

**PRESIDENT'S UPDATE**

This is our 3<sup>rd</sup> newsletter of this 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of skiing in Australia and we continue to celebrate this milestone in a variety of ways. The newsletter reports on many of our celebration activities and other stories from this period.

**THREDBO SNOWFALL COCKTAILS:** Friday night June 17<sup>th</sup> was the season's opening event in the Thredbo Museum with over 30 people in attendance to see Society Patron Kurt Lance, AM, entertain guests with his reminiscences of some of those 150 years and particularly his early times at Kiandra in the 1950s.

Kurt launched the Museum's anniversary exhibition, "The Kiandra Story" which endeavours to tell the story of Australia's early skiing history through a range of photos, paintings, original Kiandra skis, apparel, film, print material including copies of the 1860s Alpine Pioneer newspaper, books and sundry artefacts.

Our thanks to Julia Corne and Marion Murri, for their behind the scenes organisation of the function.

**MID WINTER DINNER:** This was one social event that will be hard to upstage. On Wednesday 10 August, 96 members and Friends of Thredbo gathered at Brad and Monica Spalding's Knickerbocker Restaurant in Thredbo to honour and pay tribute to THS Vice President and Thredbo identity Frank Prihoda and celebrate with him his 90<sup>th</sup> year.

We were particularly honoured to have as special guests at the dinner Frank's 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin from Prague, Dr Jan Klozar and his wife Evelyn. Also Czech Republic Honorary Consul General to Victoria, Milan Kantor and his wife Anne, the parents of Julie Kantor, Franks god daughter. Franks sister Sasha Nekvapil, was also a guest.

Jerry Krejzar and Michelle Reichinger gave us all a great insight into Frank's rich and illustrious life through their talk and slideshow, screened on 3 monitors in the restaurant.

MC for the evening was Thredbo identity Reggae Ellis who kept proceedings moving throughout and then turned his skills to conducting an auction of valuable donated prizes for the function. In this respect we would like to thank all donors of prizes on the night including raffle and lucky door prizes. Thank you for your prizes and thanks to those who bid so generously for them at auction.

The night could not have reached the heights that it did without the planning and contribution of the organising committee of Marion Murri, Jerry Krejzar, Graeme Holloway and Ray Temperley who were ably assisted on the night by Richard Pascoe, Julia Corne, Sally Walker, Anne Collet, Lyn Temperley, Penelope Krejzar, plus the assistance of Randy Wieman with the slide show preparations. Randy has great photos of the evening at his Hot Shots shop.

**MUSEUM:** The ski museum exhibition continues to draw many compliments as visitors come to appreciate Australia's place and particularly that of Kiandra in the history of organised recreational skiing (snow shoeing) in the world.

*(continued Page 2)*

**THS CALENDER OF EVENTS – 2011**

**Annual General Meeting:**

Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> 2011, 12 noon  
Kiama Alpine Club, Buckwong Place, Thredbo

**Historic Kiandra Bus Tour:**

March or April 2012 (to be confirmed)

**2012 Sydney Cocktails:**

Tuesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> (to be confirmed)



**Dorothy & Kurt Lance with Marg & Butch Young at Snowfall Cocktails**



**Lynne & Ray Temperley with Penny Krejzar welcoming guests to the Mid Winter Dinner**

**THREDBO MUSEUM – summer times**

**OPENING HOURS:** 1 – 5 pm

26 December to Australia Day (closed Mondays)

February to April: weekends only & public holidays

The Museum is located at the northern end of the Thredbo Alpine Hotel under the Kosciuszko Room (at the rear of Amusement Centre). It is accessed from the Steps leading from Mowamba Place to the Village bus stop.

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**PRESIDENT'S UPDATE (cont.)**

We will keep this special exhibition in place until the end of April 2012, to give summer visitors the opportunity to share the experience. I would like to compliment Museum Administrator Chrissi Webb and Vice President Graeme Holloway who assisted with the framing and hanging, on the excellent work done to achieve this standard.

**THANKS TO VOLUNTEERS:** From June through to the end of August we were able to open on 59 of the advertised 60 opening days – a great result. In achieving this we must thank all those volunteers now listed here, who made it all possible: Frank Prihoda, Chrissi Webb, Roger Andrews, Aileen Bomball, Graeme Holloway, Alan Fredericks, Jane Carroll, Anna Turner, Jan Owens, Bernadette Walker, Vanessa Crow, Ray Mildren, Ian Devereux, John Maguire, Brian Lubczyk, Peter and Annette Sturt, Jerry Krejzar, Berryl Clifford, Alan Smith, Margaret and Bruce Piggott, Lois Woollams, Peter Henry and Anne Collet – your contributions are most appreciated.

