

Perisher Historical Society Incorporated

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September 2021

Mr Frank Zipfinger
President
The Ski Lodges Organisation of Perisher Smiggins and Guthega Inc.

By email: frank.zipfinger@gmail.com

Dear Frank,

UPDATE REPORT TO SLOPES

On behalf of the Perisher Historical Society (PHS) Committee, I wish to thank you for the opportunity to present this report to the members of SLOPES.

The Covid-19 pandemic has led to many restrictions in our daily lives, and to difficult times for almost every sector of our economy and communities generally. One restriction has been that associated with meetings and the need for virtual communications.

A review of our records indicates that many clubs, and the individual members of those clubs, have ceased to be members and supporters of the Society in recent years. There are many reasons for this to have occurred, and the purpose of this report is to seek to reconnect with SLOPES clubs and their individual members, in the hope that both might wish to re-join the Society.

While the Society continues to have the ongoing support of ski clubs, it is possible that lapsed clubs and club members nonetheless continue to be aware of and enjoy the newsletters and other stories, images and history of the alpine areas in the Perisher Resorts corridor including Charlotte Pass, Ski Rider and Sponars Inn. The Society has always regarded clubs and their members as central to its success and its development.

At its last AGM in April 2021, the Society underwent a change in the Committee with our founding President and Secretary, Philip and Pamela Woodman, standing down. Their incredible vision and contribution was recognised with Life Membership, and it is pleasing to report that Philip remains on the committee as the Immediate Past President, and Pamela continues to contribute on the Newsletter and Website Subcommittee.

A key structural change included establishing standing subcommittees that provide an overview of areas of responsibility within the Society. Each has a chairperson with areas of activity assigned to the subcommittee. This facilitates greater focus and outcomes of benefit to the Society, its members and supporters, and the public generally. The subcommittees comprise:

- Website, Social Media, Newsletter and Media Release Subcommittee
- Publications and Historical Records Subcommittee
- Publicity, Events and Member and Public Relations Subcommittee

The subcommittees are supported by the elected Committee Members, and by non-elected members of the Society who have an interest in one of the subcommittee's area of activity.

In addition to these structural changes, our primary means of communication, the website portal, has been extensively revised and refreshed.

Since 2019, the website, www.perisherhistory.org.au, has undergone significant development and continues to evolve almost monthly. We are proud of its new content and the ease in moving around the site. We recommend you visit it and do so on a regular basis, particularly as we envisage that it will become our primary avenue of communication and information. It has extensive timelines for many aspects of the Perisher Range's history, stories, people, structures and events.

The Society is also supporting authors developing manuscripts that we expect to publish next year including a history of the Creel Lodge, a biography of Johnny Abbottsmith, and a shorter work looking at the role and importance of the Kosciusko State Park Trust. We also hope to develop more stories and oral histories, and to have shorter works available as downloadable files from the website. All the Newsletters are now posted on the website, including our most recent Winter edition.

2022 will be the 70th anniversary of many important and significant events in the alpine region, providing a great opportunity for research and celebration. The Society also has a new email address, history@perisherhistory.org.au, that we encourage people or organisations to use who would like to contact the Society with offers of documents, photographs, film or video and other material.

Regrettably, the Annual Dinner, the Hello in the Snow function held in conjunction with the NSW Cross Country Committee, and the Perisher Cup held in conjunction with ski clubs, were cancelled this year due to the impact of Covid-19, and the more recent stay at home public health orders.

Welcoming back clubs, and their individual members, as members and active supporters of the Society is very important to us and would be highly valued. It will assist the Society to continue to document and promote the alpine history of the Perisher Range area.

SLOPES and the Society share a common interest in the geographical area and its history. It's interesting to note that, almost exclusively, all current and past elected Committee Members of the Society have been or remain ski club members.

Although our current financial year is in its second half, we are pleased to advise that a renewal of a club or individual membership for the remainder of 2021 will also include **all of 2022**.

The normal membership subscription for the period January 2021 to 31 December 2021 is \$35.00 for an Individual, \$55 for a Family, and \$200 for a Club. A renewed membership will now take in the period to 31 December 2022.

If you do choose to re-join the Society, payment can be made through the Society website. Simply go to and click on the "About" section on the Home Page and look for the drop down "Membership" title. Click on it and you will access the payment system.

An important part of our reaching out is to connect with the many budding snowsports and alpine historians, researchers and writers out there, as well as people simply willing to support the preservation and dissemination of our shared alpine history.

We encourage existing and new members and supporters to consider contributing by standing for election as office bearers and committee members of the Society. Our mandate and purpose in being is not just for older generations with long memories or experiences of the past, because the present and the future also need to be documented and the stories told and shared.

The Society offers members, families, supporters and friends an avenue to pursue an interest in recording, researching and writing about alpine and snowsports history, whether past or present.

We have a team of mentors who can and will offer encouragement and guidance where required. Contact us on info@perisherhistory.org.au

TODAY'S EVENTS ARE TOMORROW'S HISTORY

If you have any questions or require any clarification please contact either Raylene Jarvis, Treasurer, on 0414 679 409 or by email at raylene2@iprimus.com.au, or Dianne Cree, Secretary, on (02) 9452 4358.

Thanking you in anticipation, and with kind regards.

Ashley Blondel

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