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SLOPES - Village Meetings on 23 June 2018 - Reports

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Dear SLOPES Members and Associates

The Village Meetings this year took place on 23 June.

Attached are detailed reports on the discussions at those meetings:

1. Perisher/Smiggins
2. Guthega
3. Earthcheck Reporting 2017/18
4. NPWS Environmental Programs

The reports cover matters of general interest to all Clubs in Perisher, Smiggins and Guthega.

Topics covered include:

1. **Fire safety** - Fire & Rescue guidelines and reminders for fire safety especially during the winter season; tips re false alarm fines; FRNSW visits to lodges; App "Emergency +"
2. **Resorts** - update by Perisher/Vail Resorts including on resort operations, capital works programs and lift opening times and arrangements
3. **PRREMS** - update especially re reporting; congratulations to SLOPES Clubs 2018 award winners Guthega Ski Club and Blue Cow Ski Club
4. **Guthega** - comments re Link Road and Guthega car park
5. **NPWS** - updates including on the new ICON walk strategy; recycling; snow grooming; new KNP entry cameras
6. **Waste operations** - update [reminder to take care what goes into the organic/compostable waste bags - no knives and forks, Vegemite sachets, oyster shells and the like]
7. **Resort Liaison activities** - updates on feral animal programs; cross country skiing trails; fat bikes; litter

The Reports are detailed but Clubs and Associates are encouraged to read them and circulate relevant information to their members and guests.

Regards

Frank Zipfinger
President
SLOPES

4 attachments

 **Village meeting Guthega 23-6-18.pdf**
198K

 **Village meeting Perisher Smiggins.pdf**
275K

 **Earthcheck Reporting 2017-18.pdf**
364K

NOTES FROM THE GUTHEGA VILLAGE MEETING 23 JUNE 2018

Present: Turnak; Guthega Ski Club; Guthega Inn; NPWS and Perisher (Peter Brulisauer)

The Fire Service advised that door codes should be lodged with them. This can be done via phoning the Perisher station.

From Peter Brulisauer

The Summit and Terminal chairs will open at 8:30 on weekends and school holidays. This is earlier than has been the case. A question was asked if either the Freedom Chair or Blue Cow T-Bar could open earlier than 9am to allow access to Blue Cow for ski lessons.

The access road to the base of the Leichardt lift was progressed over the summer all in preparation for the new quad lift to be installed this coming summer.

Planning is being progressed to replace the chair lifts on Mount Perisher with a detachable six seater.

Mountain biking activities – the current leasing model does not present Perisher with an economic outcome that would sustain an investment into this activity.

Tobogganing – Perisher have a lease requirement to provide a tobogganing area. Again this is not a core activity for a lifting company. Tobogganing in Guthega is not banned, however, tobogganing does present risks that need to be considered.

Access to the resort area outside lift operations – besides the usual warning of winch cat operations, Perisher have published guidelines/warning regarding those that cross country and or use skins to access the resort area outside operating hours.

Perisher have decided not to broadcast a snow report on the radio. Rather guests can better gauge conditions by accessing their web site (or their App).

NPWS

Environmental awards – Blue Cow and Guthega Ski Club joint winners and Guthega Inn were 'highly commended' in the commercial category

Recycling – new arrangements are in place and items need to be placed in bins without using plastic bags.

Vehicle recognition – this is still in a trial phase.

Three new cross country trails have been established over summer (in Perisher)

ICON four day walk that links Thredbo, Charlotte's Pass, Guthega and Perisher will see the construction of a public toilet at Seamen's hut.

Charlotte Pass lease has been renewed though the lease will/does stipulate that they are to be operational from the June to October long weekends. This will impact on road closures during this period.

The Link Road, although it was agreed that it provides the area with a great economic benefit, there would appear to be no funding to improve this. The representatives from the NPWS are to approach RMS to see if improvements can be made.

Feral animal eradication. There is an ongoing program though the wild horses are not being targeted. In the Blue Cow region the NPWS captured the highest number of rabbits which suggests that the work to remove cats and foxes to protect the endangered Pygmy Possum is working....hence the growth in the rabbit population in this region.

There is still a focus on reporting sightings of cats and foxes as, if traps can be set within 24 to 48 hours of a sighting, this results in a high capture rate.

State of the Guthega carpark - The NPWS have committed to providing a temporary fix to the pot holes near the garbage bins. A more permanent fix will be applied in the summer.

Car park clearing will again be undertaken on Fridays.

VILLAGE MEETING 23/6/18 – PERISHER/SMIGGINS

Presenters: Ryan Petrov, Virginia Logan, Allan Bruce, Helen Smith, Peter Brulisauer, Richard Phillips , Tim Scanlon.

FIRE AND RESCUE NSW

Allan Bruce spoke first about fire safety and the role of the fire brigade.

Perisher fire station is only occupied at winter and its roles are fire fighting, rescue, hazmat and spillage, fire education and assist with medical events.

They are not allowed into back country.

The brigade are happy to visit your lodge to educate or check and answer questions (they can't take the role of fire services inspections)

If there is a fire don't call the station, call 000 they will get to you far quicker.

