



# Birkebeiner BULLETIN

Volume 41 No 3 September 2018



The Birkebeiner Clubhouse

## What an amazing year!

It's time to wrap up this ski season with our final newsletter for the year. Thanks everyone who volunteered and contributed so much to our club. I'm looking forward to next year already ☺

Cheers, Kate Prest



**AUS XC**  
ski team  
season launch

Tickets:

### AUSXC fundraiser on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October

Come along to the Australian XC ski team fundraiser. Lots of silent and live auction items.

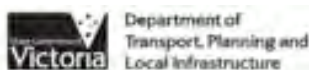
pg. 4



### Want to get more involved in the Hoppet?

Two positions have opened up on the Hoppet Committee!

pg. 8



Sport and recreation



## Office Bearers

2018/2019

### Officers

President: Ewen Silvester

[president@birkebeiner.org.au](mailto:president@birkebeiner.org.au)

Vice President: Michelle Forrer

Secretary: Ronice Goebel

[secretary@birkebeiner.org.au](mailto:secretary@birkebeiner.org.au)

Treasurer: Jeanette McLaren

[treasurer@birkebeiner.org.au](mailto:treasurer@birkebeiner.org.au)

### Committee Members

Ann Bellingham

Brian Keeble

Nick Wright

Penny Goebel

Blair Hume

Paul Gray

Peter Smith

Scott Vercoe

Allan Marsland

### Portfolio Positions

Bulletin Editor: Kate Prest

Website Administrator: Paul L'Huillier

Race Secretary: Ann Bellingham

[racesecretary@birkebeiner.org.au](mailto:racesecretary@birkebeiner.org.au)

Membership Secretary: Nick Wright

[membership@birkebeiner.org.au](mailto:membership@birkebeiner.org.au)

Clubhouse Stewards: Tony Keeble & Megan Benne

Ski de Femme Co-ordinator: Ronice Goebel

Skidoo Steward: Nick Wright

Bush S&R Vic Delegate: Ian Franzke

Kangaroo Hoppet Rep: Nick Wright

## Thank you to our awesome club coach!

This year our club welcomed our guest, Cambria McDermott from the United States.

Since 2012, Birkebeiner has provided a voluntary opportunity for people from other countries who are skilled and passionate about skiing to experience an Australian winter and take a lead role in developing our junior skiers and assisting our more experienced athletes and club members with instruction clinics and Hoppet Training Sessions.

This voluntary opportunity has proven to be valuable in providing a wonderful way for us to appreciate and learn what skiers from other cultures can share with us, as well as offering them an international experience with our club, which includes their love of skiing.

Cambria was a fantastic addition to our club this year and it was brilliant to see her helping out with the junior members, including the camp during the July School Holidays, assisting local schools and with our adult members with the Hoppet Training and ski instruction sessions. Although Cambria kept reminding us that she was not that interested in competing to win anymore after retiring from elite skiing, it was obvious that she found her competitive nature and skied her way to finishing third in place for the women at the Kangaroo Hoppet.

Huge thank you to our member families that made contact to host Cambria during this winter. (The Bowring family, Silvester family and Oldis family). These families welcomed Cambria to their homes and have definitely been able to establish an international friendship should they happen to meet again on future travels.

Given that this volunteer opportunity continues to be well received from our club members, we will look at providing this international opportunity to another person next year.

Keep enjoying the spring skiing.  
Nicholas Wright (BNSC)

## Keeping our clubhouse clean

Dear Birkie members.

What a FANTASTIC season.

Firstly, a massive thankyou to all the volunteer helpers that keep our Birkie Clubhouse clean. While I try and clean once a week, including the toilets, it takes a team effort to keep the clubhouse clean and we really appreciate the help.

Over the past few years, usage at the Birkie Clubhouse has increased due to our increased membership. While this is a result of a great club, it does mean that there are more resources and time required to clean the Clubhouse.

There have been times this season where the kitchen and down stairs area in particular have been left in an untidy manner. While there will be times where we expect to clean, please remember the basic rule:

If you make the mess, you clean the mess....

And.....

Be mindful of others and don't leave your personal items scattered.

While we know the downstairs area is 'tight' during busy weekends, please remember to keep the bench clear for bottoms to sit on! Often the bench is covered in clothing and bags and this makes it difficult for members to put on and take off their boots.

