

**MINUTES OF THE 21<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SKI LODGES ASSOCIATION OF PERISHER, SMIGGINS AND GUTHEGA INC. (SLOPES) HELD ON 29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2012 AT CHATSWOOD RSL COMMENCING AT 7.45PM**

**PRESENT:**

President – Frank Zipfinger (Mirrabooka)

Committee – Bill Coombes (Hus-ski), Andrew Cutler (Kandahar), Gerald Lynch (Kalymaro), John Illy (CSIRO) David Read (Aurora), John Pinkerton (Tate), Noni de Carvalho (Turnak)

Member Clubs and their representatives:

Hus-Ski	Warwick Dean
Canberra Alpine	Ross Smith
Tate Ski Club	Lisa Worrall
Telemark	Pernille Jensen
Kandahar	Graeme Anderson
Boonoona	Mark Cooper, Carl Melvy
Oldina	Ian Muncaster
Guthega	Ross Downes
South Perisher	Sean Lee, Andrew Hill
Munions	Rob Holdaway
Sundowner	Ross Thompson
Ku-ring-gai	Gordon Cox
Turnak	Roger Lucas
Karrilika	Cliff Brake
Narraburra	Warwick Mauer
Brindabella	James Lawrence
Clancy	Paul Schott
Moerlina	Peter Lettow, Mike O'Sullivan
Rugby	Tracy Tresidder
Alexandra	Mark Robins
Warrugang	Jane Ritchard
UAC	John Lembke
Technology	Ross Swan, Mal Thomsen, Mal Higgs
Kiandra	Mel Butow
Fjellheim	Belinda Hansen
Chez Jean	Jeannette Melvy
Lampada	Simon Gates
Port Kembla	Ross Livermore
Gunyah	N. Couper
Mawabu	Peter Zeilic
Windara	Jenny Wandl, Susanne Manion,
Wildspitze	David Beverley
Edelweiss	Greg and Robin Murray
Trissana	James Damien
Thirroul/Maranatha	Bruce Norton

Guests:

Peter Brulisauer – General Manager, Perisher Pty Ltd

Belinda Shore – Chamber of Commerce and Smiggings Hotel

David DiSanti – Perisher Musical Society

Phillip and Pam Woodman – Perisher Historical Society and Ku-ring-gai Club

Andrew Logan – Manager, Municipal Services Unit, KNP  
Marko Kovac – Property Manager, KNP  
Daniel James – Department of Planning and Infrastructure, Jindabyne Office

## **APOLOGIES**

Roger Glover (Kandahar), Don Gowing (Muniong), Andrew Harrigan (Manager Visitor and Business Services Unit, KNP), Ian Ward (Hus-Ski), Bill Hargreaves (Hus-Ski) and Jonathon Lillis (Ullr).

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Frank Zipfinger, President, opened the meeting welcoming member club representatives and introducing the guests to the meeting.

Frank noted that Graeme Anderson, the previous President of SLOPES built a strong and productive relationship with other stakeholders in KNP represented by the guests and their support was acknowledged.

## **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF 20<sup>TH</sup> AGM HELD ON 17 NOVEMBER 2011**

The Minutes of the previous AGM held on 17 November 2011 in Crows Nest were distributed to members prior to the Meeting. Copies were also provided at the Meeting. There were no questions arising from the Minutes.

**David Read (Aurora) proposed, Gerald Lynch (Kalymaro) seconded – the Minutes were adopted and confirmed.**

## **PRESIDENTS REPORT 2012**

Copies of the full President's report prepared by Frank Zipfinger were distributed to those present. A copy of the President's Report was also circulated to members prior to the Meeting.

