

3. Receive the Annual Report of Directors for the Year Ended 31 December 2019 (2019 President's Report).

The President, Peter Laver, presented the Annual Report of Directors for the Year Ended 31 December 2019 (2019 President's Report) as follows:

Introduction

On behalf of the Board of the RAN Ski Club, welcome to the 57th Annual General Meeting of the RAN Ski Club, conducted electronically for the first time in our history as a result of national COVID-19 restrictions.

I would like to recognise the attendance of Honorary Life Member Paul Jones and Past Presidents Phil Gregory and David Michael.

While the report focuses on the Club's operations in 2019, extraordinary events in 2020 have significantly altered the Club's operating environment and your Directors considered that our approach to these events should be advised to members by all available means.

Administration

As always, Liz Osborne has provided outstanding service to members as the Club's Administration and Bookings Officer, within our service contract with Capital Travel. In particular, she has provided exceptional advice to Geoff and Paul as we modernise our accounting arrangements and automate our booking processes. Her patience and positive attitude during a challenging transition period is much appreciated by us all. On behalf of Directors and members I thank Liz and Capital Travel for their support to the Club.

The Board met four times in 2019, 2 March, 18 May, 7 September and 2 November. The main items of business at our meetings continue to be the implementation of Club System and the design of the future accommodation wing of our lodge at Thredbo and associated engineering studies and, as the Thredbo design matures, consideration of interim modifications necessary for the Buller Lodge. I will provide you with updates on these items in the Membership, Marketing and Communications and Thredbo sections of this report.

Finance

The Club generated revenue for the year of \$786,841 (\$730,787 in 2018). After expenses, the net surplus for the year was \$110,341 (\$98,734 in 2018) and at the end of the reporting period had cash in the bank of \$819,358 (\$530,845 in 2018).

Unfortunately, our Summer season bookings were adversely affected by bushfires across Christmas and our revenue flow this year is likely to be reduced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. While we have sufficient cash reserves to manage these circumstances, this will necessarily result in deferral of the build phase of the Thredbo development for an indefinite period, until the full impact of the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions can be assessed.

Your Board has continued its program of protecting our investment. The original budget of some \$97,870 for maintenance work and replacement equipment in Buller, Perisher and Thredbo in 2020 was reduced to some \$65,140 (was \$72,320 in 2019) to reflect the impact of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions and the resultant reduced access to the lodges for work parties.

The Club's financial position remains sound, owning three unencumbered long-lease lodges and having substantial cash reserves.

Membership

At the end of 2019, we had a total membership of 1654 members including Family Members. There has been an increase of four Ordinary Members and a reduction of 11 Associate Members and an increase of 30 Family members. The membership figures were again "audited" for an update of Club System before it went live for all lodges in January 2020, resulting in many un-financial members being retired from the database.

In 2019, 31 Ordinary Members joined compared with 49 Associate Members. We have only 32 Ordinary members aged under 40 so while it remains a priority to recruit more Ordinary Members to maintain the naval flavour of the club, our efforts to date have not been successful and this will continue to be difficult noting the paucity of serving members in the Club. To try to improve this situation, we have again sent letters to the Commanding Officers of CERBERUS and CRESWELL, advising of the waiver of subscriptions for trainee officers and sailors in the year they join. However, these initiatives have had little success in the past.

We again suggest that all Ordinary Members, especially those who are still serving in the Permanent Navy or Naval Reserve, encourage serving naval members interested in Snow Sports to join the club. There are no better advertisements than satisfied members who can spread the word. We support the Navy Snowsports organisation financially, but this has not resulted in increased membership.

The "try before you buy" scheme whereby Permanent Navy members can stay at our lodges as guests of the Lodge Manager paying guest rates is permanent club policy. The Directors have continued the practice of waiving the first-year subscription for children members who apply to become Associate Members of the Club in the year they cease being eligible for Family membership i.e., they have turned 21 at 1 January. Club System 'went live' for Membership records including payment of 2019 subscriptions on 1 January 2019. One of the immediate benefits from a management perspective is the ability to draw reports almost instantaneously. For example, at the end of April 2020, we have 903 Ordinary and Associate primary members

- 474 members have paid subs online by PayPal
- 212 members have paid subs by traditional cheque or credit card
- 217 members have not yet paid annual subs.

