



THREDBO: 60TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK – BREAKING NEWS

We have been advised that our application to receive, through the RAHS, an Arts NSW Cultural Grant, has been successful- in the amount of \$3800.00. Our application was based around obtaining support for our proposed THREDBO 60th Anniversary Book – to be launched in 2017. Grant criteria included

- A clearly defined scope,
- A project that contributes to historical understanding and benefit of the community
- Had a high level of community engagement through volunteer involvement
- Involved research projects that gave an overview of existing research that would increase historical understanding

WE are most grateful this project is supported by Arts NSW's Cultural Grant Program, a devolved program administered by the Royal Australian Historical Society on behalf of the NSW Government

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE – AUGUST 2016

Welcome to the 2nd newsletter of our 21st anniversary year. The year is proving to be a very busy and challenging one for our committee who have undertaken a very ambitious program of projects on top of our traditional social and fund raising functions.

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER:

Member Trevor Harrison of Palm Beach, who joined THS in 2004/05 has been appointed to fill the remaining casual vacancy. Welcome Trevor.

WEB PAGE REFRESH:

We have engaged Simon Blazey of Pepper Design Jindabyne to refresh our website with the view to making it more appealing in line with current standards and more interactive for our membership base and the public generally. Committee member Randy Wieman is leading this project. It is also intended that designated committee members will be able to refresh the site as and when required. We would like to thank member Richard Pascoe for his assistance since the site's establishment.

SYDNEY COCKTAIL FUNCTION:

This annual joint event with Perisher Historical Society was conducted at RAHS History House in Macquarie St, on Tuesday 24 May. Over 50 people were present to hear one of Australia's leading Cross Country racers, coach and administrator, Andrew Horsley, talk of his experiences in the sport over many decades. *(continued. Page 2)*

THS CALENDER OF EVENTS –2016 SATURDAY NOVEMBER 26TH 12 NOON

THS Annual General Meeting

Kiama Alpine Club, Buckwong Place Thredbo
The meeting will be followed by a BBQ and Drinks at the Lodge at approx. 1.30 pm

SATURDAY APRIL 29TH, 2017

Australian Alpine Snowsports History Association Annual Conference

Mt Hotham/Dinner Plain

60TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK LAUNCHES

Thredbo, July 2017

Sydney, Winter TBA



Andrew Horsley and Phillip Woodman
at Sydney Cocktails

THREDBO MUSEUM - SUMMER

Opening Hours: 1 – 5 pm – Closed Mondays
September Daily, October School Hols & W/Ends
Peak: December 26th – January 29th Daily
Other: Weekends only, February, March, April
plus public holidays & special events

CONTENTS:

	Page
President's Update (continued)	2
Snowboarders at Thredbo Cocktails	3
Mid Winter Dinner	3
Oral History	4&6
Faces of Thredbo – 2016	5
In the Museum	6
Faces of Thredbo (continued)	7
Product Price List	8

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE (*continued*)

A "who is who" of some of Australia's legendary cross country skiers were in attendance and we are particularly grateful to PHS President Philip Woodman for his assistance for this event.

ORAL HISTORIES:

Committee member Jerry Krejzar leads our oral history program and has written a most interesting piece for this newsletter. We are most fortunate to have members like Jerry, Edie Swift, Chrissi Webb and Roger Andrew who take the time to interview subjects. Jerry and Chrissi transcribe these valuable histories.

MEMBER SUBSCRIPTIONS:

2016/17 subscription notices were emailed by secretary Maureen Roberts on 2nd August. This year we only emailed notices to those members (approx. 100) who have subscriptions due this year – however NOT to members who have paid their subs in advance. A small number of notices were posted to members for whom we do not hold email addresses. Should you require clarification of your current status, please contact Membership Officer Anne Collet on 0412 553 011 or email rainmakerrealty@grapevine.net.au.

We are generally pleased with members response to date and plan a further email reminder, where required, at the end of September.

