



The Ski Lodges Organisation of Perisher, Smiggins and Guthega Inc.

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27th November 2014

Twenty-second Annual General Meeting

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2013

Ladies and Gentlemen

Welcomes

Welcome to the SLOPES 2014 Annual General Meeting - our 22nd.

I am Frank Zipfinger, President of SLOPES.

I particularly welcome our stakeholder Guest Speakers tonight - Peter Brulisauer from Perisher Resorts, Stuart Schraam, Ryan Petrov from NPWS, Daniel James from Department of Planning and Infrastructure and Nick Kennedy from the Perisher Chamber of Commerce. I am pleased that this year we have continued to maintain excellent relations with all our key stakeholders, many of whom are represented by our Guest Speakers.

I also welcome, and thank on your behalf, the Committee Members of SLOPES who have again done a terrific job this year in ensuring that SLOPES focuses on our principal task of representing the interests of our Member Clubs.

The Strength of SLOPES

As we do each year, I remind you that our strength as SLOPES is that we speak for ALL the Club Lodges in Perisher, Smiggins and Guthega. The whole 88. It is our claim to fame.

The 100% membership figure of ALL Clubs and the 55,000 people who are our members, associates and visiting friends give us the right to be heard. We need and look forward to your continued support.

Your Committee

This year we have maintained our spread of Committee representation across Perisher, Smiggins and Guthega. There was only one change to the Committee in 2014. Long standing member, Gerald Lynch of Kalymer Ski Club stood down. Gerald had given

excellent service to SLOPES over many years, including representing SLOPES at the regular 6 monthly meetings with NPWS each year. Being based in Cabrera, Gerald on many occasions was called on usually at short notice, to represent SLOPES at meetings and events in KNP. Jindabyne and xxx. Gerald's deep corporate knowledge of SLOPES issues giving back to our earliest years and his wise ??? were greatly valued and will so sorely missed. WE wish him well in retirement.

After a ??? process ???/ at the major clubs, ??? replacement for Gerald was appointed by the Committee. It is [] of [] Ski Club.

All current members of the Committee have nominated for re-election. There being no other nominations, they will continue to serve after the AGM. I thank them for their support.

The Committee members are listed on the SLOPES website and can be contacted via the SLOPES email address: slopes.au@gmail.com.

I would like to recognise and thank particularly our Secretary Bill Coombes, our Minutes Secretary Noni de Carvalho and our Treasurer John Pinkerton. This team bears the brunt of the administration of SLOPES and has worked extremely well.

SLOPES Finances

Our finances are in good shape as our revenues and expenses were, relatively to each other, much the same as last year. Our revenues dropped from \$30,025 to \$21,500 reflecting the reduction in Club fees from \$350 to \$250 which we announced last year. Expenses dropped too, mainly due to the one off \$5,500 cost of the risk assessment report in 2011/12.

Matters still look quiet at present for 2013/14. But, we still expect there will be:

1. a major IPART review into Perisher Range Resort future costs and revenues (we are now more than 7 years into the current 10 year plan and NPWS has foreshadowed a review at some stage); and
2. costs in relation to the tender process we are running this year to identify a long term insurance service provider for all Club insurances following the demise of All Class Insurance earlier this year.

The key to budgeting the SLOPES finances is to have reasonable reserves available at all times to fund initiatives in support of the interests of Clubs as they arise. As things currently stand, we appear to be in that position. In the circumstances, the Committee decided that there was no need to change the subscription for 2014/15.

REMINDER TO ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF CLUBS: it is much better to buy your season pass at the National Parks entry station on the Kosciuszko Road at Sawpit Creek. This is because 95% of the amount you pay goes towards the running of the Perisher Range Resorts. It is only 35% if you buy the pass from the Jindabyne NPWS office or online!

Back to Perisher Weekend (BtP)

Sunshine and good weather again favoured the 2014 Back to Perisher Weekend.

The weekend is jointly sponsored by SLOPES and NPWS - this year was the 6th such event in 6 years.

