

Annual Report

2016-2017

Australian Alps Liaison Committee



AUSTRALIAN ALPS
NATIONAL PARKS



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New South Wales

[The Hon. Gabrielle Upton, MP](#)

Minister for the Environment

Minister for Local Government

Minister for Heritage

Victoria

[The Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio, MP](#)

Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change

Minister for Suburban Development

ACT

[Mick Gentleman, MLA](#)

Minister for Police and Emergency Services

Minister for the Environment and Heritage

Minister for Planning and Land Management

Minister for Urban Renewal

Australian Government

[The Hon. Josh Frydenburg, MP](#)

Minister for the Environment and Energy

Dear Ministers

We have pleasure in presenting the report of the Australian Alps Liaison Committee for the period 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 in accordance with the requirements of the Memorandum of Understanding in relation to the Co-operative Management of the Australian Alps national parks.

Yours sincerely,

[Michael Wright](#)

Executive Director

Parks Programs, NSW NPWS

[Matthew Jackson](#)

Chief Executive Officer

Parks Victoria

[Annie Lane](#)

Executive Director

Environment ACT

[Sally Barnes](#)

Director of National Parks

Parks Australia

Foreword

Now into its fourth decade, the Australian Alps Cooperative Management Program continues to deliver on the vision of its founders who long ago recognised the mutual benefits of cross border collaboration to a shared landscape.

The Program is a unique vehicle that brings agency staff and stakeholders together in a spirit of cooperation and goodwill to share insights, experiences and knowledge. In the past year, there has been a series of such gatherings including: a field operations workshop; a heritage skills workshop; a frontline forum; and a meeting of the Australian Alps walking track working group. Each of these has been an invaluable opportunity to build networks and forge strong bonds with colleagues. Deer, horses and weeds don't recognise borders and neither does the Alps Program. A challenge shared is a challenge more likely to be overcome.

This reporting period also saw the Alps Program embrace both digital technology and social media. The process of building a fully fledged digital library is well under way with the aim of having all 31 years of the program history available electronically by the end of the current host period. The new Facebook page is proving a highly effective tool for disseminating information, promoting the events and engaging with stakeholders. There was also a full technical upgrade and content update of the on-line map and guide. Digital engagement also provides significant efficiencies and cost savings. It is important the Alps Program continues to adapt and innovate.

This year saw the departure of Roger Fenwick from Parks Victoria after serving two years as Convenor of the Australian Alps Liaison Committee. His are big shoes to fill. I'd like to thank Roger for his hard work, dedication and professional leadership and wish him well in his new career.

The Australian Alps national parks are both a majestic mountain range and a bioregion of immense international significance. Through the Australian Alps Cooperative Management Program, the four partner agencies strive for excellence in conservation management for the benefit of this and all future generations. The Alps Program faces many challenges, including the growing impact of climate change. It will face these as they arise, from the solid foundations of interagency collaboration, goodwill and a shared vision for the future.

As the Convenor of the Australian Alps Liaison Committee, I wish to acknowledge and thank everyone who has contributed time, expertise and enthusiasm to the Alps Program in the past year.

Brett McNamara
Convenor Australian Alps
Liaison Committee
2016 - 2017



Glossary and Abbreviations

AALC	the Australian Alps Liaison Committee, established by the MoU
AAWT	the Australian Alps Walking Track
AOG	the Alps Operational Group, composed of Rangers-in-charge, Area, District and Operational Program Managers, and other key operational staff
Alps Program	The Australian Alps national parks Co-operative Management Program, established by the MoU, and the subject of this report
Annual co-operative works program	the group of activities and projects undertaken each year under AALC funding and co-operative arrangements
Australian Alps national parks	those protected areas included in Schedule 1 of the MoU
Australian Alps national parks Co-operative Management Program	the ongoing activities, projects, works and administration undertaken to implement the MoU
Australian Alps national parks Heads of Agencies	the Heads of participating agencies
CHRG	the Cultural Heritage Reference Group
Co-operative management	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 and best practice across borders
CPRG	Connecting People Reference Group
ERG	Environment Reference Group
FHWG	Feral Horse Working Group
IUCN WCPA	International Union for Conservation and Nature, World Commission on Protected Areas (Mountain Biome)
MoU	the Memorandum of Understanding in relation to Co-operative Management of the Australian Alps national parks (as amended from time to time)
participating agencies	parties to the MoU
protected area	means an area of land managed for protection and maintenance of biodiversity, and of natural and associated cultural resources
Strategic Plan	the three-year plan prepared by the AALC (for this reporting period the 'Strategic Plan 2016–2018') to guide the annual co-operative works program

Australian Alps Co-operative Management Program

Program Mission and Purpose

Australia's alpine and subalpine environment stretches from just north of Canberra through the Brindabella Range in the ACT, the Snowy Mountains of NSW and the Victorian Alps to the upper Yarra headwaters on the edge of West Gippsland. It is a unique part of our nation, a mountainous biogeographical region in a predominantly dry and flat continent.

