



COMMITTEE REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

The following report with respect to the profit of the Association for the financial year ended 31st December 2020 and the state of the Association's affairs at that date is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee.

The names of the Committee in office at the date of the report are:

Committee

Yngve Amundsen, Kate Andrews, Fiona Bunting, Peter Bunting, Paul Burgess, Carl Groom, Danielle Halvorsen, Niel Halvorsen, Peta Howe, Pernille Jensen, Kari Svensen, Rolf Svensen

Just a reminder that this AGM is for the 2020 year. The AGM for the 2019 year occurred rather unusually via Zoom given the concerns regarding Covid 19 at that time.

The principal activities of the Association in the course of the 2020 financial year have been as the providers of accommodation for the encouragement, development and promotion of snow sports, ski touring and other athletic sports.

Despite the significant concerns that arose during 2020 as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic, the Club has continued to maintain a good financial position with strong financial reserves and good ski season bookings. The members and Committee remain motivated and the Club is well run. The lodges themselves are being physically well maintained despite the very difficult circumstances that arose in 2020 including the closure of the National Park due to bushfires in January and the interruptions to working bees due to Covid 19 resulting in the cancellation of working bees and difficulties in accessing the lodges at various times during the summer.

2020 was the Clubs 69th year in operation. From the outset, 2020 was an eventful year and a challenge for the Club. Summer bookings were affected by bushfires and an evacuation order from the National Park that was issued on 2 January 2020. All January bookings were cancelled. A small group of members was given permission to enter the National Park to do some preparation work on the lodges given the fire danger and to remove items of historical significance. My thanks to Ian Purssey and Paula Nutting who were in the lodges when the evacuation order was made and who helped remove a number of items and my sincere thanks to Rolf Svensen, Ruth Halvorsen and Nick Donovan for their help on short notice coming up to the lodges to help mow the lawns, prepare the lodges and remove items and to Rolf for safely storing those items until the fire threat passed.

With the National Park opening up again later in January a small working bee managed to pull together at the last minute for the last weekend in January. We were also fortunate that nothing interfered with the February working bee and my thanks to all those who took time out of their busy lives to attend each of these.

Unfortunately, by mid-March due to the threat of Covid 19 and the need to exercise social distancing a decision was made to postpone the Annual General Meeting and Annual Dinner on 20 March 2020. In addition, the Covid-19 pandemic also meant that the Committee voted in late March to close Telemark bookings and to cancel bookings over April which unfortunately included the Easter period.

With the advice around Covid 19 changing almost daily and the uncertainty it brought in respect of the 2020 winter season, the Committee appointed a Covid sub-Committee to oversee the Club's response to Covid 19 and instigate measures that put the Club in the best position to enable it to open the lodges and for winter bookings. This included preparing the lodges to be Covid safe, implementing a Covid Safe Plan and requiring the lodges to be professionally cleaned and disinfected in accordance with NSW Government guidelines. My thanks to the Covid Committee of Yngve Amundsen, Carl Groom and Fiona Bunting for their assistance and practical guidance on the Covid Committee and also to Ruth Halvorsen who was able to source and stock the lodges with all of the Covid cleaning, disinfecting and PPE gear. Thank you also to Ros Andrews and Isabelle Short for their help in travelling to the lodges with me to install the Covid signage and set up sanitation stations in mid-June.

Winter bookings were affected by the uncertainty around Covid, reduced numbers permitted in the resort, lock downs in Melbourne and difficulties in securing ski tickets. Many bookings were cancelled. However, through the efforts of our Booking Officer Fiona Bunting, vacancies that arose were quickly filled by other Telemark members and friends. The amount of additional work regarding bookings in 2020 was intense and my sincere thanks to Fiona for all her efforts in managing all the emails and bookings in a very fluid and difficult season.

Perisher resort did not open its winter operations until 24 June. The winter season was a mix of snow conditions. Heavy snow fell in May well prior to opening but then not much fell until another snow storm in mid-July and then another in mid-late August. Both lodges were booked from season opening until mid September with only one week in July vacant. There was a large number of bookings that included higher than usual numbers of non-members which went a great way to ensuring the Club did not lose significant revenue from bookings even in the Covid 19 affected season and from empty weeks.

The final booking revenue for the year was \$79,308 which was down by \$5100 from the previous year which is a great result in what could have been an extremely difficult year for the Club given bookings obviously make up the majority of our revenue.

Additional revenue from interest on investments, cleaning costs recovered and annual membership fees brought the total revenue for the year to \$104,266 which was 6.5% higher than 2019. Total expenditure for the year was \$91,487 with major increases being for insurance costs and cleaning costs. The overall profit for the year was \$12,779 which is down 41.7% compared to 2019.

