

# THREDBO ALPINE MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 83 | October 2023



Dr Steve Breathour receiving his Faces of Thredbo Award, presented by Stuart Diver, Thredbo Resort General Manager  
Credit: Steve Cuff



Ian Foster receiving his Faces of Thredbo Award, presented by Stuart Diver, Thredbo Resort General Manager  
Credit: Steve Cuff

## Faces of Thredbo Dinner 2023 .....Oh, what a night!

It was a special night for all 170 who attended, especially for our two Faces of Thredbo Dr Steve and Ian Foster.

A wonderful group effort with enthusiasm from all. Errol decorated the walls with Thredbo history. Jane, Elsa, Del and Kris greeted and ushered guests with effortless efficiency to their tables.

Heinz regaled us with his traditional yodel and personal iconic thoughts. Rowen kept the evening moving at a perfect pace and Adele with the help of Michelle made the Fashion Parade work in spite of the lack of big sound. Jodie and Rae made sure everyone bought a raffle ticket until they finally ran out.

Jo's speech covering Ian's ski bum history to successful family and businessman had all in stitches. Doc Mike could not hold back the emotion telling how much Doc Steve had done for him. The highlight had to be the standing novation for Doc Steve and his speech, a man who has looked after probably everyone in the room as well as in the whole Snowy Mountains.

Stuart presented this years Faces of Thredbo Awards to Ian and Doc Steve stating that community is the most important aspect of Thredbo and this event is all about that. A wonderful \$20,000 was raised on the night.

Deepest thanks to everyone. It will be a hard act to follow next year.....but, we can do it.  
Randy & Errol - TAM Presidents

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# PRESIDENTS REPORT

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Since our last newsletter, new red and white signage has been set up around the Museum.

The placement of an old double chair will be erected across from the Bakery.

The Virtual Reality Experience is up and running in the Museum.

Errol and Mick Greenwood have welded ski racks into one of our containers so that all skis can be grouped by their brands.

A professional photo studio will be set up to photograph all of TAM's 4 to 5000 items.

Our priorities for 2024 for Thredbo Alpine Museum (TAM) will be;

1. Organizing and staffing the Museum
2. Running events to promote TAM and fundraising
  - a. Errol is organizing the early winter get together which will highlight snowmaking.
  - b. Randy is organizing the annual TAM dinner and Faces of Thredbo Awards which will take place on Monday 2nd September 2024 in the Kosi Room.
  - c. Alan is looking into a pre-winter May event in Sydney.
3. Digitize all TAM items and create a new TAM website.

Our committee meetings have been full of ideas and commitments from members to keep improving TAM. We are moving from the analogue age to the digital age. This takes a lot of work and making the correct decisions. We would like to thank all the volunteers and committee members for all their efforts.

**We realise that the Museum will be here for as long as Thredbo exists. We are all doing our bit to keep the stories of the past preserved for the future. The emphasis is on the personalities who have given Thredbo the community that is loved by so many.**

We look forward to moving TAM forward with the help of our great team.

We thank you,  
Errol & Randy



Volunteer Julie Pearson on duty beside TAM's Red Door



Wall hanging of Kim Clifford's race bibs with Torah Bright's Olympic Snowboard suit



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## FACE OF THREDBO

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### Dr Steve Breathour

Dr Steve Breathour started in Thredbo in 1983 working for the doctors that had the practice at the time, Andrew Gibson and Michael Cameron. Steve had skied since 1961 so was familiar with the mountains. He started working on his own, but soon more doctors were required.

Doc Steve says. "It was sort of unsatisfactory because you have got to have a fair bit of trauma training to be able to work that sort of surgery and whilst the injuries are the same that you can get anywhere, it is the sheer volume of things that you have got to be good at – heads, shoulders, damaged knees - you have got to know what you are doing, to be able to figure it out properly. It was all a bit primitive back in those days".

George Freuden was in charge of the Thredbo Ski Patrol in those days and he wanted Steve to start training the ski patrollers in first aid through the Australian Ski Patrol Association. That summer he did a first aid course at Westmead Hospital with another doctor, Nick Crombie. Nick was the medical director of the ski patrol at the time, so they started putting lecture notes together, which had never before happened. They put a slightly different ski patrol course together and continued to formalise it. At the end of that, Doc Steve turned up for seventeen weeks in June 1983 and never left.