The Australian Alps is a rich landscape. It contains: plants and animals found nowhere else in the world; significant examples of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage; and outstanding recreational opportunities. The Alps are also home to 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 manage this important national asset co-operatively. Through this spirit of co-operation, the Australian Alps Liaison Committee was formed to ensure that the parks and reserves in the Alps are managed as one biogeographical entity, to protect them for generations to come. In practical terms this involves: fostering a culture of goodwill, involving activities, projects, and supportive relationships; adding value to those relationships through associated economies of scale; going beyond line management and individual agency constraints; all to ensure consistency and best practice across borders.

There are 12 national parks and reserves in the Australian Alps spanning State and Territory borders. Together they comprise over 1.6 million hectares of protected areas. These parks and reserves are referred to collectively as the 'Australian Alps national parks', a conservation zone of international significance. They are Australian Heritage listed; RAMSAR wetlands; EPBC listed communities and species; and habitat covered by several international migratory bird agreements. The Australian Alps national parks would also make a worthy addition to Australia's World Heritage listed landscapes.

Responsibility for strategic policy setting, planning and day-to-day management of the Australian Alps national parks, listed in the MoU, remains vested in the relevant participating agency.

Vision

Agencies working in partnership to achieve excellence in conservation management of the Australian Alps national parks' natural and cultural values and sustainable use through an active program of cross-border cooperation.

Mission

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

- to pursue the growth and enhancement of inter governmental co-operative management to protect the important natural and cultural values of the Australian Alps national parks; and
- to co-operate in the determination and implementation of best practice management of the Australian Alps national parks to achieve:
 - 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 of alpine and sub-alpine environments; and
 - protection of mountain catchments.

Agency benefits of the MOU

While responsibility for policy, strategic planning and day-to-day management of the individual Australian Alps national parks remains vested with the participating agencies, it is through the Program’s cross-border relationships that knowledge and resources are shared.

That is what makes it unique and highly effective. As well as the many networking opportunities, the annual works program generates a suite of resources to support operations across the Alps. In this reporting year, these have included projects on: developing feral

horse abundance measures; training sniffer dogs to locate hawkweed infestations; investigating the use of drones to survey stream bank damage; the impact of road salting on stream ecology; and recording of traditional owner oral histories.

There were 4 major workshops and forums this year.

Workshop/ Forum	For	Attendance
Operations Workshop	Rangers and field officers involved in feral animal management programs	45
Australian Alps Walking Track Working Group	AAWT stakeholders including agency staff and community groups	30
Frontline Forum	Visitor services staff from both government and private sector	43
Heritage Skills Workshop	Agency staff & community groups who manage and maintain heritage structures	34
Volunteer Co-ordinators Workshop ¹	Inaugural meeting of key agency staff managing volunteer programs	15
Reference Group Meetings	All meetings this year were teleconferences	36

