

## PRESIDENTS UPDATE

As we emerged from a relatively quiet period leading up to the festive season – the holiday period nevertheless did arrive and the Museum reopened on Boxing Day. Under the leadership of Committee member Victoria Incani our Thredbo locals volunteering under the mutually beneficial program between THS and K T Pty Ltd has seen the museum open to the public through to the end of January.

**Collection Documentation:** Our Vice President Trevor Harrison has been working on updating our Museum computer hardware and software systems to more readily accommodate access to the Mosaic cataloguing program we use to document our collection. He has also taken steps to have our second Mosaic Network license installed on a second computer to facilitate more frequent updating to be located at Museum Administrator Chrissi Webb's residence in Jindabyne. We are grateful to have Thredbo local Kellie Meehan offer her assistance to Chrissi with this important work.

**2019 MUSEUM EXHIBITION:** We have now settled on celebrating in the Museum two anniversaries of significant events in Australia's skiing history.

30 years ago in 1989 Thredbo hosted the first World Cup alpine skiing event to be held in Australia. This was a substantial challenge to all those involved and certainly raised Australia's skiing profile internationally at the time. 50 years ago in 1969, at Val d Isere in France an Australian alpine skier, Malcolm Milne of Myrtleford Victoria (in a Team managed by Kurt Lance) won Australia's first ever World Cup Men's Downhill.

**AGM:** Our 2018 AGM was held at the Denman Hotel Thredbo on 24<sup>th</sup> November. As I was unable to attend due to a recent knee replacement operation, Vice President Ed Denny Chaired the meeting. Whilst I had nominated for the position of President for the next year, I had advised that it would be the last year that I would seek nomination to the Committee and Executive. However of particular note was the fact that Graeme Holloway did not seek re-election following 22 years of continuous passionate service. Graeme was one of 3 founding members of the society and served as President for 11 years from 1997 to 2008. He contributed a substantial amount of items to our collection now available for viewing by the public. He is a Life Member of The Society and we are sure will continue in an "Ambassadorial Role". Our new Committee member to fill that vacancy is long term Thredbo Local Errol Hanlon who we warmly welcome.

*Alan Fredericks*

## THS 2019 EVENTS CALENDER

**3– 5 MAY:** AASHA Conference

Ben Lomond, Tasmania

**TUESDAY 21 MAY:** Sydney Cocktails

RAHS History House Macquarie St. TBC

**SATURDAY 15 JUNE:** Thredbo Cocktails & Museum Exhibition Launch

**WEDNESDAY 24 JULY:** Mid Winter Dinner & Faces of Thredbo Awards – Thredbo



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**2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Chairman Ed Denny welcomed a small gathering of 13 members present.

**Financial Report:** Copies of the P & L and Balance Sheet were circulated to the meeting. Questions were raised in relation to Book Sales, International travel and write down costs on assets. Mention was also made of the difficulty the Treasurer had on occasions in correctly identifying payments made through our Web Site which uses the "Stripe" system.

Another item discussed was the costs to the society now that we are renting 2 Storage units at Leesville to house our ever growing collection. With a recent increase in rental to \$60 per week for each unit resulting in an annual cost of \$3120 – the Committee will need to address this as it may not be sustainable.

Questions were also raised about Complimentary memberships and the need for these to be reviewed. Due to the absence of the President and Treasurer the meeting decided to refer the Financial Report to the Committee for further review.

**Election of Executive and Committee;** With the exception of Graeme Holloway, all other Executive and Committee positions were filled by the incumbents with Errol Hanlon elected to fill the Committee vacancy. At the conclusion of the meeting a light lunch was provided by the Denman hosts, Ed and Judy Denny.

**A RECENT ACQUISITION TO THE COLLECTION**



A pair of wooden Snow Play "short" (100 cm) skis developed by Canberra dentist Colin Watson early in the 1960s (see *Ski Australia*, June 1964)

**THREDBO ALPINE MUSEUM – Summer**

Opening Hours: 1 – 5 pm  
 Peak: December 26 – January 26, 2019  
 (closed Mondays)  
 Other: Weekends only  
 October to November  
 February to April  
 Plus public holidays and special events

**VALE**

**Colin Myers 1925 – 2018.** With his wife Marnie, Colin owned ski lifts at Kiandra and later developed Selwyn Ski Resort. He died at home in Tumut on September 13<sup>th</sup>. His passing is mourned by his wife Marnie, their children John and Janelle and grandchildren.

