

# THREDBO ALPINE MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 80 | October 2022



Front Row: Sam Tait (Sitting Alpine), Abbey Harrigan (Freestyle), Manuela Bertchtold (Freestyle), Alice Jones (Alpine). Back Row: Amelia Hodgson (Sighted Para Alpine P Jenson), Josie Baff (Snowboard), Sami Kennedy Sim (Freestyle), Adam Dickson (Snowboard), Kim Clifford (Alpine), Jono Brauer (Alpine).

Photo courtesy Monaro Post

## Our President/s Report

Thredbo had a busy winter and the Presidents were working hard and having a lot of fun on the slopes! At the last TAM committee meeting a list of projects were formulated and assigned to different volunteers.

These projects include:

1. Bright red and white signs and banners will be located around the Museum as agreed by KT Project Manager Andrew Harrigan.
2. Installation of an old Crackenback chair across from the Bakery.
3. Installation of security cameras.
4. Installation of new SSD computer system.
5. Upgrading the TAM catalogue of around 4000 items.
6. Sorting out skis and other items in 2 containers at Friday Flat and the storage shed in Leesville Estate.

There will be a **working bee on Tuesday the 8th of November** to start cataloguing the contents of the containers. Our **AGM is on the 19th of November**, one week after the AASHA meeting in Falls Creek.

This is our first full summer as Presidents when we will endeavour to modernize TAM's procedures and make the Museum more vibrant with the goal to increase the number of volunteers and membership.

*Randy & Errol*

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Join - support - drop in &  
check out our displays

Thank you





# MID WINTER DINNER 2022

## Faces of Thredbo

It was a night to be remembered when 102 guests gathered in the Kosciusko Room of the Thredbo's Alpine Hotel to recognize the new **'FACES OF THREDBO'**: Kim Clifford, Bob Arnott, Karel Nekvapil, Michelle and Heinz Reichinger.

Short "biographies" for Kim Clifford and Bob Arnott are included in this newsletter. Those for Karel Nekvapil, Michelle and Heinz Reichinger will be printed in our next newsletter, due to be published in February/March 2023.

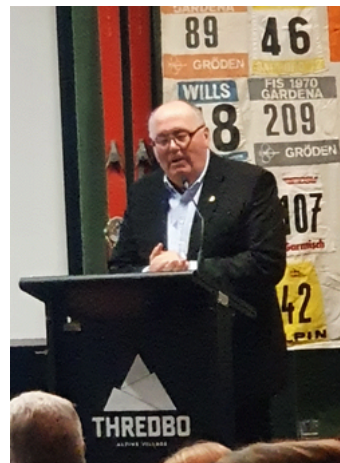
TAM President Errol Hanlon hosted the evening enjoyed by all guests. Reggae Ellis acted as Master of Ceremonies and Wayne Kirkpatrick presented the Awards.

The backdrop was a wall hanging stitched by Beryl Clifford made from Kim's racing bibs, together with screen shots of the recipients.

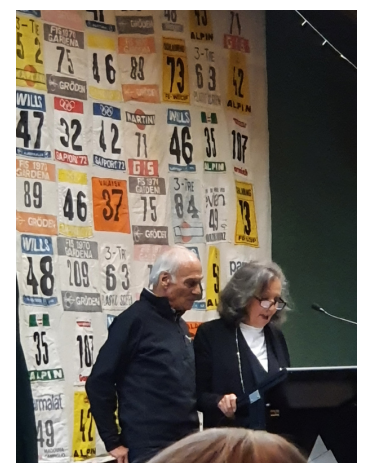
One of the highlights of the evening was the presentation by Mrs Simone Arnott's treasured Australian 1952 Winter Olympic team blazer worn by Bob Arnott.



Guests at the 2022 Mid Winter Dinner



Kim Clifford delivers his acceptance speech.



Heinz and Michelle Reichinger with Kim Clifford's race bib as the backdrop



Daughter of Bob Arnott, Adrienne Halley speaks of her father's achievements.



