

President's Report, May 2015

Ronice Goebel

Welcome everyone.

2014/15 has been a busy year with plenty of behind the scenes activity. BNSC is a growing club that continues to be valued for its friendly atmosphere, efforts to promote XC Skiing and provide opportunities to enjoy the sport at any level.

During the past 12 months BNSC has successfully conducted many events and projects including:

- Annual casserole dinner which was held at Bogong OEC, with guest speaker, Tim Cope, adventurer and author.
- Presentation of Ian Ryan Award to Trisha Cross
- Junior training camp at Bogong with two days of on-snow ski coaching,
- Popular Ski de Femme
- The Birkebeiner Classic, which is part of the interclub series, and interclub relays
- The Rocky Valley Rush
- The Australian XC Ski Championships
- XC Ski clinics for club members
- Coach Education opportunities – increasing coaching capacity of BNSC
- Junior Joey on-snow fun days,
- Junior Birkie coaching days each Sunday
- OS Coach Project (Tom Smith from Sun valley Idaho took on role of junior coach)
- Mid-year dinner at Roi's Restaurant
- 24th Kangaroo Hoppet international ski race
- End-of-year BBQ by the lake in Mount Beauty
- Cub working bees for trail infrastructure and club house
- Club house Survey
- External and Internal Club House Renovations (Compliance project)

BNSC has regular monthly newsletters from May to November, a website which has been updated regularly, a Facebook page, and emails to members highlighting coming events. BNSC continues to be an advocate for XC Skiing in Victoria and sends representatives to SXCVIC

Several members representing Australia at World Senior Championships in Falun Sweden, World Junior and U23 Championships in Kazakhstan, and World University Championships in Slovenia received club grants for overseas competition costs. Finn Marsland was wax tech and coach for the team in Kazakhstan and Sweden, and Brian Keeble was manager to Sweden.

Recently, the club has held three working bee days, clearing trails, moving fallen or obsolete snowpoles, and cleaning or improving the clubhouse.

Some special thankyou's are in order as people retire from positions.

Outgoing secretary, Trish Cross, who has done an impressively meticulous job maintaining records and minutes, handling all the correspondence, and generally ensuring everything gets done. Trish has been tireless in her efforts and has responded to numerous requests from me to produce documents and information for all manner of things. Trish's diligence and generosity is all the more impressive as her non skiing background has not in any way impinged on her reliability and efficiency. Huge thanks to Trish who has filled this role since 2008.

Outgoing membership secretary and newsletter editor, Bill Little, in his cheery, original and generous manner has done this job since the year 2000. Bill has maintained our register, grappled fearlessly with the online membership system and has done a consistently fantastic job with our monthly newsletters. Until recently, Bill has also been the stalwart for our events, managing the timing for our races, and maintaining timing equipment, and has continued to be an ongoing consultant to the Trnkas' who have taken on the task in the field. For those who like history, Bill's stories are testament to his active contribution as S&R member. For his many years of service we are indebted and extend huge thanks, wishing him happy travelling.

Treasurer Anne Bellingham, who has taken on the task of handling the MoneyWorks system and efficiently tracking our finances and advising the club on budgeting issues.

Vice President Blair Hume who has picked up the reigns and has actively promoted the working bees and liaised with FCRM to improve the trail system.

Allan Marsland, long time committee member who continues with wise council and advice on any number of matters including our dealings with Skiing Australia, Falls Creek Resort Management, SXCVic and of course the Knagroo Hoppet .

Tony Keeble and Megan Benne for overseeing the highly valued and comfy Birkie Club house. Tony was instrumental in developing the club house survey and then ensuring some of the issues raised could be addressed by some alterations to the kitchen area, and placing others on an agenda to be addressed.

Social secretary, Kerry Lucas, for organising all our social events, venues and highly engaging guest speakers.

Ronice and helpers for organising our Birkie OS Coach Project, the Junior program, Ski de Femme day with Alice Hamilton and facilitating opportunities to increase the coaching capacity of BNSC club.

Michelle Forrer for organising our Junior Joey program and the always popular Junior Birkie camp in July.

Ian Franzke for co-ordinating the Search and Rescue group, maintaining the skidoo and ensuring members are qualified to drive the thing. Jim Gargan also continues to provide wisdom and expertise to the BNSC S&R operations. To all S&R volunteers, your efforts are valued and have been gratefully recognised by those affected.

The race committee, Bill Little, Paul L'Huillier, and Marg Trnka as Race Secretary, for organising races conducted by BNSC. Our other Committee members for their input and assistance in conducting club events and making decisions.

Paul L'Huillier for researching and organising the importing of the new "ski fence poles" from Italy. It took foresight and persistence to see it through, but new poles have made race fencing preparation a lot easier.

To all of our general members who help out at our many and varied activities in many big and small ways responding to requests to help out. Thankyou, everyone. It is through the contributions of our members that the club continues to grow and thrive to the benefit of our community and those who love this sport.

Finally, many splendid and grateful thanks To Jim Crebbin as co-ordinator driving the club renovation compliance project, and Rob Boland and Mike Smith for taking on the monumental and time consuming job of club house renovations that has included installing double glazed windows downstairs, and recladding of the exterior. Jim has put in a lions share of the work to ensure the club house is ready for winter 2015.

Lastly, may we have a consistent snow cover for this ski season, continued camaraderie and enjoyment for our members.

Ronice Goebel

*President,
Birkebeiner Nordic Ski Club
16 May 2015*