On other matters, we hope that the new heating installed this year kept you warm during the coldest of days. From my experience, the heating unit seemed to warm the clubhouse up quickly and evenly. Thankyou for using the new heating appropriately.

If you have any questions or ideas and suggestions, please send them on to us as we are interested in your thoughts.

Thanks for a wonderful season, the clubhouse slab heating will be turned off at the end of the school holidays and a final winter clean performed.

Be well.

Tony Keeble & Megan Benne

September 2018

# AUS XC

ski team  
season launch

**Tickets:**  
[skiandsnowboard.org.au/  
events/23756/](http://skiandsnowboard.org.au/events/23756/)

**When:** 7pm Friday the  
12th of October

**Where:** Middle Park Bowls Club,  
101 Canterbury Road,  
Albert Park 3206

**\*Come and join us as we launch the  
2018/19 Winter Season \*Hors d'oeuvres  
& drinks \*Silent and Live Auctions**



# AUSXC



## Birkie bits by Nordic Ned

**Come along for our end of season Birkie BBQ - 10<sup>th</sup> November**

- **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November from 5pm**
- Mount Beauty Pondage park
- Meat and vegetarian options supplied.
- Please bring a salad or dessert to share (it would be great if families could bring both)

Please notify Michelle on 0417206672 or [mishforrer@gmail.com](mailto:mishforrer@gmail.com) with numbers for catering purposes.

**Find out which club members are recipients of the Order of Australia**

<https://www.birkebeiner.org.au/about/order-of-aust-medal/>

**Find out all about the history of skiing in Australia and story behind Birkebeiner**

<https://www.birkebeiner.org.au/ski-history/>

### **Birkie Membership Fast Fact!**

In 2018 the Birkie Club had a total of 466 members. This was made up of:

- 305 Adult members
- 161 Youth members (mostly in family memberships)
- 99 family memberships

### **We now have a new 'race day' First Aid Kit**

Thanks to Joanne Grindlay for putting a new 'race day' First Aid Kit together.

### **Discover XC TV**

Check out the new Discover XC TV Channel on AUSXC YouTube channel

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL4QOk696-TFcHBXQUL5V21VywW\\_ZL9buV](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL4QOk696-TFcHBXQUL5V21VywW_ZL9buV)



# Thank you to all our Kangaroo Hoppet volunteers

**Saturday August 25th, our backyard out the back of Falls Creek in the spectacular Bogong High Plains held the largest international XC Skiing event in the southern hemisphere! This was the 28th Australian Kangaroo Hoppet.**

The 42km of trail was groomed perfectly, the weather was brilliant, there were 1043 entries total across all three races, there were 25 different nationalities represented with 118 international skiers. Importantly, there was a mighty large team of volunteers that made the event possible.

A massive thank you to the members of Birkebeiner Nordic Ski Club, the Hoppet Race Committee and many other people from the Mount Beauty and Falls Creek community, that come along as volunteers and worked very hard to set up the event in the days before, to be Course Marshals, help at drink stations to assist skiers and those volunteers, (including several who had also skied 42km...) that stayed back until the last star dropper was back in the shed Saturday afternoon.

Over 20 Year 9 students from Mount Beauty Secondary College helped with the task of transforming the Nordic Bowl to host the Hoppet. Their contribution was part of the Future Makers Programme with Bogong Outdoor School that has students getting involved in their community. It was fantastic to have your help and have you involved in your wider community.

The volunteer contribution to help make this event the success that it was shows that our community has lots of wonderful people that are able to host a large international XC Ski Race. It is a fine example that demonstrates that XC Skiing in Australia is strong and is wonderful to see that this event provides from young children skiing with their families for fun, right through to our elite Olympic athletes, all participating together.

**That is the Kangaroo Hoppet, right here in our own backyard.**

Thank you again to our volunteers for your mighty help and time.

Enjoy the spring skiing from now,

Regards, Nicholas Wright  
Kangaroo Hoppet - Volunteer Coordinator

# How grooming has changed in Australia...

## Looking Back

### Development of Cross Country Skiing Track Setting/ Grooming in Australia 1970 – 2018



From this in 1974  
Mount Buffalo

Track Setting at Tatra Inn Mt Buffalo in 1974. Man hauling was the only option. Pictured from left are: Chris Allen (Wangaratta & 1984 Winter Olympian), Chris Pullen (Mansfield) & Greg Healy (Corryong).  
(Photo courtesy of Bob Cranage)



To this in 2018  
Falls Creek

Current state of grooming at Falls Creek — Italian made Prinoth BR350 purchased in 2015  
(photo courtesy of Geoff Sorenson)

Paul L'Huillier is currently researching the 'History of Cross Country Skiing Track-Setting/Grooming in Australia'. The research intends to cover all resorts. The above two photos show where we have come from in 1974 to where we are now in 2018. Efforts by Robin Gibb (Wangaratta Ski Club) at track-setter manufacture in the late 1960's are part of the investigation.

