzac Day because it is cold. We have already had our 1st zero temperature overnight, so I am hoping this bodes well for winter. May the snow gods puke and dump heaps on us this year.

Couple of treasurer type updates: First we have negotiated a cheaper rate with our payment provider EWay and now only pay 1.4% This compares favourably to other providers who charge more.

The other update is responding to a query, 'Why can't I pay direct or in cash and avoid this fee?' The answer is simple; cash and/or direct debit costs money and we are trying our best to reduce costs. Cash needs to be counted, stored, banked, accounted for and referenced to a booking and membership. Similarly direct debit needs to be accounted, reconciled, and allocated to a booking and membership. Each one of these steps costs labour and we are a volunteer organisation with no employees. Payment through EWay and CBD booking system is linked, seamless, real time, error and risk (cash) free. All the required checks and balances are automated.

Navy Ski Club traditions (did you know?)

Naval Slang

Naval slang has been used since the formation of the Royal Australian Navy (RAN), much of it taken from the Royal Navy.

Interestingly, over the years, hundreds of naval words, terms and expressions have found their way into everyday language. Some of these include ‘the cat is out of the bag’, ‘above board’, ‘a long shot’ and ‘over a barrel’.

The term ‘slush fund’ was also originally a nautical term. The slush was the fat or grease skimmed from the top of the cauldron when boiling salted meat. Ships’ officers would sell the fat to tallow makers and the proceeds kept as a ‘slush’ fund for small purchases for the ship’s company.

The following is a brief collection of terms and sayings that may be heard in most RAN ships or establishments, and you may even hear them in our lodges too!

Adrift: *absent or late for a muster*

All nighters in: *all night in one’s bed/a night without going on watch*

Aloft: *anything above the main deck of the ship*

Alongside: *against the side of the ship, such as the wharf*

Amidships: *the centre part of a ship or boat*

As you were: *a warning to return to your original position*

Avast: *stop what you are doing*

Bandy: *a musician*

Banyan: *a beach barbecue*

Birdie: *a member of the aviation branch*

Black cat: *a person with more impressive stories than you*

Bravo zulu: *well done (BZ)*

Brew: *a coffee or tea*

Buzz: *a rumour*

Common dog: *common sense*

Civvies: *civilian clothing or personnel*

Deck head: *the roof or ceiling*

Dit: *a story/book/movie*

Double duffer: *a member of ships’ company who consumes two servings of dessert*

Duff: *dessert*

Fang bosun: *dentist*

Freshers: *fresh water*

Gammas: *sunlight*

Goffer: *a soft drink*

Gongs: *medals*

Greenie: *an electrical trade sailor*

Half a dog watch: *a short amount of time*

Heads: *toilets*

Irish pennant: *a loose end of material hanging off a uniform*

Jack/Jack Tar: *a sailor*

Maccas: *snacks or confectionery*

Pay off: *discharge from the Navy*

Rack: *bed*

Rocky: *Naval Reserve member*

Scran: *food or a meal served at sea*

Skulk/skulking: *the act of knowingly avoiding work*

Stoker: *a marine technician—the term is derived from the days when ships were coal burners whose furnaces required frequent stoking.*

Warm the bell: *to prepare for an early departure or end of a watch*

(Source: <https://www.navy.gov.au/about-navy/history/customs-and-traditions/naval-slang>)

2025 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.

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 ‘mid-week’ stay at Mt Buller a very affordable option, especially for families.

There is also even more flexibility than before, as after the start of the season, from 10th June 2025, 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!

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).

Booking Enquiries

(02) 6295 6634

Tuesday to Friday

0930 – 1430

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 17th 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. Mount Everest.
2. God doesn’t tell you they are a ski instructor.
3. True. All you need is your registered email address and you can retrieve your member number and reset your password (and see your name!).
4. Sixty four (64). A couple of cabins have fold down bunk beds which allow flexibility in how many persons occupy a cabin. However, with a manager in residence, only 61 beds can be occupied due to the lease permit of a maximum of 62 people sleeping in the lodge at any one time.
5. Approximately one day on snow.
6. It’s all thanks to mountaineers 😊

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 7am – 4.30pm daily, except Mondays, Tuesdays and powder days.

Shop 3, 69 High Street, Mansfield VIC

www.ilsalotto.com.au