



President's Annual Report 2021 - AGM March 2022

Introduction

2021 was the second year when Brindabella Ski Club's operations were dominated by COVID-19, like so many other aspects of life. This time a year ago we were looking forward to a winter where operations had returned to settings closer to those we had before the start of the pandemic than those we ran in 2020. Cleaning and sanitising protocols were refined, lodge capacities were revised up to take advantage of available space within the lodges while still avoiding people in different bookings having to share bedrooms. We returned to 5 day midweek and 2 day weekend bookings with no empty nights. Bookings opened in four rounds like a normal year and eager members flocked in and made their bookings.

Towards the end of June the Delta variant started to spread in Sydney. Lockdowns started in Sydney in June and grew in scope, ultimately covering the whole of NSW and ACT and closing the resorts. This caused a huge effort in processing cancellations, with the Club refunding over \$269k in accommodation charges.

As the lockdowns started in Sydney and then spread out from there, some members were able to take advantage of greater lodge availability and empty snow fields. During the 7 weeks from 25 June to 13 August we had on average 9 members and guests staying in Waragun, 9 in Kyilla and 15 in Tiobunga.

There is an article published in Christie about the Club's COVID-19 journey in 2021.

The Omicron variant is now spreading wildly in the community and it is clear that we will have a third winter affected by COVID. We are updating policies and procedures for 2022 and will release details including booking round dates in due course. As public policy is moving towards treating this virus as endemic rather than pandemic, we anticipate that several policies will be relaxed in 2022 compared to 2021.

One key item is the question of whether the club should require all lodge users to demonstrate that they are up to date with their COVID-19 vaccinations or exempt. There is a motion on this question at the AGM. The committee recommends that members vote against this motion. Position papers for and against the motion have been published alongside this report.

Financial

The financial result for 2021 is a financial loss of \$16, 847. This is a substantial improvement from the loss of \$172, 641 in 2020. This was due to tight cost control as well as increased accommodation revenue (\$229,486, up from \$123,767 in 2020), significant increase in membership revenues due to the special 30% increase agreed at the 2020 AGM and some government assistance grants. Full details are in the audited accounts and the Treasurer's report (due next Christie).

As the financial impact of COVID will continue to impact the club this year, the Committee has recommended that membership subscriptions for 2023 stay at the level set at the 2020 AGM and that joining and work party in lieu fees be increased in line with CPI. The membership fees motion before the AGM shows the detail.

The committee continues to exercise tight cost control.



The Club continues to be in dispute with NPWS over COVID rent relief for 2020 and 2021.

Competition and Development

The development camp in Guthega went ahead at the end of June and was greatly enjoyed by all those who were able to attend and take part in all the coaching and mentoring as reported in the Spring 2021 Christie. Sydney went into lockdown the day before the development camp was due to start which unfortunately halved the number of members able to attend. We plan to continue this highly successful development camp this year and are considering expanding on development activities.

All competitions were cancelled in 2021 due to COVID-19. This is the second year of such cancellations for the Thredbo Junior Interclubs, the Guthega Interclubs, the Club Championships and the Balmain Cup. The Thredbo Interclubs have not been run in 3 years as they were cancelled in 2019 due, of all things, to too much snow. We look forward to the return of all of these events in 2022.

Lodges

The lodges have been run on a care and maintenance basis due to the need to tight cost control. There are work parties planned before winter at each lodge and I encourage you to book in to one of these. They are a great way to get to know more about your fellow members and to build your feeling of ownership in the club. They also fulfil your obligation to perform a work party every five years – by doing so you will not need to pay the work party levy at renewal time.

Waragun

The fridge is showing signs of groaning under the load of storing all those bottles of post snowsport schnapps. Maintenance costs are escalating and we are considering replacing it with multiple smaller commercial fridges with external compressors like the existing fridge. This will provide redundancy in case of mid—season failure and will also allow fridges to be switched off in periods of low occupancy to reduce running costs.

Mountain biking is increasing in popularity and filling the lodge during the summer months. The lodge is not well equipped for bike storage and we are investigating options.

