

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT, MAY 2019

**Welcome everyone.**

2018 season is now a distant memory – but it was another great season. With the 2019 winter fast approaching the club has been busy preparing for the coming season with working bees at Falls Creek and the BNSC general committee getting back into action. BNSC continues to work in the interest of both our members as well as the broader XC community through promotion of XC Skiing and provision of opportunities to enjoy the sport at any level. BNSC is an advocate for XC Skiing in Victoria sending representatives to SXCVC, it works closely with FCRM and often makes deputations and submissions in the interest of cross-country skiing. BNSC is a major part of the Australian XC scene with over 450 members; this size brings both opportunities for what we can achieve, as well as responsibilities to the future of the sport. In the coming year I would like to engage with club members as to our future role in promoting and developing our sport.

## ***Achievements***

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

- Club working bees for trail maintenance at Falls Creek with FCRM and Parks Vic
- Improvements to the race hut, including a new PA system and re-organised race equipment storage
- Ski de Femme
- Junior program, including Joey on-snow fun days and Junior Birkie coaching
- Hosting Cambria McDermott (Montana) in the role of club coach
- XC Ski clinics midweek and weekend for adults
- Tommi Silvester and Liam Flanagan each received a \$750 Vic Talent Grant
- Organisation of The Birkebeiner Classic, Rocky Valley Rush and The Australian XC Ski Championships
- 28<sup>th</sup> Kangaroo Hoppet International ski race
- Annual casserole dinner held at Arbi's (Tawonga).
- Mid-year dinner at Roi's Restaurant
- End-of-year BBQ by the lake in Mount Beauty
- Athlete grants allocated to National and Junior Team members
- Administration to ensure governance requirements fulfilled.

This year two Katerina Paul and Nick Blackwell (both BNSC members) represented Australia at World Junior/U23 Championships in Lahti; Kat also competed at the world university games (Krasnoyarsk, Russia) as well as the world championships in Seefeld (Austria). Casey Wright competed in a World Cup in Quebec Canada and Aimee Watson competed at the World

Championships. Apart from taking on a coaching role with the Australian Junior Development Team, Philip Bellingham also competed in several World Cup events. The club is proud to have supported our athletes in their overseas programs through our athlete grants.

## **Volunteers**

BNSC is entirely dependent on the work of the volunteer efforts of our club members. To thrive and get things done depends on our friendship, goodwill and willingness to help out where we can. With that in mind I would like to highlight the following contributions from members in the past year:

MICHELLE FORRER, vice-president of BNSC and secretary of the Junior sub-committee in charge of coordinating the delivery of Junior development programs. Michelle has also taken on the role of social secretary over the past year (and probably looking for someone else to take over this role).

RONICE GOEBEL has done an admirable job as BNSC Secretary, handling minutes and correspondence, and making sure that everything got done when required.

JEANETTE MC LAREN as club treasurer has improved club financial processes and expertly advised the club on budgeting issues. Jeanette is currently overseas and this role is being temporarily filled by PAUL GRAY.

ANN BELLINGHAM in her first year as race secretary has successfully overseen BNSC organisation of the Senior Australian Championships as well as the Rocky Valley Rush and Birkebeiner Classic.

NICK WRIGHT has taken on the role of membership secretary and has led the improvement of membership renewal and payment processes. He has also been a regular contributor to race days through ferrying people and gear between Windy Corner and the Nordic Bowl. In addition he has looked after the overseas coach and liaised with host families as well as being the volunteer coordinator for the Kangaroo Hoppet (stepping down this year).

PAUL L'HUILLIER with assistance from STUART RICHARDSON has overseen changes in how we communicate with our members and stakeholders. He has also maintained the club website and does regular news Postings.

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.

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. Tony and Megan are stepping down from this role in 2019 – so we are looking for a new clubhouse manager.

BRIAN KEEBLE for managing the Race Hut and providing sound policy background to ongoing projects.

PETER SMITH for installing our new PA system and making sure that we never have to listen to Ben Lee ever again on race days.

BLAIR HUME for coordinating our working bees and liaising with FCRM and Parks Vic to ensure our ski tracks are ready for first snow and a long season.

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 ALL MEMBERS who have contributed to club functions and race days. Thank you for stepping up to make these events a success.

May we hope for a long and deep snow season.

*Ewen Silvester* — President

Birkebeiner Nordic Ski Club  
20th May 2019