

# ANNUAL REPORT 2003-2004

Australian Alps Liaison Committee



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Mr Jon Stanhope, MLA  
Minister for the Environment & Heritage (ACT)

The Hon. Bob Debus, MP  
Minister for the Environment (New South Wales)

The Hon. John Thwaites, MP  
Minister for the Environment (Victoria)

Senator the Hon Ian Campbell, MP  
Minister for the Environment and Heritage (Australian Government)

Dear Ministers,  
We have pleasure in presenting the report of the Australian Alps Liaison Committee for the periods 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004 in accordance with the requirements of the Memorandum of Understanding in relation to the Cooperative Management of the Australian Alps national parks.

Yours sincerely

Dr Maxine Cooper  
Executive Director  
Environment ACT



Dr Tony Fleming  
Head - National Parks and Wildlife  
Deputy Director General  
Department of Environment and Conservation



Geoff Vincent  
General Manager National Parks  
Deputy Chief Executive  
Parks Victoria



Bruce Leaver  
First Assistant Secretary  
Heritage Division  
Australian Government  
Department of the Environment and Heritage



Australian Government  
Department of the Environment and Heritage

## Foreword

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For the Australian Alps national parks cooperative program 2003-2004 was a year of reflection and recuperation following the previous summer's bushfire campaign. It was time for Alps staff to come together, talk, strengthen networks and plan for the future.

It was a time for developing strategies, guidelines and nominations – especially ones relating to fire recovery and rehabilitation and a future framework for the Alps program.

It was a year of workshops where agency staff and other experts developed new initiatives and recommendations for many and varied projects such as alpine bog recovery, wildhorse control, the management of the Australian Alps Walking Track and interpreting the 2003 fires.

Also during 2003-2004 a new Strategic Plan for the Alps program was born. This new plan covering the years 2004 – 2007 is built around eight key result areas. These areas, developed with extensive input from agency staff, reflect the goals and aims of the Alps program and the MOU.

This report includes information about the various projects and achievements across the Alps program, all with application to improved park management, staff development and community appreciation and understanding. The program reflects the considerable success of Australian Alps cooperative management, and indicates its ongoing relevance to land managers, neighbours and the wider community.

As I have come to the end of my three years as convenor of the Australian Alps Liaison Committee I would like to finish by thanking all the staff across the Australian Alps for their support for the program.

I would especially like to acknowledge the dedicated work of Virginia Logan, Program Coordinator 2001 – 2004, who has now returned to the ACT. Finally, the ongoing support and keen interest from the Heads of Agencies and Ministers has been very much appreciated by the Australian Alps Liaison Committee.



Dave Darlington  
Convenor 2001 - 2004  
Australian Alps Liaison Committee

# Glossary and Abbreviations

<b>AALC</b>	is the Australian Alps Liaison Committee, established by the MOU.
<b>AAWT</b>	is the Australian Alps Walking Track
<b>Alps program or annual cooperative works program</b>	is the group of activities and projects undertaken each year under AALC funding and cooperative arrangements.
<b>AUSRIVAS</b>	is the Australian Rivers Assessment System, first developed under the National River Health Program
<b>Australia ICOMOS</b>	is the Australian national committee of ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites), a non-government professional organisation that promotes expertise in the conservation of cultural heritage
<b>Australian Alps national parks</b>	means those protected areas included in Schedule 1 of the MOU
<b>Australian Alps national parks cooperative program</b>	is the ongoing activities, projects, works and administration undertaken to implement the MOU.
<b>Australian Alps national parks Heads of Agencies</b>	means the Heads of participating agencies
<b>CHWG</b>	means the Cultural Heritage Working Group
<b>CRWG</b>	means the Community Relations Working Group
<b>cooperative management</b>	means fostering a culture of goodwill, involving activities, projects, and complementary and supportive relationships, and adding value to those relationships through associated economies of scale, going beyond line management and individual agency constraints to ensure consistency across borders.
<b>CRC</b>	means Cooperative Research Centre
<b>CRES</b>	means the Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies, Australian National University, Canberra
<b>IYM2002</b>	means the International Year of Mountains (2002) declared by the United Nations
<b>MOU</b>	is the Memorandum of Understanding in relation to Cooperative Management of the Australian Alps national parks (as amended from time to time)
<b>NHWG</b>	means the Natural Heritage Working Group
<b>participating agencies</b>	means parties to the MOU.
<b>protected area</b>	means an area of land managed for protection and maintenance of biodiversity, and of natural and associated cultural resources
<b>RTWG</b>	means the Recreation and Tourism Working Group
<b>Strategic Plan</b>	means the three-year plan prepared by the AALC (for this reporting period the Strategic Plan 2000-2003i) to guide the annual cooperative works program.

# Australian Alps cooperative management program

Stretching from Canberra through the Brindabella Range in the ACT, the Snowy Mountains of NSW and along the Great Dividing Range through Victoria, the alpine and subalpine environment is a unique part of Australia, a mountainous biogeographical region in a predominantly dry and flat continent.

The Australian Alps contains plants and animals found nowhere else in the world. They contain significant examples of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage and provide outstanding recreational opportunities. The Australian Alps also contain the headwaters of some of Australia's most important rivers and streams.

