

## PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

This newsletter continues the celebration of the anniversary of 150 years of organised recreational alpine skiing starting at Kiandra in 1861.

By the time you receive this, we will have conducted our 2<sup>nd</sup> Sydney Cocktail evening, showcasing four leading authors of Australia's own alpine history in a panel discussion. (See page 3) Our thanks to Bob Arnott, Norman Clarke, Geoffrey Hughes and Peter Southwell-Keely and to panel moderator Chas Keys, for their fine contributions on the night. With one event behind us, two further ones are looming on the horizon.

**THREDBO SNOWFALL COCKTAILS:** To be held in the Museum on Friday 17 June 5.30 to 7.30 pm will see the Museum's winter exhibition "The Kiandra Story", launched by our Patron and Australian skiing identity, Kurt Lance AM. Kurt is a past member of the Kiandra Pioneer Ski Club and participated in many events there including the 1961 Centenary carnival. Come and join with us to hear Kurt's recollections of his early times there, its township, accommodation options, lifts, skiing, the families and personalities.

**MID WINTER DINNER:** 6.30pm Wednesday August 10<sup>th</sup> 6.30 at The Knickerbocker Restaurant at Thredbo. This will be a night to remember as we share with members and guests a "Tribute to Frank Prihoda". The evening will celebrate his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, his life and times, as well his contribution to Australian skiing and to Thredbo. A great evening of recognition of Frank and socialising by guests, is promised by our organising committee (Graeme Holloway, Marion Murri and Jerry Krejzar). There will be some great raffle and lucky door prizes donated by our generous sponsors. Don't miss out on this one!

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:** We can now confirm that this will be held on Saturday 3 December in Thredbo.

**MUSEUMS and GALLERIES NSW:** We are pleased to thank and acknowledge the help of Museums & Galleries NSW in providing us with a grant to send two of our members, Edie Swift and Christina Webb to a 2-day Seminar/Workshop on Oral Histories in Sydney in May.

In addition M&G NSW have contributed significantly to our participation in the 2011 Museums Standards Program. Our society has joined 9 Museums in South East NSW in the program. Whilst some of the self review, 3<sup>rd</sup> party review processes and input required of our under-resourced committee, may appear onerous at first glance, we believe the end result of potentially lifting our standards and operations should not only benefit our members but the wider public who visit the Thredbo Museum.

(continued Page 2)

## THIS CALENDER OF EVENTS – 2011

### Thredbo Snowfall Cocktails in Museum

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June 5.30 – 7.30 pm

Launch: "150 years of Australian Skiing –  
The Kiandra Story"

RSVP: Marion Murri email [mmtvl@bigpond.com](mailto:mmtvl@bigpond.com)  
02 6457 6806, 0418 987 321

### Mid Winter Dinner

Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> August

A Tribute to Frank Prihoda

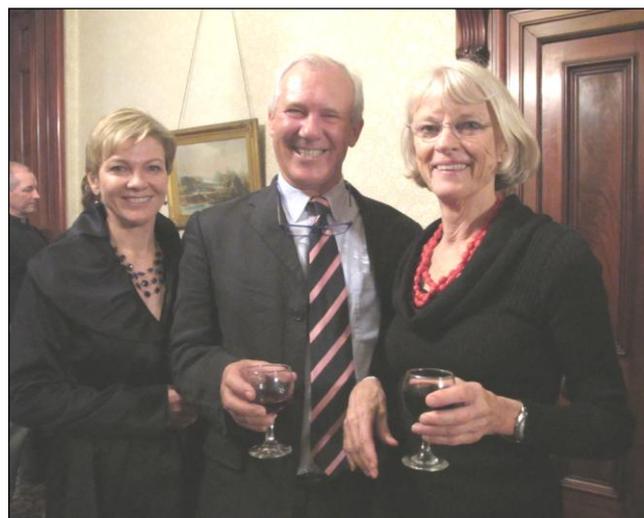
The Knickerbocker, Thredbo

6.30 pm

Cost: \$70

RSVP & PAYMENTS: Visa, M'Card, DD or  
Cheques to Marion Murri by Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> August  
email [mmtvl@bigpond.com](mailto:mmtvl@bigpond.com) 6457 6806

