



President's report for the 89th AGM and the 2021-22 season

It gives me pleasure to present my 6th president's report for the 2021-22 season. As we head into our third uncertain winter under the Covid-19 cloud, I wonder if and how the club running will be affected this year and whether the way we have been modifying our operations with social distancing, mask-wearing and on-line meetings will become the new norm. Denis reported that the lockdown last winter cost the club approximately \$10,000 in lost operating revenue. This highlights the value that each and every one of our willing club volunteers provide in maintaining the club's low operating cost model, ensuring its survival during such challenging times.

Thank you so much once again Denis and Lynelle, for running such a smooth operation as custodians under such challenging circumstances. From the seamless dealing with bookings, welcoming, managing and invoicing of our guests to the attendance of lodge maintenance and guiding the committee on structural and operational contingencies, you are both ABSOLUTE GOLD and I cannot understate what a huge relief it is to have you commit for a fourth season. Lynelle, thank you too for taking over much of the club correspondence as our two new secretaries find their feet, for the work that you both do to keep our members informed and in promoting the club on social media. Denis, we are so fortunate to have you as treasurer and the synergies that that brings with managing bookings and lodge operations is a significant advantage to the club.

It has been a quiet year, operations – wise. We replaced the mattresses, pillows and protectors in bunkroom A in autumn 2021 and will do the same for bunkroom B this autumn, on rotation. Committee members did a wonderful job in May last year clearing, prepping and painting the dining room – lounge ceiling and walls and with new floor-length curtains and rearranged wall art, the room has been transformed. Thank you so much to Denis's sister Geraldine for re-covering the bench-seat squabs so expertly and for Dulux for generously providing the paint and supplies.

It was decided not to proceed with the purchase and installation of a new commercial range-hood for now, due to the cost of relocation should the kitchen-dining-lounge area be remodelled. A new mini-fridge was purchased for the custodian room and fabulous new memorial photographs, complete with plaques installed to commemorate those that have made significant contribution to the club over the years, including Alan and Jan Burrow, the late Janine and late Guido Rauber, and the late Nicky Fitzpatrick.

NZSki completed its sewerage treatment upgrade over the summer to comply with Regional Council rules and the club made it's first 1/3 contribution of \$6,411 towards the capital cost of this in Nov-21. To assist the club, NZSki approved the provision of a family ski pass for 2 adults and up to 3 children as a fund-raising raffle to be used in conjunction with free accommodation and an evening meal at the lodge. However, due to timing, this has been rolled over for this coming season.

In terms of policy decisions, the committee revised the club membership criteria to "Must be a Southland resident, or having a strong affiliation with Southland, at committee discretion." It was agreed to reserve weekends for committee members and the lodge Covid policy was amended to require guests to BYO tea-towels and pillow-cases. A \$100 contribution from parent helpers towards

meals during ski weeks was also introduced, at the lead chaperone's discretion. The communications documentation with ski week parents has been tweaked, but work is ongoing as we aim to streamline the application process that we have in conjunction with NZSki.

On independent legal advice, the requirement for a common seal was removed from our constitution, however, the companies office subsequently advised that this cannot be legally done until passed by Parliament, on their 'to do list' for an extended time.

Martha, thank you on behalf of the club for the 7 years that you have contributed as a committee member and as a very capable lead chaperone for 6 winter school holidays. Reluctantly we accept your resignation, but with the firm proviso that you can be called upon to step in at short notice as part of our contingency plan.

Debby Egan, thank you so much for your contribution as a committee member since 2019 and for running ski week 1 during 2019 and 2021 with such dedication. Your feedback for improvement is valuable and your contribution in both roles will certainly be missed as you step away to pursue other interests. Thank you too for also being back-up ski week chaperone and relief custodian, if required.

I would also like to acknowledge the contribution of cheese from Fonterra and legs of lamb from Silver Fern Farms for our ski weeks. These organisations have assisted us in providing local produce and in keeping our costs affordable for Southland families for many years, for which we are very grateful.

We are also very sad that Nikki and Aaron Crossan moved North to Palmerson last year. Nikki joined the committee in April-17 and has done a wonderful job producing newsletters for the club, writing publicity articles, liaising with our website designer, managing the production and sales of our very own club hoodies and assisting during ski weeks. Aaron's prowess as head chef during ski week 1 is legendary and their fresh ideas and enthusiasm has been wonderful. Thank you both for your respective contributions; we hope that your relationship with the club continues for many years to come.

Thank you for your advice and contributions to the smooth running of the club, Sean Woodward and Prue Halstead. The colour that you and your gorgeous family bring to lodge life is certainly infectious.

With all of this attrition, we are **very** fortunate to have welcomed Carly Anderson and Jo Keary onto the committee as secretaries. Fresh faces and new ideas from a different perspective are invaluable to the vibrancy of the club, let alone the sharing of responsibilities, lightening the load for the whole committee. Thank you too Jo, for taking over the coordination of ski weeks, which I am sure will make things more stream-lined and cohesive this year.

Despite losing some valuable members, I am excited about the strong team environment that has developed on the committee and look forward to whatever the following year brings, together with your support in whatever role that the committee requires.

Nga mihi

Sarah Kennedy
April 2022