¹ Funded this financial year but held in July 2017

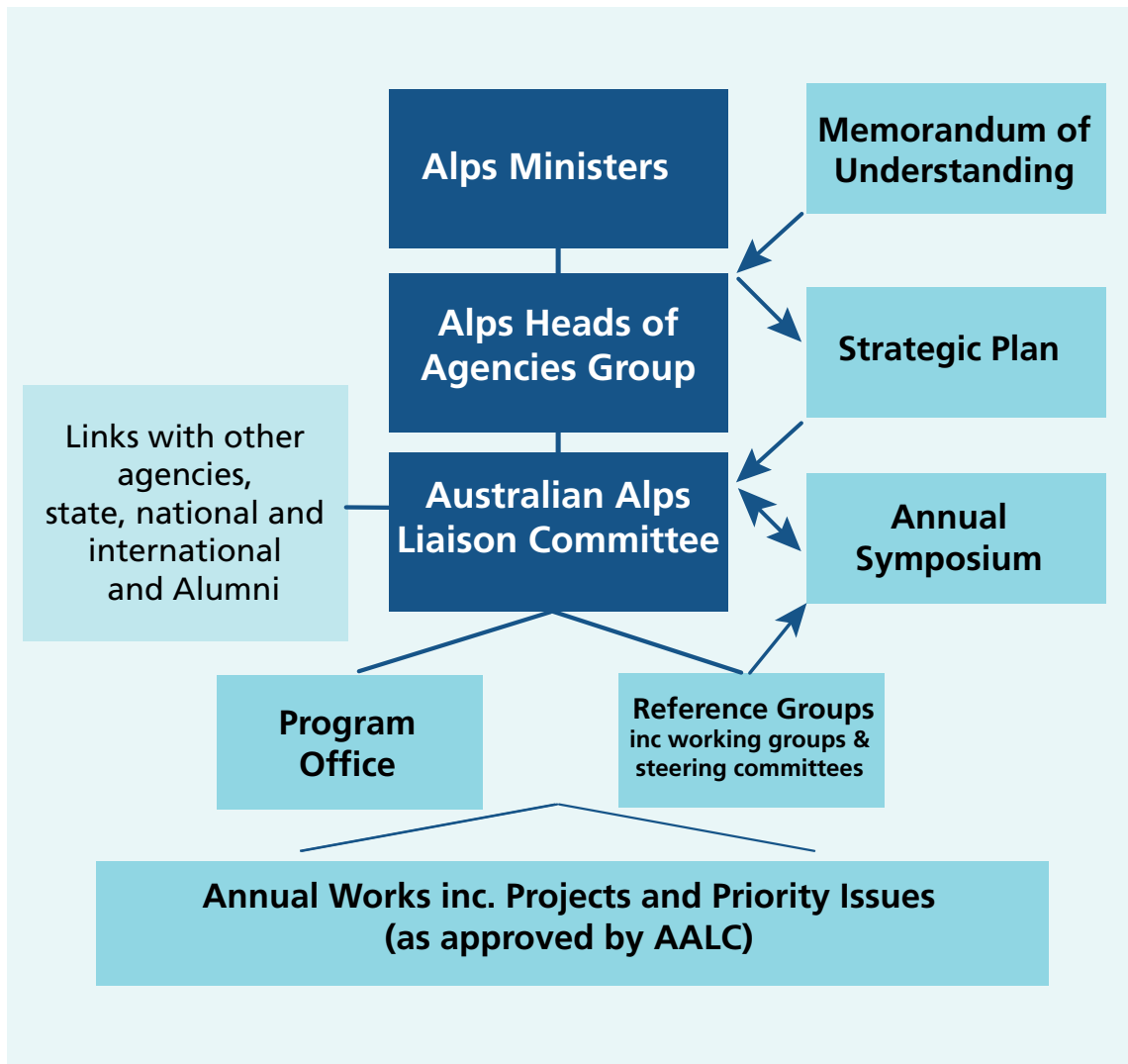
Table 1.0



Heritage Skills Workshop

The Alps Program's Functional Relationships

The administrative structure aims to operate with low overheads and effective integration with agency structures and the Alps planning framework (MoU, strategic plan, and annual works program)



Refer to the organisational structure of the Program at Attachment 1 (page 12)



Performance Results

Core Value: Resilient Natural Landscapes

Priority Issue 1 - Invasive Species

Objective	<p><i>Diminishing the impact of invasive species on natural systems, including consideration on the impacts of climate change. The ungulates – deer and wild horse shall have particular emphasis.</i></p>
<p>Measures of Success (Outcomes)</p>	<p>The biennial field operations workshop was held at Howman’s Gap in November. It was attended by around 45 agency staff and stakeholder representatives. The focus was on feral deer and other ungulates. The clear message out of this workshop is that deer are here and they are here in large numbers. They are damaging our natural heritage, agricultural crops and infrastructure across the alps and well beyond. They are also a major road hazard in some areas. The workshop looked at deer ecology and management responses. At this stage, there is no landscape scale, control option on the table. Deer have no natural predator in Australia although there is some evidence that dingoes could play a role in suppressing numbers. In the short term however, it might be necessary to focus on the protection of high value assets while continuing to trial novel control measures. Attendees at the workshop participated with great enthusiasm, sharing their experiences and concerns. It was the sort of strong networking opportunity that the Alps Program specializes in supporting. A report on this workshop is available on the Australian Alps website.</p> <p>Year 1 of a 2-year project: <i>Partnerships, People and Pooches</i>. For the first time in Australia, this project is training dogs to detect invasive weeds. It has been highly successful at many levels. Thus far, 2 dogs have been trained to detect 3 species of hawkweed. Search and destroy activities have been conducted in NSW, Victoria and the ACT. These team events have staff working closely with volunteers and dogs to thoroughly check areas of known and suspected infestation. The results suggest that although highly effective, the dogs are not infallible and they should be considered part of an invasive species toolkit. This project has generated a great deal of media interest (both social and mainstream) and was the topic of a speech in NSW State Parliament by the Hon Greg Aplin Member for Albury. A feature item, for the ABC’s Off Track Program, has been recorded and will go to air in the later part of this year.</p> <p>Year 1 of a 3-year project: <i>Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) to Monitor Stream Bank Impacts of Wild Horses in the Australian Alps</i>. This is yet another innovative research project with great on ground potential. In this first year, 32 baseline sites have been established and surveyed using UAVs and virtual drones (cameras on poles). The results are high resolution, 3 dimensional images capable of showing an individual blade of grass. This technology can identify small changes in stream morphology such as bank damage caused by horses. There are two important operational outcomes from this project. A base transect for long term feral horse impact monitoring and a monitoring methodology that is practical and cost effective. Dr Paull has presented some of his early findings to the Feral Horse Working group and will be contributing to the Alps newsletter in coming months. All peer reviewed journal articles will be made available to the Alps Program for distribution.</p> <p>Yr 3 of the 4-year project: <i>Quantitative Assessment of Feral Horse Abundance</i> has continued in partnership with the University of Tasmania. Accurate and cost-effective methods for measuring local feral horse densities are necessary in order to interpret data on feral horse impacts, monitor success of local horse management operations, and for planning future control operations. The field season this year focused on Cooleman Plain, Cowombat Flat and the Bogong High Plains. The project outcome will provide operational staff with a new field tool for practical, cost-effective assessments of horse densities at a local level.</p> <p>The 1-year project: <i>Re-measurement of Mountain Invasion Research Network (MIREN) Transects</i> was successfully completed. The Australian Alps is one of 12 global regions participating in this research, which records and investigates weed invasions into mountain areas. Surveys are conducted every 5 years. Three transects in NSW, and five in Victoria were surveyed and results confirm that roads continue to act as a major conduit for weeds. It was noted that, within intact habitats weeds gradually invade surrounding areas over time. This survey confirms the importance of roadside weed management to limit the spread of invasive species.</p>