The major changes and advances in patient care in the Snowys are the constancy of doctors. The Perisher and Thredbo practice are both run by resident doctors year around especially in Thredbo.

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## FACE OF THREDBO - Dr Steve Breathour cont...

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Four doctors as well as a couple of senior ski patrollers formed the education committee to standardise training for the ski patrols in the Australian resorts. It took about three or four years to create a manual that was published in 1988. Courses were run in Victoria, Sydney and then in the resorts.

In the mid-80s the ski patrollers only needed to have a St John's First Aid or a Red Cross First Aid Certificate. The ASPA course was designed with the mountains in mind and the amount of equipment the ski patrollers were starting to use. Simple things like an air splint and how to put it on (those first aid courses didn't teach that), and then the use of pain relief –penthrane or entonox, and how to use them safely, and how to apply the traction splint which is a complicated device used to stabilise fractured femurs and sometimes fractured tibias.

The really good thing about this course was that it got the patrols from the different resorts to get together and talk. The exchange of ideas has always been really good especially during the courses. Now everyone one knows everyone else and there is a good exchange of ideas. It is really good that the ASPA and the resorts are working together.

Doc Steve has been in Thredbo from 1983 right through. It took a long, long time to get over the landslide and friends who died. Doc Steve moved up to Perisher in 2002 and sold Thredbo in 2011 to Dr Michael Williamson who had worked for Steve since 2003. In 2014 he sold Perisher to Karen who has been working for him since 2005. Doc Steve continues to work at the Snowy Mountains Medical Centre in Jindabyne.



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# FACE OF THREDBO

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## Ian Foster

Ian's love of mountains started at 14 when he learnt to ski and rock climb through the Venturer Scouts. Completed schooling in 1979 at Normanhurst Boys High in Sydney, he gained his early leadership potential with the Queen Scout Award and CUO of The School Cadet unit. Ian's early years were marked by adventures from hitchhiking around Australia working in jobs, like dish washing at Jenolan Caves House allowing him access to his passion of rock climbing on his days off.

His transformation to the ski bum life began in New Zealand, winter season 1980. Over the next 10 years doing seasons in Canada, Switzerland, France and Japan. Ian made Val d' Isere his European base for 4 years where he met Thredbo skiers like Malcolm Browne and Dave Kuhn who sold him on the allure of Thredbo and the people there and in Val d' Isere he met his "Cornish Rose" and lifelong partner Jill there in 1983.

During his ski bum decade, he took on a variety of jobs to sustain his lifestyle, like taking candid party photos for patrons at Les Girls transvestite cabaret, seismic survey work in the gas fields of Wyoming, oyster shucker at Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco and multiple jobs around the globe as a cleaner, waiter, dish washer, ski tuner, ski boot fitter, DJ, bouncer, cook and hotel receptionist. Jill returned with Ian to Jindabyne in 1986 and as a keen horse rider she quickly fell in love with the Snowy Mountains and its people.

The following years were filled with significant personal milestones, including their marriage in the UK and the birth of their two children, Leah and Lewis.

Ian's commitment to the Thredbo community became evident as he took on the role of Chamber president in 1992, succeeding Ben Goodman from Winterhaus. This position allowed him to work closely with the community and foster a sense of togetherness. The Thredbo Blues Festival which is now coming up to its 20th years as one of the many initiatives Ian was involved in during this period.



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## FACE OF THREDBO - Ian Foster cont....

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The Chamber special events committee grows to organise more summer events including “Harmony Festival” a Health and Wellbeing event a Triathlon event, “Best of Banff Mountain Film festival” The Shakespeare Festival and others.

1995 saw a focus on village wide staff development opportunities with the launch of the Aussie Host Staff Training Program (that led to ‘local staff discounted lift passes’) and community development through the creation of the Village Voice Newspaper.

In 1997, Thredbo faced a significant challenge with the road collapse, and Ian found himself representing the community in the media, juggling the demands of his family and business with a profound sense of responsibility. It was during this time that he realized the extent of the Thredbo community, extending beyond the 250 residents to encompass the thousands who had worked and vacationed in Thredbo over the years.