**AGM:** Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2011  
Thredbo



Louise Kennedy & Rick Walkom chat with Diana  
Dennison at Sydney Cocktails

### THREDBO MUSEUM – winter times

OPENING HOURS: 1 – 5 pm

June & September: weekends only & public  
holidays

July & August: Open daily (closed Mondays)

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.)**

**MUSEUM:** Our Museum exhibition this winter and through to the end of summer is "The Kiandra Story" and will be open on the June long weekend and officially launched on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June.

Fortunately we already had a small collection of Kiandra material however we are always seeking more. Following several donations and acquisitions the exhibit is gradually growing. I personally visited Tumut in April and met with many descendants of original Kiandra pioneer families – I was given a warm welcome and was provided with or loaned additional items for our exhibit, with the possibility of more from the Tumut Valley Historical Society. Thank you to those in Tumut who were involved.

If you are visiting Thredbo during the year please call into the Museum and observe and learn about Kiandra's unique role in Australia's and the world's alpine skiing history. In this newsletter we also continue the second of 3 parts of "The Chinese at Kiandra" story.

**MUSEUM WINTER ROSTERS:** Should you be visiting Thredbo over winter/Spring and maybe able to offer your services to volunteer to staff the museum (1pm to 5pm), then we would be delighted to hear from you. Just contact me (9449 7610 – email [alanf@bigpond.net.au](mailto:alanf@bigpond.net.au) ) or any other committee member to register your interest.

**THANKS TO SUMMER VOLUNTEERS:** Our thanks to the following who have assisted over the summer months which allowed us to meet our advertised opening commitments on all but 3 afternoons. Robin Oaten, Rob and Sally Walker, John and Pat Davis, Chrissi Webb, Graeme Holloway, Julia Corne, Frank Prihoda, Kate Fredericks, Geoff Wilson, Tommy Tomasi, Marion Murri, Barry and Sandra Booth.

*Alan Fredericks*

**THE KIAMA ALPINE CLUB**

The Kiama Alpine Club grew from a dream of a Ukrainian migrant couple, Eugene and Lala Baranowsky, who arrived in Australia in 1951. Eugene, a veterinary surgeon, found work in the Kiama area where the couple settled.

Before long, their business on its feet and prospering, they could think of skiing again as they had in Europe and begin planning to build a small lodge in the Snowy Mountains with friends. At Easter 1957, visiting the fledgling village of Thredbo, Tony Sponar showed them a lot. They put a deposit of £50 (in today's terms nearly \$1500) on it.

Unable to convince their migrant acquaintances of the worth of the venture – many were not yet well established in Australia – they turned to the farming and small-town communities south of Wollongong for the support needed to bring the project to fruition. Before long a club had been formed, local people were joining it and paying debentures to fund the purchase of the lease and the construction of a 12-bed lodge, and Eugene had become club captain and ski instructor for people who had never before seen snow. Thus was a club born that would never have come into existence without the vision and commitment of two newcomers to Australia.

The Kiama Alpine Club's story is not unlike those of many of the other ski clubs in Thredbo. It encompasses disaster (the partial destruction of the lodge in 1968 when a hot water system exploded), a number of re-buildings to a larger scale and a greater level of comfort, the passing of most of the founding members, a re-organisation from sporting club to co-operative, a considerable growth in membership and much input by way of working bees to maintain and develop the lodge, the carpark and the surrounds.

Many leaders made all this possible, among them the Baranowskys, Howard Waters, Alan Fredericks and several others. Fredericks was the club's president for 25 years, handing over the reins in 2010 to Liz Wynn who had for several years held the position of club secretary.