Priority Issue 2 - Landscape-wide Catchment and Ecological Issues	
Objective	Contribute to the development of landscape-wide initiatives that deal with new approaches to ecological systems and processes providing benefit for mountain catchments.
Measures of Success (Outcomes)	<p>Yr 2 of a 3-year project: <i>How much salt is too much for Australian Alpine streams?</i> Proposed outcomes of the project: 1) Determine the effect of road de-icing on salinity in selected Australian alpine streams and assess the ecological effect of these increases. 2) Develop provisional salinity targets for assessing the environmental risk of salt pollution from roads and car parks to streams in Australian Alpine areas. Three rounds of data collection have been successfully completed in the 2016 and 2017 winters. Detail data analysis will occur in year 3 of this project.</p> <p>This one-year project: <i>Research Adapted to Management – Habitat Assessment of the Endangered Guthega skink</i> was successfully completed. The Guthega skink (<i>Liopholis Guthega</i>) is a nationally endangered alpine endemic that is restricted to two geographically isolated locations above 1600m: Kosciuszko National Park in south-eastern New South Wales, and the Bogong High Plains in north-eastern Victoria. This project investigated the genetic divergence and habitat connectivity in the conservation of <i>L.guthega</i> at the known populations in the Australian Alps. It will form part of a larger study investigating the ecology, life history and thermal biology of the species at its two known localities. This research will significantly improve the current management of this species. This project will produce a peer reviewed journal article and agency fact sheet, which will be made available on the Alps website and Facebook page. There will also be 2 field days to discuss the results and improve staff knowledge of alpine reptiles. The overall study is part of a PhD by the investigating scientist.</p>
Priority Issue 3 - Climate Change and Adaptation	
Objective	Align projects to research that compliments expanding knowledge of climate change impacts on the natural values of the Alps. Projects that identify adaptive management opportunities for current and emerging issues will be encouraged.
Measures of Success (Outcomes)	<p>Year 3 of a 3-year project: <i>Phytophthora dieback in the Australian Alps</i>. Extensive dieback in the shrub species <i>Nematolepis</i> (<i>Phebalium</i>) <i>ovatifolia</i> appeared for the first time in the alpine zone of Kosciuszko National Park in the 2012/13 summer with thousands of dead and dying shrubs. Its reappearance in 2013/14 suggested this was not a one-off event. This same <i>Phytophthora</i> species has also been confirmed in another sample collected in Thredbo. Further study of the extent of dieback in this species is critical in identifying the extent of <i>Phytophthora cambivora</i>. However, this <i>Nematolepis</i> species only occurs in NSW. This project has examined the extent of infection within NSW. The project has completed targeted surveys of symptomatic vegetation in Victoria, the ACT and other areas of NSW to ascertain if the dieback observed is linked to <i>Phytophthora</i> species.</p> <p>Climate change forecasts suggest that natural temperature barriers protecting alpine areas will weaken in coming decades. A lengthening summer recreation season coupled with the presence of highly mobile feral animals such as horses and deer means bio-security measures will become an increasingly important management tool.</p> <p>A final report is still being drafted but an interim project report is available via the AAnp library/ website.</p>