Once a call has been made the brigade are obligated to visit but if it is a false alarm or controlled, call back and let them know so the jobs can be prioritised.

The false alarm charge only applies to monitored alarms.

The brigade have all your access keys and codes, so if anything gets changed please notify the station.

Allan suggested it is a good idea to have your fire safety statement and a floor plan of the building on the wall beside the fire panel for an emergency reference.

Allan also recommended an app that is available called "Emergency +". It is great for the services to locate you by the co-ordinates it gives.

PERISHER/VAIL

Peter and Richard from Perisher/Vail spoke about some of the developments that have happened over the summer and into the future, for instance, the cables have been replaced on front valley lift, preparations have been made for building the Leichardt quad chair, some lifts will open earlier at 8.30am on the weekends, Check the app or website.

The Epic Pass is going extremely well, there are now 28 resorts covered.

Perisher advise that for the most up to date snow and weather reports it is on the app or website NOT the radio or television.

They are noticing people are booking earlier each year.

Free hot chocolate is available at the bottom of V8 lift on weekends and they are open for suggests like cider or coffee.

There is an "Uphill Access Policy" in place now, [https://www.perisher.com.au/images/1.9 Uphill access policy 1.0.pdf](https://www.perisher.com.au/images/1.9%20Uphill%20access%20policy%201.0.pdf)

Brought about by various risks involved by people walking up the slopes, please read, it is on the website or app.

A question was asked about the problem in finding the 70 yrs plus pass on the webpage, Richard advised he will try and make it an easier find.

"On demand" lift status was discussed, it was explained that all lifts are monitored by cameras and staff and when it starts to look as if it could get busy, the lift would be opened.

Frost and ice on snow cams will be an inherent problem until someone comes up will heated cameras!

NPWS – PRREMS

Viginia Logan spoke about PRREMS and earthcheck.

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/prrems/index.htm>

Earthcheck reporting has improved again this year, (94% of lodges completed their report with 5 reaching their target while 7 others improved .

There is certainly more awareness of the environment and the fragile landscape of the national park.

Earthcheck reporting can be done or altered by using the dashboard online.

PRREMS are working on a plan for a resort benchmark for energy usage, more to come later.

Energy efficiency awards for 2018 see attached.

NPWS – MUNICIPAL SERVICES

Ryan Petrov chaired the meeting and spoke about all things national parks.

He expressed the need for all over snow vehicles to keep to the over snow routes and be only used for business purposes.

Over summer Parks removed the wooden footbridge near the skitube terminal as it was dangerous.

Because of staffing issues it has been decided to close the Parks office for lunch.

Recycling – there is now a choice of plastic tub or plastic bags for recycled materials. After a couple of hiccups the food waste composting is very successful and the mulch has been put back into gardens in the parks.

Snow grooming will be the same this year and with Charlotte Pass staying open till the long weekend it will slightly affect the use of the road by their transport.

Lodge owners and managers have been asking for more overnight chained off parking over the season, sorry there is no more, it has been worked out according to size and beds.

The new park entry cameras are still in trial so it is pay the usual way for this year.

Parks are looking at ways to introduce the “return and earn” scheme to the valley.

Parks won two grants equalling \$27 million from the government so they will be extending and creating new trails and building a toilet facility at Seaman’s Hut.

Parks are working on a simplified on-line system for skidoo and other licences.

A question was asked if when clearing the roads could the groomer try and keep the driveways to lodges open, Ryan will talk to them.

There was a discussion about solar panels on roofs, Ryan explained there are only 4 or 5 buildings with them and is limiting because the roof would have to be at the right angle and the right direction to enable the panels to be fixed directly to the roof.

NPWS – RESORT LIAISON

Tim Scanlon the Resort Liaison Officer explained about the pests in the Park and what baiting or shooting programmes are happening. Cats received a special mention, so if anyone sees a cat please notify Tim urgently.

Over summer three new cross country trails have been formed and named after cross country skiers, Ross Martin, Ted Winter, Carl Melvey.

Special note that “fat bikes” are restricted to the trails only.

Tim is happy to come to your Lodge and do a presentation about the plant and animal life in the park.

The upcoming Resort Roundup magazine is due out soon so Tim is looking for submissions to include in this Winter Edition.

Summary of EarthCheck reporting 2017/18

- **Thank you** everyone for your reports & continuing to commit
- **Apologies** for my absence earlier in the year – April and May when we were trying to get all reports in. Unfortunately, both my parents were not well so I had to provide some family support.
- **A big thank you yet again to Helen** for assisting lodges enter data and answer questions.

Stats for 2017-18

- **91% - 94% of lodges reported** (some a bit late to be included in our awards) PRREMS committee met on the 12th June
- **Targets:**
 - 5 met or exceeded (the **first time** all lodges reported making recycling available to their guests)
 - 7 significantly improved (tanks, baits/traps, erosion control, cultural values, awareness trained, committee discussing environmental risks)
 - 10 no significant change
 - 2 slight decline (include **reduced number of lodges reporting & weed control**)
- Separate to the reporting - There was also a concerted effort this year – **amenity over summer**.

