



Issue 45
Winter 2023

Read our

Resort Round-up

A newsletter for the
resorts community of
Kosciuszko National Park

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ISSN 1837-6878
EHG 2023/0257
June 2023



Walk across the roof of Australia

Snowies Alpine Walk Update



Charlotte Pass to Guthega. Photo: A Cahill/EES

The Snowies Alpine Walk (formerly known as the Snowies Iconic Walk) is a major walking track project in Kosciuszko National Park. Track construction commenced in 2019 and is scheduled to be finalised by late 2023. The Snowies Alpine Walk is a 55 kilometre (km) 4-day walk which expands on the existing walking track network across the park's spectacular alpine and sub-alpine areas. This walk will link the resorts of Charlotte Pass, Guthega, Perisher and the historic Bullocks Flat.

- **Day 1** Guthega to Charlotte Pass (9 km)
- **Day 2** Charlotte Pass to Charlotte Pass via Main Range (22 km)
- **Day 3** Charlotte Pass to Perisher Village (13 km)
- **Day 4** Perisher Village to Bullocks Flat (11 km)

Guthega to Charlotte Pass

The construction of this new section of the Snowies Alpine Walk from Illawong Hut to Charlotte Pass is now complete, and the renewal works on the existing section of Illawong Walk between Guthega and Illawong Hut were completed in March 2022. The Guthega to Charlotte Pass section was officially opened by the NSW Environment Minister James Griffin on 5 June 2022.

This unique walk runs parallel to the Snowy River from Guthega to Charlotte Pass (or vice versa). Walkers can walk one-way (9km) and organise to be picked up at the other end or they can walk it return (18km). Ask at the Snowy Region Visitor Centre or information kiosk if you require transport services to complete your chosen walk.

This section of the Snowies Alpine Walk includes experiencing the new Spencers Creek suspension bridge

- Australia's highest suspension bridge at an elevation of 1640m above sea level.

Charlotte Pass to Perisher

Construction of the Charlotte Pass to Perisher section of the walk commenced in 2020 and was opened in April 2023. This section of track links Charlotte Pass and Perisher Village via the existing Porcupine Walk.

This walk provides spectacular views of the Thredbo Valley and Bullocks Flat as well as extensive views of the Main Range.

Upgrades to the existing Porcupine Walk, funded by Kosciuszko National Park visitor use fees, have also been completed.

Perisher to Bullocks Flat

As part of the Australian and NSW Government's Regional Recovery Partnerships program announced in June 2021, the Snowies Alpine Walk project received an additional \$10 million in funding to deliver a 11.4 kilometre walking track between Perisher Valley and Bullocks Flat.

Construction on this section commenced in 2022 and will be open to walkers after Winter 2023.

The final track alignment has been fine-tuned using ground-truthing to ensure that any potential impacts on identified natural and cultural features along the route are minimised. Whilst the expected snow load for this new section will be lighter than on alpine tracks, the steep terrain through dense vegetation, coupled with a 700m vertical descent will provide plenty of challenges for track construction teams.

Snowies Alpine Walk – Charlotte Pass to Perisher



Charlotte Pass to Perisher Valley. Photo: A Cahill/EES

One Tonne of rubbish removed from Perisher Valley

Article by Beth Davies, Perisher Ski Resort

The annual Perisher Clean Up Day was held in November 2022, with staff from Perisher Ski Resort and National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) working together to pick up more than a tonne of rubbish from the Resort area and surrounds. Waste collected included 50kg of scrap steel and wood, 250kg of recyclable materials and over 800kg of rubbish.

The rubbish collected included masks, plastic bottles and food wrappers. Whilst some of this litter may be accidentally dropped by visitors during the winter, unfortunately some items are intentionally left, such as nappies.

The clean-up involved around 85 Perisher staff and 15 NPWS staff, who scoured the slopes, creeks and roadsides across Perisher Valley, Smiggin Holes and Blue Cow. The outcome is a cleaner, healthier environment within this iconic location.

We want to thank everyone involved in the Clean Up Day which greatly improved the resort environment.



Around 100 people were involved in the annual Perisher Clean Up Day. Photo: B Davies/Perisher Ski Resort



Perisher Skitube staff ready to start collecting rubbish in the annual Perisher Clean Up Day. Photo: Perisher Ski Resort

A tribute to Frantisek (Frank) Přihoda

Article by Jerry Krejzar, Thredbo Historical Society

Frantisek (Frank) Přihoda was born on July 8, 1921 in Prague, Czechoslovakia, a companion to his sister Sasha, who was several years older. His skiing life was extraordinary, first as a boy in the Krkonose Mountains (Giant Mountains) of his former homeland, then known as Czechoslovakia, where he continued to ski even under the Nazi and Communist regimes. Then, in 1949, he made an amazing escape from the communists' clutches on cross-country skis with his brother-in-law Karel Nekvapil and Tony Sponar, to St Anton.

It was towards the end of 1948 when the four Czechs escaped the imminent totalitarian grasp of communism that was enveloping their homeland. First Sponar, then Přihoda, Nekvapil and Sasha made their way separately to St Anton am Arlberg in the Tyrolean Alps of Austria.

Sponar, the Czech national ski champion, fled Prague just after Christmas in 1948 in a World War II jeep. Nekvapil and Frank Přihoda escaped on cross-country skis, gliding silently across a frozen lake on the Czech-Austrian border. And in the winter of 1949, Sasha slipped off a train at the Swiss station of Zurich-Enge, unbeknown to her team members of the communist Czechoslovakian Ski Federation, who were returning from a race meeting in Grindelwald to Prague. Sasha had always planned to join her brother, husband Karel Nekvapil and Tony Sponar in St Anton in the Arlberg.

To make ends meet, they used the jeep as the engine power for the first ski lift in the neighbouring Arlberg ski village of St Christoph am Arlberg, home of the Bundersportheim training centre for the Austrian Ski Federation.

The yet-to-become Australian Czechs carried Austrian soldiers, who were amputees, up the ski lift that was then situated in the postwar French Occupied Zone. They operated the ski lift until the Easter of 1949, when the Nekvapils travelled to Belgium with Přihoda. Sponar went to Innsbruck to marry his English fiancée, Lizzie, and they all applied to emigrate to Australia.

In 1950, Přihoda settled in Melbourne and set up a furniture business. At 35 years of age, he proudly represented Australia in ski racing at the 1956 Winter Olympics in Cortina, Italy, skiing in the Combined and Slalom ski championship events.

He was an active member of the Victorian Ski Association and organised races in Mount Buller, becoming chairman in 1958. In 1959, the Nekvapils established one of the first commercial lodges in Thredbo, 'Sasha's Lodge', which Přihoda would frequent.

Twenty-seven years later, Přihoda sold his furniture business and, in 1974, moved to Thredbo and opened

Frank's Gifts, a souvenir shop that he ran until his retirement in 2001. He continued to pursue his Aussie skiing life once settled in Thredbo.

