

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SKI LODGES ASSOCIATION OF PERISHER, SMIGGINS AND GUTHEGA INC. (SLOPES) HELD ON 27 NOVEMBER 2014 AT CHATSWOOD RSL COMMENCING AT 7.35PM**

**PRESENT:**

President – Frank Zipfinger (Mirrabooka)

Committee – Bill Coombes (Hus-ski), Andrew Cutler (Kandahar), John Pinkerton (Tate), David Read (Aurora), John Illy (CSIRO), Paul Schott (Clancy), David McDonald (Kosciusko Alpine), Roland Everingham (Perisher Huetten), Noni de Carvalho (Turnak).

Member Clubs and their representatives:

Sydney Ski Club (Simone Ferster)  
Kiandra Pioneer (Maurice Carter)  
Fellowship (Winton Kurrle)  
Kunapipi (Kris Graham)  
Kalymaro (Gerald Lynch)  
Thirroul/Maranatha (Ian Eddy, Mavis Williams, Bruce Norton, Kevin Masters)  
Sundowner (Jennie Newman)  
Langlauf (Tim Alexander)  
Mawabu (Stephen Mulvogue)  
Kosciusko Alpine (Dianne Cree)  
Dianella (Clare Crawford)  
Snow Country (Michael Branson)  
Southern Cross (Ann Collins)  
Parrawa (Richard Charlton, Brett Fawcett)  
Brindabella (Bryan Collis)  
Ku-ring-gai (Philip Woodman, Pam Woodman)  
Wildspitze (David Beverley)  
Highway Alpine (Lawrence Winnacott)  
Mulubinba (Kev Hoffman)  
Telemark (Pernille Jensen)  
Yalara (Ray Brennan)  
Southern Alps (Rod Peile, Joe DiFalco)  
Cooma (Michael Salmon)  
Gunuma (Stephen McGlynn)  
Guthega (Ross Downes)  
Ullr (Jonathon Lillis)  
ACT Police (Ernie Spielman, Ross Walker)  
Waratah (Jolijne Meynink)  
Trissana (Tamsin White)  
Warrugang (Andrew Mayau)  
Technology (Richard Beattie, Andrew Dunn, Mal Higgs)  
Oldina (Michael Brennan)  
Illoura (Adam Elvy)  
Karralika (Ian Ferguson)  
Windarra (Jenny Wondl, Maurice Wilkinson)  
Fjellheim (Belinda Hansen, Bruce Hansen)  
Apex Childrens (Bob Harrison)  
Turnak (Roger Lucas)  
Kiandra (Steve Illex)  
Mirrabooka (Gary Purdy)  
Kandahar (Graeme Anderson)



KSRC (Peter Mowland)  
Edelweiss (Robin Murray, Gregor Murray)  
Redwood (Geoff Rousel)  
Alexandra (Sue Thorley)  
Rugby (Andrew Harding)  
Yeti (Philip Moss)  
Lampada (Simon Gates)

**APOLOGIES:**

Frank Walker (Snow Revellers), Ian Ward, Bill Hargreaves, Warwick Dean (Hus-ski)

**GUESTS:**

Nick Kennedy – Perisher Chamber of Commerce, Guthega Alpine Inn  
Ryan Petrov – Acting Manager Municipal Services, KNP, NPWS  
Stuart Schram – Office of Environment and Heritage  
Daniel James – Department of Planning and Environment  
Peter Brulisauer – General Manager Perisher Pty Ltd  
Richard Phillips – Sales and Marketing Manager Perisher Pty Ltd

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

Frank thanked the Committee for their work through the year.

Frank also introduced the two new members of the Committee – David MacDonald from KAC and Roland Everingham from Perisher Huette.

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD ON 28<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2013:**

The minutes of the previous AGM held on 28 November 2013 at Chatswood RSL were circulated to members prior to the meeting. Copies were also provided at the meeting.

An amendment was requested and agreed to concerning progress on concreting of the roads. The amendment added the words that "Wheatley Road is also incomplete".