These numbers do not include Family Members who count under the prime member. After a successful trial at Perisher in 2019, Club System is being used for Accommodation Bookings at all lodges this year. Work Party (WP) Priority bookings

continue to be handled offline as there is no way to identify members with WP priorities within the membership categories in Club System.

Unfortunately, with the implementation of COVID-19 travel restrictions, we decided to cease online bookings early in April. Those members who have confirmed bookings have been retained in Club System in the event we are able to open the Lodges. Members are encouraged to submit offline bookings which will be processed by our booking officer in order of receipt as soon as we can lawfully open the Lodges. We will then recommence online bookings as soon any offline bookings have been processed. Normal cancellation rules will apply unless Government restrictions preclude opening the Lodges, in which case full refunds will be made for bookings for periods the lodges are closed.

Communications

Communication with members continues to be an issue. 12 Mail Chimp email Bulletins were sent to members in 2019 to keep members advised of club business. The Mail Chimp process keeps very good statistics of the fate of these bulletins, showing which email addresses open the mail, which bounce and by deduction we could tell which members don't read the mail.

Most email bulletins are opened by less than 60% of members – we currently have valid email addresses on the database. This year we sent advice that renewal invoices were loaded to Club System but only 72% of members opened that email. This is disappointing as we are trying to ensure all members are kept informed of Club business. Obviously, we can't send hard copy mailouts to all members at this frequency, and of course we have no way of knowing how many members read the semi-annual Newsletters.

This has also meant that we must continue to send hard copies of important documents such as Subscription Invoices. However, we have ceased sending hardcopies of Newsletters, saving about \$1000 a year.

Mount Buller

Prior to lockdown, summer utilisation of the lodge was pretty good. A special thankyou to James Marks and Claire Baker for managing the lodge for the Hut-to-Hut endurance weekend and Bike Buller. James's Bike hangar system for the ski racks worked fantastically holding some very expensive mountain bikes without mishap.

With the current lockdown conditions, our summer work plans have been severely challenged. Current restrictions at Buller prohibit work parties, however trades people are allowed to continue working on the mountain. Trevor Buckley and Jeff Blokkerrus have been working away on the laundry relocation and locker upgrade project. Ash Adamson has been finishing the flashing and fixing some leaks in the roof.

We managed to get in one work party in February before the lockdown which was well attended, and a lot was accomplished. Jobs completed were:

- The old lockers were emptied, the contents bagged and labelled, and the lockers dismantled and removed from the area.
- The carpets steam cleaned.
- The surrounds of the lodge got a tidy up including repainting of the sign.
- Windows were cleaned and sills washed down.
- Cleaning of rooms, mattresses aired and bed linen cleaned.
- Rubber was removed from the new laundry floor.

Currently the contents of lockers are stored in bags in the ski storage area of the lodge. The lodge is locked and access to the lodge is through VP Buller. We have ordered the new lockers, and as soon as they are built and transported up to the lodge, Trevor and Jeff will install them and repatriate people's gear.

For those that missed out on a work party this year, never fear, restrictions have been eased north of the border to allow work parties to recommence, and as soon as Victorian restrictions are lifted, I will organise a work party to get the lodge ready for the (abbreviated) season, so stay tuned.

Thanks to Louise Dawson, we have organised a Zoom Buller Family catchup for Wednesday 20th of May. If you haven't received an email from me, and want to join, email me at vpbuller@ranskiclub.com.au and I'll send you the link.

Perisher

The Perisher Lodge has operated with an average occupancy of 75.4% for the full season June opening to October closing weekend plus an additional week extension of the season (120 days season). The lodge was full for the opening and closing weekends and from 6 July to 1 September. Bookings for September again ran much higher than in the days of the old lodge. The lodge finally closing a week later than normal due to patronage and the resort remaining open for an additional week. Total bed nights for the extended season were 2,354 [3 more than the previous year]. The Club has received a clean bill of health regarding our continued compliance with the occupancy conditions of our lease.

We had two early summer bookings which is normal for Perisher. We opened the Perisher Lodge for a trial over Christmas and the New Year with a Manager to try and give the members a chance to experience the High Alpine without having to pay for a whole-of-lodge booking. There were only two bookings for a couple of members. Unfortunately, the East Coast Bushfires put a stop to the trial with the manager having to cancel these bookings and close the lodge and evacuate Perisher and access to Perisher was not allowed by NPWS for some time afterwards.