Přihoda never missed an opportunity to be involved in the Thredbo community and was an inaugural member of the Thredbo Alpine Museum (formerly known as the Thredbo Historical Society), serving as its vice president. In 2000, his contribution to sport was recognised when he was asked to carry the Olympic Torch in Thredbo, lighting the cauldron on the Village Green.

In recognition of his services to the conservation and preservation of Australia's 163-year-old history of snow sports, Přihoda was appointed a life member of the Thredbo Alpine Museum.

Right up until his death he showed great interest in the objectives of the museum, sharing his wisdom with colleagues. Přihoda was treasurer of the Thredbo Chamber of Commerce and an eager participant in carnival week too, particularly in the Body Painting Competition where he was a local high-light, embracing whatever persona he was artfully painted as.

Before moving to Melbourne in late 2021, Přihoda was Thredbo's oldest resident – and the nation's oldest living Olympian. In his centenary year, he was awarded the *Gratias Agit* by the Czech Republic embassy's head of mission, Tomas Dub, for the promotion of the good name of the Czech Republic abroad, which is granted to prominent persons who develop activities in non-governmental fields.

Kosciuszko Thredbo Pty Ltd recognised Přihoda's significant contribution to Thredbo's cultural and historical life and his support to the community, given with wisdom, humour and good will. The company organised Přihoda's 100th birthday celebration. That night, the master of ceremonies – two-time Winter Olympian Jono Brauer – and Thredbo general manager Stuart Diver spoke of the immense contribution Přihoda had made to the fabric of the Thredbo community, and in his honour proclaimed the ski-run 'Frank's Face'. Its position on the west side of 'Karels', alongside 'Sasha's Schuss', places the family together at a high altitude, up on Crackenback.

Snow Australia director, winter Olympian and fellow Thredbo local Kim Clifford also presented the Snow Australia Medal to Přihoda, which recognises the achievements and careers of past and retiring athletes who have represented Australia at the highest level of snow sport competition.

A new book to add to your collection

An Australian private ski club history first

One of the earliest ski club lodges to open in Perisher Valley in 1962 was built by Dulmison Ski Club Limited. The club's unique 60 year history has been captured in a recent publication '**Provenance in the Snowfields**'.

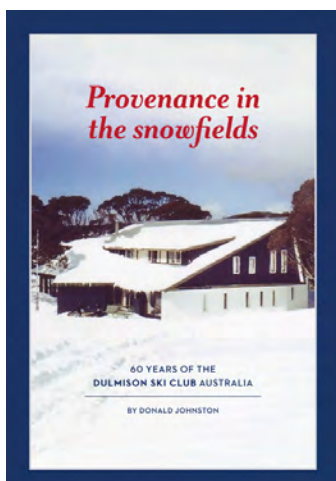
In January 2023 their publication was recognised by the International Skiing History Association of the USA (ISHA) being the recipient of ISHA's 2023 annual Skade Award, for an outstanding regional ski history publication. In this, their 30th year of annual award presentations, ISHA presented for the first time the Skade Award for a publication capturing the comprehensive history of an Australian private ski club.

Provenance in the Snowfields offers members and friends of Dulmison Ski Club as well as ski history aficionados a detailed insight into the Club's past history, its contemporary ethos and its enduring club spirit.

The publication, available through their ski club website, is contextually set within the history of the respective resorts that often influenced club decisions and members' snowfields experiences. Stories of its adaptable administration, of members' significant contributions and of lodge management challenges across three sequential lodges in the alpine environment are all captured in depth, supported by numerous historic photographs, personal memoirs and club memorabilia.

Authored by Donald Johnston, Ski Lodge Historian and committee member of the Perisher Historical Society (PHS), it is Donald's second Skade Award. As author of the Perisher Historical Society's 2020 publication *Hotel Kosciusko- The history and legacy of Australia's first planned alpine resort*, Donald, was not the first PHS committee member to be recognised by ISHA.

That honour goes to the PHS's current President, Peter Southwell-Keely, being the first Australian Ski Historian to receive the Skade Award in 2013 for the PHS's acclaimed publication '**Highway to Heaven**'. Copies of the two publications can be obtained through [PHS](#).



Vale – Frantisek (Frank) Prihoda 1921–2022



Frank Prihoda outside the Thredbo Alpine Museum.
Photo: C Webb/Thredbo Historical Society

It is with sadness that we report the passing of Frank Prihoda at the age of 101 years, on 9 November 2022 in Melbourne. His funeral was held on 21 November at Springvale Cemetery. On behalf of the Thredbo Alpine Museum (TAM) members, TAM wish to express its deepest sympathy and condolences to Frank's family.

On the day of Frank's funeral a report clip by Lukas Landa was shown on CT1 (the Czech National broadcast channel) at around 9pm on the nightly Reportaz show, to honour Frank.

It's a 12 minute Facebook [clip](#) excerpted from the 30 minute program:- (sorry, it is in Czech).

The footage was taken around the time of the commencement of the pandemic, as 'Czech Footsteps in Thredbo' was no longer an option, and was not to go ahead. Lukas interviewed Frank instead and included footage from Thredbo Resort and TAM and saved it for the occasion.

Reveg success

Leichhardt Chairlift revegetation project a success – four years and 10,000 plants later . . .



Leichhardt Chairlift revegetation January 2020 (L) and January 2023 (R). Photos: T Bishop/Perisher Ski Resort

Perisher's Environment team is proud to showcase the successful rehabilitation of the land underneath the Leichhardt Quad Chairlift, which was disturbed when the new chairlift was constructed in 2019.

'Perisher is committed to the rehabilitation of sites we disturb and the visibility of this site from the main road into the resort lets us showcase our good work for all to see,' said Belinda Trembath, former VP + GM Perisher. 'The Environment team has done a tremendous job and shown our long-game approach to environmental management, reinforcing our value to 'Do Good' applied to the context of our natural environment.'

'We're really pleased with the results of this long-term project that so far has involved the planting of 10,000 native plants such as grevillea, mint bush and native grasses, over four summers,' Perisher's Environment Manager Tanya Bishop said.

The chosen plants are all native to Perisher Valley and were propagated by local nurseries from seed collected in the Perisher resort area, returning to their original home once they had grown into seedlings.

'The work reconnects the habitat on either side of the corridor disturbed by construction and is important for

insects and threatened animals, such as the skinks and rats who have made their home here,' Tanya said.

Some of the challenges in the four-year-long project included access to the site and planting half-way up a ski run, which made it labour intensive and difficult to haul plants, mulch and weed mat up and down the hill.

Stabilising the site and getting the drainage right was also an issue, particularly over the past two years when there has been a lot of water moving through the site caused by excessive rain.

'It's rewarding to drive around and see the success at the Leichhardt Chairlift site,' Tanya said. 'It can be heartbreaking to see efforts not work as well in some cases, but you can really see where the work has gone to re-establish plants here and the past two wet summers have also helped.'

Another 4,000 plants will be planted this summer around various areas of Perisher to maintain rehabilitation sites and the Environment team thank all the individuals and Perisher teams who have assisted with planting on the mountain.

For more information or interview requests, please contact the Perisher media team on 0484 763 069.