Saturday

The Fun Run/Walk on Saturday morning attracted 83 registered participants with another 30 or so supporters. It was a good turnout considering the early (0800) start and that Easter and the school holidays did not coincide this year. After the race the cafe in the Chalet was packed.

NPWS sponsored the Creature Feature display in the Perisher Visitors Centre, a display of lizards, snakes, frogs etc - and a crocodile, probably the first one seen in Kosciuszko National Park! This was well attended with over 200 people being entertained including having photos with pythons around their necks.

The Great Perisher Duck Race attracted over 300 people and the 300 ducks, as always, sold quickly realising a profit of \$500 for the Perisher Volunteer Ski Patrol. The ducks were ably assisted by the NSW Fire Brigade who set up their wagon and hoses to assist those ducks that decided to linger by the banks. NPWS provided Easter eggs as prizes for the place getters.

After the-duck race around 100 people made their way to The Stables for a get together with drinks and the awarding of certificates for the place getters of the Fun Run. The Fire Brigade were in attendance and gave a well attended display of what to do (and not to do) in the case of a kitchen fire.

Sunday

Sunday was mainly the NPWS efforts starting with an Easter egg hunt in South Perisher attended by around 25 children and their parents.

The afternoon Perisher interpretive bike ride led by Dave Woods (NPWS) introduced children and adults to a number of native flora and fauna. The small animals had been trapped by Dave the evening before and were released afterwards.

NPWS had arranged a walk from Guthega to Illawong lodge with 23 people pre-registering for the walk. Only one person turned up. Those who registered would all have been staying at club lodges and the failure to attend was disappointing.

Next Year

Back to Perisher will be on again next year with a similar format. Please circulate and diarise the dates: 18 to 20 April 2014. The Fire Brigade have kindly offered their premises for the Saturday get together and we will consider having a bar-b-que there after the Duck Race.

Thanks

Thanks go to those people who assisted in making the Back to Perisher Weekend 2013 a success, in particular:

- The NPWS (especially the enthusiasm of Dave Woods).
- The Fire Brigade.

- Perisher Volunteer Ski Patrol (First Aid).
- Perisher Resort (donation of lift tickets).
- All Class Insurance (donation of insurance for the Fun Run).
- The Stables Resort.
- There are others, including all those from Clubs who participated - thanks to you all!

Finally, huge thanks to Dave Read who does a terrific job as the primary co-ordinator from SLOPES of Back to Perisher.

For more information and to register your interest with any of these activities, contact Dave Read from SLOPES on 0418 419 938 or email djread@bigpond.com or slopes.au@gmail.com.

FRNSW – Training Program

During the 2013 and 2014 winter ski seasons, Fire and Rescue NSW (FRNSW) is running fire safety education and training for lodges in Perisher, Smiggin Holes and Guthega.

This initiative is part of the Government's coordinated approach to fire safety in the Alpine Resorts and flows on from other State-wide initiatives by FRNSW.

FRNSW advises that focus of the program is on (i) the annual fire safety certification of installed fire safety measures, (ii) building exits are properly unimpeded and (iii) the operation of fire safety systems and measures.

The education and training takes places at individual lodges throughout the season. Each lodge will have an opportunity to ask questions and seek advice in relation to fire safety obligations for shared accommodation buildings including:

- annual fire safety statements;
- fire exit requirements; and
- smoke detection systems.

The program is primarily for the benefit of the management group of a Club. It is not designed to deliver Training to general occupants of the lodge on the day. The program is likely to be of most use if a Club sends to the Training someone in authority, and preferably familiar with your lodge and fire safety and protection issues. This will assist in getting the most out of the FRNSW commentary and information exchange and in conveying the critical messages to your Club management. It also enables fire brigade staff to familiarise themselves with your lodge and its situation for future reference.

A Training session is relevant and specific to each lodge and there is no hand-out that can convey the messages from FRNSW staff at the time of the Training or deal with the interaction with Club and fire brigade personnel at the time.

Club feedback so far on the E&T program has been positive. Here is what one Club reported to SLOPES.