Work parties in early 2020 were cancelled as a precaution due to COVID-19 restrictions. Luckily, the work scheduled for this year can be delayed without significant impact to potential lodge operations in 2020. The Perisher Budget was trimmed as part of the overall club budget review resulting from COVID-19.

Nearly half the door jamb finger guards that we installed in 2018 have failed. We intend to remove them and seek an alternative from the manufacturer.

As I mentioned previously, the Perisher Resort opened a week early and closed a week after the official closing date. According to VP Perisher, who has skied Perisher every winter since 1968, this resulted in the longest lift served season in memory for Perisher. Another highlight of the season was the successful opening of the new Leichhardt Quad Chair, replacing the old T-bar to significantly reduce queuing in that area of the Perisher resort.

Thredbo

At last year's AGM, members were updated on the status of our re-development plans for the Thredbo lodge. You may recall the estimate of project costs (including contingencies) for the then current design was \$3.7m. Although this figure included a healthy contingency due mainly due to the need to carry out extensive excavation and build substantial retaining wall structures to accommodate the proposed design, it did present the club with a significant financial challenge. Consequently, the Board agreed to investigate modifying the design to reduce the extent of excavation necessary but retaining the overall appeal of the original design. This would result in less waste material to be removed from the site and less extensive and expensive retaining wall structures being required.

At our 7 September 2019 Board Meeting at Thredbo, we were presented with a modified concept design by our design team of MACO Project Designs and Grounded Structural Engineering. This revised design, with subsequent minor amendments, was subsequently endorsed by the Board, subject to confirmation of affordability. Detailed work on the modified design is now in progress. Once the design is sufficiently developed, we will request the quantity surveyor to provide a revised project cost estimate. In the interim, we are considering potential funding options for this exciting project, which will be presented to members once the final design has been costed and endorsed.

Resolving as many issues as possible before we submit a Development Application (DA) is in keeping with the Board's prudent approach to these major projects. The Perisher Lodge rebuild was a great outcome for the Club, and we intend to ensure we get another excellent result at Thredbo, before moving on to Buller. This process may appear slow to some, but it is important to understand not only the significant benefits, but also the potential risks in undertaking a project of this nature, at the same time ensuring the ongoing financial viability of the Club is not put in jeopardy. The current COVID-19 virus issue will unfortunately have a significant impact on the Club's income for 2020 which will delay Phase 2 of this project – the actual accommodation wing re-build. However, by completing Phase 1 - Design Package and DA Submission, we will have an approved design and be ready to go as soon as our finances are in place.

I would like to thank Ed Watson for all his hard work as the Thredbo Maintenance Manager over many years (in addition to his significant involvement in the maintenance of Perisher). Earlier in 2019 he finally came to his senses and handed over Thredbo Lodge maintenance responsibilities to Benny & Kay Hill and Damian & Debbie Smith who have been jointly filling this role since the 2019 AGM. Ed will no doubt mention to anyone who will listen, it has taken at least two, if not four people to replace him!

Benny and Damian managed to convene three work parties this off season (November, February and March), before we were halted by the virus. Much fine work has been accomplished and the lodge is now ready to open if/when we get the nod. Of particular note was the re-painting of both accommodation levels (a task extending well beyond both the February and March work party dates, repairing/replacing old or damaged light fittings and sprucing up the lounge room balcony area. Thanks to all those who attended and offered their expertise at one or more of these work parties. Your fine efforts are much appreciated.

Two contract jobs worth mentioning are:

- The upgrading of the lodge fire detection system following a series of false alarms from the old control panel (circa 1992 and subsequently assessed as beyond economical repair). An immediate advantage of the new system is that the smoke detectors in the kitchen area and bedrooms are on a time delay, so if one is accidentally activated by burnt toast or a rogue hair dryer (as has occurred too often in the past), the individual sensor alarm will sound but the back to base alarm will not transmit, if the source of the activation is removed within three minutes; and
- We have at last been able to replace all the door seals on the main fridges which should significantly improve their operation and efficiency.