THREDBO 60th ANNIVERSARY BOOK PROJECT:

With 2017 marking the 60th anniversary of Thredbo and its beginnings in 1957, the Society has undertaken to produce a 144 page "coffee table" quality book to mark this anniversary. The book will feature the Pioneers and Legends of Thredbo, its broader community groups that have evolved over those years, well known locals and identities, fashions, plus segments on the resorts key stakeholders, Kosciuszko Thredbo Pty Ltd, the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Snowy Hydro Scheme.

We have engaged as our author THS member Chas Keys, who has written books on two of Thredbo's ski clubs as well as others in his specific interest area cricket and of flood mitigation. A sub group of committee members has been set up to assist him. We have selected Halstead Press of Ultimo to publish the book – a firm well regarded in the field of publishing books on Australian History. Our deadlines are tight with the finished manuscript, complete with photos and captions being required for the publisher by mid- December.

We are planning on two major Book launches in 2017 – one in Thredbo in July and another in Sydney in either June or August. We are most grateful for the support being provided by Kosciuszko Thredbo Pty Ltd for this project.

SKI MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS:

We have been able to meet our advertised opening days for the museum throughout the winter with the exception of 13 July when extreme blizzard conditions prevented Chrissi Webb from making it up the mountain from Jindabyne.

To achieve this result we thank the following who have volunteered their time to open the museum: Chrissi Webb, Graeme Holloway, Jerry Krejzar, Alan Fredericks, Frank Pihoda, Barry Young, Marion Murri, Trevor Harrison, Aileen Bomball & Robert Parcell of Silver Brumby club, Phoebe Hoy Roslyn Lodge, John Wholohan Happy Wanderers Club, Geoff & Viv Boxsell, Peter Henry and Lois Woollams all of Kiama Lodge, Arthur & Rhondda Maltby of Talara Lodge and Jane Mitchell. Also Michelle Palmer, Sabastian Johnson, Victoria Incani, Kellie Meehan, Zac Norris and Barry McGrath all of whom have volunteered under the resort company's Community Volunteer program. This support has seen the visitation numbers to the museum result as follows – June 311, July 861, August-834.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: This is scheduled for Saturday November 26th, 2016, at the Kiama Alpine Club Lodge, Buckwong Place, Thredbo. Formal Notices and Agenda will be emailed to members closer to the date. The AGM is an opportunity for members to attend and participate in discussions on important agenda items. The meeting will be followed by a BBQ lunch and drinks.

AASHA: The Australian Alpine Snowsports History Association will hold its 2017 annual conference on Saturday 29 April at Mt Hotham / Dinner Plain. Put the date in your diary as it will coincide with the Bright Festival and the magnificent colour of the autumnal turning of the leaves in the Victorian high country.

Alan Fredericks

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Simone Arnott (Honorary)
Axel Arnott - Adrienne Halley (nee Arnott)
Steve & Kym Helmich – Lane Cove
Jhaney Kusar - Thredbo

SNOWBOARDERS AT THREDBO'S SNOWFALL COCKTAILS

There was great harmony mixed with light hearted banter at the Snowfall Cocktails held by the Thredbo Historical Society on Saturday June 18th, when snowboarders from the 1980's, and skiers gathered together to hear Adrian Gibbs speaking about the history of 30 years of snowboarding on Thredbo's ski slopes. Adrian Gibbs and Geoff Sawyer were Thredbo's first snowboard instructors in 1986.

More than seventy guests attended the function, which was to launch the Ski Museum's display of early snowboards celebrating 30 years of snowboarding in Thredbo. Legends in the snowboard industry arrived with their treasured early snowboards which had survived in one piece. Darren Powell accompanied the Vöikli snowboard on which he broke the Australian snowboard speed record of 204 km At Les Arcs, France in 1900. Cal Goodman proudly showed off his Sims Racing snowboard. Victorian Geoff Lang brought along a Force snowboard which he donated to the Museum, and Adrian Gibbs' O'Neill snowboard, Raichle

hard boots and one-piece suit also feature in the Ski Museum's exhibition.



