

ResortRoundedUP

A newsletter for the resorts community of
Kosciuszko National Park

12

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SUMMER

2012 International Year of Sustainable Energy for All



The United Nations General Assembly has designated 2012 as the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All to highlight the importance of energy for sustainable development. They hope to improve awareness of the importance of increasing sustainable access to energy, energy efficiency and renewable energy at the local, national, regional and international levels.

Currently 3 billion people in developing countries rely on "traditional biomass" for cooking and heating. Traditional biomass includes woodfuels, agricultural by-products and dung which are widely harvested and used in an unsustainable and unsafe way and are traded informally and non-commercially. Another 1.5 billion people lack access to electricity and millions of people can't afford energy services although they are available.

Access to clean, affordable and reliable energy is critical for sustainable development which will reduce poverty, improve living standards and conditions and help achieve the UN's Millenium Development Goals. The eight Millenium Development Goals are to end poverty and hunger, create universal education, gain gender equality, improve child health, improve maternal health, combat HIV/Aids, malaria and other diseases, ensure environmental sustainability and create a global partnership for sustainable development. The provision of sustainable energy for all will address these by increasing farmer's productivity, lighting learning facilities, lifting the burdens of women and girls, saving children's lives, powering modern healthcare, giving

doctors the power to heal, empowering communities and building bridges to the future.

The UN General Assembly also stressed the importance of using and exploring cleaner, new and renewable sources of energy and low carbon emission technologies as well as more sustainable use of traditional energy services and cleaner fossil fuel technologies to assist in creating a climate-resilient future for all.

Three major goals were established for achievement by 2030: ensure universal access to modern energy services, reduce global energy intensity by 40% and increase renewable energy use globally to 30%.

You can help the UN work towards this goal within the resorts (and at home) by limiting your use of traditional energy services and employing renewable energy sources where possible. Some of the actions you can perform to work towards these outcomes are: turning unnecessary lighting/heating off, turn off electrical appliances at the wall to minimise standby power use, selecting green power options with your power company, installing solar hot water systems and installing solar panels. Most of these actions will also reduce what it costs you to power your lodge and home.

¹ www.greenfacts.org/glossary/tuv/traditional-biomass.htm

(Photos: Dave Woods,
Brent Johnson, Mark
Lees).



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Office of
Environment & Heritage
NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service



NSW Alpine Resorts Environment Report 2010-11

(by Virginia Logan, NPWS Environmental Management Officer)



The report outlines the environmental performance, achievements and initiatives of resort operators in Kosciuszko National Park for the period of 1 March 2010 to 28 February 2011.

This combined report is the first of its kind in Australia and provides a benchmark for environmental reporting in alpine resorts. It has been produced as part of a collaborative effort between the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), the four ski resort operators: Charlotte Pass Village Pty Ltd, Kosciuszko Thredbo Pty Ltd, Perisher Blue Pty Ltd and Selwyn Snowfields Pty Ltd; and the club and commercial lodges of Perisher. It demonstrates how each resort is implementing the plan-do-check-act Environmental Management System (EMS) cycle to manage the impact of their operations.

NPWS and the resort operators are currently refining the reporting framework to ensure that it effectively captures the conditions of natural and cultural values in the ski resorts over time and is consistent with other reporting required for the NPWS 'State of the Parks' and Kosciuszko Plan of Management. As part of this process, NSW resort environmental officers and NPWS staff recently met with Victorian resort environmental officers to discuss monitoring and performance indicators.

Whilst resort history in NSW only dates back to the 1950s, it is the implementation of EMSs, coupled with economic and social strategies, that will help ensure the long-term sustainability of the skiing industry and point to areas for further improvement in the protection of significant environmental values for future generations.

The NSW Alpine Resorts Environment Report 2010-11 is now available online at: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/alpineresorts/NSWARER.htm>



Resort and NPWS environment officers: L to R: Euan Diver (Thredbo), Megan Bennett (NPWS), Tanya Bishop (Perisher) and Paul Corcoran (Thredbo)

Perisher Clean Up Day

The annual post-winter clean up day held at Perisher was scheduled for late in November. Unfortunately, the weather was not in a cooperative mood. Some particularly hardy NPWS staff (mostly from the Municipal Services Unit, located in Perisher) still performed their clean up duties. Perisher resort staff backed them up the following week with their annual clean up effort.

The contribution of all those involved go a long way toward keeping the resort clean. We welcome any and all participants so if you are in the area during mid-November next year please feel free to check in with Perisher or with NPWS about being a part of this great day. Or perhaps you could even plan a spring trip to enjoy this lovely time of year in the mountains.

Contact: Sally Miller on 02 6450 5616 or sally.miller@environment.nsw.gov.au



Energy overhaul for the NPWS Jindabyne Office & Visitor Centre

(by Virginia Logan, NPWS Environmental Management Officer)

The Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) have been focusing on improvements in energy consumption and efficiencies throughout their operations with an aim to reduce CO₂ emissions and operational costs. In 2011 some major energy milestones were achieved for the Snowy Region Visitor Centre (SRVC) and NPWS office building in Jindabyne including a 20% reduction in energy consumption and the installation of 13kW of solar photovoltaic panels.

The NPWS offices and SRVC complex, completed in 1997, houses the NPWS office plus a cinema and café. It also links the two shopping centres as well as containing valuable town assets such as a bus interchange, theatre and public display area. When the building was constructed consideration was given to energy efficiency with the inclusion of a small geothermal system for heating and cooling.

