

THREDBO ALPINE MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 89 | July 2026



Presidents Report

In 2025, TAM, the Thredbo Alpine Museum, ran three fabulous and well attended events with the first two featuring Brad Spalding, past Thredbo Ski School director, discussing the history of the Thredbo Ski School. We returned to the RAHS House for our Sydney reunion and for the first time met in the newly renovated Schuss Bar on the Saturday of the June long weekend.

The TAM Faces of Thredbo dinner has become an institution. "That TAM resolves to establish a Faces of Thredbo honour board to recognise those who have made significant contributions to skiing and or the development of Thredbo as an alpine resort".

Over the last couple of years 120 – 160 have attended to hear about many aspects of Thredbo history. Last year we honoured the Deseo Family who built and managed Candlelight Lodge and Robin Dyke who was the architect of around 140 buildings in Thredbo Village.

This year in Sydney, Greg Hughes talked about his Dad's involvement with the creation of Kosciusko Thredbo Pty Ltd and the original lease with the Lands department which was the beginning of Thredbo in 1957.

On the June opening weekend, ex Olympian and TV Olympic commentator, Jono Brauer led a Q&A with local Jindabyne Olympians. The crowd of around 100 was blown away with the insightful questions and honest answers. Everyone was stoked to learn more about the personalities of Australia's most successful Winter Olympics ever.

At the Faces of Thredbo dinner on August 30th 2026, TAM will recognise four women who were a big part of the early days in Thredbo.

The Kosciusko Thredbo company greatly helps TAM by offering a room for our Museum and season passes that are used to secure volunteers to work in the Museum.

Cont... Presidents Report

We work closely with KT Conferences for our events and the Media department to promote the museum. One day we might have a new venue but for the immediate future, we are concentrating on Improving our existing Museum and making the TAM website more interactive. It is a huge job to feature all of TAM's collection on the website but we are working on it.

Alan Fredricks just retired from TAM after being a member for 20 years and President for half that time. Many things were accomplished during his time including improving the Museum, funding from Grants, increasing awareness of what was then the Thredbo Historical Society and establishing the Faces of Thredbo.

Now we are moving TAM from the analogue era to the digital age with a new website and digitizing all our collection.

www.thredboalpinemuseum.org.au

We also have a committee who is looking to renovate our actual Museum.

The legendary and much-loved Tommy Tomasi, who co-founded the Thredbo Ski Patrol, will celebrate his 100th birthday on 23 July, and Thredbo is preparing a fitting celebration to mark this remarkable milestone. Tommy's extraordinary life and contribution to Australian skiing are a powerful reminder of the rich history of the sport and the unforgettable characters who helped shape it.

Randy & Errol
TAM Presidents



Tommy Tomasi – Thredbo Ski Patrol

Winter Olympics 2026 - Australia Makes History

This February saw Australia's most successful Winter Olympic Team compete in the 2026 Winter Olympics in Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo Italy.

A team of 55 athletes across 12 disciplines returned home triumphant with 3 gold medals, 2 silver medals and a bronze medal, with an overall 14 th place finish on the medal tally.

There were more than 20 top 10 finishes, and more than half the team finished in the top 15. Included in the team were 21 NSW Institute of Sport athletes, primarily from the Moguls and Snowboard Cross programs who are based at the National Snowsports Training Centre in Jindabyne.

With half of Australia's medals won by Mogul skiers, it is a testament to the high-performance program run by Snow Australia and the Olympic Winter Institute of Sport and the NSW Institute of Sport.

Among the history makers, Cooper Woods became Australia's seventh Winter Olympic Champion with three flawless runs to win the single Moguls – Australia's first medal of the Games. Jakara Anthony became the only Winter Olympian to win a second gold medal and first women's Dual Moguls champion.



Cooper Woods



Jakara Anthony



Matt Graham

Cont....Winter Olympics 2026 - Australia Makes History

Matt Graham is now just one of eight, who have two or more Winter Olympic medals with bronze.

Local snowboarder Josie Baff became Australia's eighth Winter Olympic Champion beating two Olympic champions in the final.

Scotty James became the first Australian Winter Olympian to win three individual medals with silver in men's Snowboard Halfpipe and Danielle Scott, in her fourth Olympic campaign was the fourth Australian Aerial Skier to win a medal.