Frank chose to highlight the key matters from the report rather than read it in full because of its length. The key points highlighted were:-

1. SLOPES represent 100% of the club lodges in the Perisher Range Resorts. This means SLOPES can maintain its position and effectiveness in representing the interests of the club lodges.
2. The retirement of Don Gowing (Muniong) and Roger Glover (Karrilika) from the Committee after many years of contribution and hard work for SLOPES.
3. Welcome for the new Committee member Mark Robins (Alexandra) and the return of Paul Schott (Clancy) to the Committee.
4. Back to Perisher Weekend continues to grow in popularity with record numbers participating in events this year. All lodges are encouraged to support Back to Perisher Weekend promoting out of ski season use and enjoyment of the Perisher area. Frank noted that next year Easter falls before the school holidays rather than in the school holidays but it has been decided to continue to hold Back to Perisher Weekend at Easter.

5. In the interests of safety for all club lodges SLOPES is continuing the discussions and battles with the Fire Brigade over closing of the Perisher Valley Fire Station outside the winter season.
6. The SLOPES website has been set up. All members were encouraged to view the website and provide comments and feedback for improvements.
7. Members were reminded of the importance of encouraging sport through their clubs. Clubs may consider having a dedicated Director whose role it is to focus on activities to promote snow sports. It was noted that the tax allowances for clubs relies on dedication to encouraging sports.
8. It was noted that the SLOPES membership levy was reduced this year. The Committee assessed that there were sufficient funds available for anticipated needs this year but the situation would be reviewed for next year as there were some matters coming up, for example, the IPART review of running costs in Perisher area. Matters such as IPART or new valuations may require additional funding for lobbying and/or assistance from consultants.
9. Members were reminded to buy the Park entry tickets at Sawpit as 95% of that revenue stays in KNP. It was noted that if purchased elsewhere, even in Jindabyne, only 35% stays in Perisher. The IPART estimates of future revenue from Sawpit are less than predicted through leakage with ticket purchases elsewhere. This will adversely affect the budget review by IPART for KNP.
10. Clubs were reminded that the alternative rental assessment by turnover will come in this year. The meeting was reminded that there is a sleeper point with the alternative assessment by turnover when Clubs run occasional levies for capital works to their lodges. The levy will be assessed as turnover. Consult with NPWS prior to raising a levy of Members after 1 July.

There were no questions arising from the President's Report.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT 2012**

The Financial Statement and Auditor's Report were circulated to members before the Meeting and copies were available at the Meeting. A copy is attached to these Minutes. There were no questions from members concerning the Financial Statement and Auditor's Report.

**The Financial Statement was adopted. Moved Mark Robins (Alexandra) and seconded Andrew Cutler (Kandahar).**

**The Auditor's Report was adopted and Stirling International was nominated as SLOPES auditors for 2013. Moved John Illy (CSIRO) and seconded David Read (Aurora).**

## **ELECTION OF COMMITTEE**

There being no other nominations the Committee was elected.

**Moved Frank Zipfinger, Seconded Bill Coombes**

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

Prior to the Meeting the motion to adopt the Constitutional changes for SLOPES had been circulated to members. Frank briefed the meeting noting that the proposed changes followed the model constitution (replacing the model rules) and updating to allow electronic communication for calling and holding meetings. He also highlighted the voting provisions for SLOPES where the members of SLOPES are the club lodges and not individuals. Voting on issues requires that the club representative (one per club) be a nominated proxy of their club. Clause 2.1 requires membership to be a Co-operative or an Association that is a lessee of the NPWS. All Committee Members must be a member of a club. Following a question from David Beverley (Wildspitze) Frank noted that there is still more wording change required to the Model Constitution to deal with the SLOPES situation where the members are club lodges.

**The Committee was delegated authority to finalise the required amendments to review the Constitution to suit the circumstances of SLOPES. Moved John Illy (CSIRO) and seconded Gerald Lynch (Kalymaro).**

**The changes to the constitution as circulated, and on that delegated basis, were adopted. Moved John Illy (CSIRO) and seconded Gerald Lynch (Kalymaro).**

**THE 21<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SLOPES CLOSED AT 8.03PM**

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**Following completion of the formal business the Guest Speakers addressed the Meeting.**

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Peter Brulisauer – CEO Perisher

Peter thanked the clubs for their support and patronage. The winter season 2012 was the best in visitation and the best in terms of market share by comparison to Australian and New Zealand ski resorts. Clubs should also have had their best winter and if they have not they should be asking why. The company is positive looking forward and noted that there has been an increase in sales of Freedom Passes for 2013.

