
Birkebeiner News

May 2022



Birkebeiner Nordic Ski Club

PO Box 192 Mount Beauty Victoria 3699

Secretary: Ronice Goebel

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— News is published online as it comes to hand —

2020/21 Committee

- **President** – Ewen Silvester
- **Vice President** – Michelle Forrer
- **Secretary** – Ronice Goebel
- **Treasurer** – Jeanette McLaren

Ordinary Committee Members

- Ann Bellingham
- Allan Marsland
- Nick Wright
- Peter Smith
- Paul Gray
- Stephanie Germancheva
- Michel Trnka
- Kate Prest
- Elaine Thomas

Volunteer Positions:

- *Peter Smith* – Clubhouse Manager
- *Nick Wright* – membership secretary
- *Ann Bellingham* - race secretary
- *Elaine Thomas* - social secretary
- *Paul L'Huillier* – website administrator & news bulletin
- *Ronice Goebel* – Ski de Femme co-ordinator
- *Warren Sanders* – Bush Search & Rescue (BSAR) Vic delegate
- *Ian Franzke* – skidoo mechanic
- *Nick Wright* – skidoo steward



Secretary Ronice...

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Tuesday 17th May

The BNSC Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held at 7:30 pm on Tuesday 17th May 2022 at the Mount Beauty Auditorium adjacent to the Information Centre.

Members will be able to attend the meeting **online** using the Zoom Video Conferencing application, or they can attend in person.

To attend via Zoom, email the secretary <secretary@birkebeiner.org.au> by 5:00 pm Monday 16th May indicating your intention to join the meeting. Then you will be emailed the invitation.

Meeting Reports

- President (*Ewen Silvester*)
- **Financial** (*Jeanette McLaren*)
- **Membership** (*Nick Wright*)
- **Race** (*Ann Bellingham*)
- Kangaroo Hoppet (*Allan Marsland*)
- Junior
- Search & Rescue (*Warren Sanders*)
- Clubhouse Manager (*Peter Smith*)
- Social (*Elaine Thomas*)

Nominations — If you are interested in an *executive position* or an *ordinary committee* role please complete a [Nomination Form](#). The form is in Word format so it can be downloaded, filled in and emailed to [<secretary@birkebeiner.org.au>](mailto:secretary@birkebeiner.org.au) by 5:00 pm Monday 16th May.

Alternatively, a form can be downloaded, printed off, filled in and mailed to *Birkebeiner Nordic Ski Club, PO Box 192, Mount Beauty 3699*.

The club also has a number of sub-committees i.e. race, junior, clubhouse and search & rescue. If you would like to assist with one of these, please indicate your interest on the form.

[2022 AGM Agenda](#)

[2021 AGM Minutes](#)

Proxy voting: A member may appoint another member as his or her proxy to vote and speak on his or her behalf at the AGM. This must be in writing and signed by the member who is appointing the proxy. Click [\[HERE\]](#) to download a form in Word format. Email it to the secretary by 5:00 pm Monday 17th May. The form can also be handed to the secretary prior to the start of the AGM.

Birkie Bits by *Nordic Ned*

1. **Working Bee/Clubhouse Anniversary (Sat 14th May)** will include a BBQ lunch to celebrate the *26th anniversary of the clubhouse* which opened on 1st June 1996. **Please RSVP by Wednesday 11th May** to [<secretary@birkebeiner.org.au>](mailto:secretary@birkebeiner.org.au) **if you intend to assist at the working bee and/or attend the anniversary.**

Read Phil Evans' report from the June 1996 issue of the '*Birkie Bulletin*' (see below page 3).

2. **Casserole Dinner** – Saturday 11th June. The club's new **Birkie Award** will be awarded to a very deserving member. More details to follow.
3. **Australian Alpine Walking Track solo walk.** Vice president *Michelle Forrer* has just completed a four week solo walk of the 650 km track. Her son Ash, 16, and friend Tommi Silvester, 17, did the walk in 2019.
4. **Rotary Club of Mount Beauty.** A huge thank you for their generous donation of \$4,000 to athletes who skied overseas. This donation, along with the \$4,000 that the club kicked in, demonstrates the high regard the community and the club has for its dedicated athletes.
5. **Snow Sports Australia "Official of the Year" for 2021.** *Sandra Paul* (Kat Paul's mum) was awarded this for her excellence in her volunteer role as a FIS Cross Country Technical Delegate (TD).
6. **Mt Beauty Running Festival – Sat 21st May** (Election day). Distances of 3km, 10km & a 14 km trail run. Start time 10:00 am at the Secondary College oval. Click [\[HERE\]](#) to enter.
7. **View** — [2022 Snow Australia Award Winners](#)
8. **Junior Birkie Ski Team Program** – Birkie juniors will start Monday 2nd May 2022 with weekly rollerski sessions at the Secondary College (4:00 pm each Monday). Similar format to last year, focusing on skills development and fun. Lots of interest from Mount Beauty and Bright juniors. *Paul Gray & Tim Retchford* are running these sessions. The club was successful in a 'Sporting Club Grant' (Vic government) for \$1,000. This will go towards custom-made high-vis training t-shirts. Email [<secretary@birkebeiner.org.au>](mailto:secretary@birkebeiner.org.au) for Program information.
9. [Falls Creek Resort Early Bird Vehicle Permits close mid-night Sunday 1st May.](#)

Clubhouse Opening – Sat 1st June 1996



(From left) President Barbara Lipscombe, Jim Crebbin & our first president, Brian Goss.

