

December 2011

snowyhydro

NEWS

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The year in review - A message from the CEO

Terry Charlton
CEO & Managing Director

I look back with some pleasure and satisfaction for the way we are concluding 2011. For the company it has been another very successful year, one of many in a row.



For our relationships with the community I believe there has also been significant steps forward and importantly improved understanding of our business and obligations.

I would like to thank the families and friends of our employees who have supported them in their roles this year, and also thank you to all in the community who have supported us over the past 12 months.

A lot of exciting projects have been significantly progressed or completed during this year. For example:

- construction of Jindabyne Dam Spillway,
- Guthega excitation and stator realignment,
- refurbishment and upgrade of Tumut 3 Unit 5
- installation of the first of the new Tumut 1 330kv cables and transformers,
- repairs at Laverton North gas fired power station,
- planning for the Upper Tumut and Murray 1 Modernisation; as well as
- new control systems at Valley Power.

These projects, along with the upgrade program for our controls throughout the Snowy Scheme, are examples of how we are modernising the assets of which we are stewards.

Looked at from the business perspective, which is fundamental to our future success, all of these investments are increasing the commercial viability and market strength of Snowy Hydro Limited.

2011



Lake Jindabyne, 2011

A highlight of the year was not doubt the delivery of a large flushing flow down the Snowy River, with more than three times the volume of Lake Burley Griffin in Canberra put down the Snowy River out of Lake Jindabyne. We look forward to seeing the scientific results of the flows. Hopefully these environmental changes will reflect the half billion dollar investment by Governments and Snowy Hydro in costs associated with delivering the flows.

Snowy Hydro strongly supports community partnerships that focus on delivering increased educational opportunities...

As is probably well known, we need more people, lots more. We need young professionals, tradespeople and a variety of experienced technicians. This is a problem for most large employer's right across Australia. It is the reason that to overcome this challenge, Snowy Hydro strongly supports community partnerships that focus on delivering increased educational opportunities and other community ideas that will retain and attract professional staff and their families to the Snowy Mountains Region.

In regards to community activities that Snowy Hydro plays some part, we are proud to continue our association with Snowy Hydro SouthCare, the regions major festivals and events, the Young Driver Training Program and Snowy Ride. Snowy Hydro has continued its long and strong

support of the Snowy Mountains tourism industry, not only the largest local industry, but the one that provides the best opportunities to improve the quality of town and regional life through attractions, events and economic benefit.

It was interesting to think for a moment about the new transformer arriving at Tumut 1 Power Station after its journey through Cooma, Adaminaby and Cabramurra. A lot has changed, but looking at the photos above there is a striking similarity to how things were in 1954. I look back 10 years and I can observe that so many things have changed at Snowy Hydro in that time, but I think of the people that make up the company and there have been few changes. This is very pleasing that we now have a high level of job security even though quite fundamental changes have been taking place. This observation is rather unusual for companies these days.

At Snowy Hydro we talk a lot about the next 10 years and irrespective of public or private ownership, I see a very strong future. This can only be good for the local communities such as Cooma, Tumut, Jindabyne and in fact the entire region. I often talk about a shared future where as a company we need a successful region, positive communities, but at the same time, there is little doubt the community needs a successful Snowy Hydro.

We might have setbacks from time to time, but we will continue to grow, we will continue to invest in existing plant and equipment, we will continue to invest in our people and we will expand our business activities. Why? Not only is it the right thing to do but most importantly it is essential to the ongoing success of Snowy Hydro.

Next year we will talk a lot more about our shared future but for now, thank you for your support. I wish all a happy Christmas and New Year, and above all, please be safe at work, at home and on the roads this festive season.

Snowy Hydro Scientific Services

Forecasting Project wins Australian Research Council Grant

Loredana Warren
Senior Scientific Officer

At Snowy Hydro we rely heavily on data, hard evidence and ensure company decisions are based on fact. Our Scientific Services team provides expert advice to the business to ensure we operate the Snowy Scheme with all the facts on hand.



Major decisions are not made based on unsupported evidence or personal opinion, especially in meeting our responsibilities in terms of water and environmental management.

For example, Snowy Hydro uses detailed precipitation forecasts to predict short term inflows into the storages of the Snowy Scheme. Short term forecasts are generally over the following 1-2 weeks and this information is critical for effective day-to-day (and ultimately long term) management and operation of Scheme storages.