Snowboarders at Thredbo Snowfall Cocktails
Front Row L-R: Wayne Ryan, Jim Murray, Tye Rogerson and Geoff Lang (standing)
Back Row: Margot Williams, Mark Cowley, Rick Fely, Anita Fäh, Richard Burton, Bart Joseph, Adrian Gibbs, Darren Powell, Cal Goodwin.

THREDBO'S MID WINTER DINNER

The Thredbo Historical Society's (THS) Mid Winter Dinner on Wednesday, July 20th in the Kosciusko Room of the Alpine Hotel is always a relaxed evening when people gather to share memories of the past and look to the future of snowsports and Thredbo. Thredbo's Operations Manager Stuart Diver envisages greater social interaction with the environment, and an expansion of uphill transport in the direction of Saturday Peak.

During the evening Stuart announced the individuals chosen to be the three Faces of Thredbo for 2016, namely Geoffrey Hughes, Thyne Reid and George Freuden.

Amongst the 79 guests were past Winter Olympians Frank Prihoda and Christine Davy who together were on the Australian team at the 1956 Winter Games at Cortina d'Ampezzo in Italy. Christine again competed at the Squaw Valley Winter Olympics in 1960. She was Australia's first female alpine Winter Olympian.

After retiring from skiing, Christine became a pioneering female airline pilot. She was the first Australian woman to hold a 1st Class Air Transport Pilot's Licence. In 1963, she received the Nancy Bird Trophy for her service to aviation from the Australian Women Pilots' Association. In 1974, Christine became

the first woman in Australia to be employed as a pilot of a passenger airline, Connair, which was based in Alice Springs NT. In 1970, Christine became a Member of the Order of the British Empire in recognition of her service to civil aviation.

To mark the 21st Anniversary of the Society, 16 of the guests at the Mid Winter Dinner, were presented with a Certificate in recognition of their 15 or 20 years continuous membership of the organisation. Currently the Society has a financial membership of 180 individuals and 12 ski clubs.



Christine Davy and Shann Turnbull, both of whom skied with Frank Prihoda and Geoffrey Hughes in the 1953 Australian National Championships

ORAL HISTORY

You may like to know that there are nineteen Oral Histories for your perusal in the Museum, and many of these are on the very pioneers who have contributed individually to the development of Thredbo.

Our longest serving Oral Historian, Edie Swift, started conducting interviews in 2002 with Bill Bursill, and after working on many others has made a lasting contribution to our program. I commenced working on histories from around 2009 with the Gerorge Freuden interview and Chrissi Webb commenced with the Karl and Ursula Berchtold interview in 2012.

Once we conduct the interview, the time it takes to produce the completed manuscript tends to vary greatly. After the interview is transcribed, much depends on the timely interaction with the subject and our interviewee as to the time it takes to finalize the document. When the editing process is commenced many of our subjects can become quite demanding and particular, which is quite understandable when you consider that their personal family history is to be on public display forever and a day! This can take a month or two and in one case it took a whole year.

Since 2010 the inclusion of photos to the histories, apart from just the text, was introduced as a policy wherever feasible. Without a doubt this has helped to 'paint a better picture' of the individual and improved the appeal of the manuscripts greatly in the eyes of the general public. Some 18 months ago I reviewed our program to ensure that those identities, which may have been overlooked somehow, had their Oral Histories documented in a timely fashion.

Albert van der Lee was one of these subjects. Although there were two existing interviews conducted with Albert as to his company role for KT, there was no record of Albert's personal history. With the amalgamation of these two interviews, plus a speech made on the night of the Golden Jubilee Ball in 2007, we now have a very comprehensive history on Albert of some twenty eight pages in total.

Paul Reader's Oral History has finally been completed after some considerable input by Nic Reader. Nic helped to explain and embellish upon the very altruistic business rationale Paul adopted during those early formative years of the Australian ski industry, well before the industry mushroomed and was supplied through wholesaler outlets.

Chrissi has recently completed a history on Michelle Reichinger, which has been transcribed and yet to be edited. Roger Andrew has completed a DVD on Walter Auer.