Core Value: Living Cultural Landscapes

Priority Issue 4 - Aboriginal Peoples Involvement

<p>Objectives</p>	<p><i>The Program acknowledges the contributions made by Traditional Owner groups to a variety of the Program's actions. Participation by agency indigenous staff and the TO groups to projects will be encouraged. Where appropriate projects will integrate the Alps indigenous people's interests and aspirations.</i></p>
<p>Measures of Success (Outcomes)</p>	<p>Stage two of the <i>Aboriginal Cultural and Spiritual values of the Australian Alps</i> project involves the production of a series of short oral history films. The response from a tender process made it clear that this would need to be a staged project to be affordable. In February, the AALC approved the idea of a pilot project in the ACT with a view to assessing the outcomes before rolling the project out to NSW and Victoria. There is now a contract in place and work is underway.</p> <p>Each agency continued to provide opportunities and processes for Traditional Owner engagement in local agency regions. The Cultural Heritage Reference Group also contains indigenous representation from partner agencies.</p> <p>The biennial heritage skills workshop was held in Namadgi National Park and Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve in May. The workshop is both a connecting people and a cultural heritage event. It was well attended by key stakeholders from across the Alps. The Kosciuszko Huts Association and the Victoria High Country Huts Association both sent large contingents and both made strong practical contributions. There were also representatives from each of the four MOU partner agencies. This workshop is based around skill sharing, but is also a priceless opportunity for networking between staff and volunteers. Connecting those with the skills to those with the problems, in a spirit of co-operation and shared passion for cultural heritage.</p>



Field Operations Workshop

Core Value: Connecting People to the Australian Alps national parks

Priority Issue 4 'Aboriginal Peoples Involvement' & associated objectives are also contributors to this Core Value. Measures of Success are noted above.

Priority Issue 5 - Communications

Objectives	<i>Improve relationships with key partner agency staff; improve communication tools accessibility (website, newsletter, and social media) and; ensure park agency staff are a focus for the Programs activities.</i>
<p>Measures of Success (Outcomes)</p>	<p>The biennial Frontline Forum was held at Falls Creek in Victoria. The central themes were technology and visitor experience. Falls Creek was chosen as a venue because it typifies the challenges and opportunities of providing a world-class visitor experience in the heart of a fragile alpine landscape. It proved an ideal setting to discuss social media, online service delivery and the 365 days a year visitor cycle. Over 40 staff and volunteers attended and it was highly successful, both as a professional development activity and a networking event. Parks Victoria made a particularly strong contribution. Presenting, assisting with logistics and leading a field trip to the Bogong High Plains. The Alps Program would like to thank Falls Creek Resort Management for their considerable <i>in kind</i> support of this forum.</p> <p>The Australian Alps Walking Track (AAWT) working group held its biennial meeting at Charlotte's Pass in November. Area rangers from right along the track presented condition reports and project updates. The big topic of conversation and controversy was the <i>Falls to Hotham Alpine Crossing</i> and its possible impact on the amenity of other users. There is a clear trend towards the development of iconic walks and exclusive experiences. Discussions at this meeting highlighted the importance of effective stakeholder engagement.</p> <p>The Alps smart-phone Tour Guide received a full content and software upgrade. This project addressed a series of known 'bugs', improved formatting for new tablet devices, added Lake Mountain to the content and incorporated a new map showing all 12 Australian Alps parks. It is likely the interactive kiosk iPads will be decommissioned in the coming year, and replaced with direct downloads using visitor centre wi-fi facilities.</p> <p>The Alps 'Inspire' brochure was redesigned to bring it into line with the new MOU. Aside from a new map, it now includes information on bio-security under the 'Leave no Trace' banner.</p> <p>The program supported a reprint of the seminal alps publication "Kosciuszko Alpine Flora" by Costin et al. This coincides with the 50th anniversary of the NSW NPWS and of Kosciuszko National Park. Despite the name, this book has application across the alps regions. This reprint will make it available to another generation of rangers, scientists and alpine enthusiasts. It will be sold, both online and by selected Alps visitor centres. It is expected that it will be launched around August 2017.</p> <p>Four <i>News from the Alps</i> newsletters were published. This on-line publication continues as an important medium for sharing the Programs activities with agency staff and key stakeholders. Each new edition is now placed on the Alps website, promoted through the Facebook page and electronically distributed.</p>

Core Value: Skilled and well-connected agency staff Measures of Success

Priority Issue 5 'Communications' & associated objectives are also a contributor to this Core Value. Measures of Success are noted above.

Priority Issue 6 - Knowledge Management

Objectives	<i>Improved access and utilisation of research outcomes, databases, reports and program information. Market these resources to assist in achieving best practice protected area management.</i>
Measures of Success (Outcomes)	<p>During this financial year, the Program has undergone some significant changes to the way it stores and disseminates information. The Program has embraced both digitization and social media as a means of improving general communications and engaging with a broader demographic.</p> <p>In late 2016, the Australian Alps national parks Facebook page went live. It has since proven to be very popular and is the perfect place to share seasonal photos, publicise the parks, promote activities and release new reports. Facebook is immediate and pro-actively notifies followers of posts thereby encouraging greater engagement with the program. The Facebook page is moderated by the Program Manager under advice from the AALC. The Program has also opened an Instagram account for photo sharing, but this is yet to be fully exploited.</p> <p>Work has commenced on the digitization of all available program reports and publications. A catalogue covering both digital and physical library resources has been created and will be progressively added to. This catalogue will shortly be available online through the website. The Alps library has been relocated to the NSW NPWS education centre at Sawpit Creek (Kosciuszko National Park). This eliminates the need for it to be moved every 3 years, thus representing both an efficiency gain and an opportunity to make publications more accessible.</p>

