

# Resort Round-up

A newsletter for the resorts community of  
Kosciuszko National Park

Issue 37 - Winter 2017



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**Cover:** Google trekker on the summit of Mount Kosciuszko, Kosciuszko National Park.  
(Photo: M Attenborough/OEH)

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# Welcome back readers!

It's been just over two years since the last Resort Round-up Newsletter was published, a break brought about by some changes in NPWS. You will notice the style and format is different; however, the focus of the content has not changed and we hope to continue to inform you of activities occurring within and adjacent to the alpine resorts.

We invite contributions to the biannual newsletter from resort stakeholders and people who have an interest in resort-related matters.

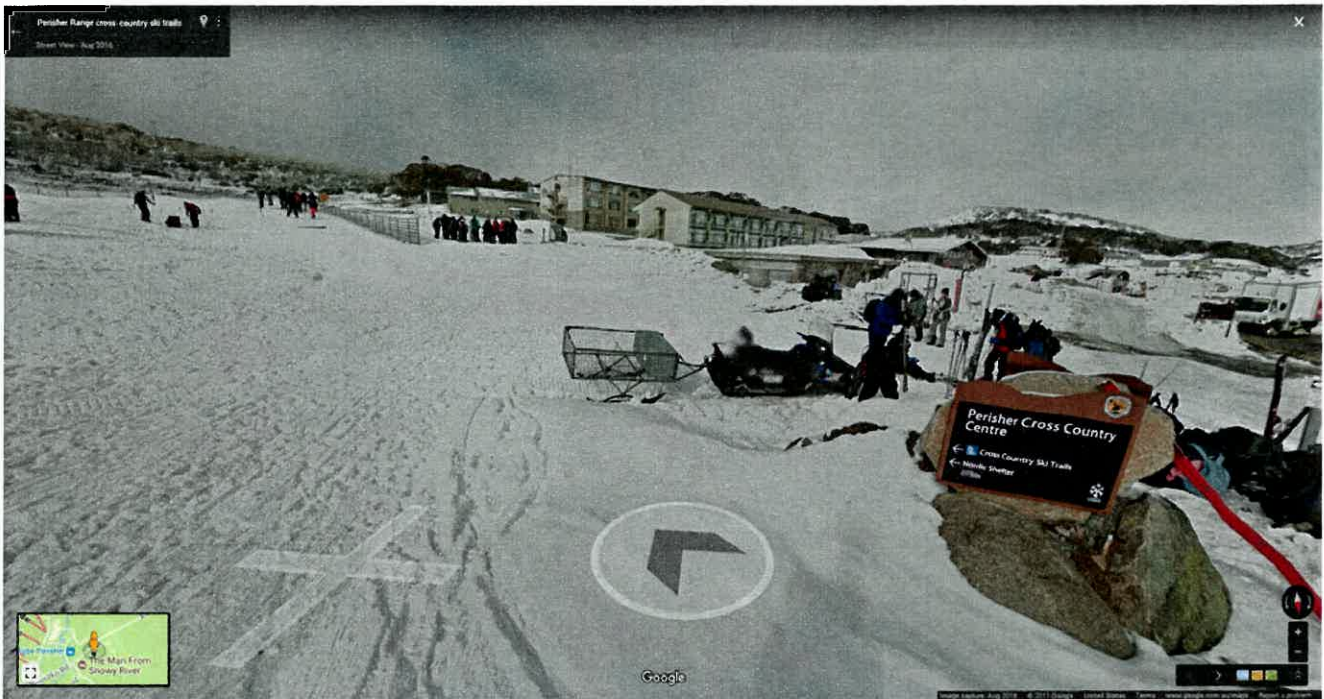
Email: [resorts@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:resorts@environment.nsw.gov.au)

Happy reading from the NPWS Resorts Environmental Services Team.



Smiggin Holes. (Photo: Virginia Logan/OEH)

## Google maps



Google street view of Perisher Cross Country ski trails, Perisher Valley.

## Google trekker in the snow

The ski resorts now have 'street views' thanks to Google.

NPWS partnered with Perisher, Thredbo and Google to map the trails around the resorts. The Google Trekker, a wearable backpack camera system was mounted on the back of a skidoo and driven all around the ski slopes and villages. The Android device consisted of 15 lenses angled in different directions so the images could be

stitched together into 360-degree panoramic views.