Did you know...?

Mountain Bike Trails: Best Practice in Very Wet Conditions

Spring in the mountains in 2022 was wet. The average rainfall totals of 150mm/month were doubled for both October and November, with nearly 700mm falling in the Thredbo Valley during this time. All that rain has to go somewhere, and if the soils are already saturated, it flows across the land, following tracks and trails and causing erosion channels. The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) mountain bike trails, such as the Thredbo Valley Track (TVT), remained closed to riders until late in November, and even then, the trail remained wet in many places. Wet trails are far more susceptible to erosion and soil displacement than dry soil trails and an eroding trail is not a sustainable trail.

What should you do?

You've booked your campsite, you have taken time off work, packed the car and headed off to your Thredbo

Diggings campsite...only to find its been raining for the whole week before you arrived and the trails are saturated or even worse...closed. You know you shouldn't ride, but it's still tempting. 'Maybe it's not that wet...surely you won't do that much damage'...

The reality is, riding while the trail is wet is the most destructive thing riders can do to a trail. It causes rutting, widening, braiding, incision, sedimentation, and erosion, all leading to a degraded trail that is not much fun to ride. The best management tool available to mountain bike trail operators, including NPWS, is closing the trail to riders while its wet. So, if you see a closed sign, please do the right thing and stay off the trail, as the sustainability of mountain bike trails depends on it.



Damaged caused to the Thredbo Valley Track (TVT) by trail braiding, widening and rutting caused by riders avoiding a wet area. The trail was still officially closed; however riders had been using it anyway Photo: M Battishall/EES

Alec Costin

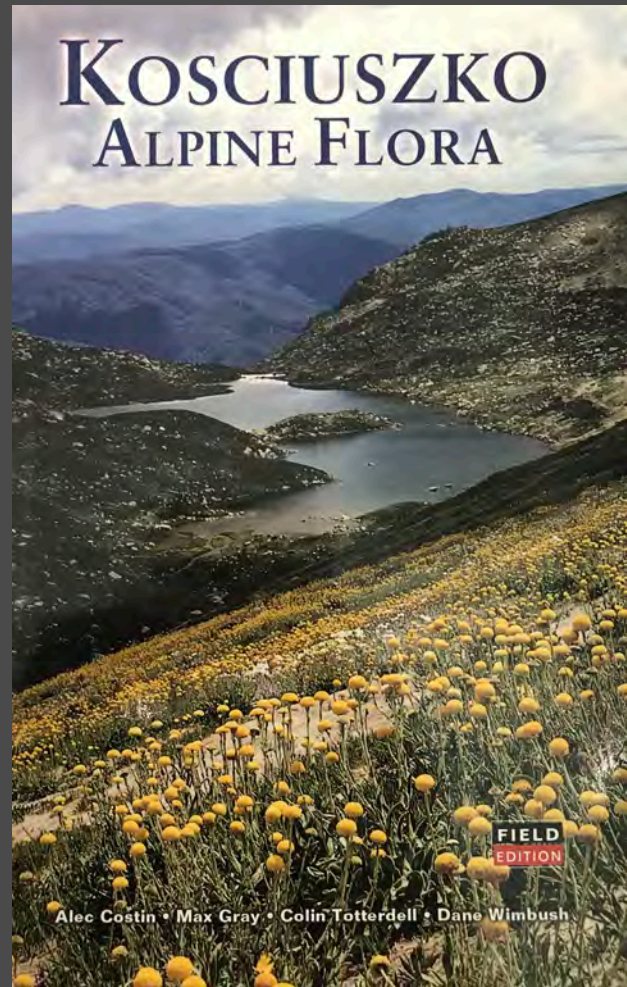


Alec Costin and Marion Battishall. Photo: S Battishall

On a cold and blustery day atop a high-altitude ridgeline, I leant into the wind, clutching my favourite book to my chest, and continued the search. I was looking for a tiny grass, rare and largely unknown and the book I was holding was my treasured copy of **Kosciuszko Alpine Flora**, a book that always finds its way into my backpack anytime I head out into the Australian Alpine.

One of the main contributors and authors of this seminal guide to Australian Alpine Flora is Dr Alec Costin. Alec has inspired generations of alpine ecologists to study and understand the unique Alpine environments, me being one of them. Sadly, Dr Costin passed away on 22nd August 2022. His legacy will remain however, in the form of one of Australia's greatest natural treasures, Kosciuszko National Park.

Born in Sydney in 1921, Alec grew up with a keen interest in the natural world. He studied biology at the University of Sydney and went on



Front cover of 'Kosciuszko Alpine Flora'

to complete a PhD in botany. Alec spent most of his career studying the flora and fauna of the Australian Alps. In the 1950s, Alec Costin began a long-term study of the alpine regions of Australia. Alec's research on soils, hydrology and vegetation were ground-breaking and were critical for the protection and conservation of the Australian Alps. He successfully lobbied politicians, government departments and research institutions to protect the Alps, convincing them that our Mountain catchments were more valuable for water catchments than for livestock grazing.

If it were not for pioneers like Dr Alec Costin, our amazing and diverse alpine environments would not be the biodiversity hotspots that they are today. In remembering Dr Alec Costin a quote from Dr Suess 'The Lorax' seems fitting, 'Unless Someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not'. Thank goodness Dr Alec Costin cared a whole awful lot!

Historic hut rebuild



Volunteers and NPWS work together to complete Delany's Hut. Photo: M Bowden/EES



Challenging weather conditions including hail was encountered during the rebuild of the Delany's and Vickery's Huts. Photo: M Bowden/EES
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Teamwork

Rebuilding of Delany's and Vickery's Huts is underway



Paul Delany and volunteers installing weatherboards to Delany's Hut. Photo: M Bowden/EES

Article by Megan Bowden, NPWS Project Officer

The rebuilding of Delany's and Vickery's huts is underway, while the last coats of fire-retardant paint were being applied to Sawyers Hill Rest House. These huts are the first of 11 historic huts damaged during the 2019-20 summer bushfires that will be rebuilt in Kosciuszko National Park huts by National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) assisted by volunteers from the Kosciuszko Huts Association (KHA) and families associated with the huts.

After some challenging mountain weather with rain, hail and snow, the opening of Sawyers Rest House and Delany's hut will be held early April.

Whilst working on the huts the crews have had lots of interested people dropping in to check on progress; often recounting their stories of visiting the original huts.

The original Delany's Hut was built in about 1910 by James (Jim) Thomas Delany of Adaminaby. The sawn timber frame hut was clad with Alpine Ash weatherboards and a corrugated iron roof. The timber for the hut came from the mill on Connors Hill operated by Stuart Kelly (Kelly's Alpine Mill). The Delany's had the Rocky Plain lease of 2,900 acres and grazed cattle here in the summer months till 1935. The lease was then taken over by Billy Chalker. Tom Bolton, the Kiandra

mailman, often left his horse here and went on to Kiandra over the snow using snowshoes.

