

HOTHAM SKI ASSOCIATION Inc.

2010 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
7:30pm 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2011  
German Club Tivoli – Melbourne  
291 Dandenong Road, Windsor Vic 3181



Commencement Time : 7:45

Attendees

John George	1HP
Bob Carr, Bunny Carrigan	Alpine Club of Victoria
Andrew Hunter	APEA Ski Club
Geoff Pollard, Roger Davis	Austen
Mike Kermonde	Burrumbeep
Durelle Esnout, Phillip Schneider	Hangmans Drop Ski Club
Susan Fitch	Kalyna
Ian Beer	Karnulurra Ski Club
Fiona Spurrell, Ian Nash, Bill Nash	Langi-Taan
Belinda Knight	Marouka
Allen Feore	McMillan
Barney Broomhall	Nindethana
Tom Nairn, Megan Casey	Ormond Ski Club
Rick Taranto	Players
Monique Macneill, David Gibson, Pip Smibert	Shepparton Alpine Club
Michael Pattison	Taki
Kim Lean	The Lodge Ski Club
Michael Welsh	Wangaratta
Ewen Rankin, Richard Kolly, John Armstrong	Wongungarra
Chris Wilson	Mt Buller Ratepayer Assoc
David Risby	Falls Creek Alpine Assoc
Geoff Wraith	
Nicole Feeney, Michael Coldham	RMB

Committee and Officers

Murray Neilson	Brush
Bruce Blackman	Arlberg
Phil Stot	Arrabri
Rob Anderson	Valhalla
Brian Vowles	Tanderra Ski Club
Sue Coulson	Tanderra Ski Club
Peter Sandow	Peninsula

## Apologies

Andrew Ramsey	Koomerang
Geoff Nixon	Arrabri
Scott Sloane	Pegasus
Ken Young	Leeton
Ken Tucknott	Eiger
Lindsay Perry	Tallawarra

## Approval of previous minutes

Motion : That the 2010 AGM Minutes be accepted – Moved by Rob Anderson

Second : Bruce Blackman

## Welcome Statement: Peter Sandow

Peter opened the meeting

- Welcoming everyone
- Warm welcome to the RMB Chair Nicole Feney and Vice Chair Michael Coldham
- Peter felt that it is a reflection of the meeting that Bruce and himself attended.
- Past meeting were testy affairs, debated robustly, on this occasion felt that the RMB genuinely interested

Peter's report is at the end of the minutes

## Treasurers Report – Brian Vowles

Motion : That the 2010 Accounts be accepted – Moved by David Gibson

Second : Roger Davis

This financial report is for the year 1/11/09 – 31/10/10

Income	Debit	Credit
Membership fees		8030.00
Bank Charges	154.80	
Bookkeeping & Admin fees	2640.00	
Communications & Internet	662.00	
Meetings	590.00	
Registration & Licences	83.60	
Subscriptions	<u>370.00</u>	
	4500.40	8030.00

Bank Balance \$6420.98

Membership charges are going to be simplified

Individuals & Families - \$25

The rest - \$80

## Committee Report on Key Issues and Projects

Rob Anderson – ARWG & 2020 reference group

Rob is on two committees – ARWG sub-committee under the VSA to get a better deal for skiers and keep it viable, including going to the government to get them to pay for more infrastructures, basis of leases more reasonable, have been fighting to get a uniform application of leasing policy

throughout all of the resorts. Making sure that government listens to us the skiers. Since there is a new government in power we are seeking discussions with the minister.

Reference group for the 2020 vision – as per notes that have come out through the DSE recently. What has been discussed is that we have to get the summer thing working for us. That above all else will resolve a huge number of viability issues. We have to find ideas to get out there in the summer period.

Question : Are there lifts for the downhill mountain bike riders. Peter advised to contact the Ski Lift Company.

Vice Bruce Blackman – summer opportunities

Discussing the green season – An opportunity to try the green season

Recently been up to Mt Hotham in summer, with various different observation.

Late November coming from Rutherglen with no food and dropping into the general for a meal on Sunday, no meals available, went to dinner plain for pre-packaged food in the pub.

Over Christmas 6 nights, stayed up at Hotham, applaud the operators open, General and Zirkys, went down to dinner plain a few times, chat to Rundles and a few of the owners, not commercially viable to be open all the time, horse riding ceased, spa not open, in Bruce's opinion he believe's that Hotham and Dinner Plain have gone backwards, on a commercial point of view.

