

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SKI LODGES ASSOCIATION
OF PERISHER SMIGGINS AND GUTHEGA INC (SLOPES) HELD ON 19 NOVEMBER
2018 AT CHATSWOOD RSL CLUB COMMENCING AT 7.30PM**

PRESENT:

President

Frank Zipfinger (Mirrabooka)

Committee

David Macdonald (KAC) John Pinkerton (Tate), John Illy (CSIRO), Paul Schott (Clancy), Roland Everingham (Perisher Huette), Lucille Back (Snow Country), Bill Coombes (Hus-Ski) and Noni de Carvalho (Minute Secretary)

Committee Apologies

Andrew Cutler (Kandahar), Tony Adams (Snowy River Doorak)

Member Clubs and their representatives

ACT Police Jagungal (Jill Newby), Australian Ski Club (Andre Gogosevic), Avalanche Alpine Perisher Huette (David van Beek, Martin Drevikovski, Leon Smith), Blue Cow Ski Club (Matt Madin), Brindabella (David Banham, Darren Hugh, James Lawrence), Canberra Alpine (Ross Smith), Chez Jean Ski Club (Greg Riches, Justin Melvey), Cooma Ski Club (Michael Salmon), CSIRO (Neil Watkinson), Dianella (Trevor Brown), Dulmison (Michael Cook), Edelwiess (Greg and Robin Murray), Fellowship Moerlina Ski Club (Mark Bradford, Belinda Hanson), Guthega Ski Club (Ross Downes), Gunuma (Sharon Leadbitter), Gonyah Ski Club (Neil Cowper), Highway Alpine Club (Laurie Winnacott), Hus-Ski Lodge (Warwick Dean, Carol Dean), Illawarra Alpine Club (Jono Walsh), Kiandra Pioneer (Maurice Carter, Peter Kape, Sarah Kape), Kosciusko Alpine Club (John Cantril, Mark O'Toole), Kosciusko Snow Revellers Ski Club (PH Newland), Ku-ring-gai (Pamela Woodman, Philip Woodman, Gordon Cox), Langlauf Ski Club (Tim Alexander), Merriment (Clive King, Warwick Read, David Read, Scott McKie), Muniong (Rob Holdarry, Ian Taylor) Oldina Ski Club (John Brockhouse, Wendy Brockhouse), Parrawa Ski Club (Sue King, Victoria Syder, Richard Charlton, David Gilbert), Port Kembla Ski Club (Ron Fitzgerald), RAN Ski Club (Phil Gregory), Rugby Ski Club (Andrew Harding), Sonnenhof Ski Club (Jack Bulfin), Southern Alps Ski Club Kahane (Rod Peile, Tim Moore), Southern Cross Ski Club (Ann Collins, Bev. Day-Cassin, Margot HeathGraham Morrison), Sydney Ski Club (Justin Diddams), Tarrawonga Ski Club (Richard Logan, Andrew Foster), Technology Ski Club (Richard Beattie, Andrew Dunn, Mal Higgs), Thirroul Ski Club (Bruce Norton, Kevin Masters, Mavis Williams), Trissana Ski Club (James Daniel), Turnak Ski Club (Roger Lucas), University Alpine Club (Chris Hegarty, David Smith, Bill Russell), Warrugang (Robert Stephen), Waratah (Peter Nicholas), Wildspitze Ski Club (David Beverley, Maria Adams, Chris Adams), Windarra (Robert Lindsay), Wirruna Ski Club (Noel Pearse).

Member Apologies

Alexander Ski Club, David Read (Aurora), Joe Di Falco and Phillip Friedlander (Southern Alps), Michael Brannon and Paul Lyth (Snow Country Ski Club)

Associate Apologies

Burrawong Ski Club

Non-Member

Apex Chalet CP (Bob Harrison), Sam Byrne

Past Presidents

Graeme Anderson (1999 – 2010) (Kandahar)

Guests

The Honourable John Barilaro – Deputy Premier of NSW, Leader of the Nationals, Minister for Regional NSW and formerly Minister for Tourism, Member for Monaro since 2011.