Michael Nekvapil speaks his father Karel Nekvapil's contribution to Thredbo



Simone Arnott

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# FACES OF THREDBO 2022

## Kim Clifford

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**Kim Clifford as a young man**

Kim was born in 1956. His mother, Beryl was the driving force to move him at three and a half to an unknown ski resort called Thredbo where the family built the commercial lodge Winterhaus in 1959. Beryl began skiing as a 5 year old at Hotel Kosciusko in the 1930s.

Kim and his siblings grew up on the Thredbo ski slopes and they were regular competitors in the children's ski races and were members of the new Thredbo Ski Racing Club.

On leaving school in 1975, Kim began employment with Kosciusko Thredbo as a training area director under the mentorship of Albert van der Lee. He was fortunate to spend 3 to 6 months in different areas of the resort. In time he became a supervisor and then a manager.

Kim said "KT and Lend Lease were great employers and we both saw the benefits for both sides. It was beneficial to them because I travelled overseas when I was ski racing and I used to bring back ideas and suggestions."

Kim skied the World Cup circuit for seven or eight years, representing Australia in Slalom, Giant Slalom and Downhill at the 1976 Winter Olympics in Innsbruck and at was selected for 1980 Winter Olympics at Lake Placid, USA, however broke his wrist in the week prior to competing.

Upon retiring from racing, Kim attended the Colorado Mountain College, USA with an Associate Degree in Applied Science / Business Management with an emphasis on resort management. He returned to Thredbo for the ski season and working in a management capacity during the American summer breaks.

In 1985, Kim went to work for K G Murray Publishing, operators of Perisher and Smiggins, however he was invited to return as the Resort Operations Director in 1990. He was appointed General Manager of Kosciusko Thredbo in 1996 and he retired from this position in 2012.

Together with his wife Judith, they have now lived in ski resorts for 43 odd years and this season (2022) is his 62nd, mainly in Thredbo. Their children Olivia and Will, have grown up in the ski industry and now their grandchildren have become very willing snow sports participants.



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## **FACES OF THREDBO 2022**

### **William Robert (Bob) Arnott 1922 - 2016**

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**Bob Arnott in his eighties**

Bob was introduced to skiing at the Hotel Kosciusko in 1935 during a school excursion and a love of the sport was generated instantly. That love led to him developing a career in racing which later evolved to incorporate major contributions to ski administration and ski history.

As a young man Arnott immersed himself in the skiing lifestyle. He became the Ski Club of Australia's top competitive skier, and raced in NSW, Victoria, Tasmania, Europe and New Zealand. He was a member of Australia's first alpine squad together with Billy Day and Barry Patton at the 1952 Oslo Winter Olympics.

Arnott originally favoured the development of the Twin Valleys north of Thredbo where he became the Australian slalom champion in 1953 after having felled trees to lengthen the run, he switched his loyalty to the development of Thredbo resort where he visited frequently continually working on his ski technique until his very senior years when he could no longer drive.

When Thredbo began to take shape, Arnott was instrumental in the recruitment of leading Austrian ski instructors Leonhard Erharder and Helmut Pfister who helped put the new resort on the map while teaching many Australians the technical skills of skiing.

As an administrator Arnott became a national selector, an Olympic official, a delegate to the Australian Ski Federation and a participant on the Federation Internationalé de Ski. Together with Bob Beattie who at the time the US coach and a member of the FIS, they authored the modern international rating system for ski racers known as the "two Bob rule".

Bob recorded the life and times of the Ski Club of Australia in his book *Seventy-Five Seasons* (1998).

Later in his life Bob Arnott was an ambassador for the Thredbo Historical Society's Ski Museum Foundation and he became one of the society's first life members. His involvement in skiing was broad, deep and grounded in the love he felt for Thredbo.

When Bob died early in 2016, he was survived by his wife Simone and their children Adrienne and Axel.

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# EVENT

## OUR WINTER OLYMPIANS & PARA OLYMPIANS

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### Past & Present

Eleven past and present local Australian Winter Olympians and Para Olympians shared their Olympic experiences with 39 TAM supporters at the re-opening of the Thredbo Alpine Museum featuring the TAM Winter Olympic Collection special feature display on June 15th for the winter ski season. Australian team uniforms worn by Sami Kennedy Sim, Manuela Berchtold, Torah Bright and Jenni Owens added to the display.

