

**THE NEWSLETTER OF THE KOOMERANG SKI
CLUB**

(Incorporating Scotch College Ski Club)

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die brettln

The magazine of the Koomerang Ski Club

Summer Edition, 2009

Die Brettln – Dec 2009

**General
President's Report
NEW website and Booking system
2010 Subscriptions
Around the Mountains**

General

2009 proved to be another successful year for Koomerang. The Committee is determined not to rest on their laurels and is continuing to progress various projects over the warmer months. Hopefully this work behind the scenes will ensure that 2010 will build upon the strong momentum from this year.

The Committee will also develop a number of ideas and initiatives aimed at further strengthening the Club.

On behalf of the Committee, I wish you all a safe and happy festive season and we look forward to presenting some new developments in the New Year.

**Will Hauser
Member Communications**

Presidents Report

Another very busy and successful year for your Committee is coming to an end.

In October, the Committee took time out from our normal monthly meeting to focus on the future. One of our members, Hugh Kingsley, kindly facilitated a strategic planning meeting to discuss the vision for the Club and our strategic business plan.

The vision agreed upon by the Committee was that we are:

'a Club which provides comfortable, reasonably priced accommodation to members and guests wishing to enjoy alpine sports and year round alpine recreation'.

We then discussed and agreed on our priorities for the next 5 years and I will be providing a more detailed presentation on these priorities and how we intend to fund them at the Annual General Meeting to be held on Tuesday 23rd. March 2010.

Shortly before our strategy discussion we were pleased to receive confirmation from the Mount Hotham Resort Management Board that it agreed in principle, that it would grant Koomerang a new lease of approximately 40 year tenure if we build a stand alone lodge on our Mt Hotham site (subject of course to approval of plans etc). A sub-committee has now been authorised to proceed with pursuing design costing and funding options for this stand alone lodge.

Members will note from our vision that we appreciate Koomerang as a Club and not just an accommodation provider. In order to provide members with Club facilities at Mt Hotham, we propose to replicate and improve on the atmosphere and style of our Mt Buller and Thredbo lodges rather than offer an apartment type development such as our facility at Falls Creek. We are however concerned at the potential costs in building our own lodge and will carry out an ongoing review on the alternative option of purchasing another existing lodge or apartments at Mt Hotham.

You will see from the other articles in this issue that there are many exciting things happening in the Club and we can really look forward to 2010.

The Committee wishes all members compliments of the Season and for those lucky enough to be skiing in the northern hemisphere, have a good run for the rest of us!

Nigel Watson
President

New website and Booking system

In the last issue of Die Brettln, we announced that in response to member feedback about the need to improve the Koomerang website, a new website and booking system would replace the ProBooking system.

We evaluated three ski club booking systems and selected "The Alpine Booking System" from CBDWeb. Because we have four lodges and a relatively large number of members, CBDWeb have added additional functionality to their booking system and we are currently testing these features. CBDWeb have also been engaged to setup the new website and to link this to the booking system.

A sub-committee (Mike Macleish, Rod McNab, Stephen Boykett, Chris Hoelter, Matt Dawson and Will Hauser) have been preparing for the introduction and we're excited to confirm that the new website will be launched progressively from the end of December 2010 through January 2010.

In mid to late January, we will email instructions to you on how to update your membership details, review transactions posted to your Koomerang account, make bookings and pay online. You will find the new booking system easier and quicker to use.

If any of your contact details change between now and when you receive these instructions, could you please email such changes to Rod McNab on membership@koomerang.com.au.

We will be adding information and photos to the new website, which will include new features (eg. links to up-to-date information about what's happening at each of the mountains in both winter and summer and a membership forum) and the new club logo.

If you wish to make a booking for summer or autumn, the procedure you should follow depends on the date when you make the booking (not the start and end dates you wish to book for).

Booking Date	Contact	Phone or Email
Before 29 Dec	Stephen Boykett	buller@koomerang.com.au or 0408 130 490
29 Dec – 5 Jan 10	Seth Jones	0438 132 240 <u>only</u>
6 Jan – 18 Jan 10	Seth Jones	hotham@koomerang.com.au or 0438 132 240
After 18 Jan	Stephen Boykett	buller@koomerang.com.au

2010 Subscriptions

The Full member subscription for 2010 has been increased to \$270. The committee resolved in the November 2009 committee meeting that the total subscriptions estimated for 2010 should cover the fixed cash expenses of operating the club and a contribution to general maintenance.

