

HOTHAM SKI ASSOCIATION Inc.



2012 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

7:30pm 26th November, 2012

Geebung Polo Club

85 Auburn Road, Hawthorn East 3123

Meeting Opened at: 7:35

Apologies:

Alpine Club of Victoria
McMillan Ski Club
Leeton Alpine Club
Scott Rossetti – Tanderra Ski Club
David Risby – Falls Creek Alpine Association

Approval of previous minutes: Motion (Karla - Langi-Taan) Second (David)

Ideas from meeting : Koomerang noted that they are currently concerned about Hotham's position to other resorts, see future through the eyes of the younger gen, Megan (Ormond) seconded

Presidents Report – Peter Sandow

Peter Welcomed all including guests, Nicole Staveley (VSA), Mark Reeves (Leadership Schools of Vic & East Gippsland Shire Councillor), Rory McDermott (Dinner Plain representative).

The snow for the 2012 season has been good. The season started strongly, maintained a great cover throughout and finished with good spring snow right through to the school holidays. Speaking to many clubs I find that the revenue is no better than last year's weaker season. Although the week end occupancies were full, mid-week occupancies were hard to fill.

It was appreciated that the re-packaging of Ski lift tickets along with the Hero Passes contributed soundly to declaring the MHSC commitment to pursuing a strong incentive to 'chuck a sickie and get to Hotham!' But our strong dollar encourages many to spend in the wonderful overseas ski fields.

The Hotham product has improved with the development at Wire Plain. The Snow Stuff Fun Park and Tobogganing Run will introduce kids to the snow experience and hopefully become addicts of Fun c/o Steve Belli – owner of Snow Stuff.

The HSA Hotham Ball was reinitiated and reinvented and held mid-season at The General. The successful outcome has ensured a commitment for a repeat of this event for 2013.

This year your HSA Committee has continued to be involved with the Alpine Resorts Coordinating Council workshop meetings to finalize the Alpine Resorts 2020 Strategy. Rob Anderson will report on the All Resorts Working Group efforts to bring a conciseness of

governance issues to the ARCC. Such representative issues at the outset were not part of the terms of reference of the strategy. The Eureka Concept apparently is a tricky one to understand. Thank you to Rob.

In simple terms our Committee remains committed to the two key drivers that will give a long term relevance to Hotham as a unique alpine resort destination; How to make Hotham different.

1. To display and exhibit an environmental consciousness, through management of the built environment. The Hotham Solar Photovoltaic Program is the start of this direction. Green Hotham in so many ways!
2. To assist in developing Educational Programs that give students the opportunity to learn and appreciate the unique characteristics of the Alpine environment. This driver brings us to the concept of structuring an offer from the Ski Lodges to secondary schools throughout the State for accommodation for Student Leadership programs as presently operated by the DEECD at the Alpine School, the Snowy River Campus and at the Gnurad-Gundidj Campus, Glenormiston. Committee became aware from the 2020 where there is no commitment to the future with kids, clubs already have infrastructure, get involved with schools.

This second driver for Hotham, bringing Schools to Hotham is all about building a future of knowledge and awareness for young students for the special alpine environment that has taught us all so much about the sensitivities of our landscape and the balance of our future.

I am very pleased to be able to welcome our recently elected Cr Mark Reeves, East Gippsland Shire Council and Principal of the Leadership Schools of Victoria to introduce our Association to the programs that are now running across the State.

Thank you to the HSA Executive, Rob Anderson, Honorary Secretary and his tireless work for the ARWG, Bruce Blackman, Vice President for his analysis and input, Brian Vowles, Treasurer, the books are in order and our membership has grown under his surveillance and Sue Coulson for creating order from disorder, Murray Neilson, Special Projects, Phillip Stott, Events and Occasions and a special thanks to Rory McDermott our man from Dinner Plain who provides a crucial link and minimizes polarization of the Resort. Also Scott Sloane our rep for Bright.

I wish to retire the position of President this year but would value the opportunity to provide ongoing input to the HSA committee.

Treasurers Report – Brian Vowles Motion (Rob Anderson) second (Karla
Memberships are down and corporations and individuals have fallen off. Clubs are currently sustaining us. The Fees are reasonable but we may have to review.

Only expense not processed is to The General, still waiting for invoice, approx. \$2000

Stickers are still available. (Langi Taan has requested)

Income	Memberships	\$4454
	Other	\$1585 (old HSCA bank account)
Expenses	Total	\$2373
Bank		\$5005
Debtors		\$2085 (memberships outstanding)

No Liabilities

Committee Report on Key Issues and Projects

Murray Neilson Solar Project

Murray discussed the successes of the Solar Project with the Clubs that took up the offer.

In Summary – Now with 18 months of data, performance is very close to forecast, minor monthly variations; within 5% performance is reflected against the snow season. 68c is still locked in, till 2024, in dollars, net or gross average performance 6500 per kw per year, 75% exported, \$3600 per year benefit.

We are working on a community monitoring system, doing tests on an independent network to see how it goes, remote control feeding systems.

1 in 3 lodges in davenport took up scheme and everyone is reasonable happy.

