

13th November 2023

Annual General Meeting

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2023

WELCOMES

Welcome to the SLOPES 2023 Annual General Meeting.

I am Frank Zipfinger, President of SLOPES.

I particularly welcome our Stakeholder Speakers tonight - Nathan Butterworth from Perisher Vail Resorts, Ryan Petrov from NPWS, Daniel James from Department of Planning and Environment and Bob Tait President of the Perisher Resorts 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 speakers. In particular, I welcome Nathan to his first SLOPES AGM. Nathan succeeded Belinda Trembath as from May this year in the Perisher VP and General Manager role. I would like to acknowledge and thank Belinda for her support of and contributions to SLOPES which were considerable despite her short time as the Perisher VP, and wish her well in her new role as Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at Whistler Blackcomb Resort in Canada.

I also welcome our Special Guest Speaker Charles Gow-Gates of Barrack Broking who, with his colleague Rosie Keen, will speak about insurance issues affecting all Clubs and, in particular, about the Insurance Scheme managed by Barrack for SLOPES Clubs. Thank you and welcome.

Following the meeting our guest speakers will be available to answer any specific questions that you may have about your Club. In a new initiative this year they and their colleagues will be standing at the tables arranged around the room to facilitate interaction with AGM attendees.

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.

32 YEARS OF SLOPES

Over the last 32 years the purpose for setting up SLOPES has been confirmed in the many initiatives taken for Clubs and the results achieved - perhaps no more vividly than in the last few years with the responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, the ongoing success of the Clubs' insurance and energy programs, our lobbying in relation to major issues including the proposed PRR Head Lease, the Snowy Mountains Special Activation Precinct Master Plan (SMSAP) and Alpine SEPP and DCP, and most recently the Perisher Medical Centre and 4SITE oversnow services in PRR. Thirty two years is truly a milestone worthy of celebration and thanks go to our Clubs for their support and encouragement.

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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 87 (it was 88 - 1 club converted to commercial lease status in the past year). 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.

It is worth noting that over the past few years quite a few organisations have joined SLOPES as Associates coming from the Perisher Range Resorts and from other resorts including Charlotte Pass, Thredbo, Falls Creek and Mt Hotham. This reflects the common interest shared on issues like dealing with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, managing the viability and tax status of clubs, reducing costs etc. Some Associates are also participating in our insurance and energy programs. There now are approximately 30 SLOPES Associates and over 80 'Associate Contacts'.

YOUR COMMITTEE

This year we have maintained our spread of Committee representation across Perisher, Smiggin Holes and Guthega. Unlike in previous years, this year we have one change - the retirement of long serving Committee Member Bill Coombes, and the appointment of Rod Peile of Southern Alps Ski Club as his replacement.

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 all for their outstanding contributions and their support.

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

I thank particularly our Secretary Lucille Back, our Minutes Secretary Noni de Carvalho and our Treasurer John Pinkerton. To them I add Roland Everingham who leads the SLOPES initiatives on our insurance and energy programs for our Clubs. And David Macdonald who assists Lucille, leads our defibrillator initiative and ran Back to Perisher for SLOPES in 2023. This team bears the brunt of the administration of SLOPES and continues to work extremely well.

Bill Coombes joined as a new SLOPES Committee Member in June 2010. Bill is a long time member of Hus-Ski Lodge in Perisher Valley. Bill's involvement on the Board of Hus-Ski over the years gave him a wide knowledge as to how a 'typical' club would react to events which was always useful in discussions at SLOPES Committee meetings. Specifically, Bill contributed greatly to SLOPES in many ways. He took on the Secretary role in 2011 when SLOPES restructured from the Executive Officer model to an all volunteers Committee model. As Secretary, Bill played a key part in setting up the SLOPES website and email, in SLOPES adopting a new constitution in 2012, and in the transition of our insurance program for Clubs after the sudden collapse of All Class in 2013. Bill for many years has been our nominated SLOPES Committee Member for the encouragement of sport. Bill also introduced us to the Chatswood RSL Club where, for around a decade, we have held our SLOPES AGMs and most of our Committee meetings. Thank you Bill for your many years of outstanding service to SLOPES.