Delany's hut was often visited/used by people travelling along the now Snowy Mountains Highway. The hut was burnt in the 2003 bushfires, was rebuilt in 2008 and burnt again in the 2019-20 bushfires. Timber for the current rebuilding program has been milled from burnt trees that were fallen during roadside risk reduction programs following the bushfires. It adds to the evolving story of this place, with some of the timbers requiring specialist milling to get the splayed boards just right for Delany's hut. It is great to have Paul Delaney working with NPWS officers on the rebuild. Paul is related to the Delany's and has also worked on Mawson's Hut in Antarctica. Paul helped rebuild the hut after the 2003 bushfires along with making the windows at Sawyers.

Planning is underway for rebuilding Harvey's, Four Mile, Happy's, Brooks, Round Mountain, Bradley/O'Brien's and Fifteen Mile Ridge Linesman's No 3 huts. All works are planned to be completed by 2026.

Descendants and others with photographs and other historic records of these huts, or those interested in volunteering to help rebuild these huts, are encouraged to contact NPWS by [email](#) or phone 02 6947 7000.

Prefabricating huts



NPWS officers Roger Rosenboom and Peter Dow prefabricating Vickery's hut before being dismantled and reassembled on site.
Photo: M Bowden/EES

Summer news from Thredbo

Thredbo Alpine Resort update

Article by Andy Mudge, Environmental Coordinator, Kosciuszko Thredbo

Winter 2022 saw the return of pre-Covid levels of visitation to the resort. This positive change from the last few years was welcome, however Thredbo still experienced staffing shortages in-line with tourism destinations across Australia.

Strong natural snowfall totals and improvements to lower-mountain snowmaking ensured that Winter 2022 was a season to remember. Thredbo's events and entertainment calendar was its biggest and best yet with a huge line-up of Australia's best music acts playing, special on-mountain experiences, on-snow competitions and lots more.

Thredbo hosted our annual Environment Week in July 2022 making the most of peak winter visitation to engage both guests and staff in environmental issues specific to the snowsports industry in Australia. Throughout the week Thredbo partnered with NPWS, EarthCheck, Greenfleet, and Green Caffein to host events and activities. Huw Kingston helped launch the week with his stories as an adventure and environmentalist whilst on his way to begin his epic ski and bike tour of the Australian Alps - the Alpine Odyssey.

During October and November preparations for Thredbo's summer of mountain biking began in earnest. Track maintenance and construction was undertaken with regard to local plant communities and planning requirements. The new Grasshopper and Paparazzi MTB trails had to be finished and processes for revegetation and hardening undertaken before any bikes could gain access. Additionally the Cruiser chairlift has been a new opening for summer MTB operations. This allows access to beginner trails to broaden the appeal for mountain

biking in Thredbo, and allows for each rider to have an increased amount of space on the mountain.

Thredbo staff undertook a tree-planting day in November 2022, in collaboration with local non-profit Keep It Cool. A part of their target to re-wild the Snowy Mountains, Keep It Cool help facilitate this planting day annually. Kids were encouraged to get in on the action in the School Holidays, with the Kids Tree Planting events taking place in Thredbo underneath the Merritts Gondola. Again, a number of native species suitable for the climate of Kosciuszko National Park were selected by the Thredbo team, with education and fun-in-nature part of the overall goal.

Upgrades to facilities around the village and on the mountain continued in earnest throughout the summer. Most visibly is the continuation of snowmaking pipeline upgrades up the Sundowner ski run. Another major project is the replacement of water and sewerage lines to the Merritts Mountain House, a necessary first step in the process of further refurbishments.

The iconic 28th Annual Thredbo Blues Festival was held in January 2023, a weekend-long celebration of blues music set against the stunning mountain backdrop. February played host to the return of the Taste of the Snowies - a food and drink festival celebrating local producers across the Snowy Mountains.

At the time of writing, the AusCycling MTB National Championships are well underway in Thredbo. This year the National Champs are linking with Thredbo's famous Cannonball MTB Festival to create over 10 days of competition, with a packed schedule drawing visitors to the region from across Australia.



Phoebe Pan is ready to plant. Photo: Thredbo Resort



Re-wilding the Snowies. Photo: Thredbo Resort

History

Disappearing buildings

Article by the Perisher Historical Society

Over 100 years ago there were several structures on the Perisher range that no longer exist today. Historian Peter Southwell-Keely from the Perisher Historical Society has put together some fascinating facts about these buildings, and the historic photographs give an insight into the conditions faced by pioneering explorers, graziers and skiers.

Rawson's Pass Shelter Hut

Rawson's Pass Shelter Hut was one of three built in 1908 for tourists along the Lakes Walk, the others being at Lake Albina (Moraine Pass) and Blue Lake. They were described as 'little shelter sheds of native granite with wooden windows and doors' and had dirt floors. The Rawson's Pass and Blue Lake shelters lasted until at least 1937, whereas the Moraine Pass shelter lasted only a few years.



Rawson's Pass Shelter Hut.

Old Betts Camp

Old Betts Camp was built by the NSW Government in 1898 for tourists going to the summit of Mt Kosciuszko. It was on the old Kosciuszko Road and was the only shelter between Jindabyne and the summit, and was

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situated just below the ridge of the Crackenback Range.



Old Betts Camp.

New Betts Camp

The NSW Government built new Betts Camp in 1907 to replace old Betts Camp. New Betts Camp was on the new Kosciuszko Road, about 2 km north of old Betts Camp. It was originally built for workers constructing the new Kosciuszko Road but later became overflow accommodation for skiers unable to get into the Chalet. It was demolished by the government in 1963.



New Betts Camp.

More information

Read about these and other [disappearing buildings](#) on the Perisher Historical Society website.

Perisher Historical Society membership

We encourage anyone interested in the history of the Perisher range to [join the society](#) and support our work to research and document the history of this unique alpine area.



Meet the man

Who is Ken Green?



After finding the Anemone Buttercup in flower above Hedley Tarn, it's all smiles for Amy Slocombe. Photo: A Slocombe/EES

Huffing and puffing I try to keep up with the lean, white-haired figure ahead of me. His long, confident strides carry him seemingly effortlessly over the dense heath adorning the slopes above the Snowy River, as we head cross country toward Blue Lake, not a walking path or established track in sight. I scurry along behind the gentleman, noting his faded Berghaus backpack and weathered gaiters; testament no doubt to the countless days he has spent roaming the Main Range of the Kosciuszko National Park, and most likely much further beyond.

Suddenly we stop. I note the fragrance of native mint filling air as I catch my breath. The man in front of me stoops low over a small purple flower with thin petals. He produces a camera and takes a photograph. 'This plant was not in flower 2 weeks ago' he tells me. He makes a note. One more record to add to the thousands upon thousands of records he has collected over the past 17 years.

Backtrack a few months. I'm in the NPWS Office in Jindabyne. An email pops up on my computer. It's from a man called Ken Green, and the subject title is 'What's in Flower'. I scroll down, my eyes scanning the long the list of alpine species recorded as flowering at that very point in time, accompanied by some interesting observations about march flies and bogong moth numbers. It wasn't the first time I'd seen such an email. They had been popping into my inbox with meticulous regularity over the past few months since I was fortunately added to his recipient list.