Perisher is still negotiating with Government on the development of the Perisher Village Centre and it is getting closer.

Major projects are focussing on snow making with \$20 million being invested in snow-making and a further \$1.5 million this summer to reduce the impact of seasonality and climate change on skiing. The electronic ticketing has provided useful information on usage and skiing patterns and demand for future snow-making and lift planning.

The proposed new chairlift at Guthega is yet to be approved but is expected soon. It will not be built this summer.

Following questions from the floor the following was noted:

- There are no plans to develop mountain bike tracks in Perisher in summer.
- There is no planning for cross country skiing to deal with climate change.
- Noted the Piper Creek lift and the sensitive environmental issues of the creek bridge to access the terrain park.

- The Perisher mobile app. has been successful but there is a problem with coverage. Optus is looking at upgrading to meet demand.
- The early closing of Guthega lifts requires the Guthega lodges and Guthega Alpine to collaborate with Perisher to make arrangements. Peter is keen to have more information on lodge occupancy [Frank reminded the meeting that occupancy information was confidential]. Brindabella indicated that it would be prepared to discuss the sharing of occupancy information.

#### Andrew Logan – Manager Municipal Services Unit KNP

The new Waste Transfer Station commenced operation last season. No problems on impact have been reported by the cross-country skiers or neighbours. Self-removal of waste is unacceptable because of the disruption to the area of individual lodges accessing the waste transfer station.

The guidelines for provision of waste holding facilities at the lodges have been released. Perisher has upgraded and 31 out of 95 premises in Perisher and 19 out of 31 premises in Smiggins have upgraded their holding facilities. The deadline for providing waste holding facilities at the lodges is 2 to 3 years. KNP wants to move away from wheelie bins as they are impractical in the snow. Notwithstanding the guidelines KNP is open to alternatives for waste holding areas at lodges to suit the circumstances of the lodge. Any questions should be directed to Tom Pinzone. In some situations lodges may arrange to share a facility but it must be within a lease area.

Street numbering is to be introduced for all premises. The number is based on the measurement of distance from the nearest intersection divided by 10. It is essential for emergency services and utilities to introduce the street numbering system.

The guidelines for managing grease traps have been finalised. The annual clean-out prior to the winter season is essential to avoid adverse impact on the sewage treatment works. Some lodges have received letters regarding their grease traps. Those that need replacing must be done so within 2 years.

Clubs were reminded that with the spring rains it was essential to maintain the land around their lodges including rubbish removal and weeding.

Major projects this summer include a new sewer line between the car park and Orana. There have been two breakages and the line must be replaced. The work will commence in February and will close Perisher Creek road for 10 weeks. There should be no interruption to sewage services.

Negotiations continue on getting a reticulated gas supply to Perisher, Smiggins and Guthega and it is progressing slowly with Elgas. Later in the evening following a question from the floor the meeting was advised that, while NPWS is keen to have articulated gas in the resort, there is difficulty in negotiating with Elgas as Elgas cannot see a viable business case for return on infrastructure investment. NPWS is engaging directly with Elgas to negotiate a licence agreement although NPWS may consider negotiating with other providers if there no progress. NPWS has encouraged Elgas to engage directly with the community and that SLOPES members consider putting together a business case, for example, in Guthega.

A question from the floor later in the meeting probed whether NPWS could assist in managing pricing of electricity on a bulk basis noting the 50% increase in electricity costs. The advice was that NPWS had little influence. Frank Zipfinger noted that SLOPES had previously looked at negotiating a bulk arrangement for the club lodges but there was minimal gain and not worthwhile.

A question from the floor later in the meeting raised concerns regarding the proposed use of guns in KNP and whether information on the location and use of guns could be provided on the NPWS website. The advice was that use of guns in KNP was to be carefully managed by NPWS and it required approval.

