

Seventeenth Annual General Meeting

24th November 2009

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to the SLOPES 2009 AGM . On behalf of the Committee I thank you for your attendance here tonight, and your support over the last twelve months.

For the seventeenth time at an AGM your committee says again that our strength as SLOPES is that we talk for ALL the Club Lodges in Perisher, Smiggins and Guthega. The whole 86. It is our claim to fame, and we must have your continued support .

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.

YOUR COMMITTEE:

We have maintained our spread across the three basic areas of Perisher, Smiggins and Guthega.

We ran into a problem in discussions with a prospective Committee member when it was realised that our D & O Insurance was maybe inapplicable due to restrictions in our Constitution. Thus this year at a special General meeting we are submitting a change of Constitution in this area. We find that the NSW laws on Associations are changing on allowable Rules, and these come into effect early in 2010, so our timing is fortunate to save a major legal hassle.

A special thanks to Gerald Lynch of Kalyvaro Club who attends all the Jindabyne and Queanbeyan meetings as well as our SLOPES Sydney Committee Meetings.

We have continued with the enthusiastic support of Bert Sheridan as your Exec Officer who has continued to perform nobly, and is a pleasure to work with. Say it, and it is done!!

TWO DIFFERENT SPECIAL PERISHER ACTIVITIES IN 2009:

At Easter we held the Back to Perisher Weekend in conjunction with National Parks. We thought it was successful in introducing many of the 441 people who logged in to a new view of the Alps. The fun run attracted some 50 runners who made it to Charlottes in record time (First year must be a record!!). The Sunday night party at the Man Hotel attracted a number of working bees who were also in the Valley. I made it to Illawong Lodge and back which was for me an achievement. As I struggled along a jogger ran past me!!!

It's on again next Easter. A promo sheet is being handed out tonight.

We also had Perisher's own Music festival in the June long weekend organized by the Chamber of Commerce with over 35 Musical events. A good snow fall set the scene beautifully, and the music and gigs were fun. I moved around the Valley on the shuttle service and enjoyed the fun.

The Music Festival is on again in the long weekend in June 2010 and we recommend you try it.

NPWS:

Tonight we have with us Andrew Harrigan and Andrew Logan from the management side of the resort.

Andrew Harrigan, as RESORT Manager has been a tower of strength in liaison on such major matters as the new leases and beds, whilst having to work the juggling act of Resort Manager, Landlord, Policeman, Lease negotiator, bed seller, etc,etc As he says he changes hats twice a day!!.

Andrew Logan is the Operations man leading the day to day team in Perisher . Andrew has a multi role. Firstly he runs the 15 NPWS employees who work through Perisher/Smiggs/Guthega. Secondly and very important he has a team of engineers who are charged with getting the IPART monies spent properly in putting in all the new roads etc . The MSU team are the guys who run the water supplies, sewage handling, road supervision and controls. They are our Town Council.

NEW NPWS STRUCTURE:

NPWS have announced a new structure last week. The 5 regions are to be condensed to 4 and the Queanbeyan based Southern Region to which we have belonged will vanish as such. There will be a Southern Branch but it will not include us. Our resort will be part of another division comprising major activities . It is still being formatted but will be called Major Precincts Section or similar.. The details are still being announced as to all personnel but we are aware that the previous Director of the Southern Region, Alistair Henchman, who is well known to many of you, will be moving to head up the Central region which is more Sydney based. We wish him good fortune in his new position.

PRREMS:

We are pleased to report that 100% of the clubs have appointed a liaison person to keep in touch with the EMS program and handle it for their Lodges, As we have endeavoured to emphasise to you, this EMS program is mandatory and is part of your lease requirements. Some 80% of Lodges have started the new reporting program and will be getting their reports back in the next few weeks. Once you get into it all you will find there is good thought provoking logic in it all. Virginia Logan apologises for missing this meeting.

SKI TUBE PRICES:

There has been a savage jump this year in ski tube prices. The 8 day adult return for \$55 has jumped 27% to \$70 for 14 days. The catch is that most Lodge dwellers only stay for 5 or seven days anyway so the extra days do not assist. Seniors moved 22% from \$46 to \$56. Family 20% from \$141 to \$168.. Same day skiers also jumped some 12-18%.

INCOME TAX AND SKI LODGES:

Last year we told the story of the tax challenge to a Club and the threat of loss of exemption as the Club was not thought to be "ENCOURAGING" sport sufficiently. SLOPES have appointed one of our Committee to work on an encouragement program to provoke Clubs in their thinking , and we strongly recommend that each Club appoint one of its committee as the "Encouragement' Officer." Our guess is that the subject will come up again in about 3-4 years time. In our opinion Clubs actually do a lot of activity in encouragement but do not think about it that way. Participation in The Perisher Cup is an example and the School events week and promotion of it in the Clubs.

NEW BEDS AND EXTENDED LEASES and BED COUNTS:

Most Clubs have now completed their new leasing arrangements, but many are still progressing the never ending details..

With the new leases Clubs have the opportunity of coping with booking flexibility in bed counts so long as the attendance numbers are under control. We have been pleased with the way that Karen Field has run this system for NPWS as well as the random inspections of Lodges for compliance. Karen is here tonight for you to talk with.

Negotiations between NPWS and Perisher Blue on extensions to their ski leases have lead to an arrangement on the Perisher car park that is available for new tenderers for the 800 bed Village centre, and expressions of Interest have been advertised and called for..

