

CHRISTIE

BRINDABELLA SKI CLUB | SUMMER 2021 | ISSUE 61.4

Photo: Julia Price

Dead Horse Gap Track &
Thredbo River Walk



- ←  Dead Horse Gap Track 4km, 2hrs
- ←  Thredbo Top Station 4km, 2hrs
- Thredbo River Walk 4km, 2hrs  →
- Thredbo Village 4km, 2hrs  →

CONTENTS

Photo: Julia Price

- | | |
|--|---|
| 3. President's Report | 5. Notice of Annual General Meeting 2022 |
| 6. Snow Sports 2022 | 7. Summer Member Applications |
| 8. New Member Applications | 9. Brindabella Ski & Board Camp 2021 |
| 12. Kyilla Summer Work Party 2021 | 15. Snowies Alpine Walk Project Update |
| 16. Thredbo Alpine Museum Report | 20. Club Contacts |



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings of the season to all members.

Impact of COVID

It has been another tough year for everyone and Brindabella Ski Club is no exception. Early this year we were looking forward to a good winter, a chance to get back to the mountains and enjoy the snow again and a chance for the club to recover some lost ground in bookings revenue. Optimism was everywhere and our lodges were fully booked throughout winter.

Then the Delta variant got loose in Sydney in late June. This started a series of lockdowns of increasing scope. Those of us in Greater Sydney were unable to travel outside Sydney for the entire winter season, unable to travel more than a few km for recreation and in many cases unable to leave our LGA even for work.

Some members from other parts of NSW and ACT were able to enjoy exclusive access onto lifts to ride wide open and unblemished snowfields, for a while. ACT went into lockdown in mid-August and the whole of NSW followed a few days later, closing the snowfields until mid-September.

Finances

The club started processing accommodation refunds in June and continued doing so through September as it became clear that members would be unable to use their bookings. Each month saw a new record in the volume of cancellations. Refunds paid during the 2021 club financial year to the end of October totalled over \$390k.

These refunds have made a significant dent in club finances. Thankfully we still have a loan with a sizeable redraw facility and that has enabled the club to maintain liquidity over the past two years. In the absence of the pandemic we would have been able to pay this loan down to zero in which event the bank would have automatically closed it. The experience of the pandemic has made it crystal clear that keeping the loan alive is important as a financial buffer for the club. Future committees please take note.

Competition and development

The ski and board development camp continues to increase in popularity and was significantly oversubscribed this year. We are considering introducing an additional camp at the end of future seasons. The camp was enjoyed by those who were able to attend — unfortunately it was halved in size at the last minute due to lockdowns being imposed the day before it was due to start. There is a great article on the camp in this issue of Christie.

All competition was cancelled this season, for the second season in a row, due to COVID.

Summer

As I write, our lodges are all open for summer. We are maintaining the slightly reduced occupancy and additional hygiene that we used during winter. With the very high vaccination rates in ACT, NSW and Victoria we hope to stay open so that members will be able to enjoy the delights of the mountains in summer.

Lockers

There are a handful of lockers available in Kyilla and Tiobunga. Please contact the admin manager for more details.

AGM

The formal announcement of the AGM, to be held Tuesday 15 March, is in this Christie. More details will follow. All committee positions are declared vacant at the AGM and Full Adult and Life Members are encouraged to stand for a position. At this stage there are two current committee members who have declared an intention to step back. We have nobody yet identified to nominate for 2022 as VP Management or VP Kyilla, so please consider stepping forward to serve your club.

Looking Forward

High vaccination rates offer hope that we will be able to operate without lockdowns over summer and for next winter, albeit with us all having to get used to people describing the way we will operate as the “new normal”. While the virus is doing its best to work its way through the Greek alphabet (Omicron is pushing daily infections into uncharted territory as I write) there is hope that vaccination will significantly reduce the severity of infections and keep the hospitalisation rate low. I am sure I don't need to encourage members to book in for their booster shots as soon as they are eligible — this will help us all to find that new normal.