In 1998 Ian was offered an opportunity to write a book on the Snowy Mountain for Australian Geographic. Along with Ross Dunstan, a good friend and gifted local photographer. Ian spent 6 months researching, and writing the book while Ross dragged him around the countryside capturing images of the mountains and it's people. The book was launched in 2000 and was a sellout success over 3 print runs.

During the 2000's Ian's journey as President led to significant achievements for the Thredbo Chamber, making their mark on businesses and the community. Securing the Snowy Ride final checkpoint and presentations in Thredbo with the chamber facilitating the entertainment program.

Ian's love of the stage also led to create a local spin on the Aussie Host Program seeing him roping in committee members to perform in a small play portraying a village approach to how visitors experience Thredbo and how to treat them like customers. It was a laugh and broke the ice for new winter staff.

In 2008, John McIntyre took over as president of the Chamber, marking the end of Ian's 15- year tenure. However, his journey was far from over. Ian faced new challenges as his partner, Jill, fell ill, redirecting his focus to support her and spend more time with his family. Additionally, their move out of the village in 2001 shifted his attention to what was happening beyond the immediate confines of Thredbo. Ian Foster's legacy in Thredbo serves as a testament to the power of vision, community, and unwavering commitment.



# FACES OF THREDBO HONOUR BOARD

Recognises those who have made significant contributions to skiing and or the development of Thredbo as an alpine resort.

**Those honoured are recognised below**

**2014** Leonhard Erharter, Barry May, Michael Milton, Sasha Nekvapil, Frank Prihoda

**2015** Charles Anton, Dick Dusseldorp, Cees Koeman, Tony Sponar, Tommy Tomasi

**2016** George Freuden, Geoffrey Hughes, Andrew Thyne Reid

**2017** Elyne Mitchell, Rudi Schatzle

**2018** Albert van der Lee, Bela Racsko

**2019** Ludwig Rabina, Wayne Kirkpatrick

**2021** Kim Clifford, Bob Arnott

**2022** Michelle & Heinz Reichinger

**2023** Steve Breathour, Ian Foster



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# AROUND THE MUSEUM

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Since June in 2022 until August 31 2023, four thousand visitors to the museum gained an overview of the history of youth snow sports development programs in Thredbo and opportunities for young people to develop their skills in a club atmosphere.

The next feature display in the Museum will showcase the history of making snow in Thredbo ranging from attempts in the early 1970s until this year. The importance of man-made snow (snow-making) was highlighted during this winter when the anticipated dumps of snow failed to arrive.

The display will be curated by President Errol Hanlon who will welcome from you any input and memorabilia you can contribute to the exhibition.

By Chrissi Webb

**WHO SUPPORTS THE MUSEUM?** The Museum is a Thredbo community based operation.

## THREDBO COMMUNITY PROGRAM

If you would like to be part of our Museum team, then please contact our Museum Volunteer roster organisers Errol Hanlon (0439 66 313) or Alan Fredericks (0417 401 403 and participate in the Thredbo Community Program supported by Kosciusko Thredbo Pty Ltd.

Volunteers who kept the Museum door open this winter, were Mark Roberts, Mandy Lamont, Henri Young, Simon Ayo, David Tweedie, Elsa Hanlon, Rebecca Stevens, Maureen Roberts, Shane Eriksson, Jane Mitchell, Phoebe Hoy (6 Aug) Kellie Meehan, Judy Lenne, Casey Taylor and Brett Webb.



Volunteer Kellie Meehan welcomes TAM visitors



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# KIDS QUEST

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KIDS QUEST: This is a successful quiz card presented to young visitors to the Museum. This is to encourage them and their parents to look for iconic items in the Museum. The questions invite them to find 1) an Aboriginal shield; the Torah Bright Olympic Medals; the Olympic Torch (2000) replica; who had the best moustache in Thredbo; the oldest pair of skis; the oldest "pocket" camera (1928); the first snowboard (1962); the smallest pair of ski boots; the fastest ski and a "Snoopy" badge.

When complete all the boxes are marked, the children are invited to sit in the red chairlift seat, so a parent can take a photo. As not all our visitors can read, the parents get involved too!.

By Chrissi Webb

## AN OBJECT IN OUR MUSEUM

Martin Amundsen Jumping Skis: The 1890 long hand-made wooden jumping ski made by Martin Amundsen in Kiandra.

To the left of the Martin Amundsen skis is the earlier standard 1861-1896 Kiandra ski.

