



Brindabella Ski Club

President's Report to AGM, 16 March 2021

Welcome to the AGM of Brindabella Ski Club for 2021. On 15 June this year the club will turn 70. The club is in a strong position despite the challenges of the past year and we can look forward to many more decades of members enjoying membership of Brindabella Ski Club.

It is less than six months since we held the last AGM in September 2020, which was delayed due to COVID restrictions. The reports presented at this AGM cover the year 1 November 2019 to 31 October 2020 and we elect the committee for the next year.

This is our second AGM held by Zoom meeting. Our first had 75 members in attendance, about double what we normally have when we hold the AGM in person.

70th Dinner postponed

It would be wonderful to celebrate this significant milestone for the club. In the current environment where we have suffered a significant financial loss in the past year and expect another tough year, the committee felt it was important to run such an event on a cost neutral basis. We surveyed members to judge their interest in attending a dinner at the end of May 2021, at a cost of \$140 per ticket to cover costs. Unfortunately insufficient interest was shown and the committee decided not to hold a celebration at this time and to consider as function later in the year. The committee wishes to thank Holly Lawrence for the effort she put into organising this event.

Winter 2020 highlights

My report to the 2020 AGM contained a lot of detail about Winter 2020 so I will summarise highlights here.

Thanks to a herculean effort from numerous people we were able to accommodate members in our lodges in winter 2020 with an effective COVIDSafe plan in place. Booking conditions and lodge operations looked very different from previous years.

We ran the lodges at just below 50% capacity: Waragun 13, Tiobunga 12, Kyilla 10. Through the winter peak we had about 25% occupancy, compared to well over 90% in previous years. We kept the marginal costs tightly under control and estimate that the club is about \$20k better off for having opened. Most importantly, those who stayed all reported that they enjoyed their holidays and we completed the winter with no adverse outcomes.

Summer 2020/21

Our lodges have been well used throughout summer, operating under our COVIDSafe plan. Unfortunately some members were forced to cancel due to the Northern Beaches lockdown over Christmas and New Year, however many members have taken advantage of the chance

to get away for a few days. Thanks to all the members who have done the right thing with keeping infections out of our lodges and cleaning while in the lodges, as well as the great job everyone is doing in keeping community transmission rates very low, we have had no adverse outcomes.

We have been working to relax restrictions as the pandemic comes under control here. We have raised the numbers of people who can book into the lodges on any night to 18 in Waragun or Tiobunga and 13 in Kyilla. We have lifted the restricted numbers completely for whole-of-lodge bookings.

Winter Bookings

Both Thredbo and Perisher have published some details of their plans for winter 2021, with ticket conditions looking more like they did in 2019 than last year. This is good news as it will allow members and their guests to plan more easily for their holidays.

The 2021 booking rules are in final preparation and will be published soon. These will look much more like the rules from 2019 and previous years than the 2020 rules. We are returning to four booking rounds with similar staging to previous years and we will occupy the lodge every night with members able to book 2 night weekends, 5 night midweek and 7 night full week stays in rounds 1, 2 and 3, with ad-hoc bookings available in round 4. We will also be revising the lodge operations procedures and will find a balance somewhere between last year's procedures and what we were used to from previous years.

Please remember that it is important to keep infection out of the lodges by having each individual answer the pre-stay questionnaire honestly and on time and to minimise the risk of transmission within the lodges by being diligent with the cleaning duties. It is also important that nobody enters the lodge who is not booked into the lodge or otherwise has a legitimate reason to be there and has pre-arranged the visit with the lodge manager, admin manager or lodge VP.

Membership

Membership renewals this year looked like a typical year and I thank the vast majority of members who are showing continued loyalty to the club. There has been movement between Full and Christie membership classes as we see every year. At the conclusion of membership renewals we had membership as shown in the table below.

Membership Class	Number of Members
Life	10
Full	528
Full Junior	136
Christie	212
Christie Junior	5
Summer	101
Summer Junior	16
Sub-Junior (under 3)	1
Total	1009

Last year we accepted very few membership applications. Compared to a decade ago, we have 112 more total members, almost entirely due to having 108 more Summer members.

New Members

Membership offers have been made to the following adult applicants: James O'Brien, Robert Little, Louise Gallagher, Thomas Lawrence, Patrick Atkinson, Choranoi Atkinson, Darren Parker, Jude Lonergan, Cailin Lucas, Aron Duffey, Jessica Duffey, Ray Vran, Kerry

Bogard, Jeff Honey, Alan Coombes, Michael Pamphilon, Bianca Reeder, Steve Adams, Nadia Adams, William Gillies, Lisa Macleod, Robert Nicol, Eva Wadie, Rohan Reece and Steve Graziadelli. Welcome to the club and I look forward to meeting you in the lodges.