**Freestyle skiers Sami Kennedy-Sim & Manuela Berchtold both beside their the competition ski suits.**



**Front Row: Sam Tait (Sitting Alpine), Abbey Harrigan (Freestyle), Manuela Bertchtold (Freestyle), Alice Jones (Alpine). Back Row: Amelia Hodgson (Sighted Para Alpine P Jenson), Josie Baff (Snowboard), Sami Kennedy Sim (Freestyle), Adam Dickson (Snowboard), Kim Clifford (Alpine), Jono Brauer (Alpine).  
Photo courtesy Monaro Post**

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# Events & Object in our Collection

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## COMING EVENTS

### 8 November

TAM Working Bee: Friday Container

### 11-13 November

AASHA Conference - Falls Creek

### 19 November

TAM AGM - Thredbo

## AN OBJECT IN THE COLLECTION: The Nutcracker

### The Nutcracker

A nutcracker is a device shaped like a household nutcracker and attached by a cord to a swami leather belt around the skier's waist for use on a rope tow.

The nutcracker opens up and the moving rope is clamped in the round bowl in the middle of the nutcracker after which the nutcracker fastens and the skier is dragged up the hill.

On reaching the top the skier must quickly open the nutcracker before the rope goes around the bull wheel at the top of the lift.

When there was a fairly long rope tow, supports on posts with pulleys on top were required to carry the rope to keep it off the ground and the skier couldn't keep holding when going over the pulleys.



### The Nutcracker

The nutcracker was designed so that instead of the skiers holding on to a rope tow with their hands, they held on to the nutcracker as it bounded over the pulleys, and saved their knuckles. Skiers needed to be careful not to let their fingers run over the pulleys on the rope tow which was waist high.

The advantage of the nutcracker was that you could get on or off anywhere along the rope. in 1959.

The first ski lift in Thredbo (1957) was a long rope tow going half-way up Crackenback mountain and nutcrackers were essential for using the tow.



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# In the Museum

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## VISITORS

During 2022 Winter season, more than 2774 visited the Museum – an increase of 6% compared with the same period pre-COVID in 2019.

### Comments from our visitors

“Love the history and new Olympic donations”: Tanya Galway, 2527

“Favourite Place in Thredbo! Only after the ski runs”: Lauren, Lena, Gustaf, 2611

“Awesome job maintaining this time capsule”: Bekamu Ryan, 40211

“Brings back wonderful memories”: Cathy Ochtershaw, 3943

“It’s always great visiting”: Zoe Inches, 2627

“Better than ever”: Rick Walkom, 2320

**Patron** Alan Rydge

#### **President/s**

Randy Wieman 0408 453 632 &

Errol Hanlon 0439 646 313

#### **Vice President/s**

Wayne Kirkpatrick 0418 766 484

Chrissi Webb 6456 2279

**Secretary** Maureen Roberts 6456 1289

**Treasurer** Raylene Jarvis 0414 679 409

**COMMITTEE** - Alan Fredericks, Michelle Reichinger, Andrew Koczanowski, Brett Webb

## Museum Visitors

2020 TOTAL 2605

2021 TOTAL 3898

2022 TO DATE 2774



Rick Walkom researches in the Museum

We thank our team of community volunteers that have enabled the doors to be open throughout this busy winter season.



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# General Information & our Visitors

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Thredbo Mountain Academy students enthusiastically explore the Museum.

## Come join us and volunteer

You are very welcome to join our small group of Thredbo community volunteers by spending a pleasant afternoon opening the museum and sharing your knowledge as to why you love Thredbo.

Please express your interest by contacting TAM's volunteer co-ordinator Alan Fredericks. [alanf@bigpond.net.au](mailto:alanf@bigpond.net.au) Mob 0417 401 403

Behind the scenes TAM curator, Chrissi Webb's work progresses on the digitalization of the 4,000 objects in the Collection which will eventually be viewed on the Museum's data program.