Tim Smith – Business Consultant, Energy Action (SLOPES Energy Review and Survey 2018)

Anjana Venkatesan – Energy Procurement Analyst, Energy Action

Vergil Iliescu – Greybeard Systems (website developer for SLOPES new website)

Peter Brulisauer – COO Perisher Vail

Bob Tait – President Chamber of Commerce

Mick Pettit – Regional Manager, Southern Ranges Services, NPWS

Ryan Petrov – Manager, Southern Ranges Services, NPWS

Bree Mawhinney – Team Leader, Resorts, NPWS

Stuart Schramm – Director Property and Commercial, Office of Environment and Heritage

Daniel James – Team Leader, Alpine Resorts Team, Department of Planning and Environment, Jindabyne Office.

Sue Everingham – Board member, Destination NSW Southern Region, Member Perisher Huette

Frank Zipfinger opened the meeting and welcomed members. Frank introduced the guests to the meeting and in particular the Deputy Premier of NSW, John Barilaro. Frank thanked all the guests for attending noting that they would be addressing the meeting after the formal business of the AGM was completed.

Frank introduced the Committee noting there were no changes to the Committee during the year. Frank noted that David Read (ex-Committee) was unable to attend the meeting but acknowledged his hard work and thanked him for continuing to organise the Back to Perisher Weekend (BTPW) at Easter.

Frank noted that the strength of SLOPES is the continued support and 100% membership of all 88 Perisher, Smiggins and Guthega Ski Clubs as well as a number of Associate Members including new associate members from Charlotte Pass that have recently joined. He urged all members to continue that support to maintain their strong voice as a group and as a stakeholder in the Perisher Range Resorts.

Frank noted that he would move quickly through the formal agenda of the AGM so that the meeting could move on to hearing the guest speakers.

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD ON 21 NOVEMBER 2016

The Minutes of the previous AGM held on 20 November 2017 at Chatswood RSL Club were circulated to the members prior to the meeting.

There were no comments or questions.

The Minutes were adopted. Moved David Macdonald (KAC) and seconded Lucille Back (Snow Country).

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The detailed and comprehensive President's Report providing a summary of activity during the year was circulated to members prior to the meeting.

As the report was circulated to Member Clubs prior to the AGM, Frank focused on a few key matters from the report:

1. Frank drew attention to the new SLOPES website www.slopes.org.au that is now operational. It is the location of current and historical SLOPES documents and information as well as providing links to Club websites and relevant stakeholder websites. He noted that it is the first location to go to for information.
2. Back to Perisher Weekend will be on again next year over Easter 20 – 29 April 2019. This year was the 10th year of BTPW and it was again very successful.
3. The Governance Review by Office of Environment and Heritage has been commented on for the last 2 years and progress seems to have currently halted. SLOPES has supported a review of the current structure as it is clear that the current management system dating from the 1950s gives little incentive for much needed investment and improvement to the Perisher Range Resorts. SLOPES has joined with the Chamber of Commerce in agreeing that a Head Lease should be considered involving the current resorts operator Perisher Vail.

There were no questions or comments from the Meeting on the President's Report.

The President's Report was adopted. Moved Lucille Back (Snow Country) and seconded David Macdonald (KAC)

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Financial Statement, Balance Sheet and Auditor's Report were circulated to the members prior to the meeting. The report indicates the sound position of SLOPES such that there was no need to raise the subscription rate again this year. Frank noted that there is about \$70,000 available should any matter interest or concern arise that requires action by SLOPES on behalf of the clubs such as, for example, matters arising from the Governance Review.

The Financial Report was adopted. Moved Lucille Back (Snow Country) and seconded David McDonald (KAC).



The Auditor's Report was adopted and Stirling International was nominated and appointed as SLOPES Auditors for 2019 with the Committee to settle the auditor's remuneration. Moved Frank Zipfinger (Mirrabooka) and seconded John Pinkerton (Tate).

