

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT, MAY 2017

Welcome everyone.

2016/17 was marked by enthusiasm and action on many fronts through out the year. BNSC continues to be valued for its friendly atmosphere and efforts to promote XC Skiing and provide opportunities to enjoy the sport at any level. The collective volunteer effort of our club members ensures we thrive and get things done. BNSC is an advocate for XC Skiing in Victoria sending representatives to SXCVC, works closely with FCRM and often makes deputations and submissions in the interest of cross country skiing. Several members who represented Australia at World Junior and U23 Championships in Soldier Hollow (USA received club grants for overseas competition costs. Eight junior

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

- Presentation of the Ian Ryan Award to HELEN L'HUILLIER
- Development and production of the NEW COOL CLUB JACKET.
- Ski de Femme
- Consolidation and successful use of NEW TIMING SYSTEM that provides LIVE TIMING
- Purchase of 12 new pairs of SWIX classic roller skis.
- Coach Education opportunities – increasing coaching capacity of BNSC
- Junior Joey on-snow fun days
- Introduction of Joey Gliders, led by Aliena Oldis
- Junior Birkie coaching days each Sunday
- Organisation of The Birkebeiner Classic
- OS Coach Project (Kristian Holmson from Norway took on role of junior coach)
- XC Ski clinics midweek and weekend for adults
- Brianna Oldis and Nicola Smith each received a \$750 Vic Talent Award
- The Australian XC Ski Championships
- 26<sup>th</sup> Kangaroo Hoppet International ski race
- Annual casserole dinner held at Outdoor School Bogong, with guest speaker, Ewan Silvester
- Mid-year dinner at Roi's Restaurant
- End-of-year BBQ by the lake in Mount Beauty
- Club working bees for trail infrastructure and club house
- Consolidation of new access track up to the club house
- BNSC selected to Junior and Senior National Team.
- Athlete grants allocated to National Team members
- Representation on the Falls Creek XC Advisory Committee, which significantly saw the introduction of a Face Book site to improve communication of daily trail conditions.
- Administration to ensure governance requirements fulfilled.

## A FEW THANKS

Thanks again to those who showed up for the productive working bee. An impressive chain gang on the south side of the Dam Wall smashed and moved rocks to improve winter access and grooming, trails were cleared, drainage on the Pipeline and Sun Valley attended to, and there was pole realignment in the Nordic Bowl. The club skidoo was serviced and the club house had its excellent annual clean up and clean out. Thanks to DOUG AND BLAIR for liaising with FCRM. Please appreciate these efforts when you enjoy skiing and the club house facilities this winter!

DOUG HAMILTON has continued his excellent and diligent maintenance of records and minutes, handling of the correspondence, and generally ensuring everything gets done.

Our membership secretary HELEN L'HUILLIER 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. 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. Paul will continue to manage the website after stepping down recently from newsletter editor, so extra big thanks for the work done and smooth handover to KATE PREST. Fortuitously, Kate recently offered to take on a job that could be done remotely.

MICHAL 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, we saw the successful timing of the Australian Championships and the Kangaroo Hoppet in 2016. Michael has a timing team and has pursued further training to fine tune system, seeing through the project of testing, purchasing and developing the new timing system and keeping it up to date.

Marg Trnka has done an efficient and fabulous job as race secretary for many years, and subsequently presented the Victorian Volunteer of the Year Award for her contribution by SSAXC. So, congratulations to Marg.

Treasurer ANNE BELLINGHAM, handles the MoneyWorks system and efficiently tracks our finances and advises the club on budgeting issues, along with assisting race organisation and Ski de Femme.

Vice President BLAIR HUME who has picked up the reigns and has actively promoted the working bees. His role working for Parks Victoria provides a conduit to working with both Parks and FCRM.

ALLAN MARSLAND, long time committee member who continues to provide wise council and advice on any number of matters including our dealings with Skiing Australia, Falls Creek Resort Management, SXCV and of course continues his role as Race Director of the Kangaroo Hoppet. BNSC also recognises and congratulates Allan for the award of an OAM for services to Cross Country Skiing.

TONY KEEBLE and MEGAN BENNE for overseeing the highly valued and comfy Birkie Club house. The 2016 Winter feedback has been positive. Tony continues to respond in a timely manner to any issues that arise.

Social secretary, KERRY LUCAS, organises BNSC social events, venues and highly engaging guest speakers. She led a subcommittee to design and produce the new stylish 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 assists Ian Franzke in maintenance and servicing. Nick facilitates the billeting arrangements for our Birkie OS Coach Project ensuring our guest coach is looked after.

ALICE HAMILTON took on the lions share of organising the Ski de Femme day and did a wonderful job organising the Hoppet presentations.

MICHELLE FORRER organises our Junior Joey program and pre season event calendar. The ever popular Junior Birkie camp in July was successfully held with assistance from parents and our junior coaches.

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.

Penny Goebel for picking up loose ends and supporting Ski de Femme.

The RACE COMMITTEE, Paul L'Huillier, Michael Trnka, Nick Wright, Doug Hamilton and Marg Trnka 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.

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, a big thank you one and all. I would like to stress the importance to our club of EVERYONE doing "one thing" to keep our club strong. 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  
12 May 2017

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