Took mountain bikes, down ski runs, culverts were a problem, Slalem Gully looks flat but on mountain bike not ideal to run down. Davenport access was good, Mt lock saw quite a few bush walkers. Next day tried the 12k ride down to Dinner Plain, whisky flat good, but got lost where you needed to go under the bridge (local knowledge would have been helpful), so went to the road, got lost going back as well due to the gravel stopping after 1 km.

Need to follow up on the tracks and who is responsible, DSE??

Not aware of lifts running. Have been reading up on Promos to all mountains in the papers, but Hotham is not talked about.

There is a lot of work that still needs to be done for the Green Season. Peninsula was full last weekend for the cool summer festival, long weekend will be full, but if biking etc is going to work then what needs to be done to get it right? Well aware of extreme commercial ambitions past boards have held, which are clearly not viable, I sense that the future before us has an air of sustainability, what is going to work.

Powerful asset is the club membership.

- Election of Office Bearers

Propose to move as a block, committee to stand again.

All members are keen to stand again.

Rob will read names and positions, if the floor accepts we will take it as endorsement for the next year.

Peter - President

Bruce – Vice President

Rob - Secretary

Brian - Treasurer  
Murray – General Committee  
Phil – General Committee & Events  
Scott – General Committee & Web Site  
Sue – Executive Officer

Seek floors endorsement of committee – all hands raised

- General Business

David Gibson – welcome new government elected board and Nicole Feneny – Chairperson  
Asked about the expressions of interest for new board members.

Nicole : When April last appointed, rather having the whole board up for appointment every three years and losing continuity they decided to appoint half the board for 3 years and the other half 18 months. The new appointments will start in October this year.

There is no maximum term of appointment. Everyone has an appointment process for three years, skill based board, some long serving, my view is we need a mixture, old and new.

Pip Smeibirt

I began to look at Building better communication for police and local communities after the bush fires, in conjunction with the Local Police to be able to send a local message to local community. Eg roll over of a tank, the road was closed. Put in place a group in Yea, where police can send message to people that have registered. Started from the assumption that social networking is not good for local communication (not facebook or twitter). We started with using a postcode and get related messages for that postcode, then the CFA said they want to be able to send fire messages to the Surf Coast. David heard about this and asked if they could provide a similar message service to mobile phone based on Hotham or Buller, local police messages.

Question : would something like this be of value to the Hotham community not just Hotham but the Melbourne people, eg black ice, road closures, get sent as an SMS to mobile phones.

SMS is the last to fail and first to come back in restricted areas.

We are a Not for profit. We are being funded by Grants, donations and philanthropists.

To start the service a person would Text hotham to a number.

“Welcome to hotham messaging service”. This will give you the community web site to have a look at. “communitysms.com.au”

0428428092 Text hotham.

Text “STOP” to halt the messages.

Rick Taranto from Players has a question of the current policy of the white book. If you don't offer packages you cannot get into the magazine, this introduces a lot of complexity.

The Current policy for the Ski Lift Company is correct, you must advertise lift tickets as well as accommodation.

Broadcast the response on the web.

- Guest Speakers

Nicole Feeney

Nicole has had 4 years on the board, 3 years on the board, 1 year chair.

I started to ski only in my 30's at Hotham and enjoyed it so much I joined a lodge, and am very proud to be a part of the Hotham community. Impressed at the number of people that are here,

all very passionate about Hotham Ski Association and what the Hotham community has to offer. Main focus is the summer season, couple of events are sponsored by the RMB. Cool Summer Festival last weekend, Friday – Sunday brings people together, good to bring family and friends up. 4wd Beyond Hotham festival, that Michael will talk about. Been concentrating the last 2 summers on walking trails, into a condition where inexperienced bushwalkers can get out and start experiencing what is on offer. Cubungra trail, formerly the Aqueduct trail, is being worked on, and will be open soon. Similarly the huts trail as well. Refer to the brochures in the show bags. The DP trail has been incomplete for a number of years, hoping to be completed by next summer. Heads up on an initiative, access to the resort, there will be the ability to go onto the internet and get their gate passes on line before going to Hotham. There will be recognition of numberplates that will be matched to the register on the internet. You can still arrive on the mountain and get a gate pass. It is going to happen this season, and info will come out and be given out at the stakeholders meeting.

