

# **Aardvark Alpine Club.**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN 21 November 2004.**

### **Comprising:**

1. *Aardvark Alpine Club* mission
  2. Environmental policy
  3. Environmental aspects of Aardvark activities
  4. Implementing the Environmental Policy.
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### **1. *Aardvark Alpine Club's* mission.**

“To provide the best club-style accommodation in the middle to lower price range in the Mt Hotham Resort. *Aardvark Alpine Club* commits itself to building long-term relationships with its members and guests through comfortable, safe, affordable accommodation in a friendly environment. Aardvark’s goal is to maximise occupancy in the Lodge throughout the year with an egalitarian spirit.”

### **2. Environmental Policy**

In fulfilling its mission, *Aardvark Alpine Club* will:

- (i) minimise the consumption of energy, water and other material resources;
- (ii) minimise the generation of waste;
- (iii) minimise our impact on alpine ecology through weed management and re-introduction of indigenous species at and around our lodge site, and through advocacy for sound environmental management elsewhere at the Mount Hotham resort;
- (iv) as far as we are able, monitor and assess environmental opportunities, risks and impacts;
- (v) strive for continual improvement in our environmental performance;
- (vi) endeavour to ensure that suppliers, contractors and others acting on our behalf also meet acceptable standards of environmental performance;
- (vii) communicate our environmental performance to members and guests – and as far as practical – to the general public.

### 3. Environmental aspects register.

This is not an exhaustive list of the environmental impacts that result from the activities of *Aardvark Alpine Club*. However, it is a list of the most significant ones.

*Aardvark Alpine Club* will endeavour to minimise the environmental impacts of these activities as indicated in section 4 of this plan.

<b>Activity.</b>	<b>Describe.</b>	<b>Environmental aspect.</b>
<b>1. Energy use - building</b> (Electricity, natural gas and firewood use)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buildings' heating ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC),</li> <li>• Lighting</li> <li>• Use of equipment, inc appliances, machinery and tools</li> <li>• Open fire and closed wood heater.</li> </ul>	Disturbance to environment from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• extraction of fossil fuels</li> <li>• depletion of non-renewable resources</li> <li>• emissions from extraction and refining</li> <li>• ecological impact from collection of firewood</li> <li>• transport of gas and firewood</li> <li>• emissions from generation of electricity</li> <li>• local air quality reduction from burning of natural gas, LPG or firewood</li> </ul>
<b>2. Energy use - transport.</b> (cars, aircraft, car alternatives)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Petrol/diesel/LPG combustion in cars</li> <li>• Fuels and other consumables used in aircraft operation</li> <li>• Bicycles??</li> </ul>	Disturbance to environment from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• extraction of fossil fuels</li> <li>• depletion of resources</li> <li>• emissions from extraction and refining</li> <li>• emissions from transport of fuels</li> <li>• emissions from vehicles: greenhouse and air quality effects.</li> <li>• emissions related to air travel &amp; transport to &amp; from airports</li> </ul>
<b>3. Mountain activities - including site use and skiing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction, operation &amp; maintenance of ski-lodge on leased site</li> <li>• Skiing: downhill, cross-country and snowboarding.</li> <li>• Hiking</li> <li>• Sight seeing</li> <li>• Gastronomic activities</li> </ul>	Disturbance to environment from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use of lodge at the leased site</li> <li>• operation &amp; use of ski-runs</li> <li>• off piste skiing &amp; other over-snow activities</li> <li>• hiking &amp; sight-seeing activities</li> <li>• pressure on mountain water supply systems, sewerage system and general waste systems from gastronomic and other activities by Aardvark members &amp; guests at the lodge and other mountain venues.</li> </ul>
<b>4. Generation of waste (solid).</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Garbage from work activities, kitchen, toilets, etc</li> <li>• Discarded packaging</li> </ul>	Disturbance to environment from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• landfill use including emissions and discharges from land fill</li> <li>• energy use including emissions from activities of contractors to remove waste</li> </ul>
<b>5. Use of water and generation of wastewater.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water use in building: kitchen, bathrooms, and toilet.</li> <li>• Sewage and "grey water" from buildings</li> </ul>	Disturbance to environment from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water capture, storage and transport and associated catchment issues</li> <li>• waste water discharges to environment.</li> <li>• Risk to defined beneficial uses of surface waters of Victoria (eg ecosystem protection) from overflows, reduced environmental flows, leaks, etc.</li> </ul>

## **4. Implementing the Environmental Policy.**

Achievement of *Aardvark Alpine Club's* environmental policy will be achieved:

- a. by identifying our main environmental impacts (as above), and
- b. by working to minimise or eliminate them (as below), and
- c. through continual review of environmental opportunities, risks and impacts.

