

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT, MAY 2018

Welcome everyone.

2017/18 has been another busy year with action on all fronts. Recent snowfalls and working bees amongst a range of other projects have raised the anticipation of getting out on those skinny skis again soon. In 2017, we celebrated our 40<sup>th</sup> year. Celebrations did include a social evening and screening of the story of the BIRKEBEINERS in "The Last King" and another evening where Paul Kovacs made a inspiring presentation of Skiing in Alaska. BNSC continues to be valued for its friendly atmosphere, efforts to promote XC Skiing and provision of opportunities to enjoy the sport at any level.

The collective volunteer effort of our club members is critical. To thrive and get things done depends on our friendship, goodwill and willingness to help out where we can. BNSC is an advocate for XC Skiing in Victoria sending representatives to SXCV, it works closely with FCRM and often makes deputations and submissions in the interest of cross country skiing.

In 2017/18, we saw two new initiatives developed by BNSC. The projects, partly funded by the Victorian Government Snowsport Development Grants (VGSDG) are the

1. NE Primary Schools XC Ski Carnival at Falls Creek that is scheduled again for 2018 attracting about 100 children in 2017.
2. THE AUSSIE POSSUM XC SKI AWARD PROGRAM. Inspired by the Bronze, Silver, Gold Ski Tests from some time ago and the Canadian Jack Rabbit Program, is a NEW skills award program aimed at developing skiers. It is about to go to print and includes Skills Cards, A Teacher/Coach Resource Booklet and an A2 Poster that allows children to track their progress with bright colourful stickers. BNSC and a few local Primary Schools schools will trail the program this winter. Thanks to Hannah Little for her design concept, contagious enthusiasm and ensuring the project stayed on target.

Of note this year several BNSC members represented Australia at World Junior and U23 Championships in Switzerland, and The Olympic games in Korea. Casey Wright made her debut joining Phillip Bellingham and Aimee Watson in their second Olympic Games. Huge hearty congratulations to these athletes.

SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS NICK WRIGHT recently awarded the Victorian Volunteer of the Year by SSAXC. Nick was recognised for his generous time spent as the Hoppet Volunteer Co-ordinator, Hoppet Race Committee and BNSC Race Committee, noted often the last to leave events!.

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

- Cub working bees for trail infrastructure and club house
- Presentation of the Ian Ryan Award to Nick Wright
- Ski de Femme
- Junior Joey on-snow fun days,
- Junior Birkie coaching days each Sunday
- OS Coach Project (Miles Havlick from Boulder Colorado took on role of junior coach)
- Development of BNSC Rollerski Policy and replacement of club classic and skate rollerskis.
- XC Ski clinics midweek and weekend for adults
- Liam Flanagan and Nicola Smith each received a \$750 Vic Talent Grant
- Organisation of The Birkebeiner Classic and Rocky Valley Rush
- The Australian XC Ski Championships
- Australian Junior XC Ski Championships
- 27<sup>th</sup> Kangaroo Hoppet International ski race

- Annual casserole dinner held at Outdoor School Bogong.
- Mid-year dinner at Roi's Restaurant
- End-of-year BBQ by the lake in Mount Beauty
- 8 members of BNSC selected to Junior or Senior National Team.
- Nine junior BNSC members participated in the 4 week Victorian Junior training camp to Silver Star, managed by Ronice Goebel.
- Athlete grants allocated to National and Junior Team members
- BNSC is developing policy in response to the Child Safe Standards legislated in 2017.
- Administration to ensure governance requirements fulfilled.

## A FEW THANKS

Recently, the BNSC has held working bee days with FCRM. Clearing trails, realigning poles, working on the Race and Hoppet Hut were a few things on the long list. Thanks to BLAIR for liaising with FCRM.

DOUG HAMILTON, BNSC Secretary, (recently resigned) kept minutes, handled all the correspondence and generally ensured everything got done when required.

Our membership secretary JIM GARGAN is maintaining our register grappling fearlessly with the online membership system and always looking at ways to make this challenge seamless and improve efficiency.

PAUL L'HUILLIER is our broadcaster and editor of the newsy Bulletin supported by PAUL GRAY. BNSC has regular monthly newsletters from May to November, a website which has been updated regularly, a Facebook page, posts and emails to members highlighting coming events.

MICHAEL TRNKA our timing guru who along with the race committee manages timing for our races that are world class in organisation and must meet FIS rules. In particular Michael has persevered and seen through the project introducing LIVE TIMING in 2017.

New Treasurer JEANETTE MC LAREN now handles the MoneyWorks system and efficiently tracks our finances and advises the club on budgeting issues. Thanks to Julie Smith who generously took on that role, but resigned due to a ski injury.

Vice President Michelle Forrer who has picked up the reigns and has actively promoted junior programs in the club.

ALLAN MARSLAND, long time committee member who continues to provide wise council and advice on any number of matters including our dealings with Ski and Snow Board Australia, Falls Creek Resort Management, SXCV and of course continues his involvement in the Kangaroo Hoppet.

TONY KEEBLE and MEGAN BENNE for overseeing the highly valued and comfy Birkie Club house. BRIAN KEEBLE for managing the Race Hut and providing sound policy background to ongoing projects.

Social secretary, KERRY LUCAS, organises BNSC social events, venues and highly engaging guest speakers. She is currently chairing a subcommittee to explore the production of a new club jacket.

NICK WRIGHT has clocked up the most kilometres driving the BNSC skidoo ferrying gear and people and ensuring our racecourses are set up. He also helps facilitate the hospitality arrangements for our Birkie OS Coach Project ensuring our guest coach is looked after and is the volunteer coordinator for the Kangaroo Hoppet.

ALICE HAMILTON took on the lionesses share of organising the Ski de Femme day.

IAN FRANZKE co-ordinates the Search and Rescue arm of BNSC, maintains the skidoo and ensures 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 appreciated by those affected.

KATE PREST as Newsletter Editor and PENNY GOEBEL for picking up loose ends and supporting Ski de Femme.

The RACE COMMITTEE, Ewan Silvester, Michael Trnka, Nick Wright and Marg Jowitt as Race Secretary, can be relied upon to hold highly organised races. We thank our other Committee members for their input into making decisions and assistance in conducting club events and doing all those bits and pieces that contribute to making our club what it is. After many years of being the energetic efficient hub as Race Secretary, Marg Jowitt has resigned. Many thanks to Marg for her years of service. WE welcome ANN BELLINGHAM as our new Race Secretary.

To all of our general members who help out at our many and varied activities in many big and small ways responding to requests, a big thank you one and all. Lastly, may we have a brilliant snow cover for this ski season, continued camaraderie and enjoyment for our club members.

Ronice Goebel

President,  
Birkebeiner Nordic Ski Club  
12th May 2018

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