

President's report for the 85th AGM and the 2017-18 year

This year began strongly with 4 wonderful new members welcomed onto the committee, including Kate Henderson, Nikki Crossan, Leanie Geldenhuys and Emma Hammond. This fresh blood is crucial for the survival of the club, allowing the natural attrition of long time members, such as Janine Rauber, Nikki Fitzpatrick, Barbara Lee, Emily Green, Kay Carlton and Mary McKay. I would like to acknowledge the considerable contribution that these people have made over the years, each in their own way; which has helped to build the strong club that it is known as today. Of course all of these ladies would be warmly welcomed back onto the committee any time, and we hope that they will continue to use the Lodge for as long as they are willing and able. Our thoughts have been with Janine and Nikki and their families in particular, as they struggle with their health.

It's been a valuable year of consolidation for the club. We've updated our constitution, which was first registered in 1948 and last revised in 1967; and this has been uploaded onto the NZ companies Office website. Vicki and I have drafted up job descriptions for both the secretarial and treasury roles to help make expectations clear. A vision statement has also been developed as a committee, which reads *"To provide and maintain an affordable lodge accommodation at Coronet Peak for the use of club members first and paying guests secondly, in a unique environment for both winter and summer sports. Also to provide affordable, quality ski weeks for school children during the winter school holidays, involving supervision, meals, accommodation, lift hire, lessons and gear hire as required. The purpose is to encourage snow-sports and other out-doors experiences; and not for pecuniary gain."*

Nikki took over from Janine as publicity officer and has done a great job promoting our ski weeks in the Southland Express, and has spent many hours researching a club promotional banner. Thank you so much for your patience and perseverance with this Nikki, and we look forward to the end result in time for the next winter season.

\$25,000 worth of savings was transferred to term deposit in May to increase our interest earnings. A working group has been seconded to look into creating a family room and work towards upgrading the male and female bathrooms, which, subject to funding and consents, will commence after the lodge closes this spring.

Alan and Jan have done an incredible job as custodians in our lodge since 2005. They welcome and brief groups, repair little bits and pieces, clear snow, and ensure that the lodge is clean, warm and inviting. Sadly they have now indicated that this winter will be their last; which will provide some challenges in finding suitable replacements.

With Alan and Jan's assistance the lodge check-in check-out process has been updated to include photos and laminated; and the "where's and wherefores" for group leaders documented and laminated to compliment the evening briefing.

With the increasing popularity of the lodge for group bookings, two member-only weekends were introduced last winter. These were not particularly well patronised, so the committee will reduce it to one weekend, to coincide with the Queenstown Winter Festival; and publicise it better to our club members. A bunkroom is also now reserved for club members during weekends.

A productive and fun weekend was spent at the lodge on a working bee, involving mainly painting and cleaning. Thank you on behalf of the whole club - Wayne Hopcroft, Kass Rauber, Martha Hogan, Leanie Geldenhuys and John Kennedy.

After a truck-load of issues last year, we are so fortunate that Wayne has continued in his role as lodge manager, co-ordinating the working bee, repairs and maintenance and coal supply. He has been instrumental having a new, snow-shedding staircase built, which will link the drive-through with the road above. Wayne, we are so grateful for all that you do! During the season, pillows have been replaced, a fancy new oven installed and a the t.v. replaced after a mid-winter power surge cooked our last one.

A working group has been formed with representatives from each lodge at Coronet Peak, to resolve an issue with our water supply. Thank you Gordon for joining this group as our representative. We look forward to getting this all resolved to NZSki's satisfaction soon.

Police checks have been introduced for ski week hut parents and parent helpers, as 2017 was the last year that the service was provided free of charge. The results started coming through half-way through the first ski week, so I was very relieved that there were no nasty surprises, although I'm sure that the process does act as a deterrent.

A new \$250 bond has been introduced for ski weeks to cover our excess on insurance claims and we have made it compulsory for the children to wear helmets and snowboarders to wear wrist-guards, which are available from NZSki at a nominal charge.

While week 2 quickly fills to capacity, we still struggle for numbers during week 1; and allowed some fee-paying families to join us with their own bunkroom. This flexibility is likely to help grow ski week numbers in the future; and also has the potential to provide some new committee members. An idea to include a 3rd week for Australian families before our ski week starts has struggled to eventuate due to the inability to promote the concept to suitable families in Australia; and while there is capacity during week 1; Australian families will always be welcome.

The club is very grateful for the generous contribution of lamb from Blue Sky Meats and cheese from Fonterra. These top-notch products add to the home-cooked vibe and help to keep costs down for participants.

Snow conditions for the first ski week were thin, but we were fortunate to get a considerable dump of snow over several days, which provided some outstanding conditions for both weeks. Thank you Martha, Debbie, Wayne and John for making the ski weeks awesome for both the kids and parent helpers.

Thank you Kate for taking over the secretarial role from Emily. Kate is extremely busy and it's been quite a juggle for her, which is very much appreciated.

Vicki – what can I say? The job that you have been doing as club treasurer for 6 years has been well beyond the call of duty. Apart from sorting out the hornet's nest that she inherited, Vicki not only keeps the books in order, but also tirelessly arranges all the ski week bookings, which has been a mammoth task in itself; and we look forward to having this process more automated with on-line systems. Vicki has also managed the lodge bookings out of season until Kate took over this year; and she liaises with Gemma over the continuing development of our increasingly impressive website. We are very reluctant to let Vicki go, she leaves very large boots to fill. The committee must focus on sharing some of these tasks out to more manageable units.

Thanks also to the rest of the committee for turning up to meetings and providing some robust discussion at times. It has sometimes been challenging to steer forwards, but a range of views does reflect the diversity of the club members that we represent. I look forward to the next 12 months, serving the club in any way that the committee sees fit.

Sarah Kennedy
March 2018