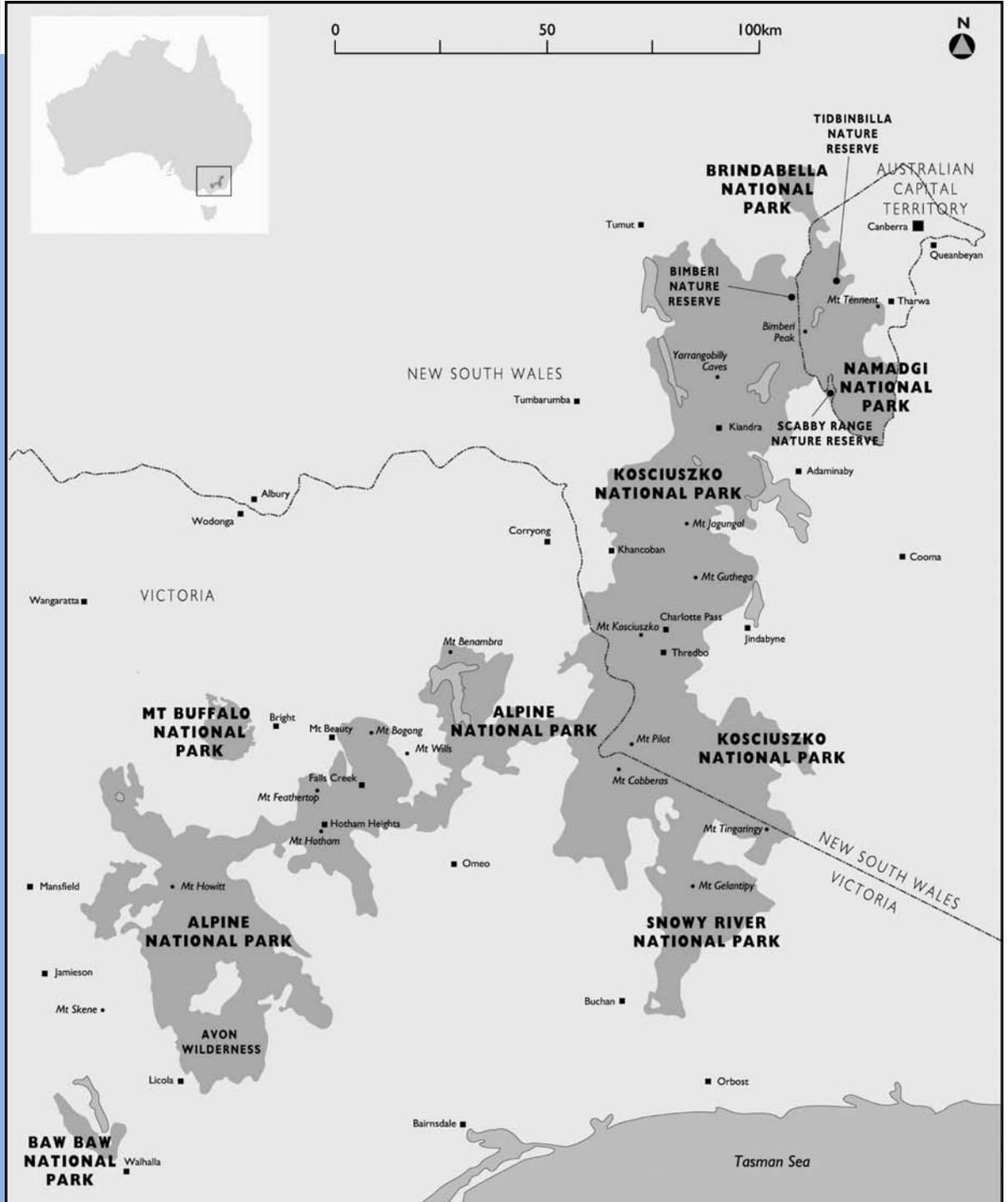
In 1986, with the signing of the first Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), State, ACT and Australian government national park authorities formally agreed to cooperatively manage this important national asset. Through this spirit of cooperation the Australian Alps Liaison Committee (AALC) was formed to ensure the national parks and reserves in the Alps are managed as one biogeographical entity to protect them for generations to come.

The national parks and reserves in the Australian Alps cross State and Territory borders; comprising over 1.6 million-hectares of protected areas. These eleven parks and reserves are collectively referred to as the 'Australian Alps national parks', a conservation zone of international significance.

Responsibility for day to day management of the Australian Alps national parks listed in the MOU remains vested with the respective participating agency.

## Lands listed as Australian Alps national parks (Schedule 1 - MOU)

Area	Size (ha)	Responsible Agency
<i>Victoria</i>		
Alpine National Park	647 700	Parks Victoria
Snowy River National Park	98 100	
Avon Wilderness	39 650	
Mount Buffalo National Park	31 000	
Baw Baw National Park	13 300	
<i>New South Wales</i>		
Kosciuszko National Park	690 411	National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)
Brindabella National Park	18 472	
Scabby Range Nature Reserve	4 982	
Bimberi Nature Reserve	10 886	
<i>Australian Capital Territory</i>		
Namadgi National Park	105 900	Environment ACT
Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve	5 450	



# Australian Alps cooperative management program

## Vision

To achieve best practice in cooperative management of the Australian Alps national parks