In preparation for a possible opening this winter, the Thredbo Committee is putting together a check list of additional things we will need to do to ensure safe occupation of the lodge, cognisant of the Club's new infectious diseases By-Law (By-Law 13). We may also need to reduce the occupancy capacity, if necessary, to comply with the detailed specifications of the NSW Health Order. Also, the club will need to enforce compliance with our existing rules in relation to changeover days in particular.

Impacts of COVID-19

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic and the resultant travel restrictions imposed by State Governments have severely impacted Club operations in 2020. The NSW and Victorian Governments are yet to advise how, or even whether, recreational activities will be permitted in our Alpine resorts this year.

Fortunately, these restrictions are being progressively eased. The Directors have endorsed a generic Pandemic Infectious Diseases policy which will inform how we will safely operate the lodges if we are permitted to open. This policy is promulgated in our By-Laws on the Club website. You should be assured that your Directors are committed to meet our obligations to ensure the Club Lodges can be opened and safely operated if we are lawfully able to do so and if there are sufficient bookings to cover expenses. I strongly encourage you to make plans and submit offline bookings in the interim so that we can recommence lodge operations as soon as Government travel restrictions permit. In the event that Government restrictions require a reduced lodge occupancy limit, we will cancel any over-limit bookings, based on 'Last In, First Out' assessed by date and time of booking and receipt of unprocessed offline bookings.

In preparation for opening the lodges in 2020, each Lodge Committee is contemplating whether further procedures or management arrangements are necessary to comply with

State Government directions for COVID-19 management. These will be notified to members by email and posted on our website following endorsement by the Board. We ask that members remain understanding in these circumstances and please remember that the Lodge Manager has the full authority of the Board in ensuring Club rules are followed. Being a volunteer Lodge Manager is never an easy job, let alone during these trying times, and we expect members to comply with all reasonable directions of the manager.

Summary

In summary, your Directors are grateful for the commitment of our regular volunteer Lodge Managers to their role and we acknowledge the efforts of the dedicated band of members who serve on Committees and regularly contribute to work parties or provide invaluable assistance continuously throughout the year. These contributions are critical to our ability to contain costs and enhance the amenity of our lodges.

2019 was another great year for the RAN Ski Club. All three lodges continue to operate with a real sense of community and fraternity. The Directors assess that the Club remains in a sound financial position and is well placed to continue improvements in Club facilities and plan for the major redevelopment of the Thredbo Lodge in the medium term as well as significant improvements to Club governance and administration with the transition to an online booking system.

Your Directors congratulate the Buller, Thredbo, Perisher and the Membership, Marketing and Communications Committees on their efforts again in 2019. On behalf of your Board of Directors and all Club members, I would like to acknowledge the Perisher Committee for hosting last year's AGM.

Thank you for your attendance today. Let's hope as many of us as possible are able to enjoy the snow this year!

Pete Laver
President

The President then asked if there were any questions or comments from the floor.

Ann-Marie Tenni said she had heard that the government is looking at something like four square metres per person as an accommodation guide for staff and that family groups/same households may be able to stay together. She asked if the Board has any inklings as to what the accommodation numbers may look like at the various lodges. The President replied that we will be guided by the specific directions of the NSW and Victorian state governments. He said that in addition to this, we will be doing a risk assessment and developing our own internal procedures to manage the environment. The President suggested that Ann-Marie have a look at the Club's COVID-19 Infectious Diseases By-Law (By-Law 13). He added that each Lodge VP is working on the aforementioned procedures. The President completed his answer by assuring those present that we are committed to opening the lodges if we are lawfully able to do so and said the Board takes its duty of care responsibilities to the Club's members very seriously.

Louise Dawson and Rod Nairn praised the President for his report, saying it was very comprehensive and that the Club continues to be operated efficiently and is in good hands.

Isobel Firkins-Fox asked for some detail on the additional responsibilities of the Lodge Managers. The President referred Isobel to the Club's COVID-19 Infectious Diseases By-Law (By-Law 13) and said these responsibilities will become clearer as the Lodge VPs develop their respective COVID Safe Plans.

Raydon Gates asked that with the likelihood of a reduced winter season, is there any thought being given to increased lodge openings in summer? The President replied that the Board is very keen to increase lodge occupancy in summer, at all three lodges, and said we are working on plans to achieve this.

