



**THE SKI LODGES ORGANISATION
OF PERISHER, SMIGGINS AND
GUTHEGA INCORPORATED**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT AND
MINUTES OF THE 1999
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD 17 NOVEMBER 1999**

Registered Office:

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The Ski Lodges Organisation of Perisher, Smiggins, and Guthega, Incorporated.
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Eighth Annual General Meeting

17 November 1999

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to the 1999 SLOPES Annual General Meeting - the association's eighth and my fourth and last as President. On behalf of the Committee I thank you for your attendance here to-night, and indeed, once again, for your support over the last twelve months.

Although there have been no "glamour" issues this year about which we could trumpet, it has nonetheless been a busy one for your Committee.

Membership

Once again it pleases me to advise that for the sixth year in a row we have had 100 percent membership of all 88 non-commercial clubs and lodges in what has become known as the Perisher Range Resorts. You will no doubt have noticed that we finished the financial year with a healthy balance of \$30,221, and although the outgoing Committee did set a figure for the subscription for 1999-2000, how this is to be handled is to be decided by the incoming Committee, once decisions on SLOPES future and method of administration have been made.

Perisher Blue

Once again we have continued to enjoy good relations with the resort operator as evidenced by the presence here tonight of its Chief Executive Officer, Ashley Blonde.

NPWS Management

NPWS management has gone through yet another change, with the Kosciuszko National Park (KNP) being incorporated within the Southern Region for which the current Director is Dr Tony Fleming. He in turn is responsible to the Director-General of NPWS, thus removing one level of upper management. At the level with which we are generally concerned, the Manager Resorts (currently Ms Penny Spoelder) now reports direct to the Director, Southern Region.

Not long after his appointment, Dr Fleming contacted SLOPES, and subsequently our Vice President Graeme Anderson and myself, called on him in Queanbeyan to

explain how SLOPES came about, what we had done, what we are doing, and our vision for the future. We particularly emphasised the cordial working relationship that has painstakingly been built up with the NPWS over many years, and our firm belief that this has been to the benefit of all parties.

Opportunities have also been taken to work closely with the Resort Engineer Mr Garry Barnes, on many issues. Having two engineers on the Committee has meant that Mr Barnes has been able to talk to SLOPES representatives who understand the problems he is constantly facing in keeping the resorts running.

Commission of Inquiry Perisher Range Resorts Development

The Commission handed down its findings twelve months ago, in November 1998. We were very pleased with these findings, they being very much in line with our final submission. The recommendations to the Minister included:

- the retention of Guthega Village;
- limited development in Smiggin Holes;
- a village centre in Perisher Valley of approximately 800 beds;
- 120 new beds to be shared between Guthega and Smiggins.
- 400 beds to be allocated to existing lease holders.

The Commission's recommendations were accepted by the Minister subsequent to our last Annual General Meeting.

In our discussions with the NPWS we have stressed our position that the value of the beds in each lodge has already been established by the Valuer General, and we would expect any premiums to decrease with the delay in allocation, for the shorter the period between bed allocation and lease expiry the less earning capacity, and hence value, they will have.

Annual Community Service Charges

Last year I informed you that a consultative group had been set up by the NPWS, involving the resort stakeholders, to consider the level of annual community service charges. I am pleased to report that this initiative by Ms Penny Spoelder, the Resort Manager, has, in our opinion, developed into a most successful forum. Regular quarterly reports are produced to a most professional standard, showing expenditure against budget, and other financial information. Vice President Graeme Anderson has attended all meetings held to date, being accompanied variously by our Secretary, Catherine Sanderson, or myself.

Working Parties

I mentioned in my report last year that we anticipated an increase in travel between Sydney and Jindabyne to consult with the NPWS on matters affecting the Perisher area. This has in fact happened, with various members of the Committee joining NPWS sponsored working parties. We also enlisted the assistance of Keith Rodda,

a member of Gunuma Lodge and a resident of Canberra, to attend some of the regional meetings, he being closer to scene of action than those of us living in Sydney. Keith was recently appointed to the Committee to fill a casual vacancy: but I shall say more about that shortly

This distribution of effort within the Committee has been beneficial to all concerned, and has established a SLOPES point-of-contact for the Service on the various matters being discussed.