There have been trials and challenges along the way,

including the loss of some funds when the Australian Association of Co-operatives went into liquidation in 1993, but the club's story has been overwhelmingly a positive one. It participated in the FIS Men's World Cup in 1989, making accommodation available for officials and its own members taking part during the event in the world's longest flare run, and in 1997 it provided accommodation for emergency responders after the tragic landslide which wiped out two lodges and killed 18 members of the Thredbo community.

In 2003 the lodge had to be evacuated, along with the rest of the village, when the worst bush fire in Thredbo's history threatened. Such alarms notwithstanding, the club has prospered and it celebrated its first 50 years with further extensions to its lodge (which now contains 30 beds), the modernisation of the dining area and kitchen and the production of an historical DVD.

Eleven years before, the club had produced a book on its evolution and activities. It celebrated Thredbo's half-century too, donating a commemorative seat on the golf course. In 2011 the membership exceeds 350 and the club has grown well beyond its original Kiama base. Along the way it has produced several fine skiers and snowboarders.

*Chas Keys*



Kiama Alpine Club, Thredbo 1958/59

SYDNEY COCKTAILS

Held at the Royal Australian Historical Society's History House on Tuesday May 24<sup>th</sup>, the sixty seven people attending the Sydney Cocktails event, engaged in socialising and panel discussion with the four special guests Bob Arnott, Geoffrey Hughes, Norman Clarke and Peter Southwell-Keely, moderated with humour by Chas Keys EMS.

Kiandra dominated the questions from the audience which contained many identities including Kurt Lance AM, Brad and Monica Spalding, Ross McKinney, Rick Walkom, Randy Weiman, Wendy Cross, Ben Goodman, just to name a few.

A highlight of the meeting was a letter received by Kurt Lance which read:

"Dear Australian Ski Friends,

The year 2011 is a special year for the International Ski Federation, its Member National Ski Associations and their ski clubs around the world. It is special because we held the unforgettable FIS World Ski Championships in Oslo, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, La Molina and Deer Valley. But it is also special because it marks an important anniversary for the founding of some of the world's first ski clubs.

In 1861, the Trysill Skytte and Skiloberforening was founded in Norway. The same year, 150 years ago, the Kiandra Pioneer Ski Club came into being in your country. In these early days, skiing in Kiandra meant support for the local mining work and source of recreational moments of relaxation – connecting these two crucial parts of life to each other. Early skiing in Kiandra also featured competition, in fact a type of competition that was far ahead of its time. The competition format involved skiing straight down the mountain, two competitors at a time. The winner went to the next round, the loser went home.

However, I don't want to tell you your story – you know it far better than I ever could! Instead, I would like to commend you for having organised the first Alpine ski races in the history of our sport. One and a half centuries later, Alpine Skiing is one of the most popular and prestigious disciplines

within FIS, and the duel of man against Man can be found at the highest levels of Alpine and Freestyle Skiing as well as in Snowboarding.

I would also like to show my appreciation for the major efforts by the Australian ski pioneers. The sport of skiing, both at recreational and racing levels, is a reality on a global scale today thanks to the commitment and dedication of these individuals who will remain in our hearts forever.

Thank you for commemorating one of the key moments for the international ski community and I am sure that our sport will continue to grow with your support in Australia and around the world!

Sincerely yours,  
INTERNATIONAL SKI FEDERATION  
Gian Franco Kasper  
President.  
Oberhofen, Switzerland, 10<sup>th</sup> May 2011"



The attentive audience at Sydney Cocktails



Alan Fredericks (right) introduces the Panel at Sydney Cocktails: Bob Arnott, Geoffrey Hughes, Norman Clarke, Peter Southwell-Keely



Committee & volunteers working in the Ski Museum L-R: Sally Walker, Ray & Lyn Temperley, Rob Walker, Marion Murri and Graeme Holloway Chrissi Webb behind camera

Excerpts from "THE CHINESE AT KIANDRA" by Lindsay Smith (Kiandra Historical Society)

## PART 2

### "To the manner born

Although there was very little mining able to be done by anyone in the harsh winter conditions at Kiandra, some Chinese found other steady employment. As it turned out this alternative employment proved to be of great benefit not only to the Chinese but also to most European residents of the snow bound Kiandra – except one.

