



# Resort Round-up

No.12, Winter 2002

## Recycling Up and Running

Recycling is again being undertaken in the Perisher Range Resorts, Sawpit Creek, Sponar's Chalet and Ski Rider after an agreement was reached between the NPWS and Cooma-Monaro Shire Council. An existing contract between Cooma-Monaro Shire Council and Burchall Transport and Recycling will be extended to Kosciuszko National Park for recyclable materials. The recycling agreement is an interim measure until the Regional Waste Facility is up and running.

The containers for recyclables will be provided by NPWS and consist of those previously used for recycling material around the resorts. Burchall Transport and Recycling will transport the recyclable materials to the VISY Materials Recycling Facility at Hume, ACT.

The location of the recycling containers include:

- Perisher Valley (adjacent to the NPWS Municipal Services building)
- Smiggins Hole (adjacent to Perisher Blue workshop)
- Sawpit Creek
- Ski Rider
- Sponar's Chalet

Recyclable material will include:

- Paper and cardboard
- Glass bottles
- Aluminium and steel cans
- Plastic bottles

An important aspect of the recycling arrangement is that there are three types of containers. Glass bottles, aluminium and steel cans, and plastic bottles can all be deposited into the one container. Another container is provided for paper and cardboard and a third container provided for putrescible waste (as per previous arrangements).

Cooking oils are still to be bottled and taken to the NPWS Municipal Services building at Perisher Valley where they are stored for recycling.

You can help by separating recyclable materials at your lodge or premise, and by making sure that recyclable materials are placed in the correct containers at the designated locations around the resorts. Recycling bags are available at the NPWS office, Perisher. It is important that you empty the contents of the recycling bags into the container and reuse the bags to keep costs down!

The cost of the recycling agreement includes material being placed in the correct container. NPWS incur a charge for contaminants such as putrescible waste entering the recycling containers, so please help this process. A good commitment to recycling by all stakeholders will help keep the cost down to stakeholders and contribute to a better environment.

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## Slide Nights

Last year Dave Woods, Environmental Liaison Officer, presented slide shows and information nights for lodge members and guests throughout the winter. Most of the presentations were carried out in the evening and at a time convenient for lodge and commercial operations. Slides are a good way of showing people the variety of plants, animals and history of Kosciuszko National Park. If you are interested in a presentation for your guests or club members this winter, please contact Dave Woods - Environmental Liaison Officer on 64 505616 or email [dave.woods@npws.nsw.gov.au](mailto:dave.woods@npws.nsw.gov.au)

## Regional Waste Management Strategy

A Regional Waste Management Scheme is currently being compiled as part of the proposed Regional Waste Facility, to service the needs of Cooma-Monaro Shire Council, Snowy River Shire Council and Kosciuszko National Park. This collaborative approach is currently addressing the following matters and issues:

- Waste Avoidance
- Waste Reduction
- Waste Reuse
- Recycling

As part of the strategy, the following waste streams will be addressed:

- Putrescible waste
- Bottles, cans and plastics
- Cardboard and paper
- Cooking oil
- Sewage sludge
- Oils and greases
- Spoil from building and construction
- Concrete
- Contaminated soil and water
- Demolition material
- Cleared vegetation
- Lubricants

In the meantime, your cooperation with the current recycling program is appreciated. If you have any questions relating to recycling operations please contact the Recycling Officer on 0427 406 189 or NPWS Perisher Valley office on 64 575214 during business hours.

## Litter Campaign

Litter is still with us! Whilst a Regional Waste Strategy is underway, we are still challenged with litter being deposited on the ground. Last year the NPWS, in collaboration with the ski resorts, began a litter reduction awareness campaign. The momentum from last year's efforts is being continued including radio messages, posters, banners and electronic signs. The biggest success from last year was the introduction of the "Butt-bin", a free portable cigarette-butt receptacle for smokers. The popularity of these canisters has seen thousands of them distributed amongst the ski resorts in this early part of the snow season. If you would like some "Butt-bins" for distribution at your lodge or premise, please contact Dave Woods on 64 505616 or email [dave.woods@npws.nsw.gov.au](mailto:dave.woods@npws.nsw.gov.au). Other places to pick up Butt Bins include NPWS visitor centres in Jindabyne and Perisher Valley, Perisher Blue, Guest Services at Perisher Valley, Information Office at Kosciuszko Thredbo Pty Ltd and Thredbo Chamber of Commerce.

