



Resort Round-up

No.14, Summer 2002

Christmas Greetings

NPWS staff would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.

We are all mountain people

To start the celebrations, a special event was held at the Station Resort on Saturday 23rd November 2002 which was probably the biggest gathering of Aboriginal people in the mountains for more than 100 years.

The celebrations continued on Sunday 24th November 2002 when the shores of Lake Jindabyne came alive with a family festival for the International Year of Mountains 2002, **Celebrating Mountains**.

The **Family Picnic Day** started mid-morning amongst shady trees on the lakeshore at Jindabyne. Snowy Mountains locals, visitors from around NSW, Victoria, the ACT and much further afield browsed stalls selling a wide variety of arts and crafts. There was plenty to eat, drink, listen to, watch and participate in as a variety of entertainers captivated the crowds with music, games and performance.

The **Family Picnic Day** was a great success with people coming from all over to **Celebrate Mountains**. But the best of all was saved till last - just on dusk the skies lit up and the air thrummed with the sounds of didgeridoos as the call went out to all to come to the **Kaju Welcome Ceremony**.



*Dancers from Garrabarras, Doonoch and Brindabella Dreaming performed in the Kaju Welcome on the shore of Lake Jindabyne at dusk on Sunday 24th November 2002.
Photo: Andrew Christie.*

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Following a formal welcome the Doonooch (from Nowra), Garrabarras (from Sydney) and Brindabella Dreaming (from Queanbeyan) dancers took the 1000 strong crowd on a spectacular journey. Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people Celebrated Mountains together - in a way they have not been celebrated for many years

Celebrating Mountains continued into the following week with an interdisciplinary conference, covering the connections between tourism, heritage and science.

The conference, also held at the Station Resort, concluded on Thursday November 28th with participants committed to working together for the good of the mountains. Almost all who attended referred to the intense human emotions that mountains inspire.

When the **Celebrating Mountains** conference concluded the plenary session delivered strong messages for everyone with connections to mountains.

Paul McLeod and Pat Davison, both traditional owners of Monaro-Ngarigo country, attended many sessions and they agree that, "Aboriginal people with connections to mountains must be more involved in the management of country." "Their knowledge of values must be treated with respect and sensitivity." Paul McLeod continued.

The 260 registrants at the conference unanimously agreed that cultural heritage values and the natural sciences must be better integrated and that innovative solutions will be critical in the ongoing process.

Roger Good, coordinator of the **Mountains for the Future** stream of the conference, said "The conference has been an outstanding success, with fantastic international participation and special input from Canadian First Nations and Maori people as well as Aboriginal people from around Australia. The integration of natural and cultural values of mountains and the networking between all interests groups has been a spectacular accomplishment."

Snowy Mountains Region Summer Discovery Program

Would you like to meet a dragon, join a guided walk, visit a mountain hut or wander into the bush with our Aboriginal Education Officer to find out how the forest provides tools, fibre, bush tucker and medicine? If so, pick up a Discovery Walks, Talks and Tours Program from the Snowy Region Visitor Centre at Jindabyne or the Kosciuszko Education Centre at Sawpit Creek to find out more.

The Discovery Program will run from Friday 27th December, 2002 until Friday 17th January 2003. During this time the Kosciuszko Education Centre, which is usually only open for group bookings, will be open every day from 9am to 4pm. So drop in and enjoy the displays featuring the natural and cultural heritage of the park while your kids play with the numerous hands-on displays in the Kosciarium.

For more information or to book onto activities please phone: Snowy Region Visitor Centre 64505600; or Kosciuszko Education Centre 64505666.

Cat Trapping Update

An article in the winter edition of Resort Round Up discussed the cat trapping program in the Perisher Range Resorts. The program was established to compliment the fox abatement program in the alpine area, with particular focus on helping protect the Mountain Pygmy-possum and Broad-toothed Rat. By early winter, 9 feral cats were caught and removed. By the end of winter, 30 cats had been captured and removed from the Perisher Range. Furthermore, another 10 cats were removed from Thredbo Valley and on the western side of Dead Horse Gap. The program will continue over summer in conjunction with Perisher Blue Pty Ltd, Kosciuszko Thredbo Pty Ltd and Charlottes Pass Village Pty Ltd.

EMS Lodge Workbook: What do we mean by 'Visitor Nights' ?

