



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## OUR CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The Mount Hotham Resort Management Board's mission is to deliver Australia's premier alpine resort- through the optimal management of this unique Crown Asset.

### BOARD MEMBER PROFILE

#### *Stephen Clement*

Stephen was appointed on the 28th October 2014 and has broad experience in property and is a passionate skier.

He is currently the Project General Manager at the Queensland Investment Corporation for the \$575 million upgrade of the Eastland Shopping Centre and Ringwood Town Square.

Prior to that he was Project Director for ING Real Estate for the mixed use development at Docklands and was President of the Docklands Chamber of Commerce. Stephen has worked in the property industry for 30 years and brings strong development and planning skills to the Board.

He has a Graduate Diploma in Project Management, Bachelor of Structural Engineering and is a member of the Institute of Engineers Australia.

Stephen has broad experience in property and is a passionate skier.

Chair Deb Spring asks, "Please make Stephen feel welcome as he familiarize himself with the mountain and our wonderful community."



## OUR STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Mt Hotham and Dinner Plain are about to launch the opening of a new iconic trail that will highlight the importance of Aboriginal heritage of the region.

Linking the two alpine villages of Mt Hotham and Dinner Plain the trail is 12 kilometres in length, with a surface of compacted crushed rock. The project was implemented to provide a greater range of recreational opportunity to a range of participants, i.e., cycling and walking during the summer months and cross-country skiing during the winter.

It was a joint project, co-funded between the Mt Hotham Alpine Resort Management Board and Alpine Shire with assistance from Parks Victoria and the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC).

Construction of the trail commenced in 2004 under strict environmental guidelines. In 2005 a cultural heritage assessment identified 25 aboriginal sites in vicinity of the trail. These sites were incorporated into the planning for the trail to ensure that their historical significance was preserved. Trail construction was recommenced in 2011 with the approval of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan (ACHMP) for the trail. In accordance with the ACHMP it was recommended that the Hotham – Dinner Plain Trail be given an appropriate Aboriginal name.

Consultation began in 2013 with the Gunaikurnai Land and Water Aboriginal Corporation and other Traditional Owner groups to develop an interpretive signage plan and traditional trail name, promoting significant awareness of the ongoing Aboriginal heritage in the area. The name Brabralung Trail was approved by GLaWAC in December 2014. Brabralung, is the name of the Gunaikurnia Clan for this region of Gippsland, translated as Male, Berry Worcat (female), meaning 'the people'.

This ancient mountain pathway is interpreted along its length, encouraging all to learn of the past, understand the present, and discover the future of the Aboriginal "first peoples" of the Alps.

Due to its accessibility to a range of users, and wide appeal through natural and cultural heritage values, the Brabralung Trail has the potential to become one of the more popular recreational trails in the area.

The Brabralung trail also compliments a growing range of iconic tracks & trails in the Mt Hotham area, including the Razorback and Mt Feathertop Track, The Falls to Hotham Alpine Crossing, The Australian Alps Walking Track, The Cobungra Ditch and the Huts Walk.



## OUR CUSTOMER & COMMUNITY FOCUS

The Board reviews its Emergency Management Plan annually to ensure it is current and that the risk mitigation strategies we have in place are appropriate.

The current review is in preparation of our three yearly audit by Emergency Management Victoria and requires a complete overhaul in accordance with the recent changes made to Emergency Management Legislation. This will include reviewing our existing risk assessments to evaluate if there are any changes to be made. Since the 2013 fires the Board has developed and implemented the Bushfire Emergency Management Plan (BEMP) with the key focus on human life and safety.

Each year we contact stakeholders to minimise bushfire risk around their lodges and buildings as part of our ongoing fire management program.

We would like to thank you all for your ongoing commitment to the safety of our Resort particularly during the fire season each year.

Mount Hotham Resort Management Board proudly supports the events that occupy our summer calendar and draw visitation to our resort during the green season. Thank you to The General Store and their team for the success of the Cool Summer Festival. Also thank you to Grant Seamer and his team who brought the Adventure Kids Festival to the resort for the first time this year. The event was a success in its first year and the Resort Management is hoping to build on this in the coming years.



## OUR YEAR ROUND RESORT

*2015 Summer Events included:*

**Adventure Kids Festival**  
Australia Day Weekend 24-26 January  
Over 350 adventure-seeking kids and their families converged on Mount Hotham over the Australia Day long weekend for a nature-based active getaway, the Adventure Kids Festival. The event had the aim of promoting outdoor activity and adventure-play among kids aged 4 to 12 who are increasingly glued to screens and their iPads. The festival proved that this generation still enjoys the best of the outdoors.

It was the first time the event was held at Hotham and we hope it will be bigger and better next year!

**Cool Summer Festival**  
30 January - 1 February

The Cool Summer music festival was held again this year by The General Store, showcasing local and wider know artists from around Australia. The festival is known for its cool vibes and along with the marquee that runs at night is also a family event, where you can bring the kids along and laze on the grass of the Big D while listening to some great music. For more information visit [coolsummerfestival.com](http://coolsummerfestival.com)

**Beyond Hotham 4WD Adventure**  
14 - 21 March

Heading in to its eighth year, the event will be held at Mount Hotham Alpine Resort on the 14th and 15th of March as a weekend of day tours in the local area. Followed by two longer trips with a 4 day catered tag-along tour into the Dargo Valley and a 6 day 4WD adventure encompassing North East Victoria and southern NSW Snowy Mountains. For more information visit [www.beyondhotham.com.au](http://www.beyondhotham.com.au)

