

**MINUTES OF THE 22<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SKI LODGES ASSOCIATION OF PERISHER, SMIGGINS AND GUTHEGA INC. (SLOPES) HELD ON 28<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2013 AT CHATSWOOD RSL COMMENCING AT 7.38PM**

**PRESENT:**

President – Frank Zipfinger (Mirrabooka)

Committee – Bill Coombes (Hus-ski), Andrew Cutler (Kandahar), John Pinkerton (Tate), Gerald Lynch (Kalymaro), David Read (Aurora), John Illy (CSIRO), Paul Schott (Clancy), Mark Robins (Alexandra), Noni de Carvalho (Turnak).

Member Clubs and their representatives (from attendance sheets):

Alexandra	Kirrily Pollock
Telemark	Permille Jensen
City Tats Boonoona	Carl Melvey
Waratah	Peter Nicholas
Navy	Phil Gregory
Fjellheim	Belinda Hansen
Perisher Huette	Leon Smith, Roland Everingham, Richard Tress
Oldina	Ian Muncaster
Turnak	Roger Lucas
Kahane	Rod Pole
Illabunda	Ross Livermore
Illawong	Andrew Perry
Ku-ring-gai	Gordon Cox, Philip Woodman, Pamela Woodman
Warrugang	Jane Ritchard
CSIRO	Neil Watkinson, Cathy Moir
Avalanche	Stuart Mountford, Steve Branch
KAC	David MacDonald, Raylene Jarvis
Kiandra Pioneer	Maurice Carter
Moelina Lodge	Mark Bradford, Winton Kurrle
Cowra	Charles Jarrett
Hus-ski	Bill Hargreaves, Ian Ward
Parrawa	Richard Charlton
Kunapipi	Nick Barnsley, Kris Graham, Zac Graham
ACTP Jagungle	Ernie Spielman, Ross Walker
Wildspitz	David Beverley
Highway Alpine	Lawrence Winnacott
Sundowner	Ross Tompson
Brindabella	Mike Bromfield
Sydney	Nick Durrant
Tarrawonga	Craig Litchfield
Lampada	Simon Gates
Yalara	Ray Brennan
Edelweiss	G Murray, R Murray
Muniong	Rod Holdaway
Technology	Ross Swan, Mal Higgs
Canberra Alpine	Ross Smith
Yarandoo	Graham French
Thirroul	Bruce Norton
Guthega Ski Club	Ross Downes
Rugby	Tracy Tresidder
SASC	J DiFalco

Mawabu  
Australian Ski Club

Peter Zeilic  
Michael Norman

Guests:

Andrew Harrigan, Marko Kovac, Stuart Schramm – National Parks and Wildlife Service  
Daniel James – Department of Planning and Infrastructure  
Belinda Shore – Perisher Chamber of Commerce  
Peter Brulisauer – Perisher Pty Ltd

Observer:

Scott Reid – SHA Property Consulting

Guest Speaker:

Zali Steggell

Perisher Historical Society representatives Philip and Pam Woodman attended also as representatives of Ku-ring-gai.

## **APOLOGIES**

Apex  
SLOPES Past-President Graeme Anderson (Kandahar)  
Tate Board of Directors

Nick Kennedy (Guthega Alpine Inn) and recently elected the President of the Perisher Chamber of Commerce.

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Frank Zipfingher, President, opened the meeting welcoming member club representatives and introducing the guests to the meeting.

Frank introduced the Committee to the meeting and thanked them for their work through the year.

Frank also advised the Meeting of the appointment of Nick Kennedy (Guthega Alpine Inn) to the position of President of the Perisher Chamber of Commerce and congratulated him on his appointment. Frank thanked Belinda Shore, the retiring President, for her excellent work in that role.

## **CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD ON 29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2012**

The minutes of the previous AGM held on 29 November 2012 in Chatswood were distributed to members prior to the Meeting. Copies were also provided at the Meeting. There were no questions arising from the Minutes.