Program Management

Objective	A well-managed and effective practice to achieve the vision and objectives of the MoU.	The AALC met quarterly during the year for a full update on projects and the program more broadly. A Program Support Officer was employed one day per week to perform general administrative duties including: financial management, workshop logistics and providing secretariat support to AALC.
Outcome	An efficiently managed Program to the satisfaction of key stakeholders and the Heads of Agencies.	

Table 2.0



Stakeholder and Agencies relations

Much of the work of the Australian Alps Program during the reporting period has been made possible through collaboration with a collection of groups, associations, organisations, authorities, universities, and local, state and federal government departments. The contributions of these organisations are further evidence of the sustained profile, strength and relevance of the Australian Alps Program.

The Australian Alps Liaison Committee appreciates and values the support of these agencies, institutions, and groups. They are valuable partners integral to the success of the program including contributions to policy, strategy, community input, research and project delivery.

Australian National Botanic Gardens, Parks Australia	NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (Office of Environment and Heritage)
ACT Parks and Conservation Service	NSW, Vic and ACT Traditional Owner Groups
Catchment Management Authorities, Victoria	Office of Environment and Heritage NSW
Department of the Environment and Energy (Commonwealth of Australia)	Parks Australia
Department of Environment, Land, Water, and Planning (formerly Department of Environment and Primary Industries - Victoria)	Parks Victoria
Forests New South Wales	Regional tourism organisations and visitor centres
International Union for Conservation and Nature (IUCN) World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) Mountains Biome	Tourism Victoria, Tourism NSW, Australian Capital Tourism and key industry stakeholders and local government
Kosciuszko Huts Association and Victorian High Country Huts Association	University of New England
La Trobe University	University of Tasmania
Local Land Services, NSW	Melbourne University
Mount Buller Resort / Falls Creek Resort	Walking Associations - Bushwalking Victoria, Canberra, and NSW Bushwalking Clubs
National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility	Victorian Alpine Resorts Coordinating Council
National Parks Associations of Victoria, NSW and ACT	Victorian High Country Huts Association

Attachment 1 Program Structure as at 30 June 2017

	Australian Government	New South Wales	Australian Capital Territory	Victoria
Responsible Minister	The Hon. Josh Frydenburg, MP Minister for the Environment and Energy	The Hon. Gabrielle Upton, MP Minister for the Environment, Minister for Local Government, and Minister for Heritage	Mick Gentleman, MLA Manager of Government Business, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Minister for Planning and Land Management, Minister for Urban Renewal	The Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio, MP Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change and Minister for Suburban Development
Australian Alps Head of Agencies	Sally Barnes Director of National Parks, Parks Australia	Anthony Lean Chief Executive Office of Environment and Heritage, Department of Premier and Cabinet	Annie Lane Executive Director, Environment, ACT	Matthew Jackson Chief Executive Officer, Parks Victoria
Australian Alps Liaison Committee AALC	Ben Phillips Director, Executive Coordination, Parks Australia	Mick Pettitt Director Operations Southern Ranges Branch, NPWS Office of Environment and Heritage	Brett McNamara (AALC Convenor) Area Manager, Namadji National Park, ACT Parks and Conservation Service, Environment Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate	Dan Brown (Acting) Regional Operations Manager East Victoria, Parks Victoria
Program Manager			John McRae (ACT Parks and Conservation Service)	
Program Support Officer			Gayle Garrett (ACT Parks and Conservation Service)	
Connecting People Reference Group	Lisa Testoni Sabrina Sonntag	Dan Nicholls Tim Greville Patricia Wilkinson	Jasmine Foxlee (Co-convenor) Lois Padgham (Co-convenor) Mel Barton	Gary Bellesini Kevin Cosgriff Gail Wright
Environment Reference Group	Jeremy Groves (Convenor) Zarni Bear Clare D'Arcy	Geoff Robertson Duane Shawcross Mel Schroder Ken Green	Julian Seddon Tim Wong Lisa Evans Ben Stevenson	Keith Primrose Elaine Thomas Andy Gillham Mark Mickelborough
Cultural Heritage Reference Group	Anthea Brecknell Tim Savage	Tristan Ricketson Megan Bowden	Nathan Oliver (Convenor) Krystal Hurst Jennifer Dunn Meaghan Russell	Bridget Grant Luke Johnson

Table 3.0

The functional roles of the entities listed in the Australian Alps Co-operative Management Program structure and noted under the MoU are:

Australian Alps Ministers The Ministers are responsible for participating agencies, which are in turn responsible for high-level inter-government relationships.