**Subject to the amendment the Minutes were adopted by the Meeting – moved Andrew Cutler (Kandahar) and seconded Bill Coombes (Hus-ski).**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

A full copy of the President's Report prepared by Frank Zipfinger was distributed to member clubs prior to the meeting and copies were available at the meeting.

Frank noted that the report was a detailed summary of events during the year for member's information. As the report had previously been circulated Frank in his presentation focused on key points to highlight from events during the year. These included:-

1. The importance of the clubs maintaining their membership of SLOPES so that SLOPES is able to be a strong voice for all the clubs in the Perisher Range Resorts and be able to successfully represent their interests.



2. Frank advised the meeting of the resignation of Gerald Lynch (Kalymaro) and Mark Robbins (Alexandra) from the Committee. Frank outlined to the meeting the valuable contribution each had made to the work of SLOPES. Gerald attended many meetings including MSU/EMS meetings on behalf of SLOPES and represented SLOPES and provided input to key issues that emerged through the years. Mark assisted the Committee particularly in developing the IT needs of SLOPES.
3. In inviting the member clubs to put forward possible replacement Committee members Frank noted that the Committee needed more representation from the larger clubs. Following interviews David MacDonald (KAC) and Roland Everingham (Perisher Huette) were invited and agreed to join the Committee. Frank noted he looked forward to their assistance in the future especially with the foreshadowed Governance Review of the Perisher Range Resorts and of a head lease again rumoured to be a possibility.
4. Frank emphasised to the Clubs that the visit by NSW Fire and Rescue and the fire training for all lodges was required. Frank noted that it is important that the clubs are a volunteer in the process. Two seasons were given for the visits to occur. 48% of clubs were visited in 2013 and 16% in 2014 which leaves 35 % still to be visited. Frank commented that many clubs who have had the visit from NSW Fire have found the comments and suggestions they have provided to be interesting and useful.
5. On the issue of lodging development applications Frank noted that the process is complicated. He stressed the importance of consulting with the staff of the Department of Planning early before finalising any proposal. Frank also commented on the recent 10/50 rule for vegetation removal in bush fire prone areas released by RFS reminding clubs that as lessees clubs must also have the approval of NPWS as the owner before considering removing any vegetation.
6. Frank commented that the opening of the new Freedom Chairlift at Guthega was a terrific event in the resort. He also congratulated Perisher Pty Ltd on their excellent grooming of the resorts in the heavy snow-fall that was experienced last season.
7. Frank reminded the meeting of the Insurance program following the failure of All Class Insurance that previously provided the insurance for many club members. He noted that SLOPES had co-ordinated an expressions of interest that 9 insurance companies responded to. Three were shortlisted and following interviews, SLOPES recommended that the club members consider insuring with JLT. Frank advised the meeting that there has been a very high take up by Clubs of the offer that has kept premiums down and that Clubs not participating are encouraged to do so.
8. In later discussion after the AGM Frank indicated he would seek feedback from the meeting on SLOPES sponsoring the Peak Music Festival and possibly interclub racing.

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

#### **FINANCIAL REPORT 2014**

The Financial Statement and Auditor's Report were circulated to members before the meeting and copies were available at the meeting.

The Financial Statement indicated that the income and expenditure of SLOPES was similar to last year but for the additional cost with resolution of the insurance matters. It was noted that adequate funds were available for the day to day operation of SLOPES.



**The Financial Statement was adopted – Moved Paul Schott (Clancy) and seconded Andrew Cutler (Kandahar).**

**The Auditors Report was adopted and Stirling International was nominated as SLOPES auditors for 2015 – Moved David Read (Aurora) and seconded Paul Schott (Clancy).**

#### **ELECTION OF COMMITTEE**

As there were no other nominations, the current Committee was re-elected.

**Moved Frank Zipfinger and seconded Bill Coombes.**

#### **GENERAL BUSINESS:**

No general business matters were raised.