**2011 STANDARDS PROGRAM:** We continue our participation with eleven other South East NSW museums in the development program coordinated by Museums and Galleries NSW. In recent months we have had a field review of our museum and the society's operations including corporate governance, by Sam Malloy of the Ben Chifley Museum in Bathurst and Pip McNaught curator, National Museum of Australia, Canberra. They will return to the museum on 24<sup>th</sup> October for a final review and feedback session.

On August 12<sup>th</sup> three THS executives attended a workshop/seminar in Narooma. The Standards Program concludes with a celebration event in Cooma on Thursday 8 December for all participating museums and their stakeholders.

**OTHER ACTIVITIES:** THS executive members Frank Prihoda and Chrissi Webb have addressed a dinner group at the Silver Brumby Ski Club on the anniversary year.

The Brindabella Ski Club invited me to speak at their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner in Canberra in June.

As THS President I was also invited by NSW Nordic Ski Club President Ian Griffith to act as guest speaker at their monthly meeting in Sydney, a most enjoyable and enlightening occasion and great to see a bunch of enthusiastic people still pioneering and adventuring as all our early skiers did.

**MEMBERSHIPS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS:** In June, Treasurer Sally Walker posted out subscription notices for the 2011 /2012 financial year and beyond. Firstly my thanks to all of those members who have promptly responded with their renewals and a reminder to those who may have overlooked or misplaced these notices, that we do greatly value your continued support through renewing your membership.

If you are unsure of your status, then give Treasurer Sally Walker a call on 02- 6457 6453 or email on [rsalwal@gmail.com](mailto:rsalwal@gmail.com). If paying by electronic bank deposit, please ensure you have provided clear reference detail for Sally to identify your payment.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:** There has been a change to the previously advised date for our AGM. It will now be held on Saturday December 10<sup>th</sup> at the Kiama Alpine Club Lodge in Thredbo, with a BBQ lunch afterwards. More detail to follow.

**LATE NEWS:** We are making progress on a proposal to arrange a bus tour from Thredbo to Kiandra and return guided by Ross McKinney of Snowy Mountains Touring company in a 20 seater bus, in March or April next year. The full tour would include visits to historic locations in Adaminaby, Kiandra, 3 Mile Dam, Cabramurra, Providence Portal and possibly the soon to be opened Snowy Scheme Museum at Adaminaby. Cost is likely to be in the vicinity of \$70 to \$75. Stand by for more details.

*Alan Fredericks*

**IN THE MUSEUM**

Visitors to the Ski Museum: Visitation was once again high with over 3,582 people recorded at the time going to print. The Museum was particularly popular during August when clear precipitation days and a record 88 passed through the doors on August 6<sup>th</sup> and 71 in the four hours of opening when Jerry Krejzar held the fort.

Whilst over 99.75% (300) of the visitors who wrote in the *Visitors' Book*, were from NSW, twenty five were international visitors from a wide range of countries including Hong Kong, Ireland, Italy, France, Indonesia, Singapore, Czechoslovakia, Thailand, Tunisia, Japan, Taiwan, South Africa, Israel, Papua/New Guinea, Slovakia, India and New Zealand.

The statistics reveal a greater need for increased marketing to be done within the resort, in Jindabyne and Canberra. Whilst the best marketing is through "word of mouth", radio and in-house television might be the answer. Members, locals and staff do not seem to realise that exhibition themes are changed on a six monthly or yearly basis and there is always something different on display.

Following their visit in August, the Museums & Galleries NSW reviewers described the museum as a "happening" museum (forever changing) and they just

loved the atmosphere. They commented that it was more like a social club than a museum.



**Chrissi Webb's interpretation of the 1896 dress worn by Matilda Worz as seen in the Charles Kerry photograph on the wall to the right of the mannequin**

**Research:** If you wish to require a hard copy of material contained in the Museum archives, please do not remove documents from the premises. Instead, please ask the volunteer on duty for use of the museums colour/B&W photocopier scanner purchased for this purpose.