I look forward to being newly normal and seeing many of you on the slopes in 2022.

James Lawrence
President



Please send your stories
and photos to:

Michael Wentworth-Perry

Editor

christie.editor@brindabellaskiclub.org.au

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022

The Brindabella Ski Club will hold its 2022 Annual General Meeting (AGM) at 7.30pm Tuesday 15 March 2022. The meeting will be conducted via Zoom (details to be provided separately).

All committee positions are declared vacant at the AGM and an election is conducted. Full adult and life members are able to nominate for committee positions. More information about Club positions is available in the document ‘BSC Summary of Club Positions’ on the Club’s website. Nominations close 7 days prior to the AGM i.e. 7.30pm Tuesday 8 March 2022. Nominations must be submitted to the Club Secretary via email at secretary@brindabellaskiclub.org.au or posted to GPO Box 311, Canberra, ACT, 2601.

If you would like to discuss any committee positions please contact the President, James Lawrence at president@brindabellaskiclub.org.au for further information or to arrange a time to call.

Members wishing to propose any motions must notify the Secretary in writing by 7:30pm Friday 18 February 2022 via email at secretary@brindabellaskiclub.org.au or posted to GPO Box 311, Canberra, ACT, 2601. The AGM agenda will be finalised and advised to members after that date.

To facilitate the AGM, the committee requests any questions be submitted at least one week in advance of the AGM, to the Secretary in writing at secretary@brindabellaskiclub.org.au or posted to GPO Box 311, Canberra, ACT, 2601

In the coming weeks the relevant forms will be posted on the Club’s website. Early next year an All Member email will be sent with the relevant links to the forms. In the meantime have a safe Christmas.

Darrell Porter
Secretary



SNOW SPORTS YEAR IN 2022

Unfortunately, in 2021, just like 2020, the impact of COVID-19 restrictions meant that there were no ski races this year. The impact of rolling lockdowns commencing June 26 stopped Sydneysiders, then Canberrans, then those outside of 5km from the resorts from venturing to the slopes which compelled both Perisher and Thredbo to close for 2021 season. Whilst most of the racing activities were scheduled for July and August, the club did run a ski and board camp in the last week of June which was well attended by those outside greater Sydney and well received (for more details on this event see Christina Grant).

In my role as Club Captain, I am tasked with encouraging our members to participate in ski races be they snowboarders, alpine or cross-country skiers. More broadly, the club's primary purpose is to promote alpine and related sports, not just snow sports. I am hoping that we will be able to offer a range of sports activities in 2022 for which the club will assist members in participating in, similar to 2019 and earlier. Subject to our general austerity measures in place since COVID-19, the club contributes financially to some activities to encourage members to get involved.

We expect that both Perisher and Thredbo will be able to host alpine races in 2022, in a schedule similar to what was offered in 2019. Outside of our own organised ski camp, we'd normally endeavour to have members participate in the following events:

- Thredbo Seniors interclubs
- Balmain Cup (Guthega)
- Guthega interclubs
- Brindabella Ski Club races (Perisher or Thredbo)



Photo: Warwick Foster

You're actively encouraged to consider other events in the resorts' schedules, but we just don't have enough resources to participate in all available activities.

It's not necessary to be an Australian or Olympic champion, even though we have had some race for us previously. This is because we are really only motivated to get people to participate for fun and exercise. The club does have a competitive spirit, but in 2022 have a think about joining some races (or getting your kids involved) as most of the courses are less than a kilometre long and only require an intermediate level of skill to successfully complete the course. As club members we always enjoy the post-race celebrations as a team and with competing racers, all a part of the collegial atmosphere of alpine sports.

We expect to announce the race dates for 2022, when we get updates from the resorts, usually before bookings open. So, look out for a calendar of events, hopefully in March-April next year.

Have a safe Christmas and New Year. Hopefully the members of committee involved in administration and COVID policy will have a quieter year in 2022, whilst I hope to be busier. Please feel free to reach out to me to get involved in alpine sports next year.