Anxious to have Thomas Garrett's newspaper, The Alpine Pioneer and Kiandra Advertiser, started spreading good tidings about Kiandra, some local and highly respected businessmen decided to help it get established in the town – and make money at the same time. The machinery for the newspaper could not be bought in to the town because of the snow, it had been *"twice locked in by the snow in endeavouring to get from Russell's to Kiandra, and had been sixteen days in getting six miles"*. (The Braidwood Observer and Miners Advocate 11 August 1860.)

Fifty Chinamen were engaged for this job, the drays were got at with considerable difficulty, and the entire loading, weighing 4,400 lbs, was carried a distance of fourteen miles through snow, and over very broken country in about 10 hours. A writer in the Empire states that should the scheme of the Chinese Carrying Company answer, Messrs Templeton, Cook and Wilson purpose to extend the line to Merimbula and Eden, having convenient stations on the line of road for halting places. (The Braidwood Observer and Miners Advocate 11 Aug 1860)

This much abused race (The Chinese) has lately proved itself invaluable to storekeepers and others by bringing in all kinds of goods from Russell's slung on their poles. Many are carrying in shingles and weatherboard. The loads these fellows will carry are tremendous.

*..... We are almost entirely depending on pack horses for goods, but there are a number of packers and no mistake in the number of Chinamen. I should think that there are upwards of one hundred of them on the road, and the loads they carry are almost incredible.* (Sydney Morning Herald 2 August 1860).

Unfortunately it appears that some of the Chinese were not paid, or at least, not paid the contracted amount for carrying goods into the town. Among the several wages cases that came before Messrs. Clark and Scott, J Ps at the Kiandra Court on 23 August 1860 was one in which 59

Chinamen v. Templeton, Cook, and Co., the promoters of the Celestial Transit Company, were involved. After a very patient investigation, the Bench found a verdict for the plaintiffs in the amount of seventy eight pounds and five pounds for the boss.

### "Verily, the Chinese seem to be a queer lot"

Although there were still reports of large numbers of "Celestials" passing through Braidwood en route to Kiandra towards the end of August, by the end of that month the glitter of Kiandra was starting to fade, and they began to disperse. Some returned to Beechworth as the Adelong Mining Journal notes – "a large band of "Camels of Kiandra" (Chinese) about 100 men passed through Adelong en route to Beechworth (31 August 1860) – and some went to the recently discovered gold field at Burrangong, or Lambing Flat, less than 200 miles from Kiandra, at Young in NSW (Carrington 1959:146).

By the end of December 1860, together with the Europeans, most of the Chinese had left Kiandra in search of their fortunes, or to ply their trades at other fields in NSW and Victoria.

In March 1861, the same newspaper (Yass Courier) was recording that a number of Chinese miners who were either expelled or quit by themselves ( from Lambing Flat) were returning to Kiandra from that field. At the same time, European miners and storekeepers were deserting Kiandra.....

*"Our population is still diminishing: many going to Lambing Flat and others to their various homes, having sold out on good terms to returned Chinamen. I believe that 200 of the Mongolians have returned within these eight days, and I am sure that they will do well."* (Yass Courier, 16 March 1861).

European miners at Lambing Flat, frustrated by, among other things, the lack of water, lack of expected returns and the apparent better fortunes of the Chinese, attacked the Chinese camp there in June and July 1861. This incident also prompted large numbers of Chinese to leave the Lambing Flat field. On 18 July 1861 The Empire reported *"John Chinaman with a number of his friends passed through this town (Tumut) en route to the Snowy, bearing the marks of their recent engagement at Lambing Flat"*.