**THE 2014 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SLOPES CLOSED AT 7.50PM.**

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**Following completion of the formal business of the AGM the Guest Speakers addressed the meeting.**

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Peter Brulisauer – CEO Perisher Pty Ltd and Richard Phillips – Sales and Marketing Manager Perisher Pty Ltd

Peter thanked those present and their clubs for the support during the year. He noted that it was a tough year with the snow not arriving until July but then snowing very heavily making it hard to manage the resort and ski fields.

Peter confirmed that Perisher is making a big investment in skiing facilities and snow grooming to improve the skiing experience.

Peter showed a short film that recorded the construction work on the Freedom Chair. On the day of the opening of the chair there were perfect conditions with blue skies following heavy snow. The film included interviews with Karl Guenther, a long time skier from Guthega, past Mountain Manager and local identity who expressed his excitement with the building of the new chair.

Richard followed Peter and outlined the work Perisher has done to develop a web based centralised booking system for accommodation in the Perisher Range Resorts. The system sought to meet demands for efficiency in bookings via the internet with real time information on price and availability. It followed market research on demand and expectations. Richard advised that it is expected that 60% of all bookings in Perisher next year will be via the internet booking system as the commercial lodges have signed up to use the system. It currently represents about 50 properties and about 2000 beds. He advised the system is also available to the SLOPES lodges to use if they wish.

Two years ago the marketing strategy by Perisher involved brochures, mail-out, travel shows, newspapers and TV ads. 2015 is planned to be mainly internet promotion including social media, some brochures and minimal TV. Richard advised that the Freedom Pass and



Freedom Flexi gives Perisher information on skiers and contact information. The drive using that information will be to encourage past skiers and friends to return.

#### Ryan Petrov – NPWS Municipal Services Group

Ryan noted that he is acting in the manager role until a replacement for Andrew Logan is found. The Municipal Services group has a staff of 19.

Ryan noted that there had been no major problems in Perisher over the last 12 months and the area was running well. A new water line has been provided between Navy and Rugby that replaced the old line.

Ryan advised that NPWS will be visiting lodges in 2015 to promote composting and roll out composting bins for green and vegetable waste. The bins should be located in Lodge waste huts.

Ryan advised that the Corroboree Road snow clearing was not successful with the amount of snow and the ice when in marginal conditions. NPWS will be speaking to stakeholders in the area to determine the way forward.

Ryan also noted that he and his team welcome feedback and suggestions from SLOPES member clubs. Good feedback is useful for the team's work.

#### Daniel James – Department of Planning and Infrastructure

Daniel advised that 3 new staff have been appointed to the Jindabyne office – Robin Ward Planning Officer, Mark Brown Senior Planner and Greg Cooney Building Surveyor. Mark has transferred from the Sydney office and has experience in major project assessment work.

Daniel advised that there has been progress in discussions with RFS regarding requirements for works to address the location of Perisher in a bush fire prone area. The objective is to keep DA's moving, moderate costs for compliance and moderate alternatives to ensure safety and manage clearing around lodges. Daniel advised that any update and policy interpretation changes would be broadcast through SLOPES.

NSW Fire and Rescue advised that 35% of club lodges have not had their mandatory familiarity visit from Fire and Rescue. Daniel confirmed that the information received at these visits is not just helpful to the Service but also provides useful information to the Clubs.

Daniel noted that nearly 100% of SLOPES member clubs provided their Annual Fire Safety Statements. Only a couple of lodges have failed to provide it.

#### Nick Kennedy – President Chamber of Commerce (owner Guthega Alpine Inn)

Nick encouraged Club lodges to take advantage of the visit by Fire and Rescue as the advice provided was very useful.

Nick advised that the Chamber of Commerce is stable and there is healthy debate on future direction to ensure a viable future. Some new operators and a few new managers have brought new enthusiasm. Nick noted that for the Chamber to succeed Perisher needs to succeed. He was impressed by the new initiative of Perisher this year and its operation.