Warwick Foster
Club Captain

SUMMER MEMBER APPLICATIONS

The Club currently has a small number of vacancies for Summer Membership.

A Summer Member may use the club's 3 lodges in summer in Thredbo and Guthega at member rates and may book in Associates at Associate rates. Summer members enjoy the natural attractions that both villages offer as well as the extensive range of summer activities in Thredbo. In addition you will have the ability to book into the club in winter at Associate rates from Round 3 of bookings (but may not book in Associates in winter). A Summer Member is not eligible for election to the Committee nor may vote at meetings including the AGM.

Aspiring summer members will need to obtain sponsorship from two (2) Full Members. If you are unable to provide sponsors from within the club please contact the Membership officer to discuss options.

To apply, please contact the Membership Officer (membership.officer@brindabellaskiclub.org.au) to request a link to the online Application Form.

Margaret Smythe
Membership Officer

NEW MEMBER APPLICATIONS

Full Adult and Full Junior membership applications are invited over the December / January period every year. Applicants should note that membership is nominally full, and the number of adult applicants accepted in any given year depends largely on current members resigning. It also can depend on numbers of Junior members taking up Full membership, and Christie members returning to take up their full membership, as well as other considerations.

Children (under 18 years of age on 1 January) of current adult members may join at renewals time upon application and payment of the appropriate fees. Children under 3 years of age on 1 January do not pay joining or membership fees.

Applications close at 5pm, 31 January 2022. The Membership Subcommittee will assess the applications before making recommendations to the Committee.

The Subcommittee considers the following factors:

- the recommendation of 2 full adult member sponsors
- Applicant has a spouse/partner/immediate family member as a current member
- Applicant is a past member of the Club
- Applicant has used the lodges in the past &/or has participated in a work party.
- Applicant has usable building/maintenance and /or administrative skills.
- Applicant has previously unsuccessfully tried to join
- Applicant is willing to contribute to committee activities
- Applicant is willing to race for the Club
- Other factors as appropriate.

Successful applicants will be advised by email in February or March, prior to the Annual General Meeting of the Club, and in time to be able to participate in the initial winter booking round for the year (usually early to mid- April).

Aspiring members need to obtain sponsorship from two (2) Full Members. If you are unable to provide sponsors from within the club please contact the Membership officer to discuss options.

To apply, please contact the Membership Officer (membership.officer@brindabellaskiclub.org.au) to request a link to the online Application Form.

BRINDABELLA SKI & BOARD CAMP 2021



The 2021 Ski & Board Camp was fully subscribed. In fact, it was so popular a waiting list had to be established. Full members were prioritised in line with Winter booking rules and fees paid by participants covered catering, instruction and accommodation.





Sadly, the day before the camp commenced a greater Sydney lockdown was announced and all participants from the Sydney region were unable to attend. This was devastating for many who planned to attend and resulted in about half the camp bookings being cancelled at the last minute. Despite the significant disappointment of lockdown cancellations, the camp went ahead and was a success (albeit a smaller one).

All participants (adults and children) joined in with the camp activities including ski/board coaching and meals/catering for the group. The ski instructors provided excellent coaching and it was amazing to see the skill development of participants throughout the week. Some participants chose to 'swap boarding/skiing for a day' so they could learn to board if they normally ski or vice-versa. A great initiative of the ski camp!

Special thanks to Bruce & Jenny Hartican for designing/organising so much of the camp, and to the excellent Perisher ski instructors for their coaching. Special thanks also to Mark Green for organising the bookings, sending the emails and organising t-shirts.

Our club provides many opportunities to build lasting friendships with others who love snow sports & spending time in the mountains. The camp was no exception. I am sure the friendships my family and I formed during the camp will endure for many years.

2022 Ski and Board Camp

A ski and board camp is planned for 2022. These events support our youngest members and their families to further develop their skiing and boarding skills. We look forward to seeing more members at the camp in 2022.



