

Geebung Race Weekend Report

Hi everyone, I'm Ella Lochhead. I coordinated geebung's entry into the 2018 Thredbo Interclub Race that was held last season on the second Saturday in August.

I asked to speak today because I think this is a great opportunity to fill everyone in, as it was the first time Geebung had entered, celebrate the team's success and even nudge anyone over the line who are considering giving it a go this year.

The success of the Geebung race weekend really centred around it being a club activity that involved time on the mountain and meeting other members with relatable passions for skiing. Club activities, that are held in the mountains have been gaining momentum in recent years, such as the ski touring weekend and the trout fishing weekend so I'm really happy to see this event added to the Geebung calendar and in the process, open up new possibilities for fellow members.

To fill everyone in, there are a series of events, both on and off the snow, that lead up to a ski race on the second Saturday of August, followed by a presentation ceremony and cocktail party.

History

It's worth noting that the Thredbo Interclub Race is a very significant race on the Thredbo season calendar, perhaps second only to the top to bottom race, as it's been held every year since 1985.

To emphasize the significance, last year, there were 175 competitors, from 14 different ski clubs. Competitors were competing for individual prizes, some with handicaps; The Sir Herbert Schlink Trophy, for the fastest team of 5; and the most converted being the Nekvapil Shield for the highest scoring club overall. Also, not to be overlooked is the Broken Ski Trophy, awarded to the competitor who had the most spectacular fall of the day.

Team Geebung

Geebung's team included; Paul Deschamps, Andrew Silvers, Sonia Wilkin, the Stanton sisters, the wolf-gillings brothers and myself

I'll touch on how we went at the end.

If you'd like to get involved – here are the following events which were held.

- Race technique refresher lesson on the Friday before the race
- Introductory drinks at the Geebung Thredbo Lodge on Friday night.
- The Saturday main race, which included course inspection and 2 runs down rossi racecourse.
- Awards presentation and cocktail party in Thredbo village

It's also worth noting that Southern Alps Club has invited Geebung to join their training sessions and club ski race, that they host in the days leading up to the main race on the Saturday. Other clubs who join these activities are Kosciusko Alpine Club and Thredbo Alpine Club.

This gesture ties into the larger gestures of encouragement by race organisers to help Geebung out as much as possible. They were genuinely excited to have a new club join in after all these years. Ross Stanton, who was also at the Cocktail Party, will remember the specific shout out we received at the start of the awards presentation.

Such gestures even extended to giving us favourable starting numbers in the race.

They clearly weren't too concerned that we'd upset the favourites.

The results -

The truth is that we weren't overly competitive but it was most of our first times racing, and everyone had a much faster 2nd run which is a great sign. Special mention goes to Sonia Wilkan and Kathryn Stanton who both wiped off 3 seconds from their first to second run times. That's a huge amount in the world of ski racing.

We also had 2 competitors in the top 50 overall, even before handicaps.

The Best wipeout – (amongst the geebung team) was Nick Wolf-Gillings who's ski 'allegedly' pre-released about 5 turns into his first run. This was captured perfectly by the official race day photographer.

I'll also nominate myself as having room for improvement based on the fact that I missed the last gate in my second run, a very rookie error.

And so, following all the action, Geebung team placed equal 9th.

Thanks -

Thanks must go to the Geebung Committee for supporting the cause, and allocating some funds to the team.

Louise for organising supporting documentation and reserving beds for team members.

And Nick Wolf-Gillings for giving up a lot of his work time to design a very original and professional team jersey.

Get involved -

I'd encourage anyone here today to join the team, all that's required is committing to a long weekend at Thredbo. The weekend will involve, getting your ski legs warmed up on the Friday, skiing hard and racing hard on the Saturday. celebrating on the Saturday night, recovering on the Sunday.

I can also promise that that most significant, or only investment you'll be recommended to make is to spend \$15 getting your skis waxed the night before, which I will probably make you faster than most on the day.

Please come find me at the end if you have any questions or send me an email.