Matthew Cramp suggested that one idea to attract younger serving members would be to hold an open day during Navy Ski Week so that potential members can see what the lodge offers. He added that they are already at Perisher. The President replied that we already do this. He added that the Board decided yesterday to expand it's deal for trainees whereby they pay their joining fee and their annual subscription fee is waived in the year they join. He said this scheme is now available to all Junior Sailors, and to Junior Officers up to the rank of Sub-Lieutenant.

Brian White asked the where the Club's COVID-19 Infectious Diseases By-Law is located. VP MMC said it's on the Club's website under the important documents tab.

As there were no further questions or comments from the floor, the motion to "Receive the Annual Report of Directors for the Year Ended 31 December 2018" was:

Moved by	David Michael
Seconded by	Greg Williams
Carried	

4. Receive the Treasurer's Report, Profit and Loss Statement (Incorporating the Directors' Report), the Balance Sheet and the Auditor's Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2019.

Ladies and gentlemen, as I usually do, I should like to start my report to you on the previous financial year (that ending 31 December 2019), with a note of thanks to the Club's Administration and Booking Officer, Liz Osborne, for her continued excellent work throughout the year. I consider that Liz's efforts in helping fill the lodges are a major contributing factor to the Club's outstanding performance in 2019, which resulted in a 7.8 per cent increase in Accommodation Revenue compared with 2018.

I also wish to formally record the Club's gratitude to all those who have donated money towards redeveloping the Thredbo lodge. The Thredbo Redevelopment Account, which I announced at the 2017 AGM, is a dedicated account into which members' donations are paid. In addition, the Club is continuing to set aside funds equivalent to the previous loan repayments for Perisher Valley into the same account. These funds have been used to establish two further significant Term Deposits (of \$100,000 and \$131,000 respectively).

I particularly wish to draw the Club's attention to the donation by club member, Louise Dawson of *DefibsPlus*, of a Defibrulator (valued at \$2,380) to the Mount Buller Lodge. The Club has matched Louise's generosity of spirit and has now installed Defibrillators in both our Perisher and Thredbo lodges.

Further, it would be remiss of me not to mention the Club's gratitude to those members who forego reimbursement of expenses, use the Club's facilities, and perhaps most importantly, volunteer their time to attend work parties to maintain our assets.

Unusual Events

This report will be a departure from my usual reports. I need to draw to your attention two items. The first relates to events subsequent to the end of the reporting period. Please note Page 2 and the Directors comments on the negative impact of COVID-19 on Club income for the 2020 ski season. Although it is still not clear, it is expected that the Club may not earn any ski revenue for 2020. Fortunately, the Club has sufficient reserves to continue to trade as a going concern. However, it seems highly likely that without multiple successive ski seasons as good as 2019, then the rebuild of Thredbo may be delayed as a result of the virus.

The second item relates to the form of the financial report. I'm sure you have all noticed that the 2019 report is very different from previous years. You will have noted the Non-Current Liabilities on Page 7 leapt from zero to \$1,667,599. You will likely also have noted that the Finance Costs on Page 8 have increased from \$2,239 to \$79,291. Those of you who soldiered on to Page 15 (Note 1 (n)) will have discovered that the Club has been required to adopt a new lease accounting standard (AASB 16). I expect the non-accountants among you reached as far as Note 8 (i) on Page 19 before your eyes glazed over.

So what does it all mean? In brief, a lease is now considered to be both a "Right of Use Asset" (from which the Club derives benefit) and also a Liability (in that the Club has a financial obligation to pay the lease charges until the end of the lease – a Lease Liability). Accordingly, the expense for rent for each lodge has been replaced by a depreciation charge against the right of use asset and an interest charge on the liability. You will note the two new entries in the Statement of Financial Position (Page 8 - Lines 9 and 19). The calculations are complex and, for our auditors to be compliant, have been conducted by a specialist accounting firm which performs this role for numerous companies.

Because the Asset side of the equation invites a Depreciation charge, you would rightly expect the Depreciation of each Lodge Cost Centre to increase significantly (because in addition to the ongoing depreciation of the building (including furniture and fixtures etc) and any written down values of assets, the depreciation of the value of the lease is now added). For example, on Page 25, you can see that Buller's Depreciation has increased from \$16,058 in 2018 to \$46,765 in 2019. The Depreciation charge related to Right of Use Assets is derived from Page 19.