From 2009-10 to 2010-11 the electricity consumption on the NPWS building was reduced by over 20%. This was due largely to a range of minor works that have been implemented over the last couple of years including installing additional ceiling insulation and energy efficient lighting in the bus car park and visitor centre as well as a CO₂ sensor to activate the internal car park exhaust fan on an as-needed basis.

A solar system installed on the roof of the NPWS building was connected to the grid in October 2011. Forty eight individual panels and a 15kW inverter make up the 13kW system. The building's northerly aspect and the pitch of the roof made it

ideal for the installation of such a system. It is currently generating an average of about 71kW a day. This equates to about 8% of the overall consumption of the building. It also means a reduction in CO₂ emissions of 33 tonnes per annum enhanced by the purchase of 6% greenpower from the grid-supplied electricity.

In an effort to reduce electricity consumption even further a Level 2 Energy Audit was undertaken on the Jindabyne building in May 2011. It highlighted the challenges of operating a large building in one of Australia's more variable climate zones. Not surprisingly the audit found that the building's Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system, in particular the space heating, uses the greater amount of electricity in the building. The audit proposed 12 "energy saving" recommendations. Two of these recommendations have already been completed namely: The sealing of the roof void, adding more insulation and replacing halogen lamps with LED lights. NPWS staff are currently exploring funding options for the implementation of the remaining recommendations. These include a fully automated building management system to more efficiently regulate, isolate and control temperatures across the building and the use of air curtains on the main public access doorways to maintain internal temperatures during the busy holiday periods.

A Change is as Good as a Holiday

Dave Woods aka "Ranger Dave" is taking extended leave from the Resorts' Environmental Liaison position. He has been working in this position for over 10 years so the break is well-deserved. Sally Miller will be filling the position in his absence. Sally has worked with NPWS in the Snowy Mountains over the past nine years. She is currently finishing her PhD in threatened species management and natural resource utilisation that was researched with Forestry NSW in Coffs Harbour. She has also lectured in Zoology and Ecology at the University of New England. Sally's contact details are the same as Dave's. We wish Dave a relaxing break and hope you'll introduce yourself to Sally when you see her around the resorts.

"Ranger Dave" handing over to "Ranger Sally" (Photo by Virginia Logan).



Solar array on the roof of the Jindabyne NPWS building.



Work underway to install solar panels on the roof.

Is solar powered skiing possible?

Determined to arrest spiralling energy costs with a sustainable alternative, fifteen Mt Hotham and two Falls Creek ski clubs have embraced a visionary alpine community solar energy scheme, annually producing 100,000 kWh and offsetting 130 tonnes of CO₂ emissions. At 81 kW for the first stage capacity, it is believed to be one of the world's largest in-resort alpine solar power projects, optimised for the Australian alpine environment.

Following considerable interest in the successful 2008 geothermal energy project for lodge heating, Hotham Ski Association President and architect, Peter Sandow, challenged fellow skier and electrical engineer, Murray Neilson, to also develop a community solar power scheme. The starting facts were that most lodges receive more solar rooftop energy than their entire energy needs (even in winter, including power and heating, assuming 100 % harvesting) and that solar PV panels perform more efficiently at lower alpine temperatures.

After detailed analysis of northern hemisphere experience and taking account of local snow behaviour and Australian design codes (solar PV, wind, roof & snow loading), an Australian alpine solar specification was prepared. This was an important step due to the significant differences between European and Australian alpine roof codes and type of snow. European roofs are often designed to

retain the snow for added insulation, whereas Australian roofs are designed for full shedding even on relatively low pitches and are subject to freeze-thaw cycling potentially creating dense ice slabs which the arrays must be able to handle. Australian snow will typically shed off glass solar PV panels within 24 hrs, far sooner than the surrounding roof therefore allowing a quicker-than-expected return to winter generation (all sites exceeded their winter forecasts). Mt Hotham's "upside down village", where most lodges are located along exposed ridge lines (instead of in relatively sheltered valleys), required their installations to be engineered for the country's heaviest snow loads and near-cyclonic wind conditions (structurally stronger framing, panels and cabling).

This first stage was designed in compliance with the ruling Victorian Premium Feed-In-Tariff program, allowing up to 5 kW per individual site. With 80 % of the generation and maximum export levels occurring in summer (when grid demand is highest) and when most lodges currently experience negligible occupancy, they are effectively banking their generation. Most lodges fully offset their winter consumption (earning income while vacant!). Although the prime energy demand for most lodges is thermal, usually derived from high cost LPG, power usage is still significant but facing dramatic tariff increases. After energy

efficiency measures, solar PV is the most affordable renewable energy option available for most sites.

Already at "unsubsidised retail grid parity" (solar cost to generate relative to retail power tariffs), the equation will only improve as panel prices continue to soften (highly likely) and power tariffs continue to rise (most certainly). Contrary to popular belief, it was surprising to discover the minimal long term effect of premium feed-in-tariffs (now mostly withdrawn, are not indexed and have a fixed sunset date) – the dominant driver will be future retail power pricing.

2011 saw many solar industry challenges with significant legislative changes, federally and state, as well as frequently reported contractual difficulties with many energy suppliers. To minimise these impacts, the Hotham scheme was comprehensively managed and included an energy supply partnership with a renewable energy retailer with exclusive tariffs. The clubs willingly participated, after passionately debating the pros and cons amongst their memberships. Equally as significant, this valuable resort energy infrastructure is scalable, community driven and funded. It is expected that future schemes will be developed, adapted to the ruling jurisdictional solar energy programs.