Tiobunga

Tiobunga is in good shape after the flood remediation work in 2019. There are some minor water ingress issues around the gas heater flue and where the balcony steel beams meet the front wall. These are being addressed.

We have been looking at alternative drying room strategies: dehumidifiers to replace heaters, boot rack with air blowers. These have the potential for significant energy savings. These investigations are happening in the background due to the high workload due to COVID-19 and also due to cost control measures. These strategies may be applicable to all three lodges.

Kyilla

We are progressing towards lodging a development application to replace the rotten lower sections of the A-frames on the northern wing of the lodge. The southern A-frames were done a few years ago. A work party late last year addressed water ingress from the northern fire escape entry into the wall of room 2 and near the pizza oven. There are other places still



needing attention, notably where snow load on the eastern (uphill) side buckles the roof and causes perforations as well as around the western dormer windows.

Window winders continue to be an issue and we are purchasing spares for rapid replacement during the season. Please take care to unlock the window before you wind the winder.

Strategic Development

Little work has been done in this area this year due to the high workload due to COVID-19. We hope to spend more time here in 2022 to ensure that the club maintains relevance for future generations as snow seasons reduce due to climate change.

Membership

Membership numbers now stand at:

Membership Class	Number of Members
Life Member	10
Adult Member	555
Junior Member	151
Adult Christie Member	214
Junior Christie Member	3
Adult Summer Member	106
Junior Summer Member	19

Thanks

The last year followed on from the previous year with a huge workload on the many people who help run the club. The committee: Ben Coutts, Christina Grant, Curtis Hancock, Darrell Porter, Dave Pember, Meg Smythe, Richard Radajewski, Rob McGregor, Russell Kerrison, Warwick Forster and I have willingly volunteered many hours of effort, most of which are in addition to the time spent in committee meetings.

The COVIDSafe Subcommittee: Christina Grant, Darrell Porter, Dave Pember, Kellie Meehan, Lynne Wyatt, Margaret Simpson, Meg Smythe, Mike Bromfield, Richard Radajewski and I volunteered many more hours, meeting weekly and eventually reducing to monthly to monitor the unfolding pandemic environment and recommend policy changes to the committee.

Our lodge managers Kellie Meehan and Lynne Wyatt went above and beyond to keep the lodges running smoothly. Our bookkeeper Sonia Garland provided great service as always. Mark Green has provided good service to members over a number of years as admin manager and shouldered a big burden last year in processing the extraordinary number of cancellations as well as chasing up members for pre-trip declarations. I welcome Arlene Jarvines who has



taken over the role of Admin Manager. Michael Wentworth-Perry has done a sterling job editing every edition of Christie.

Christina Grant will not be standing for the position of VP Management this year. It is a vital role on the committee and has been especially so during the pandemic as lodge operations and bookings procedures fall within the role and have required constant attention. Christina did an outstanding job in the role and I thank her for her service.

Richard Radajewski will not be standing for the position of VP Kyilla this year. Richard assisted the former VP Kyilla Bruce Hartican in managing Kyilla for a number of years before stepping up into the role in 2019. In addition to keeping a steady hand on Kyilla, Richard has offered valuable medical perspective in the Club's COVIDSafe efforts.

Bryan Collis has been continuing to serve the club since stepping down as Treasurer last year. He has provided many hours of advice and assistance to the current Treasurer, particularly with the COVID-19 rent relief dispute with NPWS and shepherding the accounts through audit.

Thanks also to all members who have helped the Club at work parties and in other ways, as well as doing all the things that need to be done while staying in the lodges to ensure they run harmoniously and efficiently.

Looking forward

Brindabella Ski Club continues to be a great organisation with three top lodges in wonderful locations, motivated membership and fantastic atmosphere. While the past two years have been tough, we continue to be in a sound financial position and members are maintaining faith. In the short term we can look forward to all members having the opportunity to stay in our lodges this year under lodge operations that are moving towards normality and for competition coming back. In the longer term we seek to improve facilities for summer activities as well as maintain winter facilities.

I look forward to seeing you in the mountains this year

James Lawrence
President