

NEWSLETTER



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Friends of Thredbo

Issue # 58 December 2014

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE – December 2014

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: This was held on Saturday, November 29th at the Kiama Alpine Club Lodge in Thredbo with around 15 members in attendance.

There were no changes to the Executive of the Society, however the meeting expanded the overall size of the committee from 10 to 12 reflecting the interest and nominations received for committee positions. The two new members of the committee are Jerry Krejzar, who previously served as a committee member and well known Thredbo identity Randy Wieman. We warmly welcome them both. The other outcomes of the meeting to note were:

- 1 Membership Subscriptions for all categories remain unchanged.
- 2 Following much feedback and discussion over the past 6 months and further discussion at the meeting it was agreed that in 2015 five names would be added to the Faces of Thredbo honour board, before reverting back to 3 annually thereafter.
- 3 The Ski Museum Development Fund will be renamed the Thredbo Ski Museum Foundation. This is a name change only and is thought to better reflect the intended longevity of the fund and provide better "brand awareness" going forward.

A significant announcement was made by one of the Foundation's ambassadors, Frank Prihoda, in relation to a donation to the Society by Dorothy Lance. Dorothy stated the donation is made in recognition of the close association between the late Kurt Lance AM, our inaugural Patron and the Society's respect for Kurt and his contribution to Australian skiing. The donation is to allow the Society to further pursue its aims and objectives. Full report in this newsletter.

At the conclusion of the meeting, members enjoyed socialising and a BBQ on the balcony on a spectacular Thredbo blue sky afternoon.

(continued Page 2)

NEWSLETTERS BY EMAIL??? Would you prefer to receive an emailed copy of the Newsletter, rather than hard copy? If so, please email me at <u>aab5@bigpond.com</u>. Chrissi Webb, Editor

THS CALENDER OF EVENTS -2015

Saturday May 16th 2015: AASHA (Australian Alpine Snowsports History Association) Thredbo Tuesday May 26th 2015: Sydney Cocktails, Combined Thredbo/Perisher event RAHS, History House, Macquarie St Saturday June 13th 2015: Snowfall Cocktails, Thredbo Ski Museum Wednesday July 22nd 2015: Mid Winter Dinner (venue to be confirmed)



Barbara May, Del Fisher, Jerry & Penny Krejzar before the 2014 Mid Winter Dinner at The Denman

THREDBO MUSEUM – Summer

Opening Hours: 1 – 5 pm Peak: December 26 – January 26 (closed Mondays) Other: Weekends Only February to April Plus public holidays and special events

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PRESIDENT'S UPDATE (continued)

COLLECTION DOCUMENTATION PROJECT: This major project for the society continues and we have now spent our Museum and Galleries of NSW grant of \$7500 for the consultant, Deborah Spoehr of Conservatrix Canberra to provide us with 20 days to get the project underway. Deborah has provided training in the Mosaic software program to Chrissi Webb (Museum Administrator) and Graeme Holloway (Vice President) and entered data into the database. We have learnt that this will be an ongoing exercise over several years in order to achieve the end goal of having all of our collection documented.

INTERN STUDENT: We have successfully applied to the Australian National University (ANU) Canberra Centre for Heritage and Museums to secure an intern student to continue assisting us with the project. We were grateful to receive interest from student Leith Targ, who elected to accept our proposal and serve her 20 day internship with us. This is a mutually beneficial project also designed to help Leith with her Masters degree in Liberal Arts. It is proposed that the internship will be completed by the end of January.

MUSEUM WINTER VOLUNTEERS: Our visitation to the museum increased over the winter months only made possible by a willing bunch of volunteers who assisted in keeping the doors open for the public to view and appreciate our collection including our special exhibition of "Ski Lifts of the Snowies and the Longest Chairlift". There were 4 days in which we were not able to open as advertised, due to the lack of a volunteer.

Our special thanks are extended to Frank Prihoda, Chrissi Webb, Chas Skinner and Rodger Andrew who contributed substantially to our result. Also thanks to Aileen Bomball of Silver Brumby Lodge, Peter and Annette Stuart and Phoebe Hoy of Roslyn Lodge, Bill Cape and Ian Devereux of Avior Lodge, John Wholohan of Happy Wanderers Lodge, Geoff and Viv Boxsell and Bruce and Margaret Piggot of Kiama Lodge, Lawrie Perrin of Pindari Lodge, Jerry Krejzar, Don and Marina West, Allan and Beryl Smith, Michelle Palmer, Graeme Holloway and myself. Also a special word of thanks to our members is due to Matthew Quomi and Cees Koeman, both of whom assisted greatly with our Guest Speaker /social program over the winter months.

