

# Kahane Lodge Rehabilitation Plan

## May 2023

### Background

Kahane Lodge is located between Kosciuszko Road & Wheatly Road, South Perisher. The site faces north at an elevation of 1740m above sea level. Views to the north look over a tributary of Perisher Creek and the Perisher Front Valley snow sports area, Mt Perisher to the west, and Skitube terminal to the north-east. Kangaroo Chalet stood on this site before it was destroyed by fire in 1970. Kunama (“snow” in Ngarigo language) Lodge was the replacement, built by Rudi Kunz as a 32-bed commercial facility. Southern Alps Ski Club Lodge Co-operative acquired Kunama Lodge from Rudi in March 1977 as a 40 bed Club lodge. In 1982 Kunama was re-named Kahane Lodge in honour of Arnold Kahane who had been the driving force behind the Co-op since its formation in 1963. In 1988-89 a new dining area and kitchen extension was added at the eastern end and the building was externally clad in 1990-91 and again in 2000-01. Members contribute to the lodge maintenance by attending the annual working bees.

The Kahane lease area includes a stand of remnant snow gums to the northeast, most of which appear to be suffering from early stages of dieback associated with the activity of the longicorn beetle. A mix of native and weedy grasses make up the ‘lawn’ to the north of the lodge, while to the west a relatively intact heath layer exists beneath the snow gums, many of which are also showing signs of dieback. Weedy grasses have penetrated a few meters into the heath vegetation and should be controlled. The area to the south of the lodge is largely landscaped and will not form part of this rehabilitation plan. Kahane Lodge is not located in an area of high biodiversity value, and there are no records in BioNet of any threatened species within the lease area.

### Aims

This project aims to restore and enhance the environmental values of the lodge area by:

- Controlling introduced grasses and other weeds (both on and off lease)
- Protecting and gradually expanding existing native vegetation areas, including planting snow gums in areas impacted by dieback
- Establishing a new native garden bed above the stone wall to the north of the lodge

### Rehabilitation Sites

Four sites have been chosen for rehabilitation over the coming years; three within the Kahane lease and one outside the lease to the west. These sites have been selected due to the presence of invasive weed species within them, the desire to create some attractive areas of native garden, and to help combat the effects of the snow gum dieback.

## Rehabilitation Site Plan



### Site A: Snow gum glade northeast of lodge

This stand of snow gums is under attack by the Longicorn beetle and trees are showing signs of dieback. The intent is to plant snow gum seedlings in this area to gradually replace those that will be lost over the coming years.





#### Site B: 'Upper lawn', north of lodge

The intent is to establish this lawn as a flat, usable and mowable lawn. Compost will be added to the lawn to level out the surface, and the current flora (a combination of weedy grasses and native snow grass) will be retained and allowed to grow through the compost, supplemented with direct seeding of both Soft Snow Grass (*Poa heimata*) and Blue Snow Grass (*Poa Fawcettiae*). In parallel an attractive native flower bed will be established, following the line of the existing stone wall. This will provide an aesthetically pleasing outlook to lodge members as well as a food source for pollinators.



#### Site C: 'Lower lawn', north of lodge

This site encompasses the predominantly weedy grassed area to the north of the lodge. Weeds include *Barbarea*, Timothy Grass and Milfoil. The intent is to control the weeds and gradually replace with Blue Snow Grass (*Poa fawcettiae*), while in parallel establish and expand pockets of heath vegetation to revegetate this site, which will not only provide habitat but also assist with ongoing weed control.





#### Site D: Off-lease grass/heath/snow gum area

The area to the west of the lodge extends from weedy grasses into a relatively intact heath layer under a declining snow gum canopy. The primary aim here is to control the weeds (mainly Timothy grass and Milfoil) to limit further penetration into the heath, and to extend the heath layer back towards the lodge. New snow gums will be planted to replace those that are dead or dying.



#### **Vegetation Present May 2023**

Within the Kahane Lodge lease area there is both a combination of native and invasive plant species. The most common are shown below.

#### **INVASIVES**



Cocksfoot (*Dactylis glomerata*)



Timothy Grass (*Phleum pratense*)





Yarrow/Milfoil (*Achillea millefolium*)



Clover (*Trifolium* spp)



Early Wintercress (*Barbarea verna*)



Sheep Sorrel (*Acetosella vulgaris*)

## NATIVES



Alpine Everlasting (*Ozothamnus alpinus*)



Alpine Grevillea (*Grevillea australis*)





Alpine Hovea (*Hovea montana*)



Ovate Phebalium (*Nematolepis ovatifolia*)