Beyond the medals, with 32 Australians on debut, including 5 teenagers, the future looks bright for Australian Winter sport.

In the words of Chef de Mission, Alisa Camplin, this team has set a new standard for what's possible.



Josie Baff



Scotty James



Danielle Scott

THREDBO ALPINE MUSEUM (TAM) PRESENTS

WINTER OLYMPICS 2026 Q&A

with Olympian

JONO BRAUER

FEATURING MILANO/CORTINA OLYMPIANS

BEN TUDHOPE



Paralympics Silver
Men's Snowboard Cross



Paralympics Bronze
Men's Snowboard Banked

AUS

KARBON



JOSIE BAFF

Gold Medallist
Women's Snowboard Cross

JONO BRAUER

Interviewer and
Games Commentator

MICHAEL MILTON

Australia's Most Decorated
Winter Paralympian

MADI HOFFMAN

Women's Slalom

Live Auction by Rowen Kelly -

including "Thredbo" by Tony Harrington.

From the Defining Moments book available at HarroArt.com



SATURDAY
6TH JUNE 2026
(THE LONG WEEKEND)



DOORS & BAR
OPEN 5:30PM
Includes a complimentary
drink on arrival and
gourmet canapés



FIREWORKS
6:00PM
Q & A starts
after Fireworks



VENUE
SCHUSS BAR
THREDBO ALPINE HOTEL



COST
\$30 ONLINE
OR AT THE DOOR
(UNLESS BOOKED OUT)



LIMITED TICKETS
SO BOOK EARLY!



BOOK NOW: <https://www.thredboalpinemuseum.org.au/event-details/tam-pre-season-thredbo-event-showcasing-our-2026-winter-olympians>

MEET THE ATHLETES | EXCLUSIVE STORIES | LIVE Q&A | FOOD & DRINKS

TOGETHER, WE GO FURTHER.

Q&A Session with Olympians & Para Olympians

With Jono Brauer

WHAT A NIGHT!!



Anyone that joined TAM in the Schuss Bar on Saturday of the June Long Weekend experienced one of Thredbo's most special moments. After the fireworks, Jono Brauer interviewed 4 current Olympians and Para Olympians. Jono stated at the beginning that he was going to ask more personal and insightful questions than your typical journalist.

The honest, in depth and hilarious replies from the Olympians had the crowd of around 100 hanging on their every word with smiles plastered on their faces breaking out into fits of laughter. Everyone was elated with the emotion, insight and professionalism of the athletes.

After the Q&A, Rowen Kelly, MC for the evening, auctioned off four items raising money for TAM for the development of the TAM website and the renovation of the Museum.

TAM would like to thank all involved for making the night so special. Everyone in attendance stated how lucky they felt to be part of the evening and said this would be a hard act to follow, but we will try.

Here are the bios of our panel....

Jono Brauer, one of Australia's most accomplished alpine skiers. A multiple Australian National Champion, Jono claimed victories on both the European and North American Cup circuits, and at just 18 years old was ranked No. 2 in the world in Slalom for his age group.

From 2000 to 2010, he held the position of Australia's No. 1 ranked alpine skier and represented Australia at both the 2006 Turin and 2010 Vancouver, Winter Olympics.

Q&A Session with Olympians & Para Olympians

Cont....

After retiring from elite competition, Jono moved into coaching with the Australian National Team before becoming one of the country's leading voices in snowsports commentary. Jono was the primary alpine skiing commentator for the Seven Network at Beijing 2022, and most recently for Nine Network's coverage of the Milano–Cortina Games.

Madison “Madi” Hoffman — Australian alpine skier and threetime national champion. At the Milano–Cortina '26 Winter Olympics, Madi delivered a milestone performance on her Olympic debut. Competing in the women's slalom, Madi finished 23rd, Australia's strongest result in the event in nearly three decades. Madi's run was widely celebrated as a breakthrough moment for Australian technical skiing on the world stage.

Ben Tudhope — Australian Paralympian and para-snowboard cross athlete. Ben has represented Australia at four Winter Paralympics, from 2014 through to 2026. Selected at just 14 years old, Ben became Australia's youngest Winter Paralympian, surpassing Michael Milton's record. At Beijing 2022, Ben won bronze, and at this year's Milano–Cortina Paralympics, he added silver and bronze to his remarkable career.