**WHEN FRANK PRIHODA TURNED 90**

Winter Olympian Frank Prihoda of Thredbo turned 90 years of age on Friday July 8<sup>th</sup>. The day was celebrated in grand style with a ski race in which seventy of his friends participated on Thredbo's Rossignol Race Course.

On a bright blue Thredbo day with a perfectly prepared course set by Rod Tidmarsh, top seeded Frank Prihoda skied off wearing Bib No 1 in "The 2011 Frank Classic". Frank followed in the tracks of Winter Olympian Kim Clifford and past Ski School Director Brad Spalding. Next on course was Winter Olympian Bob Arnott followed by past International Ski Federation delegate Kurt Lance AM. All seventy competitors successfully completed two runs of the course.

Following the race, Frank's many friends, some of whom came from Canberra and Melbourne for the occasion, were invited to attend the race presentation and buffet luncheon at Thredbo's Knickerbocker Restaurant decorated with pictures reflecting Frank's life. The outright winner of the race was Frank Prihoda, with the other places getters judged on their split times, that is, the racers whose times on both runs were nearly the same. So as not to disappoint the athletes, everyone was presented with a commemorative medal.

During hilarious speeches, racers and guests feasted on oysters, and two entrees followed by a substantial European main dish and the traditional birthday cake. Guests are now in training for Frank's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday race.

*Chrissi Webb* (reprinted courtesy of the Monaro Post)



**Kim Clifford congratulates Frank Prihoda**

**MID WINTER DINNER – A TRIBUTE TO FRANK PRIHODA**

Wednesday night, August 10<sup>th</sup>, in Thredbo belonged to Frank Prihoda, when 96 members of the Thredbo Historical Society, residents and guests including his cousins from Prague, Czechoslovakia, paid tribute to him at the Mid Winter Dinner. Jerry Krejzar and Michelle Reichinger hosted "Our Frank" which took the form of visual images of Frank's life, a summary of Frank's life followed by a moving speech by Michelle about his contribution to Thredbo village life.

'Frank Prihoda was born in Prague on 8 July 1921. After a happy childhood and the traumatic years of the Nazi and Soviet regimes, Frank, together with his elder sister Sasha and her husband Karel Nekvapil, fled their homeland of Czechoslovakia to arrive in Australia in 1950.

The early years were spent in Melbourne, commuting to Mt Buller where Frank played an active part in the skiing community. He was on the board of the Victorian Ski Federation and in 1956 represented Australia at the Winter Olympics in Cortina, Italy.

In 1974 Frank settled in Thredbo and opened his gift shop. During the following years he was active in the Thredbo community and on the Masters ski racing circuit both in Australia and overseas.

In 2000 he and sister Sasha both carried the Olympic torch in Thredbo and Frank was awarded the honour of lighting the Thredbo Olympic cauldron.

Frank's Shop was relocated to the Mowamba Place in 1992. In 2001 Frank retired from business life and dedicated much of his free time to the newly formed Thredbo Historical Society.' (Marion Murri & Jerry Krejzar)

Organised by the Thredbo Historical Society, the evening was held at the Knickerbocker Bar and Restaurant. It included an auction and raffle to raise funds for the Society which operates the Thredbo Ski Museum. Reggae Ellis was a lively auctioneer who convinced people to generously bid for the items on offer.



**Jerry Krejzar, Sasha Nekvapil and Flora Elliot came to pay tribute to Frank**

The Thredbo Historical Society thanks the following businesses and people who generously sponsored the auction and raffle: Kosciuszko Thredbo Pty Ltd, Phoenix Leisure Group, Rip Curl Thredbo, Michelles of Thredbo, Hot Shots Photography, Sante Churrasco Restaurant, Kareela Hutte, High Country Outfitters Jindabyne, Monchichi Gift Shop Jindabyne, Graeme Holloway, Frank Prihoda, K7 Adventures, Mountain Adventures and Jindabyne Sports.

*PS. Frank once again demonstrated his winning style in the Thredbo Masters Ski Race on Saturday August 13<sup>th</sup>.*

*Chrissi Webb* (reprinted courtesy of the Monaro Post)

### Prominent Businessmen

Land Title records show that Thomas Ah Yan bought Lot No. 3 of Town Section No.14 in Kiandra from John Maximus Lett, a Kiandra Magistrate, miner and storekeeper on 15 November 1882.

This was at a time when the town was almost at a standstill, with only about 200 to 300 people of which the Chinese comprised possibly one third. This action (purchase) seems to have marked a transitional phase at Kiandra showing the greater acceptance of Chinese or at least some Chinese, into the remaining community.