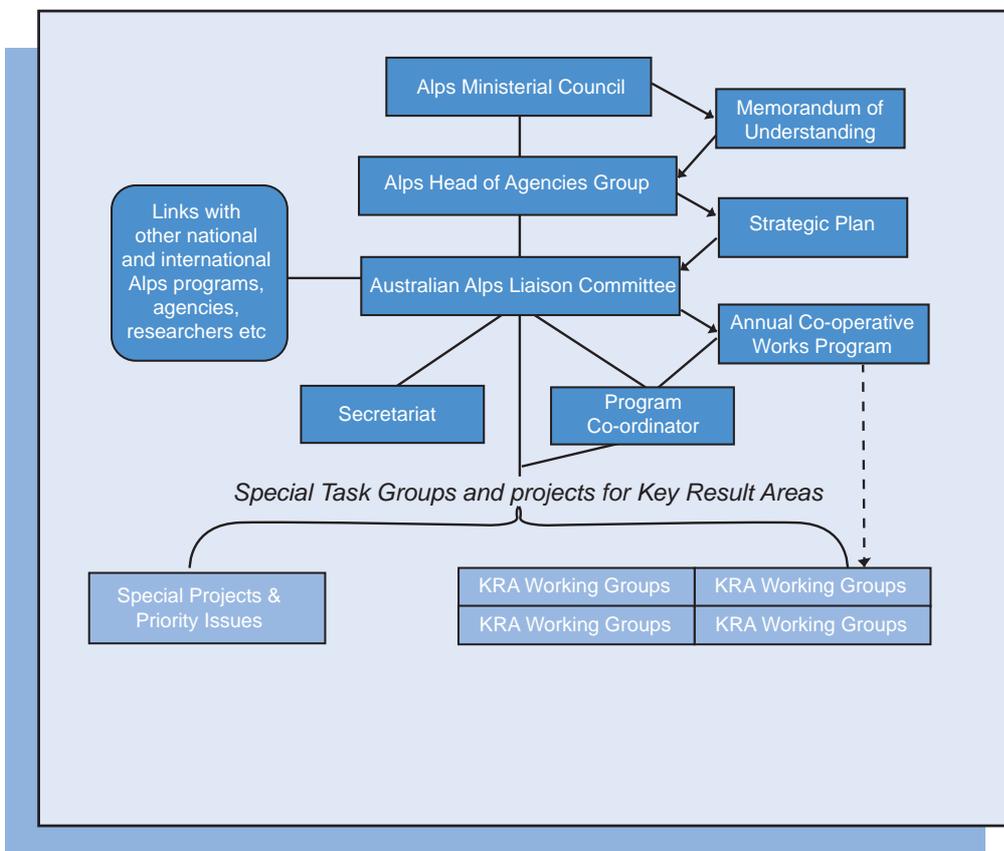
## Mission

Through the MOU, participating agencies agree to the following objectives:

- To pursue the growth and enhancement of inter-governmental cooperative management to protect the important natural and cultural values of the Australian Alps national parks.
- To cooperate in the determination and implementation of best-practice management of the Australian Alps national parks to achieve the:
  - protection of the unique mountain landscapes
  - protection of the natural and cultural values specific to the Australian Alps
  - provision of outdoor recreation and tourism opportunities that encourage the enjoyment and understanding alpine and sub-alpine environments; and
  - protection of mountain catchments.

Refer to the MOU for **Terms of Agreement** which describe in detail the working arrangements agreed to by participating agencies.

## Organisational Structure



# Australian Alps cooperative management program

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The following entities have functional roles in the Australian Alps cooperative management program under the MOU:

## **Alps Ministerial Council**

The Ministers responsible for participating agencies which are in turn responsible for high-level inter-government relationships and the MOU.

## **Australian Alps national parks Heads of Agencies Group**

The Heads of participating agencies meet annually to consider strategic issues and advise AALC on policy, priority areas and emerging issues.

## **Australian Alps Liaison Committee**

The Australian Alps Liaison Committee (AALC) facilitates the development, coordination and implementation of the cooperative management program. Its members include a senior officer from each of the participating agencies in NSW, Victoria and the ACT, and from the relevant Australian government departments.

## **Working Groups**

A number of working groups are established to advise the AALC on specific matters, and to assist with the implementation of the cooperative management program by:

- developing new projects in key result areas outlined in the Strategic Plan
- recommending priority projects for AALC funding; and
- coordinating or project managing the projects.

# Australian Alps cooperative management program

## Working Groups

During the reporting period, four working groups operated under the Australian Alps national parks cooperative program. They include:

- Natural Heritage Working Group
- Cultural Heritage Working Group
- Recreation and Tourism Working Group; and
- Community Relations Working Group.

The terms of reference for each Working Group are set out in the Strategic Plan, and are closely aligned to the Key Result Areas in that Plan.

Refer to program structure, **Attachment 1**

## Program Budget

To assist in achieving the objectives of the MOU, a financial contribution is made by participating agencies. The responsibility for financial management is rotated around the agencies on a three-year basis and is generally vested with the agency which is providing the Alps Program coordinator position. During the current reporting period, the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service provided financial management support for the program.

An annual budget of \$280,000 was provided from participating agencies, with Victoria and NSW each contributing \$120,000, and the ACT providing \$40,000. The Australian government provides secretariat support and Web site maintenance.

