

UAC NEWSLETTER



July 2010

On the following pages:

- **Send in your child's Interschools results**
- **What's new in Perisher**
- **Ski lift price survey - think you're paying too much?**
- **Ski Etiquette - The Old Fashioned Way**
- **Perisher Historical Society - New Display at the Ski Tube**
- **Helmet & wrist guard usage - incidents and statistics**

BURST WATER PIPE AT THE LODGE

Sometime in the last week or so of June when the lodge was unoccupied, a water pipe in the small downstairs shower room ceiling burst. As a result there has been some water damage especially to the carpets in the vicinity of that bathroom and to the shower room ceiling. The carpets in Room 3 and a large part of the hallway have been pulled up and removed. Apart from the shower room ceiling most other damage is fairly superficial.

Given the timing and now the arrival of the snow, it is highly unlikely that we'll be able to replace this carpet before the end of winter. In the meantime, there will be a little bit of inconvenience, and perhaps some cold feet.

The good news is that most of the costs are expected to be covered by insurance. According to the insurers there were several burst water pipes in the valley around the same time.

On behalf of the members, we'd like to pass on a special thanks to Ken & Anna Davis, and Marie-Claire & Barry Price, who were confronted with the mess on their arrival at the lodge,

If you're wondering why you haven't received a Newsletter for a while, Alan and I left Sydney in May for a 3 month trip to travel up to Cape York and are now on our return journey, via the Annual Boulia Camel Races in Outback Queensland. Unfortunately we've only got 2 weeks left before we're back to life as we know it - and work.

Hopefully the snow conditions will improve soon so we can all enjoy a good season at Perisher this year.

Cheers

Jayne



Interschools 2010

If you have a child competing in this years Interschools championships, please send in any results so they can be published in the next newsletter.

What's New at Perisher?

Perisher has been busy over the summer months upgrading and enhancing its facilities and services to further improve guest experiences. Here are some of the highlights:

- Purchase of over \$500,000 of additional hire equipment for the various Perisher Snowsports Hire outlets.
- Purchase of a Prinoth Bison X [snow-grooming](#) machine to modernise Australia's biggest grooming fleet.
- Significant mountain [summer grooming](#) to smooth out runs and lift-loading areas and new snow fences to improve our already great snow!
- An extension of the Happy Valley T-bar, making the return access from Mt Perisher easier.
- Numerous [environmental](#) initiatives have been undertaken, including the electrification of the Leichhardt and Wentworth lifts.
- Creation of the place to be in 2010! Visit [CURVE](#) the new bar on the upper level of the Perisher Centre. Relaxed, warm and inviting with great food, perfect for an après drink and to chill-out with friends after a day on the slopes.
- Reopening of the [Happy Valley Kiosk](#) (Wurstman@Happy Valley), a great place for a snack while exploring the mountain.
- Helmets are included free of charge with pre-booked All Day Kids' Programs and hire of Skis/Boots/Poles or Board/Boots pack through [Perisher Snowsports Hire](#).
- [Skitube Saver Package](#) is great value for first-time skiers/boarders staying off mountain. Package includes: daily Skitube, Lift Tickets, Lessons and Hire.
- 4-Day Consecutive [Lift Ticket](#), for greater flexibility
- The [Perisher Card](#) is a great option! Save on lift tickets, Skitube and rooms at The Station.

Plus, [Aeropelican](#) will be flying into Snowy Mountains Airport. The New service will commence on Friday 11th June, with three return flights daily from Sydney Sunday-Friday, and two return flights on Saturdays during the winter months.