The walk through went very well, the Fire Brigade were very helpful and made some good suggestions based on their experiences. Our sprinkler system got a big tick. It is not a draconian inspection by any means it is more about offering some friendly common sense advice while the crews familiarise themselves with each lodge's fire assets and layout in daylight rather than at night when full of smoke. An accurate roll call of all guests in the event of an emergency evacuation is the fire brigade's first priority, something they seldom get which means they have to risk their staff on searches to make sure buildings are empty.

It is important that all lodges participate in this informal inspection/training by the end of Winter 2014 – clubs with lodges not done by then might expect a formal compliance inspection instead.

Perisher Valley Fire Station

The new arrangements at the Perisher Valley Fire Station have now operated for winter seasons 2012 and 2013. A reminder the critical thing now is for all Clubs is:

- A. to do what they can to maximise fire safety in their own lodges, including availing themselves of the service provided by FARNSW to provide guidance on shut down procedures at the end of the snow season, regularly checking fire and smoke alarms, checking the combustibility of lodge fittings and furnishings before installation, properly maintaining gas bottles, managing surrounding vegetation, notifying FARNSW if activities like welding will occur at your lodge etc
- B. to be fully informed of the call procedures in the event of a fire emergency - **ALWAYS CALL 000 and NOT the Perisher Valley Fire Station.** And at all times keep the FARNSW notices with details clearly posted in your lodge
- C. make sure Club contact details are kept up to date with NPWS and FARNSW - and put the current Club contact details on the fire panel in your lodge, and
- D. be aware of the significant costs (increased this year from \$750 to \$1,250) which can be imposed by FARNSW in connection with responses to false alarms and of the greater likelihood now of charges being imposed and not waived. Clubs should also take steps with their service providers to minimise the incidence of false alarms from their lodges and take rapid remedial action after the occurrence of any false alarm.

SLOPES Website

The SLOPES Website is: www.slopes.org.au.

The Website includes all our contact details and links to related sites of relevance to Clubs. This year for the benefit of all we added a section containing the website addresses of our Member Clubs which are known to SLOPES.

We expect continually to enhance the Website to make it an easy access point for SLOPES Member emails and commentary generally on issues of interest to our Clubs. Please use the Website and give us feedback. We are especially interested in your views on what additional material we can put on the Website that will be relevant to you.

A reminder, SLOPES maintains a list of service providers that may be of use to members and associates, such as cleaning services, auditors etc but this list will not be displayed on the Website. Any member seeking information on a particular service or issue should contact SLOPES at slopes.au@gmail.com and we will respond to individual requests for assistance or information. Topics raised that have a wider level of interest to Clubs will be posted on the Website Notice Board.

Snowy Mountains of Music Festival

The Perisher Range Resorts Snowy Mountains of Music Festival (“the only music festival in Australia in the snow”) was held over the June long weekend (8-12 June 2013), organised by the Chamber of Commerce. It was well attended. The Music Festival is on again over the long weekend 6-9 June 2014: see www.snowymountainsofmusic.com.au. The website notes “over 30 bands will perform more than 100 concerts across 8 venues in the unique environment of the Perisher snowfields”. **The Festival is a valuable addition to the annual calendar of events in the Perisher Range Resorts and deserves to be supported. Please encourage your members – young and older - to support the festival.**

National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS)

Tonight we have with us 2 key SLOPES liaison contacts at NPWS - Andrew Harrigan, Manager, Visitor and Business Services and Marko Kovac, Manager Property Services Unit.

Between them, they have a multi-faceted role involving responsibility for the Kosciuszko National Park including the Perisher, Smiggins and Guthega Resorts. From a SLOPES perspective, this includes key issues such as lodge leases and bed numbers, Village development proposals and operational matters such as waste transfer and roads.

They also co-ordinate a team of engineers who are charged with getting the IPART monies spent properly in putting in all the new Perisher Resorts infrastructure. The MSU team includes the people who run the water supplies, sewage handling, road supervision and controls. They are effectively our Town Council.