Lodges

Mountain biking is increasing in popularity and Waragun seems to be full of bikes almost every weekend through summer and overflowing some weekends. We are investigating ways that we can increase bike storage.

Thanks to members' efforts in a few popular work parties, the damp issues in the downstairs bedrooms in Kyilla seem to have been solved. Members improved drainage to divert water from the lodge walls, replaced damaged sections of drywall and removed damaged carpet and furniture. These rooms are now in great shape with new carpet and beds.

The western ends of the A-frames on the northern (newer) section of Kyilla did not need to be repaired along with the others when the lodge was renovated a few years back. They are now showing signs of rot. They will be temporarily reinforced for winter 2021 and then repaired next summer in a similar manner to the others.

Tiobunga is in great shape after the flood remediation and only minor maintenance items have needed attention.

Financial

As detailed in the Audited Accounts for 2020 as well as the Treasurer's report, 2020 was a difficult year financially for the club. We suffered a financial loss of \$172,641, down almost \$200k from last year's profit of \$26,192. Revenue was down \$293k to \$415k and expenses were down \$94k to \$588k.

We had to redraw \$100k during the year to maintain liquidity. Since the end of the financial year we have repaid this using revenue from 2021 membership subscriptions.

New accounting standards came into force for 2020, increasing our compliance costs. Audit fees are up by 50%, and the effort applied by the bookkeeper (paid) and the treasurer and others (volunteer) were also increased. This was compounded by late availability of information about the impact of some COVID related financial relief to be applied during the financial year.

Looking Forward

We all look forward to 2021 being better than 2020, with a good winter and more members able to enjoy holidays on snow. This should lead to a significant financial improvement in 2021. However we are not out of the woods yet. The committee recommends that membership subscriptions, which increased by approximately 30% in 2020, be held at the same level for 2021.

Insurance costs have increased by about \$70k in the past three years to become one of our most significant costs. In particular, the Industrial Special Risks policy covering buildings, contents and loss of revenue has increased from about \$20k to about \$90k. This is a fixed cost: it does not vary as our revenue varies. The club's mix of fixed and variable costs does not match the mix of fixed and variable revenue – we rely on variable revenue (primarily accommodation revenue) to cover the difference between our fixed costs and our fixed income (primarily membership income). We should consider whether we have this balance right or whether we should consider changing the balance between membership revenue and accommodation revenue.

Thanks

The club is indebted to numerous people who went above and beyond in their contributions this year. The delayed 2020 AGM was after winter 2020 and I thanked numerous people in that report who played significant roles in preparing us for winter 2020 under pandemic conditions. To these thanks I would like to add thanks to the following people:

The lodge operations monitoring subcommittee met weekly throughout 2020, reducing to fortnightly in 2021. They helped keep us safe by monitoring pandemic conditions and restrictions as well as operations in our lodges, making recommendations for changes in our bookings and lodge operating procedures. Over summer this was chaired by Darrell Porter, with weekly reports and analysis by Mike Bromfield and Anthea Kerrison feeding into the meetings attended by Richard Radajewski, Margaret Simpson, Margaret Smythe, David Pember, Rob Griffin, Kellie Meehan, Lynne Wyatt and James Lawrence.

Kellie Meehan and Lynne Wyatt did fantastic jobs as lodge managers. Jack Hartican is serving well as Minutes Secretary. Mark Green continues to serve members well as Admin Manager. Sonia Garland has been very reliable, prompt, accurate, helpful and friendly as bookkeeper.

The full committee has had a big year this year and I thank them for their contributions. Rob Griffin, Bryan Collis, Darrell Porter, Richard Radajewski, Curtis Hancock, Rob McGregor, David Pember, Margaret Smythe, Ben Couttes and Warwick Forster have all been a pleasure to work with and have helped run the club smoothly. Minutes Secretary Jack Hartican has also ably assisted the committee in a non-voting role.

Rob Griffin will be moving on after putting in a good four years as Secretary.

Bryan Collis was Business Planning Officer in 2008 and has been on the committee ever since. He served as Treasurer 2009 – 2013, President 2014 – 2017 and Treasurer 2018-2020. Bryan's contributions to the club have been significant as well as sustained. He has set the club on a very sound financial footing and used this as a basis to steer it through some tough times. He strikes a good balance between financial prudence and ensuring that members can make the most of their enjoyment of the club. Bryan is stepping down as Treasurer. His ongoing concern for the club is demonstrated by his offer to serve as Assistant Treasurer to help the next Treasurer come fully up to speed.

Final words

I look forward to a good winter with conditions in our lodges following the community at large in returning to normal. Signs are looking good with resorts announcing ticket conditions looking more like previous years and dates being discussed for race events. I encourage all members to plan your snow holidays in Australia this winter.

James Lawrence
President