Tom Ah Yan, later known as Tom Yan, had come a long way. He had been born in Canton, China in 1845, came to New South Wales when he was very young, and was at Captains Flat and Tumut when there were gold rushes at those locations. He had worked at various occupations during his time in NSW, including as a packer, breaking in horses and of course as a miner.

From genealogy records it appears that Catherine Johanna Wortz became Tom Ah Yan's de-facto wife in June or November 1868 at Kiandra. Catherine Weidner (sometimes written, Witner, Wheatner or Weeden) was born in the village of Schriesheim near Heidelberg in the State of Baden Baden, Germany on 1 June 1846. She arrived in Melbourne, Victoria, from Germany on about the 20 December 1854. When she was 17 she married a 26 year old English farmer, Charles Cleveland Campbell Henry Heathcote McGeorge Angello in Yass NSW in 1863.

At a later unknown date, Catherine married Phillip Wortz (sometimes written Worts or Wurts) and at that time her son, Charles changed his surname to Wortz. Charles grew up in Kiandra and married a local Kiandra woman, Sarah Jane Ball in 1886 in Cooma.

After a long illness Catherine died, aged 66, on 11 August 1912 at Kiandra and was buried in the Kiandra cemetery. She was bedridden for a considerable time before her death. Her grave is one of the few well preserved sites in that cemetery. A certificate of naturalisation (No 14265) was issued for her at Sydney on 14 August 1912 – sadly, three days after she had died. Catherine Wortz stated in her application for naturalisation that she had nine children. Seven of these were also Tom Yan's children.

In his recollections, Bill Hughes\*, a former resident of Kiandra noted that Tom Ah Yan's store and residence stood on the eastern side of Cooma Street ( The Snowy Mountains Highway) , near Pollock's Gully, He noted that – it had a brick oven, well and pump plus several storerooms at the rear. (*Today, beside the Snowy Mountains Highway, two chimneys remain of Yan's store.*)

Mr Yan known to all and sundry as Tommy was one of nature's gentlemen, slightly built, graceful, artistic. His account books were kept in Chinese script, each character being delicately formed with a fine (hair) brush and his reckoning done on an abacus. His grandchildren are well known around Tumut (Hueneke 1987:45).

According to Bill Hughes, Ping Kees Emporium, next to Tommy Yans store, was owned by Ah Chee and Ping. Opium smoking was the rule in the rear of the shop.

'I had the opportunity to see recumbent devotees kneading and rolling a little brown ball of opium on a hot palette before transferring it to the bowl of their pipe. It was this that eventually led to the destruction of the store by fire. The smell of the place was distinctive'

(Hueneke 1987:51).

These two stores belonging to Tom Yan and George Ah Chee/Harry Ping Kee, and the other buildings on allotments 3 and 4 of Town Section 14, formed the social and economic centre for the remaining Chinese at Kiandra until 1916.

On Saturday last (13 May 1916) a fatal fire occurred at Kiandra, when a Chinese named Jimmy Ah Doo was burned to death. Mr Coroner Gunn held an inquiry on Monday when a verdict of accidental death was recorded. The evidence showed that the deceased was seen entering the house at a late hour and shortly after the place was discovered in flames. The adjoining house was also occupied by a countryman of deceased (Tom Yan) and it was with difficulty that he was persuaded to leave the premises, exclaiming "Wha For!" "Wha For!" Both houses were destroyed. (The Cooma Express, 19 May 1916).

Tom Yan stayed in Kiandra with his family and continued to live and work there until his death on 27 October 1925, aged 80. He was buried in the Church of England section of the Kiandra cemetery, but the location of the grave is unknown. He was the last of the full blooded Chinese at Kiandra.

In fact Tom Yan had seven children. He and his partner, Catherine had two sons – George and Frank, and five daughters – Barbara, Catherine, Margaret, Mary and Emily. It was this generation that consolidated their place as respected Australian citizens at Kiandra and continued the Chinese legacy that started there with the gold rushes of 1860.

Children were treated very kindly by the Chinese. There were no Chinese-born women. On feast days, which were looked forward to eagerly, a procession set out from the town led by ceremoniously dressed mourners carrying baskets of fishcakes, rice puddings, ginger, rice brandy, salt, preserved apples and prunes, lychees and peanuts for the cemetery. Slow burning joss sticks were lit and placed on the graves with the patter of Chinese and childish English. The food was spread out, rice brandy and wine sipped from tiny basins and the remainder emptied over the grave.