A typical European alpine roof with snow retention (Meribel, France).



Bembooka Ski Lodge during final commissioning.



Asterix Ski Club initial panel wiring.



McMillan Ski Club with the panels typically shedding their snow within 24 hours, well before the surrounding roof.



Sunshine and Smiling Faces for the 2011 Snowy Ride

The 2011 Snowy Ride saw 3115 motorbike riders registering for the event and enjoying blue skies and sparkling sunshine for the entire weekend. The main events, the checkpoint check-off and Mass Ride through Thredbo, were all completed without incident: a credit to the many riders who join the event. The Snowy Ride is an annual fundraiser for the Steven Walter Foundation which funds research into the causes and cures for childhood cancer. A major part of the weekend is the visit by several families with children recovering from cancer. This year the group was particularly

young with most of the children around six years old. They had an action-packed weekend with motorbike rides, snow play, bushwalks and visits to the Motorfest. The weekend gives the families a chance to enjoy activities together with plenty of opportunities for the parents to relax while carers occupy, entertain and care for their little ones. On Friday evening the children and their families were thrilled by the Looking After Our Kosciuszko Orphans (LAOKO) presentation which included seven cuddly young wombats who obligingly slept in the childrens' arms.



Marko Kovac, Property Services Unit Manager

Welcome to the New Property Services Unit Manager

Marko Kovac joined NPWS in September to take up management of the Property Services Unit. He has come to NPWS from the private sector with wide experience in property, finance and investment and brings along strong commercial and legal skills in leasing. The Property Services Unit has responsibility for all leasing and licensing management in the KNP. If you need to discuss leasing or licensing issues, please contact Marko on 6450 5502.



ResortRoundUP

Resort Round-up is a newsletter for the resorts community in Kosciuszko National Park. It contains a range of general interest articles, operational updates and key contacts for issues and projects across the resorts. A summer and winter edition is prepared each year and is available on the OEH website, as an emailed PDF version or as a mailed hardcopy. Please email resortroundup@environment.nsw.gov.au if you wish to be included on the email and/or mail distribution list. If you wish to contribute articles please contact Sally Miller (contact details on back page).

For current and back issues of Resort Round-up, logon to: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/whatsnewarchive/subscribe.htm



Inaugural Charlotte Pass Clean Up Day

Charlotte Pass Resort held their first annual Clean Up Day on Thursday 3 November. NPWS and Charlotte Pass staff collected litter from the areas surrounding the village including the chair lines and ski runs, the Kosciuszko Road turning circle, and Mt Stilwell. A total of 2.5m³ and almost 200kg of rubbish was collected. The most common waste collected related to the management of the resort area including rehabilitation materials and plastic from broken ski poles. Pleasingly there was relatively little consumables waste (drink containers and food wrappers) collected.



10th annual Clean Up Australia Day for Kosciuszko National Park

emu bob.

The Clean Up Australia Day initiative began 22 years ago when Ian Kiernan, an Australian builder and solo yachtsman, disgusted by the waste polluting the world's waterways, organised a community event to Clean Up Sydney Harbour. It held such appeal that over 40,000 people turned out to contribute their time and energy. The following year it was expanded to Clean Up Australia Day and attracted nearly 300,000 participants. This initiative went global in 1993 with the organisation of the first Clean Up The World which attracted 30 million participants from 80 countries. It now has reached 120 countries and involves approximately 85 million people each year.

In 2011 an estimated 565,510 volunteers cleaned up 16,454 tonnes at 7,479 sites right across Australia.

Ten years ago Dave Woods, the NPWS Environmental Liaison Officer, and Tim Greville, NPWS, Alpine Area Ranger, registered Kosciuszko National Park as an official Clean Up Australia Day site and recruited volunteers for Australia's highest

This year we are doing it again. Sunday 4 March 2012 is this year's Clean Up Australia Day and Kosciuszko National Park is once again a registered site. We are asking for as many volunteers as possible to help us uncover the natural wonders of the Park from the weight of discarded rubbish. We will be targeting sites along Kosciuszko Road including Dainers Gap, Perisher Valley ski trails and of course, the great mountain itself. We would also like to target some areas along the Alpine Way including Dead Horse Gap if volunteer numbers are sufficient.

So... clear your calendars and book in Sunday 4 March 2012 for the 10th annual Kosciuszko National Park Clean Up Australia Day.

For further information, please contact:
Sally Miller on (02) 6450 5616
sally.miller@environment.nsw.gov.au

Tim Greville on (02) 6450 5525
tim.greville@environment.nsw.gov.au

or visit the Clean Up Australia Day website
www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au/Kosciuszko+NP



Perisher Valley business owner guilty of obstructing National Parks officers

(Reprinted from a NPWS Press Release in October 2011)

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) prosecuted a Perisher Valley business owner and was awarded legal costs after the Cooma Local Court found the owner of a ski lodge guilty of obstructing two National Parks officers.

On Friday 21, 2011, George Stipis was convicted and fined \$4,000 and ordered to pay prosecutor's costs of \$3,500 for obstructing NPWS officers by denying them access to inspect the food business at Ben Bullen Ski Lodge.

NPWS Manager of Visitor and Business Services

Andrew Harrigan says public health and safety is critical and the NPWS plays many roles in maintaining people's wellbeing while they are in the area, including regulating food service in Kosciuszko National Park.