The trekker also took a ride on the back of 'Ranger Tim' as he skied around the cross-country ski trails in Perisher and captured the views on the way to the top of Mount Kosciuszko with Andrew and Dave from NPWS (see front cover picture).



Google street view of Centre Valley, Perisher ski resort.

## Back to Perisher



Start of the 2017 Perisher Fun Run. (Photo: Frank Zipfinger, SLOPES)

## Back to Perisher

The ninth annual 'Back to Perisher' celebration was held over the Easter weekend. The celebrations are the brainchild of former SLOPES (Ski Lodges of Perisher, Smiggin Holes and Guthega) President – Graeme Anderson. The club lodges of the Perisher Range Resorts work with the NPWS to develop and run activities across the weekend to encourage club members to visit the area outside of the ski season. Easter is the perfect time of year, overlapping with the NSW School Holidays and usually showcasing some of the best mountain weather.

The 2017 organised events were well attended by the Perisher lodge community, and the weather didn't disappoint.

## Perisher Fun Run

A good crowd turned out on Easter Saturday for the 6.1 kilometre fun run from Perisher (1720 metres) to Charlotte Pass (1837 metres). Family, spectators and

support crews were out in numbers to cheer on the 115 registered runners and walkers of all ages who took part in this, 'Back to Perisher' event.

SLOPES members started the race and provided welcome refreshments at the drink stations. The Perisher Volunteer Ski Patrol members were in attendance to provide First Aid, which fortunately was not required. NPWS staff directed traffic and escorted vehicles to ensure the runners safely completed the event. The NPWS are also proud sponsors of this community event - providing the four winners' prizes of gift cards from the Snowy Region Visitors Centre.

The presentation of prizes and certificates took place at Charlotte Pass Village. The overall winner and first in the Senior Male category was Bryce Anderson who had enough energy in reserve to complete a training run back to Perisher after winning the race. Congratulations to Clementine Cole who came first in the women's race, as well as in the Junior Female category. Oliver Dodd ran an excellent race to win the Junior Male category.

## SLOPES duck race

On Easter Saturday, over 200 people turned out for the 2017 Perisher duck race. SLOPES (Ski Lodges of Perisher, Smiggin Holes and Guthega) sold all their plastic ducks this year - a record 375. Proceeds from the event go to the Burns Unit at Westmead Children's

Hospital and the Perisher Volunteer Ski Patrol. The successful event was a fun spectacle with hundreds of multi-coloured plastic ducks cheered on by the crowd and urged on their way down the Perisher Creek by blasts of water from the Fire Brigade's hoses. The owner of the winning duck received an Easter egg donated by NPWS, a sponsor of the annual event.



SLOPES duck race held on the Perisher Creek over the Easter Weekend. (Photo: Frank Zipfinger, SLOPES)



Keith McFadden, NPWS Ranger catching the ducks at the end of the race. (Photo: Frank Zipfinger, SLOPES)

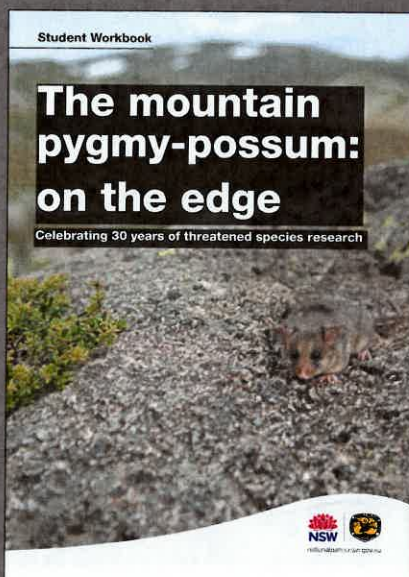
### Fire and Rescue open day

On Easter Saturday, Fire and Rescue New South Wales (FRNSW) held an open day at the Perisher Fire Station with their fire truck, over-snow Hägglunds, snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles on display. It was an excellent opportunity to discuss fire-safety concerns. The children enjoyed climbing into the fire trucks and operating the hoses, and walked away with activity bags full of educational material. Thanks to FRNSW for their wonderful contribution to the community events.