Martin Amundsen was a Norwegian ship's carpenter. Born in Drammen, Norway in 1856, he arrived in Tasmania in 1878 where he spent four years working at his trade as a carpenter. He came to NSW via Two-Fold Bay where he jumped ship. He is thought to have arrived in Kiandra in late 1882 or in the summer of 1883.

He introduced the idea of using air season Mountain Ash together with other design features, with which he was familiar, common to the skis made at that time in the Norwegian province of Telemark. By the 1890s his method of ski manufacture became the standard for all skis used in Kiandra.

The 3 metre long wooden downhill racing skis on display were made by him for his personal use. It is believed he won the ski jump competition on these skis at a Snow Shoe Carnival. The skis are jointly owned by Mt Buller, Perisher and Thredbo historical societies and the skis are on display in Thredbo Alpine Museum for the next 3 years.



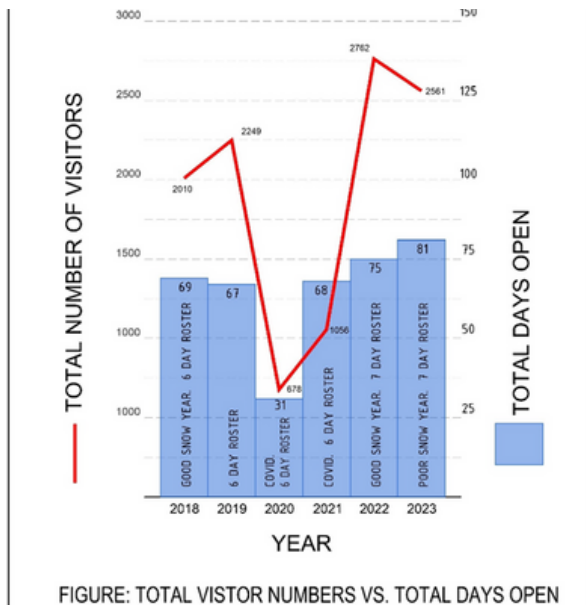
# Our Volunteers & Stats

Our volunteers register everyone who visits the Museum. This data assists in measuring the benefit of the free venue to the Village.

There are a number of factors influencing visitation: namely volunteer availability, snow days, COVID closures and advertising.

In 2018 & 2019 with good snow during June, July and August when the Museum opened 6 days a week, visitation compared favorably with statistics dating back to 2008. 2020 and 2021 demonstrated the impact of COVID government regulations during winter.

During 2022, the good snow revealed high visitor numbers to the Village. In 2023 with limited snow, lift closures due to high winds and better signage, the Museum remained a popular attraction for all.

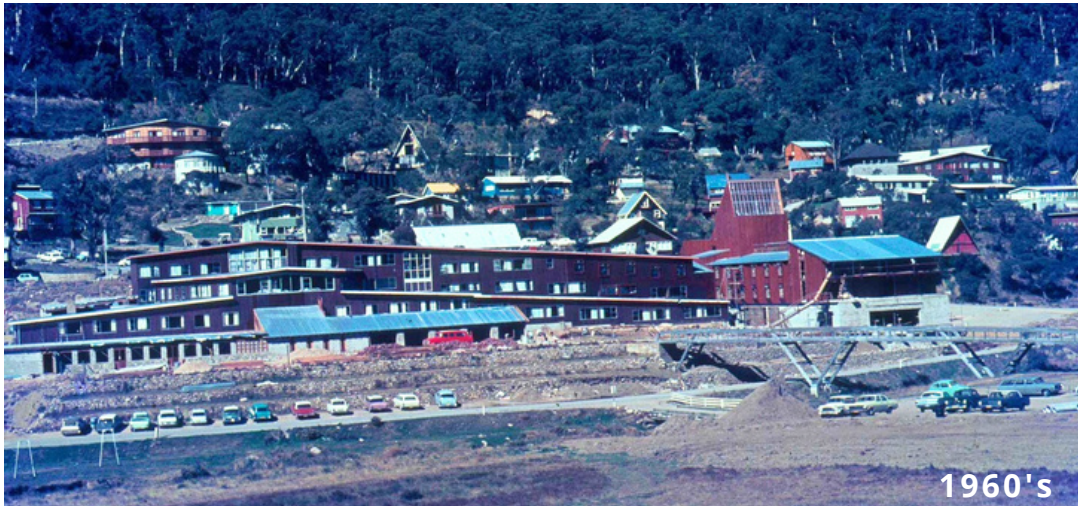


Geoff Sawyer holds his Oz Snowboard Classic Perpetual Trophy whilst standing beside his wooden Planet Art Snowboard

