



## President's report for the 88<sup>th</sup> AGM and the 2020-21 season

It is with great pleasure that I present my 5<sup>th</sup> president's report for the 2020-21 season. 2020 will go down in history as New Zealand's "COVID-19 year" and I would like to acknowledge each and every committee member for embracing on-line meetings and in forming a comprehensive lodge operational strategy for the custodians to bring into operation at short notice should the need arise; which it inevitably did and may do again in the future. Thank you to our wonderful custodians Lynelle & Denis, for your input into this and in the implementation, which I'm sure was much easier "said than done". Thanks too Denis, for taking the initiative to secure a \$4,484 grant from the Community Resilience Fund to help cover our Covid-related losses.

The other notable event was in finally getting the bathroom upgrade completed and functional **just in time** to start the season and before our funding was withdrawn. We experienced delays securing funding, then builder availability and finally Covid-19 delays. James Carter builders worked hard under exceptional circumstances (with snow on the ground outside and under the Covid cloud) to meet our strict deadline, for which the club is eternally grateful. (These men were also very kind in downing tools to help me unload half a tonne of coal into our wonderful new coal storage facility in double-quick time). I would also like to acknowledge Vincent Club's assistance in providing alternative bathroom facilities to the builders during their stay at our lodge.

The installation of gas hot water heating in the bathrooms and an extra shower in the laundry area were exciting surprises, not anticipated during the planning phase. Thank you Prue, Lynelle, Nikki, Debby and Greer for your design input. The new bathrooms are functional and fabulous! Thank you to the following providers for their generous contributions: The Community Trust of Southland: \$45,000, the Southern Trust: \$30,000, the NZ Community Trust: \$15,000 and the Lion Foundation: \$5,000. Thank you too Denis, for completing the "necessary evil" funding accountability requirements.

After much expert advice, planning, consultation and consents, NZSki commenced upgrading the communal waste-water treatment system over summer so as to meet the strict new outflow water quality compliance requirements. Our lodge can now expect a capital cost contribution fee of \$17,000 (payable over 2-3 years); and additional annual running costs of \$520, which will be invoiced by NZSki.

11 months after our application, the Department of Conservation has agreed on a new concession for 30 years to 30-Sept-2050. The annual lease has risen from \$3,000 to \$4,275 + GST, but the building footprint has been adjusted from 250 to 290 m<sup>2</sup>, bringing the existing lodge into compliance, while providing the capacity we require for the new coal storage facility and also kitchen-dining-living room extensions in the future, should the committee wish. The QLDC has granted a Resource Consent for these further extensions until 5-Dec-24 and a Building Consent will need to be applied for once the plans have been finalised. The committee should decide whether it wishes to proceed with this by Oct-22, given the lead-in time to arrange funding.

Denis & Lynelle, thank you for your seamless operation of the lodge, for tweeking our systems and processes and the strong relationships that you are developing with our club members, NZSki, funders and tradesmen. Your sunny personalities shine through into the club Facebook and Instagram pages,

which undoubtedly has contributed to the increased popularity of membership and lodge stays for the genuine, warm, club experience.

Thank you too for keeping track of the emails and managing the bookings so efficiently Lynelle, and Denis for sweeping the chimney and all the other small but not insignificant repairs and maintenance jobs during the season on the lodge and for managing the club finances so effectively as treasurer. The synergies in having these roles so closely aligned are a great advantage to the club.

Thank you SO much Denis & Sean for clearing the drain on the upside of the lodge, the blockage of which had been causing water to leak under the building & coming up at the entrance to the custodians' room. This leaky problem has had us stumped for a couple of years, following many 'wild-goose-chase' roof inspections carried out by the builders. Denis and Sean have installed novaflow to prevent a recurrence in future.

Leanie has continued to provide a valuable service to the club as secretary, keeping tabs on correspondence, the task schedule, writing the agenda and minutes, health and safety and generally keeping everybody informed and on-track. Thank you Leanie and we wish her all the best during her year of locum work around wider NZ.

Nikki, thank you so much for the quality newsletters regularly produced and for keeping our website current in conjunction with our web designer Rob Sellus.

Prue and Sean, thank you so much for your contribution to the committee, and in particular, your input into legal matters and sensitive document wording.

Although the Ski Weeks were shelved last winter due to Covid, Martha and Debby - your dedication and respective contributions to the committee during meetings is always valuable and I would like to acknowledge this and thank you on behalf of the children for committing to running our respective ski weeks this year.

The Southland Ski Club committee has developed into a close group of friends, who genuinely enjoy catching up at meetings, and the lodge that the Southland Ski Club owns and operates is arguably THE best in the country. The club has carried out a major renovation under difficult circumstances and remains in a very sound financial position. It has been a privilege to be president for 5 years and I look forward to many more years' involvement with club in whatever capacity the committee sees fit, as we continue to operate the lodge and work towards our short and longer-term plans.

Nga mihi

Sarah Kennedy  
March 2021