

SNO SECRET

No 3 April 2020

THE THIRROUL SKI CLUB LIMITED

MARANATHA LODGE

PERISHER VALLEY

KOSCIUSZKO NATIONAL PARK

ABN: 33 000 801 338



PO Box 70 Thirroul NSW 2515

Club website: www.thirroulskiclub.com.au

April 2020

Dear Members,

After producing these newsletters for over 20 years, I thought the February 2020 edition would be my last. But, because the AGM could not be held on the advertised date, I am still in the position until the re-convened AGM, when my successor will be officially announced.

However, this newsletter is not about me. It brings important information regarding the postponed AGM and what your committee is doing to look after our members' interests during the COVID-19 situation.

Some of you may be aware that Greg Knight, John Hefko and others do a lot of back-country XC trips. Greg has written an article about the evolution in the process of how they get their essential supplies to their destination.

Enjoy your skiing

And your summer activities

Kevin Donegan

Publicity Officer

News from the committee

1 AGM

The re-scheduled 50th **Annual General Meeting** of the Thirroul Ski Club Ltd will be held electronically on May 16, 2020 at 4pm.

By now you should have received notice of the re-scheduled AGM by your nominated method of delivery (email/post). If you have not received it please send an email to secretary@thirroulskiclub.com.au and confirm your address (email or post).

When we announced that the AGM could not go ahead in its original format, two members, who use electronic meetings on a regular basis, offered to help. Drew Arthur and Peter Paddon have risen to

the challenge and are taking care of the technical aspects of running our AGM electronically. In a combined effort they enabled the committee to hold the April committee meeting electronically. It was a good trial run for the AGM.

Some of you may have taken to using Zoom or Houseparty during the lockdown and you may have heard positive or negative reports regarding those platforms . The system we will be using is one designed for professional use and the April committee meeting showed that it is suitable for our AGM.

Drew Arthur has provided the following notes:

The Annual General Meeting will be via Webinar. On arrival, talk amongst yourselves until everyone has arrived. If you have a question locate the chat icon (speech bubble) in the top right corner and enter your question to the curator.

You can:

1. **phone into the meeting on [+61 2 9087 3604](tel:+61290873604)** And enter the access code **240-621-149** or
2. **connect using your computer or tablet start by clicking on <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/240621149>** and a small application will be downloaded allowing you to enter the meeting and use your computer audio and video. A headset (microphone and headphones) is preferred.
3. **If you want to get a headstart,** Get the app now and be ready when the meeting starts:
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/240621149>

Thirroul Ski Club Annual General Meeting

Sat, May 16, 2020 4:00 PM - 4:45 PM (AEST)

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/240621149>

You can also dial in using your phone.

Australia: [+61 2 9087 3604](tel:+61290873604)

Access Code: 240-621-149

New to GoToMeeting? Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts:
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/240621149>

If you have any trouble entering the meeting on the day, please call Peter Paddon on 0401890296

If you have any questions (on technical aspects, not the meeting agenda) before the meeting please call Drew Arthur on 0412421350

(PS we will re-send this information a few days before the meeting so you won't have to scroll back through weeks of emails.)

2 2020 ski Season

As you will be aware, no date has been set for the easing of the Coronavirus lockdown in NSW. There is also no decision from Perisher management on whether the resort will be open this winter. The following is reproduced from their website.

Will the resort be open for the 2020 winter?

Perisher continues to make preparations for the 2020 winter season. We are closely monitoring the progress of COVID-19 in Australia. As the season approaches, we will advise of any planned changes to resort operations for the 2020 winter season.

In our communication to you on 21 March, we said that our final decision would be sent to you on or before 28 April. That date was selected (partly) because the date for final payment on Epic passes was May 1. Since then Vail Resorts has announced that processing of those payments would be delayed until June 1. We interpret this to mean that Vail resorts is deferring their decision about opening the resort until at least June 1.

Consequently, we have to defer our decision about operating our lodge this winter until that date. You will be notified of our decision as soon as possible after June 1. However, you may wish to anticipate that the most likely decision will be that Maranatha will be closed for the 2020 winter season.

We apologise for any inconvenience.

Other news from the committee

Change of host for our website

Hosting for our website will now be provided by iinet. You will not need to do anything different to access the website. However, we believe that problems you may have experienced in the past will no longer occur.

Resorts Roundup

The other attachment with this newsletter is the Autumn 2020 of Resort Round-up which provides information about activities and events within the resorts of Kosciuszko National Park.

You can also find earlier editions on the government website – click the link below and you'll find the newsletter on the bottom right of the page.

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/parks-reserves-and-protected-areas/park-management/alpine-resort-management>

Equipment Review of sleds and Trolleys used to move essential equipment for back country ski trips.

This review covers the pros and cons, costs, design problems and flaws of all the different devices we have used over the years to supply our back-country trips.

Cabinet door sled.

Design, one old cabinet door with two holes drilled into it for the tow rope and holes to tie the load onto the sled.

Cost. \$0.00

Only good for a one-way trip up the mountain then to be used as firewood.





Drinks Trolley Mk1

Designed and built by John Hefko. Made from parts purchased at the council recycling depot; consisting of road bike wheels, lawn mower handle and a gate for the decking.

Cost, very little.

Problems with the Drinks Trolley MK1; the Safe Weight Limit was exceeded with essential supplies. The trolley ended up with a buckled wheel and a broken handle on its maiden journey.

Drinks Trolley MK2 has mountain bike wheels and lawn mower handles at both ends. It has made many successful trips to the huts.

Furniture Trolley

Tough, simple, easy to use, no good in the snow, can carry heavy loads to inner circle of huts via the roads, barrels fit nicely into the trolley.

Cost is low.

Furniture trolley on a family holiday to Whites River Hut. Good base camp hut for skiing on the Rolling Grounds Range.



Aldi Sled

Plastic lightweight easy to pull. Not good for barrels, centre of gravity too high leading to roll overs. Must keep your load low. School groups tie the sleds onto the kids' packs so they can carry or pull their gear.

Cost, need to attend the Aldi winter sale and run to get the limited stock. Under \$20.



Ski Sled

Made of 204cm straight old downhill skis with a raised decking for the equipment. Designed and built by John Hefko and pulled up the mountain by 6 strong skiers.

Problems, hard to control on a cross grade. Need skiers at the front to pull uphill, then skiers at the back for braking on the downhill sections. The ski sled is a great team building activity but not an effective way to move gear. It now lives in Aladdin's cave somewhere in Kosciuszko National Park.

Pulk Sled

Lightweight made of plastic with ridge poles connected to a harness or backpack. Skier has good control, reduced chance of roll over. Difficult to dangerous in trees or steep ground, great on roads or open ground. If you're going to ski to the South Pole this is the sled for the job.

Cost, bought this one from the closing down sale of Jindabyne Paddy Pallin shop for \$200.00.

How to combine your trolleys and sleds.

The trolleys move supplies to the food caches near the inner (closer) circle of huts via the roads before the snow starts. After the second dump of snow the vegetation will compact, and the sleds can be used. E.g. Schlink hut is the largest hut, 50m off a road, easy to find even in bad weather ideal for the trolleys reach. Next group of huts are Tin, Mawsons and Valentines which have little or no road access, need navigation skills to find these huts. Also crossing the Kerries Mountain Range can be tricky in bad weather. All this area is good for skiing with a sled. Everything past these huts requires river crossing skills, good navigation skills, lots of energy and a light pack.

Happy skiing. By Greg