AASHA: We will be hosting the second annual meeting of the Australian Alpine Snowsports History Association, on the weekend of 16/17 May 2015. We are preparing the preliminary plans to ensure all attendees, many from interstate, will receive a special welcome with an interesting program of events to ensure they leave with a memorable impression of their visit to Thredbo.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS: Thank you to all members who have responded with the payment of their subscriptions. To those who may have overlooked or forgotten to address our earlier notices, we appeal for your ongoing support in helping us meet the Society's objectives. If you are not sure of your status then please feel free to contact our new Membership Officer Anne Collet on Ph 02 6281 1525 or email her on rainmakerrealty@grapevine.net.au. We also may give you a courtesy call.

Alan Fredericks

VALE

George Freuden, OAM (1932-2014), passed away early on Saturday morning, 29th November.

George was a member of our Historical Society since 1996 – one of our longest standing members and very strong supporter alongside with his wife Hilary. His involvement and work with the Thredbo Ski Patrol Association, Australian Ski Patrol Association, Federation Internationale Patrol de Ski and Federation International de Ski and the Australian ski industry generally, is widely known and acclaimed. George was aged 82 years.

Alan Andrews (1926 – 2014) He was one of the last of the pioneer cross country skiers and his book "Skiing the Western Faces" of Kosciuszko was the Bible to many of the skinny skiing fraternity.

NEWSLETTER FACES OF THREDBO

Eighty six *Friends of Thredbo* gathered at Thredbo's Denman Hotel for the Thredbo Historical Society Mid Winter Dinner on Wednesday, July 23rd to hear who would be the inaugural five "Faces of Thredbo".

In his opening remarks prior to announcing and presenting the Awards, Thredbo Resort Operations Manager Stuart Diver spoke of Thredbo as a community with a long and proud history with the many "faces", of which there are currently 800 staff members, playing an important part. Reggae Ellis acted as Master of Ceremonies and Randy Wieman's screened collage of the lives of the inaugural faces supported the presentations.

The people chosen for inaugural Awards were Sasha Nekvapil, Frank Prihoda, Barry May, Michael Milton, and Leonhard Erharter. A major criteria for their selection was their contribution towards different aspects of the development of Thredbo.

Beryl Clifford Smith outlined the role of past Winter Olympian and 1989 Queen of the Mountain, Sasha Nekvapil towards the betterment of the village life, which included her encouragement of children's ski racing, the building of Sasha's Lodge, Sasha's Apartments and the introduction of fashionable clothing to the Australian ski scene. Sasha continued to ski the Thredbo slopes into her 90th year. Michael Nekvapil accepted the Award on behalf his deceased mother.

"As an elder of the Thredbo community, Frank Prihoda's valued contribution to village community life began in 1974 when he opened a gift shop in the Alpine Hotel" said Heinz Reichinger. Back then he featured in the body painting competitions and took to the stage with the Thredbo Players. Since his very late retirement he continues to volunteer in the Thredbo Ski Museum. Before taking residence in Thredbo Frank made a big contribution to the Victorian ski racing scene. He represented Australia at the 1956 Winter Olympics and lit the Olympic Torch Relay cauldron in Thredbo prior to the Sydney Olympics. His last Hurrah as a ski racer was on his 90th birthday when he organized a ski race for himself and his friends and he wore Bib No. 1.

Volunteer Thredbo Ski Patroller Barry May's service to safety on the Thredbo slopes spans an extraordinary fifty years. Resident in Sydney and operating a water salvage business during summer, he was able to devote winter to meet the stringent requirements of an active ski patroller. Fellow past ski patroller Jerry Krejzar had the honour of describing Barry's commitment to Thredbo.

Disabled Winter Snowsports Association founder, Ron Finneran was proud to announce the fourth Award to Past Paralympian Michael Milton OAM. Michael's outstanding achievements which began as a three year old in Thredbo, are astonishing (see page 6). He has shown the world that to be disabled is, in his words "an advantage and not a disadvantage!"