Rod Peile joins the Committee having many decades of experience with the Southern Alps Ski Club which has lodges in Perisher Valley (Kahane), Charlotte Pass (Southern Alps Lodge) and Thredbo (Christiana). Rod's first role with his Club was as a "kitchen hand and cleaner" in 1980. Later he became their Junior Committee Chairman and then Vice President. He has been Kahane Lodge Director since 2005 and President of the Club since 2012. Rod is a regular attendee at SLOPES AGMs, and for many years has been an active participant and contributor in email traffic regarding many issues relevant to our Clubs. In his professional career Rod was a contract draftsman working for various engineering companies in the structural field, then boilers, process & petrochemical plants with 26 years at Caltex Kurnell refinery/terminal - he retired in 2016. We welcome Rod to the Committee and thank him for agreeing to take on the role.

Finally, I'd like to briefly acknowledge the very sad passing of our SLOPES friend and colleague Gerald Lynch who lost his battle with cancer on 24 October 2022. Gerald served on the Committee for many years. Gerald was a true gentleman and a tireless worker for SLOPES. Vale Gerald - you will be great missed.

SLOPES FINANCES

This year our audited accounts show a significant turnaround following the negative impact of COVID-19, particularly in FY22. As per the accounts in FY23 our:

- net result was a surplus of \$33,963 (FY22 a deficit of \$46,446), and
- net assets increased to \$62,628 from \$28,665 in FY22.

After an extraordinary and unprecedented year in FY22 of high operating expenses in a continuing attempt to help Clubs qualify for government relief for rent and municipal service charges and to manage the pandemic restrictions and protections, we returned in FY23 to very much business as usual operations. Our result, of course, was also significantly boosted by the increase in membership fee and the temporary levy - see the discussion on this below under the heading Membership Renewals FY24. Key points for FY23:

- our legal expenses were hugely down - \$3,051 vs FY22 \$51,886
- some expenses were up as normal activities returned post COVID-19: these included travel (\$5,042 vs \$4,250), PEAK Music Festival sponsorship (\$2,500 vs nil) and meeting expenses (\$2,089 vs nil)
- our revenues were up at \$55,801 (last year \$31,840) reflecting the decision to increase Club membership fees in FY23.

Our reserves have been built up over time to cover an eventuality without the need to ask Clubs for specific financial support. This has been invaluable in the past in allowing us to make an immediate commitment on a legal process or major negotiation, as we have in recent years with important issues of concern to Members, eg COVID-19 matters. 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 our Clubs as they arise. We now are nearly in that position, holding \$62,628 cash at bank as at 30 June 2023 (FY22 our balance was \$28,655, FY21 was \$83,038 and FY20 was \$86,104). But substantial progress has been made in rebuilding our reserves - see the next section for more detail.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS FY24 - NO INCREASE

Clubs will recall in FY23 we increased our annual subscription to \$450 plus a levy of \$100, making a total of \$550 per Member. The levy is intended to apply only for 3 years to help SLOPES rebuild our reserves following the extraordinary costs incurred on behalf of Clubs primarily due to COVID-19 issues. The fee and the levy remained unchanged in FY24 and we now are well on the way to rebuilding our reserves- see report above. To give Clubs some context, our Membership fees for the last 17 years are listed below:

Financial Year	Membership Subscription	Levy
07/08	350	0
08/09	350	0
09/10	350	0
10/11	350	0
11/12	350	0
12/13	250	0
13/14	250	0
14/15	275	0
15/16	275	0
16/17	275	0
17/18	275	0
18/19	275	0
19/20	275	0
20/21	275	0
21/22	300	0
22/23	450	100
23/24	450	100

Thank you to all our Clubs for their support in our task of rebuilding reserves to prepare for what lies ahead. Our concerns for the immediate and longer term future issues affecting Clubs include:

- **Lease option renewals in 2028 and valuations** - preparation for the option renewals of our Club leases in 2028, and in particular the valuations that will form the basis for the initial rent and subsequent rent reviews to apply for the first years of the new lease terms. These were highly contentious issues in 2008 on the initial lease grants.
- **Snowy Mountains Special Activation Precinct (SMSAP)** - negotiating final aspects of the Master Plan and the Alpine SEPP and DCP.
- **Group initiatives** - continue to source group saving initiatives, including energy and insurance - with solar energy options also under consideration.