"Tourism operators in Kosciuszko National Park provide food for up to 30,000 customers a day in peak season and it is critical we maintain the capacity to inspect commercial food preparation for the health and safety of the community. We take our responsibilities very seriously and it is important that officers are able to carry their duties to ensure food is safe for public consumption."

"The court has made it clear that it is not acceptable for people to prevent our officers from carrying out their duties in these circumstances," Mr Harrigan said.

In sentencing, Magistrate Brian van Zuylen made note of the important public health role of authorised officers in carrying out inspections under the Food Act 2003 and that it was important to deter others from obstructing officers during health inspections.

Read more about public health in NSW alpine resorts at <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/alpineresorts/publichealth.htm>



Peak Environmental Flows to the Snowy River

Over 19 days in October 2011, water was released from Jindabyne Dam to return environmental flows to the Snowy River. A total of 84 billion litres (84 gigalitres) of water, equivalent to nearly 42,000 olympic swimming pools of water, was released from the recently upgraded Jindabyne dam wall spillway, peaking at approximately 12,000 mega litres per day for three days from the 10th October. This release was the result of an agreement between the NSW, VIC and Commonwealth Governments and was managed by the NSW Office of Water and Snowy Hydro Ltd. The aim of this release was to scour the river bed removing silt, sediments and rock to improve the geomorphic (physical) structure of the river. This will improve the habitat within the Snowy River for a range of aquatic plants and animals including the platypus. This event follows a smaller one in November 2010 when nearly 17 gigalitres were released from the Jindabyne dam. These releases are timed to occur in spring when the Snowy River, prior to the construction of the Snowy Scheme, would have been flooded with post-melt snow from the mountains. Peak spring releases of the size seen this year are set to become an annual event, depending on the rainfall received and water available.

Jindabyne Dam wall at maximum output of 12,000 ML per day (Photo by: Simon Williams (NSW office of Water)).



News From the Alps biannual newsletter

News From the Alps

News From the Alps is a newsletter from the Australian Alps National Parks group, a group which focuses on management of the Australian Alps area through cross-border cooperation. The program was established in 1986 and celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2011. News From the Alps contains articles about significant happenings in Alps management from New South Wales, Victoria and the ACT and is produced twice a year.

Current and previous issues can be found on the Australian Alps website at www.australialps.environment.gov.au/publications/newsletters/index.html.

If you would like to receive an electronic copy of this newsletter you can subscribe online at www.australialps.environment.gov.au/newsletter.html or email anthony.evans@environment.nsw.gov.au if you would like to receive a hard copy.



2012 Winter Season Flight Bookings Now Available

Aeropelican Air Services provided flights between Sydney and Cooma for 15 months continuously until 30 September 2011. The summer service was discontinued due to a continually decreasing demand reducing the economic viability of the service. However, the success of the 2011 winter season resulted in a 10% increase in air traffic for the June to August period relative to 2010 and a 20% increase for the entire winter holiday period.

A merger between Brindabella Airlines and Aeropelican was announced in February 2012. These airlines will now both be flying under the name

of Brindabella Airlines and they have committed to supply flights between Sydney and Cooma (Snowy Mountains) for the winter 2012 season. This merger has allowed greater flexibility and availability of aircraft with an 18-seat, 19-seat or 30-seat aircraft servicing the Snowy Mountains.

Flights will commence on 8 June 2012 and follow a schedule similar to that used in 2011: flights every day except Tuesday and two flights per day on Monday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday. For a detailed timetable see the Brindabella Airlines website; www.brindabellairlines.com.au



NSW Visy Arts & Environment Award for SEAR & NPWS

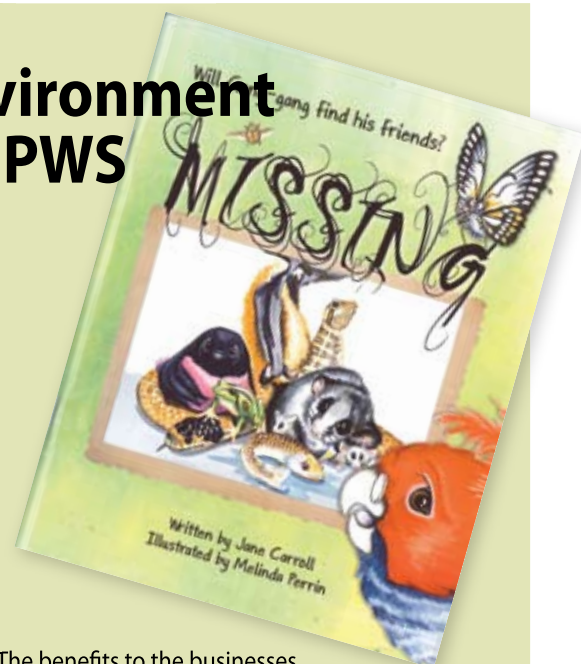
Now You See Us was a collaboration between South East Arts Region (SEAR) and NPWS which resulted in the production of a photographic exhibition by Ruth Maddison and the publication of a children's book "Missing" by Jane Carroll (author) and Melinda Perrin (illustrator). The project was funded through the Southern Rivers Community Partnership Fund and the NSW Regional Arts Fund and supported by NPWS. The aim of this project was to increase awareness and understanding of the wide range of flora and fauna that are rare and threatened in the southern tablelands of NSW by highlighting those usually left out of the spotlight.