**(to be continued)**

## CHINESE SKIING AT KIANDRA - THE ORIGIN OF THE "CHINESE DOWNHILL"

Bill Hughes related to Elyne Mitchell, that he was told that the Chinese ski races were held on a day set aside for them, when:

"Brake sticks were permitted, and as many as ten runners often started in a race down the Kiandra Slam, the width of which is but two chains. Consequently, fouling was frequent and the long sticks were often used successfully by the indiscriminate to fell a rival....

"The 'Pats', with pigtails flying and sticks swinging, must certainly have presented an animated scene unique in skiing history. Fights with skis and sticks were frequent, as someone was nearly always to be found who object forcibly, to be 'accidentally' tripped up or hit over the head with an eight foot pole."

**Elyne Mitchell (1985)**

## KIANDRA INVITATION SKI RACES – July 1961

To celebrate the Centenary of Australian skiing in 1861, the Kiandra Invitation Ski Races were held at Kiandra on the weekend of July 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> 1961, on the Township Hill course where the first competitive ski racing in the world was conducted in the 1860s.

An estimated 3,500 gathered at Kiandra in 1961 for the Carnival, many dressed in the fashions of the 1860s. The function was televised by the ABC and given good print media coverage. The Sun reported on the fashions and noted that violet ski boots were won by Suzie Palzer of Cooma and Mrs Danny Collman of Jindabyne chose pale pink pants and a matching pink parka for the occasion.

The 1961 Kiandra “Old-Style” race was run in the same manner as those 100 years beforehand “when the race was straight down hill Over 400 yards running without stocks. Heats consisted of two or three runners, each drawing for position on the course, as it was said that one side of Township Hill was faster than the other. There were semi-finals and a final.

“The 1961 race committee had about 50 racers competing. Invitations were accepted, by W. Day, Olympic representative; Margaret Day (now Margaret Stewart); G. Derschko (3rd National Downhill 1960), Bob Janata (5<sup>th</sup> National Downhill 1960), Adrian Studley (9<sup>th</sup> Nationals 1960); Danny Coleman and many other men and women including Harry Malcher, Joe Stiener, Jill Litchfield.

“Saturday night was party night with a torch light parade, fireworks and a banquet dinner for 180 guests. On Sunday after the presentation of trophies, a victory parade was held with winners in the old coach (Cobb and Co type) pulled by the competitors through the township.

“The Downhill ski race on the Township slope was won by Mac Munro of Cooma.” Interest was focussed

on Bill Patrick, Kiandra’s Post Master who accepted the challenge to race in this event, in which he first competed over 55 years ago.

The ski jump proved popular with camera enthusiasts and was won by the 1961 Australian Champion, O. Steinbacher, with Bob Janata and Kurt Lance taking 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places.

Gian Destefanis set the slalom and giant slalom courses. The slalom “was won by W.(Billy) Day with O. Handelmark second. The giant slalom was won by W. Day (34.5 secs). D Coleman was second (35 secs) and A. Studley (35.7secs.” Shann Turnbull placed 5<sup>th</sup> in the Slalom.

“The Invitation Cup, decided on points for the two events, was won by D. Coleman. His points totalled 2 mins. 21 secs. Second was W. Day (2mins, 24.1 s) and third O.Handelmark (2 mins.31.5secs). Margaret Stewart won the Women’s Invitation Cup”

Members of the club at the time were: Peter Fountain (President), Doug R Crammond (Club Captain), Pat Cronin ( Club Secretary), Sam and Peggy Kalil (Lodge managers), Allan Harris and John Crouch (Publicity), D Crammond, Jimmy Pattinson, Peter Hansen, L Seaton (Race Committee).

Other people invited to the Centenary Races included Barry Swain, Gordon Harman, Lloyd Seaton, Kevin Downs, Robyn Pye, and Gertie Koenig. The media included 3 from the ABC, Jack Gulley, *Ski Australia*: Dorothy Ryman and Greg Murray, J Walker, *Sun*: Staff reporter and cameraman Ann McCauley.