The AALC allocate funding to the Australian Alps annual cooperative works program, which is developed through submission of project proposals addressing the Key Result Areas of the Strategic Plan.

The 2003 - 2004 annual works program budget is presented in **Attachment 2**.

## Annual Reporting of performance

The Strategic Plan requires the Annual Report to:

- evaluate the success of the MOU, and the Australian Alps national parks cooperative program
- detail the outputs of the programs projects and their benefits to Australian Alps national parks; and
- communicate this information to the Australian Alps national parks Heads of Agencies group, relevant Ministers, and other interested parties.

# Key Result Area: Community Awareness

## Desired Outcome

Key audiences are aware of the unique natural and cultural values of the Australian Alps national parks as a single biogeographical entity, the management actions that are necessary to protect these intrinsic values, and the cross-border management program and its achievements.

## Strategies

- Identify key community audiences, and benchmark their knowledge of, as well as satisfaction and involvement with, the Australian Alps national parks cooperative management program
- Develop appropriate awareness programs and increased promotion of the values, programs and opportunities of the Australian Alps national parks to target audiences
- Utilise the important opportunity that the International Year of Mountains 2002 provided for promoting conservation and appreciation of mountain regions within the context of the Alps MOU
- Actively market and distribute saleable and free information, materials and products on the Australian Alps national parks, to retail and other appropriate outlets
- Use multi-media technologies to further promote the value of the program; and
- Ensure that best practice achievements are recorded and communicated.

## Australian Alps Education Kit evaluation and review

The review and updating of the Australian Alps Education Kit is an ongoing project. The evaluation undertaken by the consultants clearly established the worthiness of reproducing the kit in electronic format (CD Rom) and incorporating several new information sheets covering Aboriginal connections to country, contemporary management issues (particularly feral animal control) and Living with Bushfires.

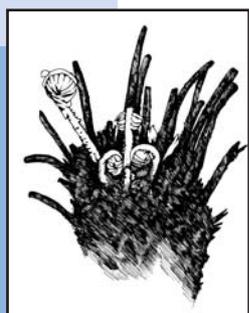
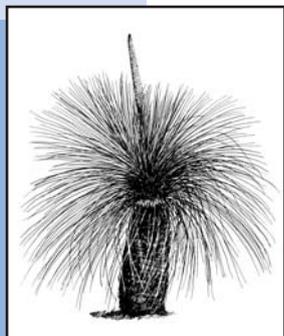
During the reporting period the consultants developed a draft revision of the Education Kit but for a number of reasons failed to supply the required Indigenous section. The Community Relations Working group is now in the process of employing another consultant to undertake the necessary indigenous consultation and write up the material.

## World Wide Web site

The Australian Alps national parks Web site is hosted by the Australian government Department of the Environment and Heritage. The Web site includes information about reference material, publications, updated media releases and reports, and links to more than 60 organisations and interest groups.

Although a valuable resource for enquiries about recreation and tourism in the Australian Alps national parks and about the Australian Alps cooperative management program, it has been recognised that the Web site is not operating to full potential. During the reporting period a consultant was employed to redesign the Home and Secondary pages with the primary goal of presenting a simple, clear, and easily navigable structure. This is an ongoing project.

The Australian Alps national parks home page is: [www.australianalps.deh.gov.au](http://www.australianalps.deh.gov.au)



# Key Result Area: Community Awareness

## Australian Alps Touring Map revision

Revisions of the popular Australian Alps touring map included updating and corrections to all map details, inclusion of the new additions to the *Australian Alps national parks* (Baw Baw National Park & Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve) and the new *Leave No Trace* messages. The map will be printed and distributed in the 2004/2005 reporting period.

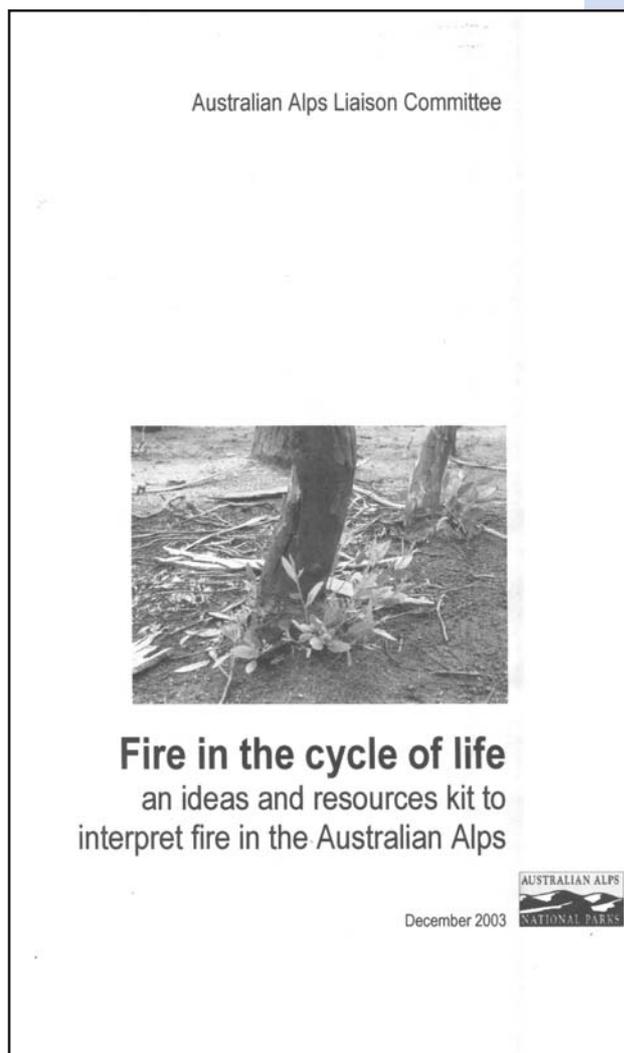
## Post Fire Interpretation Workshop

A small workshop was hosted by the Community Relations Working Group with the aim of developing key interpretive messages, activities and resource material to enhance coordinated agency responses to the 2003 fire event.

