

BURRUMBEEP SKI CLUB – MOUNT HOTHAM
PRESIDENTS REPORT – 2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Good morning members and guests,

I am pleased to provide my Sixth report as President of the Burrumbeep Ski Club regarding the 2020/2021 financial year.

In stark contrast to last year's AGM we are all extremely relieved and grateful that we are able to conduct this meeting in a somewhat normal setting and reignite the social and friendly culture that has long characterised the members of this fantastic ski club.

I am immensely proud of how the committee were able to navigate our way through the unprecedented financial challenges that we had to overcome last year. As you know we wanted to do what was right for our members, whilst also preserving our cash reserves that we have worked so hard to build up over the last 5 years so we can re-invest in our ongoing refurbishment masterplan for the club. I am sure when you leave today's meeting and reflect on the reports that have been presented, you will agree, we got the correct balance in terms of discounting the levy for members who would not reap the full benefits of their membership for season 2020. We had to consider how we would cover the fixed costs for operating the lodge, despite the fact that the resort was closed for all but the second week of the July school holidays.

It was very evident from Peter Kilpatrick's Treasurers report that the various options for Covid 19 compensation were explored to ensure the financial impact of minimal revenue did not create a significant loss and erode our savings. The numerous application forms and submitting documents was significant and very time consuming.

I would like to acknowledge the work Tim, Peter K, George and Georgie undertook to ensure all the relevant information was provided and compliant.

We kept an eagle eye out for every form of compensation that we could apply for. Without this valuable contribution from these committee members the outcome of the 2020 season would have been very different.

I also wanted to acknowledge James for his enthusiasm and the research that he undertook to ensure the lodge had a Covid safe plan in place, so we could operate the lodge and accept bookings.

James was determined we were going to be skiing and put in hours of work ensuring we had a fully compliant plan in place – unfortunately as we all know our second lockdown and ring of steel ended the season, but how fortunate we were in Victoria that we didn't get the snow fall expected, which softened the blow and disappointment- who would have thought an unplanned Pandemic would align with one of the worst seasons for snowfall in the last 10 years!!!!

However we are back!

So bring on some heavy dumps this year as our members are chomping at the bit to get back on the planks or plank and rip down Heavenly and into snake gully hut for a jam doughnut and hot drink!!!

I would like to thank all our members for your ongoing support of the current committee and trust in us to make decisions on your behalf with the best outcome, always our driving objective.

Ok so enough of the past and let's look to the future because that's what excites us most – As we tabled last year, we have been exploring various re-design options to improve the overall efficiency and comfort of the lodge – the committee are currently reviewing the

masterplan options which are coming together nicely and we hope to share more of this throughout the year.

George and Peter Leeke have a few smaller projects on the boil which will be carried out during the next work party to be held in early May and we encourage as many members as possible to come up for the weekend and invest some time and energy on lodge preservation.

It is important that we regularly undertake the maintenance required to bare the brunt of the extreme elements of cold winters and hot summers!! Yes, it's easy to just pay the annual levy and think jobs done, but at the end of the day who do you want doing this work?

Without the regular's who contribute year in year out we would have to employ external contractors at significant expense to do the work of able-bodied members!!...

we understand we all live busy lives but being part of a club brings with it a level of accountability but also pride of what you care for....

I'm sure members would be disappointed if they arrived at the club mid-season only to find the lodge in a run-down state – enough said on this topic!! Let's have a sell-out attendance in May and work hard and play even harder!!!!

Another newsworthy topic is our current battle with the exorbitant costs of building and contents insurance.

Murray is our insurance expert and has found it increasingly difficult to secure insurance cover at reasonable rates – to give you context on what this means for us financially, in 2017 our annual insurance premium was \$4,000 approx. - a year or two later this increased to \$7,000. at the time we shopped around looking for alternative cover albeit there are few options – following several years of threatening bushfires and subsequent damage at Perisher and Smiggins the global underwrite for improvements above the snowline went through the roof and last year we had no choice in the insurance market and subsequently paid circa \$20,000 to insure the building for a replacement value of \$1,4 million which is deemed the appropriate cover – this issue is by far no means isolated to just us – for e.g. The Grollo Family who own and operate all the lifting facilities and resort infrastructure at Mt Buller are exposed to the same challenges albeit they are looking to insure hundreds of millions of dollars!!!!.

This annual insurance cost is going to cripple those ski clubs at Hotham that are already struggling to cover the operating fixed costs of the resort management board and site rental etc – we want the Hotham Ski club community to survive as it's the die-hard skiers and their guests that stay at the private clubs and inject the revenue into a pretty short 12 week period, which is the reliable duration of the snow season.

That's the back story, so what are the options?

The Hotham Ski Association along with our own connections are discussing a co-operative insurance policy whereby we contribute to a fund and self-insure as a collective etc – that's a crude explanation and maybe Murray can elaborate quickly as we feel it's an important topic in that we have an asset of value that requires insuring however it costs a lot- Murray. On that note and in summary we are extremely fortunate as a collective of members to own a share in this fantastic ski club community being Burrumbeep – we are a proud club consisting of 100 members plus attached debentures and for a sizeable organisation we have an extraordinary amount of mutual respect for our fellow members and pride in how we present our club to our guests – last years pandemic was our most recent challenge. This club stood up to the paradigm shift and came through virtually unscathed – that's due to

the committee making quicker than usual decision's and executing the Burrumbeep Covid plan which we made up on the run a little, but let's face it tell me about any global organisation which wasn't doing the same..... I'm extremely proud of the committee and the care and consideration they take in terms of representing the members and their best interests – lets not forget the committee and office bearers are elected by the members to represent you all and hopefully support the current committee to be re-elected and keep the good times rolling!