

## President's report for the 87<sup>th</sup> AGM and the 2019-20 season

It gives me great pleasure to present the Southland Ski Club's 87<sup>th</sup> president's report. This year has been a lot more settled and I thank our fantastic committee on behalf of the entire Southland Ski Club.

Firstly, I would like to thank Denis and Lynelle Woods for so willingly filling the vast void left with the departure of Alan and Jan Burrows after 13 winters in the custodian role. First impressions really do count, and I'm sure you couldn't get a more welcoming couple for all of our guests; who, at the same time quietly ensure that everyone tows the line in meeting expectations during their stay and lodge fees are paid in a timely manner. I would also like to acknowledge the warm relationship that Denis and Lynelle have quickly developed with NZSki management. NZSki is always in the background at the lodge, and the relationship that we have with them is vital.

Lynelle has also kindly taken over the bookings, liaison and confirmation role; which has streamlined the process. She also keeps a careful eye on club emails and our Facebook page and makes a valuable contribution with this as well. Serendipitously, Denis has also taken over the treasurer role from Vicki Murphy, and as an accountant has been doing a fine job with this as well. We are extremely fortunate to have them both in these roles; but we are somewhat vulnerable should Denis and Lynelle decide to step away from their involvement with the club.

Leanie Geldenhuys has continued to provide a solid service in her role as secretary. We appreciate the time and effort that she dedicates to the club, while juggling a full-time job and active social life. Thank you so much Leanie from South Africa, for choosing snow skiing as your new sport in New Zealand. We are fortunate that there is no bob-sledding club in Southland!

Nikki Crossan has contributed a considerable amount to the club this year as well. She puts a lot of thought into producing regular and informative newsletters, which, I am sure are highly anticipated by all club members. Nikki has been instrumental in liaising with Rob Sellus to get our website revamped, a daunting task no doubt! Nikki has also had club hoodies produced for our ski week participants, committee and members; and these have been very popular and have given the proud wearers a sense of belonging.

On behalf of the club, thank you so much Debby Egan, Aaron Crossan and their parent helpers for running week 1 and Martha Hogan and her parent helpers for running week 2. I appreciate the time and effort that goes into making these run smoothly, both before, during and after the week; and the fact that both weeks were booked out last year and that so many children want to return is a testament in itself! A new voucher system was introduced for ski week gear hire last year, and the parents sorted the gear out before checking their children into the lodge. This streamlined the process considerably and put us top of the lodge popularity stakes with NZSki. We are sorry to lose the Martha Hogan – Wayne Hopcroft team after 4 consecutive winters; but quite understand the desire to step back and allow new people to throw their own fresh spin on the ski weeks.

Unfortunately, due to the Corona Virus, Covid-19 it seems unlikely that the club will be able to offer ski weeks during the July school holidays this winter. Covid-19 will also change the way the club will operate this winter; but the New Zealand rules are evolving as our status changes, so the full impact on the club remains to be seen. For example, the club ran 2 highly successful members-only weekends last winter. We had envisaged running 4 of these this winter, but Covid-19 restrictions mean that we now plan to make most weekends for members only and I hope that they will be well supported. We have also held a couple of meetings on-line, and although these take a bit of getting used to, electronic meetings are an efficient way of getting together for many of us that have to travel considerable distances from all over Southland; and I see a permanent place for this to some extent in the future.

The club has had a busy year, full of activity. The lodge exterior walls were repainted in Dulux Lindis to blend in better with the tussocks below. Most of the paint was kindly donated by DOC in conjunction with Dulux and we are also very grateful to Andrew Cameron and his highly efficient paint gun for helping the working party crew to get the job done in one fine day. Thank you too, Sean Woodwood, Denis and Lynelle Woods for working like crazy to get all the cleaning and preparation work done in addition to the paint job during a single working bee in late May last year.

The water system was also upgraded before last winter for all the lodges at Coronet Peak; and water meters installed. This has been done to provide better continuity of supply and prevent outside contamination and we are grateful to Rob Greig from Gobblers hut for coordinating this project.

It is with tremendous excitement that, after over two years of planning, fundraising and delays outside of our control, James Carter and his team have finally commenced work on our lodge bathroom upgrade. Thank you so much for your time choosing flooring, wall cladding, benches, hand-basins, loos, showers, fittings and fixtures Prue, Lynelle, Nikki, Debby and Greer. We just can't wait to see the finished product.

Although the DOC lease is not due to expire until March 2026, because the lodge is already outside of its DOC consented footprint, it was decided to apply for a new lease for 30 years with a footprint large enough to cover the current building, plus an external coal storage facility; and future-proof the lodge a bit with extra capacity to expand the kitchen area so that this forms a simple rectangle shape with the dining-lounge area. Consent was granted quickly with QLDC, but there have been lengthy delays with DOC and we still await their decision.

In October the committee devised a 3-5 year plan for the club. Once the bathroom upgrade is complete this can be used as a guide for planning "where to" next.

Thank you all once again for your support in running the club. We have a very strong team and there is no doubt that the support that is provided contributes to improvements to the lodge, processes and relationships along the way.

Nga mihi

Sarah Kennedy  
May 2020