Our strength through SLOPES lies in our 100% membership. This is absolutely critical to our ability to negotiate effectively with other parties. Thank you to all our Members and Associates who have already renewed for FY24. We appreciate the many positive emails from Clubs thanking us for our work on their behalf and were reassured by the rapid renewals received from the bulk of our Clubs again this year.

For those Members and Associates yet to renew, please help to maintain our strength by renewing your membership as soon as possible. Any Club which finds itself in a hardship position regarding the subscription fee this year is invited please to contact us to discuss what arrangements can be made.

WINTER 2023 AND COVID-19

COVID remains in the community and care still needs to be taken even though across the country we have seen the lifting of restrictions and the return to almost normal of most events and activities. Winter 2023 season was relatively unaffected by COVID but there were instances that needed to be dealt with at individual Club level. Our lawyers, Wotton & Kearney, provided a COVID guide for Clubs which was shared prior to the winter season (email 2 June 2023). COVID was present in the resorts this winter and Clubs had to manage COVID on a daily basis.

SOME OTHER HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022/23

A reminder of some of the key events since our last AGM affecting the Perisher Range Resorts and our Clubs follows:

- **Winter 2023.** After an outstanding snow season in 2022, expectations for 2023 were high. The season got off to a reasonable start with the first lifts opening on 16 June. Good conditions followed in July and continued until mid-August when things began to deteriorate. Resort closures in early September followed for Smiggins, Blue Cow and Guthega, with Perisher finally closing on 25 September, prior to the October long weekend.

In a recent Fiscal 2023 US Corporate release, Vail Resorts noted:

The increase in non-pass revenue also benefited from an increase in visitation at our Australian ski areas in the first quarter of fiscal 2023, which experienced record visitation and favourable snow conditions during the 2022 Australian ski season following periodic COVID-related closures and restrictions in the prior season.

The 4th quarter declined from the prior year, primarily driven by the Company's fiscal 2023 investments in employees, as well as a below average snowfall and snowmaking temperatures that limited terrain availability during the Australian winter season.

- **2022 SLOPES AGM.** Our AGM was held on 14 November 2022 - in person for the first time in 3 years but also with a streaming capacity for people unable to attend. It was a great success despite some hiccups with the technology. We had 82 people attend at the Chatswood RSL and up to 37 people on line - a record AGM participation of 119.
- **Snowy Mountains Special Activation Precinct (SMSAP).** SLOPES has actively participated in the Community Advisory Group (CAG) for the Snowy Mountains Special Activation Precinct set up in January 2020. Three and a half years on and many meetings and submissions later DPE announced on 1 July 2022:

The vision for the Snowy Mountains has been finalised, with the NSW Government releasing the Master Plan for the region. The Snowy Mountains Special Activation Precinct Master Plan, amendments to associated environmental planning instruments and the submissions report have now been finalised.

The NSW Government also announced \$391.3M to support the delivery of the Snowy Mountains Special Activation Precinct that will enable the region to become a year-round tourism destination and the alpine capital of Australia. This is the largest funding commitment for any of the Special Activation Precincts.

The SMSAP process late last year moved into a delivery planning phase including the preparation of an Alpine Precinct Development Control Plan (DCP). However, following the change of NSW Government in March 2023 the SAP Team advised SLOPES and other CAG Members that *the NSW government was conducting a Strategic Infrastructure Review, which included reviewing the Special Activation Precincts program.*

Then on 11 October DPE advised:

As you may be aware, the NSW Government undertook a Strategic Infrastructure Review to ensure capital expenditure delivered maximum benefits to NSW citizens.

The Special Activation Precinct program was part of this review, including the Snowy Mountains SAP.

Following the independent review, it was decided the Snowy Mountains SAP would proceed, but with a reduction in funding.

The decision is based on the Government's fiscal repair strategy which ensures expenditure delivers maximum benefits to regional NSW communities, and is aligned with the government's priorities, including accelerating housing supply in regional NSW.