Josephine Louise “Josie” Baff — ‘Olympic Champion’. Josie made history at Milano–Cortina '26, winning gold in the women's snowboard cross, becoming Australia's first Olympic champion in the event. Josie delivered a commanding performance against a field stacked with World and Olympic medallists, cementing her place in Australian wintersport history.

Michael John Milton OAM — Australia's most successful Winter Paralympian. Across seven Games, Michael has won six gold, three silver, and two bronze medals. Inducted into the Sport Australia Hall of Fame in 2014 and elevated to Legend status in 2024, he remains one of Australia's most celebrated athletes. In 2025, at age 52, he announced a return to elite paraalpine skiing, aiming to qualify for Milano–Cortina '26 — a goal Michael achieved.

Sydney Function

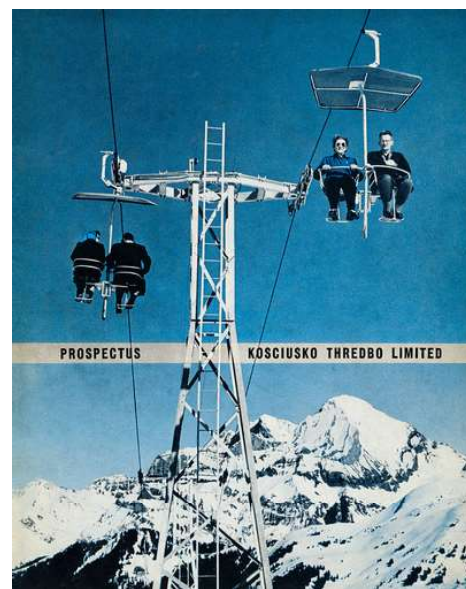
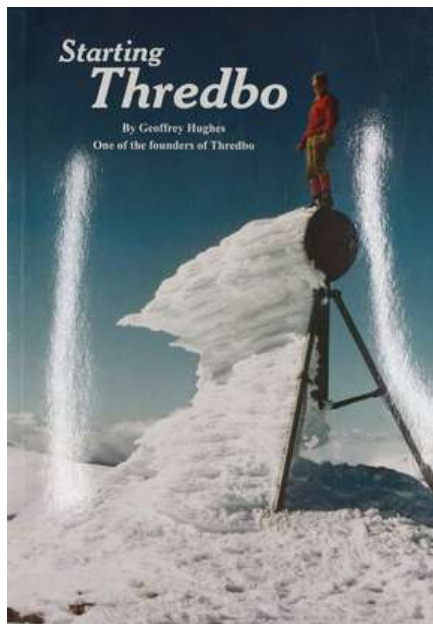
Thredbo – Foundation and Development 1955 – 1961

It was a full house in Sydney's Royal Australian Historical Society on Macquarie Street on the evening of May 12 2026 when friends of the Thredbo Alpine Museum gathered to catch up and hear Greg Hughes, son of Geoffrey Hughes, one of the founders of Thredbo, give an account of the earliest beginnings of Thredbo Alpine Resort based upon documents held by his father and preserved for over 70 years.

As told by Greg, and as written in his book "Starting Thredbo" Geoffrey Hughes laid eyes on the vast Thredbo Valley in 1955, envisioning a ski resort.

The original syndicate of Sydney architect, Eric Nicholls, Charles Anton and Geoffrey Hughes was formed over lunch in Sydney in April 1955 whereupon they also agreed to invite Tony Sponar to join them, which he did.

Encouraged with the knowledge that "the Snowy is building the road up the Thredbo Valley and there is a wonderful opportunity for a new ski resort in Thredbo. It could be a goldmine, so it is dangerous to alert others to it.



We should get in first, register a business name and stake a claim on the best area in the valley" (Reference, "Starting Thredbo" by Geoffrey Hughes).

On Eric Nicholl's insistence that the words "Kosciusko" and "Thredbo" be in the business name, the syndicate called themselves "The Kosciusko Chairlift and Thredbo Hotel Syndicate."