The photographic exhibition included a series of images of rare and threatened vegetation which had been altered into abstract images and patterns. This exhibition was displayed at four locations throughout the southeast region including Canberra.

Missing was launched at the Snowy Region Visitor Centre in Jindabyne on Threatened Species Day (7 September) 2010 to a crowd of excited children. This story of a Gang-gang Cockatoo searching for, finding, and learning about his rare and threatened friends across the Monaro accentuates the plight of the lesser known wildlife at risk in the south east.

Almost one year to the day since the launch of the book, this partnership was awarded the: **2011 Australia Business Arts Foundation NSW Visy Arts & Environment Award.**

This project received the award because of the significant benefits created in three main areas.



The benefits to the businesses include: improving their understanding of the commissioning of artists to produce educational products; the revenue generated from the sale of 500 books, with plans for a reprint; and increased visitor numbers associated with the photographic exhibition. The benefits for the arts organisation involved include: providing artists with a new experience in balancing artistic creativity with scientific accuracy; and exposure for the artists and the artistic organisations. The outcomes for the environment include: increased public awareness for these under-recognised rare and threatened species; and increased understanding by local school-aged children of their endemic flora and fauna, their habits and their requirements for survival.

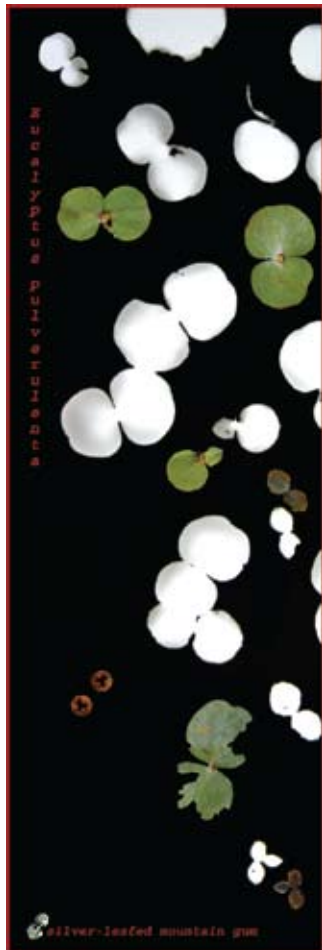
Regional Arts NSW said of Now You See Us:

"The project was definitely successful on many different levels including the creation of new partnership [sic] and reinforcement of the power of the arts in addressing pertinent issues. The works produced through this project are exquisite and congratulations on an extremely worthwhile project."

Congratulations to Dave Woods, NPWS Environmental Liaison Officer, and Heidi Kuntz, SEAR coordinator, on receiving such a prestigious award and on the success of their partnership.

Far left: Ruth Maddison's Hoary Sunray and Silver-leafed Mountain Gum Images.

*Above: Jane Carroll & Melinda Perrin's children book "Missing".
Left: Australia Business Arts Foundation NSW Visy Arts & Environment Award 2011 presenter and recipients (L-R): Heidi Kunz, South East Arts Region; Bea Brickhill, AbaF and David Woods, NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service. (Photo by: Carine Thevenau).*





Recycle, Reuse, Revegetate

(by Cameron Hampshire, NPWS Senior Field Officer, MSU)

Earthworks on the new Perisher Valley waste transfer station commenced on 14 November 2011. The native vegetation excavated from the footprint of the new building during site development, was reused on another recently disturbed construction site. Contractors completed the construction of the balance tank associated with the Perisher Valley sewerage system in mid 2011. The balance tank site was shaped and stabilised prior to the onset of winter. Staff from the NPWS Municipal Services Unit (MSU) relocated the vegetation in clumps (sods) from the waste transfer station site to the balance tank site. The result provides a big shot in the arm for the revegetation of the balance tank site and puts it many years ahead of planting individual plants. Working with Redwood Lodge, MSU is planning further works to rehabilitate the site and provide better screening of the concrete lid of the balance tank and the gas tanks.

Kiandra a perfect setting for Alps 25th celebrations

(by Anthony Evans)

Australian Alps national park management observed 25 years of cross-border cooperation at Kiandra on November 20 and some 250 enthusiastic members of the public joined in the celebrations.

Australian Alps Program Manager Anthony Evans said the day was a success and plans were underway for another event, possibly towards the end of summer.

"It was great to have so many people come to Kiandra in such wild weather and while not all of our outdoor program could go ahead, groups still headed off into driving rain to explore the wonderful ruins and history of the Kiandra Goldfields.

"We're only in early planning stages, but we would like to run another event at Kiandra around Easter so families can camp and enjoy discovery programs as well as exploring the courthouse and goldfields.

"Twenty-five years ago NSW, Victoria, the ACT and the Commonwealth signed an agreement to officially work together regarding the Alps, and the anniversary of that partnership made for a fantastic day in Kiandra," Mr Evans said.

NPWS Project Manager Steve Horsley was born and bred in the High Country and said the Alps 25th celebrations had a positive feel and a true sense of community.

"Considering the weather, I didn't think we would

get as many to Kiandra as we did and it's good to see so many people willing to get involved.

"Back in 1998 the community told us pretty loudly that they valued the Kiandra Courthouse and with the new renovations it's becoming a key destination point for the northern end of Kosciuszko National Park.