Australian Alps national parks Heads of Agencies Group The Heads (or their representatives) of participating agencies meet at least annually to consider strategic issues and direct the Australian Alps Liaison Committee on policy, priority and emerging issues. They are also designated signatories for the MoU and the Annual Report.

Australian Alps Liaison Committee The Australian Alps Liaison Committee facilitates the development, co-ordination and implementation of the Co-operative Management Program. Its members include a senior officer from each of the participating agencies in NSW, Victoria, ACT and the Australian Government.

Australian Alps Program Manager The Australian Alps Program Manager is the only full-time employee of the Program and is responsible for co-ordinating the day to day work of the Program and ensuring the annual works program, as agreed by the Australian Alps Liaison Committee, is carried out. The Program Manager position is hosted by each of the State/Territory park agencies for three years at a time. During this reporting period, the position was hosted by the ACT.

Program Support Officer The necessity for administrative support to the AALC and the Program has long been recognised. The Program currently funds a part-time administration officer to assist in administrative and financial reporting matters.

Reference Groups A number of reference groups are established to advise the Australian Alps Liaison Committee on specific matters and to assist with the implementation of the Co-operative Management Program. These groups usually have a minimum of two staff from each of the co-operating agencies as members. Terms of Reference are provided for the reference groups and members.

There are currently three reference groups as described in the current strategic plan:

- Environment
- Connecting People
- Cultural Heritage

These groups aim to meet regularly during the year, either face to face or by teleconference.

Currently there are two working groups (reporting to the relevant reference group) that cooperate on operational matters on behalf of the Australian Alps Liaison Committee. They are the Australian Alps Walking Track and the Feral Horse group.

Alps Operational Group The Alps Operational Group has a flexible participation of Rangers-in-Charge: Area, District and Operational Program Managers, and other key operational staff. The group meets biennially to provide advice to the Australian Alps Liaison Committee on current issues and targeted management activities. The gathering of AOG staff can be part of one of the annual AAnp workshops e.g. this year's symposium.



Attachment 2 Financial Report

Year Ending 30 June 2017

Revenue (all figures EXCLUDE GST)		
Opening Balance 1 July 2016		
Project carry-overs from 2015-16		\$53,989 ¹
Agency Contributions	ACT	\$40,000
	NSW	\$120,000
	Victoria	\$120,000
	Commonwealth	\$35,000
TOTAL (cash and in kind contributions)		\$368,989

¹ This amount is project carry-over from year 2015-16. It includes funds from projects: \$15,000 carry over for a deferred cultural heritage project and \$4000 for deferred Volunteer Co-ordinator workshop. Also includes \$34,989 rollover to Parks Victoria to cover outstanding invoices from 2015/16 FY

² This amount was paid to Parks Victoria to settle all outstanding project invoices from 2016-2017

Expenditure & 2016-2017 Carryover (all figures EXCLUDE GST)		
Expenditure in 2016/17		
Projects (refer to table 4.1)		\$163,080
Program Office		\$145,039
Re-imbursment to Parks Victoria ²		\$22,873
	Subtotal	\$330,992
Carryover (to 2017/18)		
• Project funds unspent		\$20,627
• Projects partially complete and requiring rollover		\$ 17,370
	Subtotal	\$ 37,997
TOTAL EXPENDITURE & 2016-2017 CARRYOVER		\$368,989

Table 4.0

Project expenditure by category	Actual Expenditure to 30 June 2017
Program Management	
Program Manager, employment and office on-costs ¹	\$121,500
Program Administration support	14,000
Program Operating inc. administration, AALC and Reference Group meetings	9,539
Parks Victoria Settlement of O/S project invoices from 2015/2016	22,873
	Subtotal \$167,912
Program Promotion	
Annual report (2015-2016)	1,496
Alps 'News from the Alps' Newsletter	1,200
Collateral & promotion purchases	9,539
	Subtotal \$12,235
Connecting People	
Alps Smartphone Guide Update	5,250
AAWT Work Group Meeting	2,482
Frontline Forum	13,211
Kosciuszko Alpine Flora Field Guide Re-print	18,000
Communications Sub-Projects	4,812
	Subtotal \$43,755
Environment	
Field Operations Workshop	8003
Salting in Alpine Streams	9,590
Guthega Skink	5,360
Unmanned Aerial Vehicles Stream bank Monitoring	18,000
UTAS Quantitative assessment of feral horse abundance	25,000
Hawkweed: Partnerships, People and Pooches	9,091
Phytosphthora - dieback	12,000
MIREN Transects	9,400
	Subtotal \$96,444
Cultural Heritage	
Stage 2 Aboriginal Cultural & Spiritual Values of the Alps: Oral History Pilot	1,830
Heritage Skills Workshop (ACT)	8,816
	Subtotal \$10,646
TOTAL for 2016/2017	\$330,992

Table 4.1

Attachment 3 Summary of Projects Approved for 2017-2018

The following major projects, forums and workshops have been approved by the Australian Alps Liaison Committee for the 2017-2018 financial year.

