

Perisher Historical Society

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President's Report Year Ending 31 December 2015

On behalf of the Committee of Management of the Perisher Historical Society (PHS) I have pleasure in presenting this report on its activities and affairs. A year filled with activity and also an increase to the numbers of those taking an active role.

Activity

It is satisfying to all to see a notable increase of involvement by members and others. The production of the bi-annual newsletter provides an instance moving to greater involvement of members. A working group of six have established an editorial process. This includes issue pre-planning, topic selection, editorial oversight and layout standards.

A growing number of people are entrusting their memories, artefacts (realia) and images to PHS. Our commitment is to provide public access to these treasures.

Financial

Perisher Historical Society (PHS) had a strong financial year that reveals a profit on trading activities of some \$7,000. This is offset by the reprinting of the Society's book "Highway to Heaven" at a cost of some \$14,000, which has been expensed in this financial year rather than accruing.

The Society remains in a sound financial position with assets \$61,827 and no outstanding expenses. The future looks fine however the Society must anticipate that there is likely to be a reduced income due to slower rate book sales. Thus focus must be given to ensuring that the membership base is grown to ensure financial stability.

Social

Annual Dinner - Speaker Warren Peck

This proved once again to be a very enjoyable event at Marritz Hotel, especially the presentation by Warren Peck (AAC) in which he provided wonderful commentary to collection of silent movies of the region and its development over time.

Hello in the Snow

Marritz provided the venue for good gathering of this event that is timed to coincide with Nordic Week and now forms part of that program.

Sydney Drinks

PHS again co-hosted this gathering at RAHS History House in Macquarie Street.

A short film by Charles Anton's son and a panel discussion with three of the Hughes family provided an insight into the construction of the mountain huts Kunama, Northcote Tow, and Albina, and the tragedies that later occurred, as well as the very early development of Thredbo.

Memorabilia, Stories and Images

As reported in the current Newsletter, PHS was the grateful recipient of a variety of important material that provides substance and understanding to the past. All contributions have a special place and we stand ready to care for and provide access to this material. I wish note the generous donation of material and background interviews provided by Warren Peck and Leon Smith (AAC) providing first hand accounts of their involvement with Ski Tourers Association. Likewise, Peter Aynsley passed on material and discussed his involvement with development of the Guthega resort.

Newsletter

Two half-yearly newsletters were published and a strong group continue to find and promote articles of interest.

AASHA

The Australian Alpine Ski Heritage Association (AASHA) is a collaborative group of ski/alpine related historical societies that was initiated two years ago. The recent sale by auction of memorabilia collected by Neville Locker of Adaminaby provided a real opportunity for this group to prove its worth. This was done by pooling funds to bid on items deemed worthy of retention in the public realm. The three items purchase will now form the basis of a joint collection to be shared by the member societies.

The next meeting of AASHA will be Sat 30th April 2016 to be held in Mount Field National Park just north of Hobart and home of the Mt Mawson ski fields. All welcome.

Committee Meetings

Three committee meetings were held during the year. Libby Anderson resigned mid-term, our thanks to Libby for her work as Treasurer over the past three years. We are delighted to welcome Peter Southwell-Keely onto the board to fill the casual vacancy.

My thanks to the board for their enthusiasm and for the financial support provided by individual members and member ski clubs plus the important role they play in spreading the word.

Yours sincerely,

Philip Woodman

*Philip Woodman - President
Perisher Historical Society
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