Daniel James – Department of Planning and Infrastructure, Jindabyne

Scott Reid has left Department of Planning and Neil Smith from Junee is contracted to assess fire safety and Building Code of Australia matters. He has experience in the Snowy Mountains area. Advice is still handled at the Jindabyne office.

The Department handled 32 development applications in the ski resorts this year for a range of developments of which 16 DAs were in the Perisher area (14 for Perisher Blue and 2 for the club lodges).

In the near future the Department is looking at continuing the building audit program started by NPWS in 2006. The target is to complete all outstanding upgrades and works within the next 12 to 18 months. The completion of the upgrade work will be acknowledged by the Department by letter.

The Department is also looking at cessation of use of the old oil heater tanks. The sites of the old tanks must be validated with the tanks either removed or emptied and filled with sand or foam to avoid contamination.

Frank Zipfinger noted that there was the opportunity for co-ordination between lodges to share the costs of having environmental analysis of old tanks carried out. [SLOPES had recently issued an email to Members on this.]

Daniel encouraged all clubs to consult with the Department early for ideas and advice before committing to any work on their lodges. He was aware of the closing of the Fire Brigade in Perisher in summer but there are no plans to require further upgrades of lodges because of that. He noted that the priority of the Department is that, in an emergency, occupants are able to have ample warning and get out rather than to save the building.

Questions from the floor noted the issue of new DAs triggering other upgrade matters to the lodges, for example, disabled access, that may be excessively onerous. Daniel stressed the need for early consultation with the Department to examine options and to find solutions. The case for unjustifiable hardship with extreme topography for access to some lodges was noted. Daniel advised that no Access Committee has been set up for the area to consider alternative solutions and cases of unjustifiable hardship.

Philip Woodman – Perisher Historical Society

PHS is steadily growing with 21 of the club lodges being members. This year PHS will be publishing "The Book" that will record history and anecdotes of the Perisher Range area and the club lodges. Philip requested that the member clubs provide PHS with its formation date, date of completion of their lodges and first date of occupation. He also stressed that PHS is keen to record information and recollections of people who have been part of the area for a long time.

The book "Australian Skiing – the first 100 Years" by Wendy Cross was launched at the annual dinner in June. Every lodge should seek to have a copy.

The next annual dinner of PHS will be held on 9 June 2013 (long weekend) at Maritz Lodge and the club lodges are encouraged to send representatives.

The meeting was advised that PHS is also working with Kosciuszko Huts Association (KHA) to prepare a history of the huts. Volunteers to assist in this work are also welcome. Phillip advised that KHA is fighting the use of guns in KNP.

#### David di Santi – Perisher Music Festival

The 5<sup>th</sup> Perisher Music Festival will be held on the June long weekend in June 2013. Organisers of the festival requested that the club lodges consider making beds available to visitors and performers and especially to promote the festival with lodge members. If interested in hosting a performer contact the festival organisers at [info@snowymountainsofmusic.com.au](mailto:info@snowymountainsofmusic.com.au) Early bird tickets for \$99 are available.

Last year was the biggest yet and all commercial beds were full for the weekend. There were 150 folk, jazz and blues artists performing across 8 venues.

#### Marko Kovac – Property Manager, KNP

This year the Annual Gross Revenue (AGR) figures have been collated to get a feel for the impact on rental assessments. The assessment so far indicates that few lodges will be affected by the alternate assessment based on AGRs. Marko noted that clubs may have to manage the raising of levies for building works over a few years rather than 1 year as levies are assessed as AGR.

The Minister has closed the lease offer. 105 have taken up new leases out of a total of 125 premises. The new leases have to be taken up by May 2013. Marko noted that beds are still available for purchase should a club still be interested.

Following a question from the floor it was confirmed that the Accommodation Register kept by the clubs does not have to be forwarded to KNP but must be available for inspection on request by NPWS. NPWS acknowledged the privacy of the Registers. SLOPES is to liaise with NPWS to clarify the guidelines in this area.

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**THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.05PM AFTER WHICH REFRESHMENTS WERE AVAILABLE**

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Frank Zipfinger  
President