

GEEBUNG SKI CLUB
OCTOBER 2020
END OF SEASON REPORT TO MEMBERS

The ski season is now behind us and we are in a position to report, as to how Geebung has so far managed to navigate this strange year.

As you know, the bush fires and then the Corona Virus restrictions imposed by the Government and each resort greatly reduced both lodges' capacity to receive guests. There was always uncertainty as to what the rules actually were, and they regularly changed. The most difficult issue was the method by which lift tickets were subject to a daily quota and the method of distribution. All this made the decision for members to plan bookings very difficult. There were many cancellations and we decided to offer either refunds or credits for cancellations.

The committee decided to re-open the lodges on 22nd June, and imposed a 50% capacity limit at each lodge. As the season progressed, we relaxed that rule somewhat at the discretion of Louise, our booking officer. This was because we formed the view that if people were in family groups there was minimal risk in increasing capacity slightly beyond 50%, so long as the rules concerning the common areas were adhered to.

Both Emma and Keith did a tremendous job in supervising the various rules we imposed. They are to be commended for the outstanding job they did in difficult circumstances.

Louise, our booking officer, also deserves praise and thanks for her tireless efforts throughout the season in managing and juggling the many bookings and difficulties occasioned by the new lodge rules, and the inability for members to purchase lift tickets.

We also wish to thank each and every member and guest who attended the lodge throughout the season for their co-operation. We received hardly any complaints from anyone, and all reports are that both lodges operated extremely well.

As expected, the 2020 winter bed usage, decreased by approximately 50%, as compared to the average of last two winter seasons.

Obviously, our income from accommodation fees was substantially reduced as a result of the limited accommodation we were able to make available.

The club managed to survive because of the \$165 special levy we issued in May 2020, together with six new membership fees. The committee would like to thank the vast majority of members that paid this special levy, so promptly! As a result, the club remains in a strong financial position notwithstanding our reduced income for accommodation.

We have applied to both our landlords for rent relief upon a basis that we think is reasonable wherein we have asked them to share the reduction in accommodation income caused by not just the Corona Virus but earlier in the year, the bushfires.

Negotiations with both landlords are continuing.

We are all extremely hopeful that next year will bring a return to normal so that the club can be fully used by its members.

The committee has been very cost conscious this year and we have spent as little money as possible. One project we have pressed on with, however, because we think it is essential, is the upgrading of the website. Contracts have been signed and work is underway which will result in, we hope, in the booking aspect of the website being greatly enhanced and being made more user friendly.

Sadly, after 17 years as Vice President and Director in charge of maintenance of the lodges **Ross Stanton** has retired. The club owes Ross a debt of gratitude which is immeasurable. The directors held a farewell/thank you dinner for Ross in October where we presented him with a framed montage of photographs of both lodges and him in the ski fields with an appropriate inscription.

Find following a note which Ross has asked to be sent to all members. The note contains some of his thoughts and philosophies as to the ongoing operation of the club. His thoughts deserve respect and provide good food for thought for decisions to be made as to the future.

After 17 years as a Director of the Club I thought this year was a suitable time to stand aside to enable a new director to make a contribution.

I am sure the Club will successfully weather the current Covid 19 problems and looking back I am pleased with what the club has been able to achieve over the last 17 years. Good practical matters have been attended to in the form of:

- Introducing lodge managers.*
- Acting on geotechnical advice to improve the stability of our Thredbo site.*
- Updating our constitution.*
- Securing long extensions to our Perisher Lease and Thredbo Sub-Lease.*
- Refurbishing most of the interior of the Thredbo lodge.*
- Renewing the kitchen at Perisher.*
- Cladding the Perisher lodge and replacing most of its windows.*
- Developing the club's web page to facilitate online bookings.*
- Generally keeping member tariffs and subscriptions low.*
- Maintaining a sound financial position.*

I am particularly appreciative of the excellent advice and support I received from Greg Middleton - who was the Club's treasurer for most of my time as a Director.

When the Covid 19 situation passes I will be interested to see what paths the club takes. For my part I would like to see;

- A continuation of our recent efforts to encourage club camaraderie with activities such as ski racing, ski touring, fly fishing, cycling and bush walking.*
- The second week of September at Thredbo being set aside for club ski touring along with further long weekends in summer and autumn being set aside for club fly fishing. I hope the web page can facilitate a membership events calendar to assist with these sorts of activities.*
- The refurbishment of the bedrooms and bathrooms in the Perisher lodge and the completion of the refurbishment of the Thredbo lodge.*
- Keeping the lodges accessible for member bookings during peak seasons.*

The latter is an interesting issue. The recent capital expenditures on the lodges have been largely funded from membership joining fees but of course newly joined members are understandably keen to use the lodges and hence lodge accessibility is becoming more of an issue. My current view is that when the Club's finances permit, that membership vacancies could generally be left unfilled. This would gradually improve lodge accessibility. The alternative of acquiring a further lodge would be much costlier.

I hope to continue to encounter my fellow members in the alpine environment we all so like.

Regards,

Ross Stanton

A reminder that your 2021 subscription will be emailed out on 1st November and members are able to make bookings for winter 2021, when your subscription has been paid. Louise has asked those members that have booking credits for 2021, that you mention this in the note section of the booking form.

The next AGM will be held on Monday 22nd February 2021. Because of Ross' resignation there will be at least one vacancy on the committee, we encourage people who are interested (particularly people who might be interested in building and maintenance type work and which may include visits to the lodges) to stand. Please feel free to contact any member of the committee if you wish to discuss how you can contribute.

The next communication you receive from the committee will be notice of that AGM.

Yours in skiing

The Geebung Ski Club Committee