Nick spoke promoting the Peak Music Festival that is to now be known as the Snowy Mountains Music festival. The Chamber is looking to get more funding and support including



from Destination NSW. The Chamber recognised the support of the commercial venues and SLOPES and encouraged the support of Club lodges. The best support of clubs is to buy tickets and attend the events. He advised that the Festival does not make a profit and any loss is made up by the Chamber.

#### Stuart Schram – Office of Environment and Heritage

Stuart confirmed that a governance review is proposed with management of the Perisher Range Resorts being part of that review. Government has concluded that the IPART model has not worked out as expected and that the deficit of cost needs to be recalibrated otherwise the area is cost prohibitive. Various alternative models are being looked and no decisions have been made as yet. The aim is to ensure that any option does not adversely affect the operation of the area. Once a broad framework is developed it is proposed that OEH will consult extensively in the area. Stuart advised that OEH genuinely wants to understand the operations of stakeholders before making decisions and OEH welcomes input and feedback from stakeholders including SLOPES.

Stuart advised that Government is looking to partner with the private sector. "Straight Talk" has been engaged for the community consultation. He advised that a head lessee system is only one option being looked at. He noted that even with a head lessee it will not change the arrangements with Club lodge leases that still have many years to run following recent renewals.

#### Matters raised by questions or comments from the Floor

Peter Brulisauer answered in response to a question re the new chairlift did not have foot-rests. Foot-rests are not provided because of additional wind loading on the chairs.

Questions about the RFS 10/50 rule allowing tree removal, Daniel noted that Clubs still have to get NPWS approval to remove vegetation as Clubs do not own the land. Dave Woods (NPWS) has prepared general advice on the issue. NPWS will generally not object if it is a safety issue but it must be consulted first and will consider an acceptable level of clearing without causing instability of sites. Members were advised to consult with Dave Woods.

Yeti Ski Club asked when concreting of roads will be completed in Perisher in particular the Wheatley Road area. Ryan advised that there is no money available to continue with the program in the foreseeable future.

#### Phillip Woodman – Perisher Historical Society

Phillip advised of the passing of Hans Trumm who was a long standing contributor to the promotion of the Perisher ski area.

Phillip also noted that there are still copies of the Society's book on the history of the Perisher Range Resorts available.

#### John Pinkerton – SLOPES Treasurer re SLOPES support of the Music Festival

John addressed the meeting to seek feedback from Member Clubs on SLOPES' financial contribution in support of the Music Festival and whether SLOPES should also sponsor the Perisher Cup. Background on these issues was set out in the President's report for 2014.

John noted that SLOPES support is consistent with the objectives of Clubs to promote the sport of skiing which allows clubs their tax exemption status if they qualify.



The proposition put to the meeting was that SLOPES repeat its contribution to the Music Festival it made this year and that it set aside \$2,500 to pay for the trophies for the six events in the Perisher Cup.

The meeting voted unanimously to support the proposed contribution of SLOPES to the Music Festival and Perisher Cup. Telemark and Sundowner commented that it would be happy to see the SLOPES annual subscriptions go back up the \$350 should it be required.

Frank Zipfinger – SLOPES President re SLOPES access to Club Financial Information

Frank noted to the meeting that the SLOPES Committee is concerned regarding the ongoing and long term viability of the Club Lodges. The Committee is aware that through the annual returns government (NPWS) has access to information on the financial situation of the Clubs. Although SLOPES seeks to represent Clubs, it does not have access to that information in any other way currently nor insight into the financial circumstances of clubs.

Frank indicated that the Committee will be carrying out surveys to source the information and it will be a series of simple questions that will need answering. The information provided will not be used publically. Frank requested Member Club's co-operation in any survey that is issued by the Committee.

In a show of hands informally the meeting expressed unanimous support for SLOPES proceeding in this way.

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**The Meeting Closed at 9.15pm after which supper and drinks were served**

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Frank Zipfinger  
President

23/11/18