

SAC Summer Newsletter - 2020

The Year That Was

As many can attest, 2020 hasn't been the best of years. Our club has successfully navigated a few challenges, of which we can all relate.

Mulubinba entered 2020 under the perilous threat of bushfire. On New Years Eve and at the instruction of Park officials, around 20 guests (who were preparing to celebrate) evacuated the lodge in a swift yet calm manner and headed home. Thankfully, even though summer holiday time was cut short, everyone made it home safely. With fires raging relentlessly, Kosciusko National Park closed soon after, remaining so for a further 2 weeks. With fires coming close, Perisher and Thredbo thankfully were largely unaffected. Our thoughts were with those directly impacted by the 2019/2020 fires.

Come March, winter bookings were looking as strong as ever. Enter COVID19. As with most accommodation venues across the nation, the Board decided (after much consideration) to close the lodge until more was understood about restrictions and appropriate risk mitigation measures could be put in place.

With restrictions easing mid winter, we were fortunately, able to reopen from August enabling members to enjoy a fine snow season with reduced crowds (a silver lining with our reduced capacity at least!).

We thank members for your patience and understanding during this time and for those members who visited the lodge in the second half of the winter season. The lodge was utilised for 6 of the 8 remaining winter weeks, with 27 people visiting - a significant reduction from a regular winter season. At least the snowmen were COVID safe!



Lets Look Ahead!

With the skis and snowboards well and truly racked for the summer and normality slowly returning for the holidays, many members are looking forward to making the most of Kosciusko's summer activities. Summer bookings are currently strong (noting reduced capacity due to physical distancing requirements remain in place) with plenty of members utilising the lodge over the coming months, so get in quick if you are thinking about heading to Perisher over the holidays.

Here are a few things to keep you entertained when you head down over summer:

- **For the mountain bikers:** Check out the Lower Thredbo Valley Track! 18.4km of challenging single track between Crackenback Resort and Gaden Trout Hatchery. You can now ride (or walk) all the way from Jindabyne to Thredbo. <https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/cycling-trails/thredbo-valley-track-adventure-rides#bullocks-flat-to-gaden-trout-hatchery:-18.4km-one-way>
- **More mountain biking:** Don't forget Thredbo Mountain Bike Park, arguably one of the best mountain biking destinations in the country. Resistance is futile! <https://www.thredbo.com.au/packages/mtb-3-for-2->

[special/?gclid=Cj0KCQjA_rfvBRCPARIsANIV66OKQL7O4FzCGA7mXN8AlkzHAG_RKgidM2CaLxrTvIYOKY6OkNAGoiUaAkGaEALw_wcB](https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/visit-experience/activities-and-experiences/special/?gclid=Cj0KCQjA_rfvBRCPARIsANIV66OKQL7O4FzCGA7mXN8AlkzHAG_RKgidM2CaLxrTvIYOKY6OkNAGoiUaAkGaEALw_wcB)

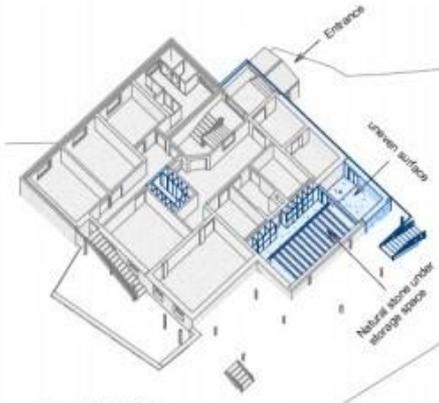
- **Family activities:** Lots of options to choose from! Check out:
 - Free swimming, canoeing, archery and other activities at Crackenback Resort
 - Bombala Platypus Spotting: [Our Platypus | Snowy Monaro Regional Council \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.nsw.gov.au/visit-experience/activities-and-experiences/our-platypus)
 - Reynella Horse Back Safari: [Reynella Rides | Horseback Safaris Kosciuszko National Park](https://www.reynella.com.au/horseback-safaris)
 - Charlottes Pass Village: [Home - Charlotte Pass Snow Resort](https://www.charlottespass.com.au/)
- **Family friendly bushwalks:**
 - Porcupine (starts right next to the lodge): <https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/walking-tracks/porcupine-walk/visitor-info>
 - The Illawong Walk (Guthega): <https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/walking-tracks/illawong-walk>
 - Rainbow Lake: <https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/walking-tracks/rainbow-lake-walking-track>
- **Hiking:** Get out on the main range on the best hikes in the high country. Here's the latest on the "Snowies Iconic Walk" currently under construction, due for completion by 2022: <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/parks-reserves-and-protected-areas/park-management/community-engagement/walking-tracks-and-trails-in-national-parks/snowies-iconic-walk>



Some Other Items

Bookings: Our booking officer has recently changed his email address. Please update your contacts for Graeme McCulloch to graememcculloch05@gmail.com.

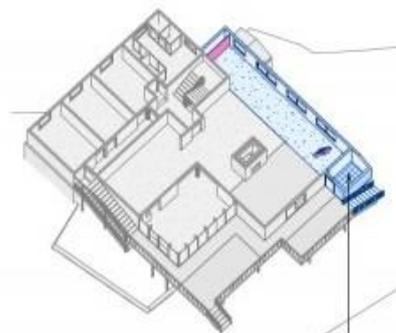
Lodge Extensions: The Board is progressing design and approvals for the proposed extensions. We will provide a separate update on the works, but to whet your appetite, below are some updated images and plans of the extensions.



② Level 1 AXO

Ground Floor Benefits:

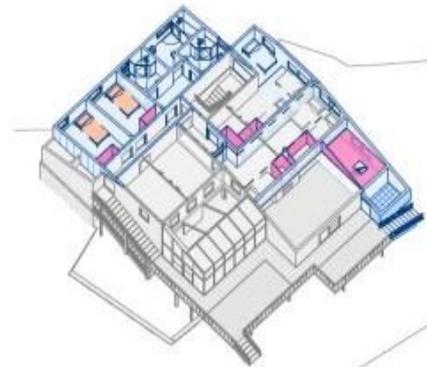
1. Create a new wood storage room
2. Use current wood room for ski + other storage
3. Use current pantry as a ski boot storeroom
4. Solve water leaks into current ski lockers
5. Space for bike storage



② Level 2 AXO
New Wood Storage Volume: 8.5 cu m

Middle Floor Benefits:

1. Expansion of both lounge areas
2. Lifts northern lounge floor level
3. Provides pantry cupboard close to the kitchen
4. Provides ceiling storage zone for bulk paper items
5. Solves water leaks and cladding deterioration of western wall
6. Provides a new wood storage room closer to the fire place



② Level 3 AXO

Top Floor Benefits:

1. Allows room 9 to be split into two rooms with private entry to suit large family bookings
2. Provides 2 single rooms
3. More booking flexibility
4. Provides additional ceiling storage in room 9
5. Provides 3 ensuite style bathrooms for top floor
6. Option to buy 3 more bed licenses in future