### Easter Discovery Activities

'Ranger Dan' and his colleagues from the NPWS Kosciuszko Education Centre were kept busy over the Easter weekend with adults and children of all ages enjoying the displays and hands-on activities at the Kosciarium. The visitors enjoyed playing and learning, with lots of puzzles, games and stories themed about Kosciuszko National Park.

In his spare time Ranger Dan develops materials for the education programs his team runs out of the centre. 'The mountain pygmy-possum: On the edge' is an interactive teacher resource for year 11 and 12 geography students. It includes an online Geographic Information System (GIS) to identify habitats for the endangered mountain pygmy-possum, and techniques to estimate population numbers. The centre is open for group bookings all year round: (02) 6451 3700 or [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/education-centres/kosciuszko-education-centre](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/education-centres/kosciuszko-education-centre)



Education programs run by the Kosciuszko Education Centre use GIS (Geographic Information Systems) mobile apps to collect data on threatening process and disturbances in the Kosciuszko alpine area. (Photo: Dan Nicholls/OEH)

### Planning a development application?

Do you want to know what we need to see in your development application (DA)?

Call the NPWS Assessment Coordinator on 02 6450 5543 for free advice.

NPWS offers this free service to all potential DA proponents. We can help clarify the DA process, let you know what NPWS needs to assess your DA and attend site inspections including pre-DA discussions.

The Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) is the consent authority for development applications within the NSW ski resort areas, and NPWS acts as a referral agency.

DPE may refer your DA to NPWS for comment under clause 17 of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Kosciuszko National Park – Alpine Resorts) 2007*. Topics that NPWS may comment on include, but are not limited to, flora and fauna, leasing, public health, municipal services, and Aboriginal archaeology and cultural heritage.

In recent months, we have helped many lessees who are planning DAs or are part way through their application to get a clear understanding of the requirements and processes.

For more information and free advice, call the NPWS Assessment Coordinator on 02 6450 5543.



## Mountain biking



Thredbo Valley Track extension downstream of Bullocks Flat. (Photo: Chris Darlington/OEH)

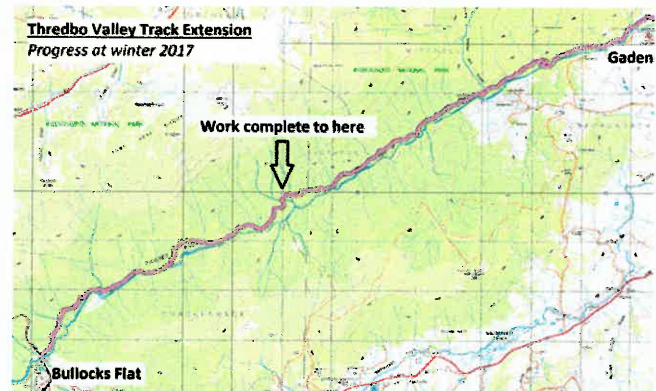
## Thredbo Valley Track (TVT) extension

NPWS has continued to work on extending the Thredbo Valley Track below Bullocks Flat through summer 2016–17 period. The initial 6.5 kilometres of the 17 kilometre extension was open to the public from 8 April 2017; however the track is now closed for cycling during the winter period but remains open for walkers. The spring opening date for cyclists will be dependent on conditions.

The section downstream from Bullocks Flat is designed to be a little tighter and more challenging, to give visitors a different experience than the more free-flowing upper track between Thredbo and Bullocks Flat. The new section is the first stage towards completing an extended track that will create a unique, uninterrupted 50 kilometre ride between Thredbo and Jindabyne.

NPWS is working closely with the Snowy Monaro

Regional Council and the NSW Department of Primary Industries to plan to link the Thredbo Valley Track to existing off-park trails. NPWS will resume work on the track from October. Around 12 kilometres of the extension could be complete by winter 2018.



Map of Thredbo Valley Track extension downstream of Bullocks Flat. (Photo: Chris Darlington/OEH)

# HEY TOSSER!

*You know it's wrong*



**Put it in the bin.  
Fines apply.**



# Litter reduction campaign

## Tackling litter

The NPWS has received funding from the NSW Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to run a *Hey Tosser!* radio campaign to help promote litter awareness. The winter 2017 radio advertisements will target people over 18 travelling to the New South Wales ski resorts. They will be played on regional radio stations at times when people are most likely to be travelling to the snow and at the end of the day when they are heading back to their accommodation.