**Josef Steiner 1927 – 2018.** Past THS member, Austrian born Joe was a Sydney-based ski manufacturer in the 1950s and '60s, ski equipment retailer. He was a member of the NSW 1957 alpine ski team. Joe died in Cooma on July 1<sup>st</sup>. He is survived by his daughter Elfie, her husband Laurie, grandchildren and great grandchildren.



**Ray Temperley, Kerri Koczanowski, Michelle Reichinger and Del Fisher hard at work during the THS AGM**

**THS OFFICE BEARERS: 2018/2019**

- Patron: Alan Rydge
- President: Alan Fredericks alanf@bigpond.net.au  
02 9449 7610 / 0417401403
- Vice President : Ed Denny 6457 6222
- Vice President: Trevor Harrison 0414 967585
- Secretary: Maureen Roberts 0490365 987
- Treasurer: Peta Strong Henley 0412 773 262
- Committee:**
- Public Officer: Christina Webb 6456 2279
- Membership: Anne Collet 6281 1525
- Oral History: Jerry Krejzar
- Randy Wieman, Victoria Incani, Kerri Koczanowski, Errol Hanlon

**THS MEMBERSHIP FEES 2018/19**

- Individuals: \$45/1-yr; \$225/5-yrs;  
\$450/10-yr
- Family: \$60/1-yr; \$300/5-yrs
- Group: Club \$220/year
- Corporate Gold: \$1500/yr Silver: \$1000/yr  
Bronze: \$500/yr

## DULMISON SKI CLUB

Recently the Dulmison Ski Club became the thirteenth Thredbo-resident alpine club to join the Thredbo Historical Society out of 46 clubs which currently operate lodges in the village. Dulmison also has a lodge in Perisher, its original home, and during the 1970s it built one on Lake Jindabyne. But that facility was traded in 1992 for Unit 1 in the Alpine Aspect Chalets fronting Thyne Reid Drive. This is the club's Thredbo lodge, which can accommodate 16 members and guests plus two managers during winter.

Dulmison's presence in the Snowy Mountains dates from 1960 when Dulmison Pty Ltd, a Wyong-based company specialising in electrical supplies, approached the Kosciusko State Park Trust with an offer to solve the chronic problems caused by the erratic power supply in the Perisher Valley. Blackouts were frequent, especially when blizzards or other storms struck the power poles. The company installed a line from Guthega: originally it was a rigid over-snow supply line but before long it was buried and thus protected from the elements.

The company's owner, Philip Dulhunty, then sought to build a company lodge but was told such things were not permitted. So he sought support from family members and company employees, and a recruitment drive was initiated in the general population. Quickly, there were 130 members who fashioned a modest lodge of concrete blocks and timber and named 'Dauphine'. This facility was extended and refurbished during the 1990s and later, to a bed allocation of 24, after the lodge on Lake Jindabyne was completed in 1977.

Today the club has more than 390 members whose affairs are run by a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and three other directors. A lodge committee looks after the maintenance of and modifications to the lodges, making recommendations to the directors as to what is needed. Among the major contributors to the club over its 60-plus years of existence have been Philip Dulhunty, Harry Holmes, Bruce Vizard, John King, John Allman, Michele Eastburn, Malcolm Verman and Tony Winton: all these people have been office-bearers or directors for at least twenty years.

Several (some of whom have passed on) have had strong hands-on skills, of great use during working bees, as well as managerial expertise. Members have been strongly involved in skiing administration outside the club itself, helping to organise Perisher Cup events (of which Bruce Vizard was the co-ordinator for many years) and Sport and Recreation ski programmes, working on behalf of NSW Snowsports and contributing to the activities of the Perisher Ski Patrol.