A challenge we face is that forecast products provided by the Bureau of Meteorology focus predominately on capital cities and major regional centres. The weather forecasting models used to forecast precipitation over the Snowy Mountains region are not as well developed as they could be.

The pristine conditions and strong wind shear over the Southern Ocean affect the formation of precipitation in the cloud found over southeast Australia. This, along with the complex topography of the Snowy Mountains makes forecasting for this region particularly challenging.

The Snowy Hydro Scientific Services team has taken up this challenge and has been investigating ways to significantly improve our snow and rainfall forecasting capability. A research team headed by Dr Steve Siems from Monash University and comprising expert scientists

from Snowy Hydro, the Bureau of Meteorology, CSIRO, Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment and Hydro Tasmania have been collaborating on this research.

Earlier this year the team made an application for funding to the Australian Research Council (ARC) to further research precipitation in wintertime storms across southeast Australia, Tasmania and the Southern Ocean.

The project will evaluate and improve the ability to simulate precipitation over southeast Australia, which will not only help improve precipitation forecasts over the Snowy Mountains but will lead to better information for water resource management over the entire area.

I am pleased to advise that the funding application to further this important work was successful, as announced recently by the Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, Senator the Hon. Kim Carr. The Research team was awarded \$666,000 for this scientific linkage project over the next three years. The grant scheme is highly competitive and only those projects that demonstrate high scientific credibility and expertise; an innovative approach to further the scientific understanding; and will produce outcomes that provide national economic and environmental benefit are successful.

The Snowy Hydro Scientific Services team looks forward to continuing this important work with Monash University, the Bureau of Meteorology, CSIRO, Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment and Hydro Tasmania, to significantly improve the understanding of the precipitation processes affecting the Snowy Mountains and southeast Australia.



Snowy River Flushing Flows

Thank you from Snowy Hydro

Kieran Cusack
Area Manager, Kosciuszko

Snowy Hydro would like to thank the local community for your cooperation during the recent Snowy River Flushing Flows.



It was pleasing that the majority of the community and visitors to the site utilised the temporary public viewing area provided by our company and adhered to the safety directions on site.

Overall, community feedback about the temporary public viewing area and the communications about the flows has been very positive.

We would also like to acknowledge the planning, coordination and efforts of the NSW Office of Water, Snowy River Shire Council and other supporting agencies who were involved with the Snowy River Flushing Flow. The positive working relationships between almost a dozen different agencies ensured the flows were delivered as directed, safely and with minimal disruption to the community while delivering the maximum environmental benefit for the Snowy River.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank many of the professional and dedicated staff at Snowy Hydro who were involved with the planning, coordination and delivery of the Snowy River Flushing flows in October. With safety of our staff and the local community our highest priority, our staff spent weeks, and in some cases months, planning the releases.

Another Snowy River Flushing Flow is scheduled for Spring 2012, for more information please visit the NSW Office of Water website at www.water.nsw.gov.au



Flushing Flow release from Lake Jindabyne.



Tumut 3 Power Station

NSW Govt confirms State Water controls Blowering airspace

David Harris
Executive Officer, Water



Over recent months, there has been speculation by some in the community and various agencies that Snowy Hydro is responsible for setting the airspace in Blowering Dam, including the “space in the dam to handle a flood”.

In a radio interview the New South Wales Minister for Primary Industries, Katrina Hodgkinson, confirmed that it is State Water’s responsibility to control the airspace in Blowering Dam.

A report commissioned by the Minister this year to investigate dam management during the floods in the Tumut and Murrumbidgee Rivers in the last quarter of 2010 concluded that Snowy Hydro had a right to specify airspace in Blowering Dam but only for the purpose of electricity generation.

In other words, Snowy Hydro cannot instruct State Water to keep Blowering low to handle floods - Snowy Hydro can only request State Water keep enough space to store the water released from essential electricity generation from its Tumut 3 Power Station.

Minister Hodgkinson confirmed that “[airspace in Blowering Dam for flood mitigation] is fundamentally the responsibility of State Water but there are many different interests, irrigation and food security, water

for generating electricity, making sure the river health’s maintained and also providing flood mitigation. It’s a very delicate balance.”

Minister for Primary Industries, Katrina Hodgkinson, confirmed that it is State Water’s responsibility to control the airspace in Blowering Dam.