'Who IS Ken Green?' I asked myself. I decided to find out.

Back on the Main Range we roam gradually upwards. Ken points out a ploughing boulder. 'A what?' I ask. A ploughing boulder, a huge rock, very slowly ploughing its way down the hill. He shows me how the soil is being pushed up in front of the boulder, leaving a groove behind. Ken published a paper on ploughing boulders two years ago.

I glance at my Garmin watch. We are 1.56km into our walk, and Ken tells me he's already recorded 20 species of native plants in flower. 'They are all in my head' he says. 'I'll look them up in the book when I get home, for the email'. For although Ken knows virtually all the plants up there on the range, a stroke 6 years ago has deprived him of the ability to easily recall their individual names. 'This one is on the second last page of the book'. The 'book', of course, is the alpine plant bible, Alec Costin's 'Kosciuszko Alpine Flora'.

We walk on. Ken relates a story from his camping trip the previous weekend, when he was out collecting bogong moths for 'Eric in Sweden', who is studying how they migrate. Around 200 moths were captured and flown to a University in Sweden, where their powers of navigation were assessed and interrogated. 'Did you know that bogong moths have four different methods of navigation?' I certainly didn't, nor was I aware they can have the ability to switch their internal GPS on and off every couple of minutes to save energy while they fly. Fascinating!

2.21km and we are up to 25 species. We're on a north facing slope and the flowers here pop out earlier as the sun warms the earth. Ken knows exactly where to find his plants. Which nook, cranny, bog or boulder. We search around one such boulder on the edge of Hedley Tarn, and sure enough there it is. A stunning white-petalled buttercup, 'the Buramys of the plant world' Ken says with a smile. He's not the only one with a smile.

A while later Ken locates an alpine sundew beside a creek full of snow melt in a wet area exactly where he predicted it would be #30.

But I digress. It's easy to do. Back to my original question. Who IS Ken Green?

I'm at my desk, headphones on, madly typing down the life and times as recalled by Ken down the phone line. He's from South Australia, the flattest and driest state in our country. He has a degree in Applied Science from what is now known as Canberra University, during which time he started and quickly fell in love with back country skiing. With a preference to 'keep learning rather than get a job', Ken started a PhD on the wildlife of the Australian snow country, which he considered an excellent disguise for 'hanging around the mountains and getting in as much back country skiing as I could!'. But when his studies were stalled by a terrible snow year (1982) he beat 120 applicants to score a 3-year research position with Australia's Antarctic Division, looking at the diet of seals and penguins. Back home to finish the PhD, then back to Antarctica for a few more years - Ken did 7 trips in total - he then landed a dream job in 1997 with the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, as an alpine zoologist as part of a specialised ecology team. With NPWS he worked on fox diet and control methods, studied the arrival times of migratory birds, butterflies and bogong moths, conducted corroboree frog research and

Dr Ken Green

conservation efforts, organised the Biodiversity Blitz in 2002, and established the Australian Institute of Alpine Studies while also firefighting and participating in search and rescue, particularly in winter.

When the decision was made to relocate this team to Queanbeyan, Ken refused to go, not wanting to leave his alpine home. So he remained, and morphed into a broader alpine ecologist, a role he held until retirement in late 2016. With the resident Botanist now out of the Jindabyne Office, Ken quickly became the 'go to' for anyone and everyone wanting to know things about plants. 'What plant is this?' they would ask him. And so he decided to learn, and the seeds for 'What's in Flower' were sown. Seldom in the office, Ken walked the mountains daily, studying the plants, their forms, their habits, and their flowering patterns. Diligently recording

his observations, he quickly became an expert, and produced fortnightly reports for the Visitor's Centre sharing his 'What's in Flower' with visitors and residents alike.

When you walk or ski in the mountains daily, with such passion for the alpine environment and its fascinating and complex ecology, the word 'retirement' means very little. While officially 'retired', Ken is still out there every single week; sometimes more, diligently recording his observations of the plants and 'anything else interesting', adding to the incredible bank of knowledge that is not only meticulously stored inside his brain, but that which is shared with so many people via a fortnightly email; the very same email that piqued my interest all those months ago. 'What's in Flower' by Ken Green.



Dr Ken Green identifying a flower. Photo: A Slocombe/EES

Project complete

That's a wrap – time to celebrate and enjoy!

By Barbara Webster, Community Engagement Officer, Department of Planning and Environment

The spectacular Thredbo Valley Track extension is now complete, with the final 1.5 kilometres of new mountain bike track open in Kosciuszko National Park, providing almost 40 kilometres of world-class mountain bike track from Thredbo village to the Thredbo River picnic area.

The completion of the track was announced in early December by NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) Area Manager Anthony Evans, who said the extension was possible through a \$9.8 million NSW Government investment and would help boost summer visitation to the popular alpine region and support the local ecotourism economy.

'Completion of this final section provides improved access for walkers and fishers who can enjoy views of the scenic Thredbo River spanning 300 metres from an engineered, elevated platform near the picnic area,' Mr Evans said.

'This is just one of the spectacular features of the

completed Thredbo Valley Track, which offers mountain-biking enthusiasts 37.5 kilometres of trails through stunning sub-alpine landscapes,' he said.

'This track features beginner-friendly stretches as well as technical and challenging options for more advanced mountain-bike riders.'

'This new track capitalises on the role of national parks in driving regional tourism, and the growing mountain bike tourism market.'

'Although many people associate Thredbo with snow, this track is going to drive summer visitation, supporting a stable, year-round tourism industry.'

The Thredbo Valley Track will also connect with the proposed Lake Jindabyne Shared Trail Project, providing a significant link in the trail from Jindabyne to Creel Bay.

The Thredbo Valley Track was funded by the Regional Growth – Environment and Tourism Fund and is part of the NSW Government's historic \$450 million investment in visitor infrastructure for NSW national parks.



Brand new visitor facilities at Thredbo River picnic area. Photo: B Ferguson/EES

Explore



Elevated section near Thredbo River picnic area. Photo: B Ferguson/EES



The track head has maps and information for riders. Photo: B Ferguson/EES
Resort Round-up Winter 2023

NEW EPA COMPOST RULES

**THESE ITEMS ARE NO LONGER ALLOWED
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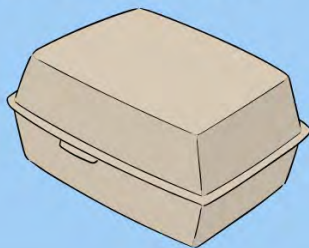
TEA BAGS



TISSUES/NAPKINS



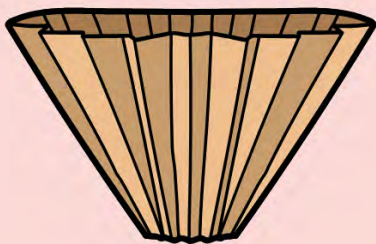
**COMPOSTABLE
PACKAGING**



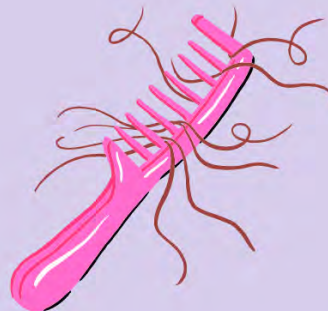
BAMBOO CUTLERY



COFFEE FILTERS



HAIR



PLEASE PLACE IN LANDFILL BIN

Identifying contamination

Hydrocarbon or Iron-Bacteria?