Sydney Function

Thredbo – Foundation and Development 1955 – 1961

When Andrew Thyne Reid, a keen skier and member of the Ski Alpine Club of Australia agreed to financially back the project, he joined the syndicate and eventually become Chairman of Kosciusko Thredbo Limited. In November 1955 it was agreed that the lease of an area within Thredbo Valley would be granted subject to the terms and conditions and in anticipation of the formation of a public company to finance and conduct the establishment of the project. It followed that in 1957 the Syndicate secured a 99-year lease from the NSW Minister for Lands, requiring them to build a chairlift and 100 bed hotel within 5 years.

These very early days, with the vision of the original members of the syndicate resulted in its incorporation as Kosciusko Thredbo Limited, a company acquired by Lend Lease in 1961. Those six years saw much perseverance, courage and ingenuity, setbacks and personal sacrifices that lead to the development of a world class ski resort, the Thredbo that is now enjoyed by locals and visitors, year-round.

For Greg's full presentation
<https://youtu.be/mQYKXOb04cE?si=yR6JcsqimziH-Gek>



Sponar and Anton in a landmark Thredbo photo
(Geoffrey Hughes Collection)



Geoffrey Hughes pre Thredbo development

UPCOMING EVENTS 2026

July 23

Tommy's 100th Birthday party

Lounge Bar

1pm - 4pm

August 30

**TAM Faces of Thredbo Dinner & Awards
Recognising women who have contributed
to Thredbo.**

Thredbo Alpine Hotel

5.30pm Kosci Room

Tickets can be purchased at
<https://www.thredboalpinemuseum.org.au/event-details/tam-2026-annual-faces-of-thredbo-dinner>

October TBA

**TAM Annual General Meeting
Thredbo**

TAM Committee

Co-Presidents

Randy Wieman 0408 453 632

Errol Hanlon 0439 646 313

Vice President

Wayne Kirkpatrick 0184 766 484

Secretary

Maureen Roberts 0490 365 987

Treasurer

Raylene Jarvis 0414 679 409

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Andrew Koczanowski 0401 958 321

Judy Lenne 0419 973 306

Brian Farmer 0428 619 788

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Julie Pearson 0408 838 339

Newsletter editors

Randy Wieman, Errol Hanlon, Robyn Price,
Kris Laird Hardman

If you have a story for the next newsletter
email it to us now via

thredbomuseumnewsletter@gmail.com

VALE: Albert Van Der Lee



Albert van der Lee is a prominent figure in the history of Thredbo Alpine Resort, particularly as a key builder and long-term resort manager, he was the inaugural president of Thredbo Alpine Museum, or the Thredbo Historical Society, as it was originally known, from its formation in 1995.

Recognised for his considerable involvement with Thredbo, Albert was awarded one of the original "Faces of Thredbo" in 2018 for his significant role in developing the village from its early days in the 1960s, working alongside pioneers like Tony Sponar and Dick Dusseldorp transforming the mountain into a major skiing destination.

Originally from the Netherlands, Albert migrated to Australia in April 1960 with his wife Sandra. With a background in engineering and construction, he came to Australia and worked with Civil & Civic as a civil engineer on the construction of the Sydney Opera House having written to Dick Dusseldorp looking for work in Australia.

In 1962, learning that Lend Lease had taken over a company operating the Thredbo Alpine Resort, Albert and others of the Opera House crew were transferred to head up the construction team for the 1962/63 season. Originally Resident Engineer of Kosciusko Thredbo in 1963, he worked with Dick Dusseldorp again when he took on the role of reporting to him as the Manager of KT, a position he held for 22 years, from 1962 to 1984. He was appointed a director of the company in 1970.

During this time, he and his family lived in the notable De Dacha, a European style lodge overlooking the duck ponds in Thredbo Village, which he designed and built.

In 1981 Albert was made a life member of the Thredbo Ski Racing Club.

Albert van der Lee passed away in January 2026 in Perth.

Faces of Thredbo

HONOUR BOARD

Recognises those who have made significant contributions to skiing and or the development of Thredbo as an alpine resort.