A few highlights of 2013:

- shooting, a new initiative permitted by the State Government, won't occur in the vicinity of lodges in Kosciuszko National Park. It will only involve licensed shooters under NPWS supervision to assist in the eradication of feral animals,
- new signs have been installed at road commencements including names and features such as walking tracks, and
- grease traps and waste huts will remain a high focus for NPWS in 2014.

Department of Planning and Infrastructure

We welcome Daniel James who is with us tonight. Daniel is the Team Leader of the Alpine Resorts Team at the Department and is generally based in Jindabyne. The Department has overall planning responsibility for development in the Perisher Range Resorts (including fire safety and building audits). We encourage all SLOPES members to consult with the Department early on in relation to all development proposals affecting lodges. The key

message here is: “Ring the Department of Planning and drop in to see them and talk about where you stand BEFORE YOU SPEND THE MONEY”.

Perisher Resorts – Perisher, Smiggins, Guthega and Blue Cow

Tonight we welcome Peter Brulisauer, the Perisher CEO. Peter will speak about the Perisher Range Resorts and update us on some new developments.

Income tax and Encouragement of Sport

SLOPES reminds all Members of the importance of continually taking actions to support retention of the exemption from income tax through the “ENCOURAGEMENT OF SPORT”. SLOPES has appointed a Committee Member (Bill Coombes – slopes.au@gmail.com) to work on an encouragement program to promote and assist Clubs in their thinking. We strongly recommend that each Club appoint one of its committee as their “Sports Encouragement’ Officer” to do the same.

On our SLOPES Website there is a dedicated section with useful information and links to other organisations which can assist you to promote sport within your Club.

Clubs actually do a lot to encourage sport but they often do not think about it that way – nor sometimes do they keep records of their activities. Participation in The Perisher Cup is an example (the 61st such Cup was run in 2013). As are the School Events Week and promotion of it in the Clubs. Another example on the terms of ski and snowboard instruction – formal and informal – each with emergency in by lodge ???? it is useful for weekly club’s captain reports to keep an record of these hours.

Please take this topic seriously as you never know when it might emerge as an issue in the context of your Club.

X-Country Skiing

Once again the NSW Cross Country Committee did a great job informing us daily as to the skiing conditions and generally in promoting the sport of cross country skiing. SLOPES thanks them for that and the work they do in helping us all to promote sport.

Insurances

The following summarises where things are at in relation to those Club insurances previously managed by All Class (until its demise in April 2013) and now managed this year by JUA:

- 1 The core insurances are those which Clubs must maintain under their lease from NPWS - premises, public liability, workers compensation. The renewal this year of these policies was managed by JUA and they currently expire on 3 May 2014
- 2 Most clubs have also opted to take out the voluntary workers cover available under the SLOPES head policy. The recent renewal of these policies was managed by Jardine Lloyd Thompson and the current cover expires on 1 December 2013.
- 3 When the insurance broking industry became aware of the All Class insolvency, SLOPES was approached by about 15 organisations offering to take the place of All Class and assist with the renewals then underway.

- 4 After a truncated selection process, JUA was chosen to manage the 2013 renewals. As previously reported, this was a successful transition in the circumstances.
- 5 At that time we indicated to JUA that, once things settled down, SLOPES was likely to undertake a more comprehensive and formal process to identify the broker with the best overall credentials to manage the Club insurances in 2014 and beyond. Other brokers who contacted us at the time were similarly informed.
- 6 The SLOPES Committee has now had time to consider the various issues and has decided to undertake a tender process to identify the best credentialed broker to continue in this role going forward.
- 7 The Tender document was issued on 23 October 2013 to a selected group of 5 brokers. They were chosen from the wider group based on relevant criteria such as their industry experience, familiarity with snowline insurance and keenness to handle the business. More information on these and other relevant factors is being sought from the Tenderers as part of the process.
- 8 To simplify things, we negotiated a rollover of the voluntary workers insurance from its current expiry of 1 December 2013 to 3 May 2014 - to coincide with the core policies listed in point 1 above. This will simplify and make things more efficient for Clubs in future - and hopefully encourage more Clubs to take out this important cover. A separate email issued in November to Clubs regarding this rollover of the voluntary workers cover. It is also intended that D&O cover will be dealt with under the Tender so that, hopefully, a comprehensive insurance cover offering will be available to Clubs on a single renewal date.
- 9 The Tender closed on 20 November and we received an excellent group of responses. The intention is for SLOPES to make a decision on the preferred broker by 30 November. Clubs will then be notified of the outcome and contact details and encouraged to continue their participation - or to participate if not already in the group. This will allow the broker the necessary time to gather the Club data needed to negotiate the renewals in good time for the rollover date of 3 May 2014.