Key projects identified for delivery in the Snowy Mountains SAP master plan will be reviewed and prioritised for delivery within the revised funding envelope.

The NSW Government will work with key stakeholders to refine the scope and the phasing of projects, and decisions around project prioritisation will also be subject to ongoing negotiations with local government, state and federal departments.

In the meantime, the NSW Government will continue to deliver on the 40-year master plan for the Snowy Mountains SAP, including putting the draft Delivery Plan and the Development Control Plans (Jindabyne and Alpine) on exhibition later this year.

The SAP will continue to have a focus on housing supply, in line with the master plan to address housing shortages and diversity in Jindabyne, while preserving and maintaining the important environmental and heritage values of the Snowy Mountains.

The precinct will also continue to have a focus on community amenity, and improving year-round tourism and employment, in line with the master plan.

Unfortunately, the SAP project, especially as it relates to the Alpine region, remains in limbo. However, work has continued on drafting of the Alpine DCP and SLOPES has provided comments to the SAP team on the draft.

- **NPWS and additional Rent Relief COVID-19.** In FY23 SLOPES continued to negotiate with NPWS on behalf of our Clubs to get a fairer deal. The result was an offer by NPWS of a 5% credit in relation to certain MSU charges. Though disappointing, SLOPES recommended that Clubs accept this offer.

There were several reasons. Clubs needed to regularise their financial reporting after several years of negotiations and uncertainty. SLOPES had pursued all avenues available to us to obtain a fairer deal but, despite that, NPWS remained intractable. And we now had a change of government with unknown attitudes to KNP and the snow industry - this remains an uncertain factor in relation to the Master Plan and SMSAP initiatives too as noted above. So, on balance, it was time to recommend accepting this offer and moving on.

- **Insurance Program.** The Barrack Broking Insurance Scheme commenced on 15 January 2021 and received initial support from over 60 Clubs. Important events conducted by Barrack Broking during the past year included:
 - the program was successfully renewed in January 2022 and again in January 2023 with 71 Clubs now participating in the program, which is excellent.
 - a group building replacement valuation exercise was conducted in February/ March 2022 for Clubs which elected to participate. There was an excellent take up by over 40 Clubs.
 - Barrack Broking repeated this valuation exercise in April 2023, again with good take up by Clubs. Barrack received building replacement valuation enquiries from 15 Clubs, representing 22 properties. Most of the valuations were completed by Asset Inspect, although they were cut off from some site visits due to their availability and early snowfall. They have 4 site visits to make in Perisher, which will take place in early November. If there are any more Clubs interested to obtain an updated valuation report, please contact Barrack: cgowgates@barrack.com.au.
- **Defibrillators.** SLOPES updated and reissued the list of Clubs and other locations where people might find a defibrillator in an emergency in the Perisher Range Resorts. The list has been shared with NPWS, the Perisher Medical Centre, the Perisher Ski Patrol and Perisher/Vail and will be regularly updated and circulated. At last count there were 18 locations on the list in Perisher, 5 in Smiggins, 6 in Guthega and 1 in Charlotte Pass. The Medical Centre has offered to provide an introduction training session for the use of defibrillators. It is planned to do this in conjunction with the annual Village Meetings of lodge managers at the start of next season.
- **Starlink and internet connections in Perisher, Smiggins & Guthega.** During the year SLOPES updated Clubs on a Starlink option to access internet in the Perisher Range Resorts. Many Clubs took up this option and later responded with excellent feedback on the Starlink offering which was shared with all Clubs.
- **Perisher Medical Centre.** Leading up to winter 2022 the lack of a doctor loomed as a very serious issue. At the last minute, after lobbying by SLOPES and other stakeholders, a short term lease was put in place with Dr Lincoln Pike in early 2023. This year, after more lobbying, the lease was renewed and extended for a period of several years, giving an assurance of continuity of operations and a basis to invest in improving the facilities, which began in winter 2023.
- **Back to Perisher Weekend.** Back to Perisher Weekend was held over Easter and was a huge success. On Saturday morning, a keen crowd turned out for the Fun Run - the first since 2019 due to COVID restrictions causing 3 years of cancellations. Despite threatening conditions and strong winds, 34 registered runners/walkers tackled the course which was highly rated by participants. We had 18 people sign up for the Discovery Walk to Porcupine Rocks on Saturday morning.

