

Birkebeiner Nordic Ski Club

PRESIDENT'S REPORT, MAY 2023

Dear BNSC members

With the 2023 winter fast approaching, the club has been busy preparing for the coming season with the BNSC general committee getting back into action. Despite the challenges of the past few years, BNSC remains a strong club with a substantial membership base and a sound financial position. BNSC continues to work in the interest of both our members as well as the broader XC community through the promotion of XC Skiing and the provision of opportunities to enjoy the sport at every level.

A considerable amount of the club's energy in 2022 was directed towards the proposed ANARE Lakeside development at Falls Creek, particularly advocating against the proposed clearing of the High Plains Road to Rocky Valley Reservoir. Thanks to the efforts of many people (both within and outside BNSC), the ANARE development has been paused while a new round of public engagement is held. We hope that the interests of XC skiing will feature more prominently in any future development proposals for the Lakeside precinct.

It was pleasing to see that the race calendar in 2022 returned to 'normal', with the club running many races (Birkebeiner Classic, Australian Open Championships, Rocky Valley Rush & Australian Junior Championships). I would like to particularly thank both Ann Bellingham and Maggie Jowitt for their shared role as race secretaries in 2022. Both Ann and Maggie are stepping down from the race secretary role, so we are actively looking for a new race secretary.

BNSC is a dominant club in Australian XC skiing; this size brings opportunities for what we can achieve and responsibilities to the future of the sport. In particular, the club has a standing financial commitment to developing a public shelter at the Nordic Bowl; such a facility would be immensely valuable for club events and the XC community more generally. I am hopeful that changes in the structure of Victorian Alpine Resorts will make it easier for BNSC to engage with the new Falls Creek Alpine Resort (FCAR) in building XC facilities and developing opportunities at Falls Creek.

Significant achievements in 2022-23 include:

Achievements

- Submissions (from both the club and individuals) to FCRM (now FCAR) regarding issues with the proposed Lakeside-ANARE development
- BNSC running four races (Birkebeiner Classic, Australian Open Championships, Rocky Valley Rush & Australian Junior Championships) over six days of competition
- Five BNSC athletes competing and coaching in northern hemisphere races (World Cup, continental cup) and Snow Australia endorsed training camps. These athletes included Phil Bellingham, Katerina Paul, Adam Barnett, Anna Trnka & Tommi Silvester.
- Successful running of the Junior Birkie Camp (thanks to Bronwyn Gray, Paul Gray and Cath Richardson)
- The Kangaroo Hoppet Committee running a very successful event in 2022

Let's hope for a great season.

Ewen Silvester
President,
Birkebeiner Nordic Ski Club
21st May 2023

Committee members and key 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.

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

JEANETTE MC LAREN, as club treasurer, has continued to manage club financial processes and expertly advised the club on budgeting issues.

As race secretaries, ANN BELLINGHAM and MAGGIE JOWITT continued to oversee the organisation and delivery of BNSC races. Thank you (both) for your contributions to BNSC-run races over many years!

PAUL GRAY and TIM RETCHFORD for running the pre-season junior development programs.

STEPHANIE GERMANCHEVA has taken on the management of membership records, renewal and payment processes.

PAUL L'HUILLIER has maintained the club website, Facebook page and news. Paul will continue to manage the website, but he will pass on the club newsletter to MARY HALL (thanks Mary for taking on this role).

MICHAEL TRNKA, our timing guru who, along with the race committee, has managed timing for our races that are world-class in the organisation. We are currently in the process of renewing our MOU with Michal to continue to manage our race timing – thanks, Michal!

ALLAN MARSLAND, a long-time committee member who continues to provide wise counsel and advice on any number of matters, including our dealings with Ski and Snow Board Australia, Alpine Resorts Victoria (ARV), Falls Creek Alpine Resort (FCAR) and, of course, his on-going involvement in the Kangaroo Hoppet.

PETER SMITH for looking after the Birkie Clubhouse. Peter will step down from this role in 2023 – thanks, Pete, for doing this role over the past few years; Warren Sanders (Sheepy) will take on the clubhouse management role in 2023.

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

WARREN SANDERS (SHEEPY) who coordinates the Bush Search and Rescue arm of BNSC. To all BSAR volunteers, your efforts are valued and have been gratefully appreciated by those affected.

BRONWYN GRAY, PAUL GRAY and CATH RICHARDSON for organising the Junior Birkie camp. We are looking for new club members to take on this role.

MARY HALL for taking on the role of social secretary over the past year.

ANDREW HALL: Hoppet training sessions for members and race-course design.

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