An increase of \$35 over the 2009 Full subscription rate is required to achieve this objective. This allows us to dedicate a larger proportion of the lodge booking revenue towards the project to build a new lodge at Mt Hotham.

The Absentee subscription has been increased to \$125 but the Junior Schoolboy and Junior Family subscriptions will remain at \$110. There has been a reduction in the total number of junior members

over the last five years and we believe it is important to reverse this trend as junior members are a significant source of future Full members.

I expect to mail the subscription notices around late January 2010 for payment by the end of February.

Rod McNab
Membership Secretary

Around the Mountains

Mt Buller

With the close of the 2009 season, it is time to reflect on the developments at Mt Buller this year.

The positive feedback from members post the completion of Stage 1 of the Buller upgrade has certainly proved how much members appreciate the upgrading of the lodge. The two new kitchens have been well received with all appliances working. No more fiddling with old ovens to try and make them work!

Preparation is now under way for Stage 2 of the Buller upgrade. Considerable work is required to comply with the latest building codes which will be necessary to obtain a building permit. The planning process for the next stage is expected to take up most of the coming summer.

It is envisaged that Stage 2 of the Buller upgrade could bring about the demolition of the existing bathrooms and the building of completely new bathrooms for each bedroom. This has already been discussed and approved in principal by the Committee.

The renovations have also been discussed with a local builder, but the funds from the Club's

reserves are not sufficient for such a large project. Further negotiations on price and the availability of finance need to be discussed by the Committee before a definite proposal can be placed before the members.

Other summer time work will involve further upgrading of the stairwell and fire doors, both of which are required by OH&S regulations.

Members will be kept up to date as planning progresses.

With our live in Caretaker, Tara Purcell, now living at our Buller Lodge right through the summer. We encourage you to take the opportunity of booking a holiday at Buller during the summer months. It is necessary to make a reservation for members and guests. To book please see the summer holiday booking arrangements set out on page 3.

David Morley
Mt Buller Building Manager

Falls Creek

A work party was organised at Falls Creek over the Melbourne Cup long weekend. The lodge was restocked and cleaned for summer bookings.

Following the upgrading of the kitchen and lounge areas at Falls, the Committee recently approved the further upgrading of the master bedrooms & ensuites in each apartment. This upgrade will provide a more modern and comfortable environment for members and their guests. Works are expected to be completed by the end of February 2010. A further update will be published in the next issue of De Brettlin.

A building quotation was received earlier in the

year to complete a number of works, such as steel balconies, double glazed windows & painting to the exterior of the building. The purpose of these works will be to comply with the Resort Management's Board's (RMB's) requirements, in order to seek a renewal of the site lease which expires in 2014.

Following receipt of this quotation, a further two building quotations have been requested. Given that Koomerang's apartments form part of the 3 buildings / 12 apartments on the Imaj site, we are working with the other shareholders to achieve an optimal outcome for all concerned. A business plan for the RMB has been commenced. Submission of the business plan is due to the RMB by end of 2010.

Please forward any suggestions for the future upgrading of the Falls Creek apartments to chris.hoelter@credit-suisse.com or call me to discuss on 0423 686 662.

For summer activities at Falls Creek - please refer to www.fallscreek.com.au

Mountain Biking, Altitude training, Walking / Hiking

- Wishing Well via the Aqueduct, 6.2 kms (return) 1.5 hours
- Rocky Valley Lake via the Aqueduct, 4.3 kms (return) 1 hour
- Mountain & Castle (Mt McKay), 11 kms (return) 4 hours
- Historic Wallaces Hut, Cope Hut, Tawonga Huts, Pretty Valley Hut, Johnston's Hut, Edmonson's Hut, Fitzgerald's hut.
- Historic Huts Experience (2 hours) - Join a guided walk on Fridays and Saturdays to discover one of Australia's most famous and oldest mountain huts, registered with the National Trust. Built by the Wallace brothers in

1889 from snowgum. It's now a wonderful historical monument of the high country.