Iron bacteria sheen in Thredbo 2022.
Photo: K O'Sullivan/Thredbo Resort

Article by Krya O'Sullivan, Thredbo Resort

We're all familiar with the tell-tale signs of oil or fuel spills, especially after rain or snowmelt. On a rainy day, carparks and service stations can be littered with oily rainbow sheens from a few small drops of hydrocarbon from leaking vehicles. An almost identical sheen can be found naturally in soil and water and it can be difficult to tell the difference. This sheen is created by iron oxidising bacteria often present in soil and groundwater.

What is it?

Iron bacteria is a chemotrophic bacterium which derives energy by oxidising inorganic materials. In this case soluble iron present in water is oxidised to produce insoluble, ferric iron. This causes the iron to become visible, coating water and soil in rust coloured sediment, slime and a sheen which can be mistaken as a hydrocarbon.

When and where does it occur?

Iron bacteria occurs naturally in soil and groundwater where soluble iron is present. Warm and wet temperatures in the spring and summer activate the existing soil bacteria which break down dissolved organic matter in ground and surface water reducing the

Resort Round-up Winter 2023



Iron bacteria sheen in Thredbo 2022.
Photo: K O'Sullivan/Thredbo Resort

dissolved oxygen content. If combined with stagnation in water flow, this low oxygen, iron rich environment provides the perfect environment for iron bacteria to bloom.

Blooms can occur throughout Kosciuszko National Park and surrounding areas in iron rich soils particularly around standing water and groundwater springs.

Is it harmful to the environment?

No, the bacteria and its by products are not harmful to the environment or waterways.

How can I tell the difference?

An iron bacteria sheen is often mistaken as a hydrocarbon spill. You can tell the difference by disturbing the surface of the sheen with a stick. If the sheen breaks apart into small clumps it is most likely iron bacteria. Hydrocarbon sheens however will remain intact, reforming and moving around the object. You may also note an organic and decaying odour in the iron bacteria.

If you come across a suspicious looking sheen and you're still unsure as to whether the sheen is related to a hydrocarbon spill or natural bacteria it is important to report the sighting to the [NPWS](#).

Historic Sawyers Rest House rebuild finished



Tumut and District Bushwalkers assisted with painting Sawyers Rest House with fire retardant. Photo: EES



Fire resistant strategies were used including wrapping the windowsills with iron and installing sprinklers. Photo: M Bowden/EES

Walking tracks update



Porcupine paving Photo: G Harmer/EES

Upgrade works were completed on several of the most popular walking tracks within Kosciuszko National Park over the 2022-23 summer season. Most of the upgrades to these walking tracks are part of the Improving Access to National Parks (IANP) Program and/or the Visitor Infrastructure and Economic Recovery (VIER) Program. The aim of the IANP Program is to improve accessibility to national parks across NSW by upgrading and renewing poor condition walking tracks and other visitor infrastructure. While the aim of the VIER Program is to upgrade and replace existing visitor infrastructure.

Ten years of upgrade works to the Kosciuszko Walk have now been completed, with over 900m of steel mesh track installed in 2022-23 to replace the final dilapidated sections of the track. Works on the summit of Mount Kosciuszko and the Summit Walk included the installation of a new stone-paved ramp, providing low mobility access to the summit cairn for the first time. Other works included stone paving on the final approach to the summit and the installation of the first sections of new on ground steel mesh. Upgrades to the Summit Walk have been designed with the objective of improving low mobility access to one of Australia's most iconic destinations, and are scheduled to be completed in 2023-24.

Along the Dead Horse Gap walking track, 400m of new stone paving steps were installed, with seven timber platforms replaced, complementing the 300m of track upgrades completed last year. The two-year upgrade of the Porcupine Walk has been completed, with 2.6kms of new gravel, stone paving and steel

mesh walking surfaces installed, including significant realignments to connect to the soon-to-be completed final stage of the Snowies Alpine Walk down to Bullocks Flat. The three-year upgrade of the Illawong walk was also completed, with 2.4kms of new gravel, stone paving and steel mesh walking surfaces installed, including a major realignment to facilitate greater walker exposure to the adjacent Snowy River.

Along the Main Range walk, upgrade works were completed along several sections of track. The traverse above Lake Albina was upgraded with 400m of new stone paving and improved drainage. The Blue Lake Junction milling area has been rebuilt, with significant rehabilitation and native plantings throughout adjacent areas. The track toward Carruthers Saddle was improved with 200m of new stone paving and new drainage infrastructure. New steps, drains and stone paving were also installed at over 100 locations along Mueller's Pass.

2022-23 also saw the completion of two sections of the new Snowies Alpine Walk. Stages 2 - Illawong to Charlotte Pass and Stage 3 - Charlotte Pass to Porcupine Rocks have now been opened to the public and provide access to some of Kosciuszko National Park's most remote and stunning locations. If you haven't already, go check them out! The final stage of the new Snowies Alpine Walk project from Perisher to Bullocks Flat is due for completion in 2024.

Check [Kosciuszko National Parks Alerts](#) for any track closures or delays.



Porcupine gravel Photo: G Harmer/EES

Put it in the bin!

Keeping our Snowy Monaro clean



New Big-belly solar compactor bin and litter signage installed at Banjo Paterson Park. Photo: E Lowe/Snowy Monaro Regional Council

The Snowy Monaro Regional Council Litter Prevention project was completed in December 2022. During the year the project upgraded existing and installed new litter prevention infrastructure in areas which had been identified by the community through the Sustainable Snowies Litter Prevention Strategy.

Bin infrastructure was upgraded at 6 sites around Jindabyne, including the installation of a Big-Belly solar compactor bin at Banjo Paterson park and the Claypits carpark, and a new waste and recycling bin at Pooh Bay. A large road sign and two 'Littering is Illegal' and 'Area under surveillance' signs were installed at Pooh Bay and Banjo Paterson Park near the bins.

The recycling bins have been well used and are mostly uncontaminated which is dramatically reducing the amount of rubbish in the landfill bin. The big-belly bins have been extremely successful at reducing windblown litter, the feedback from the cleaners points to a substantial improvement of the sites and reduced occurrence of overflowing bins and littering, which is supported by the reduced number of reports to council from residents regarding cleanliness of the sites and dumping or overflowing bins.



The new dual redwood waste and recycling bin bank at Claypits foreshore park. Photo: E Lowe/Snowy Monaro Regional Council

Keep our Snowy Monaro clean



Some of the waste collected during the community clean up event held on 15 October 2022. Photo: T Varcoe/Snowy Monaro Regional Council

As well as infrastructure upgrades the council, with support from Sustainable Snowies, ran two successful community clean up events, one in April and one in October.