**Bill Coombes (Hus-ski) proposed and Andrew Cutler (Kandahar) seconded – the Minutes were confirmed and adopted.**

## **PRESIDENTS REPORT 2013**

A full copy of the President's report prepared by Frank Zipfinger was distributed to members prior to the meeting and copies were available at the Meeting.

Frank noted that the report is lengthy and is a comprehensive summary of the year for the information of members. As the report had been distributed Frank, in his address, chose to highlight key matters from the report rather than read it in full. The key points highlighted were:

1. The membership of SLOPES includes all 88 Club lodges in the Perisher Range such that SLOPES is a recognised voice for the Club Lodges.
2. The finances of SLOPES are good such that the annual levy was able to be reduced from \$350 to \$250 last year and that levy will remain for this year. It was noted that SLOPES only collects a levy based on the amount of money required to undertake the tasks and represent the Club lodge interests. Its purpose is not to make a profit.
3. Back to Perisher Week was again successful this year even though Easter fell outside the school holidays. It will be on again next year over the Easter weekend which falls on the 18 to 20 April 2014 and is back to being in school holidays. Clubs are requested to plan to have their lodges full and participate in the events and activities of BTPW. Discussion has been held of possibly having the awards presentation from the Fun Run at a barbeque at the Fire Brigade in Perisher Valley.
4. Clubs are reminded to organise their visit by the Fire Brigade and to make the most of the opportunity for advice and information on managing their fire safety features in the lodge. Those Clubs that have had the inspection have found it useful and informative.
5. Member Clubs, if looking for information on SLOPES matters, are advised to first look on the SLOPES website that is up and running. It has a wide range of current and archival material and information for the convenience of Member Clubs.
6. Snowy Mountains Music Festival held on the opening weekend of the season in June was again successful this year. The Festival draws people to Perisher for the opening of the season and Club Members are encouraged to support and participate in the Festival noting also the benefits of increased lodge occupancy.
7. Clubs as not for profit tax exempt operations are reminded that their primary objective is to encourage participation and enjoyment of the sport of Skiing.
8. The insurance problems with the failure of All Class in April and renewals due in May were a major item for SLOPES this year. Fortunately JUA handled the situation and a seamless cover was provided for Clubs that used All Class. SLOPES is now undertaking a tender process for the future provision of insurance to enable it to be able to recommend to Clubs a committed and passionate broker to look after their interests into the future. The tender has resulted in a short-list of 3 top tier companies that are interested in handling the insurance of the Clubs that were previously with All Class and others if they wish. SLOPES will be interviewing the short-listed tenders and advise Clubs in the near future its recommendation for an insurer.
9. The timing of the renewal of insurance is not until May next year which gives time for Clubs to make their arrangements direct with the recommended broker/insurance company. Others may wish to also join the program as the more Clubs using the broker/insurer the better is the bargaining position of the Clubs and potential for negotiating savings.

There were no questions arising from the President's report.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT 2013**

The Financial Statement and Auditor's report were circulated to members before the Meeting and copies were available at the Meeting. There were no questions arising from the Financial Report.

**The Financial Statement was adopted. Moved David Read (Aurora) and seconded Gerald Lynch (Kalymaro)**

**The Auditor's report was adopted and Stirling International was nominated as SLOPES auditors for 2014. Moved Andrew Cutler (Kandahar) and seconded Bill Coombes (Hus-ski).**

### **ELECTION OF COMMITTEE**

There being no other nominations, the current Committee was re-elected.

**Moved Frank Zipfinger and seconded Bill Coombes.**

### **THE 22<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SLOPES CLOSED AT 7.54PM**

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**Following completion of the formal business of the Meeting the Guest Speakers addressed the meeting.**

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#### Peter Brulisauer – CEO Perisher Pty Ltd

Peter reminded the meeting that this year had been a below average winter for snow cover. He advised that notwithstanding the poor season Perisher's results were still about average thanks to the investment the company has made in snow making and the active marketing campaign it undertook prior to and during the season.