All the interpretive information was compiled into a resource kit *Fire in the Cycle of Life* and distributed to key interpretation and education staff.

## Alps Presentation Kit

A power point presentation was developed to help promote the values, programs and opportunities of the Australian Alps and the Cooperative Management Program.



# Key Result Area: Natural Heritage Conservation

## Desired Outcome

Improved understanding and enhanced management of the natural ecosystems of the Australian Alps national parks.

## Strategies

- Identify threats to nationally significant values of the Australian Alps national parks and using a region-wide [bioregional] approach, develop appropriate threat abatement strategies
- Develop principles and criteria to focus research and management action on priority species/habitats/communities and natural features of the Australian Alps
- Investigate the response of alpine and sub-alpine ecosystems to threatening processes or activities and develop appropriate management strategies
- Develop indicators to monitor the health, condition and trend of alpine and sub-alpine ecosystems and catchments
- Involve interested stakeholders and encourage strategic partnerships in the activities of the Natural Heritage Working Group and its projects. Disseminate information and recommendations resulting from projects undertaken.

## Ecological Impacts of the 2003 Fires

With the aim of establishing Alps wide strategic priorities for post fire monitoring and research, a workshop was held for key agency staff involved in ecological fire recovery and rehabilitation.

The outcomes of the workshop will be incorporated into 2004 ñ 2005 project proposals.

## Fire History

A draft fire history of the Alps has been collated with further input from agency staff and key stakeholders. The report includes Pre-European fire histories, historic photographs and mapped fire summaries.

The histories so far have been compiled from written record, scientific evidence and the memories of many individuals.

## Wildhorse Management Workshop

As part of a series of Protecting the Natural Treasures of the Alps a pest management workshop was held for staff from across the Alps involved in feral horse control.

The workshop reviewed recent research results, discussed management issues and identified future research priorities.

## Alps Rehabilitation Manual

The production of the Rehabilitation Manual is an ongoing project. Selected proceedings from the Ecological Restoration of Mountain Environments workshop, held in conjunction with the Australian Network for Plant Conservation will be incorporated into the Manual.

# Key Result Area: Recreation and Tourism Management

## Desired Outcome

Implementation of contemporary approaches to visitor and tourism management by supporting best-practice, sustainable use and minimal impact principles.

## Strategies

- Provide a strategic framework to enable the development of complementary visitor facilities and information that promotes the Australian Alps for recreation and tourism, based on their natural and cultural values
- Develop strategies to monitor visitor impacts within identified and acceptable ecological and social limits, using methodologies which identify and monitor visitor needs, satisfaction and expectations
- Foster and facilitate contemporary visitor management techniques through the provision of 'best practice workshops' to agency staff and interested stakeholders; and
- Foster and establish effective partnerships between park management agencies and the tourism sector to assist in supporting a sustainable tourism industry within the Australian Alps national parks.

## Minimal Impact Messages

To enhance delivery of the key 'Leave No Trace' messages, pictorial icons and three levels of information were developed for use in a generic brochure. To enhance the inclusion of this information in other brochures and displays a CD was developed and distributed across the agencies.

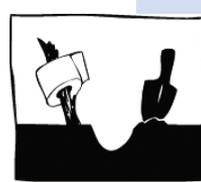
## Australian Alps Walking Track

More than half the length of the Australian Alps Walking Track (AAWT) was significantly affected by the 2003 fires. The loss of hundreds of AAWT totems, markers and some promotional signage provided an opportunity review the signage standards and guidelines along the whole track.

As the Australian Alps Program is primarily responsible for promotion and management consistency along the AAWT it was necessary to:

- Coordinate and communicate the reopening of the AAWT across Victoria, NSW and the ACT
- Liaise with bushwalkers and other interest groups about changes in signage and directional marker colour
- Organise the production and distribution of new standard markers and
- Ensure replacement signage was installed to agreed standards.

It is expected that the installation of the new totems and markers will be completed in 2004 - 2005.



# Key Result Area: Cultural Heritage Conservation

## Desired Outcome

Improved understanding and protection of the unique Aboriginal and non Aboriginal cultural heritage values of the Australian Alps.

## Strategies

- Identify threats to the nationally significant cultural values of the Australian Alps national parks and develop appropriate threat abatement strategies
- Engender a sense of value and ownership within the agencies and community, for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage of the Australian Alps national parks
- Identify and address gaps in current knowledge of cultural heritage values within the Australian Alps national parks
- Provide tools and processes that will assist agencies and relevant community groups
- Identify opportunities for the involvement of indigenous people in the management of the Australian Alps national parks.