In addition to the Depreciation expense, there is an annual Interest Expense on the Lease Liability (see, for example, Thredbo (which has the longest lease term - at some

37 years - remaining) on Page 19). Accordingly, Thredbo's Lease Liability is greatest (\$974,305 – see the third line from the bottom of Page 19). The Interest Expense on the Lease Liability is found over the page on Page 20 (Thredbo's is on Line 10 \$45,842), which is brought forward to Page 27.

Revenue

2019 saw the Club's total Revenue increase by \$56,054 to \$786,841 (Page 16 Note 2 refers). Overall, 2019 was an outstanding financial result.

Budget 2020

Subscription renewal fees for 2020 were increased in line with CPI movements. Room rates for 2020 were given a modest increase in line with CPI movements.

Turning to Specials, the Board decided to continue to offer Specials for 2020, in line with those offered in 2019. The Board also decided to again offer the Buller High Season Special (Sunday 28 Jun 20 to Thursday 2 Jul 20) during the first week of school holidays, because the 2019 trial was inconclusive.

Details of the Accounts

Turning to the Revenue (Page 16 Note 2 refers), after last year's decrease of 2.5 per cent, Accommodation Fees saw an increase of 7.8 per cent to \$565,178. All lodges recorded an increase in accommodation fees with Thredbo leading the way with an 11.2 per cent increase - after two years of slight (2.7 per cent) falls. Buller lodge recovered last year's fall of 8.4 per cent with an 8.7 per cent increase, while Perisher recorded her fifth straight year of increases with a further 2.2 per cent increase. Subscriptions rose again (6.2 per cent) while Joining Fees remained steady (0.9 per cent increase). As expected, the interest earned (Interest Income Page 16 Note 2) showed a significant increase, now that the Club has established substantial cash reserves. Cash Donations suffered a significant drop (49 per cent), perhaps reflecting the additional effort required to make a donation.

I thank those Members who made the effort to make a cash donation, which raised \$4,001 in total. These donations (Pages 16 and 27 refer), which equate to some 53 High Season member nights, have already been added to a Term Deposit for the Thredbo redevelopment.

Conclusion

In summary, outstanding usage of Club facilities, together with growth in Subscriptions, Joining Fees, and Interest earned, has ensured that the Club has been able to meet its financial obligations and continue saving towards the redevelopment of the Thredbo lodge. The Club remains financially sound having one new lodge plus two well-maintained lodges in the snow.

Paul Jones
Treasurer

The Treasurer then asked if there were any questions or comments from the floor.

David Michael asked what the reserve is for the Thredbo Redevelopment. The Treasurer replied that it is \$767,000 in term deposits.

While waiting for further questions or comments to come in, the President commended Paul for his outstanding service to the Club and said he is one of the reasons why we will get through these extraordinary circumstances. He added he would not be surprised if many other ski clubs do not make it through this event. The Treasurer replied that he is honoured by the President's comments.

Mike Harrison asked if there is no 2020 season, will the Club refund booking fees or roll them over to 2021. The Treasurer replied that we will refund accommodation booking fees.

Samantha Edwards, David Michael, Rod Nairn and Louise Edwards echoed the President's sentiments, thanking Paul for his service to the Club. Rod Nairn said he is glad the Treasurer understands the new accounting standards!

As there were no further questions or comments from the floor, the motion "That the Treasurer's Report, Profit and Loss Statement (Incorporating the Directors' Report), the Balance Sheet and the Auditor's Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2019 be accepted" was:

Moved by	Rod Nairn
Seconded by	Robbie Burns
Carried	

5. To Elect the Auditors and Authorise the Directors to Fix the Remuneration of the Auditors for 2020.

The Treasurer advised that the Club has received advice from the Club's auditors and accountants, Dobbs, Vumbaca & Co, indicating that they would be pleased to carry out an audit of the club's accounts for 2020 and advised that their quote for this service would be about the same as it was in 2019, provided the amount of work involved is about the same. The Treasurer reported that the Directors have been very pleased with the service that has been provided by Dobbs, Vumbaca & Co in the past and recommended to the Club's members that their services be retained in 2020.