The description below was written by *Phil Evans* for the June 1996 issue of the 'Birkie Bulletin'.

After 12 months of bargaining, negotiating and plain hard work, the Birkebeiner NSC finally has a home at Falls Creek.

The Club was formed in September 1977 and despite running one of the world's most famous cross country ski races, the Kangaroo Hoppet, it has never had a real home. In front of 80 club members (adults and kids), the double-storey clubhouse was officially opened by President *Barbara Lipscombe* who thanked every club member who has contributed to the most impressive club rooms.

Neil Tappe, General Manager of ARC Falls Creek, was congratulated for his assistance in finalising a site adjacent to the cross country ski trails. *Barbara* also thanked *Jim Crebbin* for his outstanding contribution to all aspects of the planning, design, construction and final completion of the eight-month building program. Jim's chief assistants were *Phil Evans* and *Alex Chapman* (electricals) who also gave a great deal of time and effort in coordinating and organising the many working bees. They were greatly assisted by local tradespeople, *Juhani* and *Uli Rousu* (interior painting), *Peter Kiene* (plastering), *Dermot Meaney* (building) and others – *Jack Slocombe*, *Dave Chew* and *David Batt*. The beautiful kitchen was planned and

constructed by *Bob and Jenny Flower*. Others included *Keith Smith* (paint selection), *Barb Lipscombe*, *Barb Slocombe* and *Marg Smith* (floor coverings and furniture).

Another group of Birkebeiner members have worked extremely hard in raising finance. The money necessary to build the clubhouse has accumulated over the years from club memberships, 10-year memberships, the Kangaroo Hoppet and other events the club conducts, raffles, street stalls and the generosity of a number of club members.

The Club is now expecting more members to be able to enjoy the atmosphere of a ski village instead of battling shoulder to shoulder with the many tourists and skiers in the Windy Corner Day Shelter. Some members are dreaming about coffee breaks whilst admiring the snow-covered Spion Kopje and evening dinners watching the sunset over the Frying Pan Spur before driving home to Mt Beauty. Mid-week night skiing on moonlit nights will be civilised occasions now that the new clubhouse is available to warm up in. All up, the project will cost close to \$75,000.

Congratulations to the Birkebeiner committee, to its enthusiastic members and to the Falls Creek and Mt Beauty communities for supporting this relatively small group in at last becoming a permanent part of the Falls Creek ski industry.



2022 club race commitments

The 2022 race calendar lists the following races which the club is to run on six weekends.

1. Sunday 24th July 10.30am - *Birkebeiner Classic* – 2.5/5/10km classic (C) AB
2. Saturday 30th July 9:30am – AUS Open Sprint Champs – classic (C) MJ
3. Sunday 1st Aug 10am – AUS Open Champs 10/15km Freestyle (F) MJ
4. Saturday 13th August 10am - *Ski De Femme* – 1/2.5/5km RG
5. Sunday 21st August 10:30am - *Rocky Valley Rush/Sun Valley Ramble* 15/7.5km (F) MJ
6. Saturday 27th August 9:30am – *Kangaroo Hoppet* 42/21/7km (F)
7. Saturday 3rd Sept 9:30am – AUS Jnr Sprint Champs – Freestyle (F) AB
8. Sunday 4th Sept 10am – AUS Jnr Distance Champs Classic (C) AB

Anne Bellingham (race secretary)

View — [2022 National XC Race Calendar](#)

2020/21 Memberships

There were a **total of 356** financial members in 2021.

(For comparison, in 2020, the club had 425 financial members).

72 Family Memberships

- 271 people were registered in a family membership.
- 57 individual adult memberships
- 10 individual junior / full-time student memberships
- 3 Search and Rescue only memberships
- 3 Associate memberships
- 12 Life Members

Our club welcomed 48 new members, which are included in the 356 total memberships.

Thanks to membership secretary *Nick Wright* for supplying these figures.

Overseas Athlete Reports

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Casey Wright• Katerina Paul• Anna Trnka | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Phil Bellingham• Adam Barnett• Nic Blackwell |
|---|--|
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As a condition for receiving funds, athletes are required to report on their trip to the committee and members. Please read the reports that illustrate their dedication and commitment to becoming the best cross country skiers they can be.

Cross Country Update - April 2022

Dear XC Skiers,

What a remarkable international racing season we have just experienced. Despite the majority of them having missed the 2020/2021 season and a fair chunk of two Aussie winters due to Covid-19, Australian cross country skiers took the northern winter by storm and achieved a stack of Australian best and personal best results on the international stage.



Some notable milestones and achievements include:

- Six cross country skiers selected to Beijing 2022 (equalling record set in 2018)
- Australia's best ever individual result at an Olympics (31st)
- 13 athletes qualified to race World Cup
- 32 FIS registered athletes raced in Europe or North America
- Six top 30 results posted at the World Junior/U23 Championships
- First ever Sprint finals appearances at the World Juniors
- Ten podium results achieved in FIS competition in Europe
- First ever Mixed Relay team entered at the U23 World Championship

Kudos to all these athletes and their efforts to follow their dreams, big and small. Hats off to all the coaches and wax technicians doing their best to give these athletes a chance to compete on a level playing field.

Finn Marsland (XC Director)

National Junior AIS Camp - Rollerski Treadmill testing



Click [\[HERE\]](#) to play the short video

To read about the AIS camp held mid April click this link
<<https://www.snow.org.au/news/xc-junior-camp-at-ais/>>