## Aboriginal Liaison and Direction Study Stage 2

The report, *Aboriginal Community Directions for Heritage Management in the Australian Alps*, grouped the comments and issues raised by the Aboriginal communities under themes. This provided a starting point for an Alps Aboriginal Heritage program and a basis for involving Aboriginal communities in future cultural heritage management.

Stage 2 of the study identified some of the views of Aboriginal people about strategies for managing heritage values and aspirations for future research. It includes recommendations for an Aboriginal Heritage Research Program and an Aboriginal Heritage interpretation strategy. A key component of Stage 2 was to ensure agency staff are aware of this project and its findings.

## Sharing the Knowledge

This project undertook to present the results of two previous reports - *Scientific Sites and Mining Heritage of the Australian Alps* - to staff within each park management agency.

*Scientific Sites* developed a thematic interpretation strategy for the scientific sites of cultural significance in the Australian Alps national parks.

*Mining Heritage of the Australian Alps* provides guidance in management for heritage mining sites of the Australian Alps identifies links with existing and proposed tourism programs and recommends a staged program for developing a representative group of sites for visitor use.

# Key Result Area: Program Development

## Desired Outcome

To ensure that the Australian Alps national park program is well managed, maintains its effectiveness and operates within the relevant policy context of each participating agency.

## Strategies

- Sustain the program and approve the annual works program
- Monitor the performance of the program and the output of the Working Groups
- Develop and promote the Australian Alps cooperative management program as a centre of excellence in mountain protected area management
- Quantify, document and communicate the economic benefits of the Australian Alps national parks; and
- Develop strategic partnership alliances with IUCN, ANZECC, national and international protected area management agencies and other relevant government and non-government stakeholders.

## Program Development Workshop

An annual field workshop was held in July 2003 at Walwa in Victoria, and attended by more than 50 agency staff. Key themes were post fire management, Aboriginal Heritage management and the review of the Strategic Plan.

It also provided an opportunity for networking and learning about key projects underway across the Australian Alps national parks.

## Australian Alps national parks Cooperative Management Program Strategic Plan 2004 ñ 2007

The AALC completed the review and rewriting of the Alps Strategic Plan 2004 ñ2007.

The Strategic Plan is based on eight Key Result Areas. The agencies have developed the Plan together, and agreed to implement it, coordinated by the AALC.

## Australian Alps Expert Scientific Panel

A combined scientific review has been underway to examine the responses of participating agencies to management of impacts of the fires. The review is being undertaken by an expert scientific panel made up of leading ecologists, scientists and heritage experts. It is anticipated that a final report, including recommendations, will be completed later in 2004.

## National Heritage Listing

The National Heritage List is a list of places with outstanding heritage value, nationally and internationally. These places have special meaning for Australia as a whole. The Alps Program is currently preparing a National Heritage List nomination, as agreed to in May 2003 by the Alps Ministerial Council. It is expected that the nomination will be finalised by December 2004.

## A History of Cooperative Management

The report *‘A History of the evolution of the Memorandum of Understanding and the Alps Cooperative Management Program’* by Peter Crabb has been completed and is being distributed by ANU CRES Canberra.

# Key Result Area: Management Expertise

## Desired Outcome

Staff, volunteers and other park-based workers are knowledgeable about the values of the Australian Alps, and are skilled in the best-practice techniques for managing the natural environment, cultural resources, visitors and threats to the Australian Alps national parks.

## Strategies

- Foster common goals and training, and encourage staff to share expertise and specialist skills in best-practice management of the natural and cultural resources of the Australian Alps national parks;
- Encourage communication between agency staff and other cooperative management programs
- Encourage and support volunteer and other agency involvement in research, management and monitoring; and
- Encourage staff to refine their expertise through appropriate short-term exchange or placement with other agencies, either within or outside the Alps program.

## Australian Alps Newsletter

The newsletter, "*News from the Australian Alps*", is one way of keeping staff and other interested stakeholders in touch with projects and activities of other Australian Alps national parks agencies. It is also a valuable method of raising and maintaining community awareness of the Australian Alps national parks, and the benefits arising from the cooperative management program.

During the reporting period one newsletter was produced. It was distributed widely both in Australia and overseas, to Australian Alps national parks staff, the recreation and tourism industry, tour operators, external organisations, educational institutions, and user groups, with a circulation of over 800 copies.

## Training and development

Staff in participating agencies benefited from a number of training and development opportunities during the reporting period.



*Bog rehabilitation Kosciuszko National Park*

# Agency Implementation of the MOU

## Agency Implementation of the MOU

Responsibility for day to day management of the Australian Alps national parks remains vested with each participating agency.

The AALC seeks to provide land managers with appropriate technical tools and sound scientific advice in management reports and strategies, to assist in achieving the objectives of the MOU in delivering best practice land management across the region. All participating agencies have been active contributors to the AALC and working groups.

The benefits of previous coordination and sharing of knowledge include:

- **Fire Recovery**

After the fires, agency staff have worked on joint responses to a number of issues, benefiting from past work undertaken within the program on fire monitoring reference plots, rehabilitation techniques and monitoring, pest plant and animal control, waste management, and communication and interpretation.