"Kiandra is a special place for its Aboriginal heritage as well as for the gold mining, skiing, grazing, and Snowy Scheme construction eras and it's pleasing for me to see improvements made and the strong community support," Mr Horsley said.

More about the Australian Alps:
www.australialps.environment.gov.au



Above L-R: Beautifully restored Kiandra Courthouse;
Grace Morrell investigating Kiandra Courthouse murals;
Kiandra project coordinator Jennifer Hewitson and Uncle Vince Bulger;
Col Hoad of Tumut ensuring guests signed the visitor book.
(Photos by Lucy Morrell).

Draft NPWS Regional Pest Management Strategies Open for Public Comment

(Reprinted from NPWS website)

The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) is currently preparing new Regional Pest Management Strategies for weed and pest animal management of national parks and reserves across NSW.

The strategies have been prepared to provide a strategic approach to pest management on lands managed by the NPWS under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974. The strategies aim to minimise adverse impacts of pests on biodiversity, protected areas and the community. The strategies achieve this through identifying and focusing on the highest priority programs, ensuring that actions are achievable and delivering measurable outcomes. These strategies recognise that pest species are a problem across the landscape. Programs are developed and often carried out in collaboration with neighbours, other government agencies, Livestock Health and Pest Authorities, local councils, regional pest committees, universities and community groups.

As part of the process of developing these strategies, a comprehensive stakeholder and community consultation process was undertaken during August and September 2011, to identify areas of interest and issues which needed to be addressed in the preparation of the strategy.

Fifteen regional consultation forums were held across NSW and were attended by more than 380 stakeholders. NPWS would like to thank all those who attended the consultation forums. Your involvement at the forums was greatly appreciated and your contribution will help to ensure the Regional Pest Management Strategies for 2012 to 2015 result in improved outcomes for the environment, as well as for rural communities and agricultural enterprises who neighbour national parks.

A state-level stakeholder roundtable forum was held on 15 November 2011. It was

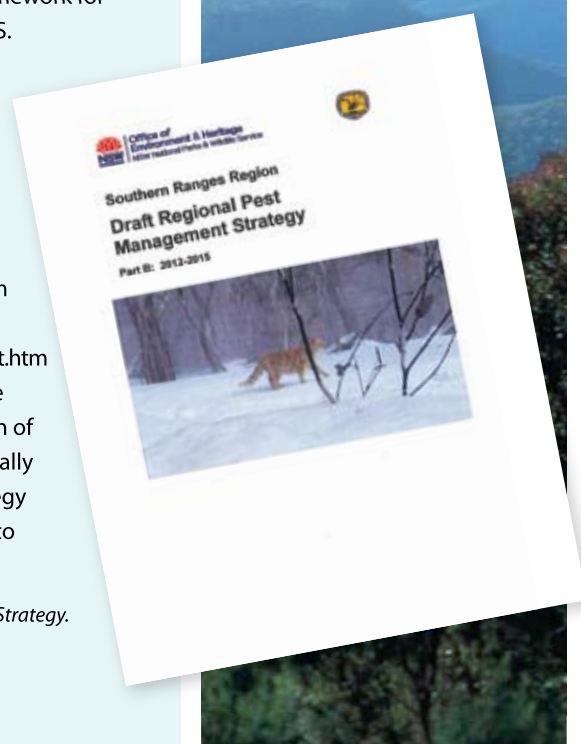
hosted by the Minister for the Environment and attended by high level representatives from government departments and non-government organisations involved in pest management across NSW. The outcomes of the forum were positive with agreement to improve coordination of pest management across the landscape in NSW.

Each of the 14 NPWS regions has prepared a new Draft Regional Pest Management Strategy for public exhibition until 29 February 2012. Members of the public are invited to provide comment on these draft strategies during this time. All submissions received before the end of the exhibition period will be considered before finalising the strategies early in 2012. We welcome comments from neighbours, landholders and other interested parties on specific pest problems and their priorities, on how NPWS can do things differently and on how you would like us to communicate with you about our work.

The new Regional Pest Management Strategies are divided into Part A and Part B. Part A is common to all 14 regions and provides the broader planning framework for the management of pests by NPWS. Part B describes the local circumstances within each NPWS Region and applies the Part A framework to prioritise specific pest management programs.

Electronic copies of the draft strategies can be downloaded from www.environment.nsw.gov.au/pestsweeds/RegionPestManagement.htm or paper copies are available from the Jindabyne NPWS offices. Submission of comments can be made electronically to the contact email for each strategy or paper copies can be submitted to your NPWS office.

Right: Draft Regional Pest Management Strategy.





Snowy Mountains of Music Festival

The 3rd Snowy Mountains of Music Festival was held in Perisher over the June long weekend 2011. This Festival is proving to be very popular with 5,000 music lovers visiting the 10 on-snow venues to see 140 acts performing. Snowfalls of nearly 20cm of natural snow provided the perfect start to the ski season and a dramatic backdrop for the music festival. Olympic speed skating gold medallist Stephen Bradbury made an appearance as emcee for the opening night introducing the opening act by ARIA nominee and APRA winner Ash Grunwald. The Perisher Manor made its venue debut on the Saturday night

with huge crowds filling the dance floors inside and fire spinning outside on the snow. Sunday's highlight was Christine Anu performing on the Smiggins Stage which attracted the largest crowd of the Festival. Children were well catered for with their own Festival of acts, jumping castle, face painting and chairlift rides. For those more interested in the lyrics than the melodies, the poetry program had its greatest turnout yet and received entries from Australia and New Zealand.