The guest list also included Ken Murray and his wife who did not ski, Mr Harvey and Mrs Palfrey, Mr and Mrs Malcolm Paynter, Charles Stewart, Margaret Rasmussen, Caressa Crouch, Mr and Mrs Mackenzie Munro, Jill Litchfield and Jane Knight.

## IN THE THREDBO SKI MUSEUM:

The “Summer in the Snowies” exhibition which ran from December 26<sup>th</sup> 2010 to May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2011, was well received by the 1,481 visitors

Predominantly a visual display, the exhibition covered the rich history of the mountains during spring, summer and autumn, covering the topics of the magnificent alpine terrain, Indigenous Peoples, snow leases and grazing in the high country, mountain huts, horse riding, trout fishing, brumbies, flora and fauna and bushfires

Artist Alan Grosvenor Kunama Gallery and photographers Michael Edmondson of Snowline Light Gallery and Michael Scott Lees from his Gallery in

Nuggets Crossing, Grahame Scully of the Kosciuszko Huts Association, all loaned pictures for the display.

The Jindabyne Central School students: Rohan Milliken, Callam McDougall, Naomi and Helena Waters provided their models of mountain huts and the National Parks and Wildlife Service Officer Dave Woods supplies stuffed and preserved artefacts of wildlife found within the Kosciuszko National Park.

The children enjoyed the wildlife artefacts. One couple came specifically to research mountain huts in the Park. Other comments from adults were of a general nature.

As always, visitors in the museum showed a lot of interest in the Alpine Road Collapse in 1997 and the 2003 bushfires.

### Comments from the Museum Visitors’ Book

“A wonderful Museum – my great grandfather was Sir Joseph Carruthers” – Jean Dunn, Melbourne

“It has been marvellous to have been reminded of happy days” – Honor Auchinleck (Elyne Mitchell’s daughter)

“Like the houses” – Lucas Blackmore Lees, Moonbah via Jindabyne

“Thank you Christina for the lovely talk” – Dorota & Jerry Rybakowski, Sydney

“What a beautiful museum you have now” – Albert van der Lee

“Cool snakes” – Mackenzie Day, Tumut

“Specific visit to research Kosciuszko huts” – Graham & Carol Edds.

**VALE: SAMUEL WILLIAM (BILL) BURSILL (6 FEBRUARY 1915 – 5 FEBRUARY 2011)**

The Australian ski industry representatives gathered with the family and friends to celebrate the life of Bill Bursill at St David's Presbyterian Church Campbelltown on Monday February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011 and afterwards at Glenalvon.

Ed Denny from Thredbo described the celebration "as a warm family and friends' tribute to someone who was much loved. The breadth of his achievements were talked about and shown via a slide presentation. A truly remarkable man."

Born in Campbelltown, to Samuel William Jnr and Eleanor Jane Young, Bill Bursill had the distinction of being the great grandson of convict William Bursill who was transported for life to Australia at the age of seventeen, after being arrested in 1820 on the suspicion of stealing two rings. Bill's grandfather Samuel William Bursill Snr was the mayor of Campbelltown from 1909 to 1913 and he subsequently bought the fine Georgian Mansion in Lithgow Street called Glenalvon.

From 1919 until 1935 Samuel Jnr concentrated on dairy farming at Rosslyn and Bill and his siblings walked from here to Campbelltown Primary School in Lithgow Street, taking a billy can of fresh milk to their grandparents at Glenalvon.

Aged eighteen years, Bill joined his father in the business and took over the Bursill Store in 1945. He subsequently met and married Valerie Hall (who was a young graduate pharmacist at the Campbelltown pharmacy) on October 28<sup>th</sup>, 1939. They had four children – Donald, Graham, Helen and Robert.