Whilst the treatment plant is being upgraded to deal more effectively with various wastewater quality and loads entering the system, cooperation amongst all water users is still required for best environmental performance.

You can help protect the sensitive alpine waterways by being water wise. You can be a water saver by:

In the bathroom

1. Taking shorter showers
2. Turning off the tap when you clean your teeth
3. Using less shampoo and soap, because phosphorus is harder to treat at the treatment plant
4. Using environmentally friendly cleaning products, such as low phosphate detergents
5. Using the half-flush toilet button when you can
6. Fix or report leaking taps
7. Using a bin for your rubbish, don't put it down the sink or in the toilet

Remember, number 1, number 2, nothing else goes down the loo!

In the kitchen

1. Using a plug in the sink when you rinse fruit and vegetables
2. Fix or report leaking taps
3. Fully loading the dishwasher (and washing machine!) before using them
4. Using a fats and oil drum for all your old cooking oils. When it is full, take it to the NPWS Perisher Valley office for recycling
5. Using environmentally friendly cleaning products, such as low phosphate detergents
6. Using a sink strainer to minimise rubbish being washed down the sink

Remember, strain your sink, not the environment!

## Cats

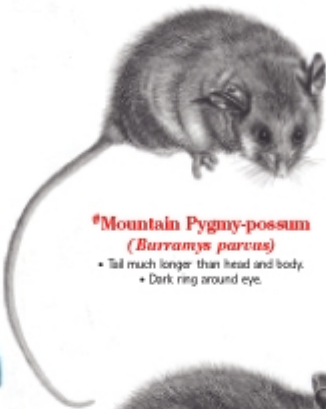
A feral cat-trapping program has recently commenced in the Perisher Range in response to a number of feral cat sightings. Cats are well distributed across Australia and contribute to the decline of much of our wildlife, in and outside of the national park. However, particular attention can and should be given to resort areas for a number of reasons. Feral cats are not as mobile on soft snow as they are on firmer surfaces like roads and groomed access trails. Furthermore, easy food sources are often available in resort areas like dropped food and garbage refuse that has not been secured properly.

Whilst it is not possible to eliminate feral cats altogether, it is possible to limit their impact on selected areas, particularly where threatened species occur like the Mountain Pygmy-possum and Broad-toothed Rat. A fox baiting program has been undertaken in the alpine area for a number of years, due to the impact of foxes upon threatened species. The winter snow cover reduces the rate at which foxes move into areas that have been vacated by 'dead' foxes, as well as allowing a thorough monitoring program to evaluate the effectiveness of the baiting program. The aim of the feral cat-trapping program is to compliment the fox abatement program in the alpine area.

In a two week trapping period, nine feral cats were removed from the Perisher Range, but many more are known to exist in the area. To help check traps in the more difficult access areas like the slopes of Blue Cow, a collaborative effort has been established between the NPWS and Perisher Blue Pty Ltd. If you see a feral cat or would like to contribute to the cat-trapping program, please call Dave Woods – Environmental Liaison Officer on 64 505616 or email [dave.woods@npws.nsw.gov.au](mailto:dave.woods@npws.nsw.gov.au)

# small Mammals<sup>^</sup>

making their home in the Ski Resorts of Kosciuszko National Park



**\*Mountain Pygmy-possum**  
(*Burrarnys parvus*)

- Tail much longer than head and body.
- Dark ring around eye.



**\*Broad-toothed Rat**  
(*Mastacomys fuscus*)

- Tail much shorter than head and body.
- Short ears.



**1. Dusky Antechinus**  
(*Antechinus swainsonii*)

- Head coming to a point at the nose.

**2. Agile Antechinus**  
(*Antechinus agilis*)

- Similar to Dusky Antechinus, but slightly smaller.



**\*Black Rat**  
(*Rattus rattus*)

- Tail much longer than head and body.



**Southern Bush Rat**  
(*Rattus fuscipes*)

- Tail slightly shorter than head and body.



**\*House Mouse**  
(*Mus musculus*)

- Small and does not have a tapering snout like Antechinus.

KEY ▲ = endemic taxa  
# = threatened species  
\* = introduced species  
NB - images are not to scale

**If you have a small mammal you wish to remove...**

then live traps (known as Elliot traps), can be used and the captured animal relocated.

All native species are protected in Kosciuszko National Park.

