



BURRUMBEEP NEWS

JULY 2013



Welcome to the latest edition of the Burrumbeep News.

After a slow start to the season, a run of chilly weather and some recent snowfalls have raised hopes that 2013 will deliver yet another season to remember.

The Heavenly Valley and Village chairlifts started turning on Monday and, with more snow on its way, we hope you will all be moved to book some mountain time this year.

A few productive work parties and some welcome additions like new blinds and double-glazed windows in the bedrooms, have ensured the Lodge is in great shape as we head into peak season.

As well as an update on the Committee's activities over the past year, this newsletter includes a host of information to make your stay at Burrumbeep easier and more enjoyable.

We will also be introducing a new section of the newsletter called Notice Board to keep you up-to-date on matters relating to your stay at the Lodge.

I hope you enjoy the Winter 2013 edition of Burrumbeep News.

Hamish Heard

President's Note

Page 2

Bookings Report

Page 3

Notice Board

Page 7

President's Page

Annual General Meeting

The AGM was held in Ballarat on 21 April this year. The draft minutes of the AGM are available for your review on the Club website, and the President's Annual Report presented at the AGM forms part of this newsletter.

Leon Price and Mike Kermode retired from the Committee at the AGM, and the gratitude of the Club for their service was conveyed at the meeting. In particular, the extraordinary contribution of Mike and Marg Kermode over a period of thirty years in a variety of roles, was noted. The Committee made a small presentation to Marg and Mike in recognition of their efforts on behalf of the Club. Mike now intends to take advantage of the Club's Succession plan, to transition his membership to his daughter Prue.

Opening Weekend

It was great to see so many of the committee for Opening Weekend- thank you to those who put in the work to get the lodge ready for the season. The main effort was to finish off internally and externally around the new double glazed windows which have been installed in all of the bedrooms, and which make a great improvement to the bedrooms, both from an aesthetic and sustainability perspective. As a result of the installation of solar panels at the lodge before last season, our electricity costs have reduced substantially, and we have just received a credit of more than \$2000! Final work to be completed on the bedrooms includes painting, which will be done prior to next season.

Committee Meeting

We had a meeting of the Committee at the Lodge on Opening weekend. Aside from the continuing lease renewal negotiations, we also discussed a number of matters relating to usage of the Lodge, which whilst they may seem small, do have a bearing on happy and congenial usage.

Gas consumption is a growing proportion of our expenses, and we ask that when using the lodge you bear this in mind and try to avoid leaving doors and windows open whilst the heating is on.

Other matters, some of which are also covered elsewhere in this newsletter, include the fact that resort management will refuse to collect rubbish that is not separated and secured in accordance with new guidelines, the use of the new coffee machines, and security, in particular the need to be discreet about the door code and to make sure the Lodge is secure every time you leave the premises.

Finally, we discussed the cleaning of the Lodge by professional cleaners on Saturday mornings. I want to make two points about the cleaning service. First, it is not a replacement for individual duties allocated both by rooms, and by the lodge leader. Secondly, please make life as easy as possible for the cleaning staff by letting them have a clear run at their jobs, and making way for them as necessary, so they can do their job and be out of the Lodge as soon as possible. Any inconvenience should be minimal.

Wishing all Members, their families and guests a great ski season in 2013.

John Slattery, President

Bookings

A healthy influx of early bookings has us sitting at about the same occupancy rate as last year but there are still plenty of vacancies during what are usually among the best skiing weeks of the year.

Due to increased running costs, most notably those charged by the resort management authority, the committee has been forced to increase lodge fees.

The new fees are:

GUESTS: LOW SEASON: \$55 per night

HIGH SEASON: \$65 per night

MEMBERS AND DEBENTURE HOLDERS ALL SEASON: \$40.00 per night

Low Season is June 8-28 June and September 9-29

The rest of the year remains at \$30 per night per person.

It should be pointed out that the best way to relieve pressure on lodge fees going forward is by ensuring members take full advantage of their membership privileges.

It is pleasing to note that so many of you have taken advantage of our online booking system, which I'm sure you would agree is convenient and user friendly.

For those of you unfamiliar with the system, you need to log onto our website www.burumbeep.org. If you have never logged on before you will need to use your email address as the username and ararat as the password. For those of you who have forgotten your password just put any password in and the website will send you a new one.

It is important that members ensure any bookings are paid for in a timely manner. Failure to do so will result in the bookings being cancelled to ensure there is enough time fill the vacancies.