The interview conducted with Nan Adler is still to be edited by Nan. An interview I conducted with Patricia Hecher in Pettneu am Arlberg has been transcribed and yet to be edited. And Edie has finished an interview with Suzanne Davidson, a fascinating history on the Deseo's (Candlelight), as well as an interview with Ron Finneran. Both are yet to be edited.

Every now and then I am reminded of why I love this work. Some stories which vividly portray those early years, those pioneering times, and which evoke a time and place that no longer exists, resonates quite deeply and may touch you on a personal and emotional level.

The recent Deseo story is such a one. Suzanne describes how the dinner was served. *"Mum would never have allowed that. It is all part of the magic. You cook it behind the doors and then you present it. You bring it out. It was unique. In Australia if you went to a restaurant, no matter how good, you were served everything on a plate. My mother served everything on the table you had a big dish and everybody helped themselves like at home."* Kornel Deseo who fled Hungary in 1949 felt dislocated in Australia as a 'refo', until the Deseo's decided to build Candlelight Lodge in Thredbo. *'Really Kornel said that his life in Australia really began with Thredbo. He said "until Thredbo, he was just a refugee. But he said on the mountain, everyone is equal. Everyone is the same"*

Ahh! What a beautiful quote - in many ways the quote summarizes the multicultural aspect or 'the essence of Thredbo' - and this connection from the dim past certainly runs deeply and pervasively throughout the DNA of the village, the community and its people.

(Cont.P.6)

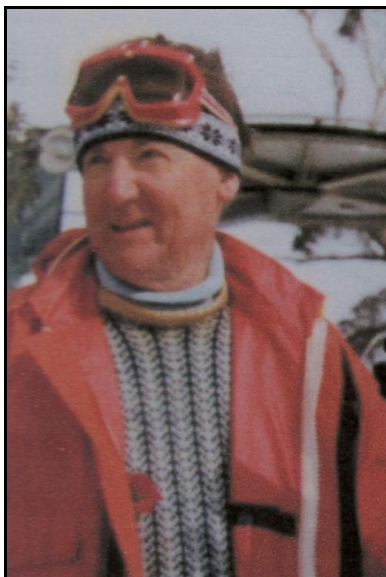
FACES OF THREDBO 2016

Geoffrey Hughes, Thyne Reid and George Freuden were chosen for their contribution to Australian skiing and the Thredbo ski resort to be the Faces of Thredbo for 2016, by the Thredbo Historical Society.

GEOFFREY FORREST HUGHES, a Sydney lawyer and an enthusiastic skier of considerable ability, was a member of the original Kosciusko Thredbo syndicate, which included Tony Sponar, Charles Anton and Thyne Reid.

Geoffrey played a substantial role in the establishment of the village and the ski slopes – urging his fellow syndicate members to move quickly to establish their claim, working on the legal underpinnings and the negotiations with the Kosciusko State Park (KSP) Trust. Also attracting Thyne Reid to invest and take over the chairmanship of the syndicate; and being the driving force behind the first uphill transport, namely a rope tow, on the southern flank of the Ramshead Range. All of this, before the age of 30.

His brother, Tom Hughes AO, QC, accepted the Award Certificate on Geoffrey's behalf as he was unable to travel to Thredbo. Tom commented that Geoffrey was cast in the role as a peace maker between syndicate members and kept it from falling apart.



Geoffrey Hughes

Philanthropist **ANDREW THYNE REID**, a mechanical engineer, an adventurer, a pilot and sports enthusiast, contributed to the development of the resort as the first chairman of Kosciusko Thredbo, saving it from

commercial oblivion on two occasions. The first occasion was in 1957 when his money constituted most of what the infant Kosciusko Thredbo could call upon to develop the resort. It was the funds which paid largely for the access road from the Alpine Way, the original chairlift to Kareela, the first hotel and the early infrastructure of the village.

The second time came when Thyne's personal wealth could not help the original company meet its obligations complete the hotel and the resort infrastructure as required by the KSP Trust, he founded a company, namely Lend Lease, to continue the development of Thredbo to become an international resort. Thyne died in 1964.

In the acceptance speech by Thyne's great grand nephew George Reid, Thyne was described as a man of humility who shunned publicity and relished the finer things in life.