Did you know most small mammals in ski resort areas are **native?**

**do not use poison baits or snap traps**

For more information on these and other animals found in Kosciuszko National Park, please contact the NPWS Environmental Liaison Officer on 02 6450 5555



Illustrations by - Melinda Perrin

# Sharing the Ski Resorts with some Native Furry Friends

A challenge that faces the NPWS and ski resorts is how to manage and conserve small native mammals that interact with ski lodges and other buildings. There are many aspects to this issue which have not been effectively identified or addressed in the past, and aspects that have evolved due to circumstances that are unique to Kosciuszko National Park.

Did you know that there are up to five native species of small mammals (excluding bats) in the ski resorts of Kosciuszko National Park? In fact, most encounters with small furry animals in resort areas are with native species. These include the endangered Mountain Pygmy-Possum, the vulnerable Broad-toothed Rat, the Southern Bush Rat and two kinds of Antechinus (marsupial mice). To help promote awareness of these small animals, a poster has been produced with illustrations of each animal, including the introduced but less frequent Black Rat and House Mouse.

As most animals that visit lodges and other premises are native species, an awareness campaign is under way to prevent the use of poison baits and snap-traps. Given that most small mammals in resort areas are native species, two of which are threatened species under the Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995, then an issue exists that crosses a number of boundaries including, attitudes, awareness, premises, health, compliance, animal ethics and research.

To reduce the presence of small animals in buildings, all access should be blocked, food stores secured and food waste removed. However, if animals persist and one's tolerance is exceeded, then Elliot-traps can be used to capture the animal live and then relocate it to another site. When using Elliot-traps it is important to check traps daily as captured animals can die from dehydration or hypothermia. Furthermore, some animals like the Mountain Pygmy-Possum have special habitat requirements and may need to be relocated to specific areas. In these instances, NPWS should be contacted for assistance.

One of the aims this winter is to distribute the posters to lessees in the ski resorts. Posters come in A2 and A3 size. However, if you miss out or would like additional posters, then these can be picked up from the Kosciuszko Thredbo office, Thredbo Chamber of Commerce, NPWS Visitor Centre – Jindabyne and NPWS Office – Perisher Valley. Elliot-traps for use by Thredbo sub-lessees can be borrowed from the Kosciuszko Thredbo office whilst lessees in the Perisher Range Resorts can pick-up traps at the NPWS office in Perisher Valley.

For further information on posters, Elliot-traps and trapping guidelines, please contact Dave Woods – Environmental Liaison Officer on 64 505616 or email [dave.woods@npws.nsw.gov.au](mailto:dave.woods@npws.nsw.gov.au)

## Resorts Division Update

Manager Concessions and Leasing – Job Share Arrangements

From Monday 1 July 2002 Karen Field and Nikki Mawby will be sharing the position of Manager, Concessions and Leasing for a period of three months. They will be working business hours, 5 days each per fortnight.

Karen is available – Monday, Tuesday and every alternate Wednesday

Nikki is available – Thursday, Friday and every other Wednesday

Their contact telephone number is still (02) 6450 5502. Please send e-mails to both Karen and Nikki and one of them will respond, if required.



## Kosciuszko - your park - your plan

### **Community Forum ready to review key issues for the KNP Plan of Management (PoM)**

You will all no doubt be aware that the Plan of Management (PoM) for Kosciuszko National Park is to be reviewed and that the community and key stakeholders are an integral part of the review process.

The central platform to facilitate community and stakeholder input is via the Community Forum. The forum is a group of 20 members representing local communities, commercial business (including resort operators), tourism, local government, cultural heritage, NPWS, aboriginal communities, park advisory committees, conservation groups, park neighbours and recreation user groups.

During a series of recent public workshops held in communities around Kosciuszko and in Canberra and Sydney, over 360 participants contributed their issues and concerns for future management of Kosciuszko.

At the first Community Forum meeting members reviewed the range of issues and concerns raised, and also put forward the views of the groups they each represent. This resulted in seven primary issues being identified (not in priority order);

1. Fire;
2. Access;
3. Weeds and pest animals;
4. Cultural heritage protection (indigenous and non-indigenous);
5. International, regional and local context of the park;
6. Protection of natural values and land degradation; and
7. Sustainable use (resorts, recreation and resource use)

The Community Forum will discuss each of these issues in more detail at specific meetings over the coming months, and will produce a progress report on proposed management options and strategies for public comment in December 2002.

Underpinning the work of the Forum will be a statement on the park's natural, cultural, economic, recreational and social values and a description of the significance and condition of these values. An independent scientific committee made up of eminent scientists with experience covering a broad range of topics will prepare this statement. It will guide the Community Forum and the Service on potential and effective management strategies.