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# THREDBO ALPINE HOTEL CELEBRATES 60 YEARS

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For six decades, the Thredbo Alpine Hotel has been the epicentre of alpine elegance and entertainment, with annual events standing as a testament to its lasting charm. The 2023 Winter season marked 60 years of celebrating enchanting evenings, where the hotel has gracefully hosted some of Australia's most illustrious gatherings, which has become a cherished tradition among locals and tourists alike.

The Thredbo Alpine Hotel, first inaugurated by being a full-service Hotel in 1963, has evolved into a lavish affair, combining music, dance, culinary excellence, and a dash of high-country magic. Annual events over the last 60 years are not merely soirées; they are cultural icons. The hotel's grand event spaces beat with their warm wood accents and awe-inspiring views of the Snowy Mountains.

The diverse lineup of the Hotel caters to a broad audience, reflecting the evolving palates of attendees over the years. The presence of talented performers has always been a highlight, infusing events with animation and charm. From late nights in the Keller Bar, Austrian ski instructors 'slap dancing', body painting events, Carnival Week, World Cup skiing, Blues and Jazz Festivals, to modern-day Alpine Bar concerts, the soirees continue to exude an inviting ambiance.

One of the most cherished aspects of these annual soirees is the exquisite cuisine, showcasing the culinary prowess of the hotel's chefs. Patrons savour gourmet meals complemented by a carefully curated wine list, creating a gastronomic experience that rivals the magnificent backdrop of the Snowy Mountains.

The 60th anniversary of the Thredbo Alpine Hotel is a time to reflect on the enduring appeal of the Alpine tradition. It's a testament to the hotel's dedication to providing unforgettable experiences for guests and locals and its commitment to preserving the culture of the high country. To cap off an exciting 60th birthday to the Hotel, the extraordinary Thredbo Alpine Museum event continues to epitomize the union of culture, history, and community, making it an enduring treasure in the heart of the Australian Alps.

Here's to the next 60 years of Soirees!

Nick McLaughlin

Proud General Manager | Thredbo Alpine Hotel

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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 2023/24

#### 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**



**THREDBO ALPINE MUSEUM**

PASSIONATE ABOUT ALPINE HERITAGE

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

## Summer Opening Times

**12 – 4 pm**

OPEN DAILY subject to volunteer availability

### NEW MEMBERS

Michael & Francesca Boyer - Vaucluse  
Peter & Sue Aldridge - Burradoo  
Jodie Evans - Crackenback Farm  
Christopher Mathews - Paddington  
Donna Jowett-Poulos - Jindabyne  
Jenny Kennedy - Thredbo  
Gaye Kable - Thredbo  
Petra Playfield - Sydney  
Bec Stevens - Thredbo  
Caroline Collins - Berridale  
Mark Travers & family - Thredbo  
Steve Connor & family - Thredbo  
David Milliken - Jindabyne  
Susie Fagan - Sydney  
Shane Macleod & family - Thredbo

### 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)

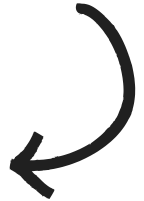
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# Membership Form

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**Become a TAM member today** online

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



## **NOTICE OF 28th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**OF THREDBO ALPINE MUSEUM INC**  
**Wednesday 15 November 2023 at 10am**  
**Tate Room, Thredbo Alpine Hotel and on**  
**Zoom**

**President: Randy Wieman & Errol Hanlon**  
**randy@hotshots.net.au**

**Secretary: Maureen Roberts Ph 0490 365 987**  
**email maureenroberts04@gmail.com**

**NOMINATIONS FOR EXECUTIVE & COMMITTEE:**  
**Should be advised to President or**  
**Secretary by 9 November 2023 - if insufficient**  
**numbers, nominations may be accepted**  
**from the floor of the meeting.**

## **Feedback**

Let us know what you  
would like to see in our  
next newsletter

Please forward them by  
email to Alan Fredericks:  
**alanf@bigpond.com**