Thank you to all the Perisher Resort lodges who have already sent in the EMS Lodge Workbook reporting sheets for last winter. We appreciate your efforts, and trust that the time taken to go through the Workbook and reporting sheets was valuable.

We have had a few lodges calling in about what we mean by 'visitor nights', and why we need you to record them.

The purpose of asking you to record visitor nights is to provide a means for assessing average consumption per person. So, if in one year a lodge uses 20,000kWh electricity for 2000 visitor nights, and then in the next year uses the same 20,000 kWh but for 2500 visitor nights, this shows how the lodge has improved its average energy consumption per visitor.

'Visitor nights' is the number of people who have stayed at your lodge during the winter reporting period, taking into account multi-night stays by each person. It is NOT the amount of nights your lodge was occupied, nor the amount of members that stayed at your lodge during the period.

This is perhaps best illustrated by the following example:

Example: Over a one week period, your lodge may have people in it for 4 out

of 7 nights, made up of 35 of your members that arrived and left at different times over a weekend, as follows:

Tuesday - 0 guests/members

Wednesday - 0 guests/members

Thursday - 0 guests/members

Friday - 24 guests/members

Saturday - 35 guest/members

Sunday - 28 guests/members

Monday - 8 guests/members

The number of visitor nights during that period would be $0+0+0+24+35+28+8 = 95$ visitor nights (not 4, or 35).

Remember, if you have any questions about how to fill in the reporting sheets or the Lodge Workbook, please call the NPWS EMS Officer on (02) 6450 5607.

Resorts Division Staff Update

Scott Dicker (Acting Manager, Resorts) will return to his position as Manager Municipal Services Unit at Perisher in early February 2003, after successfully heading up the Resorts Division for 12 months.

Simon Lyas has been appointed Acting Manager, Resorts Division commencing Tuesday, 10th December 2002 for a period of 18 months.

As from the 18th November 2002 Nikki Mawby will no longer be sharing the position of Manager, Concessions & Leasing with Karen Field. All inquiries should be directed to Karen Field.

Megan Bennett, Environmental Management Officer will be commencing in the New Year.

Marnie Stewart has been appointed Environmental Management Officer Assessments Co-Ordinator commencing in the New Year.

Robert Porters has been appointment Senior Environmental Health Officer commencing in the New Year.

A Snowy River Journey

A Snowy River Journey event which was organised by NSW Premier's Department, supported by DLWC and hosted by NPWS Snowy Mountains Region was held over the three days 1st to 3rd November, 2002. A group of about 30 participants travelled the route, with some leaving and others joining for various stages as we travelled. The theme of the journey was sharing the spirit of Snowy River country through storytelling. A booklet of stories "Spirit of the Snowy" was printed to capture some of those stories as a celebration of the people of the Snowy River.

The travellers started the Journey at Charlotte Pass, where Rod Mason (NPWS) reminded them of the importance of rivers for Aboriginal culture, and for all people, and told stories of the cultural importance of the Snowy River headwaters. A pitcher of water was collected from the Snowy River, and taken along for the Journey.

The travellers, who included residents from many local communities along the Snowy River, as well as other people with a connection to the river and its recovery, met with many people from communities along the way, enjoyed their generous hospitality, and were entertained with stories, poetry and songs of Snowy River Country.

A key outcome was an overwhelming sense that the Spirit of the Snowy River is alive and well, and that the resilience of the people of Snowy River country is strong. The travellers also picked up and generated many ideas for future events and activities that would support the recovery of the Snowy River and for the future benefit of its communities including opportunities for tourism development through the Snowy River corridor and linkages with tourism in the Snowy Mountains.

At Marlo, the Snowy River Arts Network had organised a large celebration with performance artists, an art auction, and talks by river identities. The travellers were welcomed to this celebration by Craig Ingram, the Victorian Independent Member for East Gippsland.

Some of the water brought from Charlotte Pass was poured into the Snowy River estuary jointly by Albert Mullet, of the Gunnai-Kurnai people, and Glenice White, of the Snowy River Alliance. This symbolised the flow of Snowy River water from the mountains to the sea, and the cooperation of all people in looking after their river. Some of the water was kept as a symbol of the importance of water to all Australian people, and was taken to the International year of the Mountains Conference in Jindabyne.

The organisers wish to thank all who contributed their time and resources to make the Journey such a great success.