A strong competitive tradition was quickly established in the club, especially in the Perisher Cup which comprises cross-country skiing, giant slalom and ski jumping. Jumping has been something of a club speciality, individual members winning the jump events (for the Dakin Cup) in the Perisher Cup teams competition on several occasions. The club is also a regular in the Thredbo Interclub and its team has finished as high as fourth place, a creditable result for a club which is not large. David Ebeling, Michael Pennell, George Bojdak, Vic Bagdon, Brad and Matt Vizard and Simon Ascroft have been among the club's best on the snow.

Dulmison's lodges have no television or Wi-Fi, a consequence of the club's policy of encouraging interpersonal interaction within its facilities rather than passive forms of entertainment. But the club communicates regularly with its members via the *Dulmison Dump*, which keeps members abreast of happenings in the lodges and in the mountains and celebrates the achievements of its members on the slopes of Perisher and Thredbo.

*Chas Keys* (with thanks to Bruce Vizard)



Dulmison Ski Club, Thredbo



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**THS MEMBER IN FOCUS: WINTER OLYMPIAN CHRISTINE DAVY MBE**

Chances are that not many of the skiers of Thredbo have recognised that occasionally there is in their midst a woman who represented Australia long ago as an alpine skier in not one but two Winter Olympic Games. But that is what Christine Davy did. She is the first Australian woman to have skied in downhill, slalom and giant slalom at Olympic level at Cortina d'Ampezzo in 1956 and Squaw Valley four years later.

Christine's skiing career began soon after World War II, when her parents Ashleigh and Beth (members of the Ski Club of Australia) introduced her to the slopes at the old Kosciusko Hotel. Not yet in her teens, she took to skis quickly and before long she joined her parents and brother on a skiing trip to Europe. From the start she was winning championships back home and in 1952, still only a teenager, she participated in the Inter-Dominions in New Zealand. This was the only international competition available to Australian skiers at the time, apart from the Olympics which had seen a small Australian contingent participate in 1952 in Oslo.

In 1953 and 1954 Christine skied in the National Championships on the fabled George Chisholm Run in what later became known as the Twin Valleys a few kilometres down the Ramshead Range from Thredbo and roughly paralleling the southern part of the route later taken by the 'Longest Chair' from the Alpine Way to Charlotte Pass. At Twin Valleys she won the women's titles on both occasions having skied across to the top of the Ramshead Range from the Chalet, three kilometres to the north. It was, Christine says, hard work to climb from the bottom of the course to the top for each race. By Australian standards it had a great vertical.

These successes in the nationals marked her as Olympic material, and she went on to win all the national championships in downhill and slalom from 1953 to 1960. These championships were held at various locations, including Ben Lomond in northern Tasmania and Mt Buller in Victoria and, in 1957, Thredbo. In that year the participants used the original Crackenback Ski Club rope tow; the following season skiers were able to take the luxurious new chairlift to just above the site of Kareela.

Christine's winning of the coveted Golden Eagle in 1955 for a fast schuss on the southern flank of Mt Northcote saw her timed at above 70 mph (more than 112 km/h) at her only attempt. No other woman ever won a Golden Eagle in its short history.

Her first Olympics nearly didn't happen. On the way to Europe by ship she came down with chickenpox, but she eventually made it to Zürs where she met Leonhard Erharter, the Austrian coach who had been appointed to train the Australian team for the Games and later had a long career as the head instructor at Thredbo. Erharter thought Christine had talent and the two got on well: she found him a wonderful coach. He had less admiration for the men on the team, Frank Prihoda recalling decades later Erharter's high-class European put-down: "How can I teach you to race when you can't even ski?"

In the races at Cortina, in the Italian Dolomites, the Australians struggled as they must have known they would: Christine finished 39th out of 47 in the downhill, 37th out of 49 in the Giant Slalom and 33rd out of 48 in the slalom. The men did slightly less well. All this was part of the realisation in Australian skiing circles, made clear by Bob Arnott on his return from the Olympics in 1952 and reinforced in 1956, that progress in international competition would not occur until longer ski runs were discovered in Australia and exploited with lifts that made it possible for skiers to get several hours of training under their belts each day they spent on the slopes. That, of course, is where Thredbo was about to come in.