Some food and the still burning incense were left on the grave but most was repacked and taken back to town. Very little, if any, was eaten at the grave. It was in Kiandra that the big blow-out took place. Fireworks were let off continually on the way back to town and some unearthly yells indulged in to deter the spirit of the departed from following..... *To be continued – the Yan family's place in Australian skiing history.*

\*Bill (William) Hughes – the son of an Australian Champion skier and grandson of an original 1860 Kiandra pioneer, grew up in Kiandra, went to school with many of the families there and became a very distinguished mountaineer and authority on the district.

• VALE: ROBIN OATEN (August 6<sup>th</sup> 1938 – July 15<sup>th</sup> 2011)

## MEMORIES OF ROBIN

Robin was not a shy man. In fact one of my first impressions of Robin was that “This bloke could talk the ears off an acre of corn.”

Jill and I first met Robin almost 22 years ago. We were career ski bums applying for a “Real Job” and Robin was on the interview panel that was made up of new owners from the recently completed Lantern Apartments development in Thredbo. Robin had bought his apartment off the plan because he had recently discovered skiing and took to it with such passion that he decided Thredbo was where he would eventually retire.

Obviously we were successful in convincing the interviewers, that in spite of our lack of experience, we had the enthusiasm required to make a go of it. I have no doubt that Robin played a significant role in our selection because, as I have come to know, Robin was above all a people person, he could size you up quickly and he saw in us, the ingredient that he had, in his lifetime come to recognise as essential to success...Passion.

Robin was passionate about so many things. As I have mentioned he was passionate about meeting people and making friends. Many a time Robin would sit in the reception office at the Lantern Apartments and strike up conversation with any unsuspecting guest who walked in the door. Invariably he entertained them and gave them a barrage of information on Thredbo, skiing, hiking, red wine, astronomy and the weather.....

And was he passionate about **the weather**.....As we know, Robin was an early adopter of new technology and took on computing as a career when the vast majority of the world thought that computers were just some science fiction tape players that Sean Connery blew up in James Bond movies. Robin took pains to explain that although he was in the computer industry, he was actually an engineer from a family of doctors which qualified him to be an armchair expert on just about everything. Weather was just one of his areas of expertise. He would ring from Sydney every 2<sup>nd</sup> day just to tell us what the weather was about to do in Thredbo and how I should go to a particular website full of charts so he could talk me through his reasoning.

He imported gadgets into Thredbo for measuring weather 10 years before they became common place and had weather stations delivering data 24 hours a day, except when the Rosellas bit off the weather station sensors, but the parrots were safe because he loved them and fed them from his balcony religiously. He would become quite indignant if the Ravens tried to muscle in on the Rosellas’ feeding time so he always kept a loaded water pistol at the ready to intervene.

Robin was always involved. He could never sit back and was generous with his time and his knowledge. Whether solving accounting issues, building maintenance issues or uploading and scanning hundreds of images and videos for the Thredbo Historical Society - he was always doing something. He was a great problem solver and would always tackle problems logically, without fear of finding a solution.

One of Robin’s greatest passions was Thredbo. He could always be found hiking from the village to the top of a chairlift or walking or snow shoeing out to Mt

Kosciuszko. Or skiing in winter, using various gadgets to record the number of runs he did, how far he skied, how many days he skied. These adventures invariably ended with lunch and a beer at a venue in the village where he would relive his exploits with whomever he found sitting nearby.

His great desire was to retire to Thredbo and finally, last winter with his re discovered soul mate Kay, he had made it. He had a ball - skiing every day, harassing ravens for harassing Rosellas and delivering weather reports every 20 minutes on request.

Robin was 72 years old but it is still so hard to understand how someone as fit and enthusiastic as Robin, who climbed from the village to the summit as recently as February, could be taken so quickly from us. With all his stars in alignment his passing seems such a tragedy. However Robin was above all a pragmatist.

During his last days in hospital, when the doctors were struggling to diagnose the illness that was so obviously taking his life, Robin called for his laptop. After short time he arrived at a self-diagnosis of a rare and terminal form of Pneumonia. He called in the Specialist who eventually agreed. Having solved this one last problem Robin passed away 2 days later.

We will miss him.

*Ian Foster*, Lantern Apartments, Thredbo.