Things to consider

- Please **use the dashboard of Earthcheck to your advantage**
 - Track water use over time
 - Track energy use over time
- If previous data (historic) is **incorrect we can correct it** – send the changes to us in an email & Helen or I will change it – energy, water, visitor nights
- We are getting **EarthCheck to run a separate report** – that will combine all the data - last 4 years – water & energy – and group it into like for like – club lodges (bed numbers), hotels, and apartments etc. Compare with other resorts (if data available). Commercial in confidence.
 - set energy benchmark/target for commercial and club lodges
 - revise the water target/s.

PRREMS Award winners 2018

Club Lodges

Resource efficiency

Winners:

Guthega Ski Club: (39MJ/Vn & 68L/Vn)

Blue Cow Ski Club: (41MJ/Vn & 78L/Vn)

Highly Commended:

Guthega: (2 joint winners, 4 HC) Jagungal, Doorack, Tate, Turnak,

Perisher/Smiggins (23 Highly Commended)

Alexandra, Aurora, Beachcomer, Gunuma, Illawarra, Kalymaro, Kandahar, Alpenhof, Lampada, Langlauf, Maranatha, Merriment, Mirrabooka, Moerlina, Mulumbinba, Muniong, Orana, Rugby, Southern Cross, Tarrawonga, The RAN, University and Yarrandoo.

Commercial Lodges/hotels:

Smiggins Chalet: (90 MJ/Vn & 133L/Vn)

Highly Commended:

Guthega: Guthega Alpine Hotel

Perisher/Smiggins: Altitude, Barina Milpara, Chez Jean, Corroboree, Lodge 39, Sundeck

Virginia Logan

NPWS

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

Aerial shooting

- The aerial shooting **program in May** targeted locations closer to the resorts before the ski season. The results were 46 Fallow deer, 12 Sambar deer, 7 Foxes, 9 Pigs.
- Aerial shooting program planned for **next week; 25th-27th June**.
The areas to be targeted are:
 - the eastern side of Jagungal with the western boundary being the Greymare and Doubtful Gap fire trails, and including the Snowy Plain area
 - the western side of Lake Eucumbene from Denison down to Eucumbene Cove
 - the Pilot Wilderness Area, between the Big Boggy and The Pilot

This operation is part of a three year program to reduce the impacts of deer and pigs on the Montane Bogs and Fens Threatened Ecological Communities and other high conservation value native vegetation in these areas. Other feral animals such as dogs, foxes and goats will also be shot during this program if observed, however aerial shooting is not used to control horses in NSW National Parks and therefore horses will not be targeted as part of this program.

Cats

- Results of 17/18 cat control program – 8 cage trapped, 1 soft jaw trapping
- We will be undertaking cat trapping programs in and around Perisher this winter. It is very important that when a cat is seen it is reported. “See a cat, catch a cat”. We can generally have a trap out within 48 hours in the general area where the cat was seen. This maximises our chances of catching them.

Rabbits, hares

- Very successful rabbit and hare control program over 2017/18 with 122 rabbits and 28 hares. Most rabbits were in the Blue Cow area – 111 rabbits.

Fox

Extensive Fox baiting starting next month

A fox control program will be undertaken from 2 July until 27 August 2018. The program will involve the burial of 1080 baits within the areas identified in the attached map. The winter program has been undertaken since 1999 to reduce the number of foxes in the vicinity of the ski resorts. Research in the 90's indicated that foxes moved into resort areas during the winter months providing an ideal time to reduce the population size.

The program is part of an integrated pest management program that also includes winter cage trapping for feral cats and soft jaw trapping for foxes and feral cats during the non-snow periods. The control program is designed to reduce fox populations and their impact of predation on native animals including the threatened species Broad-toothed Rat and Mountain Pygmy- Possum.

If you notice any fox or cat activity please contact Tim Scanlon

tim.scanlon@environment.nsw.gov.au Ph: 64505616 0418 689250

Cross-country skiing

- 3 new trails. Ross's, Ted's and Carl's. Anyone know who they are named after?
- Ross Martin– former Australian X-C ski team rep
- Ted Winter – keen skier and walker
- Carl Melvey
- 2 are off the Valley Trail and Outgoing 2.5km, 1 is between Outgoing 2.5km and Ingoing 2.5km.

Fat bikes

Still the same restrictions. Only allowed where bikes are allowed: Management trails, Roads, Village roads, Perisher to Rawsons Pass.

Litter

- Radio adds – litter & back country safety will run again this winter
- Continue to promote the EPA litter campaign.

Add for Tim tim.scanlon@environment.nsw.gov.au *Ph: 64505616 0418 689250*

- Tim is available to do
 - lodge presentations over winter,
 - assist with small mammals in lodges and
 - problem trees you may have on your lease,
- Tim would appreciate a call if you see
 - feral cats – or would like to report other feral animals
 - Interesting wildlife observations
 - anything else you are not sure of – he is your man!
- **Watch this space:** he has a poo identification posters coming out soon to help you know what animals are present in your lodge.

Resort Roundup

- Call for articles – let Virginia or Helen know.

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