**Summer Bushwalking Program**

From Bushwalking Season opening 2 November - Easter Holidays 5 April  
The Guided Bushwalking Program this summer has been successful with over 25 participants on some of the long weekends. The last major long weekend on the summer calendar is Easter, one of the busiest weekends for the resort over summer.  
7 March- 9:30am  
Cobungra Ditch/Huts Walk Track head, via Skeleton Creek  
5 April- 9:30am & 1:00pm  
Cobungra Ditch/Huts Walk Track head, via Skeleton Creek & Brandy Creek Mine & Cobungra Township



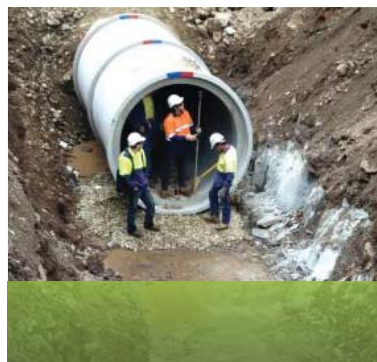
## OUR DEVELOPER SERVICE

New developments and extensions are underway around the resort this summer including the rebuild of Koomerang Ski Club, additions to The General Store's Mountain Dreaming apartments and a number of smaller scale works being carried out on a number of lodges.

**Koomerang Ski Club** rebuild kicked off after several years of planning – the rebuild commenced in November 2014. The first step was to demolish the old Koomerang building to make way for the new, larger, two storey lodge. Equipped with 8 bedrooms all with en-suites, this lodge can now sleep up to 30 people. A large ramp allows access from Davenport Drive into the lodge with communal areas of drying room, lounge and dining areas and a fully functional kitchen.

We all look forward to seeing the final product which is due for completion before the beginning of the 2015 winter season.

**The General Store** decided to expand their



*In 2010, a 100 year storm event that created a 'valley washout', highlighted the need to replace the Swindler's Valley pipeline. The Mount Hotham Resort Management Board has been managing the construction and replacement of the Swindler's Valley stormwater pipe since that event.*

The storm created significant damage to the already degraded pipeline and the Village Chairlift loading station.

The \$7.6 million pipeline project was funded by the State Government allocating the money to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP).

Mt Hotham Resort Management Board and DELWP formed an agreement which allowed the funds to be used for the project.

Following the tender application, Benalla excavating and earthmoving contractors, Extons, was awarded the contract to install the major pipes in the valley. Resort Management has had up to 13 employees in

accommodation after the success of the Mountain Dreaming Apartments, with the addition of 4 more apartments.

The building will have improved access for guests with a network of external walkways, and refurbishment of the existing kitchen. Guests can now access their accommodation without the need to walk through the pub and eating areas.

**Kongoola** have added a new lobby and manager's room to their lodge. Works began in 2014 and should be completed before winter this year.

**Blue Ribbon Lodge** have installed new steel emergency stairs.

**Lawlers Car Park** area has been upgraded to include a new entry point, extension to accommodate an additional ten parking spaces, sealing of the car park surface to incorporate drainage requirements, upgrade of existing sewer pipework, public lighting and pedestrian access.

The Resort Management Board upgraded the sewer before winter 2014 and Lawlers have engaged a company to complete the remainder of the works.

The project is set to be completed before this winter.

*If you would like to speak to our property department regarding Property Leases,*

*Building Permits and all other development enquiries please contact our office on 03 5759 3550.*



## OUR SERVICES

a range of positions including surveying, contract supervisors, transport logistics, pipeline and outlet construction, and installation of snowmaking pipes and services which run under the valley floor, assisting the eight member team from Extons.

The main pipeline has been completed ahead of schedule and a total of 204, 2.1m diameter pipes made of reinforced concrete with a storm flow capacity of 45,000 litres per second have been installed. (This flow would fill the snowmaking dam at Loch Car Park in 5 minutes).

A six-wheel drive ex-army truck with 23 tonne gross vehicle mass was purchased and fitted with a cradle to transport pipe sections to the valley floor.

Mt Hotham Resort Management Board Manager Technical Services, Tom Pelly said "The project team has been highly motivated and there has been a high degree of cooperation between the MHRMB staff and the contractors."

Instead of transporting the large amount of crushed rock needed for the project,



## OUR ENVIRONMENT ON THE RIDGE

The Mount Hotham Village is home not only to the heart of the resort but also the Mountain Pygmy Possum (MPP). Resort Management Board have implemented additional predator control and begun habitat restoration to prevent a declining population. It will require a combined effort from all stakeholders across the resort to assist in the recovery of this species in the village.

The MPP are known to enter and inhabit buildings (particularly those around boulderfields) as are other native small mammals including Dusky Antechinus, and Broad Tooth Rats. The MPP and Broad Tooth Rat are both protected by law. The Resort Management Board would like to engage with stakeholders in relation to native animals in their buildings. If you have animals in your lodge ensure you;

- clean areas where food is kept or consumed regularly;
- securely lock food in airtight containers where animals cannot access it;
- block entrances, holes and gaps where animals can access living areas;
- ensure there are no open containers or buckets left outside that can be traps;
- avoid the use snap traps or poison baits;
- enjoy the experience of sharing the alpine environment with these creatures.

If you have a problem with native animals in your building and would like assistance or advise in dealing with the issue please contact Bev Lawrence at the Resort Management Board on 03 5759 3550.

Resort Management Board was able to utilise local resources to acquire material for fill around the pipe from Whitley's Car Park.

The new Whitley's Car Park was constructed with an extra 50 per cent parking capacity.

Resort Management Board said revegetation on all construction areas will be completed prior to the 2015 snow season.

Along with services in the valley, snowmaking pipes were installed in Slalom Snowly.

Mt Hotham Skiing Company will also be purchasing a new PB 400 Winch Cat Grooming machine for the upcoming winter.

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