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

As there were no other nominations, the current 10-member Committee representing the different villages in the Perisher Range Resorts was re-elected for 12 months.

Moved David Macdonald (KAC) and seconded Lucille Back (Snow Country)

GENERAL BUSINESS

There were no questions arising or notices of motion raised by members.

The 2018 Annual General Meeting of SLOPES concluded at 7.50pm

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

The Honourable John Barilaro – Deputy Premier of NSW, Leader of the Nationals, Minister for Regional NSW and Member for Monaro

The Deputy Premier thanked SLOPES for the invitation to speak to the meeting noting the fantastic ski season we have just enjoyed.

The Deputy Premier noted his and the government's commitment to investment in the Kosciusko area noting its natural beauty and importance as a tourist destination not just for winter but also in summer to underpin the local economy. He noted that investment in Snowy Hydro 2.0 will bring more people to the area for work and encourage increased investment in the area.

The Deputy Premier noted his awareness of the importance of connectivity to the area and within the area for growth to occur. This included upgrading roads, removing telecommunication black spots and increasing public transport. He noted that planning for the area has been assisted by Council amalgamations whereby a more regional approach is possible to infrastructure planning.

The Deputy Premier advised that the sale of NSW Government shares in Snowy Hydro has been committed by government for use in the region. He noted the completion of duplication of the road from Barry Way to the Park entry came in under budget and ahead of schedule. He advised of the \$27 million investment in bike trails in KNP as well as future proposals to provide walking trails that will provide a 4-day walk linking the villages – Guthega, Perisher, Charlotte Pass and Thredbo – as well as improvements to amenities such as providing toilets at Seaman's Hut for walkers. He noted that government was also aware of the need to consider upgrades and widening of Monaro Highway as well as Kosciusko Road.

The Deputy Premier advised that consideration is being given to re-opening rail links including links to the port facilities at Eden to improve freight and passenger movements in the region. He noted that government is seeking to look beyond the election cycle and focus

on infrastructure and planning for the next generation but in a manner that is environmentally sensitive and protects the natural assets of the region.

The Deputy Premier mentioned that he had announced that \$2.4 million has been set aside for preparation of a Master Plan for Jindabyne and the links to Jindabyne. He noted the intention for a co-ordinated approach rather than ad-hoc piecemeal decisions. Consideration is being given to developing education and medical precincts in Jindabyne and perhaps an airport. This will be determined by the Master Plan work.

The Deputy Premier advised that a Head Lease for Perisher was still under consideration and he announced that government has been careful to follow procedure given past experience in self-interest and abuse of government leases recently uncovered by ICAC. Nevertheless, the process so far has provided the government with sufficient confidence to now enter into direct negotiations with Perisher Vail on a possible head lease arrangement for the Perisher Range Resorts that would allow growth of the resorts for both summer and winter operation.

In response to a question from the floor, he invited Stuart Schramm from OEH to the microphone who confirmed that the interests of the 520 existing lessees including the 88 Club Lodges would be honoured and protected during the negotiation for a Head Lease. He also advised that there would be consultation during the process.

As an aside during the talk, the Deputy Premier noted that, as many of the ski clubs are Co-operatives under the Co-operatives Act, there were provisions under the Act for the government to provide financial loans to co-operatives that may be of interest to some clubs.

Frank thanked the Deputy Premier for his time and comments and noted that the Deputy Premier would be available for questions as he planned to stay on at the meeting. Frank also thanked him for his exciting announcement regarding direct negotiations for a Head Lease and quoted from his President's Report that "SLOPES supports the concept of direct negotiations between OEH and Perisher to explore that outcome" as a "once in a generation change needed to current arrangements". Frank thanked Graeme Anderson, Past President of SLOPES, for the strong base and credibility he established for SLOPES during his time as President that ensures SLOPES can be an important stakeholder in the process on behalf of its Member Clubs.