On Saturday afternoon the Duck Race was a sell-out - all 400 ducks. We had a big crowd and a lot of fun was had by all attendees. The Duck Race surplus of around \$1,000 was donated to the Burns Unit at Westmead Children's Hospital and LAOKA (Snowy Mountains Wildlife Rescue). The assistance this year from NPWS (Amy Slocombe in particular) in helping to organise BtP again was outstanding.

- **PEAK Music Festival / PHS Annual Lunch.** The PEAK Music Festival was also held, for the second year in a row, over the long weekend 9-11 June 2023. SLOPES resumed its sponsorship of the Festival this year. The Perisher Historical Society Annual Lunch was held on 11 June 2023.
- **AASHA Conference.** The Australian Alpine & Snowsports Association (AASHA) Annual Conference was held on 6 May 2023 at the Thredbo Alpine Hotel. The AASHA conference is a gathering of people from the historical societies of all the major Australian ski resorts.
- **Energy Action Program.** Introduced in 2018 by SLOPES, this initiative pursues savings on energy for Clubs through a group purchase arrangement. Energy Action (an energy broker engaged by SLOPES) acts on behalf of participating Clubs through a rolling series of programs. SLOPES participating Clubs have seen significant reductions in energy costs. In July 2023 Energy Action commenced a new program. Some 60 Clubs and commercials have expressed interest in participating.
- **Solar.** SLOPES has investigated the value of solar power generation in the resorts. While it has been limited to a handful of lodges and commercial establishments, Clubs may be interested in the value in this form of energy from a cost saving or a green energy imperative viewpoint. An information paper for consideration by Clubs was circulated in our update of 12 October 2023.
- **Trades & Services.** The SLOPES website listing trades and services for potential use by Clubs continued to expand during the year. The website now covers 40 topics ranging from Accountant and Tax to Work Health & Safety. Added recently were categories for Firewood suppliers/tree loppers, Bushfire Consultant, Chimney/Flue Cleaning, and Refrigeration - Fridges - Freezers.
- **Hans Oversnow/4SITE.** In early 2023 Hans Oversnow informed NPWS that it would not be providing its usual services in winter 2023. For decades Hans had provided a range of services to Clubs, commercials and the resort, including transport to accommodation, snow clearing of the roads and the cross-country trails, freight shed operations, garbage collection and gas delivery. For a while it was unclear who would provide these services in 2023. SLOPES was closely involved in discussions with relevant stakeholders who worked to ensure that suitable arrangements were in place for the delivery of these services in winter 2023. This ultimately led to the appointment of 4SITE. From all accounts there was a smooth transition from Hans to 4SITE and mostly very positive feedback on the 4SITE operations in winter 2023, including their newly introduced online booking system and their purchase of a number of brand new snow cats and other over snow vehicles.
- **Guthega Tree Planting Day.** Held on 18 March 2023, this was a Guthega community event supported by NPWS to plant trees in the Village to fight the snow gum dieback which has affected KNP. The Day was a huge success and will be ongoing in Guthega. SLOPES and NPWS propose to roll out similar volunteer tree planting programs in Perisher and Smiggins as those resorts are also affected by the same snow gum dieback issue as Guthega.

- **Perisher Ski Patrol.** In March 2023 SLOPES was advised Perisher Vail had made the operational decision to discontinue the volunteer component of their ski patrol team beginning in winter 2024.

For decades, volunteers have worked alongside in support of the Perisher professional ski patrol service. Perisher noted that the evolution of the ski industry, workplace health and safety obligations and guest expectations are demanding more time and skills than a volunteer can be reasonably asked to deliver. Perisher also believes that the future of ski patrolling is best provided by full coverage on the mountain by a fully professional workforce. The Perisher Ski Patrol has provided outstanding volunteer service to the Perisher Range Resorts for over 50 years. Many of the volunteers have been members of SLOPES Clubs. The service of all the volunteers is gratefully acknowledged.

