

Ku-ring-gai Alpine Lodge – President’s Report 2016

On behalf of the Directors, I am pleased to present the Annual Report of the Lodge’s operations for the 12 months ending 31 December 2016.

2016 winter was a strange snow season – there were huge dumps of snow followed by enormous melting due to rain, and this happened several times during the season. Some weeks provided the best skiing in memory, and others were terrible with rain and flooding.

Financials

Receipts from bookings in 2016 were up 14% from 2015, while expenses on food were about half, as the 2015 costs covered two years. Otherwise income and expenses differed little from the 2015 year.

The resultant profit for the year was \$12,720, compared with a \$7,579 loss in 2015.

Our spending on maintenance was down, as we opted to use work party labour to paint the exterior of the lodge and had no other major expenses. As a result, our cash reserves at end of year were almost \$80,000, compared with \$42,000 the previous year.

Share Transfers

There was one membership transfer in 2016:

Maureen Dean to Derani Lagos.

I welcome Derani to membership of the Lodge.

Food Store

The board decided this year to reduce the variety of items in our food store. Several factors have led to this. Changing tastes have meant that usage of the items has become erratic to the point where many items run out while others hang around till after use-by dates. This has made stocking the store difficult. At the same time, there is now a well-stocked supermarket in the valley where a large range of items can now be purchased. Basic, non-perishable and bulky items such as flour, cereals, coffee, tea, cooking oil will still be provided.

Lodge Upgrades and Maintenance

We continued our policy of using our surplus funds to keep the lodge in good condition. We are fortunate to have such a good position on the mountain and believe it is important to maintain the building and facilities to a high standard worthy of this position.

Exterior Painting

During the few weeks around and including Easter 2016, several teams of members got involved with painting the exterior of the lodge. This was badly needed, and we thank those members who enjoyed contributing to the maintenance.

Upholstery

The cushions in the lounge and dining area were in bad need of re-upholstering, and late in 2016 we decided to do this before winter 2017. The dining room cushions were completed in Jan/Feb 2017 and it is still planned to complete the lounge room. A number of changes were made to the dining room upholstery, and this is seen as a big improvement in both comfort and appearance.

Fireplace

After deliberating for many years on how to tidy up the fireplace area, we decided to install a Cheminees Philippe Radiante 600 slow combustion stove. This is a similar unit to the Model 843 recommended at an AGM some years ago, but which would have required massive modifications. The Radiante 600 is a similar unit, but has a side-opening door instead of the raising door. As at this AGM date, the unit is installed and working, but the finishing of the surrounds are yet to be completed, and will be before winter.

There has been much controversy over the years about how to improve the fireplace, but we hope all members will appreciate this solution for its safety, freedom from smoke, and smaller wood usage.

Windows

We had planned to replace the main lounge room windows this summer, but it was felt that the upholstery and fireplace were more urgent. As it was difficult to cost these early, we were not sure if we had the funds to replace the windows this summer. So they remain as a job for next summer.

Perisher Cup

After failing to scrape up a team for the 2015 cup, we entered three teams in 2016. This was thanks to the enthusiastic organisation of James Crook. Typical of the year's weird season, in the lead-up to the race it looked like it should be a water ski race, but a big snowfall the night before the race saved the day. While we didn't come home with any medals, all enjoyed the events.

Thanks

I would like to thank the many members who contributed to the smooth running of the lodge. This includes our weekly Lodge Captains, those who attended work parties, our booking secretary Pam Woodman, our food store manager Wendy Oppen, and your directors.

Gordon Cox

19 March 2017