**Robin Oaten above Thredbo**

**Robin of the Mountain**

In August nights in winter  
 When strong the snow storms rage  
 You see the ghost not known to most  
 Who skis from age to age.  
 For Thredbo is his kingdom  
 And evermore will be  
 Although by now he’s left all cares  
 And roams the mountains free.  
 And when the darkened shadows  
 Of Lantern’s windows light  
 We know it’s Robin’s memory  
 Forever burning bright.

*Peter Kendall*

Owner Lantern Apartments, Thredbo

**SILVER BRUMBY CLUB**

The Silver Brumby Club did not grow from the traditional group of bushwalking, scouting, alpine touring enthusiasts coming together to form a ski club. In fact the club was formed in 1990, following the refurbishment of the empty Silver Brumby Lodge, as the first public offered private lodge in Thredbo by purchasing shares by interested skiers.

The building's early beginnings were as a commercial lodge built for John Hughes in 1962 by Bela Racsko and has the same roofline as the Thredbo Hotel. John Hughes, an Englishman who had served in the Royal Air Force, had the distinction of being shot down over the North Sea. After the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War he served in Cypress and was able to indulge in skiing there.

In 1960 Hughes and his wife Pam arrived in Australia from England. In 1961 Dick Dusseldorp and his Lend Lease company purchased the Thredbo Head lease from the original Kosciusko Thredbo Ltd company founded by Tony Sponar, Charles Anton, Geoffrey Hughes, Eric Nicholls and Andrew Thyne Reid after they gained a 99-year lease from the Kosciusko State Park Trust in 1957. John Hughes came to Thredbo as Dusseldorp's first Thredbo manager reportedly selected because of his military background and some familiarity with skiing.

After one year he left the company, but in that time John and Pam had fallen in love with the village and mountains and decided to make Thredbo their home. So they commissioned Hungarian architect and local builder Bela Racsko to build a commercial lodge for them, that they would manage and make their home. The lodge went up quickly and guests started arriving in what was still a fledgling village. The lodge contained a large open fireplace which formed a central focus of social activity and harmony in the lodge for its guests.

One of the early guests was Elyne Mitchell of Corryong, a regular visitor to Thredbo and a well known skiing identity and author of the Silver Brumby series of books. With Elyne's consent the new Lodge was named "The Silver Brumby".

The Hughes' son Martin (one of 5 children) arrived in Australia in 1973 after 12 years service in the RAF, and took up management of the lodge with his wife Sally. They were to manage the lodge for 8 years before departing for Arrowtown in New Zealand. Another son, Tony was to manage the lodge for a few years before John decided to put the Lodge on the market.

In 1988 the building was purchased by John Dally who planned to demolish it and build apartments on the site. John and two partners had recently built Kirwin Apartments in Jindabyne and were building the new Lantern Apartments to replace the Lantern Lodge. Work on the Lantern Apartments was running over budget and it was decided it was not viable to proceed with construction of apartments to replace the Silver Brumby even though design for them had been prepared. An associate of the partners, Brent Dallow, who had spent many years in and about Thredbo, suggested that they turn the then empty building into a private lodge and sell memberships.

Plans for refurbishment dated 30<sup>th</sup> November 1989 were prepared by John Lane, a Cooma architect. The building was stripped to the frame but with the fireplace remaining intact. Brett Dallow prepared the prospectus and began

selling membership shares.

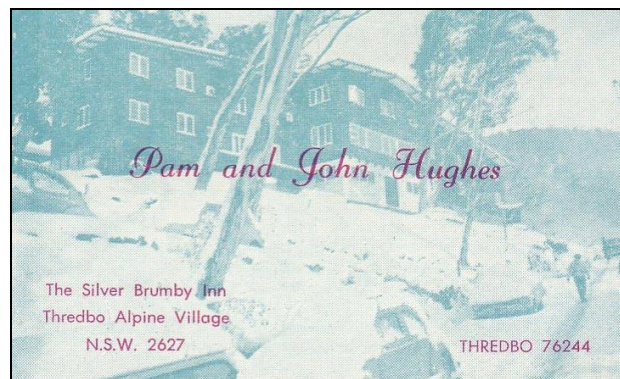
The Club's first season was in the winter of 1990 and Brent Dallow became the first chairman of the Club. In 1994 Malcolm McDonald was elected chairman. The current Chairman, since 1995, is Brett Sterling-Levis.