The 1956 team comprised 10 competitors, five of whom were skiers. Christine was the only woman in the five. After the Games she raced in several countries in Europe, including Norway, winning a downhill event and a slalom, and afterwards she was invited to race in America, at Stowe (Vermont) and Mt Hood (Oregon). In these races she was building up her international experience.

## THS MEMBER IN FOCUS: WINTER OLYMPIAN CHRISTINE DAVY MBE (continued)

At the Squaw Valley Winter Olympics in 1960, Australia's team numbered 31, more than half of them in the ice hockey team which was completely outclassed by every opponent. There were three alpine skiers including Christine (still the only woman), one cross-country skier and an entrant in the Nordic Combined event. Christine finished 27th, 32nd and 29th respectively out of 42, 44 and 43 in the downhill, giant slalom and slalom. These results were slightly better than those she had achieved at Cortina. The male skiers again struggled to make their marks, and the figure and speed skaters, as four years earlier, finished in low places in their events.



1960 Australian Olympic Team with John Bell (2<sup>nd</sup> from right, possibly owner of Dawson's Lodge at Snow (Stowe) Mass. L-R Christine Davy (alpine) Billy Day (alpine) Don Maclurcan (manager), Hal Nerdal (Nordic combined), Peter Brockhoff (alpine), Bell, Richard Walpole (cross country)

Back home again, Christine's life took her into aviation and away from skiing. She found employment in central Australia with Connellan Airlines (later Connair and finally Northern Airlines), becoming a senior captain flying DC-3s, and eventually she moved on to helicopters. She flew the Timor Sea and the North West Shelf, servicing oil rigs and conducting rescue missions. During her flying career she owned her own Tiger Moth, became an instructor and earned an MBE for "outstanding service to civil aviation".

When her flying days finished, in 1993, she again became a regular at Thredbo where she retains her membership of the Ski Club of Australia. Having to manage a farm has restricted her skiing, though, and the last couple of years have been particularly problematic: in 2017 a knee replacement saw her miss the season, and in 2018 the deepening drought meant that she had to hand-feed the alpacas, cattle and horses every day on her property (Wyndarra Alpacas) in the Southern Tablelands. There was simply no time for skiing.

Nevertheless Christine has not retired from skiing. Knees and farm operations permitting, she will grace Thredbo's slopes again in 2019!

*Chas Keys*

### STOP PRESS

*Thredbo, Pioneers, Legends, Community* by Chas Keys (2017), has been selected to be awarded an International Ski History Association Skade Book Award "for an outstanding regional history or an outstanding work published in book form" to be presented on Thursday April 4, 2019 at the Awards Banquet in Park City, Utah USA.

## THREDBO SKI PATROL ASSOCIATION - 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary review

### MILESTONES

- 1958 - The official birth of the Thredbo Volunteer Ski Patrol.
- 1963 - TSPA was incorporated and a constitution drawn up.
- 1964 - Patrol operational manual prepared.
- 1969 - Appointment by KT of the first professional patroller.
- 1971 - Perisher attempts takeover of TSPA- formation of NSW Ski Patrol Association.
- 1973 - Formation of Australian Ski Patrol Association (ASPA).
- 1975 - George Freuden appointed to FIS legal & safety committee.
- 1979 - Formation of the Federation Internationale Patrole de Ski (FIPS).
- 1981 - FIPS meeting in Thredbo sees the inauguration of the 'patroller exchange scheme' with Val d' Isere.
- 1979 - Peter Jeffery as Captain introduced the first Saturday evening 'Bull Sessions'.
- 1995 - Official opening of the 'Sundowner Lodge' located at Woodridge.

*(Jerry Krejzar (October 2018) together with Contributors John Barkley, John Rumble, Robert Montgomery, Anne & Peter Jeffery, Joe Di Falco and David Kuhn, is currently producing an in-depth history of the TSPA.)*

**INTRODUCING ERROL HANLON**

Errol was born in Cootamundra in 1952, and as a teenager moved to Canberra where his father was involved in various earthmoving projects – most notably excavating Lake Burley Griffin.