The Festival is on again from the 8th to the 11th of June 2012. As this Festival has

grown every subsequent year it's been held, it is sure to be a highlight on the calendar for the 2012 ski season. This year there will be 8 – 12 indoor venues across Perisher, Smiggin Holes and Guthega ranging from the intimate restaurant setting to the larger hotel-style rooms. Performances will include concerts, sing-alongs, workshops, theme concerts, dances and children's events so there is sure to be something for everyone.

See www.snowymountainsofmusic.com.au for more information about acts and locations as the time draws nearer.

Above L-R: Steven Bradbury; April Maz; Wongawili Band; Skipping Girl Vinegar (photos by Graeme Morrison).



Thredbo Blues Festival

The 18th annual Thredbo Blues Festival was held from Friday 13th January to Sunday 15th January 2012. The Festival is designed to celebrate the wide range of talents available in Australia's blues artists including masters, scene makers and new talent. The bands played up to three or four times across the weekend at a range of venues from larger public locations to intimate dining environments at a range of Thredbo restaurants.

There were about 1800 people in town over the weekend with 21 bands and over 100 musicians performing 60 gigs. The music over the weekend was extremely popular and great quality. Activities included two dance workshops,

and of course the late night Keller Bar Jam. Jeff Lang, Kevin Borich, The Mighty Reapers and Blue Heat were outstanding at poolside and Hat Fitz & Cara Robinson rocked Eagles Nest. So many highlights...Harry Brus & the Boosters, Jeff Duff, Jojo Smith, Darren Jack, Pete Cornelius and the list goes on. Joe Robinson and his band had an awestruck crowd at the Lounge Bar as did Lisa Otey & Diane Van Duerzen. An amazing weekend in Thredbo with the most amazing weather.

For further information about the Thredbo Blues Festival please go to www.thredboblues.com.au.



Thredbo Jazz Festival

(Reprinted from www.thredbo.com.au/activities-and-events/events-and-races/events-calendar-details.asp?id=219&date=23/03/2012)

Thredbo Jazz, Funk and Groove Festival, 3 days of jazz, food, wine and mountains of fun! 23-25 March 2012. This not for profit community festival is a 3 day celebration of jazz music, delicious food and great wines set in the picturesque Thredbo Village, right in the heart of the spectacular Snowy Mountains.

Thredbo offers a truly unique environment in which to enjoy some of Australia's finest jazz musicians, including special overseas guests, while experiencing the breathtaking mountain scenery.

The festival program features over 120 performers seen in 15 separate venues including bars, cosy restaurants, the nightclub, community centre, at the top

of the Kosciuszko Express Chairlift and the Thredbo Village Square, taking jazz lovers on a musical journey all through Thredbo. The beauty of the festival is that all venues are within walking distance so once you arrive, leave your car behind and enjoy the fresh mountain air on foot. The Thredbo Jazz Festival is renowned as a boutique festival and the intimate performances in the restaurants over dinner are a favourite and bookings are strongly recommended.

Earlybird tickets are now available. Book online at www.thredbo.com.au or call 6457 6882 for further information.

Some of the artists already announced are: James Valentine Quartet, Ian and Nigel Date, Ray Beadle Band, Andrew Dickeson Quintet, Nic Jeffries Band, Jeff Duff trio and The Shuffle Club. Stay tuned as more performers will be announced shortly.

Visit <http://www.thredbojazz.com.au/> for more event information

Commercial Tour Operators Gain Access to Wilderness Areas

In October 2010 an amendment to the National Parks and Wildlife Act (1974) was passed in the NSW parliament allowing Commercial Tour Operators (CTOs) access to Wilderness Areas as identified in the Wilderness Act (1987). This legislation allows activities previously possible only as recreation within Wilderness to be conducted as commercial activities when the CTO holds a current Parks Eco Pass (PEP) licence. The purpose of this amendment was to increase availability of the wilderness experience for those not able to gain access on their own, but to also maintain the quality of the wilderness experience for both the CTO client and the general recreational public. These activities will have licence conditions different to those for activities elsewhere in the Park to protect both the environment and the visitors' safety and quality of wilderness experience. These include smaller group sizes, reduced frequency of visits and increased first aid and safety requirements.

For further information please visit the national parks' website: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/parksecopass/



Left: Farm Ridge, Jagungal Wilderness Area (Photo by Sally Miller).



Perisher Golden Anniversaries

(Reprinted from Perisher Historical Society Newsletter Issue 7).

In 1952 tourist facilities were formalised by the NSW government under Permissive Occupancy provisions enabling the development of accommodation to support the burgeoning ski industry. Throughout the 1950s Lodges began to appear in the Perisher Range with ski instruction commencing in 1954 and the first valley tow constructed in 1955. By the end of the decade approximately 14 lodges had been completed, a telephone service was established and skiing activities were supported by three rope tows and one T-bar.

In 1960 electricity was brought to the Perisher Valley, heralding a new era of mass construction, with five to ten new lodges built each year for the following decade.

As a result of this proliferation, we are now in a decade of significant anniversaries: 50 years, golden anniversaries or half-centuries.

Fifty years is a significant mark and individually each club will have an emotional tie to an event specific to them. Perhaps it is the time when the idea of a ski club was first floated, the date of incorporation, the date the first sod was turned or the first winter season in the lodge. From a historical perspective the date that it is self-evident is the first winter of occupation.