Peter Brulisauer – Chief Operating Officer, Perisher-Vail

Peter thanked the Deputy Premier and OEH for getting matters for future governance to this point. He noted that the process followed by OEH allowed the priorities of the community to be established. He acknowledged that in that process the governance models studied indicated that a Head Lease was the best option and the direction that Perisher needs to go including resolving any obstacles to achieve that outcome.

Peter confirmed Perisher's commitment to ongoing stakeholder consultation at key stages during the negotiation.

Peter confirmed that 2018 was a very good snow season that was complemented by the investment that has been made in snow making. The Epic Pass continues to be popular with the access it provides to overseas resorts. He noted that last year the offer from the Pass included some free days skiing in Whistler and this year the offer will be some 5 days free skiing in Hakuba Valley in Japan following the recent collaboration entered into there by Vail. Peter noted that other offers will occur as Vail grows its partnerships.



Peter advised that this summer the work to remove the Leichhardt T-bar and replace it with a chairlift as well as providing snow making in Happy Valley will be completed.

Peter advised the next project being planned will be to replace the Mount Perisher double and triple chairs with a fast quad chair. It is also planned to widen and upgrade the runs that the chair will access and rebuild the restaurant facilities and amenities at the base of the chair.

Peter commented that day car parking continues to be an issue with overflow parking stretching down Kosciusko Road. This is a matter that needs to be addressed as day visitor skiers, snow walkers and so on are increasing in demand. In making this comment Peter noted that other than Perisher's investment in the skiing facilities, there has been no investment in connectivity infrastructure since the skitube. The skitube was constructed and has operated at the same capacity since 1987. In that same period from 1987 to 2018 the population of Australia has increased 60% such that it is not surprising that demand exceeds access capacity.

Daniel James – Team Leader, Alpine Resorts team, Department of Planning and Infrastructure

Daniel stressed that the Alpine Resorts team is there to help and support the ski club lodges to navigate their way through the planning system. He congratulated the clubs on achieving 100% return for their Annual Fire Safety Statements with 100% compliance this year especially given the new format and requirements that had to be followed.

Daniel advised that there were 44 development applications (DA) approved by the Alpine Resorts Team this year of which 24 were in Perisher. Currently there are 22 on the books at the moment including the DA for the temporary facilities for this year's L'Etape Bicycle Race in December.

Daniel advised the meeting that the recently exhibited application for the new Perisher View commercial lodge in Front Valley that has caused concern has received over 200 submissions. He advised that the Senior Planner, Mark Brown, is currently reviewing the submissions and summarising the issues raised.

Daniel noted the need to liaise early with the Team if clubs are considering any work to their lodges. Daniel advised that he is happy to meet on site if required to progress discussion. Daniel acknowledged the limited scope of exempt development in the SEPP (Alpine Resorts) and that most work requires a DA.

Daniel acknowledged the problem of essential maintenance and repairs that can arise. He noted that where there are health and safety issues, the Department can issue Orders for the work to be completed that may hasten the process especially in an emergency rather than having to lodge a full DA. The documentation to address the Order still requires plans and any supporting technical advice that may be required to satisfy the Order that needs to be approved before work commences. Orders can also include repairs required to retaining walls, fire safety improvements and removal of old fuel tanks. Daniel advised that currently the Alpine Resorts Team has 22 Orders issued of which 16 are in the Perisher Range Resorts.

Ryan Petrov – Manager, Southern Ranges Services, NPWS

Ryan commenced by introducing Mick Pettit who is the overall Regional Manager for NPWS Southern Ranges and Bree Mawhinney, Team Leader, Resorts, NPWS. Ryan noted that Bree and Virginia Logan are the Club's first point of contact for resort environmental matters.

Ryan noted that Tim Scanlon has replaced the retired Dave Woods as the new Liaison Officer and is the first point of contact for any proposed landscaping work being considered by the Clubs or for any problem trees in the vicinity of their lodges.