The first lodge managers in 1990 were Caroline and Richard Jones. They were followed by Sonia and Tony Davidson in 1992. Emma and Nick Chavanne have been managing the lodge since 2002. In 1992 the club entered its first 'Team Brumby' in the Thredbo Interclub Ski Race. A Team Brumby has entered the Interclub every year since then. In 2000, children of club members have been participating in the Thredbo Junior Interclub as Junior Team Brumby.

To encourage further participation in recreational ski racing in 1997 the club commenced a race week program and joined with Berghutte Ski club to race together informally as a lead up to the Interclub. In 2007 the race with Berghutte was formalised into the Berghutte – Silver Brumby Challenge, racing for the Val Parcel Challenge Trophy, a restored ski from the 1950's.

Today the Silver Brumby lodge has 53 beds, with ensuite and TV facilities for each room. It provides catered breakfasts and a 3 course dinner during the winter months and the summer holidays. It is open year round with self-catering available in non-catered periods proving popular for members to enjoy the alpine areas outside of the ski season.

*Robert Parcel*



**THE MODERN MOUNTAIN INN DESIGNED FOR WINTER AND SUMMER COMFORT**  
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Outstanding "star" features:—

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- \* Double, twin and family all with private bathrooms.
- \* Spring bed bases, innerspring mattresses, wall to wall carpeting.
- \* Centrally heated throughout plus open fires in public rooms.
- \* International cuisine, liquor available.
- \* Games room, sundeck, TV, laundry, summer pool, etc.
- \* Close to ski lifts and village amenities, car park.

TARIFF: Moderate tariffs D.B. & B. in season. B. & B. also available out of season. Picnic lunches on request in summer. Reductions for children.

For further details and latest tariffs apply direct or to accredited Thredbo travel agents.

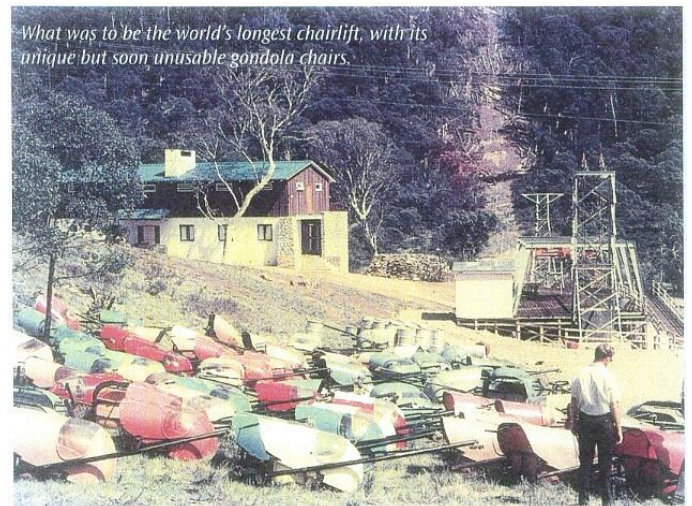
**The Silver Brumby Inn circa mid 1960s**  
 Thredbo Historical Society Collection

THS member, Matthew Quomi is in the initial stage of researching the Mt Stilwell to Alpine Way Chairlift, with the intention being to eventually publish a book on the subject. This stage his study has concentrated on speaking to people who visited and/or lived in the area during the period of the chairlift's operation in order to document their stories.

Matthew would be grateful to speak to anyone who has photographs, associated memorabilia and/or had any association with the chairlift whatsoever; no matter how insignificant they may deem their relationship to be.

There is barely any trace of the chairlift left on the mountain however the vast majority of the information pertaining to this chairlift still exists in the living memory of a small group of people. Therefore he feels that it is of great importance that the oral history of this story is documented within the near future in order to preserve the memory of the 'Longest Chairlift.'

Matthew looks forward to hearing from anyone who contacts him. His contact details are: Matthew Quomi, Matthew Quomi Pty Ltd, P.O. Box 444, Dulwich Hill NSW 2203, email [office@matthewquomi.com](mailto:office@matthewquomi.com). Phone (02) 8021 7929, mobile 0411 775 5930.



*What was to be the world's longest chairlift, with its unique but soon unusable gondola chairs.*

**"What was to be the world's longest chairlift, with its unique but soon unusable gondola chairs"**

Neewalla 50 Years

### Comments by visitors to the Museum

"History explains the present, this is a very important resource" Helen Whittington, Hawthorn SA

"It is a beautiful little museum" Eri Martina, Jakarta, Indonesia

"Eye opening to our early skiers" Heather Murphy, Jindabyne

"So much hard work to make such a wonderful and informative display" Donna Johnston, Maroochy River, Qld 4561.