Peter advised that the company is still committed despite the poor season to building the new chairlift at Guthega that will link the bottom of the Pastures J-Bar to the top of Blue Cow. The J-Bar is to be removed.

Sales of Freedom Passes have been good and Club members are encouraged to make the most of the good value and convenience of the Freedom Passes. Later in the meeting Perisher Huette congratulated Peter on the Freedom Pass and the success despite the poor season.

Peter also encouraged the Clubs to support and participate in the Music Festival held on the June long weekend. The hard work of the organisers (Belinda Shore and David Di Santi) and funding assistance of the commercial operators in Perisher was acknowledged. The opportunity for higher occupancy of the Club lodges for the weekend and marketing of the event with Club members was encouraged. Clubs should also consider donating to help the event to continue and grow.

Later in the meeting Perisher Huette questioned Andrew Harrigan and Peter Brulisauer regarding the opening up of the back country to increase skiable acreage especially when

energy is used to make snow when there is plenty on the main range. Andrew Harrigan indicated that there was no evidence that indicated that the current area is at capacity to justify opening up more. Peter noted that there is not a huge demand for back country skiing.

#### Belinda Shore – Perisher Music Festival/Chamber of Commerce

Belinda showed a promotional movie of the festival for the information of those present. She advised next year it will be held from 6 – 9 June 2014. She thanked the Club Lodges for their support and patronage and requested that the support continue including providing perhaps accommodation for visiting artists. She advised the meeting that there was a special deal ticket available for the Festival of \$89 if purchased before Christmas.

#### Andrew Harrigan – Perisher Range Resort Manager, KNP

Andrew also encouraged the Club lodges to support the Music Festival.

Andrew confirmed it had been a difficult winter because of poor snow cover.

There was a busy time prior to the winter season with a second sewer break. It was a significant effort by NPWS staff to have the repairs completed by May. Other than this and some water and stormwater upgrades the year was fairly quiet for infrastructure work.

Andrew noted that a number of Clubs are carrying out refurbishment, alterations and additions. This included KAC and in recent years Tiobunga and Navy have been rebuilt. He noted that 60% of lodges in Perisher and Smiggins have installed waste holding areas in accordance with the guidelines. They are not required in Guthega.

Andrew advised that 100% of Clubs and Commercial operators submitted their EMS reports for the first time this year which is a very pleasing outcome for NPWS.

He noted that the 520 bed offer has closed for the foreseeable future and a number of lessees have taken up additional beds. Navy (Phil Gregory) asked how many have been taken up. Andrew advised that there are only 58 left out of the 520 beds available. NPWS are waiting for the Perisher Village development before considering the matter further.

Yalara (Ray Brennan) asked Andrew what the schedule was for completion of the concreting of the roads. Andrew advised that the concreting of the roads has cost 25% more than was planned. Although Guthega, Smiggins and South Perisher are completed, completion of North Perisher is delayed for the moment.

Later in the meeting regarding increasing skiable acreage raised by Perisher Huette the issue of expense of skiing in Australia compared with overseas was discussed. The winter access additional fee for KNP was noted as an issue along with the increasing rental and MSU charges Clubs face. Peter Brulisauer confirmed rental and charges are also an issue for commercial operators. The meeting noted that the NSW Government needs to consider the long term impact of continuing increases in overheads for all lessees if a viable industry is to be maintained.

#### Daniel James – Department of Planning and Infrastructure

Daniel noted that Clubs should meet with the Department early in the planning if Clubs are thinking of development work. This year the Department has handled 20 DAs in the Perisher Range area and 29 overall. He advised there have been some staff changes with

John Morgan being the consulting Building Surveyor and Michelle Keene a new Planner on the staff.

He reminded clubs that some work such as renovation of kitchens and bathrooms may qualify as exempt development and will not require approval. Clubs should check first before proceeding. Development work such as recladding and re-roofing will require approval and clubs are advised to talk to the Department to learn what is required and whether any upgrading work is also required.