Finally, the committee is considering shortening the period between the AGM and the start of open bookings from one month to a week next year. The reasoning behind this is that all bookings made during the period where bookings are restricted to member plus one guest were received within a few days of the AGM in April.

If anyone has any concerns, feel free to email me.

Tim Lewis, Bookings Manager, 0418-178363

bookings@burumbeep.org

Levies

Thank you to all the people who have paid their levy for 2013.

Around half of the 100 Members have paid so far.

This is a reminder to the other half that your levy is now due.

Please look back at the email sent to you about your levy to see

the payment options. If you would like another email please let

me know.

It's important to remember that there

Ceal Gubbins

Treasurer

cmgubbins@gmail.com



Rick Stevenson

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Rick Stevenson in March this year.

As a foundation Committee Member (1973 to 1976), Rick was one of a small group of men whose energy and determination helped bring the Club together.

While his association with the Club itself ended some years ago, Rick was well known, liked and respected by many in the Burrumbeep community.

Condolences to Ione, Sophie, Chloe, Aggie, Nick and families.

Courtney's Corner

Courtney Pern

Bedroom windows

We hope you enjoy our new bedroom windows! They represent an upgrade to Burrumbeep of which we can all be proud. They are double-glazed to minimise heat loss, and can be locked securely and easily. To further reduce heat loss, the windows now have two panes instead of the original three, with the lower one replaced by a well-insulated wall section. A lot of hard work made all this possible, with particularly feverish activity at the work party over the Queen's Birthday weekend, in order to have the work finished for the new ski season.

The new windows will help make the upstairs bedrooms warmer in winter and save on our energy costs, heating is the largest portion of our running cost.

But all this won't work if the windows are left open! A minimal window opening is recommended for ventilation at night, but please close the windows during the day. And if your room is too hot, please turn the heater down – rather than opening the window more!

Your help with this will minimise

greenhouse gas emissions and help keep our bed rates low.

Sadly, security is an important issue on the mountain. Please lock the window when leaving your room for the day, and ensure that the entrance door is always kept locked. All downstairs windows must also be kept locked.

Ovens

In the clean-up after dinner, the ovens are often overlooked. They are easily cleaned - wiped down with detergent and hot water - provided this is done after each use. If this is not done, fat becomes burnt on, and over time can be almost impossible to remove. And please NEVER use harsh metal scourers on any of the oven surfaces, inside or outside!

Mess from a fatty roast can be minimised by covering the baking dish, and high temperatures should be avoided

So please leave a clean oven for others to use.

Remember, if you use it, clean it!

Memberships

Murray Elrington

Several Members have flagged an intention to sell and a small number of prospective buyers are waiting in the wings. Club rules dictate that any memberships listed for sale are offered to family of existing Members ahead of others.

The Committee would like to remind Members there is a succession plan available, enabling them to transfer their membership to an adult child who is an Associate Member. Under the scheme, the original Member and their spouse would retain membership privileges as a Senior Associate Member while the full membership is passed on to their adult child, who is then able to purchase Debentures for their immediate family.

If you require additional information, contact the membership me.

membership@burrumbeep.org



Work Party Report

A few small but productive work parties have left the Lodge in great shape heading into the current ski season.

Upstairs bedrooms have all benefitted from a lick of paint and visitors to the Lodge will notice the new blinds and double-glazed windows which have also contributed to the overall freshen up.

The upstairs hallway and most of the upstairs kitchen, dining and lounge area, including the ceiling, has also had a coat of paint and the exposed timber beams have been re-oiled for the first time in many years.

A fair bit of work was also put in to re-install the new rangehoods at the regulation height above the gas cooktops. The Committee has agreed the cooktops will also need to be replaced.

Other projects under consideration include a possible ski locker under the Lodge and the replacement of the main upstairs window. However, the latter project is a particularly expensive one and a decision has been made to defer it and concentrate on fixing the latches in the meantime.

The woodshed has also had some attention, with the Committee re-cladding it over the Opening Weeking in June.

It is also worth noting that the opening and closing procedure is being re-written so the steps are clear and the new instructions will be placed in the same location at the power board in the ski room.

Work party participation remains an issue and, if it wasn't for the outstanding efforts of the small number who did attend this year's parties, the cost of using contractors for all of the above works would have been a considerable burden to Members.

You will all have noticed that the annual maintenance levy has increased to \$250 this year and Members are reminded that the only way to avoid this is to contribute to work parties.