KYILLA SUMMER WORK PARTY 2021

Thanks to all those who came along to the recent Kyilla work party, which was held a little later than usual this year due to COVID disruptions. Seventeen participants, including a mix of full members, summer members and associates joined in: Mike Bowers, Mark Carey, Robert Charteris, Vera Charteris, Veronica Charteris, Denna Connell, Peter Conroy, Alex Ellinghausen, Robert Griffin, Linda Groom, Tony Hill, Orlando Di Iulio, Declan King, Catharina Koopman, Mike Lewis, Akira Radajewski, Richard Radajewski.

Catharina and Orlando kindly volunteered to cater once again this year, with assistance from Denna. Fuelled by their hearty meals we steadily progressed through a long list of jobs, including various maintenance items and the usual post winter clean-up and summer season preparation.

Peter, Rob G and Mark kicked off with sanding back and prepping of the internal timber surfaces of the window frames, followed by the application of exterior, UV resistant, marine grade oil based polyurethane varnish. I thank Peter and Rob G for their patience and steady hand in applying the varnish. The previous water based product has not been particularly resistant to the combination of water from condensation build up and harsh westerly sun. We hope the new product will do a better job. Time will tell.

We confirmed that water has been entering the wall cavity of room 2 via the overlying room 1 fire door threshold causing damage to the gyprock wall at the head of the room 2 bunk bed. We anticipate that Declan's and Mike B's redesigned threshold will address that issue. The damaged gyprock will be replaced in a future work party. Room 2's external window frame was sealed as an additional waterproofing measure.



Richard harnessed in with the rivet gun (photo by Alex, also harnessed onto the roof)



The group enjoying lunch

Alex and Richard spent several hours harnessed to the top of the roof with rivet and caulking guns, repairing spots where the roof apex and valleys had come loose. We hope this will help with a couple of leaks.

We continue to find that several window winders are broken every year. The winders should never be forced when either opening or closing. The windows' side-levers are designed to provide a strong lock and seal. Overzealous attempts to open the windows whilst the side-levers are locked down, or cranking the winders hard in an attempt to close the windows tightly can damage the winders. Please provide instruction on proper window use to any guests or children staying with you in Kyilla. Thanks to Mike L for his attention in repairing and replacing broken window hardware and furnishings, and to Akira who replaced all the window labels that had been wiped away by Viraclean.



Declan and Akira working on the Room 1 fire stair threshold

Peter tending to the windows



Rob G and Mark tidying up the flyscreens

SNOWIES ALPINE WALK PROJECT UPDATE

This update was originally published in the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) Snowies Alpine Walk project update: December 2021 update email.

The Snowies Alpine Walk is a Commonwealth and State Government funded project to build an exceptional multi-day trek across the alpine roof of Australia in Kosciuszko National Park in Monero Ngarigo Country.

Snowies Alpine Walk – what’s in a name?

A compelling name which is grounded in its location plays an important role in the ultimate success of any new walk in what is an increasingly competitive marketplace. It helps to spark initial interest, support search behaviour and promote consideration especially amongst the diverse markets who will be key to building visitation during existing low and shoulder seasons. NPWS has undertaken extensive research amongst domestic and international walkers to better understand what makes for a compelling walk name. This coupled with some additional testing and consultation, helped to narrow down possible options.



The “Snowies Alpine Walk” emerged as the preferred name for the multi-day walk being constructed in the Thredbo-Perisher precinct of Kosciuszko National Park. It will now replace what was always the working title of Snowies Iconic Walk. Importantly the research also reinforced our existing conviction that appropriate acknowledgement of Country must be a core component of any name selected. To this end, further consultation will be undertaken with the region’s Aboriginal communities to ensure that an endorsed acknowledgement of Country will feature in the full walk name.

To recap the project, the 55-kilometre 4-day walk will expand on the existing walking track network across the park’s spectacular alpine and sub-alpine areas to link the resorts of Charlotte Pass, Guthega, Perisher and the historic Bullocks Flat.