In addition to the radio campaign the NPWS intend to display *Hey Tosser!* banners in the ski resorts and Kosciuszko National Park as well as distributing *Hey Tosser!* posters and Report a Tosser cards at the Snowy Region Visitors Centre and the Vehicle Entry Stations. It is hoped that the combination of awareness, infrastructure and compliance actions will help reduce the amount of littering in the Park over winter. NPWS will also work closely with Thredbo and Perisher to reduce litter and conduct collaborative post-winter clean ups to assess the amount of litter affecting the resort areas over the ski season.

The Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) road-side variable conditions signs will also be used to display litter information at times when the RMS road operations are not being conducted.

For more information visit the EPA website [www.epa.nsw.gov.au/heytosser/](http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/heytosser/).



### Fauna crossings



Construction of a fauna crossing on Happy Valley ski run, Perisher. (Photo: Tanya Bishop, Perisher ski resort)

In places where the construction of roads or ski runs has removed native vegetation and broken up key habitat areas, small mammals may find it hard to move across open areas and become more susceptible to predators. One strategy that NPWS uses in the NSW ski resorts to manage this disturbance is creating a 'bridge' that allows animals to move between habitat areas without the increased risk of predation.

These bridges, or fauna crossings, are custom-built to suit native small mammals. In the alpine areas, these crossings typically utilise boulders (30–50 cubic centimetres) to mimic boulderfield habitat, and are built across ski slopes. The crossings are constructed by burying or partially burying boulders between habitat areas. This allows a balance where snow-based recreation can take place with less impact on animals.

The endangered mountain pygmy possum is one species that benefits from fauna crossings. The bridges allow the species to cross disturbed areas that otherwise may have to be avoided.

Other species known to use the crossings include the southern bush rat (*Rattus fuscipes*), dusky and agile Antechinus (*Antechinus swansonii*, *Antechinus agilis*) and the threatened broad-toothed rat (*Mastacomys fuscus*). These animals are active all year and will continue to use the crossings beneath ski traffic.

Research on the effectiveness of crossings has highlighted their importance and the need to monitor and undertake maintenance of crossings to ensure they continue to be used by small mammals.

### Are small mammals living in your lodge?

If you think you have mice or rats in your lodge please use an Elliott trap (live traps) to capture, identify and relocate them. This is to prevent harm to the animals as most small mammals found in resort buildings are native and they belong in the Park. Some animals are also endangered. Poison baits and snap traps should not be used. Elliott traps are available from the Perisher NPWS Office (02 6457 4444), and the Thredbo and Charlotte Pass Resorts. A trapping protocol is provided with the trap.