Graeme Enders- Premier's Department

Steve Redden- NPWS

Emma Sellers- Organiser



Snowy Monaro Waste Strategy Update

The Draft Snowy Monaro Waste Regional Strategy and individual Waste Management Plans for Snowy River Shire Council, Cooma- Monaro Shire Council (in progress) and the Perisher Range Resorts have been prepared. The first draft of the Composting Report has also been prepared.

The Snowy Monaro Regional Waste Management Strategy will be the guiding document for waste management, avoidance, minimisation and recycling in the Snowy Region. The Strategy looks at:

- collection systems;
- landfill disposal options;
- composting options; and

general management issues.

The options in the Strategy were derived from the community consultation and involvement process, which was an integral component of the project. The consultation and involvement process included:

- two rounds of community meetings in Cooma, Berridale and Jindabyne;
- media briefings to the Snowy Express and local radio;
- distribution of two newsletters;
- establishment of a project information line and e-mail address; and
- focus group meetings with Perisher Blue and SLOPES; and where requested one on one resident meetings.

The consultation and involvement process allowed the community and stakeholders to participate in the planning, evaluation and decision making on options. A total of 55 submissions were received during the project, 49 of which were from community members in Cooma, Berridale and Jindabyne.

From the feedback received throughout the consultation and involvement process there was:

- strong support for implementation of recycling services in the Region;
- widespread interest and support for composting facility;
- agreement for the need of community and visitor education on waste management;
- support for community waste management events such as clean up days;
- identification that Cooma landfill could be used as a Regional facility; and
- strong opposition to expansion and creation of new landfills in the Region.

The success of the Snowy Monaro Regional Waste Strategy will rely to a large extent on the acceptance and commitment of the community. Information programs aimed at raising awareness coupled with feedback to the community are essential. An informed and committed community can achieve remarkable results in waste avoidance and recovery.

Through the consultation and involvement process implemented to develop the Regional Waste Strategy it is apparent the people in the Snowy Monaro Region have a strong drive and willingness to recycle materials, with strong support for the introduction of kerbside recycling programs. There is a need to increase awareness of waste issues and long term attitudinal change to achieve waste minimisation and management. A whole of community approach, ie residents, businesses and tourist operators will need to play a role to achieve these objectives. Comments made by the community during the preparation of the Regional Waste Strategy form the basis of this education program set in the following sections.

An education program has been developed with a strong emphasis on community involvement and "hands-on" solutions. It targets a range of community groups with the awareness, knowledge, motivation and skills needed to minimise and manage waste. The approach to the education program is one which utilises a number of education tools and targets the cross section of people in the community. This includes permanent residents and visitors.

The Regional Waste Strategy and Management Plans are due for public exhibition and comment in early 2003.

Construction commences on Infrastructure Upgrade

The 2002/03 construction season has commenced with water supply pipelines, concrete roads and sewerage works already underway. A very busy winter completing designs and awarding tenders saw contractors on-site soon after snow melt. Construction is scheduled to continue throughout summer throughout each of the resort areas. Works programmed for this season include:

Guthega

- Upgrade of water supply reservoirs and weir and installation of water meters
- Completion of design and tender documentation of Guthega Hotel road (near Blue Cow Ski Club Lodge)

Smiggin Holes

- Upgrade of water supply reservoirs, pump station, weir and installation of water meters
- Completion of construction works on Willow Road
- Survey, investigation and design of Smiggin Holes west roads

Perisher Valley

- Upgrade of water supply reservoirs, pump station, weir and installation of water meters
- Completion of the stages of construction works commenced last year on Swagman Road and Matterhorn Roads
- Survey, investigation and design of North Perisher roads
- The last of the main contracts in the Perisher Sewerage Augmentation, the Sludge Storage Facility at the Perisher Sewage Treatment Plant, has commenced and is scheduled for completion during April. There will likely be some interruptions to vehicular movement along the North Perisher Road adjacent to the Perisher Sewage Treatment Plant during the construction period

Rainwater Reuse in Ski Resorts

Investigations are currently underway to determine the feasibility of reusing rainwater from ski resort buildings within the resorts of Kosciuszko National Park. This investigation is being undertaken as part of a regional project between NPWS Resorts Division, Snowy River, Cooma-Monaro and Bombala Councils, which aims to improve urban stormwater management throughout the region.

