

## President's report for the 86<sup>th</sup> AGM and the 2018-19 year

The Southland Ski Club is in mourning. In late May Janine Rauber lost her battle with cancer and then within 5 months Guido, (who was not coping well without Janine) followed. Janine & Guido have been very active members of the club for more than 20 years and will be greatly missed. Janine ran ski weeks for 12 winters and served as president for 7 years until March-15, during which time both she and Guido personally saw to much of the out-of-season lodge repairs and maintenance; so much so that there was a large void when she was no longer up to attending committee meetings.

Then on 2-March this year, Nicky Fitzpatrick, who has also been involved with the club for several decades, serving some 36 years on the committee and helping to run ski weeks for several years, also lost her battle with cancer. It is the committee's intention to install memorial photos at the lodge so that the significant contribution of these three life members is not forgotten.

Adding to the club's woes, after running the lodge during winter for 13 seasons, Alan and Jan Burrows have "called it a day". This incredible couple have managed the bookings and lodge fees during winter, welcomed guests, cleaned up afterwards, attended to repairs and maintenance during the season, kept the fire going and the lodge warm, shovelled snow, liaised with tradesmen AND the committee, AND **always** with a smile and warm heart. Alan & Jan were awarded life membership at the AGM last year and we hope to welcome them back to the lodge often as guests.

We have also lost our wonderful, sunny treasurer Vicki Murphy; who stepped down after serving 5 ½ years on the committee, both as treasurer and ski week booking manager. As treasurer, Vicki inherited a 'hornets nest', which she quietly untangled and restored the club to an even keel. As well as being pedantic in these roles, Vicki has kept a close eye on the club correspondence and has played a vital role in all our external relationships, including managing our lodge bookings over summer.

Vicki has also been instrumental in introducing and refining our wonderful website and Facebook presences and this year she has had a link to the NZSki website imbedded into the ski week application form for instruction, gear hire and lift tickets. While this still requires refining, the system is more streamlined as far as the club is concerned. Vicki has also introduced the cash manager programme for our cash book, which will simplify and help make our systems more transparent. Vicki has also been a tremendous support to me personally. Losing her is a great loss to the club.

Coming up to 4 years of active membership on the committee, during which he has helped Martha Hogan and Debbie Warrender to run ski week 2, Wayne Hopcroft has also held the lodge maintenance manager position for 3 years, so we will be sad to lose him as well. Among his many other quiet and thoughtful contributions, last year Wayne had a new set of 'snow shedding' stairs designed and installed outside at the lodge; which will be known as the "Hopcroft Steps". Thank you both Wayne and wife Heather for your considerable contributions, it has been lovely getting you know you both and we wish you well with all the extra free time you will now have!

On a more positive note; we were incredibly fortunate to welcome Denis and Lynelle Woods onto the committee in October-18; who, between them will fill many of the voids mentioned, including the vital roles of club treasurer, lodge custodians, lodge booking officer, lodge maintenance managers and club correspondence/Facebook hawk-eyes. On behalf of the club I can't thank Denis and Lynelle enough for offering their support and hope that all of these roles aren't too arduous for them.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Leanie Geldenhuys for continuing with the unenviable role of secretary, which she does cheerfully and competently, despite English being her second language. The club will now enthusiastically encourage Leanie to actually take up skiing, so that we have her hooked in long-term!

Thank you too Nikki Crossan for continuing with the vital role as club publicity officer and newsletter editor, a position she has held and developed since April 2017. I strongly believe that the increase in lodge nights booked and completely filling both ski-weeks last winter is directly related to Nikki's hard work. We also LOVE our wonderful new club banner that Nikki has had created. Thank you too for taking over the website management Nikki, we look forward to many years of you and your family's involvement with the club.

Martha and Debbie, thank you too for your contribution and support in running such a fun ski week 2. It is no secret that this week has traditionally been the one to get onto!! Martha's support as vice-president has kept me grounded and she has always been quick to accept the role of 2-IC minute-taker whenever required, for which the committee is grateful.

Thank you too for your continued contribution Kass, Emily, Gordon and Viv. The considerable number of years' experience on the committee has been valuable and has provided continuity during the many personnel changes through the years. Thank you Prue Halstead and Sean Woodward for joining the committee at the last AGM. We look forward to many years of symbiotic relationships with you both.

As a committee we have again achieved a satisfactory trading result this year. Despite a reduction in lodge fees of almost \$3,000, revenue from ski weeks increased by almost \$4,900 and subs by just over \$700. We have been able to reduce total expenses by almost \$600, resulting in a \$17,300 trading surplus for the year, exactly \$4,253 more than last year. Consequently, our term deposit has been increased by \$5,000 to \$30,000. Our appreciation goes to both Fonterra and Blue Sky Meats, as their sponsorship helps to keep our ski week food bill affordable to families.

We had a very productive working bee thanks to Wayne & Heather Hopcroft, Nikki & Arron Crossan, the Kennedys and the Ashman family. All the coal requirements for the season was delivered, 1 bunkroom had mattresses, pillows & protectors replaced, the hall-way walls were repaired and re-painted, as well as some areas in the bunk-rooms. The custodians' queen bed, duvet & cover, duchess, television and cellphone were all replaced; and the lodge was given a thorough clean. A new lock-box was also installed at the lodge, which has revolutionised authorised entry during the off-season. The Department of Conservation has generously provided external paint free of charge in conjunction with Dulux, so we need suitable weather for our postponed working bee to get this done.

We look forward to the next year with great anticipation. After much deliberation, our bathroom upgrades have finally been approved by the committee and funding applications have been lodged; which include the cost of an external coal storage facility, replacement of some exterior south-wall cladding and a commercial range-hood in the kitchen. Driveway signage has been produced to deter inconsiderate parking at the lodge drive-through and new policies introduced, including check-in check-out times and late cancellation policies to avoid disappointment around bookings.

Thank you all for your commitment and enthusiasm with club affairs over the year, I dearly hope that many of you will continue being an integral part of the Southland Ski Club for many years to come.

Sarah Kennedy  
March 2019