### **4.1 Reducing the environmental impact of energy use in the building**

- Review the building's insulation capacity
- Consideration of energy efficiency in planning and undertaking any building developments (renovations or extensions).
- Consideration of energy efficiency when purchasing appliances.
- Not overheating the lodge, and not having ventilation requirements fighting heating requirements.
- Keeping the fire(s) at a reasonable size – consistent with heating requirements.
- Assess the environmental impact of using red gum for firewood and possible alternatives.
- When possible carry out energy audits, including tariff audits

### **4.2 Reducing the environmental impact of energy use from transport**

- Car-pooling to and from the lodge.
- Consideration of, and publicising, public transport options to and from the lodge

### **4.3 Reducing the environmental impact of mountain activities: at our site and on Mt Hotham and surrounds.**

#### ***SITE***

- Rehabilitation of Aardvark site: as far as practical, including; weed removal, planting and care of local indigenous plant species (especially for the croquet lawn), re-establishment of flora and/or fauna habitat requirements, rehabilitation of the diesel tank area.
- Ongoing care for Aardvark site: as far as practical, including; management of car parking, avoidance of littering or building / renovation / maintenance mess, minimal use of pesticides, fertilisers and landscaping aids such as black plastic and minimising the impacts of building and/or excavation activities.

#### ***MT HOTHAM AND ALPINE SURROUNDS***

- Participate in Mt Hotham management debate as it relates to conservation of the mountain, but not to the exclusion of contributing to debate on other issues.
- Encourage members & guests to not litter while skiing or bushwalking.
- Encourage members & guests to be sensitive to the local flora and fauna and observe regulations (eg not picking flowers, or even whole plants)

#### **4.4 Reducing the environmental impact of general waste (solid) from Aardvark**

- Encourage members & guests to consider the possible impacts of purchasing decisions (eg of food and beverages) on the eventual generation of waste on the mountain. This could include decisions about minimal packaging and the use of recyclable containers..
- Establish convenient systems for separation and recycling of waste
- Encourage the use of low weight, crushable and recyclable beverage and food containers (eg aluminium cans rather than stubbies or bottles of beer)
- Arrange annual bulk purchase of staples with minimal packaging
- Encourage communal (group) cooking arrangements to minimise energy use and waste generation

#### **4.5 Reducing the environmental impact of water consumption and waste water production**

- Encourage members and guests to be not wasteful with water use
- Encourage members & guests to not wash fats and oils down the sink or inappropriate items down toilets. (refer Mt Hotham Management Committee guidelines).

#### **4.6 Communication of Environmental Performance**

- Encourage reporting of environmental initiatives and performance in the Aardvark newsletter and in committee and working group agendas minutes and other communications.
- Report on environmental initiatives and performance at the Aardvark annual general meeting, and minutes thereof.
- Provide a suggestion box at the Aardvark lodge for members and guests for environmental management initiatives and improvements.
- Provide signage around the Aardvark lodge to explain systems for reducing environmental impacts and to promote the use of these systems.
- Provide an electronic copy of this Environmental Management Plan (EMP) to members
- An electronic copy of this EMP to be available for download as a pdf from the Aardvark website.
- An electronic copy of this EMP to be sent to all guests and members booked to stay at the lodge (where feasible).
- A hard copy of this EMP is to be available for ready reference at the lodge for members and guests.

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#### **SOME SIGNIFICANT AARDVARK ACHIEVEMENTS.**

- Significant progress in removal of weeds, and re-establishment of indigenous vegetation, at the Aardvark site.
- Removal of diesel tank from site. The first such removal at Mt Hotham (since installation of reticulated power), and it was done under Mt Hotham management observation.
- Rehabilitation underway of diesel tank site.
- Gift & installation of glove rack at Heavenly Valley toilets (gloves are a significant problem at the sewage treatment plant).

Aardvark EMP, as approved at the Annual General Meeting of 21/11/2004.