The first Thredbo Ski School Director and Austrian Leonhard Erharter (deceased 2007) was the fifth individual to be recognized for his work in establishing a world class ski school on the mountain in 1958. Walter Auer who came from Europe to teach under him, spoke of Leonard's abilities as a director and a skier of enormous verve and elan. Thredbo undoubtedly enjoyed the world's highest standard of ski instructing, in that the beginners classes at Thredbo, were conducted by instructors who taught only the most talented students at Zurs, which itself boasted Europe's top ski school! By 1970 there were fifteen instructors in Thredbo Ski School under his directorship. Leonhard's reign ended in 1977. Walter will forward the Award to Leonhard's daughter in Hopfgarten, Austria.

The evening concluded with the drawing of lucky door prizes donated by Andy Thomas of Jandy Innovative Sports (Scott Goggles). The recognition of the contribution of individuals to the Thredbo community will now become a regular feature of the Thredbo Historical Society's annual Mid Winter Dinner. *Chrissi Webb*



Michael Milton, Frank Prihoda and Barry May



RAMSHEAD CHAIRLIFT

Thredbo's Ramshead Chairlift located at the base of the Crackenback ski slope carried skiers, two to a chair, to the bottom of the Basin. Manufactured by Riblet. It was 1,770 metres in length with a vertical rise of 480 metres.

It was built in the summer of 1962-63, and opened for operation in June 1963 by a group of Italians who formed a company called Electric Power Transmission. Cees Koeman who was mountain manager at the time, said "they were my heroes – they built it with their bare hands". He said that some of the towers were transported up to the Crackenback top station by the original chairlift, then manhauled down the Basin to the Ramshead liftline.

Newalla Club member John Turner was the Civil & Civic site manager at the time. He wrote "I assisted in locating the Ramshead Chairlift and positioning of the intermediate stations. The Chairlift was supplied by a United States company and included new features of tubular steel towers in concrete bases. The Project Engineer was Ken Wischusen from Victoria."

In his book "Thredbo 50 Years", Jim Darby (1957) wrote 'Ramshead had a slightly difficult birth. The top station was located in a hole and according to Cees Koeman, this was at the insistence of Dick Dusseldorp who wanted it out of the wind. "He was very concerned about wind stoppages, so they built, at great cost, the top station inside this hole and of course, in winter it filled up and the top station disappeared and you couldn't run the lift. It was moved some years later up into a different spot" said Cees Koeman.'

THS COMMITTEE: 2013/2014				
Patron:	Alan Rydge			
President:	Alan Fredericks alar			
02 9449 7610 / 0417401403				
Vice President:	Graeme Holloway	0447 648 478		
Vice President :	Ed Denny	6457 6222		
Secretary:	Maureen Roberts	6456 1289		
	Ben Rushton	0433 630 160		
Membership:	Anne Collet	6281 1525		
Publicity/Museu	m:Christina Webb	6456 2279		
Committee: Fra	nk Prihoda, Marion N	Murri, Ian Boxsell		
Jer	ry Krejzar, Randy Wi	eman		

'When the weather cleared following the 1964 blizzards, it was discovered that the top station had completely disappeared underneath a huge snowdrift. To get the station operating again, the cheapest and fastest way was to dig a tunnel for the chairs and cable.... this worked perfectly well until the spring sun put an end to it.' (Heinz Haselroither, International Ropeway Review, 1968)

The lift had a loading station at Tower 10, and before the advent of snow making, one could join the lift queue to load at Tower 10 when skiing conditions were poor at the bottom.

A notice of closure of the lift was issued in 2011 and the "last ride" was in March 2014.

Technical Data

Vertical rise: 1,500 ft; Length: 5,290 ft; Average rope gradient: 28.4%; Rope diameter: 1.25 in; Number of chairs: 135; Travel time: 10 minutes; Normal speed: 9.2 ft/sec; Chair type: 2-seater; Chair spacing: 82 ft; Capacity: 800 passengers/hour; Main motor (electric): 120 hp; Auxiliary motor (petrol): 56 hp.