The capture, storage and use of rainwater for domestic purposes within developed areas potentially provides many environmental and economic benefits, including:

- 1 Reducing peak flows, i.e. the number of stormwater runoff days and volume of stormwater runoff from developments. The less stormwater that leaves a development means less stormwater impacts on sensitive receiving waters.
- 2 Reduce the runoff and subsequent transfer of pollutants in stormwater from developments;
- 3 Conserving water through rainwater harvesting on a development. Perisher Valley, with its growing demand for water makes this an excellent case to demonstrate this benefit; and

Subsequently reducing the amount of water supply and stormwater infrastructure required.

Therefore, the study is being undertaken to determine how rainwater harvesting can be physically undertaken in alpine areas, and to quantify the benefits of such a system as a supplementary water supply and stormwater control. The results of this study can then be used to assist in implementing rainwater harvesting techniques in new developments in Perisher Valley, and to assist in developing future planning of stormwater management and water supply within the ski resorts.

To determine the feasibility of rainwater harvesting in alpine areas, the study is investigating three separate development scenarios in the Perisher Valley:

- 1 Proposed Police and Emergency Services Building;
- 2 Proposed NPWS office;
- 3 Existing development being a "typical" 30 bed lodge.

For each development scenario, modelling showed that a 10,000 litre tank for each of these scenarios provided an optimal outcome in that considerable reductions in mains water demand (50 to 85%) and stormwater runoff (62 to 72%) were achieved. Both ground and roof gutter collection systems for roof runoff are being considered as part of the assessment.

Another benefit provided includes enabling the water supply system to meet standards of service while also meeting environmental flow criteria set for the water supply offtake.

The feasibility report is currently in a preliminary draft form, and is expected to be available for comment in early 2003.

For more information on the feasibility assessment or the regional project in general, contact the Project Coordinator Harvey Lane at Snowy River Shire Council on 6450 5147 or at harvey_lane@acr.net.au.

Kosciuszko - Your Park - Your Plan Major milestone reached for Kosciuszko planning process



Summer 2002 represents a major milestone in the Plan of Management (PoM) review for Kosciuszko with several important events taking place. These key events include the launch of the Independent Scientific Committee's (ISC) interim report, the release of the Community Forum progress report and the establishment of an Aboriginal working group.

The establishment of the Aboriginal working group represents an exciting phase in Kosciuszko planning, as it has never happened before. As part of the Kosciuszko Aboriginal Heritage Project, Aboriginal people with connections to the Park, NPWS and other stakeholders are working in partnership to plan for the future.

Two successful meetings of Aboriginal people have taken place so far with over 60 people participating, representing traditional owners, elders and family groups who have connections and associations with the Park.

There has been overwhelming agreement in the need for recognition, acknowledgment and celebration of Aboriginal people's connections to Kosciuszko, the need for strong participation in looking after country, further recording of history and knowledge and opportunities for younger people, such as employment, training and skills to pass on knowledge.

The working group, which will be made up of Aboriginal representatives from around Kosciuszko, is being established to help progress these issues. While the group will look at a broad range of issues concerning Aboriginal people with respect to the Park one of their immediate tasks will be to develop strategies to feed into the Kosciuszko Planning process, and to discuss key issues with the Community Forum. The first meeting of this group will take place over the coming months.

The Independent Scientific Committee has had a productive 6 months since first meeting to discuss how to tackle their complex task. Their key milestone this summer is the release of their interim report, which objectively assesses the natural, cultural, economic, social and recreational values of the Park. **The interim report will be available to the public for comment from mid December through to Friday 10 February 2003.**

For the Community Forum, summer 2002 will be a welcome break from their monthly meeting schedule, which started back in June when they first came together to discuss some big Park issues. To celebrate this milestone and to keep all their constituents up to date, the Forum will release a Progress Report on their dialogue so far. **The public and all stakeholders are invited to make comments on this report which will also be available from mid December through to Friday 20 February 2003.**

For copies of either the ISC interim report or the Community Forum progress report please contact the planning team on 1800 200 208 or visit ww.npws.nsw.gov.au and follow the links to Kosciuszko - your park - your plan.

The Alpine Resort Plan also has a key milestone this summer with the release of the Resort Planning Issues Paper. For further information about the Alpine Resorts Plan, visit the PlanningNSW website www.planning.nsw.gov.au or contact the Kosciuszko Alpine Resorts Planning Team at alpineresorts@planning.nsw.gov.au or phone (02) 6297 6911.



The Community Forum with NPWS staff, CPV and Lodge Operators and PlanningNSW staff at Charlotte Pass Village.