- **Broom Management Strategy**

Massive regeneration of English Broom following the fire has resulted in an increased control program, especially in Victoria, to achieve as much eradication as possible, while the seed bank is vulnerable. The strategy prepared by the Australian Alps has been built upon by the agencies to implement post fire control.

- **Australian Alps Walking Track**

The Alps program continues to play a pivotal coordinating role in the review, manufacture and distribution of the replacement AAWT totems and markers. The respective agencies are responsible for payment and installation of the totems.

The Australian Alps national parks Web site was also used to convey information about park access along the AAWT post fire.

- **Fire in the Cycle of Life**

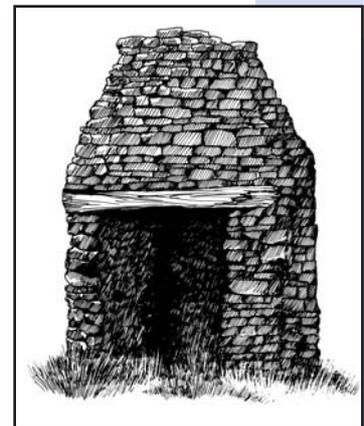
The Resource and Interpretation Kit *Fire in the Cycle of Life* has been widely distributed by individual agencies to tourism operators, education centres, visitor centres and interpretation rangers/staff across the Australian Alps.

- **Assessment and Replacement of Huts across the Australian Alps (post fire)**

A *Hut Replacement* workshop hosted by Parks Victoria and attended by a wide range of stakeholders and interested parties, including Kosciuszko National Park staff and members of the Kosciuszko Huts Association, has contributed to the overall approach to the replacement of huts across the Alps.

- **Cross Cultural Awareness**

An excursion to investigate and record information about Aboriginal Heritage sites in the Upper Murray was the result of staff and community members meeting at the Alps Field Workshop, Walwa.





## Inter-Agency Liaison

### Ministerial Council

The Alps Ministerial Council met for the first time in six years, in Melbourne in May 2003, where the Australian, State and Territory Ministers, discussed post-fire responses and cooperative initiatives such as the continued pursuit of National Heritage Listing for the Australian Alps national parks.

The Ministerial Council did not meet during the 2003-2004 reporting period.

### Heads of Agencies Meeting

This annual meeting provides an important opportunity for Directors and Heads of Agencies of participating agencies to come together, review progress and discuss future directions and projects for the cooperative management of the Australian Alps national parks.

The extent of common challenges presented by the 2003 fires sparked the need for an additional Heads of Agencies meeting in April 2003. The main focus of this meeting was to discuss joint post-fire responses and agree on areas of common concern for future work.

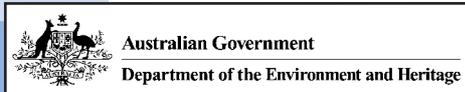
The Heads of Agencies did not feel the need to meet again during the 2003-2004 reporting period.

### Integrated Management

Key senior managers and planning staff continue to explore practical ways to integrate planning across the Australian Alps national parks, in the context of revised management plans being developed for Namadji, Kosciuszko and Baw Baw national parks. The Alpine National Park management plan is also due for review in the near future.

These plans will continue to reflect the diversity of management approaches but will strive to complement one another in a broader biogeographical context. This underlines the significance of the MOU, under which participating agencies have agreed to work closely together to ensure, where possible, common approaches in planning and resource management issues, with particular emphasis on border areas.

This will be an evolving process as the plans are developed.



## External Liaison

The Australian Alps has a collaborative partnership with a range of external organisations.

### **IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) Mountains Biome**

The IUCN WCPA Mountains Biome has an active membership of 450 mountain protected area experts in 60 countries. It develops best practice mountain protected area management texts for capacity building, organises mountain management workshops, and issues a quarterly Update newsletter on mountain protected area management matters. The Australian Alps circulates Updates to each of the States and the ACT.

**Australia ICOMOS** is the Australian national committee of ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites), a non-government professional organisation that promotes expertise in the conservation of cultural heritage.

### **Australian Network for Plant Conservation**

In conjunction with TransGrid and the Alps program the Australian Network for Plant Conservation organised and ran a training workshop titled 'Ecological Restoration for Mountain Environments - Approaches and Techniques'.

**TransGrid** is a statutory government owned corporation responsible for the management and development of the NSW high voltage electricity network.

### **RSPCA NSW and Bureau Animal Welfare Victorian Department of Primary Industries (DPI)**

Contributed to the Wildhorse Workshop hosted by Alps program (Natural Heritage Working Group)

The **Cooperative Research Centre (CRC)** for Sustainable Tourism is an Australian government-funded organisation which promotes research in environmental, social and economic sustainability in Australia. CRC members include government tourism organisations such as the Tourism Council of Australia, Tourism New South Wales and Tourism Victoria, and universities including La Trobe, Griffith and Canberra.

**The Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies (CRES)** at the Australian National University jointly funded with the AALC the report by Dr Peter Crabb on the history of the Australian Alps national parks cooperative management program.

### **Alpine Ski Resorts of Victoria and NSW**

### **Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE)**

**Leave No Trace** Australia is a not for profit organisation promoting a national 'Leave No Trace' environmental skills and ethics program. A program is being developed specifically designed for the Australian Alps environment.

