

BNSC PRESIDENT'S REPORT, MAY 2024

Dear BNSC members

With the 2024 winter fast approaching the club has been busy preparing for the coming season, with the BNSC general committee getting back into action in April. After a rather dismal snow year in 2023, I am sure we are all hoping something a little more substantial this year. Our sport is facing some challenging times, but 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 promotion of XC Skiing and provision of opportunities to enjoy the sport at every level.

For the past few years much of our energy has been directed towards the proposed ANARE Lakeside development at Falls Creek, in particular, advocating against the proposed clearing of the High Plains Road to Rocky Valley Reservoir. Despite a new round of public engagement in 2023, it seems that we are no closer to arriving at a solution that adequately takes into account the interests of the XC community. I would like to thank all of the BNSC members who have represented our sport at the various forums over the past year. There is still some 'water to go under the bridge' before the Lakeside development is resolved (one way or another), so I remain hopeful of an outcome that far more respecting of our sport.

Despite a rather disappointing 2023 snow year, we managed to run some of our scheduled races and events (Birkebeiner Classic, Ski de Femme, Australian Open Championships), with some well-timed snowfalls and excellent course selection. I would like to particularly thank Maggie Jowitt for stepping into the role as race secretary (again) in 2023. Unfortunately, we were unable to run the Hoppet in 2023 (first time that snow cover has prevented this event from being run).

This has been my last year as BNSC president. I would like to thank all of the committee members that I have worked with over the past 5 years, on both the general committee and race committee. The club would not function without the time and effort of these volunteers.

Significant achievements in 2023-24 include:

Achievements

- Ski De Femme - first held in 1993, was hugely successful again with sponsorship from the local community; about 120 women were involved on the day, with celebration headbands designed by Casey and Rob Wright.
- BNSC running two races (Birkebeiner Classic, Australian Open Championships) over three days of competition despite challenging snow conditions
- Four BNSC athletes competing and coaching in northern hemisphere races and Snow Australia endorsed training camps. These athletes included: Katerina Paul, Rosie Franzke, Anna Trnka & Hannah Gray, with Rosie competing at the Youth Olympics!

Let's hope for a great season.

Ewen Silvester

President,

Birkebeiner Nordic Ski Club — 20th May2024

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, good will 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 making sure 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.

MAGGIE JOWITT as race secretary continued to oversee the organisation and deliver of BNSC races. Thank you 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 for the management of membership records, renewal and payment processes.

MARY HALL has produced the club newsletter and continued in the role of social secretary; PAUL L'HUILLIER has continued to manage the club website.

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

ALLAN MARSLAND, long time committee member who continues to provide wise council 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 leadership of the Kangaroo Hoppet.

WARREN (SHEEPY) SANDERS for looking after the Birkie Club house and co-ordinating the Bush Search and Rescue arm of BNSC. To all BSAR volunteers, your efforts are valued and have been gratefully appreciated by those needing your help.

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

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

MICHAL TRNKA and KATE PREST for their roles in the general committee.

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