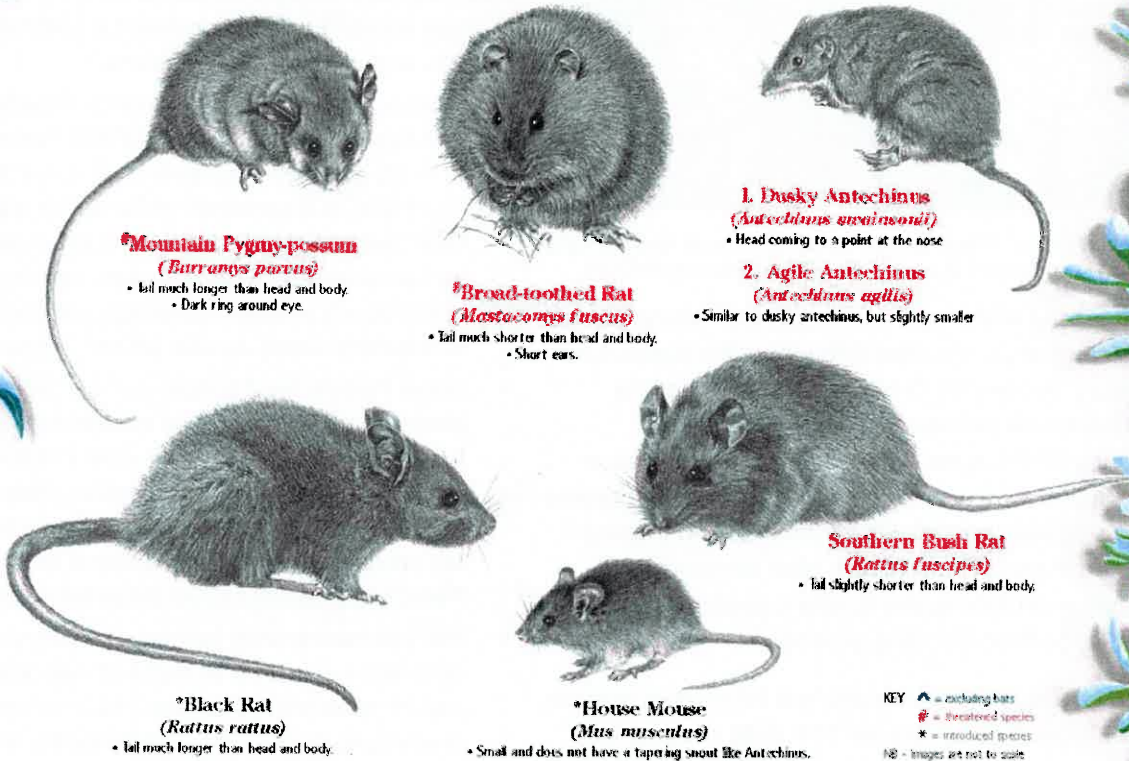
A poster [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/alpineresorts/SmallMammals.pdf](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/alpineresorts/SmallMammals.pdf) is available from the NPWS offices in Perisher and Jindabyne to help identify the animals. Species found in the resorts include dusky antechinus, agile antechinus, southern bush rat, mountain pygmy-possum and broad-toothed rat. If you think you have trapped a mountain pygmy-possum, call NPWS for assistance.

Lodge operators should regularly inspect for the presence of animals. It is particularly important to check food storage and preparation areas including kitchens, dining rooms and restaurants. Don't leave food out, block holes, store food in animal proof receptacles or cabinets and secure food storage areas.

For advice or assistance please call the NPWS Resorts Environmental Liaison Officer on 02 6450 5616 or 0418 689 250. There is also more information on the NPWS website: [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/alpineresorts/living-with-wildlife-alpine-resorts.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/alpineresorts/living-with-wildlife-alpine-resorts.htm)

# small Mammals<sup>^</sup>

making their home in the Ski Resorts of Kosciuszko National Park



**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

## Food safety training



Contents of the 2017 Food Safety Package given to all food premises operating in Kosciuszko National Park. (Photo: Helen Smith/OEH)

At the start of winter over 300 resort staff attended food safety seminars conducted throughout the Kosciuszko ski resorts by the NPWS Health Officer. Under the food-regulation partnership with the NSW Food Authority, NPWS takes on additional food-regulation responsibilities as an enforcement agency. One of these responsibilities is to provide information and training to food handlers. The seminars offer introductory information on food safety to young people who have limited or no food-handling experience.

NPWS also provided a pool and spa information seminar to assist operators to improve their skills and to help them comply with NSW Health advisory guidelines in respect to maintaining swimming and spa pools. The 2017 seminar was conducted on 28 June at the Jindabyne Cinema and was attended by the Kosciuszko National Park spa and pool operators as well as the Snowy River Regional Council pool and spa operators. The seminar consisted of a presentation followed by a practical component, and at its completion participants were issued with an attendance certificate.



Article by Tanya Bishop, Environmental Officer, Perisher Blue Pty Ltd

Perisher is pleased to see the return of the Resort Roundup, and thought we would take the opportunity to share some details of our recent environmental projects and initiatives with readers.

- Funding under the Environmental Rehabilitation and Research Contribution (ERRC) has continued to bring great environmental outcomes at Perisher. The ERRC is a condition of Perisher's lease with OEH that has resulted in spending on projects such as the rehabilitation of ski slopes with native plants, construction of fauna crossings and control of the problematic weed *Juncus effuses* across the resort.
- Some Perisher food outlets are now offering a discount on hot drinks to all customers who bring their own reusable cups. This is an initiative aimed at reducing the number of disposable coffee cups going to landfill each year. In addition, Perisher will be selling re-usable, collapsible coffee cups at its retail outlets. Perfect for popping in your ski jacket pocket!
- Perisher has recently formed an environment committee, made up of staff from various departments within Perisher. The committee meets quarterly to discuss key environmental issues within Perisher and what improvements could be made.
- The year 2017 will see the continued separation and collection of organic waste from all areas of Perisher including the Station Resort. This reduces Perisher's waste to landfill, and sees organic waste recycled into a useful compost product. Perisher continues to offer recycling bins throughout the resort, and discourages littering, with our 'Leave Nothing but Tracks' Campaign.