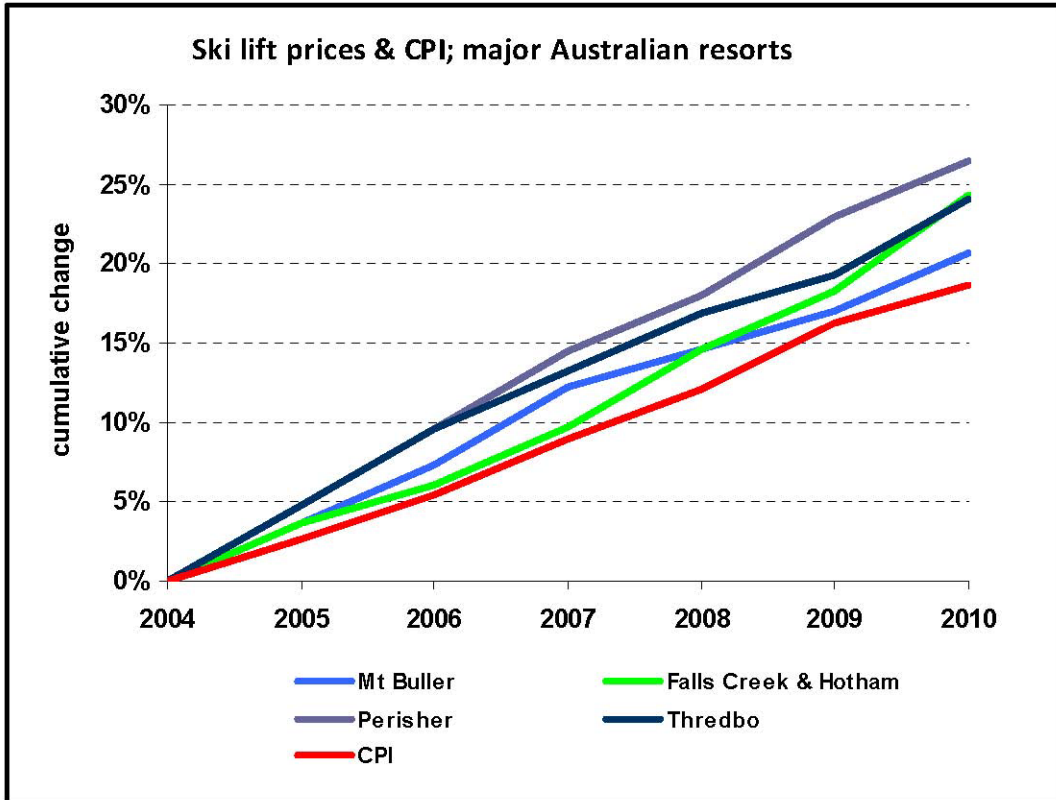
SKI LIFT PRICES SURVEY 2010

Adult day peak season ski lift prices at five major Australian alpine resorts were benchmarked against those sold at sixteen resorts in seven other developed countries. The survey does not compare other factors such as multi-day (or other) discounting, terrain, snow-depths or ski lift capacities. The survey also includes a trend analysis of Australian ski lift prices with the Consumer Price Index.

<u>ski lift prices 2010</u>	<u>(A\$)</u>
Perisher Blue (Aust)	\$105
Vail (USA)	\$104
Thredbo (Aust)	\$103
Falls Creek (Aust)	\$102
Mt Hotham (Aust)	\$102
Whistler (Canada)	\$100
Mt Buller (Aust)	\$99
Alta Snowbird (USA)	\$96
Deer Valley (USA)	\$92
Coronet Peak (NZ)	\$73
St Moritz (Switz)	\$70
Treble Cone (NZ)	\$70
Klosters (Switz)	\$68
Mt Hutt (NZ)	\$68
The Remarkables (NZ)	\$68
Cardrona (NZ)	\$68
Mt Ruapehu (NZ)	\$66
Val D'Isere (France)	\$65
Arlberg (Austria)	\$64
Niseko (Japan)	\$63
Hakuba 47 (Japan)	\$49

(15/04/2010 exchange rates, prices rounded to nearest A\$)

Ski lift prices at the five major Australian resorts have increased faster than the Consumer Price Index (CPI) over the past six years. The highest percentage increase in ski lift prices has been at Perisher (26.5%), followed by Falls Creek & Hotham (24.4%), Thredbo (24.1%), Mt Buller (20.7%), while the CPI has increased by 18.7% over the same six year period. The largest increase in 2010 is the \$5 (6.1%) price rise at Falls Creek and Hotham (from \$97 to \$102).



NEWS FROM NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE

Below is an excerpt on “Ski Etiquette” from the National Parks and Wildlife Newsletter “Resort Round Up” which is full of information on what’s going on around the resorts. There’s plenty of interesting news, so for the latest Winter Issue find it online at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/parks/DECC20090548RRIssue31Winter2010.pdf

Following on from the Alpine Responsibility Code is this wonderfully worded “Ski Etiquette” that was copied from a display at the Thredbo Historical Museum. Its origins are unknown but reference to the hotel and the period language suggests it may have been associated with the Hotel Kosciusko (now Sponar’s Chalet) at Digger’s Creek and/or The Chalet at Charlotte Pass; the origins of each resort commencing in 1909 and 1930 respectively (or perhaps even the early days around Thredbo). Whether or not the following prose is associated with early skiing in the Snowy Mountains, the essence of the information is the same as for the modern Alpine Responsibility Code.

ski etiquette

Make sure you take your own skis, poles, etc., before you leave the hotel, train or automobile for the ski slopes.

Be courteous and considerate with your fellow skiers, especially if they happen to be beginners.

Try to avoid screaming “Track” and always figure ahead and adjust your speed accordingly. It is the slower skier who has the right of way, since he can hardly see what is coming behind him.

Novices, on the other hand, should always figure there is someone perhaps coming behind them and leave enough passage way to be overtaken.

When in doubt where to let an onrushing skier pass by – slow and remain still. It will save confusion many times.

When climbing behind other skiers, avoid stepping on their skis, because it is very irritating.

DON’T TOUR ALONE and if possible never ski alone on isolated trails or runs. A very slight injury might be of great inconvenience and consequence if you are alone and helpless.

Always help in difficulties and never desert a companion who is unable to keep up, especially when he is tired.

Wherever you leave a track in unbroken snow in the high mountains, others may follow; therefore, choose safe slopes. Always consider the possibility of avalanches, particularly after heavy fresh snowfalls.

When you fall, don’t swear. Smile, comrade, fill the hole before you continue – and whistle while you work.

Skiers still have the reputation for superb sportsmanship.

Let’s keep it that way.

