



President's Report

2 May 2017

Welcome to our fifty eighth year of Berghutte Ski Club.

Once again we have been privileged to be members of a fantastic community for skiing families, enriched with a legacy unsurpassed now stretching over four generations of families. We continue to be very well regarded amongst the other Thredbo clubs and communities in areas of social interaction, Interclub ski racing and Inter-School competition. We really are a most successful club in many ways, not by chance but by upholding the traditional values and respect for those that have contributed to this success over the past five plus decades.

This legacy most certainly continues, with our present board working passionately behind the scenes, often beyond the call as a volunteer director or as one of the club's officers. So too have our club managers performed well beyond the standard, their contribution an integral part of Berghutte's success for its members and guests. I truly value their contribution, they deserve our respect and our admiration for making Berg a wonderful place to enjoy; we are all fortunate to be members.

Our past year has been quite strong, with a good financial position as at this year's end. Both Jude and Caz (our valued bookkeeper) have ensured this operation ran smoothly over the year. Our accommodation receipts are up on previous years, we have welcomed some new family members to our register with an equal number of retirees, as is our method of management; thank you Mark for your management of the Membership Department of the club.

Our expenditure on maintenance and improvements at the lodge has born a better result in our utility expenditure, and the new décor and furnishings introduced to our main lounge area is a big hit; thank you Jude for coordinating all this for us. I have updated and reorganised our ski storage racks in the ski room to better suit both skiers and boarders alike and expect you will find it easier to keep your equipment upright, neatly stowed and safe. The ski repair room has been updated with better vices and other tools made available to our racing department, a big thank you to Nic for looking after us once again.

If you recall, we introduced a new custom built bookings system at the commencement of last winter season. As Berg is somewhat different in bed/room management to a commercial operation, it has meant we tackled this introduction with a "work in progress" attitude to manage the various quirks we are used to. We had our challenges but we have settled now into a mutual understanding with the IT roles of the system in place, with a view to further refinement of the Berg Model over the next year. Our programmer is regularly receiving feedback from me, Jude and Gregg on where we'd like to see the facility upgraded. Some very considerable time and effort (read world of pain at times) has gone into this endeavour, and I recognise the tenacity of these people in sticking with the

tasks at hand as volunteers of the club. Often it seems a thankless task but without their determination we would be in a very different place. Again, the effort deserves our utmost respect.

Thank you to both our club captains Andrew Ferster and Andrew Blomfield. Andrew F stepped up to the plate with relish this year, coagulating both renewed interest and involvement in the Junior Thredbo Interclub event and of course our club representatives in the Interschools competitions. Regrettably, after all his work in prepping the 2016 Junior TeamBERG, the Junior Interclub event was cancelled due to severe and dangerous ice conditions at the last minute. So last minute was it I had driven down overnight for the day to spur our team on, only to receive a call at 7:30am when exiting Cooma to say it had been canned. My trip wasn't a total waste; Paul Manka needed a lift back to Sydney so I became his Thredbo Uber driver on this occasion after a 15min turnaround. Andrew B in his usual manner played the role of club captain at both the Berghutte/Silver Brumby Challenge and the Thredbo Interclub Race, always with amusement, and his race report can be viewed on our website ([here](#)). He led the 2016 (Senior) TeamBERG to podium victories in both events, a first place for us in the Berghutte – Silver Brumby Challenge's Val Parcell Memorial (best team time differential competition) and another third place at the Thredbo Interclub event. We also scored divisional first places in the Best Club Under 400 Members, and the Fastest Man & Woman over 55 on Handicap (Jude and Mike [Helmet] Horton), along with a number of seconds and thirds. Totally awesome effort and achievement once again from all TeamBERG.

This year has been a setup kind of year for a number of present and future projects. We have basically now divided up the general department roles and responsibilities amongst the director and officers to suit their skills/desires/time availability where possible as such:

- Web IT and Booking System - me, Jude and Greg
- Bookings Management – Jude (supervisor) and Susan (manager)
- Membership – Mark, and Jude assisting
- Insurance – Matt
- Youth Liaison and Programs – Jono
- Surveys/Event Productions and Promotions – Nic
- Club Captains – Andrews x 2
- General Maintenance – Jude with Greg and me assisting
- Social Media – Jono and me
- Communications, Functions and Secretarial Role – Gayle
- Finance – Jude with Cazz Accounts doing our monthly accounts
- Legal – Mike Horton
- Development, Concept & Planning – Greg and me

Perhaps the two main new projects in play from here are currently with Jono who has a small team of youth members to form a youth sub-committee, exploring a regeneration of under 40ish membership engagement. The second being an exploration into concept development of the lodge itself, looking at a better usage of our sub-lease bed allotment of 36, bed/room configuration and associated sub-lease payments to KT, seeking better value for our members if and where possible. More on both these project to come, including an introduction at our AGM.

It has been a pleasure to work with my colleagues again this year, my heartfelt thanks for all your efforts.

Finally, Vale Noel Murray, a long serving past president of Berghutte to 1983. It is with sadness I advise the passing of 'Uncle Noel' who passed away last year on 12 July. Noel was an original subscriber (member) of our club, extremely instrument is establishing our site, the building of our lodge, and the tradition and worth of being a Berg member, quite unique to all other club lodges. Noel set it all up in the beginning with his team, and together with my father and their team of pioneers cemented a legacy that is so admired and revered throughout the ski community. Noel has written a story of his early days as Berg pioneer titled "[The Berghutte Ski Club Diary Or The House That Jack Jill & Fred & A Host Of Others Built](#)", (also on our web [here](#)).

I have had the privilege of serving on the Berghutte Ski Club board now for 40 years, and will always cherish my involvement with Noel as President, Vice-President and ghost story teller.

Hope we all have a great season.

David Price

President