Daniel reiterated the need for Clubs to arrange for the Fire Brigade inspections. Both NPWS and Department of Planning are supporting and guiding the process. He noted that it is intended that the inspections are completed within a 2 year time frame (that is, by the end of the 2014 snow season).

Kiandra asked whether the Fire Brigade could come outside winter to coincide with a work party. Daniel advised that there was a possible opportunity during BTPW but he would have to find out about other times since the Fire Brigade is no longer manning the station over summer.

Perisher Huette raised the issue of the problem of false alarms and the \$1,250 fee as well as the problem of paperwork and delays in getting refunds when overcharged. The Club considered it was unreasonable given the fire levies paid in insurance, MSU, phone lines for monitoring, cost of annual fire safety checks and so on. The meeting noted the problem with fire alarms set off by Bogong moths this year. Frank advised that the Fire Brigade already had the right to charge for false alarm call outs but the Brigade is now becoming more disciplined in charging for false alarms.

Daniel noted Clubs should discuss their fire alarm requirements with the Department as not all Clubs required back to base systems. Andrew Cutler advised the meeting that it may be good for all Clubs to have back to base alarms given that the Fire Brigade is thinking perhaps all Clubs should have sprinkler systems installed.

Rugby (Tracy Tresidder) noted that regardless of the type of alarm, the Fire Brigade is supposed to come to reset the alarm if it goes off. There is a possible issue if the alarm is reset by someone who does not have the qualification and skill to do so. There may be an implication for insurance. If it is not a back to base alarm then the Club cannot be charged by the Fire Brigade.

#### Zali Steggell – Special Guest

Frank introduced Zali to the meeting noting that she is the most internationally successful Australian skier and was the first in the Southern Hemisphere to be a medallist in the Olympics (bronze for slalom skiing in 1998 at Nagano) and a gold medal World Champion in alpine skiing in 1999.

Zali spoke of her long history (35 years) with the Perisher area starting as a child. She noted her parents were not members of a Club and they stayed in their caravan in Jindabyne to be able to ski at weekends and during school holidays.

Zali summarised her career and experiences and noted that she still has vivid memories of her slalom skiing career and her elation when crossing the finish line. She commented on the difficulties that Australian skiers face in participating in competitive skiing. She reflected on moving to France as a child and growing up there. This gave her the opportunity to develop her skills and train for competition. She noted that initially there was little backup for

Australian competitive skiers and it was costly. For the 1994 Olympics she had to pay for her and her skis and to get there.

She confirmed that competitive skiing is a commitment and hard work to get to the top. After moving back to Australia she still had to travel to the northern hemisphere to train. She was complimentary of the support given by Perisher and the Australian Ski Institute. She acknowledged the infrastructure and support now developed through the Australian Institute of Sport to allow others to pursue their dreams in competitive skiing.

She was complimentary of the role of SLOPES that provides a united voice for the interests of the Clubs and skiing. She also said that members should be supporting and enjoying the sport regardless of the quality of the season.

Zali reminded us that skiing is a unique sport that is multi-generational where kids, parents and grandparents can enjoy the sport together. The shared participation gives strong and enjoyable memories for families. She laughed that her children do not consider Zali's run at Blue Cow a favourite run.

Zali encouraged the clubs to promote children's participation in skiing and for members to stay involved and committed to the sport. She commented that the "buddy" event of the Perisher ski program for children is very good.

She noted that another event for the clubs to support is the Jindabyne to Charlottes Pass bike race that is a different way to enjoy the Perisher area.

Zali concluded with noting the importance of keeping the magic of skiing by staying involved and committed to the sport. She repeated the importance of the shared enjoyment of skiing for families.

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**The Meeting concluded at 8.55pm after which refreshments were available and the guests and Committee were available for casual questions.**

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Frank Zipfinger  
President