

Birkebeiner Nordic Ski Club

AGM PRESIDENT'S REPORT – MAY 2020

Welcome everyone.

2019 season is now a distant memory – but it was another great season. Season 2020 is different matter - with the current Covid-19 situation we are yet to find out when (or if) we can ski this season. With snow on the ground it may be a frustrating wait while the resorts decide on opening dates and how to implement social distancing rules. The current situation will likely impact on many of the programs and facilities of BNSC such as: social gatherings, clubhouse access, junior training, races and Kangaroo Hoppet (30th year). At the moment we are unsure if any of these will occur or be available to our members this year. The BNSC committee is however back in action and will continue to work in the interest of both our members as well as the broader XC community in anticipation of when we can ski again. While these are troubling times it is important to remember that BNSC is strong club with >400 members and is in a very good financial position. While skiing may be limited this year I am sure that many great seasons lie ahead.

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 (somewhat impacted by fires and Covid-19)
- Improvements to the race hut, including new internal lining.
- Ski de Femme
- Junior program, including Joey on-snow fun days, Junior Birkie coaching and Camp.
- Hosting Erin Yungblut (Canada) in the role of club coach
- XC Ski clinics midweek and weekend for adults
- Organisation of Rocky Valley Rush, Australian Senior XC Ski Championships and Australian Junior XC Championships
- 29th Kangaroo Hoppet International ski race
- Annual casserole dinner held at Arbi's
- 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
- Clubhouse lease renewal documentation delivered to FCRM
- Renewal of our MOU with Alpine Timing to provide FIS accredited timing for our races
- Administration to ensure governance requirements fulfilled.

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.

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 continued to improve club financial processes and expertly advised the club on budgeting issues.

ANN BELLINGHAM as race secretary has successfully overseen BNSC organisation of the Senior Australian Championships, Junior Australian Championships as well as the Rocky Valley Rush.

NICK WRIGHT has led the improvement of membership records, renewal and payment processes.

PAUL L'HUILLIER has maintained the club website and kept up the flow of club news.

MICHAEL TRNKA our timing guru who along with the race committee manages timing for our races that are world class in organisation.

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

PETER SMITH for looking after the Birkie Club house.

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

BLAIR HUME for coordinating our working bees and liaising with FCRM and Parks Vic to ensure our ski tracks are ready for snow (hindered this year by fires and then Covid-19).

WARREN SANDERS (SHEEPY) who co-ordinates the Search and Rescue arm of BNSC. To all S&R volunteers, your efforts are valued and have been gratefully appreciated by those affected.

MAL OLDIS and PAUL GRAY for taking on general committee roles in 2019 and assisting with race days.

BRONWYN GRAY and CATH RICHARDSON for organising the Junior Birkie Camp

ELAINE THOMAS who has taken on the role of social secretary over the past year

KATE PREST as Newsletter Editor.

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 snow season.

Ewen Silvester

President,
Birkebeiner Nordic Ski Club
1st May 2020