Anne-Marie Tenni asked if should we look to vary our auditors for a new set of eyes, given Dobbs, Vumbaca & Co have been doing it for 30 years. The Treasurer replied that while there is an argument for checking out the market, the trouble is it would take a great deal of time, effort and cost a lot to train a new auditor, plus it is not just an auditing function that Dobbs, Vumbaca & Co perform; we have a long-term relationship with them. He said he would be very hesitant to "change horses" now. The Treasurer said they understand our business, and they are very responsive to our needs. The President added to the Treasurer's reply, saying the trigger for switching to a new auditor would be if Dobbs, Vumbaca & Co didn't answer our questions and didn't provide proper and timely advice. He said this is not the case. The President closed by saying that Dobbs, Vumbaca & Co has his total confidence.

As there were no further questions or comments from the floor, the motion that “the current Auditors continue for the year 2020 at their quoted fee” was:

Moved by Samantha Edwards
 Seconded by Chantal Timms
 Carried

6. To Elect the Directors in Accordance with the Constitution.

The Secretary informed members present of the nominations received for positions on the Board of Directors:

Position	Nominee	Proposed By	Seconded By
President	Peter Laver	Denis Illyes	Raimund Winkler
Secretary	David Dykstra	Phil Gregory	Geoff Cole
Treasurer	Paul Jones	Murray Howard	David Michael
VP Membership, Marketing & Communications	Geoff Cole	Laurie Watson	John Worstencraft
VP Perisher Lodge	Rick McMaster	Danny Flynn	Ed Watson
VP Mt. Buller Lodge	Adrian Hills	David Dykstra	Jeremy Butler
VP Thredbo Lodge	Phil Gregory	Geoff Cole	David Dykstra

The President confirmed the re-election of all Directors.

7. To Elect the Standing Committees.

The President then asked the Secretary to inform members present of the nominations for the Standing Committees. The following members were appropriately nominated and elected:

Mt Buller	Perisher	Thredbo	Membership, Marketing & Communications
Justine Davis	Ian Morrow	Damian Smith	Raimund Winker

Mike Rich	Margie Flynn	Ian Middleton	Linda Walker
Peter Mioni	Danny Flynn	Terrence Hill	Chantal Timms
Jeremy Butler	Mel Hatton	Al Johnston	Laurie Watson
Trevor Buckley	Jo Briggs	Mike Harrison	Joe Milsom
Greg Williams	Brian Campbell	Isabel Firkins – Fox	Garry Arnold
Michelle Bove	Ed Watson	Mike Wagstaff	David Michael
Jeff Blokkerrus		Geoff Greentree	

The President congratulated all nominees on their election.

8. To Receive and Deal with Any Special Correspondence or Business.

The President asked Ordinary Members present to consider and vote on a nomination for Honorary Life Membership for Phil Gregory (nominated by Paul Jones).

Paul Jones read Phil Gregory's nomination:

Good afternoon members and guests.

You will be aware that Phil Gregory has been proposed for Honorary Life Membership. It gives me great pleasure to speak to the proposal, as I have served with Phil on the Board for numerous years in his various capacities as VP NSW, in which he was responsible for Membership and Marketing, then President for seven and a half years (from December 2002 to May 2010) and, after a well-deserved break, his reappearance as VP Thredbo in May 2016, the position in which he still serves. As VP Thredbo, he is responsible for developing the proposal to redesign Thredbo Lodge and to progress a Development Application submission for Board approval.

Phil joined the RAN Ski Club in the early 1970s. Like most members, he skied as much as his young family and the vast amounts of sea-time would permit. It was in the mid-1990s that he first joined the NSW Sub-Committee to help run the Club and was elected VP NSW in 2000. One of his lasting contributions to the Club's business model was the conduct of an Expression of Interest to manage the Club's Office and Bookings. After assessing the responses, Capital Travel was selected as the Preferred Tenderer and Phil was responsible for negotiating the first five-year contract with options for extension. It is the model we continue to use today.

During his time as President, significant Board achievements included:

- Updating of the Club's Constitution;
- Renewal of our Thredbo lease;
- Negotiating 7 additional beds for our Perisher lodge (from 19 to 26); and
- A new 26 bed Perisher lodge design.