He first visited Thredbo in 1966 with Larry Rumble - a family friend – this is when his love of Thredbo and skiing started. He graduated from Narrabundah high school in 1970.

Soon after he started work in Thredbo for Lend Lease as part of the mountain crew in various positions from the early 70’s under the supervision of John Olson - right through to early 90’s. During this period he was involved in operating ski lifts summer and winter, golf course green keeper, grooming and clearing of trails.

He was involved with the design and construction of Antons, Sponars and Karels t-bars; in addition to Gunbarrel, Easy Does It and Kosciuszko Express (Crackenback) chair lifts.

By 1989 he had worked his way up to the position of Mountain Manger. He oversaw the development and installation of the original snowmaking system on the mountain in the late 80’s.

Since then Errol has (along with his wife Elsa) managed several commercial and club lodges,

notably Hahnenkamm chalet – 12 years and currently Attunga ski lodge – 7 years - with employment in the building trade as surveyor and electrician in the summer months.

Errol has an ongoing connection with Thredbo as his children and grand children enjoy living and visiting here. As a committee member of the Thredbo Alpine Museum he looks forward to seeing it grow from strength to strength



**Errol Hanlon**

**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER:**

Fiona Hudson, Milsons Point

**More photos from the 2018 THS July Mid Winter Dinner**



**Arthur and Jan Owens**



**Bruce Marshall and Cees Koeman**



**Jhaney Kusar, Jordan Rodgers and Stuart Diver**



**Ray Temperley, Richard and Sally Gallimore**



**IN THE MUSEUM**

We are very grateful to Torah Bright for allowing her medals to be display in the Museum this summer. This is the closest many people will ever get to Winter Olympic participation, so I urge you to take this unique opportunity and visit the Museum.

During 2019/20, World Cup skiing will be celebrated in the Museum. The search is on for memorabilia from the 1989 World Cup held in Thredbo. Perhaps you have items you might like to share with the community? If so please get in touch with me at [chrissi.wikner@outlook.com](mailto:chrissi.wikner@outlook.com).

In response to the request for information about the K2 Holidays Skis, in the September Newsletter Brad Spalding responded: "The skis were manufactured for the ski hire market. A good robust construction and an easy to adjust Cubco rocket binding. The ski boots had to be retro fitted with a metal toe piece centring plate; this could be problematic in heavy snow conditions. Circa 1971."

Volunteer Kellie Meehan has spent a couple of mornings becoming familiar with the Mosaic data base program. We have now caught up with entering the accession numbers of all the "sighted" objects in the collection. Still to be numbered are the 500 pairs of skis in the container to be numbered plus all the photos, slides, negatives & videos etc.

*Chrissi Webb*



**Roger Andrew & the Torah Bright Collection.**

**COMMENTS FROM VISITORS TO THE MUSEUM:**

Philip McNish, Leroy New York USA:

*Love Thredbo, very special, thank you Roger*

Jim Cook, Leura: *Keep up this good work, well done*

Pernillie Rogerberg, Oslo Norway: *Love it*

Neill Family, Helensburgh:

*Thank you, we had lots of fun. Awesome and cool*

Lynette Crawford, Killara: *Brings back memories and thoughts of the Seaman family*

John Stotschek (Qld Museum) Rochedale South:

*Museums are made great by their content and yours is fantastic.*

The old Ramshead Chairlift Seat 120 on the Dead Horse Gap Walking Track is situated about 2kms from top station on the Dead Horse Gap walking track. From Kosciuszko Express top station, the walking track starts from the top of the Basin-T and is about 4.5kms to the car park. Most people catch the chair up and walk down then return along the river, makes for about a 9km walk, very pleasant. No bikes as well.

Margot Stuart & Trevor Harrison chose the spot to farewell 2018 and welcome 2019. They had their NYE champagne at the chair, which faces south towards Victoria. The rain came in so drinks were cut short as they made for the tent. Quite the stormy night, wild winds with rain and lightning. Their campsite was the large rock outcrop in the photo with Margot seated with champagne in hand.