If your club or lodge is celebrating its golden anniversary in 2012, we would love to hear about your celebrations and perhaps why this year is significant to you. Please send your stories to:

Sally Miller:

sally.miller@environment.nsw.gov.au

Or

Perisher Historical Society:

phsadmin@iprimus.com.au



"Smiggins Holes Camp" as a Snowy Hydro working site circa late 1950s (Photo: Snowy Hydro Pty Ltd).

Former Snowy Scheme Site Rehabilitation in and around the Resort areas

(By Elizabeth MacPhee, NPWS Rehabilitation Officer)

Since 2000 NPWS has been working on a major project to rehabilitate sites in KNP that were disturbed during the construction of the Snowy Scheme. Here is a little wrap of what sites are being worked on around the resorts area this year.

In 2012 rehabilitation work will commence at two sites: the Guthega Dam Wall Spoil Dump and the Smiggin Holes Construction site.

The Guthega site is an old borrow pit used for the construction of the Guthega Pondage/ Dam wall. The rehabilitation treatments will be spot spraying of weeds, some minor landscape reshaping, the use of compost and slow release fertilisers in the planting holes, plus straw and wood thatch as mulch. About 2,500 seedlings of colonising alpine shrub species and Snow Gums will be planted in early March 2012. Tree guards will be used on all shrubs as protection from grazing of rabbits and hares.

The Smiggin site is the entrance area of Smiggin Holes and was a construction and survey camp for the Snowy Scheme. This site is heavily inundated with Brown Top-bent grass and other exotic plants. All the exotic grasses were sprayed with herbicide before Christmas. This was followed up in late January and all weeds eradicated. About 500 colonising alpine shrubs will be planted in late February to middle March of 2012 and tree guarded to protect from grazing.

It is expected that maintenance of these sites will go on for at least 5 years.

Below L-R: Elizabeth MacPhee inspecting the Guthega site near the Guthega Dam Wall (Photo: Liz MacPhee). The Smiggin Holes site today (Photo: Sally Miller)

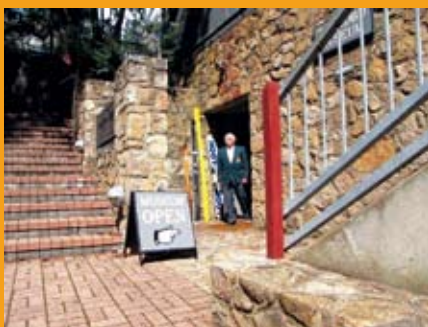


Thredbo Historical Society Museum

The Thredbo Historical Society (THS) operates the Thredbo Ski Museum located on the lower level of the Thredbo Alpine Hotel near the Thredbo Village Square. The museum has a wide range of displays and memorabilia commemorating skiing in the Thredbo, NSW and Australian alpine areas and won a Highly Commended award at the 2011 IMAGineE Awards for the exhibitions and engagement of the public. The THS is in need of volunteers for the Museum in order to keep it open to the public. The museum is open 1-5pm on weekends and daily from Boxing Day to the Australia Day weekend and then daily again during winter, except Mondays and admission is free. On average they see 4,000 visitors through the doors each year with 25 per day during the summer months and 50 per day during the winter months. If you're interested in spending a few hours chatting to visitors in a pleasant atmosphere please contact Alan Fredericks or Chrissie Webb. The museum is accredited with Centrelink for community service commitments.

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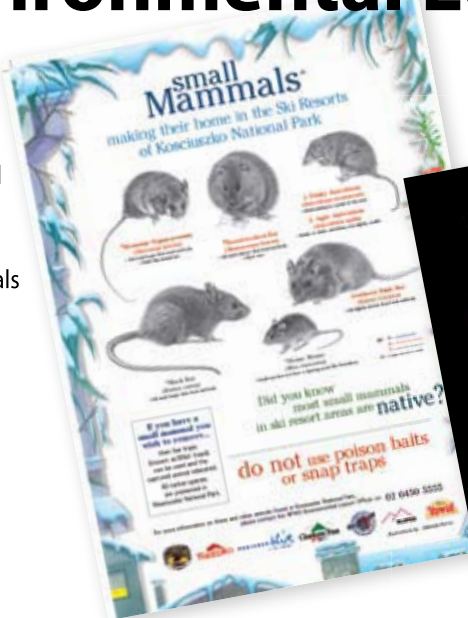
Chrissie Webb
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Community Environmental Education Program Review

Over the past decade a range of community environmental education programs have been initiated by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and distributed throughout the NSW ski resorts. They include: Litter reduction & Bin Your Butts, Small Mammals in Resorts, Waterwise Resorts & Go Slow on the H2O, Resort Recycling, Keep Winter Cool, Snowsafe (alpine responsibility code, back-country safety, driving in the snow), Say No to Plastic Bags, Black Balloon Campaign, Lids on Kids and LAOKO. Many of you would be familiar with the messages of these programs and with the key driving force behind these in 'Ranger Dave' Woods.

In 2012 the NPWS will be conducting a review of these programs and their effectiveness. If you are interested in participating in our review by filling in a survey or participating in interviews, please contact Sally Miller on sally.miller@environment.nsw.gov.au.



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Contributions to Newsletter

Readers are invited to contribute to Resort Round-up. Please keep articles relevant to resort issues and to less than 300 words. If you would like more information about your contribution, please contact Sally Miller, Environmental Liaison Officer to discuss.

Non-credited articles by Sally Miller.



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