Bill continued to help his father run the Bursill Store and he and Val lived on top of the shop in Queen Street for a few years before building on an old tennis court next to Glenalvon. After selling motor vehicles and running the general store, Bill went into property development; firstly in Campbelltown, and then eventually building flats, motels and houses from Thredbo to tropical North Queensland and plenty in between.

His introduction to snow was in the winter of 1945 at Mt Franklin in an Army camp hut where he and Valerie went for rest and recreation. The ski technique employed was what Bill called the "lavatory crouch".

After the closure of the Mt Franklin army camp, Bill and Valerie stayed at the Hotel Kosciusko and after that they progressed to the Chalet at Charlotte Pass where he joined the Kosciusko Alpine Club and supplied building materials for the construction of the KAC Lodge.

It was at the Chalet that Bill met Tony Sponar in the early '50s, and Bill was invited to join a group of ski enthusiasts from Sydney to visit the Thredbo Valley in 1955 to discuss the location for a ski resort. Asked to join the original Thredbo syndicate applying to establish the resort, Bill declined however he told Tony that, if it came to fruition, he would build a commercial lodge in the resort.

Nothing was heard until Bill answered a knock on the door at his house in Sydney, and there stood Tony saying that permission had been granted to build the resort and that Tony had already bulldozed the site and dug the

sewer trench for Bursill's Lodge. So how could Bill knock back the opportunity?

Bursill's Lodge emerged from two large insulated cool rooms clad with timber from car packing crates in 1958 with the help of the Austrian ski instructors Leonhard Erharder and Helmut Pfitser working on the internal fittings. They taught Bill to ski Arlberg style in the afternoons. Dick Joyce was the carpenter. The lodge had eight bedrooms downstairs and upstairs a big open space with two bedrooms for Bill and a toilet.

Tony and Elisabeth Sponar were the first Bursills Lodge managers. The next people to run the lodge were Leo Pockl and Maria. Rudi and Chris Schatzle leased it for twelve years. Eventually the lodge was sold to Ferie Oosterhof of Alpine Tours. Today the lodge is owned by Ed Denny and a business partner, and operates under the name of The Denman.

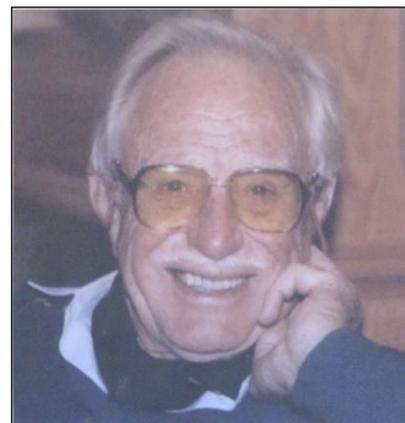
Bill Bursill supported a carpenter in Campbelltown to make skis from Australian hardwood however the cost of labour proved too great so Bill sent the Australian hardwood to Japan to be manufactured and distributed them in Australia through his family business, Bursill's Sports Gear.

A keen skier, Bill enjoyed competition and participated in the Thredbo Masters' annual ski race most years. The last time he was on course was in 2009 at the age of 94. He was the complete sportsman – he body surfed, snorkelled and love to spend a large amount of his 'recreational' time building and cruising on boats.

His project over the last thirteen years was designing and developing tourist accommodation and houseboat hiring in Lucinda, a small coastal village about 120 km north of Townsville. He continued actively in all aspects of this up until last year. Fortunately the resort suffered only very minor damage from Cyclone Yasi – as Bill always said "we will be protected by the (southern end of Hinchinbrook) Island", and the resort was.

A nonagenarian, Bill died just one day short of his ninety sixth birthday. He was brother of John (Jack) (deceased), Marjorie (deceased) and Keith (deceased); husband of Valerie (deceased); father of Donald, Graham, Helen and Robert; Bill will be missed by his many grandchildren and great grandchildren, friends and acquaintances.