## PRREMS Environmental Awards



Bob and Anna Tait, Corroboree Lodge. (Photo: Virginia Logan/OEH)

## Wombat awards

The 2017 Perisher Range Resorts Environment Award winners were announced at the Perisher village meetings on Saturday 24 June. The awards, affectionately known as the 'Wombat Awards', were established in 2010 by the PRREMS operational committee to recognise commitment to improved environmental performance by the independent accommodation providers in Perisher.

Guthega Inn and Corroboree Lodge were the joint winners of the resource efficiency award for a commercial accommodation provider. They were also recognised for their ongoing commitment to the Perisher Range Resorts Environmental Management System (PRREMS).

Guthega Inn has worked hard to achieve a 45% reduction in water usage per visitor night over two years – 31% less than the industry average. Guthega Inn also achieved an impressive 48% reduction in energy use per visitor night. Educating staff and

guests, increasing insulation, double-glazing windows, fitting LEDs, retrofitting taps, and installing waterless urinals and a 10-kilowatt photovoltaic system have all contributed to Guthega Inn's outstanding performance.

Corroboree Lodge has worked equally hard to make improvements in their resource efficiency. Regularly checking and replacing washers in taps and cisterns and introducing sensor switches for lights have helped the lodge reduce their water and energy usage per visitor night by 41% and 28% respectively, far exceeding the PRREMS targets.

Mirrabooka Ski Club was the winner of the club lodge resource efficiency award.

The PRREMS Operational Committee would like to congratulate all the lodges on their achievements. The winners were presented with certificates and prizes, including 'Wayne the Wombat' by NPWS on behalf of the committee. Other accommodation providers who

# Perisher Range Resorts

were highly commended for outstanding results in resource efficiency included:

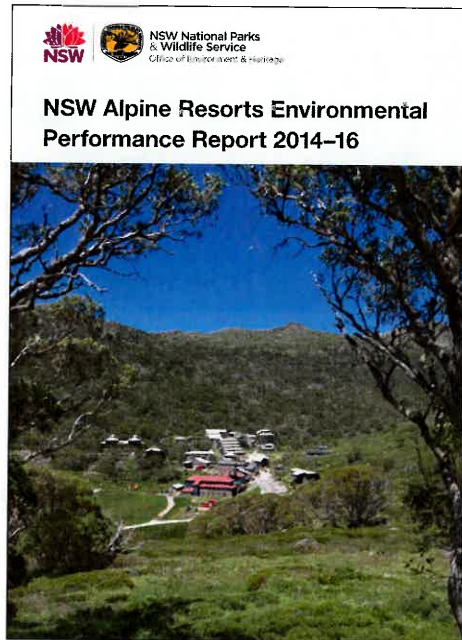
- Peer Gynt
- Smiggins Chalet
- Altitude
- Sundeck Hotel
- Alexandra Ski Club
- Beachcombers Alpine Retreat
- Blue Cow Ski Club
- Kosciuszko Alpine Club (Alpenhof)
- Lampada Ski Club
- Kunapipi Ski Club
- Perisher Huette
- Rugby Ski Club
- Gunuma Ski Club
- Snowy River Ski Club (Doorak)
- Maranatha Lodge
- Edelweiss Ski Club.



Above: Conrad Sinclair, Mirrabooka Ski Club.  
Below: Nick and Jenny Kennedy, Guthega Inn.  
(Photos: Virginia Logan/OEH)



## Environmental performance report



The *NSW Alpine Resorts Environmental Performance Report 2014-16* is now available for download on the OEH website, at [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/alpineresorts/NSWARER.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/alpineresorts/NSWARER.htm).