Season passes will be similar to previous years

Michael Coldham – Beyond Hotham 4WD and Green season

- On the board since last April
- Was a part of the VSA in 78 with issues in ski patrol, ski lift prices and club recognition.
- Was President of 4wd Victoria with 85 clubs and 15000 members.
- Looking at Horse riding as a possible summer activity, but will need to set up stables
- Want events that will last for the weekend so people don't go home.
- Walking trails
- Funding issues, government will not assist with funding. Government recognises the demographic but will not subsidise.
- Trying to find out what else board can do for the summer.

Where is board jurisdiction – DSE

Resort area is developed and ski fields, road to DP and Harrietville. Walking trials are within the jurisdiction. Dinner Plain is part of the alpine shire. The RMB can make applications, the Cubungra trail has no funding. Everything is on a Grants basis.

Michaels Notes are attached to the end of the minutes.

Murray Neilson – Mt Hotham Community Solar Scheme

John George and Murray Neilson

Circulated leaflet, with the agenda,

- Problem in Victoria, not efficiently generated, brown coal generated
- Use a light, 50 w light bulb, 55-60 watt from station, to product requires, 220 watts of furnace heat, less than .5%
- 2/3 moisture before burning it. Co2 emissions are high
- If replace led light, 4/5 times more efficient, 2% efficient 98% waste heat lost
- Renewable sources cuts them down
- Reducing carbon footprint
- Earn more income when unoccupied
- More energy conscience
- Showed panel (typical)

- Toughened glass
- European standards
- Can hold snow and winds, certified to our wind zone
- More efficient in lower temps
- 5/7% more efficient
- Because cold the panel do not degrade
- Showed inverter
- Converts dc to ac
- Vic has net feeding tariff, excess consuming goes back to the grid and gt paid for
- Canberra and NSW have gross,
- Works in or favour at Hotham
- 81% Oct- May, 19% in winter months
- Clubs are mostly empty so is viable
- 5kw array, max size system in Vic
- Suggesting 5kw
- Encourage reduction of consumption
- Commercial display fridges, use 10 x energy of a normal fridge, continuously in a year, cost of buying a new domestic fridge
- Hydronic heating circulating pumps, 100/200 per piece, running all the time, don't need to keep it on all the time.
- Audit consumption room by room
- Compare to power bill
- Appliances in standby power
- Exit lights – led equivalent find
- Monitor energy
- Murray has a few devices to help read consumption

#### Design considerations

- Each lodge will be monitored correctly and individually for shading issues, temperature conditions
- Every building will be unique
- Low maintenance, clean, our rainfall will suffice
- Energy monitoring – google to tap into smart metres
- “Monitor your consumption”

Questions : estimated life span - capital cost \$15000/\$16000 parallel to roof line,

No planning permits

Feed-in guaranteed to 2024 state limit, not known

Government subsidy : assuming renewable recs multiplier – not a government grant, \$22,000 - \$25,000 project

We are solar zone 4, July certs are reduced. \$1100 - \$1200 more in July

Rate of return for a lodge, guestamites \$4000, depends on the retailer and consumption

Not currently installed on the mountain. Not aware of any in Australia.

RMB have not been asked for input.

More the merrier, installation will only be the benefit.

Peninsula how do we start?

Process is

- Expression of interest
- Inspect lodge
- Deposit within a month

- In and installed by June
- Possibly not past April
- In before first week in May
- Install cost will need to be variable after may
- Minimised cost, installed cost \$3500 less than cost believe is AVAIALBLE OUT THERE
- If can't get a certain number it will effect cost, believe there are a number of people interested
- Hard to get to the lodges AGM's and meetings
- Contact on the website
- Every building MUST be inspected first for efficiency and position
- Smart metres will only need reprogramming. Charge changeover \$150-200, was quoted \$260 momentum
- How does it handle snow loads
- Spoken to Bev re: shading, depends on the building, will possibly need pruning for the fires.
- What angle does roof need to be at – we are aiming for summer collection, need a low tilt angle, enhances the summer collection – 20-25% angle.
- Overshadowing, how to stop the RMB approving buildings that will cause shadowing and stop efficiency

Peter says it is an urban issue

David Risby – falls creek, how long to install, expect 1.5 per day, most work at a level that requires safety harness.

