

BURRUMBEEP SKI CLUB – MOUNT HOTHAM

PRESIDENTS REPORT – 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Good morning members and guests,

I am pleased to provide my fifth report as President of the Burrumbeep Ski Club regarding the 2019/2020 financial year.

In somewhat very different circumstances to our usual AGM, that alternates between Ballarat and Melbourne, we find ourselves on our own territory this morning most probably at home adhering to the physical distancing requirements due to Covid 19.

Whilst Covid 19 is a significant inconvenience in so many ways and negatively impacts us all, I am confident our club has the expertise and great governance to work through the challenges as they present themselves and effectively minimise any potential risks etc.

These “black swan” events, like the GFC of 2007, are unpredictable and appear so swiftly without warning, and are therefore difficult to prepare for or deal with in the moment to avoid impact!

I would like to thank all our members for your ongoing support of the current committee, who have been working together as team for the best part of 6 years. Whilst conservatively investing surplus funds in annual improvements, we also have cash in the bank that will allow us to survive the economic misfortune that will come about due to the current global pandemic.

The first challenge we identified early on was how to hold the AGM remotely – Skype or Microsoft Teams, and even House Party was tossed around, however thanks to our ever-reliable Bookings Officer/ IT genius aka Tim Lewis we quickly had a solution for beaming you all in via ZOOM!!!!

So please accept my warmest of welcome's. And hopefully we have now introduced a new medium to assist those members located remotely or interstate to participate in our AGM.

Tim continues to make our lives that much easier by efficiently managing the booking process and recently led the subcommittee discussion in terms of booking conditions and requirements to ensure ALL members have equitable opportunity to secure their preferred accommodation dates at Burrumbeep. Whilst we are quietly optimistic that there will be a ski season in 2020 we are also realistic. The actions of the Vail resorts in North America in response to Covid 19 provide some insights however, it is still too early to predict what will happen on our own turf. Unfortunately, the committee are planning for minimal if any recreational skiing at Hotham in season 2020.

Additionally, I would like to acknowledge our current Committee, who meet regularly throughout the year, and communicate on a weekly basis to seek advice and feedback from one another and are always aligned as we work towards our common goals.

It is typically these committee members (driving 6-7 hours in one direction- i.e. Pete and Marg Leeke). along with a handful of regulars (Courtney and Roz Pern, Lyndon and Robyn Dodd, and if I missed a couple more I am accountable however the point I am making is this: our work party weekend dates are communicated well in advance, we rely on you as members to participate in essential ongoing maintenance of the lodge and subsequently would like to have more in attendance- be which goes towards underpinning the value of our membership - have who make the effort to attend work party weekends – lets not forget our club DNA

Pete Leeke and George Davies also have a great handle in terms of the ongoing maintenance of the lodge, and are always making improvements that probably go unnoticed to many of us, but just make our experience that much better – as an example, the improvements to the BAA area, a PET project of George's, was a significant improvement completed over the June long weekend – so thanks George for taking the initiative and leading this project.

Pete Kilpatrick in his role as Treasurer does a fantastic job in reconciling the club's accounts, and whilst conservative in his handling of the purse strings, he is always open to the Committee investing funds to improve on what we already have.

James Kelly as Secretary, and Murray handling membership movements and succession, ensure we are always compliant in terms of recording minutes and adhering to the requirements required as a registered non for-profit organisation, which is how we are classified.

Whilst on the topic of finances, I will make mention of the levy for this year. Given the impact of Covid -19, our current financial position and recent correspondence from the resort management board, I would like to confirm that the Annual Work Party levy for this current financial year will be reduced to \$150.00.

We have considered the levy over several weeks and want to do what's right for our members whilst understanding the fixed costs of running the lodge, which have either already been paid or will require payment during this season.

The resort management board have not confirmed this but floated the idea that the State Government will rebate 100% of our 2020 site rental. This is a saving of approx. \$11,500.

We rely heavily on the accommodation revenue each year to arrive at a net surplus position, however this will not be the case in 2020.

We want our members to feel some financial relief in this unfortunate period, we must preserve our savings to the best of our ability. Whilst we have ongoing fixed costs to pay and most importantly, we should continue with the next stages of our capital improvement plan, so we hope you agree and will all come on this journey with us.

Before elaborating on this further, there is one other committee member, Georgie Cruickshank, who is no doubt the busiest of us all – juggling a newborn and toddler amongst all other things – yet still manages to

keep us all informed on Burrumbeep activity via our newsletter and the many other things that pop up. Georgie just gets stuff done, and with no fuss – so thanks Georgie for your valuable contribution.

Looking Forward

You may recall from last year's report that James and Georgie undertook a lodge utilisation study and a survey of the members – just to recap the purpose for this was to set the direction and proposed masterplan for the next three stages of our capital works program to ensure we are making decisions with the longer term in mind.

With this information at hand and after several referrals from our planning consultant and local builder, we met with John Carter at Burrumbeep over the work party weekend in March.

John's business is called Carter Perspective, he is based in Bright, and has a passion for high country architectural design.

Following our meeting with John, we felt he was the right fit for us, so we engaged him to prepare some initial concept plans for the lodge.

What I am about to show you is merely 'concept only' and the committee have not to date provided or discussed feedback. In the coming weeks, we will review the plans in more detail and consolidate our proposed recommendations back to John Carter.

In summary, stage 1 would provide for:

- A new entry to the lodge
- ski room, ski storage
- boot room with boot boxes & seating
- separate drying room with seating
- improved flow through into upstairs
- & luggage drop/waiting space.

Stage 2

- Improved space utilisation of the Kitchen, pantry, fridges etc.

At this early stage, the committee would like to work towards having agreed concept plans in place by the end of this coming winter and start the approval process for obtaining a planning permit shortly thereafter.

We are all very excited with these initial concepts and are motivated to keep our lodge moving forwards and to lift the bar in terms of comfort, experience and value for money – what we are doing is improving the value of your memberships. The lodges that have not invested or improved their facilities are on the brink of collapse, and that was before Covid 19 came on the scene.

When a club does find itself in this unfortunate position, the value of their membership reduces significantly. I have spoken to several stakeholders and friends with club memberships at Falls and Mt Buller and the theme is the same- if you invest, maintain and improve your facilities, you can achieve financial security.

So, what does this ALL mean if you are a member of the Burrumbeep Ski Club?

- You can all look forward to long fast morning runs down Upper Imagine
- Or after a heavy snowfall, dropping into Mary's Slide for some deep powder knowing you are about to Wipeout in the Shute before the creek, and if that didn't bring you undone the approach to the bridge surely will!!
- After a long hard day on the skis, you will always find comfort in sharing cups of tea staring at the view from the upper lounge.

This list is endless, so I ask you all in these uncertain times to take a moment and reflect on all the fun times you've had at Burrumbeep with family and friends – new and old! I have heard it from many of you that Hotham is your HAPPY place as it is mine. We should be grateful for the culture that we have all created from the original founding members back in 1972-73 right through until this day. We are a highly regarded part of the Hotham community and that's a handy position to be in.

I would like to thank the committee for donating their time and expertise as we would not be able to achieve our goals without the teamwork exhibited by this group. There are also several active members, who also contribute to the club in many ways, and we appreciate them as they make the club a better place for all of us to enjoy.

I wish you all the very best for the difficult weeks and months we all have ahead of us, and let's hope we have another great ski season in 2020. Yet if that does not occur, let's hope we come back bigger and better in 2021!!!