Thyne Reid

The third Face of Thredbo this year was **GEORGE FREUDEN OAM**, who was recognised for his tireless service to ski safety and volunteering. Following the horrors of the Nazi invasion of Hungary in 1944 and then intolerable life under the communist regime at the end of World War II, George escaped to live in Australia using the fundamental survival techniques to get through, and which carried him throughout his life.

Nobody could have imagined the impact George was to make on Australian ski patrolling when he joined the patrol in 1967. He with John Barclay, John Rumble and Adrian Studley late in 1969, initiated a meeting in Goulburn with representatives from Smiggin's Patrol, to establish the NSW Ski Patrol Association.

(Continued Page 7)

IN THE MUSEUM

Past Winter Olympian Torah Bright has kindly loaned to the Museum in honour of 30 years of snowboarding in Thredbo, her Olympic Gold and Silver medals won in half pipe competition at Vancouver and Sochi respectively.

The medals attract a lot of attention.



The McDonald children were thrilled to meet Thredbo Ambassador Torah Bright in the Ski Museum.

It is interesting to see the change in the demographics of the visitors to the museum, and the increased interest taken in the history of Thredbo and snow sports. The display of snowboards has attracted many snowboarders, who have been fascinated by the unique collection of wooden skis. The visitors now include people from many parts of the Middle East, the Indian sub continent and Asia. A two page overview of the collection and Australia's ski history is now handed to visitors as they enter the venue.



Angus Thomson Thredbo Brand Manager, took a "selfy" with Torah's medals

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS

Jim Clifford, Jindabyne: Still boarding

Leif Cruickshank, Jindabyne: Inspiring old board collection

Emma & Claire, Perth & Canberra: Loved the tall skis as high as the roof

Emily Mailer, Canberra: An educational experience

Farhida Islam, Roseland: An amazing place, very informative and people are friendly

Andrew Horsley: An excellent museum. Well Done

Rapid Film Crew (Dave, Dean, Dan, Matt): Awesome history. Thanks for the tour.

ORAL HISTORY *(continued from page 4)*

In the future when we have updated our web page and once it is up and running we hope to circularize many of our Oral Histories - on a rotational basis - so as the membership can access them readily in a digital format.

In the meantime should you be passing by the Museum and you wish to read any particular OH on an individual, please stop by.

Jerry Krezar

FACES OF THREDBO – 2016 (Continued from page 5)

The inaugural meeting saw George Freuden elected as Secretary, and John Rumble as President. From 1971 as Secretary of Thredbo Ski Patrol Association, George was responsible for the rapid development of many ideas, which the patrol still uses to this day.

George was a founding member of the Australian Ski Patrol Association and became its first President in 1972, a position he held until 1984. He co-founded the International Ski Patrol Federation; and he served on the legal and safety committee for the International Ski Federation. The international patrol exchange schemes with Val d'Isere in France and Canada were set up by him. His work was formally recognised through the presentation of Her Majesty's Silver Jubilee Medal in 1977 and in 1992 he was awarded an Order of Australia Medal. George died in 2015.

George's widow, Hilary Freuden in her acceptance speech of his Award Certificate, described him as a man who did things without thinking and he didn't tread lightly, he left a very large footprint on a global scale as a Face of Thredbo.



George Freuden

People chosen to be Faces of Thredbo in previous years included Michael Milton, Barry May, Sasha Nekvapil, Leonhard Erharter, Frank Prihoda, Cees Koeman, Tommy Tomasi, Dick Dusseldorp, Tony Sponar and Charles Anton.