No-one has advised that they have had construction issues on the roof. Each roof is different, 12 different profiles so solutions varied and we tried to avoid penetrating the roofs, no problems with leakage.

Brush's estimate of payback system, depends on future tariffs should be under 5 years.

A few Lodges raised queries in August but was main issue was snow cover.

Tanderra's inverter required repair – appears to have been associated with a severe power spike across the network.

Geothermal – Q. Are there comparisons between Geothermal and Solar? It is a more complex system. Several people were interested in a workshop about a neighbourhood Geo Thermal system.

Thanks was proposed to Murray – David

Rob Anderson Alpine Resort Working Group

ARWG have been together for 8 years. Previous government did not offer us assistance so we decided to commence the Ernest and Young report to give us intellectual property with the facts.

Government has slowly been turning their mind to it and things are starting to look good. They see there is a problem and they are starting to listen to us with the Accountability and governance, 2020 reference group.

Property values have gone down so service charges have been increased. HSA have written letters to the MHRMB and Dess Powell (minister) in regards to the withdrawing of the 65 year old pass.

Peter – we have to address the negativity, 11% increase was poorly administered, noted after Lodges had structured their tariffs, wrote a very direct letter to Nicole Feeney.

Peter read the head leasee's report with regards to the over 65 passes.

The Queensland syndicate had caused the valuations to go higher, the hype was up and the GFC imploded.

Chris – Mt Buller Rate Payers – political action might be appropriate. Government is looking after seniors more; if Hotham get away with it then the other resorts will try and get away with it also. We need to go to the MP and Ministers. Phil will draft something up to send to lodges to send to their MP in regards to the 11% increase.

Guest Speakers

Nicole Staveley VSA (Victorian Snowsports Association)

Introduced by Rob Anderson (prior president of the VSA) and Nicole has followed on.

She has a huge interest in the snow coming from a family of snow boarders, mainly at Mt Buller.

Nicole is trying to build up the VSA, and is starting up a database. She has requested people to update their contact details, visit the web site www.vsa.org.au and promote sports.

More Victoria More Active More Often is their moto.

They are turning to government for Funding.

Questions/statements raised :

- What department does the VSA relate to
Crosses over many government departments, Tourism, Vic Health, Education.
VSA (small hardworking voluntary group) is a lobby group for the grass roots of our sport.
- Why would it be a negative issue that a 65year old is bringing up kids to be active in the sport.
- Need to work together
- Clubs individuals and athletes can join
Structure is being reviewed and possibly on a sliding scale

Rory McDermott "Marketing Officer" Dinner Plain Residents Business Operators Society Inc.

Rory offered thanks to the HSA to include him in their committee

The Residents Business Operators Society is a group of volunteers trying to be a voice for dinner plain; to lobby council, increase visitation and act on what residents want.

Dinner Plain offers is:

"A Town above the snow line"

Eclectic, no defined line between buildings

Stage or help events, from March Rock Events, Easter time events, Food and Wine festival, opening weekend

We have another offering other than Hotham that is great in the green season including walks, get out and about, restaurants, cafes

Next event is the carols in Christmas, intimate

In the November long weekend people took advantage of the fantastic Cobungra Ditch Walk hosted by Andrew Swift of the RMB

Hero pass was fantastic as more money was spent in the businesses

Mark Reeves

Principal at Alpine School (Dinner Plain Campus)

Principal at Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
Victoria

Peter Sandow introduced Mark.

Peter met Mark during architectural work and found he had a passion to introduce kids to the outdoors.

Mark runs a structured program for Year 9's to expand their education. Currently 540 students are offered a position each year which is scratching the surface.

Marks ideas - Every child in Year 9 has only been in the 21st Century. Middle year should be their pivotal years but they are the disengaged years. Need to get rid of Naplan and replace it with nape testing. Schools need to teach to engage, not numeracy and literacy, they need to teach how to be an adult, social competence, looking after yourself and contributing to society. We are killing kids due to them being so disconnected and are developing depressive disorders. Year 9 is rite of passage, to become independent, start with a good education program and have input, outdoor is struggling to find a grip.

Hotham has a green season, 30 weeks of the year that is not utilised. We need to put a few thoughts together, contact schools, throw in free rent, and dovetail with the schools around the area. Get a couple of pilots together, Wangaratta, Bright, Beechworth, Bairnsdale and Swifts Creek.

Mark is happy to help.

General Business

Removal of Fuel tanks

Ormond – removal of fuel tanks is part of the lease agreement. Recommendation is to get a local contractor to assist, similar to 5/6 years ago.

The tanks are empty so we could pay the RMB a small fee, or Smorgon steel, Onesteel, Metal Recycling business. Rob will have a ring around to see if we could do it again.

Election of Office Bearers – room is happy for the current committee to proceed. And vote for everyone to be in.

Peter advised anyone if they are interested we meet at Maori chief, first Monday of the month, 7:00 pm

Peter proposed the current committee list, Bruce Accepted

The Committee is passionate about Hotham. Bruce's notes are the same as Peter, outgoings are going up, need to be viable and we need to do something about green season.

Meeting Closed at: 9:40