- **Snowies Alpine Walk**- The third stage of the Snowies Alpine Walk, between Charlotte Pass and Perisher in Kosciuszko National Park, opened during the year. The new 13km track, which includes upgrades to the short Porcupine walk, allows visitors to experience the incredible views of the Thredbo Valley, Bullocks Flat and the Main Range. The fourth and final stage of the Walk, from Perisher to Bullocks Flat, is due for completion in summer 2023/24 and will see the entire multi-day walk launched.
- **Guthega Inn** - The Guthega Inn saw new owners after 17 years with Jenny and Nick Kennedy selling to Brad Fuge.
- **Perisher View DA - Application approved.** This development is planned for the site on Burrumys Road next to the Alpine Church. It is a prime site with views across the Perisher Valley. Many objections to the proposed development were raised over the last 5 years or so, including by SLOPES at various points in the process. This led to some improvements in the design. On 23 June 2023 the application was approved by the Deputy Secretary of Development Assessment.
- **Promoting sporting tax exemption and self-assessment changes** - Clubs were reminded that from 1 July 2023, NFPs with an active ABN are required to lodge an annual self-review return in order to access an income tax exemption. They will submit information ordinarily used to self-assess their eligibility with the ATO. In subsequent years, not for profits will confirm or amend information provided to them on a pre-filled self-review return.
- **Village Meetings.** Pre-season Village briefings for 2023 were held in Guthega and Perisher as usual. FRNSW made special mention of its efforts to update its access to lodges and buildings in emergencies (with Clubs asked to assist with this) and the need to ensure the safety indoors of battery charging with the fire risk arising from the new battery technology.

PERISHER VAIL - PERISHER, SMIGGIN HOLES, GUTHEGA AND BLUE COW

At our AGM we welcome Nathan Butterworth, the Perisher VP and General Manager. Nathan will speak about the Perisher Range Resorts and update us on the disappointing winter 2023 season and prospects for 2024 and beyond, including the planned new chairlifts at Mt Perisher.

NATIONAL PARKS & WILDLIFE SERVICE (NPWS)

At our AGM we will have with us our key SLOPES liaison contact at NPWS - Ryan Petrov, Manager, Southern Ranges Services.

NPWS has a multi-faceted role involving responsibility for the Kosciuszko National Park under the Plan of Management including the villages and resort terrain of Perisher, Smiggin Holes and Guthega resorts. From a SLOPES perspective, this includes key issues such as lodge leases and bed numbers, village development proposals and municipal services such as waste transfer and roads, sewage and water supply.

Ryan co-ordinates the team charged with getting the IPART monies spent properly in maintaining the Perisher Range Resorts infrastructure. The MSU team includes the people who run the water supplies, sewage, road supervision and controls. They are effectively our unelected Town Council and NPWS also, of course, administers our Club and commercial leases.

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT (DPE)

At our AGM we welcome Daniel James who is the Team Leader of the Alpine Resorts Team at the Department and is 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.

PERISHER RESORTS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Perisher Resorts Chamber of Commerce represents 27 commercial lodges in the Perisher Range Resorts. SLOPES and the Chamber have worked very closely in recent years on a range of issues including the Perisher Range Resorts Head Lease proposal, the Snowy Mountains Special Activation Precinct (SMSAP), Rent and MSU Relief, the Perisher Medical Centre and the Hans/4SITE oversnow services transition. Tonight we welcome Chamber President Bob Tait, who would also be known to Clubs as a co-owner of the Perisher Corroboree Lodge.

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. For the benefit of all there is a section containing the website addresses of our Member Clubs which are known to SLOPES. If you launch a new website for your Club or change your website details please let us know.

We continually update our website to keep it current and make it the easy go-to point for SLOPES 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.

SLOPES SPORTS SPONSORSHIPS 2023

Racing resumed in 2022. In 2023, to encourage sport on behalf of all of our Clubs, SLOPES awards were made to the following:

Event	SLOPES support
Guthega Interclub	600
Balmain Cup	600
Smiggins Bowl (cancelled)	0
Illawarra Senior	600
Illawarra Junior	600
Perisher Cup	300
	\$2700

It was not a good season for snow cover and conditions were substandard for racing as courses contracted generally to front valley and cross country events became impossible on the trails out of the Nordic Centre in early September.