Minister Hodgkinson also said that Snowy Hydro and State Water work together well: “It’s a unique system that we’ve got in place and I think a very good one as well.”



Young Driver Training

Year 12 students complete the 2011 Snowy Hydro Young Driver Training Program

Tracy Crowe

Education and Community Liaison Officer



This year's Snowy Hydro Young Driver Training program concluded with local year 12 students from Tumut High School and Monaro High School in Cooma completing the 2011 program.

Snowy Hydro's Young Driver Training Program is a professionally

delivered program integrated with local high schools where the students undertake both theory and practical sessions outlining key focus areas such as their attitude and driving behaviours.

Included in the program is an understanding of the unique road conditions of the Snowy Mountains such as snow and ice. The program also focuses on distractions including the dangers of talking and texting on mobile phones while driving.

Snowy Hydro fully funds the program and utilises a specially prepared car and skid frame combination. This program is highly valued by both high schools and the local community and is aimed at making a meaningful difference to safety of all drivers on our roads, especially new drivers.

In total 280 students from around the Snowy Mountains completed the program in 2011. It is estimated that more than 300 will complete the program in 2012.

Tumut High School's Year 12 Year Adviser, Mr Van Stekelenborg, who went out and experienced the skid car training first hand, said that "considering the amount of time students spend on the road once they get their licences and the impact of wanting to impress their friends, the program equips them with the knowledge of what will happen when they push the limits of safety.

Experiencing an out of control car at a much slower speed will allow them to think about the ramifications of speeding and losing control. Considering that nearly all students participated in the program shows how valuable they found it."

The success of the Young Driver Training Program is a direct result of Snowy Hydro's partnership with local schools and this high quality, professionally run program provides a tremendous outcome not only for participants and their families but also for the entire community.

Snowy Hydro's Young Driver Training Program wins NSW Award!

Snowy Hydro's Young Driver Training Program has been awarded the NSW Division Australian Marketing Award for Marketing Excellence in the Corporate Social Responsibility category. The Corporate Responsibility category recognises a marketing initiative that measurably benefits both company and community. While we missed out on the national award we were recognised as a National Finalist and shows that the Young Driver Training Program is a positive initiative for Snowy Hydro and the local community.



Above: Danielle Venables and Tracy Crowe at the NSW AMI Awards.



Former Snowy Scheme Workers Annual Briefing

Darren Davis

Manager Asset Management & Engineering

Recently Snowy Hydro hosted the annual briefing to around 60 former Snowy Scheme workers at the Discovery Centre in Cooma.



CEO Terry Charlton, Executive Officers Ken Lister and Brett Jones, as well as myself presented to the group giving them an update on the business today, our Scheme Modernisation Project and our Continuous Improvement Philosophy.

This is the 10th year we have held the former worker presentation which originally started because we wanted those who helped build the Snowy Scheme understand that while we are stewards of the Scheme, we are committed to ensuring that it is kept in even better state and condition into the future as this is essential to our ongoing success in the National Electricity Market. The reliability of our plant is critical in being able to meet the expectations of our customers.

Many former workers were interested to see how Snowy Hydro is looking after the Snowy Scheme which they helped build over 60 years ago, and were impressed with the extent of the upgrades, improvements and massive investment by the company into the plant.

We would like to thank Wally Mills and the Snowy Scheme Association for helping coordinate the presentation.



Above: The group of former Snowy Scheme workers who attended the annual presentation.



Executive Officer Production, Brett Jones speaking with Dave Jordan.



Recognising long serving employees of Snowy Hydro

Charlie Shea
Executive Officer, People & Culture



Snowy Hydro strongly recognises and values the skills and experience that come with all our employees. None more so than those who have served the company over a long period of time.

Each year Snowy Hydro recognises our long serving employees at our annual Long Service Recognition and Reward Dinner in Thredbo. This year 12 employees were recognised for their 20, 30 and 40 years of service to the company.

Many of our Executive team, including CEO Terry Charlton, attended this important function to recognise our long serving employees. The contribution and support of the employees spouses and families was also acknowledged, especially given the nature of work at Snowy Hydro sometime requires time away from home and family.

One of the strong characteristics of each of these long serving employees has been their ability to adjust to the way the business has changed, especially over the past decade. While our core assets of the Snowy Scheme remain unchanged, except for the significant engineering and maintenance programs underway, these employees typify the values of commitment, dedication and professionalism of the Snowy men and women of today.