Ramshead Chairlift above Thredbo's "Rock Garden" Photo: Heinz Haselroither

FRIENDS OF THREDBO MEMBERSHIP FEES 2014/2015

Individual	s: \$45/1-yr; \$225/5-yrs;
	\$450/10-yr
Family:	\$60/1-yr; \$300/5-yrs
Group:	Club \$220/year
	Corporate Gold: \$1500/yr
	Silver: \$1,000/yr
	Bronze: \$500
NEW M	EMBERS

Les Herstik, Megan Keaney, John Rumble, Steve & Isabelle Andrea



NSW SNOWSPORTS

NSW Snowsports is the trading name of the NSW Ski Association, a company which belongs to and supports the Thredbo Historical Society. The organisation is the peak body for snow sports in the state and operates under a service agreement with Ski and Snowboard Australia and the national committees for the different snow sport disciplines. It also has links with the NSW Sports Federation, the NSW Olympic Council, the NSW Institute of Sport and the South-East Regional Academy of Sport.

Literally, NSW Snowsports originated as the NSW Ski Association in 1973, but its lineage goes back much further than that. The organisation was formed after the winding up of the Ski Council of NSW, which had been founded in 1928. The Ski Council was the first 'representative' body for snow sports in the state and did much to promote skiing, ski racing, the development of ski testing (to establish proficiencies on the snow) and safety in skiing activity. Broadly speaking, these functions fall within the remit of NSW Snowsports today, but the current organisation has taken on an even broader compass.

The objectives of NSW Snowsports include increasing the level of participation in snow sports, the identification and development of talent in the field, the development of appropriate facilities and infrastructure and the provision of education and other forms of support for snow sports instructors, coaches, volunteers, officials and administrators. The organisation also provides liability insurance to member clubs. In general it seeks to develop the profile of snow sports in the context of healthy, diverse lifestyles.

The NSW Ski Association has played significant investigative and lobbying roles in the development of ski resorts in the Snowy Mountains and has had strong input to National Parks and Wildlife Service plans of During the 1970s and early management. 1980s the organisation was a strong proponent of a major resort development at Twin Valleys, downstream of Thredbo, but the idea was scotched (for the foreseeable future, at least) when the Skitube and Blue Cow were preferred by the State government.

The Association has played a major part in maintaining cross-country ski trails in the mountains and it owns the Sverre Kaaten Nordic Shelter in Perisher. Grants. donations and fund-raising activities support the operation of the shelter. In the mid-1970s the Association inaugurated the annual Snow Expos, later called Ski Shows: these were exhibitions held at venues such as the Sydney Opera House, Randwick Racecourse, the Overseas Passenger Terminal at Circular Quay, the Hordern Pavilion and the Sydney Town Hall. Many thousands of people visited the shows, where importers and manufacturers of ski clothing and equipment would display their wares. Fashion shows with skiing themes were The Ski Shows were important also held. sources of revenue for the Association for the decade or so they lasted.

Today's NSW Snowsports is governed by a board of eleven. Six are elected by the membership and five appointed as chairs of the sub-committees (Alpine, Snowboard, Freestyle, Cross Country and Interschools).

The principals of the NSW Ski Association since 1973 (and of the Ski Council in earlier times) have constituted something of a roll-call of the leaders of snow sports in the state. Toni Hulme is the current president and the latest in a line which stretches back to Percy Hunter, the inaugural president of the Ski Council of NSW. Today's organisation employs three people and operates from a Jindabyne office. Meetings are held at Sports House in Sydney.

Chas Keys (with help from Rebecca Clark, Leslie Ludwig, Toni Hulme, Carl Melvey, Graeme Hearl, Philip Woodman, Andrew Horsley & NSW Ski

Association website)



The Nordic Shelter, Perisher Valley

Friends of Thredbo



IN THE MUSEUM

Visitation: 3697 as against 2158 last winter. The increase is due to 10 am or earlier opening by both Chas Skinner and Roger Andrew.

Memorabilia donated included:

Carl Tanner: Wooden yellow Snurfer Board (1966c.)with black stripes, no boot studs and cord attached; a wood Super Racing Model Snurfer Boar (1968 c.) tan with red stripes, foot studs and cord attached; and a Swing-bo (1980s) with pink plastic skis attached.