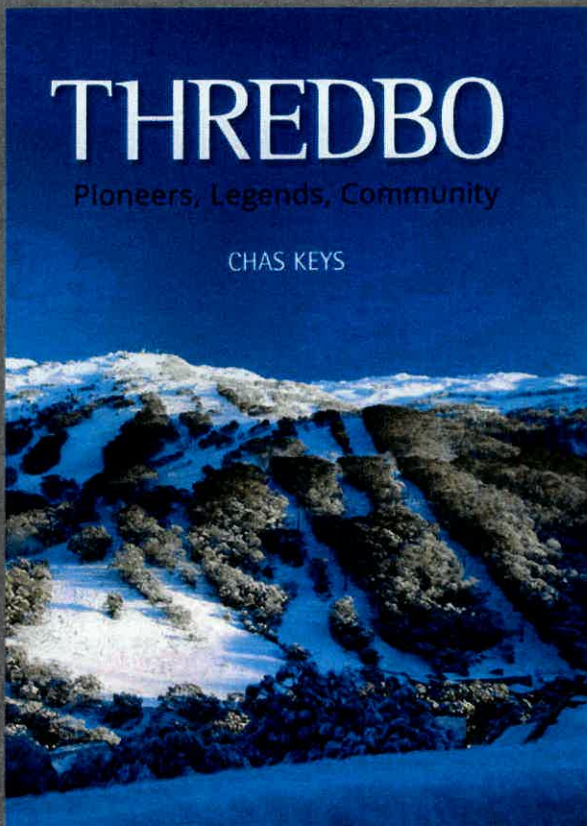
The Report summarises the efforts of Alpine resort operators to manage their environmental impacts while providing sustainable tourism destinations.

The Alpine resort areas are unique winter snow-sport destinations and summer mountain retreats, attracting over 1.2 million visitors a year. They also contain Alpine streams, threatened species and endangered ecological communities. NPWS works collaboratively with resort operators to monitor and maintain the natural and cultural values in these important recreational areas.

Some of the more significant achievements over the two-year period include:

- up to 16,710 native plants used in rehabilitation and habitat restoration works
- demonstrated improvements in water quality health
- a 60% increase in the Blue Cow mountain pygmy-possum population numbers
- bio-solid waste from the sewage treatment plants used on a rehabilitation project
- food waste diverted from landfill and composted for future use in rehabilitation projects
- a 37% decrease in hydrocarbon spill incidents from over-snow and grooming machines
- extensive works to offset ski slope development including eight wildlife crossings.

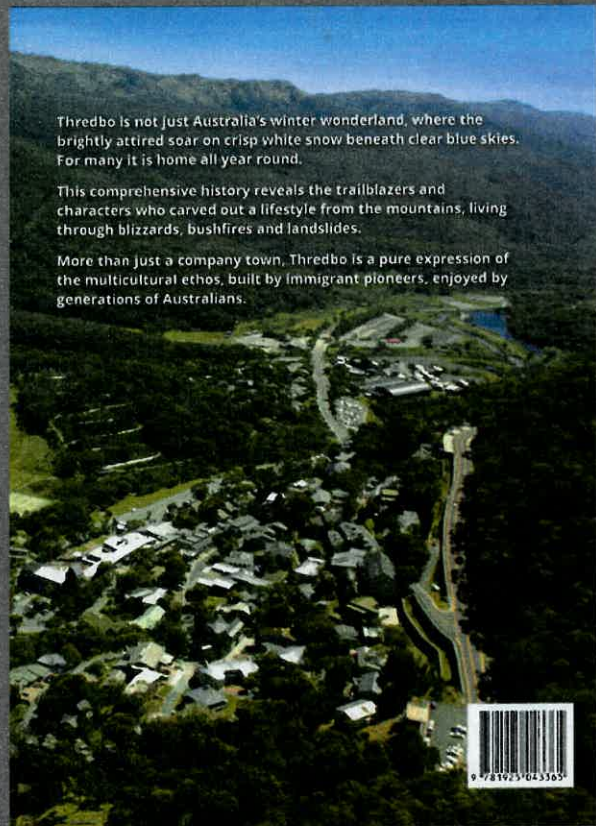




Front cover of *Thredbo: Pioneers, Legends, Community*.

Thredbo Historical Society is proud to announce the release of their new history book, *Thredbo: Pioneers, Legends, Community*. Written by Chas Keys and full of wonderful photographs, the book examines the people and community groups that have built Thredbo over the past six decades. The book is part of Thredbo's 60th anniversary commemoration and celebration.

