

Minutes of the 2007 Annual General Meeting of KCros held 11 August at the NPWS Ranger Station, Perisher Valley.

The meeting was declared opened by the Chairman, Warren McCourt at 3.15 pm. Members attending the meeting were Laurinda Allan, Pat Edmondson, Sue Edmondson, Peter Ward, Lesley Ludwich, Warren McCourt and Margaret McCawley. The low numbers were attributed to the cold and most inclement snowy weather in which other members (and also our chairman racer) had braved to go out in earlier in the day with the holding of the Snowy Mountains Classic Race.

The minutes of the previous AGM were tabled by the Chairman and as business arising from them had been acted upon, Sue Edmondson proposed that they be accepted. Pat Edmondson seconded this. Sue also expressed thanks to the committee for the recent issue of the newsletter at the start of the snow season.

Reports

The Treasurer's report was presented in full by the Treasurer, Laurinda Allan and showed KCros funds in the bank at \$1902.60 with \$263.49 still outstanding on the printing of the recent newsletter. A total of \$1408 had been received in donations during the year. The Rob McCawley Fund money and a total of over \$3000 had been, after the ski season last year, given to the Nordic Shelter Extension Fund. This proposed donation by KCros had been passed at the 2006 AGM.

Elections

All positions were declared open for re-election. Warren McCourt was proposed as chairman by Sue Edmondson, seconded by Laurinda Allan and re-elected. Other positions filled and declared duly elected by the Chairman were Secretary/Newsletter Editor, Margaret McCawley, proposed by Lesley Ludwich and seconded by Sue Edmondson, Treasurer, (and also Public Officer), Laurinda Allan, proposed by Lesley Ludwich, seconded by Sue Edmondson and Website manager, Ron Perry proposed by Warren McCourt and seconded by Margaret McCawley. It was noted that a member had come forward interested in the Membership Secretary position. Margaret McCawley would follow this up.

Presentations

In view of the weather, before further discussion, the meeting immediately passed to the two presenters who had kindly ventured out in the cold. Ian Dicker, Acting Manager, Alpine NPWS, spoke about trail grooming that for 2007 was given by NPWS a budget of \$80,000. This was \$10,000 up on the previous year and covered contract fees, a 3-roster liaison to run the grooming and infrastructure upgrading. There had been good early snow but 30cm was on the ground before grooming started. Problems arose with Perisher Blue's previous contract expiring in early June and for the 2007 season they were the only operators available and they dramatically increasing their rates 20%. The quality of grooming had deteriorated this year, as there was the loss of an experienced cross-country groomer to work on the Ski Tube. NPWS undertook a field inspection of Fall's Creek and Lake Mountain Resorts in July 2007. Their recommendations were to investigate further which form of groomer would suit the Perisher Trails, to investigate possible grants or funding and implement a forum to encourage interaction between different providers of cross country facilities. Grooming for next year will again be up for tender.

The second presentation was from Pam O'Brien NPWS who is involved with the commercial licensing of tour operators in the Park that has become a heated topic. She explained the position with particularly the need to tighten up on large school groups, over 20 in a group needing consent. NPWS is setting up a Commercial Activity Licensing Scheme (CALs) to cover the area outside the franchise with payment coming either from the institute or the clients. She clarified the ski instruction issue by saying that if instruction was voluntary then no licence was needed but that Perisher Blue has control over ski hire and lessons in the franchise area. Groups can transit through the franchise area but may need to advise of this. The NPWS has discretion to waive the fee, e.g. for top racers or organizations like Camp Quality. The new regulations will start June/July 2008.

The two presenters were thanked for their informative talks.

General Business

Warren McCourt suggested that the matter of commercial licensing warranted a submission from KCros and that clubs needed to indicate on their web sites that instructors for group activities would be volunteers. KCros planned to talk to others on this e.g. Ski de Femme.

The need for a new membership drive for KCros was discussed with possible activities or fun races centred on the opening hopefully of the new extended Nordic Shelter by next ski season.

The chairman closed the meeting at 4.53 pm