



THE LODGER

**An Occasional Newsletter of
The Lodge Ski Club**

Spring 2023

Greetings Fellow Lodgers,

The season is now but a fading memory...

It actually started fading around mid-August, took a couple of last gasps and, for most of us, expired prematurely in early September.

(Unless your name is Andy Tranter, in which case you would have been carving a couple of turns in an Esky of ice that someone just threw out.)

But – We Had Fun! Highlights of the season included the Opening Weekend, the July School Holidays and the Members Weekend in September, albeit without a Sled Race. (That means we get to keep the trophy for another year.) The Big Dinner was Heaps of Fun. The Hawaiian Theme is now locked in.

Thanks go to Jonathan and all the Langtons for the fine work they did managing The Lodge, making everyone's stay as enjoyable as possible. Once again, we've received lots of positive feedback from guests. Kerry was also understandably proud to be congratulated by the Accommodation Inspector on the cleanliness and condition of the building.

NEWS FLASH!!! We're delighted to announce that the Langtons will be back with us in 2024!!!

The 2024 AGM...

Next year's AGM will be at the same venue as this year's – but not on the 9th March (Labor Day Saturday). We'll give you more details in the New Year.

Membership Changes...

Janet Walsh has sold to Blair Barton and Tony Paul has sold to Kylie Poppins.

Both Janet and Tony now no longer live within commuting distance of The Lodge. We wish them all the best, and warmly welcome Blair and Kylie and their families.

Congratulations Steve

You'll be aware of the close connection The Lodge has with DWA – Disabled Wintersports Australia. We're proud to announce that Steve Roadnight was awarded Volunteer of the Year for 2023. Steve's all-weather commitment is hugely impressive - I've noted from the comfort of my fireside seat.

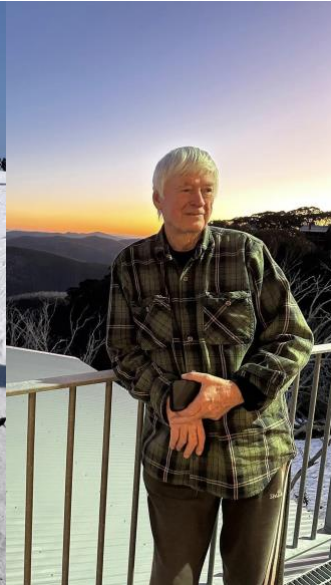
Ann Conquers The Summit

It was a real thrill to see our oldest member, Ann Bakker, put on skis and take to the snow – on a Sunny Summit Day.

After making steady progress down the top third or so of the Summit, Ann decided that other means of transport might be more suited to one of her mature years – would you believe 84? Like Cinderella's coach, she summoned her own special transportation and completed the journey in the comfort of a SitSki, with Ian White and Steve Roadnight as Coachmen.



Ann in Full Flight



Bob Enjoying the Golden Years.



Cody – Our Youngest Champion

We also have to honour the ever-youthful Bob Rudge – who's Out There for hours!

A point of interest: Ann, Helen McKernan and I were the only three original members to get onto the snow this year.

Our Other Winner

The Langton family is understandably proud of young Cody's achievements this year. Cody was awarded Primary Boys State Snowboard Champion, across all age groups, at the State Interschools back in late August at Mt Buller.

This is an amazing result for Cody, who is only in his second year of snowboarding and first time competing at the State Interschool Snowsport Championships. The Nationals were cancelled due to a lack of snow, which was disappointing seeing as how Cody's times were looking good to take that out as well! Hopefully in 2024!

A name on the trophy alongside Cody's (2023) is that of Scotty James (2006-07), one of Australia's most successful Winter Olympians – 2X Medallist and 3X World Champion – so some good pedigree for Cody to follow!

Changes to Room 5

To try to help satisfy the demand for private rooms for couples, over summer we will be modifying Room 5 – converting it into a room with a double bed, and another with a double bed below and a single above.

The Booking System – the Important Stuff

At the AGM members asked the Board to examine the booking system and come up with recommendations for improvements – with the caveat that You Can't Please All the People All the Time. Following that there was concern that taking a School Group Booking in the first week of State Schools Term 3 was preventing families with kids in Non-Government Schools accessing The Lodge for their Week 3.

So, as well as the conversion of Room 5... we've done what you asked. Here are the results:

A School Camp Booking

We agreed that while this is a valuable source of income, it shouldn't intrude unnecessarily on Member Booking convenience.

The "Third Week"

We asked how many members would appreciate access to that extra week of the June/July vacation. There was sufficient interest for us to decide to allocate this "third week". And, if necessary, move any School Camp booking to the next week.

So far so good....

Then we looked at the calendar....

In 2024....

- Victorian State Schools Term 2 ends on Friday 28th June. Term 3 starts on Monday 15th July.
- Victorian Private Schools (e.g. Peninsula Grammar, Melbourne Grammar, Scotch College) Term 2 ends on **Friday 21st June**. Term 3 also starts on the 15th July.

So... The sought after "Third Week" in 2024 is actually a week before the State Schools start their vacation.

- Just to add to the mix: NSW and Tasmanian Term Holidays start on Monday 6th July.

On the basis of these dates we have decided to accept a school block booking from Sunday 14th to Friday 19th July, which is the first week of Term 3 for all Victorian schools

The Important Dates for 2024

- 7th – 10th June - King's Birthday Weekend. Season Opens. Group Dinner at The Lodge on Saturday 8th June. All members welcome, plus ex members and Special Invitees.
- 21st June – 14th July - School Holidays
- 14th July – 19th July – School Group Block Booking – Lodge booked out.
- Friday 30th August to Sunday 1st September – Members Weekend. Davenport Sled Race. Big Group Dinner at the Lodge on Saturday 31st. Hawaiian Theme. All members welcome (including those on the mountain but not booked into The Lodge) – plus ex-members and Selected Invitees. Tammy and Kerry will co-ordinate the menu – contact them nearer the date to see what they would like you to bring.



The 2023 Members Weekend Dinner

Making a Booking in 2024

This is our proposal. We'll give you full details early in the new year.

Round 1:

- Members will book by email.
- In Round 1 each member will be able to request 2 x 5-night midweek bookings, plus 1 weekend, for themselves, their associate and eligible (dependent) children. These can be in separate bookings or a single 12-night booking. However, they must be for a full weekend and/or a full mid-week (eg no long 3 night weekends) Furthermore – June/July school holiday bookings can be for no longer than a week.
- Those wishing to stay for an extended period will put in their request at this time.
- Members will be asked to state their preferences for Rooms and Dates.
- The Board will meet and consider each booking – making allowance for preferences wherever possible but also trying to ensure that everyone has a fair go.
- Members will have their bookings confirmed – and locked in by payment on confirmation.
- All confirmed bookings will be entered into the Bookings System.

Round 2:

- As in the past bookings will open on-line at a set time and date.
- Members will be able to see what has already been booked under Round 1.
- There'll be no restriction on the number or duration of bookings that can be made in Round 2.
- Members may be able to add to bookings already made (e.g a single Sunday night to extend a previously booked weekend) or to create new bookings.
- The usual "Pay to Lock It In" system will apply.
- We will still reserve the right to make adjustments where necessary e.g. room allocation to ensure continuity of a booking.

We're happy to take feedback – especially if it's of the "What a Great Idea!" nature.

I hope Spring is kind to you and that Christmas doesn't hit you between the eyes before you're ready for it.

Stu