Stormwater Management

Committee member Frank Walker was nominated as our representative on a working group to assist in the preparation of a "Stormwater Management Plan for Ski Resorts in the Upper Snowy Catchment. This was in line with a requirement of the NSW Environment Protection Agency for each local government area in the state.

The working group has met several times, both in Jindabyne and in Perisher Valley, and it is intended that the final report will be issued by the end of 1999.

Perisher Sewage Treatment Plant (STP)

Planning for the new STP in Perisher is well underway, and we have been advised that construction will be commenced this summer.

Jindabyne Regional Waste Facility

Keith Rodda has represented SLOPES in three meetings on waste disposal.

The Snowy River Shire Council has finally decided to seek Government approval to establish a regional waste facility adjacent to the existing Jindabyne current tip and sewage treatment plant. An EIS has yet to be prepared and approved, and the NPWS has agreed to pay 25 percent of the capital cost of the facility. Needless to say, some of these costs will be passed on to us, the users, for the tip at Sawpit Creek will close and there will be greater transport and operating costs due to the higher standard of sorting now required by legislation.

Manning of the Perisher Valley Fire Station

A few weeks ago Graeme Anderson and I met with the NSW Fire Brigade's Assistant Commissioner Southern Region, My Royce Atkinson, to discuss proposals concerning the manning of the Perisher Valley Fire Station: our concern being one of the cost of maintaining full-time staff. Keith Rodda also attended a meeting on the matter in Perisher Valley.

The outcome is that Perisher Valley will have a Station Officer and a fireman permanently on duty throughout the year. The anticipated additional cost is expected to be approximately \$130,000 per annum.

Parking in the Perisher Range Resorts

Late in the 1999 season the NPWS introduced new trial parking arrangements. Following this trial, and consultation, it is anticipated that the Perisher Range Resorts will be divided into five traffic areas:

1. Perisher South,
2. Perisher North,
3. Smiggin West,
4. Smiggin East, and
5. Guthega.

Keith Rodda has been representing SLOPES in the traffic discussions, and details will be promulgated when finalised

New Year's Eve in Perisher

For years people have been saying that "*someone orta*" arrange something in the resorts during the summer period; so this year we "bit the bullet" and our Secretary, Catherine Sanderson produced an excellent brochure outlining the summer activities can could take place in the resorts, or be accessed from them. Graeme Anderson's moment of glory will come with the fireworks display on New Year's Eve for those of you who can count and who know that the new millennium is still thirteen months away, and would be happy to be out of Sydney for the shambles at the end of this year.

The Future of SLOPES

From the recent round of FaxStream message to members, you will probably come to the realisation that your Committee that SLOPES has come to something of a watershed: and it is time for members, that is you, to decide where SLOPES goes to from here. I am the only remaining member of the initial group that met at John Grinham's behest on 24 May 1991, out of which SLOPES was borne after a very difficult labour. I believe that your organisation has achieved a great deal, and I make no excuses for a little trumpet blowing. Let me just remind you of a few of our successes:

- the laying to rest of *Ski 2000*;
- the negotiation of the site lease extensions;
- successful challenges to the 1992 and 1996 lodge site valuations by the Valuer General;
- reduction in the legal minimum room sizes for short-term accommodation, the benefit of which flowed beyond ski lodges;
- from the point of view of our members, a successful outcome to the recent Commission of Inquiry into the development of the Perisher Range Resorts;
- a vastly improved working relationship with the NPWS, such that proper and professional consultation is now the rule rather than the exception.

But those of us who worked on these and other issues, are becoming worn out, and it is the belief of the Committee that others should step forward and offer to shoulder the load, offer new ideas and learn how SLOPES approaches its challenges.

I strongly suggest to you, the members, that the existence of SLOPES is in your best interests. Do not let it die.