"Great display, should be Federally funded" Keith Wass, Blaxland, NSW

"A most interesting and important display" Ian McFarlane, McGregor ACT

"2<sup>nd</sup> day so far, will need to come back tomorrow to finish it all off, absolutely fascinating and wonderful. Well done to the Thredbo Historical Society" Kerry Bright, Leongatha, Vic.

Your Kiandra display looks great" Graham Hunt, Wandella via Cobargo NSW.

### THS COMMITTEE : 2010/2011

Patron:	Kurt Lance	
President:	Alan Fredericks (02) 94497610 / 0417401403	
Vice President:	Frank Pihoda	6457 6228
Vice President:	Graeme Holloway	6495 0394
Secretary:	Vacant	
Treasurer:	Sally Walker	6457 6453
Publicity/Museum:	Christina Webb	6456 2279
	Ray Temperley	
	Julia Corne	
Special Projects	Marion Murri	6457 6806

### WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Brindabella Ski Club  
Jane St Catherine  
Ian & Jill Foster  
Bruce & Marg Piggott  
Matthew Quomi  
Raelynn Malouf  
Carl Tanner  
Peter McGuinn

### FRIENDS OF THREDBO MEMBERSHIP FEES

#### 2010/2011

Individuals: \$40/1-yr; \$200/5-yrs;  
\$400/10-yr  
Family: \$60/1-yr; \$300/5-yrs  
Group: Club \$220/year  
Corporate \$1000/year

# THREDBO HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOOK ORDER FORM (2011)

Order Details:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

QUANTITY	PUBLICATION DESCRIPTION	PAYMENT
	Andrew, Roger <b>Thredbo – My Story</b> Soft Cover, 156 pages, 29.5x21cm. colour photos      Cost incl. postage \$54	
	Norman W Clarke (2006) <b>Kiandra – Gold Fields to Snow Fields</b> Hard cover, 178 pages 22x29cm, b&w photos Plus 2010 Supplement <b>Lapland Snow Shoes in Australia</b> Cost inc. postage \$30.00	
	Darby, Jim (2006) <b>Thredbo 50 – a commemorative book</b> Hard cover, 123 pages, 22x28cm, colour photos      Cost incl. postage \$39.95	
	Edmondson, Michael <b>The Australian Alps – Classic Mountain Landscapes</b> Hard Cover, 85 pages, 26x18cm, colour photos      Cost incl. postage \$29.95	
	Hughes, Geoffrey (one of the founders of Thredbo) (2007) <b>Starting Thredbo</b> Soft cover, 44 pages, 21x31cm      Cost incl. postage \$27	
	Southwell-Keely, Peter <b>Out on the Tops: The Centenary of the Kosciusko Alpine Club</b> Hard cover, 319 pages, 21x28 cm, 530 photos      Cost incl. postage \$60	
	Sponar, Tony (1995) <b>Snow in Australia – that's news to me</b> Hard cover, 362 pages, 15.5x23.5cm, photos      Cost incl. postage \$30	
	Swinbourne, Helen (2006) <b>Accordions in the Snow Gums – Thredbo's early years</b> Soft cover, 128 pages, 29.5x21cm, b&w photos      Cost incl. postage \$27	
	Walkom, Rick (1950)(2 <sup>nd</sup> edition 2008) <b>Skiing off the roof – the Kosciusko Chalet at Charlotte Pass (2<sup>nd</sup> edition)</b> Soft Cover, 178 pages, 21x42cm, b&w photos      Cost incl. postage \$47.50	
	<u>Russell, Rebel Penfold</u> <b>Tommy Tomasi – a life well travelled</b> DVD, PG rating, Duration 44 minutes      Cost incl. postage \$30	
	<u>Russell, Rebel Penfold</u> <b>Thredbo 50 Years</b> DVD, PG rating, Duration 32 minutes      Cost incl. postage \$30	
	<b>TOTAL AMOUNT</b>	

**Ordering & enquiries**

Mail: Thredbo Historical Society Inc, PO Box 6, THREDBO 2625 Phone/Fax: 02 6456 2279 (Museum Administrator), Email: [aab5@bigpond.com](mailto:aab5@bigpond.com)