Many people have participated in the development of Thredbo and have become integral parts of its story. More than 20 of these individuals, pioneers and legends who played particularly significant roles, are covered in detail in Part 1 of the book. The book pays tribute to resort founders Tony Sponar, Geoffrey Hughes and Charles Anton and many who came later, including early lodge builders Sasha and Karel Nekvapil, Suzanne and Kornel Deseo, and Bill Bursill. Others celebrated in the book include legendary ski instructor Leonhard Erharter, lodge designer and builder Bela Racsko, early Kosciuszko Thredbo chairman and founder of Lend Lease, Dick Dusseldorp; current residents Cees and Ann Koeman and village elder statesman and Olympian, Frank Prihoda.



Back cover of *Thredbo: Pioneers, Legends, Community*.

Part 2 focuses on community groups that have contributed to Thredbo's development including Ski Patrol, Ski Racing Club, Fire Brigade, the chapel and community centre, Disabled Winter Sport Australia, Thredbo Chamber of Commerce, Thredbo Historical Society, and the company Kosciuszko Thredbo, which has overseen the growth of the village and the resort. The roles of NPWS and Snowy Hydro are also presented along with club lodges and changing ski fashion.

The book can be purchased across the Snowy Mountains region at:

- visitor centres managed by NPWS, Snowy Monaro Shire Council and Snowy Hydro
- bookshops and newsagencies
- Thredbo Alpine Museum.

For more information visit the Thredbo Historical Society website [www.thredboskimuseum.com](http://www.thredboskimuseum.com).

## No smoking in national parks

The 'No smoking in national parks' ban does not include resort areas in Kosciuszko.

On 1 May 2016, the 'No smoking in national parks' rule came into effect under the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2009. The rule is consistent with the trend to reduce smoking in public places across NSW, including areas managed by local councils. Motivations behind the ban include the health hazards of passive smoking and the damage caused by cigarette butts as a major item of litter, increasing bushfire risk, harm to wildlife and chemical pollution of soils and waterways.

An exemption is in place for the Alpine resorts of Thredbo, Charlotte Pass, Perisher Range, Selwyn, Ski Rider Hotel and Kosciuszko Tourist Park. However, anyone smoking in these areas must still abide by the *Smoke-Free Environment Act 2000* that applies near children's play equipment, public swimming pools, sports grounds, public transport stops, outdoor dining areas and within 4 metres of the entrance to a public building. In addition, resort operators may apply their own localised bans such as no smoking on chairlifts and T-bars.

The no smoking ban applies to park roads, but does not apply to roads owned or managed by Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) or council roads. Drivers are also reminded that it is an offence under the *Public Health Act (Tobacco) 2008* for anyone to smoke in a vehicle with a child under 16 years of age.

For more information visit [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/safety/no-smoking-in-national-parks](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/safety/no-smoking-in-national-parks).



## Drones in Kosciuszko



Drones are more formally known as unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) or unmanned aircraft systems (UASes). (Photo: Mark Hamilton/OEH)

With the rapid increase in the number of people using drones it is important to understand the responsibilities that come with their use. Australia's Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) classifies drones as aircraft and therefore, in accordance with the Kosciuszko National Park Plan of Management they can only be operated in the Park for commercial and management purposes. Recreational drone use is restricted for reasons of safety, operational risk and to minimise disturbance to other visitors.

Anyone wanting to use a drone for commercial reasons in Kosciuszko National Park (KNP) must have:

- Written consent from the local NPWS Area Manager.
- A NPWS filming licence (fees apply) - if filming or taking photographs, unless the work is being conducted by or on behalf of the resort operator in a resort lease or licence area.
- The resort operator's approval for use of a drone in a resort lease/licence area.
- Appropriate CASA certificates/licences and permits as a commercial user and/or exemptions if the applicant is proposing to fly above 120 metres, at night, over a populous area and within 5.5 kilometres of a landing strip or helicopter landing site (Thredbo and Perisher both have registered helicopter landing sites).
- \$20 million public liability insurance.

For further information contact the Resorts Environmental Liaison Officer on 02 6450 5616 or refer to the NPWS drones in parks policy [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/parks-reserves-and-protected-areas/park-policies/drones-in-parks](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/parks-reserves-and-protected-areas/park-policies/drones-in-parks).