All scheduled interclub events were held, except the Perisher Cup Nordic section and the Smiggins Bowl. One Smiggins club captain noted:

Due to the snow conditions and the forecast for the next couple of weeks, the Smiggins Bowl event was cancelled this year. Based on advice from Perisher about the snow quality and cover, the organisers have made the decision to not run the races.

2023 has not been a good year for snow - let's hope 2024 is better.

In the Balmain Cup (now in its 91st year, making it the oldest club event in the country), Valentino Guseli, Olympian star from Dalmeny, brought Canberra Alpine home first in Snowboard.

OTHER ITEMS - REMINDERS

Each year we remind Clubs about the following important issues:

- 1 Perisher Valley Fire Station
- 2 Income Tax and Encouragement of Sport
- 3 Member email details

More detail on these items appears at the back of this Report.

Frank Zipfinger
President
SLOPES
2 November 2023

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2023-REMINDERS RE IMPORTANT ISSUES FOR CLUBS

PERISHER VALLEY FIRE STATION

Given arrangements at the Perisher Valley Fire Station the critical thing 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 FRNSW 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 FRNSW 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 FRNSW notices with details clearly posted in your lodge
- C. make sure Club contact details are kept up to date with NPWS and FRNSW - and put the current Club contact details on the fire panel in your lodge, and
- D. be aware of the significant cost (at least \$1,600) which can be imposed by FRNSW in connection with responses to false alarms and of the greater likelihood now of charges being imposed and not waived. For more detail see:
<https://www.fire.nsw.qov.au/page.php?id=9028>. 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.

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INCOME TAX AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF SPORT

SLOPES reminds all Clubs 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:

<https://slopes.org.au/encouragement-of-sports/>.

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 Smiggins Bowl, the fastest growing interclub event, is an example. Another is the Perisher Cup. As are the School Events Week and promotion of it in the Clubs. Another example is recording the hours of ski and snowboard instructions - paid and unpaid - each week engaged in by lodge users: it is useful for weekly club captain's reports to keep a record of these hours. Junior Club programs to encourage participation in the Australian Interschools Championship are also excellent.

For a self-assessment guide for non-profit sporting clubs issued by the ATO see

<https://www.ato.gov.au/Non-profit/your-organisation/in-detail/income-tax/income-tax-exemption-and-sporting-clubs/>. For background on these issues see this material issued by Clubs Australia: http://taxwatch.org.au/ssl/CMS/files/cms/246_treasury-nfp-tax-reforms-submission--final.pdf.

A reminder that the ATO has announced that from 1 July 2023 Clubs relying on the tax exemption for Clubs established for the encouragement of sport are required to lodge an annual self-review return in order to access an income tax exemption. Generally, the exemption applies if encouragement of sport is the dominant purpose of a not for profit sporting organisation. See SLOPES email of 23 October 2021: <http://slopes.org.au/wp/wp-content/Uploads/2021/10/1342> - SLOPES - email - 23-10-21.pdf. At the back of that report is some additional commentary on steps Clubs can take in this area.

Please take this topic seriously as you never know when it might emerge as an issue for your Club, especially with the changes introduced by the ATO from 1 July 2023. Clubs are encouraged to talk with their accountants/auditors in relation to this issue.

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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 office bearers 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 energy costs or supporting events like Back to Perisher Weekend or the PEAK Music Festival.

We ask all Clubs please to circulate promptly to their members relevant SLOPES emails and links to our website, especially on events and general information.

A reminder also please to notify us promptly if your designated email addresses change (usually where there are director or office bearer changes).

Please also let your members know that information on SLOPES and our initiatives can best be found on the SLOPES website: www.slopes.org.au.

The SLOPES website is an invaluable resource for storing our emails and other information shared with Clubs. In that, and our surveys from time to time of Clubs, we rely heavily on Vergil Iliescu of Greybeard Systems Pty Ltd. A number of our Clubs have also used Vergil for their websites. For anyone wishing to contact him, his email is: vergil.iliescu@greybeard.com.au.

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