Snowy Hydro would like to thank these employees for their knowledge, commitment and loyalty to the company, it is highly valued.



Above: Members of Snowy Hydro's Executive Team and some of the long serving employees who were recognised on the night.

Name	Business Unit	Years
Mick Freeman	Production, Lower Tumut	40
Doug Payne	Production, Cooma	40
Grant Goldspink	Production, Upper Tumut	40
Tony Garr	Water Group, Cooma	30
Greg Hobbs	Engineering & Projects, Cooma	30
Ray Quinn	Production, Lower Tumut	30
Jim Stevenson	Production, Murray	30
Arthur Wood	Production, Murray	30
Kapila Nanayakkara	Engineering & Projects, Cooma	20
Tim Paton	Production, Murray	20
Simon Donadon	Engineering & Projects, Murray	20
Liz Schaefer	Production, Upper Tumut	20



Snowy Ride 2011 raises much needed funds for children's cancer research

David Hogan
Manager Public Relations & Community Affairs



The Snowy Mountains Region welcomed more than 3100 motorcyclists in November for the annual Snowy Ride. Snowy Hydro is a major supporter of the Snowy Ride with 2011 being our 11th year involved with this fantastic community event and children's cancer fundraising initiative.

This is the second of a three year, \$100,000 per annum sponsorship of the Snowy Ride and Steven Walter Foundation. This agreement provides \$50,000 per annum to the Steven Walter Foundation for ongoing research at the Children's Cancer Institute of Australia. The other \$50,000 per annum goes to the Steven Walter Foundation Snowy Ride "Special Kids Weekend in the Mountains" Program.

Snowy Hydro CEO Mr Terry Charlton attended the Snowy Hydro Family Program activities on the Friday before the ride, joining families whose children who are being treated for cancer at to Charlotte's Pass. Mr Charlton took the opportunity to present the \$100,000 cheque to Snowy Ride organisers.

During the presentation Mr Charlton said "The Snowy Ride Concept is a winning formula for not only raising awareness and much needed research funding but is

an event that brings the local community together. It is something our company and our staff are proud to support. We look forward to a long association with the event in the region and believe our financial support will further assist finding a cure for childhood cancer."

In excess of \$250,000 was raised from the 2011 Snowy Ride, bringing the total raised for children's cancer research over the last 11 years to over \$4million. Snowy Hydro would also like to recognise the dedicated support of the local organisers such as Brian and Dale Coyte as well as many others who donate their time for this event and in hosting those special Snowy Ride families who are in need of a break.



Above: CEO Terry Charlton presenting the \$100,000 to Snowy Ride.



Lake Jindabyne



Jindabyne Flowing Festival



Snowy Hydro marquee at Tumbafest

Get ready for the 2012 festival and event season!

Heath Redstone
Visitor Centres Coordinator

Snowy Hydro proudly support local festivals and events around the Snowy Mountains.



Festivals and events are a great way to showcase what our region has to offer. It brings the community together and entices visitors to our region to experience our attractions, local products and services.

Snowy Hydro is proud to be a major sponsor or support a number of festivals and events including the Crackenback Carnival at Lake Crackenback, the Flowing Festival at Jindabyne, Tumbafest at Tumberumba, the Cooma Show, The Man From Snowy River at Corryong and the Falling Leaf Festival at Tumut.

Snowy Hydro will have a marquee at all the above events in 2012 and our friendly staff will be on hand to talk to you about the latest information on Snowy Hydro and the Snowy Mountains Scheme. Call in and find out how Snowy Hydro operates the Scheme today, understand how Snowy Hydro operates in the National Electricity Market and how we work under a strict water licence.

Showbags will be available containing our Drive Guide advising places to visit around the scheme, a map of the region and a driving distance and time chart as well as fact sheets on cloud seeding, water operations and our business today as well as some fun stuff for the kids.

It's an exciting time of year and Snowy Hydro would like to encourage you to attend your local festival or event. We look forward to seeing you there.

