

Birkebeiner Nordic Ski Club

Nomination of Rob Boland for the 2021 Birkie Award

15th July 2021

Nominated by: Phil Evans

Seconded by: Paul L'Huillier

Rob has been involved with the club for over 25 years in various capacities namely Search & Rescue, Kangaroo Hoppet, Race Hut and Clubhouse.

Citation

Search & Rescue

Rob has been a member of the Birkie S&R Unit for more than 25 years.

Rob and David Panozzo always volunteered first when called by Victorian Police for S&R missions.

In November 2006 six Birkebeiner Nordic Ski Club (BNSC) members, including Rob received a group bravery citation at Government House, Melbourne. This was awarded to them for rescuing a group of skiers on Mt Bogong in a blizzard in August 2004.

He is continuing his S&R work with the Mount Beauty Fire Brigade with several high risk rescues on Mt Buffalo.

Kangaroo Hoppet

Chief or deputy chief of the Hoppet Start and Finish area for more than 20 years. This involves attending many planning meetings leading up to Hoppet Day. Then three or four intensive days of work at the Falls Creek coordinating and setting up the whole area. It's a huge task! He sleeps in the AGL Workshops on the night of the Hoppet so he can be on duty very early.

Rob's most valuable asset — 'chief problem solver'. When the race committee planned something new or an improvement Rob would immediately say "Yep. We can do that". It was always brilliantly done.

Race Hut

Having a building background Rob was a main player when the new extension to the Race Hut was constructed in 2005. His expertise was invaluable with the planning and construction. He has assisted on Race Hut working bees as well.

Clubhouse

In 2015 the club decided to do a major renovation to the clubhouse replacing all windows with double glazing and aluminium frames, and re-cladding the outside with Colorbond. Again, with his building background Rob was a main player in seeing this large project completed.

1 May 2021