- Day 1 Guthega to Charlotte Pass – 9 kilometres
- Day 2 Charlotte Pass to Charlotte Pass via Main Range – 22 kilometres
- Day 3 Charlotte Pass to Perisher Village – 13 kilometres
- Day 4 Perisher Village to Bullocks Flat – 11 kilometres

The Snowies Alpine Walk project is a premier addition to the range of outstanding non-winter nature tourism experiences on offer to significantly boost summer visitation to the park and improve year-round employment stability.

The walk will broaden access to this beautiful part of the world, strengthen the appeal of New South Wales as a walking destination and provide opportunities for a more diverse range of visitors to enjoy our spectacular national parks.

Vera and Veronica took charge of the bedding - systematically changing over all the bed-linen ready for summer. Orlando and Catharina helped pack up the old linen which, as usual, was taken back to Canberra for professional laundering. Denna reviewed and cleaned the kitchen whilst Vera gave the fridge and freezer a good clean.

Many thanks to Linda, who seemed to gain a disproportionate amount of satisfaction from cleaning the bathrooms and toilets! Alex and Rob C tackled the floor wastes in the downstairs bathroom, addressing a long standing odour issue. The bathrooms were left sparkling and smelling fresh.

Tony reviewed all the plumbing and the repairs to the roof perforations over the kitchen and drying room. The “temporary silicone repairs” to the roof have held up well and we will continue to monitor the need for a more robust solution. Tony also got busy with the whipper-snipper around the lodge whilst Akira gave a hand clearing out the sediment traps, stormwater pipes and drains which always gather gravel and sludge.

Thanks also to Rob G, Akira and Tony who reviewed the operation of switches and lights, cleaned out light fittings and changed various globes, and to Rob C, Mike L, Declan and Alex who took care of old peeling and flaking paint on the fire stairs. Rob C was also kept busy with paint touch-ups around the lodge.

Finally, a big thanks to all those who helped clean and tidy the whole lodge prior to wrapping up. The next work party is planned for Autumn 2022 with dates to be advised.

Richard Radajewski
VP Kyilla



Guthega to Charlotte Pass

The Illawong Walk is one of the tracks due for upgrade this summer, as part of the biggest infrastructure investment in NSW national parks history, delivering \$450 million of priority works that boost nature-based tourism across the state generating benefits for regional communities and economies.



So, whilst the construction of stage 2 of the Snowies Alpine Walk from Illawong Hut to Charlotte Pass is largely complete, the renewal works on the existing section of track between Guthega and Illawong Hut will delay the opening of the full section for a few months.

Walkers seeking a sneak peek of the new track in January can commence at Charlotte Pass and

walk to Illawong Hut (approximately 12.5km return) including experiencing the new Spencers Creek suspension bridge - Australia's highest suspension bridge at an elevation of 1,640m above sea level. Ask at the Snowy Region Visitor Centre or information kiosk if you require transport services to complete your chosen walk.

The Guthega to Charlotte Pass walk is expected to officially open in March 2022.

THREDBO ALPINE MUSEUM REPORT

**FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SATURDAY
27TH NOVEMBER 2021**

Brindabella Ski Club is a member of the Thredbo Alpine Museum, and we encourage all Brindabella Ski Club members to support the Museum.

It has certainly been year of change in the Museum, introducing the Thylacine recommendations and completing them by members in time for the re-opening of the Museum by the 2021 June long weekend. Thank you to all concerned, especially Randy Wieman and Errol Hanlon.

Whilst COVID19 restrictions severely curtailed our opening days in 2020/2021, during the time we were open 3309 visitors were recorded as spending time in the Museum.

A big thank you to the volunteers during the winter of 2021. They included: Errol Hanlon, Marcus Hanlon, Brett Webb, Jane Mitchell, Matt Whitworth, Kris Laird, Maureen Roberts, Kadee Laird, Simon Ayo, Graeme Holloway, Kellie Meehan, Jerry Krejzar, and Elsa Hanlon. I was volunteering in front of and behind the scenes.