Those honoured are recognised below

2014

Leonhard Erhartert
Barry May
Michael Milton
Sasha Nekvapil
Frank Prihoda

2015

Charles Anton
Dick Dusseldorp
Cees Koeman
Tony Sponar
Tommy Tomasi

2016

George Freuden
Geoffrey Hughes
Andrew Thyne Reid

2017

Elyne Mitchell
Rudi Schatzle

2018

Albert van der Lee
Bela Racsko

2019

Ludwig Rabina
Wayne Kirkpatrick

2021

Kim Clifford
Bob Arnott

2022

Michelle & Heinz Reichinger

2023

Steve Breathour
Ian Foster

2024

Ron Finneran
Kurt Lance

2025

Robin Dyke
The Deseo Family
(Candlelight Lodge)

2026

Ann Koeman
Beryl Clifford
Pam Hughes
Dawn Lucas

Thredbo Alpine Museum (TAM)

Sick history! The Danioc's Brisbane, QLD

Interesting! Theva, Anita & Varsshini MALAYSA

Perfect! Joan Allan BRISBANE

Very Good & Interesting! Gary & Margaret MELBOURNE

COOL! Kaylee Fain Barr Crackenback Drive :)

Loved it! Jane Lili PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Absolutely Amazing! Kiarni McIntyre WOLLONGONG

Always worth a visit. The Waucks GOLD COAST

Did You Know

Ski ballet was an Olympic sport?

The combination of skiing and ballet (or acroscopic skiing, later renamed ski ballet) was around between 1960 and 2000, the art of perfectly choreographed ballet moves while wearing skis was the latest craze.

It appeared as an Olympic demonstration sport in 1988 and 1992. Its popularity didn't last, but its creative legacy lives on in other Olympic free styling disciplines like Slopestyle and big air.



Fun, exciting, love this. Darke family CANBERRA ACT

What a collection! Vancouver, CANADA

We thank our team of community volunteers that have enabled Thredbo Alpine Museum's doors to be open 85 days throughout Summer 2025/6.

GALA

WINTER DINNER 2026

&

“FACES OF THREDBO” AWARDS

*A Fabulous Night of
Mirth, Merriment & Celebration*

CELEBRATING WOMEN WHO HAVE MADE
A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO THREDBO
IN THE EARLY DAYS



Beryl
Clifford



Dawn
Lucas



Pam
Hughes



Ann
Koeman



With Special Guest Speaker –



An exciting live auction by Rowen Kelly – including
“Thredbo” by Tony Harrington. From the Defining
Moments book available at HarroArt.com.



Super raffle with heaps of great prizes



Randy’s magical video compilation
of Thredbo’s Yesteryears



DINNER – A delicious 2 course dinner
with a complimentary welcome drink upon arrival

*For dietary requirements, allergies or special requests,
including creating your table of ten, please email:
randywieman@gmail.com*



DATE & TIME

Sunday, 30th August 2026

Doors open at 5:30 PM
for a 6 PM start
Event concludes at 10 PM



VENUE

Kosciusko Room,
Thredbo Alpine Hotel

Members: only \$80
Non-members \$100

\$120 including 12 months
TAM membership
when booking online

LIMITED TICKETS – BOOK EARLY!!



PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE

[https://www.thredboalpinemuseum.org.au/
event-details/tam-pre-winter-sydney-function-1](https://www.thredboalpinemuseum.org.au/event-details/tam-pre-winter-sydney-function-1)



Membership & Opening Times

Become a TAM member today

Individual, Family, Lodge & Corporate memberships available.

TAM MEMBERSHIP FEES 2025/26

Individuals

1 year \$45
5 years \$225
10 years \$450

Family

1 year \$60
5 years \$300

Group/Club Lodge

Annual \$220/year

Corporate

Gold: \$1500/yr
Silver: \$1000/yr
Bronze: \$500/yr

Membership payments direct deposit
Thredbo Alpine Museum
BSB 032 728 Acc. 106314



<https://www.thredboalpinemuseum.org.au/membership-payment>

Winter Opening Times

12 – 4 pm

GROUP VISITS PLEASE CONTACT US

TAM Membership 2026
support our local
Thredbo Alpine Museum
Join or renew your
membership now.

Business/Corporate Membership is
available too!

Become a TAM
member today online

<https://www.thredboalpinemuseum.org.au/membership-payment>

INVITATION

Contributions for the newsletter from the TAM membership are very welcome.

Please forward contributions by email to Thredbomuseumnewsletter@gmail.com