For information on Snowy Hydro call 1800 623 776 or visit www.snowyhydro.com.au. For information on regional festivals and events visit www.snowymountains.com.au

Visit Snowy Hydro's Marquee at:

Crackenback Carnival	14 January 2012
Australia Day in the Park Cooma	26 January 2012
Jindabyne Flowing Festival	18 & 19 February 2012
Tumbafest	25 & 26 February 2012
Cooma Show	10 March 2012
Corryong Man from Snowy River Bush Festival	1 April 2012
Tumut Festival of the Falling Leaf	28 & 29 April 2012

Snowy Scheme Museum Adaminaby

The Snowy Scheme Museum highlights the achievements of the engineers, the builders, the machinery, and the role the project played in the development of the modern Australian nation. Showcasing the greatest engineering project ever undertaken in Australia, the museum is a multi-dimensional insight into a monumental chapter in Australia's history.



The community based undertaking to establish the Snowy Scheme Museum, has been at times just as big as the scheme itself; at the official opening on 15 October 2011, attended by 1500 people the Governor-General Quentin Bryce paid tribute to that 10 year commitment and was genuinely taken by the history on display and the warmth of the old snow workers and locals who were part of the opening ceremony.



The Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Scheme, commenced construction in 1949 and was completed in 1974; has a story to tell like no other in Australian history. It was a project ahead of its time, a perfect stage on which our post-war migrant workforce could perform, and it was set on such a grand scale. It allowed the development of massive irrigation systems feeding off the Murray and the Murrumbidgee Rivers, and generated clean renewable energy for the Eastern States.

Collection and Display

Amongst the many items included and displayed at the museum are bulldozers large and small, Snowplough, a Harman Face shovel, a le Toumeau Scraper, tunnel train, giant tools, a restored "Utah" Holden EK Ute, the Deputy Commissioner's Rover car, and an original Land Rover and a Land Rover "fire fly" fire-truck. Man-made features of life as it was, include; a workers hut, surveyors tent and workshops. The Museum will also include items from the SMA Laboratory used for soil and rock testing, a Rock Bolt display, Sir William Hudson's office, the original Snowy Scheme control panel, construction displays, audio visual displays, memorabilia and photographic displays.



Stories of Challenges and Innovation

The museum will also feature; individual workers stories and the Snowy Scheme's part in post war migration; the Snowy Scheme as an Engineering feat; the Construction companies it fostered; the conflicts and problems of the scheme, how they were resolved despite the harsh terrain, weather & engineering challenges.

Educational and Resource Centre

A Study and Educational Resource Centre is also being developed as part of the museum, and will include a Photo, Film, Book Archive and search facilities.



Location & Setting of the Museum

Standing next to the Snowy Mountains Highway in Adaminaby, the museum is set on more than 2 acres of land, with both external and internal spaces. The 'Welcome Wall' located at the entry point of the buildings features a photographic display of Snowy Scheme images.



The People
The Engineering
The Construction



Snowy Scheme Museum Adaminaby is located opposite the 'Big Trout', Snowy Mountains Highway, Adaminaby.

Mobile:
0401 987 628

info@snowyschememuseum.com.au
www.snowyschememuseum.com.au

Adults \$6, Concession \$5, Children \$4,
Children under 6 FREE, Family \$15

10am to 2pm Saturday and Sunday
Mid week & Groups require pre booking

What's on in the region...

In future editions of Snowy Hydro NEWS we will be including a calendar of local events to help outline upcoming community initiatives and events.

If you have an initiative or event that you would like included, email us a short outline of what is happening and the date to communityfeedback@snowyhydro.com.au

December

DATE	3 December	Sundowner Cup Race Day, Ti Tree Race Course, Cooma
DATE	26 December	Tumut Boxing Day Races, Tumut Race Course, Tumut

January

DATE	14 January	Crackenback Carnival, Lake Crackenback Resort
DATE	26 January	Australia Day in the Park, Centennial Park Cooma

February

DATE	18 February	Jindabyne Flowing Festival, Jindabyne (www.floatingfestival.com.au)
DATE	19 February	Lake Jindabyne Dragon Boat Challenge, Jindabyne
DATE	25-26 February	TumbaFest, Tumbarumba (www.tumbafest.com.au)

March

DATE	10 March	Cooma Show, Cooma Showgrounds, Cooma
DATE	25 March	Snowy Hydro SouthCare Base Open Day, Hume, Canberra

Remember - if you would like your community event advertised for free in "What's on in the region" email the details to: communityfeedback@snowyhydro.com.au