Les Herstik: Dynastar Speed Skis, Speed Ski Suit and Speed Ski Helment used by Les as a member of the Australian Speed Skiing Team when in 1992 it was an Olympic Demonstration Sport . *John Maclurcan*: 1960 Winter Olympic Official Welcome Banner, seal climbing skins, books including Ski Year Books 1928 to 1933 and a 1960 edition of "Schuss" containing a report on the 1960 Squaw Valley Winter Olympics at which his father, Don was Chef de Mission for the Australian Team.

Kosciuszko Thredbo: Ramshead Chairlift seat.

Comments from Visitors:

Alison Liddell, Black Rock, Vic: *"A most important addition to Thredbo history".* Bettina Tuck, Castle Cove, NSW: *"Lovely little snapshot of local history".* Robert & Anjo Ute, Austria: *"Very unique collection".*

Leone & Garry Pall, Batchaven, NSW: "Very interesting, obviously a labour of love. Through reviewing the past, we can reach a deeper understanding of the region's identity today". Rosanna Diver, Thredbo: "Should not be missed."

Correspondence received from Judy Muller, Wollstonecraft: "I had a very enjoyable walk back in time when I visited your museum a couple of weeks ago. I suppose I have been an avid skier for over 50 years and enjoyed seeing the old boots and skis that we used to wear".

The Ski Museum was the Snowy Mountains Readers Writers Festival venue for two workshops and an entertaining forum with the "Ski Historians – Roger Andrew, Wendy Cross, Helen Swinbourne and Randy Wieman" on the weekend of 8th & 9th November.



Wendy Cross, Roger Andrew and Helen Swinbourne outside the Museum



Intern student Leith Targ assisting in the cataloguing of the clothing collection

MICHAEL MILTON'S ACHIEVEMENTS: 1992 Albertville Winter Paralympics – gold medal; 1992 Order of Australia; 1994 Lillehammer Winter Paralympics - 1 gold, 1 silver, 2 bronze medals; 1996 World Skiing Championships – gold, silver and bronze medals; 2000 Australian Sports Medal; 2001 Australian Institute of Sport 'Best of the Best' induction; 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Paralympics – 4 gold medals; 2002 International Paralympic Committee Commission member; 2003 Les Arcs, France set world speed skiing record for single leg skiers; 2003 Laureus World Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability Award; 2006 First person with a disability to break the 200 km/hr with a speed of 210.4 km/hr; 2006 Turin Winter Olympics – silver medal and 2013 world record for running a marathon using crutches.

NEWSLETTER

Dorothy Lance Windsor

19th November 2014

Dear Alan

Re: Commencement of Ski Museum Development Fund

Alan and members of the committee of the Thredbo Historical Society, it gives me great pleasure to give you a \$10,000 donation to start your new 'Ski Museum Development Fund'.

Over the years of my association with your society I have very much appreciated the honour and respect you have all afforded my late husband, Albert Kurt Lance AM. Kurt valued his role as Patron of the Society and was an enthusiastic supporter of your history gathering in preserving Thredbo's beginnings for the generations to come.

I applaud your efforts in starting the Ski Museum Development Fund because preserving history helps us all to remember and honour the achievements of all the great men and women, their spirit of pioneering and innovation that gave us the ski fields. It also helps all of us in the 21st Century to be inspired to continue to try and find ways to do similar kinds of innovative achievements for the future and hopefully helping young people to help an appreciate for the shoulders they stand on, inspiring them to strive for adventure and achievement.

Of course, I'm a bit selfish in giving this donation because I know it will help you preserve and put on view for the public the memorabilia from Kurt's skiing years and have his story recorded for many to read. During the process of collecting information of Kurt's life in the Kosciuszko National Park for his biography, I was overwhelmed at how much of the Kosciuszko National Park and ski fields had Kurt's foot and hand prints on it. So by your starting this fund to further develop your museum enterprise I am ensuring Kurt's name and input over the years is preserved, which means so very much to me. I'm sure that if Kurt were here he would be proud to contribute to preserving the important pioneering history of the Kosciuszko ski fields.

So it gives me much pleasure to start your Ski Museum Development Fund.

Alan Fredericks and Frank Prihoda with Dorothy's cheque. Kurt's Olympic Relay Torch is in the background.

Kind regards

Dorothy has also donated to the Society the bulk of Kurt's ski memorabilia together with his Merit Apparel memorabilia. We thank Dorothy for her generosity.