Editorial note: You can see guests who were "shot" at Society functions in June and August by visiting the THS facebook page

THS COMMITTEE : 2015/2016

- Patron: Alan Rydge
- President: Alan Fredericks alanf@bigpond.net.au
02 9449 7610 / 0417401403
- Vice President: Graeme Holloway 0447 648 478
- Vice President : Ed Denny 6457 6222
- Secretary: Maureen Roberts 6456 1289
- Treasurer: Caz Simmons 0417 911 747
- Membership: Anne Collet 6281 1525
- Publicity/Museum: Christina Webb 6456 2279
- Committee: Marion Murri, Jerry Krejzar, Randy Wieman,
Chas Skinner, Trevor Harrison

FRIENDS OF THREDBO MEMBERSHIP

FEES 2015/2016

- Individuals: \$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

VALE: Gustav (Gus) Herstik (1937-2016)

Died doing what he loved – ski racing, THS member Gus Herstik died on March 24th 2016 whilst competing in the Nastar USA National finals at Steamboat Colorado.

Born in Budapest, Hungary. As a member of the Jewish community, his childhood was spent during difficult times. Following the Communist takeover, he arrived in Australia in 1957 at the age of 20.

Entrepreneurial Gus operated GH Photography, later Visual Enterprises. He was the owner of Jindabyne's Banjo Paterson Inn from 1991 – 1998.

He trained with the Perisher Masters from 2005 until 2010. Entering semi retirement in 2011 as a ski adventurer and mentor to all, Gus never slowed down. He is survived by his wife Josephine, and children Les, Marcus and Nicole and grandchildren.

THREDBO HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOOK ORDER FORM (2015/16)

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 \$13.40	
	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 \$13.40	
	Cross, Wendy (2012): Australian Skiing: The First 100 Years Soft cover, 270 pages, 30x21cm, b&w photos Cost \$39.95 Postage & packaging \$13.40	
	Darby, Jim (2006): Thredbo 50 – a commemorative book Hard cover, 123 pages, 22x28cm, colour photos Cost \$20 Postage & packaging \$13.40	
	Freuden, George: Off Piste – My Way: A Memoir Soft copy, 132 pages. 15 cm x 21 cm b&w photos, Cost \$20, Postage & packaging \$8.25. <i>Limited number of copies left</i>	
	Sonia Howard (2013): Flame of Leviticus – a biography of Kurt Lance Soft cover, 302 pages 30 colour plates Cost \$35 Postage & packaging \$8.25	
	Hughes, Geoffrey (one of the founders of Thredbo) (2007): Starting Thredbo Soft cover, 44 pages, 21x31cm, colour & b&w photos Cost \$20 Postage & package \$8.25	
	Southwell-Keely, Peter (2009) Out on the Tops – The Centenary of Kosciuszko Alpine Club Hard cover 28 cm x 2 21 cm, 320 pages colour & b&w photos. Cost \$30 Cost \$30, Postage & packaging \$13.40	
	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 \$50 Postage & packaging \$13.40	
	Sponar, Tony (1995): Snow in Australia – that's news to me Hard cover, 362 pages, 15.5x23.5cm, photos Cost \$20 Postage & packaging \$13.40	
	Swinbourne, Helen (2006): Accordions in the Snow Gums – Thredbo's early years Soft cover, 128 pages, 29.5x21cm, b&w photos Cost \$20 Postage & packaging \$13.40	
	Walkom, Rick (1950): Skiing Off The Roof – the Kosciuszko Chalet at Charlotte Pass (2nd edition 2008) Soft Cover, 178 pages, 21x42cm, b&w photos Cost \$35 Postage & packing \$13.40	
	Russell, Rebel Penfold: Tommy Tomasi – a life well travelled DVD, PG rating, Duration 44 minutes Cost \$25 Postage & packing \$3.20	
	Russell, Rebel Penfold: Thredbo 50 Years DVD, PG rating, Duration 32 minutes Cost \$25 Postage & packing \$3.20	
	Weiman, Randy: One Man Alone – Malcolm Milne Val d'Isere 1969 DVD, Cost \$10 Postage & packing \$3.20	
	Weiman, Randy: Kurt Lance - Last time on the Main Range DVD, Cost \$10 Postage & packing \$3.20	
	TOTAL AMOUNT	

Ordering & enquiries

Mail: Ski Museum, Thredbo Historical Society Inc, PO Box 6, THREDBO 2625

Phone/Fax: 02 6456 2279 (Museum Administrator), Email: aab5@bigpond.com

Cheques payable to: Thredbo Historical Society Inc.

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