The view from the front door

Participants at last summer's working bee attended by in Thredbo Friday Flat Container No. One resulted in 106 skis being photographed and correctly identified in the Mosaic data program. The total Collection numbers more than 3,000 objects with 1,000 still to be confirmed and numbered.

The NSW Government supported Thredbo's Alpine Museum by granting \$5,000 under the "Create NSW" COVID Arts Rescue and Restart Package. This covered the costs of implementing the Thylacine recommendations: the new welcome desk, floor covering, 3 monitors and the purchase of the second container.

In addition to the Rescue Package, the cost of the purchase of a lockable mushroom display cabinet in which to place the treasured 'Laurie Seaman Camera' was covered by the NSW Museums & Galleries 2020 Volunteer Museum Grant.



The digital display and library



A tribute to Frank Prihoda

Special Feature Exhibitions: “100 years of Transport in the Snowies” was the theme during 2020-21 and it featured images from horse drawn vehicles, oversnow caterpillar tracks on vehicles, snow cats, through to the Ski Tube train and Merritts Gondola. TAM was grateful to have access to the Charles Kerry images, the Rick Walkom Collection in addition to the Garry Abbottsmith Collection, to visually tell the story.

In June 2021 the Museum paid “A Tribute to Frank Prihoda” with a diverse collection of images from Frank’s 100 years. As this is a Winter Olympic year, Frank’s story will continue this year on a smaller scale. It will incorporate a Winter Olympic theme centering around pictures of Australian teams at past Winter games and mannequins wearing a selection of team uniforms.

The Alpine Museum is very reliant on promotion. It is very grateful for the support given by Lea Foster, Steve Cuff, Gail Eastaway, Kosciusko Thredbo Marketing and ABC South East Radio for their actions. Naturally, word of mouth is always the best publicity, and we look forward to seeing all members take ten minutes off to visit the Museum and see what is being achieved to conserve and preserve the remarkable story of snow sports in Australia for present and future generations.

Christina Webb
TAM Museum Administrator

A submission for a Museums & Galleries NSW – 2021 Volunteer Museum Small Grants Round 2 grant has been lodged to cover the \$1,500 cost of security cameras in the museum. The CCTV system will include a 1TB 4 channel DVR including cameras with mobile phone monitoring capability. It is expected that the announcement as to whether our submission is successful or not, I will be announced in late December 2021.

New in the Museum: An important addition to the Museum was the installation of three display monitors on to which Randy Weiman downloaded over 300 images featuring people and activities “shot” over the last sixty years in Thredbo.



The Welcome Desk inside the entrance



CLUB CONTACTS

Committee

President — James Lawrence

president@brindabellaskiclub.org.au

VP Management — Christina Grant

vp.management@brindabellaskiclub.org.au

VP Tiobunga — Curtis Hancock

vp.tiobunga@brindabellaskiclub.org.au

VP Kyilla — Richard Radajewski

vp.kyilla@brindabellaskiclub.org.au

VP Thredbo — Rob McGregor

vp.thredbo@brindabellaskiclub.org.au

Secretary — Darrell Porter

secretary@brindabellaskiclub.org.au

Treasurer — Russell Kerrison

treasurer@brindabellaskiclub.org.au

Club Captain — Warwick Forster

club.captain@brindabellaskiclub.org.au

Business Planning Officer — David Pember

business.planning@brindabellaskiclub.org.au

Information Officer — Ben Coutts

info@brindabellaskiclub.org.au

Membership Officer — Margaret Smythe

membership.officer@brindabellaskiclub.org.au

Lodge Bookings

Online (preferred method) — www.brindabellaskiclub.org.au

or email the admin manager for manual bookings (on the admin email below)

Phone: 02 6100 4272

Tiobunga: 02 6457 5329

Kyilla: 02 6457 5577

Waragun: 02 6457 7369

Club Website www.brindabellaskiclub.org.au

Administration Manager admin.mgr@brindabellaskiclub.org.au

Christie Editor Michael Wentworth-Perry christie.editor@brindabellaskiclub.org.au