Randy Wieman has already photographed 200 iconic pairs of ski boots ranging from the 1930s through to the 2000s.

**The Museum has benefited greatly from government grants.** The Federal Government funded Australian Museums & Galleries Association (AMaGA) Chart Program grant for \$3,000, facilitated the purchase of a new computer. It has an expanded memory capacity which will enable opportunities to share Thredbo's past and present with the "digital" generation.

The installation of a security camera purchased through a Small Museums Grant of \$1,500 and funded by the NSW Museums & Galleries, ensures the safety of the Museum's collection and equipment.



Volunteers assisting with our Olympic & Para-Olympic Event  
Kris Laird Hardman & Del Fisher

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# AASHA Report/Update

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Alan Fredericks

## **2022 AASHA CONFERENCE FALLS CREEK FRIDAY 11 NOVEMBER**

The Australian Alpine Snowsports History Association (AASHA) will be holding its annual conference at Falls Creek Victoria from 11-13th November, hosted by the Falls Creek Historical Society.

Their full information package for that weekend has now been circulated and includes; - Information on how to get there - Gives 3 tiers of Accommodation options - Friday night welcome activities - Saturday Conference times and location - St Falls Boardroom - Bogong High Plains - Saturday night dinner - Sunday AM activity options. The Saturday AASHA Meeting Agenda will be circulated separately.

The Falls Creek Museum will be open between 5.30pm & 6.15pm on Saturday evening and again on Sunday morning from 8.30am to 9.30am. All in all a very comprehensive program planned for those attending. Should you require any further information please contact me as below:

Alan Fredericks AASHA Past President,  
alanf@bigpond.net.au Mob 0417 401 403

A special Thank you to Errol for being our host during our Face's of Thredbo Dinner, much appreciated.



Errol & Elsa Hanlon

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# BOOK REVIEW

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## George Petersen's Kosciusko

### *George Petersen's Kosciusko*

*Articles from SNOW REVELRY the journal of the Kosciusko Snow Reveller's Club*

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*2nd Edition*

Published by Perisher Historical Society, the 2nd edition of George Petersen's *Kosciusko* is available from TAM. It has a soft cover, 164 pages, 21x30 cm, rare b&w images, and costs \$50 plus postage & packing \$13.40. The book has been reproduced by Jan Glover who has added 12 pages of photographs taken by George Petersen.

It is a compilation of articles from "Snow Revelry", the journal of the Kosciusko Snow Reveller's Club August 1953 to 1958. George's connection with Kosciusko began in 1920 and he was the manager of Hotel Kosciusko from 1938 to 1951 when the hotel was engulfed in flames.

One of the articles refers to the place name of Crackenback which was derived from the bullock driver bringing timber to the sawmill and cracking a stock whip on the backs of the bullocks pulling the logs over the mountainous terrain.



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# Membership & Opening Times

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## Become a TAM member today

Individual, Family, Lodge & Corporate memberships available.

### TAM MEMBERSHIP FEES 2021/22

#### Individuals

1 year \$45  
5 years \$225  
10 years \$450

#### Family

1 year \$60  
5 years \$300

#### Group/Club Lodge

Annual \$220/year

#### Corporate

Gold: \$1500/yr  
Silver: \$1000/yr  
Bronze: \$500/yr

#### Membership payments direct deposit

**Thredbo Alpine Museum**  
**BSB 032 728 Acc. 106314**



<https://www.thredboalpinemuseum.org.au/membership-payment>

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW & RETURNING MEMBERS

Jeannette Korten, Jindabyne

Kim Clifford, Thredbo

Rowan Kelly, Thredbo

Janet Copland, Mt Arthur VIC

Garry Holt, Runaway Bay QLD

Wayne Lazarus, Lennox Head

Jonathan & Helen Gaul, Tura Beach

## Summer Opening Times

**12 - 4 pm**

**OPEN DAILY** subject to volunteer availability

### INVITATION

Contributions for the newsletter from the TAM membership are very welcome.

Please forward them by email to Alan Fredericks: [alanf@bigpond.com](mailto:alanf@bigpond.com)