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## PRESIDENT REPORT

The start of year 2020 has been a challenge, the bushfires and now COVID-19 are extreme events. From the APSI we hope you and your families are staying safe and healthy.

By virtue of timing we were still able to hold the majority of courses and exams in Japan. The continuation of our involvement within Japan is due to the APSI's ongoing relationships with the snowsports schools. This year we again had record numbers at courses and exams. I would like to thank the trainers and directors at each resort being; Niseko International Snowsport School (NISS), Gondola Snowsports (GoSnow), Niseko Base Snowsports (NBS), Myoko Snowsports and Action Snowsports, for all their support not only to the APSI but to each APSI member within their snowsports schools'. Given the current COVID-19 situation the Board has already raised the prospects of offering more products and packages in this coming northern snow season. The APSI team are constantly and will continue to look for year round possibilities for our members

To ensure we are ready for this year, over the preceding months the Board and staff have embraced workspace change including online meeting platforms to continue the operations of the APSI. From the Board perspective, a specific AGM Committee was established to progress and ensure this year's AGM will continue. The AGM will be conducted online including voting for a new Board. This will see our new constitution operate fully for the first time with a more member representative Board. A new Communications Committee was also established to ensure we actively engage with you. You may have seen more electronic communications and increased social media activity. This will continue as we wait for an official announcement on the Australian snow season.

The Board is meeting on a weekly basis to ensure that we are ready for either no season, a partial season or otherwise. The Board and staff will continue to manage and adapt to ensure the APSI, with the resorts, can offer educational products and certification for what may be a somewhat different season. The collaboration between the resorts and our staff is paramount during these uncertain times and I would like to thank our Australian resorts for their continued support.

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One of the benefits which has come from home isolation is an increase in contributions from staff and members. The discipline teams have been proactive on social media platforms and developing new educational products. In the event of no season or even a partial season there are number of ideas and products which will be available to our members including a range of online materials, eLearning platforms and larger online presentations. I would like to thank all the members for their active involvement, their positive messages and stories, the engagement is truly treasured during these challenging times.

Whilst we wait there are a number of highlights, contributed to the Board from each disciplines Technical Director, that I would like share:

### **Snowboard – Kylie Dwyer**

- I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the snowboard training team, the APSI office staff and the APSI Board for assisting me in completing a successful first year as Snowboard Technical Director. Our snowboard training team is working well together and is continually developing sound camaraderie. We welcomed three new Rookie Examiners this year: Scott Cairney (Falls Creek), Sarah Beynsberger (Perisher) and Matt Dannenberg (Perisher).
- We had excellent participation in courses and exams in 2019, a 41% increase overall. The level one course continues to be well attended, run for the first time at Baw Baw this year as well as seeing an increase in instructors taking it up as a second discipline. Congratulations to Thredbo for a high exam pass rate at level two, Hotham for a high exam pass rate at level 3 and Mt Buller for a high exam pass rate at level 4.
- We have several projects in the works that will see the advancement of educational content for our members and trainers.
- 2020-2023 APSI National Team selections are underway with the first stage completed at the end of May. We are looking forward to selecting this team who will represent Australia in the lead up to and during the next Interski event to be held in Levi, Finland.

### **Nordic – Zac Zaharias**

- A huge 74% increase in Nordic Courses completed during 2019.
- Nordic Level 1 was conducted at Lake Mountain and Hotham resort for the first time in many years. The relationship will continue into 2020 season.
- Further development and trial of a combined Level 1/2 course for selected instructors.

### **Adaptive – Tom Hodges**

- Continued growth of students across all resorts resulting in busy adaptive instructors nationwide.

- Continued collaboration with DWA and the Snow Australia Paralympic team.
- Moved to digital theory exams meaning candidates had more opportunity to show their adaptive knowledge and impress examiners at adaptive events.
- Fantastic trainers, Charlie Evans, Ursina Kradolfer and Dean Sheppard especially continue to inspire and mentor adaptive instructors.
- The big news is this season we have had a huge push to grow the APSI adaptive training into a 4 tiered system. A more accessible, faster level 1 focusing on teaching students cognitive and intellectual difficulties including Autism, which remains the largest need in ski schools across Australia. Level 2 which will focus on adaptive equipment. Level 3 to build experience and knowledge across the adaptive industry. Level 4 for trainers and beyond.

### Telemark – Richard Hocking

- 25% increase in participation on last year
- First ever Level 3 course and Exam held in Niseko
- First Course held at Mt Hotham in more than a decade.

### Alpine – Richard

- 2019 AUS participation was very strong for Alpine products setting 8 year highs for exam participation at every level in the pathway. Our Japan products were once again a huge success thanks to our dedicated staff that live and work in the Japanese resorts during our summer months.
- Education development over the summer from our Alpine training staff includes:
  - A new E-learning platform for 2020 which is a direct result driven by our demo teams attending Interski, Bulgaria.
  - Movement analysis (MA) training tool for use at courses and exams will complement our current videos produced in 2012 and 2015.
  - 60 new videos and exercises were added to the APSI App to continue the evolution of this platform for our members.
- APSI National Team 2016-2019 had their last season together which included running the annual Spring Sessions event in Perisher and debriefing information gathered from Interski to help move the association forward into the future.
- Our Alpine Technical Committee (ATC) was restructured and we would like to congratulate some new emerging leaders in the association that have joined this group. It is wonderful to have Nick Rankin, Dickie Nott and James Crompton joining this team to help work on our Alpine products and shape our curriculum of the courses and exams in the years ahead.

On behalf of the Board I would like to thank Richard Hocking, Richard Jameson, Kylie Dwyer, Zac Zaharias, Tom Hodges and each of their teams for their resilient contributions throughout this time. It is these teams that work tirelessly to offer exceptional APSI products and continue the growth of the APSI.

I look forward to speaking to you all at the AGM.

Please stay safe.

Anthony Hill  
President