Retirements

I commenced by saying that this was my last Annual General Meeting. I am not seeking re-election either as President or as a member of the Committee. I leave with mixed feelings: sadness at losing contact with all those with whom I have had dealings over the last eight and a half years; relief at being able to devote my time to other interests; and comfort in the knowledge that there is at least one other prepared to carry on in my place. At the end of the day none of us is irreplaceable.

But I do not leave alone. Several weeks ago Keith Chapman, who has long been with us, tendered his resignation for health and personal reasons. I would like to thank Keith for his contribution and ideas over the years. As I mentioned earlier, the casual vacancy created by Keith's departure was filled by our Canberra representative, Keith Rodda. Don Gowing is another who is not standing this year, and I should like to thank Don for the common sense ideas he has contributed. Our Smiggin Holes members were well served by Don, and I specially remember the pleadings he made on behalf of that resort during the inspection by the Commission of Inquiry.

Appreciation

In closing, I should like to thank all past and present members of the SLOPES Committee: not only those who served during my Presidency, but also those with whom I have worked right from the start. It is quite remarkable on leaving an organisation to be able to say that never a cross word was spoken, there has always been respect for personal ideas, and our ultimate aim has always been consensus.

And finally, on behalf of the outgoing Committee, I once again say thanks for the support we get from you, our members.

Thank you,



A.M. Whybrow
President

17 November 1999

**MINUTES OF THE EIGHTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE SKI LODGES ORGANISATION OF PERISHER, SMIGGINS AND GUTHEGA
INCORPORATED
HELD AT THE CROWS NEST COMMUNITY CENTRE,
2 ERNEST PLACE, CROWS NEST
AT 7.00 PM ON WEDNESDAY 17 NOVEMBER 1999**

The meeting commenced at 7.10 pm.

PRESENT

60 representatives of Member Lodges were in attendance

APOLOGIES

Geoff Lucas, John O'Donnell

ORDINARY BUSINESS

1. **Confirm the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 4 November 1998.**

Resolved that the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 4 November 1998 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

2. **Receive the Annual Report of the Committee (President's Report).**

The President, Tony Whybrow, presented the Annual Report of the Committee (President's Report) to the meeting — a copy is attached to these minutes.

Resolved to accept the President's Report.

3. **Receive and consider and deal with the Detailed Income and Expenditure Statement and Balance Sheet.**

In the absence of the Treasurer, Geoff Lucas, the President presented the audited Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended 30 June 1997. The net surplus of income over expenditure was \$12,256, compared to a net surplus of \$6,445 in 1997-98. Cash on hand at year's end was \$30,221.

Resolved to accept the financial statements.

4. **Receive the Auditor's Report.**

Resolved to accept the Auditor's Report

5. To elect the Auditors and to fix, or authorise the Committee to fix, the remuneration of the Auditors.

The President recommended the reappointment of the auditors, Stirling Warton Williams, with the agreed fee of \$380, based on the same work being required for the 1999-2000 financial year.

Resolved to appoint Stirling Warton Williams, Auditors of the Association for 1999-2000.

6. To elect the Committee Members in accordance with the Rules.

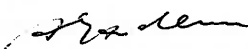
The President advised that as only one nomination had been received for each position on the Committee, the following were declared duly elected:

Position	Nominee	Club
President	Graeme Anderson	Kandahar Ski Club Perisher Valley
Vice President (and Public Officer)	Ian Dwyer	Kiandra Pioneer Ski Club Perisher Valley
Vice President	Frank Walker	Kosciusko Snow Revellers Ski Club Perisher Valley
Secretary	Catherine Sanderson	Fjelheim Ski Club Perisher Valley
Treasurer	Geoff Lucas	Turnak Ski Club Guthega Village
Committee	Richard Montgomery	Illawarra Alpine Club Smiggin Holes
Committee	David Read	Aurora Ski Club Perisher Valley
Committee	Keith Rodda	Gunuma Lodge Smiggin Holes
Committee	Christine Wild	ACTP Ski Club Guthega Village

The outgoing President, Tony Whybrow vacated the chair, handing the meeting over to the incoming President, Graeme Anderson.

Closure

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.40 pm


A.G. Anderson
President

13/11/99

C.A. Sanderson
Secretary