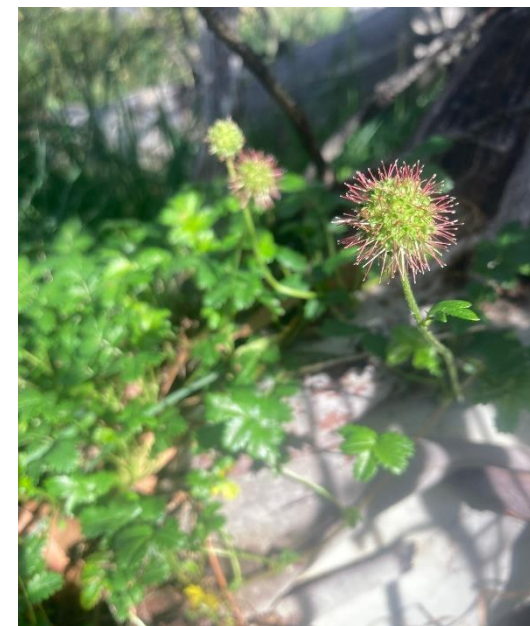
Mint Bush (*Prostanthera cuneata*)



Alpine Shaggy Pea (*Podolobium alpestre*)



To be determined



Bidgee Widgee (*Acaena novae-zelandiae*)

## Rehabilitation Strategy

### Lawn Levelling and seed sowing

Compost will be added to Site B in **October 2023**, or as soon as the snow melts. Compost will be used to fill in any depressions in the lawn surface to provide a level and mowable surface. Poa seed will be scattered across the site, to germinate as the weather warms, and the existing grasses (both weedy and native) will be left to grow up through the compost. Due to the tussocky nature of snow grass it does not form a lawn easily, so having a mixture of the existing grasses (albeit weedy) and Poa is the best option for a mowable lawn.

### Weed Management

To ensure that invasive species do not go to seed, weed management works should commence in **December 2023** and continue through each subsequent summer. Kahane Lodge members, with the help of NPWS, will work to remove the invasive flora within Sites A, C and D. To achieve this several techniques will be employed, including:

- Physical removal of invasive weeds by hand, ensuring underground material is also removed.
- Spot spraying of broad leaf weeds (e.g. milfoil) with the use of the herbicide Grazon extra.
- Slashing (with brush cutter or whipper snipper) areas of invasive grasses
- Broad scale spraying of slashed grass areas with glyphosate
- 'Topping' the Timothy grass (a great activity for kids, getting them to cut the seed heads off the Timothy grass and collect them in a plastic bag).

NB: all weed material, including that from whipper snipper and lawn mower works, **MUST** be bagged up and taken to the waste transfer station. No cut vegetation should be left lying on the ground.

Upon the completion of weeding/spraying, the sites will be mulched as required.

### Planting

Planting will begin in **March 2024** and continue in the March of each subsequent year. Planting in March allows plants the greatest chance of survival, as it takes advantage of late autumn rains and allows the roots to establish before winter commences. NPWS will supply all the plants and associated planting material (including compost, tree guards and stakes).

Planting is best achieved via lodge working bees, where members bring their own shovels / trowels and pitch in to dig the holes, add the compost, plant the plants and then erect guards around them.

The native species that will be planted are listed below for each of the four sites. Each plant has been selected due to its suitability for each of the sites. This will see the re-establishment of a range of native alpine plants for the Kahane Lodge site and beyond the lease boundary to the west.

#### Site A:

Snow gum (*Eucalyptus niphophilla*)

#### Site B:

Soft snow grass (*Poa heimata*) and Blue Snow Grass (*Poa fawcettiae*) (from seed)

Orange billy-button (*Craspedia aurantia*)

Scaly button (*Leptorhynchos squamatus*)

Silver snow-daisy (*Celmisia tomentella*)

Yam daisy (*Microseris lanceolata*)

Hoary sunray (*Leucochrysum albicans*)

Button everlasting (*Coronidium rutidolepis*)

Alpine everlasting (*Xerochrysum subundulatum*)

Site C:

Alpine Grevillea (*Grevillea Australis*)

Alpine Mintbush (*Prostanthera cuneata*)

Ovate Phebalium (*Nematolepis ovatifolium*)

Cascade everlasting (*Ozothamnus secundiflorus*)

Alpine Shaggy Pea (*Pololobium alpestre*)

Snow grass (*Poa fawcettiae*)

Site D:

Snow gum (*Eucalyptus niphophilla*)

Alpine Grevillea (*Grevillea Australis*)

Alpine Mintbush (*Prostanthera cuneata*)

Ovate Phebalium (*Nematolepis ovatifolium*)

Cascade everlasting (*Ozothamnus secundiflorus*)

Alpine Shaggy Pea (*Pololobium alpestre*)

**Monitoring**

Each site will be monitored annually to understand success rates of the new plantings, and to ensure that the rehabilitation aims are being met. Where necessary, changes can be made to the rehabilitation plan.