# Hoppet Race Committee Vacancies

The Kangaroo Hoppet is the largest annual snowsports event in the southern hemisphere, and the Kangaroo Hoppet Race Committee, which is a sub committee of Birkebeiner Nordic Ski Club, is responsible for the on-snow operation of the event as part of an agreement between Birkebeiner and Kangaroo Hoppet.

In turn Kangaroo Hoppet looks after administration of the event including marketing, media, sponsorship, merchandising, entries, liaison with Falls Creek Alpine Resort, government agencies, the Worldloppet Ski Federation, and most important for BNSC, meets the expenses of the Hoppet Race Committee and pays a fee to BNSC for their services. **In 2018 this amounted to \$8716.80 which the club uses to help support our club activities including junior activities, coaching programs, club house maintenance and the annual coach in residence program.**

The Hoppet Race Committee has up to twenty members each with their own area of responsibility, and meets six times a year. Five meetings are held in the period June to August to plan for the event, and a follow up debrief meeting is held in early September.

The club members currently holding the positions of Volunteer Coordinator and Food Station Coordinator indicated at this year's post Hoppet meeting that they will not be available for next year's event. The good news is that both Nick and Sue have documented the job descriptions and will be available to assist the new coordinators in the transition process. The challenge for the club is to find their replacements.

**The Volunteer Coordinator** is responsible for coordinating the volunteer helpers for the course setup in the day before and during the race on Saturday.

In consultation with the Race Director and other members of the Race Committee your job will be to:

- 1) Identify and allocate volunteers to enable all roles to be filled.
- 2) Communicate with all volunteers to confirm their role in the week leading up to the Hoppet, advising them of times, contact details and where to meet.
- 3) Order lunch for the total number of volunteers expected for Friday setup of the Nordic Bowl. (Lunch on Saturday is provided by Rotary BBQ).
- 4) Provide a report to the Hoppet Committee and an article for the local paper.

BNSC members provide the most volunteers and you will be able to communicate with them through newsletters and email via the membership list about expectations to help. Members of the broader Mount Beauty and Falls Creek communities are also involved and you will have assistance from other race committee members in identifying these additional helpers.





**The Drink Station Co-ordinator** is responsible for:

- Coordinating and supporting the 5 Drink Station Leaders.
- Ordering Food, Drink and any required equipment.
- Packing all food and equipment ready for distribution to Drink Stations.
- Unpacking and storage of all equipment after the Hoppet.

There is a booklet containing information about current Drink Station Leaders and all information required for ordering of Food and Drink.

**While it is easy to say that the 2018 season is not over yet, let's talk about this next year ... once the snow melts it is Christmas, then autumn and before we know it winter will be back. It would be really great to have the positions filled before Christmas.**

**To express your interest, or to receive more information about the Volunteer Coordinator please email Nicholas Wright: [nick@birkebeiner.org.au](mailto:nick@birkebeiner.org.au)**

**For information about the Food Station Coordinator contact Sue Spiller: [spills55@icloud.com](mailto:spills55@icloud.com)**

## Get involved in planning for our future...

### **Come along for a Birkie strategic planning evening**

Time and date: 5:00 pm – 7:30 pm 27<sup>th</sup> October; dinner provided (pizza or BBQ)

Location: Hoppet office, Mount Beauty

BNSC is one of the largest XC ski organisations in Australia with close to 500 members. Our role in facilitating and promoting the sport of XC skiing is unrivalled and gives us great opportunities to build the profile of our sport. Would you like to be part of BNSC planning for the future?

This forum will allow club members to have their say on the future directions of our club.

- How big do we want to be?
- How can we best use our resources and club membership to benefit XC skiing?
- How can we work with the resorts to support XC skiing and infrastructure?
- Plus any other ideas you would like to raise.

