

# Birkebeiner

## News

May 2023



## Birkebeiner Nordic Ski Club

PO Box 192 Mount Beauty Victoria 3699

**Secretary:** *Ronice Goebel*

**Mobile:** 0409 332 642 • **Email** [secretary@birkebeiner.org.au](mailto:secretary@birkebeiner.org.au)

**Website** [www.birkebeiner.org.au](http://www.birkebeiner.org.au)

— *News is published online as it comes to hand* —

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

Tuesday 23rd May

The BNSC Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held at 7:30 pm on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023 (**please note change of date**) 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](mailto:secretary@birkebeiner.org.au) by 5:00 pm Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May indicating your intention to join the meeting. You will be emailed the invitation.

[2023 AGM Agenda](#)

[2022 AGM Minutes](#)

### Meeting Reports

- President (Ewen Silvester)
- [Financial](#) (Jeanette McLaren)
- Membership (Stephanie Germancheva)
- Race (Ann Bellingham)
- Kangaroo Hoppet (Allan Marsland)
- Junior (Paul Gray)
- [Search & Rescue](#) (Warren Sanders)
- Clubhouse (Peter Smith)
- [Social](#) (Mary Hall)

The AGM will conclude with a light supper.

### COMMITTEE POSITIONS

All committee positions will be declared vacant. In particular, the positions of **President** and **Race Secretary** will need to be filled.

The **Race Secretary** job is not too arduous, but it is preferable to be at the races the Club is running throughout the season. Most of the tasks associated with the job are 'secretarial' and a lot can be done from anywhere. Primary responsibilities of **Race Secretary**:

- A member of the Birkie Committee and convenes the Race subcommittee.
- Is the contact for Snow Australia for the race calendar.
- Works with Alpine Timing to develop a program and registrations.
- Manages the entries and the race program.
- On race days oversees the allocation of bibs, scratchings, and works with others to carry out the program and then assists with presentations.

## 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**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 22<sup>nd</sup> May. The form can also be handed to the secretary prior to the start of the AGM.

**Heartfelt thank you** goes to those committee members stepping down from roles after many years of service:

Ewen Silvester – President  
Ann Bellingham – Race Secretary  
Peter Smith – Clubhouse Manager

**The club relies on volunteers so please have a think about how you can contribute in 2023/24**

## JUNIOR BIRKIE RACE PROGRAM

Dryland training kicked off at the start of May with weekly rollerski sessions at the Secondary College, Mondays 4-5pm. The first session had 12 participants being coached by Paul Gray & Tim Retchford. The program has received a \$5K grant from AGL, which will go towards buying rollerski boots (NNN).

### **Birkie Development Camp Co-ordinator(s) needed**

Bronwyn & Paul Gray are passing the baton to interested member(s) who would like to be involved in organising the Birkie Development Camp. It is a great opportunity to help continue this successful camp for developing our future skiers. Bronwyn & Paul will support the incoming coordinator for the 2023 camp. For more information email [secretary@birkebeiner.org.au](mailto:secretary@birkebeiner.org.au).



## 2022/23 Committee

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

### *Ordinary Committee Members*

- Ann Bellingham
- Allan Marsland
- Andrew Hall
- Michel Trnka
- Peter Smith
- Paul Gray
- Stephanie Germancheva
- Warren Sanders

### *Volunteer Positions:*

*Peter Smith* – Clubhouse Manager & skidoo custodian  
*Stephanie Germancheva* – membership secretary  
*Ann Bellingham* – Race secretary  
*Paul L'Huillier* – website administrator  
*Mary Hall* – bulletin editor & social secretary  
*Ronice Goebel* – Ski de Femme co-ordinator  
*Warren Sanders* – Bush Search & Rescue (BSAR) Vic delegate  
*Ian Franzke* – skidoo mechanic  
*Brian Keeble* – Race hut manager  
*Paul Gray* – Junior Committee Convener



**Secretary Ronice**



## VICTORIAN CROSS COUNTRY SKI TEAM

After a hiatus due to Covid, the Victorian Cross Country Ski (VICXC) Team is back to full capacity in 2023. Anna Trnka is taking over the reins from Ronice who has been the major driver for the VICXC Team the past 20 years.