The Jindabyne community clean-up event and Green Caffein coffee promotion in October was a huge success with more than 70 volunteers attending the event. The litter collected by volunteers was sorted into different waste streams and recorded. Recording this data provides valuable information about what items are commonly littered and helps guide future litter prevention programs.

Overall, the litter collected filled:

- 2 x 240 Litre waste bins
- 4 x clean up Australia day waste bags
- 2 x 360 Litre recycling bins: and
- a trailer of scrap metal and other problem waste items.

Litter collected on the day:

- 634 pieces of soft plastics
- 439 pieces of paper and cardboard
- 203 cans and tins
- 133 glass items
- 86 metal items, including star pickets and bottle caps
- 86 miscellaneous plastics, including masks, gloves, and PVC piping
- 84 plastic bottles and containers
- 69 pieces of polystyrene foam

Plus miscellaneous items including a car bonnet, hubcaps, windscreen, carpet, clothing, shoes, fencing wood, cigarette butts, e-waste, and a golf club.

Due to the success of the community clean-up events more are being planned for the future.

HEY TOSSER!

You know it's wrong



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



Working with the Australian Ski Club at Guthega



Members of the Australian Ski Club carrying out revegetation works at Guthega. Photo: S Smith

Article by Sarah Smith, Secretary, Australian Ski Club

During the first weekend of April, a passionate group of members from the Australian Ski Club at Guthega took part in the first 'Regeneration Planting' work party. NPWS provided us with a planting plan, poisoned the targeted zones and mulched in the lead up. They also provided us with lots and lots of tube stock. We planted around 130 natives around the lodge and plan to do another one each year to build back our native environment. It's a great work party for kids to attend and engage with and the hope is that the trees and bushes we plant now they will see grow over their lifetime.



Revegetation works are perfect for young children to get involved in. Photo: S Smith

New venue

Snowy Mountains Backcountry, Guthega Mountain Centre

There is nothing quite like experiencing the wilds of our beautiful national parks in the winter months. It can be an incredibly amazing experience and going beyond boundaries into the wilds can be an extremely rewarding yet harrowing adventure. Backcountry travel has become a very popular pursuit so we thought we'd ask Doug Chatten the owner operator of Snowy Mountains Backcountry a thing or two about a thing or two.

How long have you been involved in backcountry skiing and guiding?

I've been skiing the Main Range area and many overseas locations for over 30 years. I have worked professionally as a ski patroller at Perisher for 15 years, worked for the NPWS as a Field Officer and member of their Search and Rescue Team during the off season, outdoor education and instructing on Cert IV Outdoor Recreation courses.

How long have you been operating Snowy Mountains Backcountry and what do you offer?

2023 will be our fifth winter of operations. We provide guided ski, splitboard and snowshoeing adventures in winter and walks in summer as well as hiking and backcountry retail and rentals at our shop in the Guthega Mountain Centre.

What do you like about backcountry skiing?

I very much enjoy going to the wild places where your safety depends upon what you have with you and the decisions that you alone make. We live in such a fast paced regulated world that it is very revitalising to undertake an adventure that you have planned yourself. I feel like everytime I come back from a tour I have gotten a bit of my life back. Whether it is a cruise or a real slog life slows down when your in the mountains.

What is backcountry skiing like in Australia?

Ski touring in Australia is very good! We have a lot of moderate angle terrain and some very challenging very steep terrain also. In comparison to other continents our mountains are very old and less aggressive in general considering terrain. We are the only continent without glaciers and our maritime type snowpack is not as unstable as many others. It should be noted that there are still many hazards that you need to be prepared for. It is not uncommon to get temperatures above and below zero which can contribute to two of our bigger environmental hazards ie hypothermia and icy conditions.

Do you have to have a guide to go backcountry skiing?

Not at all. Start off with trips close by to the trail head, the

challenge of your trips should increase in step with the development of your skills, knowledge and experience. Taking on a guide will definately increase your learning curve. Other than gaining terrain knowledge and learning many handy hints one of the best things going on a guided tour does is gives you a realistic appraisal of your ability and preparedness to undertake a journey into the mountains unguided.

Be very wary of joining a group whose members you do not know. There are many hidden problems here and you just might become responsible for them!

Should you let anyone know if you are going out on a backpacking trip?

Most definitely, it is a super important precursor to your trip. The NPWS have a TRIP INTENTIONS reporting system that can be filled out online. Once the alarm has been raised or you fail to return, sharing as much detail as possible will greatly increase your chances of a speedy rescue. It should be noted that there is no Search and Rescue team ready to respond 24/7 and searches won't activate a search in weather which could jeopardise their safety. It is essential that you have enough equipment to survive for 24hrs; a lightweight shelter and an insulation jacket are a great addition to your kit. At less than a kilo it's a worthwhile weight penalty.

As a commercial tour operator what are your concerns regarding safety in the backcountry?

When I'm in the backcountry whether I'm working or recreating I'm constantly assessing the hazards and adjusting my day to suit. The way I deal with the hazards is to place them hierarchically according to likelihood of occurrence, it would be foolish to do so any other way. In my experience this is:

1. Icy steep surfaces: slips and falls
2. Whiteouts: becoming lost, falling off a cornice.
3. Hypothermic conditions: becoming hypothermic
4. Sinkholes, creek and river crossings: falling through the snow and being swept along a drainage.
5. Snow instability: avalanche

The real skill here is having the experience to be able to feel the snow under your feet on any given day and changing this order accordingly.

Have you seen a growth in backcountry travel in recent years?

Most definitely, it has been increasing over the last 10 years or so but particularly recently due to COVID forcing people to look for ways other than ski lifts to get a winter experience. Modern equipment is very good whether

Snowy Mountains Backcountry, Guthega

you choose a lightweight backcountry oriented set up or a cross over rig suited to both resort and backcountry. The technical advances in equipment has been the real driver in increased popularity spurred on by the irrepresible nature of social media. Therefore there is a lot of strong skiers/riders looking to pit themselves against the mountain. Backcountry skiing requires a much more diverse and comprehensive suite of skills, knowledge and experience than skiing/riding in the resort. We do have pockets of very challenging terrain which can test even the most experienced! Skiing a continuous steep slope on the far reaches of the Main Range is a completely different situation to descending a limited steep pitch within the resort boundary with ski patrol, the sanctuary of a warm cafe with toilets and a hand dryer very nearby!

What is your biggest tip for aspiring backcountry enthusiasts?

- To hurry slowly!
- Learn to navigate and practice as much as you can!
- Know your group and plan a tour to suit the whole group.

- Bring your poo back!
- Always make a route plan before setting out and incorporate a safety margin/buffer just in case!
- Always have a contingency plan and have triggers to know when to activate it!
- Have a realistic appraisal of your level of skills, knowledge and experience. Own it and respect it!
- Never forget there is absolutely no substitute for experience!
- Take a course.
- Get a mentor, someone you're comfortable with. Listen and learn from them.
- Remember there is always another day!