Ongoing maintenance – high winds, extreme weather, robust system, but things do go wrong, panel suppliers warranty, access, most can be fixed in a day, link into an internet access and remotely check.

Phil – how long clubs take to make a decision, if deposit is made by may can it be locked in. Must be installed by end of June so cannot delay.

Providers :

Look at the best deal at the time

Forming a buying co-op

Should be able to organise a better rate

Closed 10:00pm

President's Report: Peter Sandow

At the outset I apologise for the late timing for this Annual General Meeting for 2010. Regrettably, our committee were all simply too busy to make the necessary arrangements and to prepare for our AGM late last year.

The report in our recent HSA Newsletter provides a good summary of the areas that the committee have been focusing on for the past 12 months. In November, Bruce Blackburn and myself met with the new Resort Management Board (RMB), introducing ourselves and presenting

a PowerPoint that identified the 3 key areas that continue to be the main focus of the Clubs' and many of the flat owners' prime concern.

We were keenly met and the board chaired by Nicole Feeney sought our views and to arrange for further discussion through Neil Tapp, the Property Officer for the RMB lease renewal requirements.

The issues at Hotham remain:

### 1. The Lease Platform

The Alpine Resort's Leasing Policy Implementation Details from previous experiences related to our committee become confusing and over demanding. For any business at Hotham a straightforward long term lease without individual Hotham requirements is essential for business assurance. Longer leases extend the site development opportunity and the prospect for stronger investment.

### 2. Access to the Resort

It is a longstanding understood principle for property development improved accessibility adds value to any village. Hotham remains difficult to access as well as being expensive compared to other resorts. Car parking controls and requirements place severe added burdens on prospective developments. To provide underground or undercover carparking is an unnecessary cost which further depletes the financial feasibility of Hotham projects.

### 3. Energy

We are acutely aware of increasing energy costs both in the urban and rural setting. It is understood the reticulated liquid gas at Hotham now matches the State electricity supply costs. Later this evening we will hear from Murray Neilson presenting his Energy Fight Back paper. We hope this information will lead club businesses to an opportunity where they may well be able to reduce their overall energy tariff.

Our committee does not work in isolation as is evident by Rob Anderson's continual valued input into the All Resorts Working Group (ARWG); a forum that exchanges information and issues such as leasing policies, rates and tax implications and economic business viability, affecting all resorts. All our executive members provide enthusiastic support and regularly attend the monthly meetings. I wish to thank them all for their efforts over the last 12 months and look forward to their continued support and enthusiasm to work with the RMB to contribute to Hotham's attraction and viability.

Over recent years the RMB as well as the Hotham community has realised for a strong winter season to grow we need to pursue an expansion in the summer season trade. The events are still few but growing their following. We now have the Alpine Ascent Challenge cycle 3 of Victoria's 7 peaks and win a trip to Tour de France. Cool Summer Festival, held successfully over this last weekend. Over the long weekend, the Hotham Challenge Ride and Dinner Plain Festival of Cycling will be underway. This also coincides with a number of car clubs that will also be visiting the mountain. Later in March, Terra Australis Great Southern Land Mountain Bike Epic will also be held over 7 day multi stage mountain bike journey in Dinner Plain will be held over 20 – 26 March. Following this there will be Easter in the Alps festivities. On Easter Sunday, the High Country Cattlemen take on the City Slicker team in a polo match re-enacting Banjo Patterson's poem. Running between 7 – 17 April, the Beyond Hotham 4WD Adventure is underway. We will hear more about this later from Michael Coldham.



In summary, the HSA is now a more accessible organisation which has been brought about by Brian Vowle's and Suzanne Coulson's hard work improving our email access and working with Scott Sloan to upgrade our website.

Please stay in touch with our executive members and please provide feedback and comments on issues and activities that can benefit our Hotham.

Michael Coldham

It has been a long time since I addressed this association and looking back I can feel the experience even now, and I say that in a positive light because at that time I was president of the Victorian Ski Association and we had such issues on our plate as Ski Patrol, Ski Lift Ticket Prices and you will not believe this, recognition of the role played by clubs.

