

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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New Chief Executive Officer appointed for Southern Alpine Resort Management Board

Today Allan Bawden, Chair of Southern Alpine Resort Management Board announced the appointment of its new CEO, Ms. Gail Conman. Ms. Conman has had a diverse career during which she has led change, implemented innovation, delivered significant projects, and managed and developed substantial workplace teams. Most recently employed as the Director of City Services for the Moonee Valley City Council, and prior to that; as the Executive Director of the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning at the University of Melbourne, and a number of roles with the Victorian State Government ultimately as an Executive Director in the Victorian Auditor-General's Office. Ms. Conman has an impressive array of career roles and achievements, that place her in good stead to work with the recently established Southern Alpine Resort Management Board ('the board').

Mr. Bawden, indicated that Ms. Conman stood out from the extensive field of applicants given her capacity to build highly effective workplace cultures that lead to great outcomes.

Mr. Bawden said, "The board is delighted to have found someone with Gail's energy, passion and background to lead the organisation to its next stage of development. There is much to do in the two resorts; to build on the foundations and to implement the decisions that we are expecting from government. Gail's capacity and enthusiasm to work with people in her teams to lead to better cultures and outcomes are going to be the cornerstone for the future success of the resorts."

Earlier this year, the board became the committee of management on 1st January for both Lake Mountain and Mount Baw Baw Alpine Resorts and has recently submitted its Southern Alpine Resorts Reform project report following the government request to develop financially sustainable models for both the resorts, that will ensure the economic and social contribution made by these resorts is protected in the context of a changing climate.

Mr. Bawden noted the importance of the resorts to the regions in which they are situated is emphasised by a recent Alpine Resorts Co-ordinating Council report on the Economic Significance of the Alpine Resorts to the Victorian economy which estimated that Lake Mountain contributed \$17 million of economic activity and 207 jobs to its region, whilst Mount Baw Baw created \$19 million of regional economic activity which in turn led to 213 jobs.

"The boards of Lake Mountain and Mount Baw Baw have been well served in its early days by interim CEO, Philip Nunn, who was engaged in February 2016 to lead the transition process in establishing the new board, and to develop the report to government. Phil's knowledge and experience of the alpine sector was crucial in achieving these outcomes."

"Gail will lead the management team that has been put in place, and work with them to make the resorts better places to visit and to do business while protecting their wonderful natural environments" said Mr Bawden.

Ms. Conman is expected to take up her role on 24 April to ensure a smooth handover from Mr. Nunn.

Ms. Conman said, "I am thrilled to be appointed, and look forward to working with board members and the resort employees to create a successful future for the resorts as we seek to adapt to the challenges posed by climate change and to create facilities and ways of carrying out our operations, that will provide wonderful, memorable experiences for the people who come to the resorts".

-ENDS-

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Lake Mountain

Lake Mountain Alpine Resort is Victoria's most accessible alpine playground, just a two-hour drive from Melbourne. Lake Mountain provides families with year-round action adventure and the chance to create fun memories that will be treasured for a lifetime. During the alpine season, Lake Mountain is a winter wonderland with a network nearly 40 kilometres of well-marked and world-class cross country ski trails, exhilarating toboggan slopes, snowshoe trails, and the wildly fun and popular Flying Fox and tube run. The resort offers a first-rate team of instructors that can guide children and adults of all ability levels through anything from the basics all the way to refining racing skills. The alpine season kicked off in early June, and visitors can take advantage of the affordable family fun and convenient location! For more information, visit www.lakemountainresort.com.au

Mount Baw Baw

Mt Baw Baw Alpine Village is Melbourne's closest downhill ski resort and offers fun, safe and affordable snow experiences through winter and endless hours of outdoor adventures all year round. The resort is situated along the Victorian Alps and boasts over 35 hectares of downhill terrain, seven lifts, two terrain parks, 10 kilometres of cross country ski trails, three snow play areas and unlimited terrain to explore amongst the snow gums. Winter season kicked off in early June with the resort offering a host of activities and events for skiers and snowboarders of all ages and levels. Whether you are enrolling your children in their first lesson, a newbie yourself or an expert, there's something for all ability levels. Not into skiing or snowboarding? Mt Baw Baw offers sled dog tours, snowshoeing, snow groomer tours, a gym, spa pool and more. Visitors can take advantage of offers and experience the best of the mountain by combining accommodation and activities. For more information, visit www.mountbawbaw.com.au

Quick Facts:

- Height of Village: 1460m
- Height of summit: 1564m
- Ski area: 35 hectares
- Number of lifts: 7 (including Magic Carpet)
- Number of runs: 15
- Longest Run: 750m
- Terrain: Beginners 25%, Intermediate 64%, Advanced 11%