Ryan advised that there was a 99% return of the Environmental Management Systems reports by the clubs. Ryan acknowledged that they are onerous to complete but that the information provided is very useful. Ryan advised that NPWS is looking at ways of streamlining the reports to make them easier and faster to complete.

Ryan confirmed that last winter was not only more snow but also busier. Ryan confirmed that demand for winter use including increasing snow playing as well as skiing is increasing. He advised that NPWS is talking to RMS regarding capacity and access issues into Perisher Range Resorts and the need for short as well as long term improvements to Kosciusko Road.

Ryan acknowledged the recent experience of Brindabella's lodge (Tiobunga) at Guthega where a braided flexible water hose broke in the lodge and flooded the lodge causing extensive damage. Ryan suggested that other lodges review their plumbing systems and consider providing an isolation cut-off valve that operates when the lodge is unoccupied but excludes any sprinkler system if provided.

Ryan advised that there were no issues with the sewage system and treatment works this winter. Ryan advised that waste recycling including separation of green waste for composting is now well established. Ryan advised that 80 tonnes of green waste was collected this year.

Ryan confirmed that \$17 million is being spent by government to construct the walking trail that will link the villages in KNP for a 4-day walk and provision of toilet amenities at Seamans Hut to complement those at Rawsons Hut. Ryan noted that in sensitive areas along the walk, board-walks will be constructed above ground level to protect the environment.

Vergil Iliescu - Greybeard

Vergil introduced himself to the meeting noting he had been commissioned by SLOPES to set up its new website. Vergil confirmed that the website was designed around being a document management system storing information by date order and by subject that is of use to the Club Members of SLOPES. Vergil noted that if searching by subject the documents are then in date order under the subject. The key is accessing the "Info Hub" of the website.

Vergil also highlighted the events calendar that has been set up on the website that is a useful reference throughout the year.

Vergil noted to the meeting that the new initiative of the website is the setting up of a Trades and Services Section. He noted that it relies on information provided by Clubs to SLOPES and it also allows Clubs to record their experiences dealing with a service. Vergil noted that not all categories of information are on the website as yet but more will be added as information is received.

Vergil also advised that the website has the capacity to add more features should SLOPES and its Member Clubs require it.

Tim Smith – Business Services Consultant, Energy Action, Anjana Venkatesan – Energy Procurement Analyst, Energy Action



Tim introduced himself and Anjana to the meeting noting that Energy Action had been appointed by SLOPES to source improved energy supply rates for the Members Clubs of SLOPES. Tim thanked the Clubs that supplied their energy costing information to him. Tim also noted that the savings will vary from club to club depending on their size and operation. Tim advised that 75 Clubs had indicated interest in the scheme and the tender was done on that basis. He noted if others joined it may increase the savings and it is possible even at this late stage to add others.

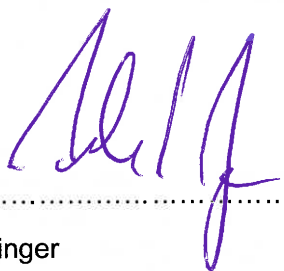
Anjana noted that the clubs as a group are considered a small market because it is a seasonal market with less than 100 megawatts per year.

The tender process involved 7 retailers being contacted of which only 3 so far have responded with offers. Tim noted that a few retailers had issue with dealing with SLOPES and an aggregate of clubs rather than direct customer or club. A Power Point presentation summarised the results of the tender to the meeting. So far, the best offer indicates that a minimum of \$48 up to \$14000 will be saved and in total \$165,000 per annum for 2 years.

The start date is planned to be after the next meter reading for those Clubs who have agreed to be part of the scheme.

Frank advised that a copy of Tim and Anjana's presentation will be placed on the website.

The President, Frank Zipfinger, closed the meeting at 9.00pm to allow Club representatives to speak to and ask questions of the Deputy Premier and guest speakers at the meeting during supper.



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Frank Zipfinger
President



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Date