Snow Australia has established a new Victorian Cross Country Committee, which has resulted in changes for the VICXC Team. For further details click [\[HERE\]](#).

## SNOWSPORT AUSTRALIA XC NEWS



[XC Director Update March 2023](#)

[XC & SkiMo 2022/23 Season Wrap](#)

[New VIC XC Committee](#)

[2023 XC Race Calendar](#)

## ANARE SHED REDEVELOPMENT UPDATE

The project planning permit application is still being considered by DEECA (formerly DELWP) having been overwhelmed by the number of objections to the project they received. You can read the comprehensive objection filed by XCSAV [\[HERE\]](#).

To find more information on the redevelopment project and read the Club's position click [\[HERE\]](#).

Go to [savefallscreekxc.org](http://savefallscreekxc.org) for resources on how you can get involved.

## BIRKIE BITS BY NORDIC NELLIE

### ♦ **Mount Bogong Conquestathon**

was re-established in March 2023 with the help of six committee members and numerous BNSC SAR, and BSARNE members volunteering on the day. It was a successful day with over 200 participants including many Birkie Club members conquering the quest.

♦ **The Club** was well represented at the recent roller ski races held 29/30 April in Melbourne (sprint) & Lake Mountain (5 & 10k hill climb) with Anna Trnka, Rosie Franzke, Bethany Franzke, Phil Bellingham, Adam Barnett, Matthew Wilby, Liam Cullen-Croke, Ian Franzke, Charles Hiam, Andrew Stretcher, Vince Humphries participating. Bethany and Rosie won their categories in the hill climb and Anna, Phil, and Rosie took firsts in the sprint.

♦ **Kat Paul** named 2023 AIS Thrive with Pride Ambassador, more info [\[HERE\]](#)

♦ **Phil Bellingham** wins 2023 Artic Circle Race, you can find a full report on the next page.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Junior Birkie program dry land training started Monday 1st May (4-5pm).

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

Mt Beauty Running Festival Saturday 20th May, 3k, 10k, & 14k trail run, click [\[HERE\]](#) for details.

Clubhouse Working Bee weekend 10am 27th May, lunch provided.

Casserole Dinner Saturday 10th June, the club's Birkie Award will be awarded to a very deserving member. More details to follow.



## The Arctic Circle Race

The Arctic Circle Race takes place through the magnificent countryside of Sisimuit on Greenland's west coast approximately 65km north of the Arctic Circle. The total race distance is 160km across 3 days and takes competitors through the magnificent and varied Greenlandic terrain with about 1500m elevation gain and drop each day. Each of the 3 days the competitors are on the 50+km course for up to 9.5 hours with the winners finishing in over 3 hours. The classic ski race also goes across sea ice on the Fjord, with the salt content making the snow abrasive and therefore slow.

The race is arguably known as the toughest and most beautiful ski race in the world. The temperature is often as low as -35 degrees, but the race is much more than just skiing in extreme conditions. It is also an adventure where you get to meet people from all over the world. As one participant puts it, 'There's no other race where you spend time with your competitors and connect with them between the stages.'



Every year, over 200 volunteers come together to make the race an unforgettable experience for its participants. Accommodation consists of a camp built of 2-3 man tents complete with thermal ground sheet and cooks set. There is a large communal tent where participants prepare their own meals and enjoy them together with the officials. There is also waxing tents and massage facilities!



Participants also have the opportunity to see the northern lights, try dogsledding and experience Greenlandic traditions with traditional church services, music and food.

The race was last run in 2019 and was won by local Phil Bellingham. Unfortunately, due to covid the race has not been run again until this year. Phil returned to Greenland last week to defend his title. It was a tough battle with Martin Møller, 9-time winner of the race, but Phil managed to get the win each of the three days. Phil won in a total time of 10 hrs 13 mins.



Phil describes the race as very tough, but a one-of-a-kind experience, and he loves the rugged and remote nature of the event and the friendliness of the people.



This concludes Phil's European season, competing in both Cross Country and Ski Mountaineering World Championships and World Cup races.