**HISTORY ON THE "HILL"**



**Margot Stuart with champagne on Seat 120**

# THREDBO HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOOK ORDER FORM (2018/19)

Order Details: Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

**ALL THESE BOOKS CAN BE  
 PURCHASED ON LINE @  
[www.thredboskimusem.com](http://www.thredboskimusem.com)**

QUANTITY	PUBLICATION DESCRIPTION	PAYMENT
	Andrew, Roger: <b>Thredbo – My Story</b> Soft Cover, 156 pages, 29.5x21cm. colour photos Cost \$40 Postage & packaging \$13.40	
	Cross, Wendy (2012): <b>Australian Skiing: The First 100 Years</b> Soft cover, 270 pages, 30x21cm, b&w photos Cost \$39.95 Postage & packaging \$13.40	
	Darby, Jim (2006): <b>Thredbo 50 – a commemorative book</b> Hard cover, 123 pages, 22x28cm, colour photos Cost \$20 Postage & packaging \$13.40	
	Freuden, George: <b>Off Piste – My Way: A Memoir</b> Soft copy, 132 pages. 15 cm x 21 cm b&w photos, Cost \$20, Postage & packaging \$8.25. <i>Limited number of copies left</i>	
	Sonia Howard (2013): <b>Flame of Leviticus – a biography of Kurt Lance</b> Soft cover, 302 pages 30 colour plates Cost \$35 Postage & packaging \$8.25	
	Helen Malcher/Philip Lewis: Charles Anton, the Main Range & Thredbo 1950-1962 DVD, PG rating, Duration 32 minutes Cost \$25 Postage & packing \$3.20	
	Hughes, Geoffrey (one of the founders of Thredbo) (2007): <b>Starting Thredbo</b> Soft cover, 44 pages, 21x31cm, colour & b&w photos Cost \$20 Postage & package \$8.25	
	Keys, Charles (2017): <b>Thredbo: Pioneers, Legends, Community</b> Hard cover: 29 cm x 21 cm, 176 pages, b&w and colour photos. <b>Special Price: \$50</b> Postage and packing \$13.40	
	Southwell-Keely, Peter (2009) <b>Out on the Tops – The Centenary of Kosciusko Alpine Club</b> Hard cover 28 cm x 21 cm, 320 pages colour & b&w photos. Cost \$30, Postage & packaging \$13.40	
	Southwell-Keely, Peter (2012): <b>Highway to Heaven: A History of Perisher and Ski Resorts Along the Kosciuszko Road</b> Hard Cover, 256 pages, b&w & colour photos. Cost \$50 Postage & packaging \$13.40	
	Sponar, Tony (1995): <b>Snow in Australia – that's news to me</b> Hard cover, 362 pages, 15.5x23.5cm, photos Cost \$20 Postage & packaging \$13.40	
	Russell, Rebel Penfold: <b>Tommy Tomasi – a life well travelled</b> DVD, PG rating, Duration 44 minutes Cost \$25 Postage & packing \$3.20	
	Russell, Rebel Penfold: <b>Thredbo 50 Years</b> DVD, PG rating, Duration 32 minutes Cost \$25 Postage & packing \$3.20	
	Wieman, Randy: <b>One Man Alone – Malcolm Milne Val d'Isere 1969</b> DVD, Cost \$10 Postage & packing \$3.20	
	Wieman, Randy: <b>Kurt Lance - Last time on the Main Range</b> DVD, Cost \$10 Postage & packing \$3.20	
	<b>TOTAL AMOUNT</b>	

**Ordering & enquiries Mail:** Ski Museum, Thredbo Historical Society Inc, PO Box 6, THREDBO 2625  
 Phone/Fax: 02 6456 2279 (Museum Administrator), Email: [chrissi.wikner@outlook.com](mailto:chrissi.wikner@outlook.com)

**Cheques** payable to: Thredbo Historical Society Inc.

**Direct Payment:** Thredbo Historical Society Westpac Bank BSB 032- 728 Acct 106314 with details: surname & book