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING:

We welcome Daniel James and Scott Reid who are with us tonight. They will be cleaning up the progress of the Fire and Safety Audit reviews, as well as their usual DA work.

Some lodges are complete in their audit but many have only completed the high priority items. We can not say it often enough and strong enough " Ring Department of Planning and drop in to see them and talk about where you stand BEFORE YOU SPEND THE MONEY.

IPART:

Financial figures now available show a major downfall on revenue that had not been anticipated in the Park entry fees contribution to MSU. We believe the root of the problem is the way that the income us diverted to NPWS general revenue, unless the tickets are actually sold at the Sawpit gates. So all who buy Annual passes with the friendly mail scheme from Hurstville are actually NOT contributing to our revenue as anticipated by IPART. Slopes will be raising this issue with NPWS at high level, as the cumulative amount is becoming large at about \$740,000 a year. Another reason for the shortfall was the political decision by Government that overrode the IPART proposals by allowing discounted attendance to a large local area. So the anticipated increase in Winter gate charges either has not eventuated or has ended up going to NPWS funds and not MSU funds.

IPART revue examination will come again in the next 2 years and this needs to be sorted before it becomes a fait accompli.

PERISHER BLUE:

The new snow guns made a valuable contribution to our skiing pleasure this year. The season attendance overall was slightly ahead despite the Global financial crisis. Peter Brulisauer will enlarge on the way he sees the future.

X-COUNTRY SKIING:

The major breakthrough in the X Country grooming, facility and publicity paid off in Spades. Every morning the emails came out giving the picture. The new building worked as hoped for. We and everyone else are very pleased and full of admiration for the X Country team. Perisher is now on the map for this sport.

FREE SHUTTLE BUS:

The usage of the Tuesday night free shuttle dropped some 50% from the first year. Simply lack of demand. It is puzzling but perhaps reinforces the enjoyment that our members obtain from their lodge atmosphere and the desire to get away from a city environment for a change. We picked Tuesday night as the night skiing evening believing that skiers would utilise the free trips. Advertising was distributed to the Clubs with time tables..

The end cost per user has become so high that regretfully we will not be running free shuttle again next year.

We would be interested in hearing comments from members as to the lack in demand.

GAS SUPPLY:

NPWS have been negotiating with Elgas on the reticulation and we are slowly advancing. At Guthega the problem is that the potential demand is still not commercially high. Smiggins and Perisher will be serviced from Smiggins tanks and the connecting piping is and has been installed as the new roads are built.

FIRE AND SAFETY AUDITS:

Some lodges are complete but many have only completed the high priority items. We can not say it often enough and strong enough “ Ring Department of Planning and drop in to see them and talk about where you stand BEFORE YOU SPEND THE MONEY. Daniel and Scott are here tonight for you to meet and talk to.

SMIGGINS WATER PROBLEM:

On a Thursday during the season there was a failure in a low level indicator in a water supply tank. In haste to replenish the tank a batch of turbid water was not adequately treated by the UV purifying system. The end result was a lot of sick and very sick people in Smiggins, and good Dept of Health tested water was not available until the Sunday. NPWS performed very well with free bottled water and care during and after the crisis. Extra turbidity meter alarms are being installed in critical positions this summer in the three water supplies for Perisher range to prevent this happening again.

INSURANCES:

The new low cost voluntary workers accident policies are in place and working. At \$95 it is a must for any Club., Another reduction this year in fire and liability premiums from Snowline.

WATER HARVESTING:

With the funding coming from a Canberra grant, a pilot plant has been installed at CSIRO Club Lodge to collect the roof water during the season and utilise for toilets etc. There were bugs in the system which lead to the first year being anything but successful. Some bugs will be ironed out, but a significant issue has been the low volume of collectable water being possible due to it taking the form of sheet ice sliding down the roof and passing over the gutters. Thoughts of heating the gutters to melt the ice do seem to be environmentally not productive.

SOLAR PANEL ELECTRICITY GENERATION:

Naturally enough some Clubs are thinking of putting up panels. We submit that a lot of thinking should enter this process. They are not objects of beauty, and sun reflection to others must be considered. Current designs are being improved on very rapidly in USA and large strides being made in efficiency. Units will become much smaller in size quite quickly.

Put one on a sloping lodge roof that for years has handled the sliding snow, and you will have a static build up that can not move.

There seems to be little logic in putting up 86 miniplants with low overall efficiency and a high cost (that is only reduced to you by heavy subsidies), compared to much more efficient solar generation in larger installations. Surprisingly enough there has already been some bad experience so far in solar panels in the Perisher region as far as life has been concerned..

To many, panels are not attractive, and do not score as a plus in the view. environment.

SLOPES FINANCES:

We are rebuilding the reserve that we feel we need to handle events that come out of the woodwork. As the figures before you show we drew down last year to cover the taxation issue.

Matters look quiet at present , but they generally do until something goes wrong!! Given a quiet time we hope to lower the subscription.

ELECTRICITY:

This will be the next high cost item in our P&L's. SLOPES will start collecting data to see what we can do to get a discount for a bulk rate . When we ask you , please cooperate quickly to avoid the chasing that takes out time and irritates you!!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Graeme Anderson", is centered within a white rectangular box.

Graeme Anderson PRESIDENT SLOPES