It has taken me a long time to finally see the light and reach Mt Hotham as a permanent destination although I have had a long family association with the Mountain.

In saying that my brother in law had shares in the Hotham Heights Hotel I was here the night it flamed so well in the night light. My sister who was at Melbourne Uni during the 50's would walk to Uni with a full pack so she could cope with the walk into Hotham along the Bon Accord as their car could not get past the Dargo road most weekends and they naturally introduced me to the mountain and then joined SCV because of the Hotham Lodge.

I had a beautiful relationship with Ian Parfitt and the Alpine Club, Ian who taught me about weather (snow Depth) statistics and his dedicated work for Alpine Safety, and I inherited snow safe from him in my role as VSA president.

So it was not an unusual thing for me to agree in a social conversation with CEO Jim Attridge that we should try and see if we can get Mt Hotham to be the centre of all matters high country and four wheel drive. It was an easy sell for me I was president of four wheel driving because I had experience such tracks as The Twins, Whites, Wonnangatta, Machinery Spur, Blue Rag etc. The fact that my 6 cylinder turbo diesel actually worked was also a bonus as Jim kept telling me about his modified v8. I can report that I think after a few years now his vehicle is working even if Bonnie likes the ride in my Sahara just a little more.

Most of you know that I joined the board last April and I was well inducted into Mt Hotham community at the HSCA season opening cocktail party where I was accosted about the delays at the ticket office and other things. At the board meeting the next day I informed my fellow board members of my experience and they all teased me and said welcome to Mt Hotham.

I felt it was a welcome and I was really pleased to meet so many people and re-acquaint myself to club life. I am still a member of SCA and OGGs at Mt Buller for my sins but I can report that in my past life on the board at Mt Buller I wrote a white paper on the importance of clubs, the use of bed nights and the contribution clubs play in community life. In fact Mt Buller is now experiencing a small issue where there are too many cold beds and that has its effect on the economy and community of the resort.

We also experienced the issue when the ARC wanted everyone to develop to the optimum bed capacity and this issue itself took a lot of time to protect the club environment. Today here at Mt Hotham I think we have a terrific policy to help clubs maintain their cultural heritage and at the same time comply with current building and fire regulations.

Enough of that but I think it is important for you to understand that I know the significance of club life and I can say that my short experience with this board shows me that we all want the same outcomes; a good and healthy Mt Hotham that is sustainable into the future.

So, on that very issue I come onto the board with my heart set for summer activities and what this can include. The first activity has been the relationship between four wheel drive victoria and Mt Hotham RMB with the Beyond Hotham program. And I am pleased to report that we are progressing very well. This program is designed to bring four wheel drive clubs to Mt Hotham and for them to develop a relationship with a Mt Hotham ski club. Mt Hotham can be the perfect base camp for four wheel drive trips; the people who are members of four wheel drive clubs are club people and fit very well into the demographic of ski clubs. The obvious synergy is that the ski clubs can generate a relationship with a four wheel drive club and utilize club facilities in summer, perhaps they could even pass on four wheel drive knowledge to the ski club members and then there may even be four wheel drivers that like skiing. In any event, just by spending 10 days at Mt Hotham in the summer these four wheel drivers will be spending money at Mt Hotham which will have a positive impact on the community and economy.

Beyond Hotham is best described from its marketing material

*At Mt Hotham Alpine resort in Victoria's famous legends and high country region a unique 4WD adventure experience has been discovered and will be soon amongst Cape York, The Simpson Desert and The Kimberley, as the must do iconic four wheel driving destination of Australia.*

*The Beyond Hotham program is quite comprehensive. It offers a range of day and overnight trips, workshops and social activities based around the Mt Hotham village. Participants are guided on graded trip tagalongs with experienced and skilled trip leaders, and it is designed to be a 4WD experience that engages all levels of ability and suitable for all 4WD vehicles.*

*Day trips planned for 2011's event include destinations of Mayford (Dogs Grave/Harrison Cut/Talbotville/Blue Rag Track); Buckland Valley, and the popular 'Women Behind The Wheel', a trip that caters to the increasingly popular female four wheel driving market.*

*Guest presenters who have specialist knowledge in topics including hut history, gold, pioneering, flora and fauna and navigation compliment the program and add another dimension to these trips. The overnight expeditions on offer are excellent and include four day and three day options to destinations like Wonnangatta, Talbotville, Mayford and Buckland.*