When: 2.00pm every Friday and Saturday during January, Cost: \$20 per person , Contact: 1800 2 FALLS (1800 232 557)

Giant Swing, High Ropes, Climbing Wall

For bookings and information, contact Falls Creek Information Centre on 1800 232 557.

Horse riding

For details on Bogong Horseback Adventures (Tawonga) & Packers High Country Horse Riding (Angler's Rest), call 1800 232 557.

Tennis

Enquiries can be made to Tina Cook on 0438 458 726

Fishing

Learn how to fly fish like an expert in a half, whole or multi day trip. Contact Angling Expeditions Victoria for more detail on 03 5754 1466 or info@anglingvic.com.au

Web: www.anglingvic.com.au

Kids Club

For program schedule and bookings, contact Falls Creek Information Centre phone 1800 232 557.

Chris Hoelter
Falls Creek Building Manager

Thredbo

Thredbo had another excellent winter season. The extensions to the areas covered by snow making equipment were completed before this last season and the results were excellent. It now means that every major run on the mountain receives the

benefit of being topped up with man made snow, so no matter what may fall from the skies, Thredbo will have good skiing and boarding right through the season.

The lodge worked well right through the winter with a slight hiccup towards the end of August when an over vigorous fire in the fire place, set the flue on fire. Probably just as well, as there had been a considerable build up of residue in the flue and a complete clean out became necessary. Our builder inspected the flue and made some adjustments, particularly some additional insulation material, so all safe to use again, but please remember, a normal fire yes, but not a bonfire!

Our Thredbo Lodge has again been heavily booked during the winter and continues to provide a high standard of really comfortable accommodation and of course, during the summer, take advantage of the really low cost of accommodation to enjoy a mountain holiday.

Thredbo remains open and operating 365 days each year, the only resort to do so, which means that every day, right through the summer, the big lift to the top of the range will be operating, and shops, as usual, remain open.

There is a range of summer activities at Thredbo including the Bobsled, climbing and abseiling, Fishing, golf, tennis, horse riding, mountain biking, swimming, canoeing and walking in the lovely country of the high plains.

Dates to remember for Thredbo in 2010 :

Blues Festival	15 – 17th January
Jazz Festival	30th April – 2nd May

It is recommended that you book early if interested in any of these dates, remembering that our lodge rates during the summer make it possible to enjoy a most economical mountain holiday.

A thank you to all those who stayed at the lodge this year and the care with which you used and enjoyed the building.

Doug Draffin
Thredbo Building Manager

Mt Hotham

The Mount Hotham rebuilding sub-committee was recently advised by the Mt Hotham Resort Management Board (RMB) that it had given in principle approval for the erection of a freestanding lodge of some 350 to 400 square metres, with appropriate underground carparking, on our site. The Board would, subject to approval of plans and completion of the building, cancel the current lease and grant a new 40 year lease. We have been allowed a period of 2- 4 years to finalise the required plans and permits for such a project.

The subcommittee were delighted to receive this assurance as the redevelopment of our site has been subject to numerous hurdles over a long period of time and this turn around by the RMB is no doubt due to their recognition of the frustration that Koomerang has suffered over a long period.

The sub-committee is now assessing the costings that could be associated with the construction of a 16 - 18 bed lodge with six underground car spaces and Ski room.

As all members are aware, some two years ago, the membership approved a motion allowing

Koomerang to borrow \$900,000 for our apartment in the Colonnade proposal. The subcommittee realise that to have our own lodge on our own site with carparking will necessitate a reappraisal of the costings, the member contributions and the level of income that would be necessary for the servicing of debt.

These issues must be addressed before serious funds are spent with Architects and Engineers.

As stated in the past, the majority of members interested in Mt Hotham have stated their desire to have our own lodge on our own site. In view of the likely costs however, the committee has agreed that it should again review the alternative option of acquiring another building or apartments for our club use.

We hope to have some of these issues more clearly identified in time for the AGM in March 2010 when the various options can be discussed further.

In the meantime, your subcommittee, having received the “ green light “ from the RMB, will be working hard in their efforts towards a new Lodge at Mt. Hotham.

Bill Heath
Mt Hotham Rebuilding Subcommittee