Next time you're in the ski tube terminal, keep your eye out for new display of memorabilia by The Perisher Historical Society. It's on the Eastern wall, directly behind the trolley rack.

Some of the items include the uniform worn by William (Bill) Day at the Squaw Valley Olympic Games in 1960, trophies, hand made skis, photos etc.



HELMET & WRIST GUARD USAGE FOR SKIERS AND BOARDERS

The following information has been provided by Chuck Fritchley - member of the Perisher Volunteer Ski Patrol.

HELMET USAGE

During 2008, an analysis was undertaken of helmet usage in the resort.

Of all snow sport attendees, 615 of the 2257 recorded incidents had helmets. Of these, 343 were downhill skiers and 254 were snowboarders. Also of the 615 helmet-wearing incidents, 311 were female and 302 were male, and so it appears that a roughly equal number of incidents recorded have worn helmets although proportionately, females have a greater number of accidents.

Within the male helmet incidents, 131 were downhill skiers and 160 were snowboarders. Of the female helmet wearers, 212 were downhill skiers and interestingly, only 94 were snowboarders.

In terms of helmet usage related to ages, the following rates were recorded during 2008:

Age (Years) Helmet Incidents

0 – 5:	6
6 – 12:	201
13 – 18:	238
19 - 25:	44
26 – 35:	40
36 – 45:	29
46 - 55:	21
> 55:	16

The age distribution of helmet incidents is obviously dominated by the age groups of 6-12 and 13-18 year olds.

These are children largely of school age and this fact could relate to school and ski school attendances insisting on helmet usage.

WRIST GUARD USAGE

Wrist guard usage is a noted item relating almost exclusively to snowboarder incidents. Of the 2257 incidents recorded, 198 wrist guards were noted as being worn. This represents 21% of all snowboarders.

Of the 198, 95 were used by females (48%) and 103 by males (52%). Regarding ages, the following statistics were found:

Age (Years) Wrist Guard Incidents

0 – 5:	6
6 – 12:	14
13 – 18:	100
19 - 25:	52
26 – 35:	24
36 – 45:	4
46 - 55:	2
> 55:	1

HELMET & WRIST GUARD USAGE FOR SKIERS AND BOARDERS continued

8. OBSERVATIONS DERIVED FROM THE 2008 STATISTICS

Some significant changes of trends from previous years are noted. These include:

1. A total number of 2,257 on-snow activity incidents were attended by the resort patrollers in the 2008 skiing season. This represents a decrease of 70 over the 2007 season (2,327) and 113 less than during the 2006 season (2,144).

2. For the 2007 winter season, the number of incidents of males to females was approximately equal. During 2008 the male to female incident numbers altered to be 51.9 female to 48.1% male. It is thought the rate of female incidents versus male was higher per capita due to an estimated on-snow population of 47% female to 53% male (based on a demographic study in 2003).

3. As in previous years, the highest risk group remains as young females. During 2007 there was a significant increase of the primary age group of females having knee injuries and this trend was continued in 2008. For the 2008 season the 13-18 year old age group appears to have had the greatest incidence of knee trauma.

The greatest risk to female downhill skiers (51%) is to knees with ligament damage and sprains. This rate is greater than for the 2007 season (49%) but is more in keeping with the 'usual' rate as demonstrated by earlier years. 2006 was anomalously low for this type of injury (36%).

4. Considering only snowboarding, the snowboarder population determined during the 2001-2003 population study indicates a male:female ratio of about 60 to 40%. In previous years, a consistently higher proportion of male to female incident occurrence has been noted (2004 and 2005 were both 64:36 male to female).

During 2006 snowboarder incidents related to gender reversed with 46.6% being male and 53.4% being female. In 2007, the trend reverted to 62% male and 38% female highlighting again 2006 as an anomalous season. This was again repeated in 2008 where 58% of snowboarder incidents were male and 42% were female.

5. For downhill skiers during 2007, the ratio of male-to-female incidents was 43% to 57%. This comparative ratio is slightly skewed with the male to female on-snow skier population recorded in the 2003 population study suggesting that per capita, a greater number of female skiers have accidents. This ratio is consistent with previous years and supported in 2008 with a male skier to female skier ratio of 40% to 60%.

6. The overall numbers of snowboarders of both sexes (as indicated by their injury rate) has been steadily increasing with an increase of approximately 2-3% each year, but there is an indication from 2005, 2006 and 2007 that this rate of increase is slowing (or reversing). During 2006 an increase of 1% was noted but in 2007 there was a 2% decrease compared with skiers. During 2008 the rate for male snowboarder accidents decreased to 38% of all attended incidents. Overall therefore, snowboarders have a higher rate of injury than skiers per capita (by approximately 4-6%) but over time (2001 – 2008) this rate appears to be decreasing or reversing.

7. When the total incidents per activity are examined for male and females, both sexes and activities appear to have had incident numbers that have proportionately stayed similar to previous years but the changes within each category have been significant:

	2007		2008	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Downhill	510	726	488 (4% decrease)	720 (1% increase)
Snowboard	570	357	545 (4% decrease)	392 (9% increase)