*If you feel like staying in the village, there are plenty of workshops and activities on where you where you can learn new 4WDing skills or perhaps brush up on your techniques. Workshop topics include Winching & Safe Vehicle Recovery, Reversing, Getting To Know Your Vehicle, Camp Cooking, guided walks, night drives, Gruesome Tales & Shanties, Navigation & Communications, and Tyre Talk.*

*The accommodation options are excellent at Mt Hotham and ski club lodges are ideal for 4WD clubs interested in booking a venue for their members. With their commercial sized kitchens and cosy lounges, they are the perfect place to relax with fellow club members at the end of a fantastic day's driving.*

*Beyond Hotham will enable you to experience a diverse range of unique mountain adventures - driving over a razor back ridge at high altitude, navigating through river crossings where gold may lie beneath you, walking in the footsteps of brave pioneers, and enjoying local tales over damper and a billy tea. Beyond Hotham will leave a lasting impression and you will come away with new skills, new friendships and memories that will last a lifetime.*

*Beyond Hotham will be held at Mt Hotham Alpine Resort from April 7-17.*

*For more information visit [www.beyondhotham.com.au](http://www.beyondhotham.com.au) or phone 03 5759 3550.*

So what is next? Well you as club people can think about what it is you want to do to improve your sustainability. You can choose to just pay more money for the operation of your lodge or you can start your own sub-committee to review sustainability and work out you own policies that allow you to adapt for the future. Planning is the best answer. For those clubs that would like to be involved in the Beyond Hotham program please contact Eliza or Annie at the RMB.

The next issue that I would like to address also needs your input and I see that we now use the words "Green Season". I suppose that is the other side of a "White Season" so I will leave that alone and talk about other things that I see that could be of benefit.

The first is horse riding. In my role as a member of the alpine advisory committee I got to spend a bit of time with Charlie Lovick. Apart from spending time on community programs at his place when I was at Timbertop and later when we ran horse riding at Mt Buller in the summer we got to talking about the bridle trails of and around Mt Hotham, and there are lots for obvious reasons. Many tourism groups consider that creating events is the prime purpose of getting people to your destination and indeed it must be important, but event participants come and go and the event itself absorbs the disposable income of the people who attend. What we need is to have the product identification followed with a high yield and to achieve this we need people to stay and to return and spread the word.

A new plan to develop is based on the ski trail, four wheel drive track classification and walking trail system of having a trail map detailing the tracks for horse trail riding and providing their

facilities to encourage families to come and stay, at the club and commercial lodges, on mountain. Facilities that include stables for horses with a supply of water. There are lots of issues that need to be addressed before a plan such as this can proceed, but to have it so that the family can come to the mountain just as they would in the winter to ski but in summer to come for horse riding.

You will all be aware that we have invested significantly in our walking trails this summer and the Aqueduct walk is just one of three that will open this year. Developing sustainable walks for the general public so they can come at stay at Mt Hotham and at those clubs that are open will also make a contribution.

The forth activity is that of mountain bike riding. Some of the walking trails and cross country ski trails will double up for this purpose and to that end we will be able to develop a touring bike track trail map that will allow people to stay and ride.

The last activity that we have more recently talked about would be an air event based at the Hotham airport. Probably a two day event so that we can highlight the airport and its accessibility.

The most important issue amongst all these discussions and ideas is the community's involvement and support. Here at Mt Hotham if it was not for a very select few the resort is closed over summer and we all agree we are a ski resort. I have just spent a large part of January skiing with my sister in Lech. A very ordinary ski season this year by all accounts but in that resort summer is just as significant as winter with bike riding, walking and horse riding activities being supported by everyone.

We need to develop adaptation and resilience policies to deal with the future. The costs associated with our winter activity are not sustainable with our current economy of scale and our attitude towards this issue. There will be increases in the cost of energy and if we are unable to increase the base number of visitors and permanent residents at Mt Hotham the base cost will also increase. I hope that with my talk to you today that you and your club will look at the future and consider what you can do to protect our future and to contribute to our collective community.

Thank you for the opportunity to talk with you tonight I look forward to a terrific ski season for 2011. Our communication between ourselves is king so collectively we can achieve a lot.  
Happy 2011.