Notice Board

This is a new section of the newsletter and is designed to keep Members updated on matters relating to their stay at the Lodge.

Rubbish

There are new rubbish collection arrangements relating to the separation and security of rubbish. It is vital that Members and guests follow the clear instructions located in the Lodge as failure to do so will result in the resort refusing to collect the rubbish. It is also important to note that Burrumbeep's original rubbish collection shed has been demolished and properly-bagged rubbish now needs be placed in a shared facility located between the Lodge and McMillan.

Security code

The security code for the front door is sent out when you book.

Lodge security is paramount and Members and guests are urged to be discreet about the door code and ensure it is properly locked every time they leave the premises.

Coffee machine

The purchase of a coffee pod machine and milk frother will be a welcome addition to the kitchen inventory this winter. The Caffitaly machine uses pods that can be purchased at any Woolworths super market - either their own Select brand, or another that will be advertised to suit the Caffitaly machine. Anyone wanting to use the machine will need to bring their own pods.

Discount ski hire

While the closure of the small supermarket on the Lodge's doorstep was a small blow, the new tenant in the space, Hoys, has signalled its goodwill by offering Burrumbeep members and guests a significant discount on ski and equipment rental.

The deal offers a 15 per cent discount on ski and board packages, with the discount increasing to 20 per cent off for those who book transport or hire chains through Hoys at Harrietville (which also entitles you to a FREE chain-fitting service).

For groups of 10-plus adults booking ski and board packages for a minimum of two days, the discount increases to 25 per cent.

For enquiries or to pre-book, visit www.hoysskis.com.au or phone 1800 GO SNOW or 03) 5759 25 89.

Resort entry

Resort entry

Please do not forget that the new automated resort entry system is now in place with number-plate recognition technology. Pre-purchase of all tickets is required to gain entry.

To pre-purchase your permit, [click here](#) or phone 03) 5759 3550.

Notice Board Continued

Lift passes

This year sees the introduction of Snow pass, a fully automated, reloadable access card for all your lift ticket, lessons and equipment hire purchases. The cards cost just \$3 at the Hotham eStore, where it can be reloaded online to enable you to skip the queues on those powdery winter mornings. The system provides access to a range of great discounts, including 15 per cent off lift tickets purchased 14 days in advance and 10 per cent off tickets bought seven days in advance.

[Click here](#) to view Lift Pass information

Climbing on the roof

While climbing on the roof is somewhat of a time-honoured tradition for many of the younger guests at the Lodge, the potential for damage to the new solar panels has made it necessary to consign the practice to the history books. It would be appreciated if anyone seen climbing on the Lodge roof was reminded of this.

Ski equipment

The growing clutter of abandoned ski equipment beneath the Lodge needs to be addressed. Members are asked to ensure that they check the area behind the workshop to see if they have inadvertently left redundant equipment behind over the years. Failure to do so could result in unaccounted for equipment being removed during future work parties. However, we will endeavour to retain any skis that pre-date 1998 for our annual sled repair.

Out of season activities

The green-season offering at Hotham is continually improving, with bushwalking and mountain biking among the attractions after snow melts. The bushwalking season runs from Melbourne Cup Weekend until mid May and bushwalkers of every level can take advantage of tracks including the Cobungra Ditch Walk, the Mt Feathertop Razorback Walk, the Australian Alps Walking Track, a self-guided Eco Walk to Mt Loch or the Huts Walk, linking three historic Hotham huts.

[Click here](#) to find out more.

President's Report

Dear Members,

I am pleased to present my report as President of the Burrumbeep Ski Club covering the 2012 – 2013 year.

The 2012 snow season produced consistent snow cover with over four metres of snow falling during the 2012 winter. The Mount Hotham resort achieved the highest number of visits to the mountain since they have been keeping records (447,294 visitor days in 2012, compared to 325,804 in 2011).

Burrumbeep Members enjoyed the conditions, and we experienced strong usage by Members and guests during the season, with the accommodation revenue rising by about nine percent over the 2011 number.

The Club's finances are in good shape. We have a strong cash position which we manage conservatively, and which enables us to make improvements to the Lodge on an ongoing basis. I think you will all agree that the new booking system is working very well, and our sincere thanks go to Tim Lewis for his ongoing management of bookings. We are keen to explore further ways of improving our ability to communicate with Members, including the potential use of social media.