A representative from the scientific committee will attend each Community Forum meeting to provide advice if required and to establish communication links between the two groups.

If you would like to know more about any aspect of the Kosciuszko Plan of Management review process please contact the planning team on 1800 200 208 or visit [www.npws.nsw.gov.au](http://www.npws.nsw.gov.au) and follow the links to Kosciuszko – your park – your plan.





Community Forum representatives enthusiastic about creating a visionary Plan of Management for Kosciuszko National Park.

Front from left: Pat Davison, Peter Mitchell, Di Thompson, Carol Bruce, Ken Prendergast

Middle from left: David Last, Maurice Sexton, Sue Bulger

Back from left: Steve Horsley (proxy for Tony Fleming), Peter Prineas, Rick Farley (chair), Wilf Hilder, Peter Brulisauer, Alan Newsome (representative from Independent Scientific Committee), John Hood, Peter Bascomb, Ted Taylor, Peter Southwell, Vern Walsh

## Alpine Resort Planning

Concurrent with the review of the Kosciuszko Plan of Management, PlanningNSW is preparing a comprehensive Alpine Resorts Plan. This Plan will provide the long-term planning framework and detailed development controls for the alpine resorts, associated mountain facilities and resort related infrastructure.

PlanningNSW's Alpine Resorts Planning Team (Queanbeyan) is preparing an Issues Paper which scopes the issues and challenges facing the future planning and development in the alpine resort areas. This Issues Paper is the first formal opportunity for community input into the alpine resorts planning process. The public will be able to make comment on the Issues Paper during September 2002.

Another consultation mechanism established for the Alpine Resorts Plan is a Reference Group. This group provides a mechanism for peak interest groups to communicate their views and opinions on issues relating to sustainable development in the Alpine Resorts.

For further information about the Alpine Resorts Plan, visit the PlanningNSW website [www.planning.nsw.gov.au](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au) or contact the Kosciuszko Alpine Resorts Planning Team at [alpineresorts@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:alpineresorts@planning.nsw.gov.au) or phone (02) 6297 6911.

# Wild Horses in the Spotlight

Kosciuszko's wild horses have had a pretty good run in the media lately – they've been the subject of an episode in a reality TV series on the ABC, they've been on Burke's Backyard and they've featured in the Sydney Morning Herald, local papers and radio.

So what's all the fuss about? It's about managing horses in national parks and it's an issue about which many people feel very strongly. Over the past 18 months, a community-based steering committee has been grappling with the issue of how to manage wild horses in the Kosciuszko alpine area. Horses have been absent from the alpine area for many years until recently, but since the mid-1990s, they have begun grazing in the alpine area near Mt Kosciuszko. They are also having a large impact in the Big Boggy area near Dead Horse Gap.

The Wild Horse Management Steering Committee was established in December 2000 to consider the issues associated with wild horse management and the range of management methods that could be used to remove horses from the alpine area and for nearby areas. In conjunction with parks staff, the committee produced the Draft Wild Horse Management Plan for the alpine area of Kosciuszko National Park. This plan was on public exhibition for six weeks from June 1 to July 15. The committee will consider the various submissions received, amend the plan as necessary and the plan will be adopted.

The draft plan proposes that horse riders be used under a contract arrangement to capture and remove horses by trapping, roping and mustering. These methods will be trialed and evaluated by the steering committee during the next two years.

A trial of the trapping method was undertaken in autumn this year. With the assistance of local horse riders, a total of 13 wild horses were removed from the alpine area. These horses have remained in the area on local properties and a number are being trained.

For further information about wild horse management in the southern part of Kosciuszko can be obtained from the NPWS website ([www.npws.nsw.gov.au](http://www.npws.nsw.gov.au)) or by phoning Pam O'Brien or Liz Wren at the Parks' Jindabyne office.

Liz Wren  
Senior ranger neighbour relations

## NPWS Website

The NPWS site contains Resort Round Up and Moving Forward newsletters in downloadable form. The site can be located at <http://www.npws.nsw.gov.au/parks/south/sou015.html>

If you would prefer to access these newsletters electronically in the future, please notify Lisa Pickford at [lisa.pickford@npws.nsw.gov.au](mailto:lisa.pickford@npws.nsw.gov.au) and we will add your e-mail details to our database and send electronic notification when the newsletters are available online. This will cut down on an incredible amount of paper being used in the traditional "print and mail" process.

If you have any other suggestions about improvements or additions to the website, please let Lisa know.