While these were noteworthy achievements, Phil's most remarkable gift to the Club has been his people skills, which he has put to extraordinary use in the numerous incidents which have arisen over the years. The most significant of these was the threat posed to the Club by the removal of trees and foliage which were close to our Buller lodge. The Buller lodge work party team at the time assessed that the foliage presented a fire risk and was impeding access for window maintenance along the side of the lodge. In true Navy fashion, they set about solving the window maintenance access problem by 'pruning' the trees. Unfortunately, prior authorisation to remove the foliage had not been sought from the Mount Buller authorities (a condition of our lease), who were less than impressed. Phil, as Club President, had to leave his work in Sydney and fly to a weekday meeting with Buller Management. The environment was heated and it was clear our Lease was under threat. Phil's calm, reasonable nature was put to good use and, as a result, the Club avoided a hefty fine. Phil's skill as a master of compromise resulted in a solution being reached in which no one lost face and the Club's reputation remained untarnished. The outcome negotiated by Phil was a truly remarkable achievement, which deserves recognition.

His willingness, after having already served as President, to again volunteer to return to the Board as VP Thredbo is an indication of his commitment to the Club and his willingness to help improve Club facilities. His engineer's perspective and understanding continue to be valuable assets to the Board. He is now heavily engaged in ensuring the groundwork for the redevelopment of Thredbo Lodge is complete. You would be aware that our Thredbo site and Thredbo's history bring unique challenges which Phil has taken in his stride to ensure that the RAN Ski Club will have the best possible outcome.

In recognition of Phil's significant contributions to, and inspired leadership roles in, the RAN Ski Club, I propose Phil as an Honorary Life Member.

The President then asked if there were any questions or comments from the floor.

Matt Tripovich, Geoff Greentree, Isabel Firkins – Fox, David Michael, Mike Harrison. Louise Dawson and Mel Hatton all commented effusively in support of Phil's nomination. The President said he has valued Phil's contribution and commitment to the club over many years. He said it has been a pleasure to serve with him on the Board of Directors and said it is a great pleasure to see this nomination.

Ordinary Members present voted unanimously in favour of Phil being elected as an Honorary Life Member. The President congratulated Phil on his achievement. Phil responded with some words about the Thredbo Redevelopment Project and thanked everyone present for their kind words and for granting him the honour of Life Membership.

9. Receive and deal with any special correspondence.

The President said there are no items of special correspondence to consider.

He then asked for any closing comments from the other Directors and for any final questions or comments from the floor.

The President opened by saying he is honoured to be continuing as President for another year and said his plan for next year's AGM, at Mt Buller, is to hold it in the traditional way i.e., face-to-face, but with Video Conferencing as an option for those members who can't attend in person. To that end, he said would welcome any suggestions from members about how we might better integrate the face-to-face and Video Conferencing aspects.

Anne-Marie Tenni asked if the Thredbo Lodge design is available to look at. VP Thredbo said he will talk to the architect about the possibility of posting it on the club's website. He said it may not be possible due to commercial-in-confidence considerations. VP MMC said Club System may be able to host posting of the design.

Paul Rustomji commented that he can imagine a future where we are driving more electric cars. He asked if the carparks at the new Thredbo Lodge will enable electric cars to be re-charged. VP Thredbo said he understands a re-charging station will be built in the village, but added we might consider an electric car re-charging capability in the final design of the new lodge. Anne-Marie Tenni asked if the new lodge will have solar panels to re-charge cars. Trevor Buckley asked VP Thredbo if he has looked at PV power as part of the new development. VP Thredbo said it is too early to answer these questions.

Paul Rustomji thanked the Directors for running the club in such a professional manner and said he appreciates their efforts. David Michael congratulated the President, the other Directors and the standing committees. He said the club is clearly in good shape.

Louise Dawson, Geoff Greentree, Matthew Cramp, Anne-Marie Tenni, Warren Fletcher, Mel Hatton, Greg Williams and Damian Smith all said Zoom works and thanked the Directors for the meeting. Rod Nairn said he would not be able to attend a face-to-face AGM (he said he think he's attended one in 40 years) and added he would really like the virtual attendance to be continued.

10. Close.

There being no further business, the President thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the 57th Annual General Meeting of the RAN Ski Club closed at 3.40 pm.

David Dykstra
Secretary

Peter Laver
President