Perisher Waste Transfer Station

The new Perisher Waste Transfer Station operated for the full winter season in 2013.

A reminder that all Clubs should install a permanent waste receptacle over the next 2-3 years. Importantly, be aware that planning approval is NOT needed if you comply with the NPWS guidelines. Also, some innovative waste receptacle options are being adopted by Clubs which are simple and relatively inexpensive eg adapting a large toolbox for the purpose. So, when you are ready to implement this for your Club, SLOPES suggests you first contact Tom Pinzone at NPWS on (02) 657 4444 or Tom.Pinzone@environment.nsw.gov.au. Tom is also the person to speak to regarding grease trap issues.

Andrew Harrigan will be at our AGM and will report on results to date and what lies ahead in this space, plus answering questions from attendees.

SLOPES Emails

SLOPES relies on the contact people for each SLOPES Club passing on to their membership information we send out which is of interest to Club members generally and not just the Board of Directors of the Club. Communication of key issues is an important part of what we do and helps to ensure co-ordinated action in the interests of all SLOPES Clubs – be it reducing insurance premiums or supporting the Back to Perisher Weekend.

We ask all Clubs please to promptly circulate to their members relevant SLOPES emails, especially on events and general information. Please also let your members know that increasingly information on SLOPES and our initiatives can best be found on the SLOPES Website: www.slopes.org.au.

Perisher Range Resorts EMS Reporting (PREEMS)

Reporting under PRREMS is mandatory as part of the lease obligations of Clubs. Generally, compliance has been excellent. Last year for the first time Clubs achieved a 100% reporting result but this year we only reached 95%. Please remember to comply by the due date this year (usually a date in April).

The NPWS Awards program acknowledges exceptional performance in this area. Congratulations go to the 2013 winners of the Awards who were both Guthega SLOPES Clubs:

- **Brindabella Ski Club:** for their commitment to renewable energy; and
- **Snowy River Ski Club (Doorack Lodge):** for exceeding targets and achieving outstanding efficiency in energy and water consumption.

Perisher Historical Society (PHS)

The Perisher Historical Society is dedicated to recording the history of the Perisher Range Resorts. PHS also assists in promoting sport in various ways, including running the annual Perisher Cup event.

PHS currently has 98 members, including 25 SLOPES Clubs (with 2 new Clubs joining this year). Other Clubs are encouraged to join.

The 2012/13 period sees many Clubs (probably about 25) celebrate the 50th anniversary of their foundation. Using the “first winter of building occupation” test, the number of Clubs celebrating 50 years appears to be 19 in 2012 (ie first occupied in 1962) and 14 in 2013 (ie first occupied in 1963). NPWS is working with the Perisher Historical Society on initiatives to celebrate this important milestone.

PHS also commissioned a major history of the Kosciuszko National Park in the book titled “Highway to Heaven” by author Peter Southwell-Keely. The book was published in 2013 and launched at a very well attended dinner held on the June long weekend. PHS has provided free of charge a copy of the book to each SLOPES Club, for which we have conveyed our collective appreciation. So far PHS has sold over 60% of the print run of 2500 books.

Tonight we welcome Philip Woodman, President of PHS. Members interested in contributing memorabilia or in obtaining more information about PHS or in assisting with their projects are asked to contact PHS on phsadmin@iprimus.com.au or on (02) 9488 7475. See also their website at www.perisherhistoricalsociety.org.au.

Frank Zipfinger
President
SLOPES
XX November 2014