The Lodge is in good order. New ovens were installed prior to the commencement of the 2012 snow season, and a dishwasher and the satellite dish were replaced during the year. Significant items of maintenance were undertaken during the course of the year by various work parties, and I thank all those members who have contributed to the welfare of the lodge by participating in work parties. By using member time we are able to minimise our reliance on outside maintenance services, thus making a positive contribution to our bottom line. New cooktops will be installed prior to the commencement of the 2013 season. Peter Leeke continues to do an outstanding job as co-ordinator of our work party programme, and I want to point out that he has been at Burrumbeep during the last week overseeing our latest project, the installation of double glazing in all of the bedrooms. This is a major initiative for the Club, which will enhance comfort, reduce running costs, and improve security.

I want to comment on the recent fires which raged around Mount Hotham for several weeks in late summer. Most of you will be aware that the Hotham Village was directly under threat on many occasions during that period and that the lodges (including Burrumbeep) in the Davenport subdivision had a close shave and were probably only saved by the intervention of DSE/CFA and the Hotham management team. Whilst the Hotham management comes in for a fair amount of criticism from time to time from the lodges through the Hotham Ski Association, they did an outstanding job during the fires, in protecting both public and private assets on the mountain, at considerable personal risk⁹

President's Report cont.

in protecting both public and private assets on the mountain, at considerable personal risk and stress. I have thanked the management team on behalf of Burrumbeep for their efforts on our behalf. Tragically, two professional firefighters lost their lives on the mountain. We should not forget the efforts and sacrifices of others in this experience.

As a result of the fires, and subsequent heavy rain and storm activity, considerable damage has been done to the Great Alpine Road, with multiple road slips between Harrietville and Hotham Heights, and huge activity is currently being undertaken to restore it prior to the snow season. As I write this, it is snowing at Mount Hotham, a real reminder that they don't have long to make the road good. There is currently only limited access to the mountain, and as a consequence of that, serious financial hardship is being experienced in the local economy. In our own small way, we have been impacted by the loss of summer/long weekend/Easter bookings.

Last year I reported on the position of our lease renewal negotiations. It has taken almost a year, but in the last couple of days we have received advice that the site valuation (which is used to determine the rent) has been completed and that instructions have been issued to the Government lawyers to prepare a new lease. Our current lease expires in October this year so hopefully the paperwork can be completed within that timeframe. The Committee has not yet had an opportunity to consider the implications of the valuation, but we will do that very soon. This has been a painfully slow process, and is still subject to Ministerial approval.

Also last year I referred in my report to the rising costs of running the Lodge. In the main this is being driven by the service charge from MHRMB which covers services and other infrastructure, village transport etc. As I flagged last year, we have increased our accommodation charges by a modest amount to help ameliorate this highly inflationary charge from the MHRMB. However the reality is that the best way for us to offset the charge is increased usage, and particularly in the green season. Members have a part to play in supporting the Club by considering usage options.

Mountain management have undertaken a number of projects which have enhanced the attractiveness of Mount Hotham as a summer destination. This includes three walking tracks which have opened up the potential for other tourism activities such as bike riding, alpine fishing and exploration of old gold mining sites. The most recently completed track is the Hotham to Dinner Plain Trail which provides an exciting new option for both walkers and cyclists.

The Committee is keen to support initiatives for greater use of the Lodge facilities, and to this end Rob Joyes has agreed to take responsibility for the development of a marketing plan.

President's Report cont.

On a sad note I record the recent passing of one of our former members, Rick Stevenson. Rick was one of the founding members of our Club.

I would like to thank all the Committee Members for their support during the year. All have assumed responsibility for different activities during the year. In particular I record my thanks to the other office bearers, Murray and Ceal, for their diligence in undertaking their roles. Two Committee members do not seek re-election this year, and I want to record our sincere thanks for the contributions made by Leon Price and Mike Kermode.

In doing so, I can't let the opportunity pass without formally recording the amazing contribution which has been made to this Club by both Mike and Marg Kermode. I think it was about 1982 when Mike first joined the Committee, and since that time Mike has had many roles within the Club, including as President. However he and Marg will probably be best remembered for their role as booking officers over a very long period of time, a role they undertook without the aid of modern technology, and in a patient and courteous manner they always dealt with members ringing on the wrong night, confusing their bookings and forgetting to pay. We intend making a small presentation to Marg and Mike on behalf of the membership of the Club to reflect our gratitude for a job well done and to acknowledge the esteem in which they are held by the members. I have no doubt they will remain closely involved with Burrumbeep.

In closing, I want to thank our members for their support, and we all look forward to a great snow season in 2013.

John Slattery,
President.