If you are interested in being part of this important strategic planning process, please contact: Ewen Silvester ([president@birkebeiner.org.au](mailto:president@birkebeiner.org.au))

# Kangaroo Hoppet Race Office and Shop

The Hoppet Shop could not operate without the wonderful volunteer efforts of Mt. Beauty community members and volunteers from the Birkebeiner Nordic Ski Club.

The coordinators would like to acknowledge and thank:

- Mary Pike
- Gael Little
- Nola and Hugh Skey
- Ann Bellingham
- Liz Harvey
- Eileen Clark
- Sandi Coleman
- Jenny Farrington
- Marian and Paul Sharman
- Beth and Ian Smith
- Helen and Ian Howley
- Linda and Tony Crapper
- Rhonda Gargan
- Jane Derrick
- Sonja Smith
- Marg Hayes and Bruce Wharrie
- Luise Mock
- Judy Ranton
- Jeanie Farrington
- Linda Carter
- Faye Moreland
- Delia Murray
- Natalie Flay
- Virginie Bernard
- Wendy Boland
- Kate and Emma Prest
- Meg Crebbin (Meg always appears at the close on Sunday after the Hoppet to help with the stocktake, pack up and clean up!)



Your contribution is a vital part of the Hoppet event and we hope you enjoyed it. Hope to see you all again in 2019.

# Skier grants & subsidies 2018/19

Each year the incoming committee will prepare an annual budget (1 May to 30 April). Within budget constraints in any one year, a sum of money (maximum amount) will be set aside for member grants/subsidies as outlined below in categories 1–5. The budget is to be prepared and ratified by the general committee no later than the first meeting following the AGM in May.

For more information go to BNSC website, click on admin and then follow the link.

## Grant Categories

### National team member travel grant

BNSC members selected for National Teams are eligible to apply for club grants as outlined below.

BNSC members selected for National XC Ski Teams are eligible to apply for club grants as outlined below.

### Guidelines for funding:

1. An applicant must have been a *Birkebeiner Nordic Ski Club member for a minimum of three years*. This condition could be waived in exceptional circumstances.
2. An applicant must be a *member of a Ski and Snowboard Australia (SSA) Cross Country Ski Team*.
3. It is expected that recipients of the grant contribute to the life of BNSC and identify, represent, and compete as a BNSC member.
4. Written applications must be received no later than October 8th.
5. The application must be accompanied by a *financial statement that includes a trip budget* outlining – (a) anticipated expenses for full participation in the team. (b) other sponsorship arrangements held, and (c) other grants received by the applicant.
6. BNSC grants will only be made if other levels of funding leave a significant shortfall.
7. A *maximum of \$3,000–\$4,000* will be allocated for national team member grants in any one year with a *maximum of \$1000 to any one individual*, regardless of the number of grant applications received.
8. The grant is to be used for the purpose intended. Should circumstances change, the funds granted will be reimbursed to BNSC.
9. These guidelines will be reviewed biennially by the committee or by a sub-committee appointed by the committee.

To download a Word version of the application form copy the link into your browser - [www.birkebeiner.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/national-team-skier-grant-appn-form1.doc](http://www.birkebeiner.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/national-team-skier-grant-appn-form1.doc)

Email applications to: The Secretary <[secretary@birkebeiner.org.au](mailto:secretary@birkebeiner.org.au)> or post to: BNSC (Grant Applications), PO Box 192 Mount Beauty 3699



*By Tony Keeble  
& Megan Benne*

## Clubhouse Rules

The Clubhouse is for Day Use only. And for the comfort of others the committee asks all members to please observe the following rules:

1. *No skis or waxing inside the building. (Waxing can be done in the skidoo shed next door, or in the Windy Corner Day Shelter waxing room.)*
2. *Use the shelves and hooks for your belongings, keep the downstairs benches clear for people to sit.*
3. *No outdoor footwear or wet clothes upstairs.*
4. **Clean up after yourself - no dishes to be left on the sink.**
5. *Take all your rubbish home. We do not have a rubbish bin in the clubhouse.*
6. *If you are the last person to leave the clubhouse please ensure all lights are off and the upstairs electric heater and kettle are off*
7. *Lock the door if are the last person to leave, even in the middle of the day, to keep our belongings safe while we are out skiing.*

## Newsletter of the Birkebeiner Nordic Ski Club

PO Box 192  
Mount Beauty VIC 3699

Secretary: Ronice Goebel  
Email: [secretary@birkebeiner.org.au](mailto:secretary@birkebeiner.org.au)  
Website: <http://www.birkebeiner.org.au>