*Chrissi Webb* (reprinted courtesy of Monaro Post)



**Bill Bursill**

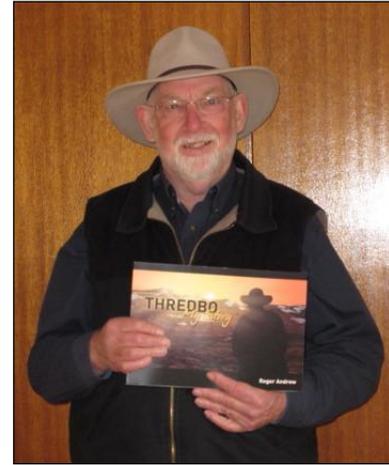
## BOOK REVIEW: "THREDBO – MY STORY" by Roger Andrew

"Thredbo – My Story" is the personal story of one of the hundreds of men and women who, behind the scenes kept and continue to keep Thredbo running.

Tradesman Roger Andrew and member of the Thredbo Historical Society, writes of amusing tales and some tragic events, which occurred during the 1970s whilst working in various departments of the resort from the Thredbo Alpine Hotel, to the Mountain and then the Village Crew over a five year period. The only job he didn't do was to teach skiing – Roger taught himself to ski so he could remain working in the Mountain department.

Roger's pictures of the old Merrit's Duplex T-bars in a snow storm will remind skiers of days when they were only lifts accessible in a blizzard. Snow groomers whilst looking at the pictures of the mountain work horses, that is the Tucker Sno-Cat and the Thikol, will appreciate the descriptions of the peculiar handling characteristics of these beasts.

Beautifully presented colour plates on each of the 156 pages, with the text in large print, this "easy to read" narrative beginning in 1963 and concluding in 2010, brings back memories to those countless numbers of people who worked, continue to work, or visit the Snowy Mountains.



Roger Andrew

From a historic perspective, the majority of illustrations have dates and the sources acknowledged if they are not part of the author's collection. This makes the book an invaluable resource for research and documentation.

Roger must be commended to take the time to share his experiences and photographs with the world at large through the production of "Thredbo – My Story". The book is on sale in Thredbo's Ski Museum.

*Chrissi Webb*

### VALE:

**Grant Hosking** passed away on January 22, 2011. His daughter Alicia Hosking, emailed: "Grant had been in hospital for over 5 weeks and altogether not well due to a long-term chronic heart failure as well as more recent bouts of cancer (skin and lymph nodes) that were treated but it was probably more extensive. He just got really old and gave up the ghost (which, in fact he had started to do way back last year after his good mate John Scott-Waine passed away).

Grant so loved his skiing and his friendships with buddies at Thredbo as well as Zurs and had kept skiing (just!) up until only four or five years ago. He was 86 when he died and as we wrote in his funeral notice he had "A Life Well Lived"

Joining the Thredbo Historical Society in 1996, Grant made a valued contribution to our video library through copies of footage of Australia's ski history. His daughter is hoping to continue Grant's research relating to the Australian Army Ski Corps.

**Douglass Baglin** died aged 84 on October 7, 2010. An international photographer, filmmaker, author and tireless heritage campaigner in Hunters Hill, he was a Society member from 2000 to 2005/06.

### 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
Information Technology:	Robin Oaten	
	Ray Temperley	
	Julia Corne	
Special Projects	Marion Murri	6457 6806

### WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Bernadette & Steven Walker, Tumut  
Geoffrey & Dawn Hughes, Woollahra  
NSW Snowsports  
Darryl Collman, Charlotte Pass

### 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 \$36.00	
	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	
	Russell, Rebel Penfold <b>Tommy Tomasi – a life well travelled</b> DVD, PG rating, Duration 44 minutes      Cost incl. postage \$30	
	Russell, Rebel Penfold <b>Thredbo 50 Years</b> DVD, PG rating, Duration 32 minutes      Cost incl. postage \$30	
	<b>TOTAL AMOUNT</b>	

**Ordering & enquiries**

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