Alan Fredericks

Dorothy Lance



THREDBO HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOOK ORDER FORM (2014/15)

Order Details: Name: _____

Address: _____

_____Postcode_____

QUANTITY	PUBLICATION DESCRIPTION	PAYMENT
	Andrew, Roger: Thredbo – My Story	
	Soft Cover, 156 pages, 29.5x21cm. colour photos	
	Cost \$40 Postage & packaging \$18	
	Sonia Howard (2013): Flame of Leviticus – a biography of Kurt Lance	
	108,650 words 30 colour pages	
	Cost \$35 Postage & packaging \$12	
	Clarke, Norman W Clarke (2006): Kiandra – Gold Fields to Snow Fields	
	Hard cover,178 pages 22x29cm, b&w photos Plus 2010 Supplement	
	Lapland Snow Shoes in Australia Cost \$20 Postage & packaging \$18	
	Cross, Wendy (2012): Australian Skiing: The First 100 Years	
	Soft cover, 270 pages, 30x21cm, b&w photos	
	Cost \$39.95 Postage & packaging \$16	
	Darby, Jim (2006): Thredbo 50 – a commemorative book	
	Hard cover, 123 pages, 22x28cm, colour photos	
	Cost \$20 Postage & packaging \$16 Edmondson, Michael: The Australian Alps – Classic Mountain Landscapes	
	Hard Cover, 85 pages, 26x18cm, colour photos	
	Sale Price cost \$18 Postage & packaging \$16	
	Hughes, Geoffrey (one of the founders of Thredbo) (2007): Starting Thredbo	
	Soft cover, 44 pages, 21x31cm, colour & b&w photos	
	Cost \$20 Postage & package \$16	
	Mitchell, Elyne: On the Trail of the Silver Brumby	
	Compiled by Honor Auchinleck (2012).	
	Hard cover, 255 pages, 25cm x 28 cm, 125 colour plates.	
	Cost \$49.95 Postage & packaging \$18	
	Southwell-Keely, Peter: Out on the Tops: The Centenary of the Kosciusko Alpine	
	Club. Hard cover, 319 pages, 21x28 cm, 530 photos	
	Sale price cost \$25 Postage & packaging \$18	
	Southwell-Keely, Peter (2012):	
	Highway to Heaven: A History of Perisher and Ski Resorts Along the Kosciuszko	
	Road	
	Hard Cover, 256 pages, b&w & colour photos Cost \$40 Postage & packaging \$18	
	Sponar, Tony (1995): Snow in Australia – that's news to me Hard cover, 362 pages, 15.5x23.5cm, photos	
	Cost \$20 Postage & packaging \$16	
	Swinbourne, Helen (2006): Accordions in the Snow Gums – Thredbo's early years	
	Soft cover, 128 pages, 29.5x21cm, b&w photos	
	Cost \$20 Postage & ackaging \$16	
	Walkom, Rick (1950): Skiing Off The Roof – the Kosciusko Chalet at Charlotte Pass	
	(2 nd edition 2008) Soft Cover, 178 pages, 21x42cm, b&w photos	
	Cost \$35 Postage & packing \$16	
	Russell, Rebel Penfold: Tommy Tomasi – a life well travelled	
	DVD, PG rating, Duration 44 minutes	
	Cost \$25 Postage & packing \$9	
	Russell, Rebel Penfold: Thredbo 50 Years	
	DVD, PG rating, Duration 32 minutes	
	Cost \$25 Postage & packing \$9	
	Weiman, Randy: One Man Alone – Malcolm Milne Val d'Isre 1969	
	DVD, Cost \$10 Postage & packing \$6	
	Weiman, Randy: Kurt Lance - Last time on the Main Range	
	DVD, Cost \$10 Postage & packing \$6	
	TOTAL AMOUNT	

Ordering & enquiries

Mail: Ski Museum, Thredbo Historical Society Inc, PO Box 6, THREDBO 2625 Phone/Fax: 02 6456 2279 (Museum Administrator), Email: <u>aab5@bigpond.com</u> **Cheque**s payable to: Thredbo Historical Society Inc.

Direct Payment: Thredbo Historical Society Westpac Bank BSB 032-728 Acct 106314 with details: surname & book