Insurance costs are an ongoing issue for clubs in Perisher and you will see from the financials that the insurance premium for Telemark is a significant annual cost to the club. In late 2020 the Ski Lodges Organisation of Perisher, Smiggins and Guthega (SLOPES) contacted Telemark and the other ski clubs who participate in the SLOPES group Insurance Program. SLOPES notified the members that they had appointed new brokers (Barrack Broking) to replace Marsh and to conduct a review of the SLOPES insurance program. As a result, urgent discussions were had with SLOPES and Barrack over the last week in December and into January 2021 about urgently moving insurers. The main reasons for the recommended move were that (a) SLOPES was ending its relationship with the previous broker Marsh as they could not guarantee being able to arrange insurance beyond May 2021 when the existing policies expired, (b) Marsh had not been pro-actively assisting SLOPES generally and (c) SURA advised they did not have authority to offer renewal terms going forward and there was a real concern that clubs would be left with either no insurance from May (or very limited options and limited bargaining power). We are continuing with the SLOPES recommendations and are participating in the SLOPES insurance program with a new insurer GARD for 2021. We are keeping a close eye on insurance costs during 2021 and the negotiations for insurance in the future.

Discussions and negotiations also continued in 2020 between National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), SLOPES and the individual lodges including Telemark regarding rent relief for the 2020 year. In January 2020 we submitted a request for bushfire relief given the loss of rent sustained

by the club over that period. The Club successfully obtained some rent relief for this period. Rent relief negotiations with NPWS for Covid 19 losses are ongoing from 2020 into 2021. An initial assessment was made for Telemark however SLOPES has been agitating on behalf of all clubs and are challenging the method of calculating losses being applied by NPSW and as a result NPSW has agreed to conduct a re-assessment of the relief offered which is still going.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful Treasurer Pernille Jensen for all her hard work dealing with the finances and in particular helping with the insurance and rent relief issues that arose this year.

Maintenance in 2020 was a challenge with bush fires and Covid 19. During 2020 we managed to have a small working bee at the end of January, a larger working bee in February and we had to cancel the March working bee. Another working bee occurred in November which was partially rain affected so unfortunately no external painting could happen however a number of other maintenance tasks were achieved.

The lodges continue to be well maintained and despite the setbacks early in the year, they were ready for the 2020 winter season when that finally began. A special thank you to our Maintenance Manager Paul Burgess for all the work he does in maintaining the lodges and to Ruth Halvorsen for her work in organising tasks and helping to get everyone down there.

I would also like to again thank everyone who gives up their time to travel to the lodges and attend working bees. I strongly encourage members to consider coming down to the working bees when they are on in order to help with hut maintenance. They are a fabulous way to get to know other members of the Club and are really very enjoyable (even with the wood stacking!). I have been focusing on getting more members and friends of Telemark to the working bees. We can't maintain the lodges without the assistance of all our members and friends.

In terms of memberships, there were no new members in 2020. The wonderful Dee Stedman decided early in 2020 to resign her membership. Dee's contribution to Telemark over the years cannot be understated including working bees and for many years she worked tirelessly as the club's booking officer. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Dee on behalf of Telemark for all her wonderful contributions to the Club and while she may have given up her membership, she is always part of the Telemark family.

The Telemark Website continues to be available to members and a big thanks to Monica Eastwood for her assistance with the website and updating when events occur. The site is an important source of information. All relevant information is generally available on the site from current bookings and available dates, the working bee schedules, key contacts, interesting articles, links to other sites, photos, booking rules, procedures etc. I encourage members to send their Telemark photos to Monica to upload onto the site.

We received a number of hut reports from members who stayed over the winter season and the items identified were added to the maintenance list. It would be helpful if people booking the huts could fill in these forms as they provide valuable feedback. The hut reports are there to capture both small and large issues so any information is gratefully received.

As you would be aware, it is a vital part of our Club's registration to show that we promote and facilitate all kinds of sporting activities. The Sport's Register is our main tool in recording the activities of members and guests of Telemark in their Sport and recreation activities. We continue to receive active feedback in the Sport Register from members and friends staying in the huts regarding their sporting activities and achievements. Downhill skiing, cross country skiing, mountain bike riding, hiking, snowshoeing and many other activities have been noted. Please continue to add to the Sports Register every time you stay in the huts. Thank you to Sonja Sim for the ongoing awareness campaigns and collating our achievements.

Non-winter bookings are very much encouraged and Telemark is a wonderful place to stay all year

round. Members are encouraged to consider Telemark as holiday destination when the snow has gone. There are many and varied activities that can be undertaken at Telemark and in the snowy region for both the active (eg, mountain bike riding and hiking) and less active (eg, sitting by the fireplace or on the verandah and just enjoying a break) or both. I strongly encourage members and their friends to make use of what the founding members gave us in these wonderful lodges.

2020 was my second year as President of Telemark. It was an eventful one and as with the previous year, I have received a great deal of assistance and support from the Committee and I would like to express my thanks to them for all their help.

We all feel passionately about Telemark and have wonderful memories of our time in the lodges with family and friends. I am looking forward to creating more lovely memories over the coming years as I'm sure you all do.



Kate Andrews
President