### **Federation of Victorian Bushwalking Clubs and VicWalk**

Contributions and ongoing support for cross border cooperative management of the Australian Alps Walking Track.

### **Aboriginal Legislative and Traditional Owner Groups**

The contributions of these organisations provide further evidence of the growing profile, strength, and relevance of the Australian Alps national parks cooperative program.

# Attachment 1: Program Structure as of 30 June 2004

<b>Conservation Agencies Involved</b>	<b>Commonwealth</b> Department of the Environment and Heritage	<b>New South Wales</b> Department of Environment and Conservation	<b>Australian Capital Territory</b> Environment ACT	<b>Victoria</b> Parks Victoria
<b>Responsible Minister</b>	<b>The Hon. Dr David Kemp, MP</b> Minister for the Environment and Heritage (Australian government)	<b>The Hon. Bob Debus, MP</b> Minister for the Environment (New South Wales)	<b>Mr Jon Stanhope, MLA</b> Minister for the Environment & Heritage (ACT)	<b>The Hon. John Thwaites, MP</b> Minister for Environment (Victoria)
<b>Head of Agencies</b>	<b>Bruce Leaver</b> First Assistant Secretary Heritage Division Department of the Environment and Heritage	<b>Dr Tony Fleming</b> Head-National Parks and Wildlife Deputy Director General Department of Environment and Conservation	<b>Dr Maxine Cooper</b> Executive Director Environment ACT	<b>Geoff Vincent</b> General Manager National Parks Deputy Chief Executive Parks Victoria
<b>AALC</b>	<b>Meg Switzer</b> Director Heritage and Tourism	<b>Dave Darlington</b> Regional Manager Snowy Mountains Region	<b>Brett McNamara</b> District Manager Parks and Conservation	<b>Chris Rose</b> Chief Ranger Alpine District
<b>AALC Secretariat</b>	<b>Tracie Brauer</b> Department of the Environment and Heritage			
<b>Program Coordinator</b>	<b>Virginia Logan</b> Environment ACT			
<b>Community Relations Working Group</b>	<b>Rodney Atkins</b> (Convenor)	<b>Pat Darlington</b>	<b>Gill Anderson</b> <b>Bart Smith</b>	
<b>Natural Heritage Working Group</b>	<b>Rob Hunt</b> <b>Genevieve Wright</b>		<b>Murray Evans</b> (Convenor) <b>Amanda Carey</b>	<b>Craig Hore</b> <b>Andrew Markwick</b>
<b>Recreation and Tourism Working Group</b>	<b>Gillian Lee</b> <b>Frances Murray</b>	<b>Simon Allender</b> <b>Steve Redden</b> <b>Andrew Harrigan</b>	<b>Stephen Alegria</b> <b>Karen Civil</b> (Convenor)	
<b>Cultural Heritage Working Group</b>	<b>Juliet Ramsay</b>	<b>Pam O'Brien</b> <b>Dean Freeman</b> <b>Christian Hampson</b>	<b>Debbie Argue</b> <b>Simon Tozer</b>	<b>Dave Foster</b> <b>Ray Supple</b> (Convenor)

## Attachment 2: Financial Report Year Ending 30th June 2004

Opening Balance	\$117,465	Expenditures	\$247,936
Revenue (Contributions/Grants)	\$290,000	Committed Carryover (04/05)	\$112,000
Revenue (Programs/Publications)	\$4,471	Uncommitted Carryover (04/05)	\$52,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$411,936</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$411,936</b>

	<b>BUDGET ALLOCATION</b>	<b>EXPENDITURE TO 30TH JUNE 2004</b>	<b>COMMITTED DOLLARS CARRIED OVER TO 04/05</b>
<b>Program Coordination</b>			
Program Coordinator	70,000	72,242	
Program Administration & Support	25,000	26,978	
Product Development		4,550	
Aust Alps newsletter	10,000	5,118	
Annual Report	5,000		
<b>Management Expertise &amp; Development</b>			
Strategic Plan	20,000	19,900	
Annual Field Workshop	12,000	10,852	
ESP & NHL	110,000	31,842	64,000
MOU History	2,000	2,500	
<b>Natural Heritage Conservation</b>			
Ecological Impacts 2003 Fires Workshop	4,000	3,985	
Fire History	20,000	11,000	6,000
Wildhorse Management Workshop	4,000	4,233	
Rehabilitation Manual	18,000		16,000
<b>Cultural Heritage Conservation</b>			
Aboriginal Liaison & Direction Study Stage 2	30,000	30,000	
Sharing the Knowledge	3,200		2,000

	<b>BUDGET ALLOCATION</b>	<b>EXPENDITURE TO 30TH JUNE 2004</b>	<b>COMMITTED CARRIED OVER TO 04/05</b>
<b>Community Awareness</b>			
Touring Map revision	17,000		17,000
Education Kit Evaluation & revision	31,000	9,000	22,000
Post Fire Interpretation Workshop	4,000	1,411	
Alps Power Point Presentation	4,000	860	
<b>Recreation &amp; Tourism</b>			
Minimal Impact Codes	2,000	2,465	
Reinstate AAWT	10,000	11,000	
<b>TOTAL FUNDED 03/04</b>	<b>PROJECTS \$401,200</b>	<b>EXPENDITURE \$247,936</b>	<b>COMMITTED 04/05 \$112,000</b>