Call by the Guthega Mountain Centre and drop in to Snowy Mountains Backcountry and have a chat with Doug about all things backcountry. While you're there or if you're returning from a backcountry mission or skiing the Guthega lifts try the newly appointed and very popular **BASECAMP Licensed Cafe**.



The thriving Basecamp Cafe at the Guthega Mountain Centre. Photo: D Chatten/Snowy Mountains Backcountry
Resort Round-up Winter 2023

Natives used for Guthega rehab works



Snow gums and other native shrubs to be used in the Guthega rehab works. Photo: A Slocombe/EES

Collaboration

Guthega lodges and National Parks and Wildlife Service band together to fight the Snow Gum dieback



Bonnie and Ari Jago near the Burning Log in Guthega. Photos: D Jago/Guthega Ski Club

Article by Dwy Jago, Guthega Ski Club

In 2018 I took a photo of my kids just near the Burning Log in summertime. Three years later I took another picture in the same location to see how much the kids had changed, but it was the background of this picture that really shocked me. Where there had once been healthy snow gum canopy, now there were bare, dead branches. The extent of dead or dying trees around Guthega suddenly hit me. I think I was so used to seeing dead gums as a result of the bush fires that I had become desensitised to them. But what I hadn't really registered was that a whole other natural disaster was happening in real time, right before my eyes, as a result of the Longicorn beetle.

Snow gum dieback from the Longicorn beetle has been happening for a number of years, but it has really accelerated in response to the last drought, which culminated in the 2019/20 bushfires. Long periods of hot, dry weather puts the snow gums under considerable stress, which means they are less able to fight off the attack of the beetle, which eats the living layer of cambium around the tree and essentially ring-barks it, killing it. After seeing that photo of my kids, I started to notice the dieback everywhere I looked. In some places, such as between the Australian Ski Club and the Burning Log, almost all the trees were dead. I then started to consider how long it was going to take for the bush to recover, and when I learnt that it takes between 13 and 30 years for a snow gum to even start producing seeds, let alone those seeds growing into new trees, I thought wow, this will take hundreds of years naturally.

But what if we gave nature a hand, and started planting trees now? Maybe in 20 or 30 years, Guthega would be in much better shape. So I contacted the National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS) and got a hold of the wonderful Amy Slocombe, Environment Liaison Officer with the Resorts Team, who was just as enthusiastic as I was about

Guthega lodges help fight dieback

starting up a volunteer tree planting program. With the support of Amy's Manager we were able to secure 500 snow gum seedlings just for Guthega! All I needed to do was to get the people to plant them.

With great support from my club (the Guthega Ski Club) and the NPWS, I used the Ski Lodges Organisation of Perisher, Smiggins and Guthega (SLOPES) to reach out to other clubs around Guthega, and it wasn't long before I had about 50 volunteers putting their hands up to take part in our inaugural snow gum planting day. And so it all came together on Saturday the 18th of March 2023. As a united team we got to work planting trees all around the village, and we even had Straight Line Sports from Canberra sponsor a BBQ lunch and afternoon tea to keep the troops fed! We planted around 300 trees on the bank in front of the Guthega Mountain Centre, 10 trees around the Guthega sign as you drive in, around 20 on the lower bank where the road splits and heads down to the Illawong walk, and about 150 trees between the Australian Ski Club and the Burning log. It was an incredible effort from all involved; from the brush cutters to the hole diggers, the composters, the tree planters, the mulchers, and the tree-guard makers - everyone did their bit. And at the end of the day Marion Battishall, Environmental Monitoring Officer with the NPWS, gave a talk about the beetle and dieback which was really interesting and generated many questions.

The event was a great success. Not only did members from the Guthega lodges get to connect, but we've now planted 500 new baby snow gums around our village. It is hoped that this sort of planting day will become an annual occurrence, along with other initiatives such as tagging snow gums that haven't been affected yet (so seed can be collected for propagation), and weed removal. But I also hope it inspires and encourages other people and lodges from around the mountains to do something similar and plant snow gums in their patch, to help revegetate those areas now dead or dying. We're all going to have to give nature a helping hand if we want to be skiing or snowboarding in amongst living snow gums again.



Guthega lodge members working together to revegetate the hillside. Photo: A Slocombe/EES

Guthega tree planting day



Ari Jago plants the first of 500 snow gums at Guthega. Photo: D Jago/Guthega Ski Club
Resort Round-up Winter 2023

Working together

Lodge revegetation



Moerlina Lodge, Smiggin Holes. Photo: A Slocombe/EES



Moerlina Lodge after revegetation works. Photo: N Maude

'Getting our hands dirty has never been more satisfying!' So say the members of the 16 lodges that participated in the NPWS sponsored Lodge Revegetation Program, which this year saw more than 570 native plants planted within lodge lease areas across Guthega, Perisher, Smiggins and down to Sponars.

Keen lodge members including mums, dads, grandparents, and children volunteered their time to pop down to their lodges over Autumn for various working bees, all aimed at improving their lodges individual lease areas. From weed control to habitat provision, to planting billy buttons and daisies to improve summer entrances to replacement snow gums planted in areas affected by die back, the revegetation aims of each individual lodge are slightly different, but all have a similar thread. Pride in their lease area and to give back to the amazing environment in which we love to play.

This year we welcomed five new lodges to the program: Australian Ski Club, Kahane Lodge, Kooloora Lodge, Rock Creek, and Moerlina Lodge. It was wonderful to see the enthusiasm with which they got involved!

Are you wondering at this point what does it involve? And whether your lodge might like to participate? Well, read on!

The NPWS Environment Liaison Officer typically conducts a site visit to each lodge, where the revegetation aims are identified, discussed, and refined, with input from lodge members. Aspects such as the overall condition of existing vegetation and disturbance, as well as drainage, slope, aspect, or pollution are considered, and then plans are prepared and tailored for each lodge, detailing not only the existing plants present (both native and weed species) but also defining specific revegetation zones within the lease areas. A comprehensive rehabilitation strategy is prepared for each lodge, including the specific plants to be planted within each zone according to their suitability and the overall rehabilitation aims for the site.

Nick Maude, Maintenance Manager at Moerlina Lodge reflects: *'The assistance and encouragement from NPWS to develop and implement the start of a multi-year strategy to see native species regrow around our lodge was well received by our members and on the Anzac Weekend 2023 we planted over 35 plants supplied by NPWS, with advice and planting guides to ensure best chances of survival. Our AGM held in May 2023 endorsed this with a vote of thanks to NPWS for their assistance and guidance, and to our members who got involved with the process. We look forward to seeing the ongoing development of these native plants and reduction of the weeds in the area through the revegetation plan going forward. Thanks to Amy and the NPWS team for your assistance and encouragement to get this revegetation plan underway'*.

Making a difference



Tony and Bridget Vorreiter plant snow gums at Kahane Lodge. Photo: A Slocombe/EES
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Slow down on our roads



**Please report any
injured wildlife to:
Snowy Mountains
Wildlife Rescue
(L.A.O.K.O.)**

Phone: 02 6456 1313