New Projects

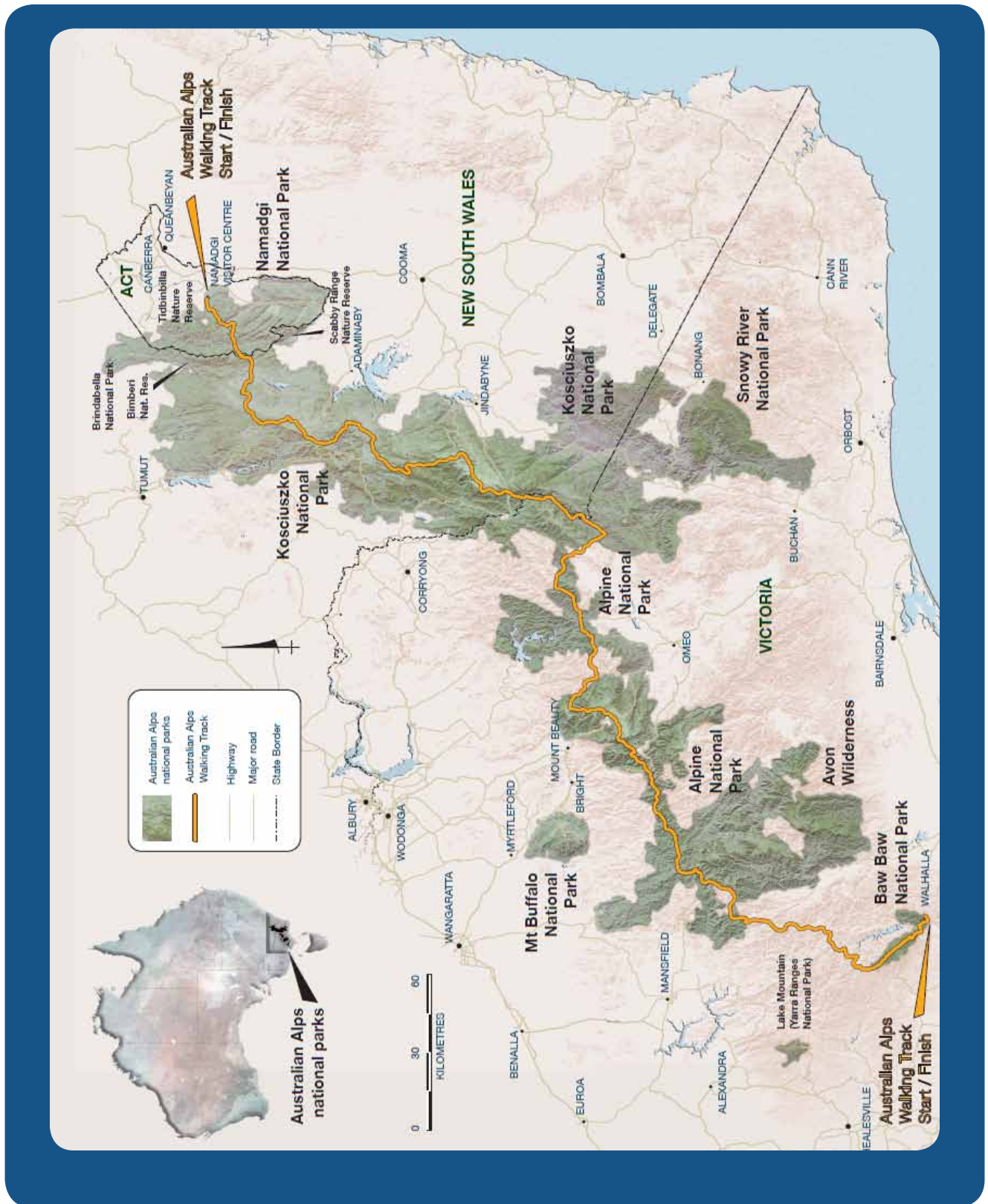
Science Management Forum (biennial)	Evidence Based Operations: Getting the science we need to better manage our protected areas.
Strategic Plan Review Workshop	A review of the 2016-2018 Strategic Plan and development of the 2019-2021 Strategic Plan.
Australian Alps Cycling Track Scoping Workshop	Finding a way through the Alps on 2 wheels.
Visual Ecology Communications Project	An Art/Science partnership.
Iconic Walks Summit	Stakeholder engagement and a social licence: drawing the experience and lessons learned from existing Iconic Walk projects to better inform future projects.
Archiving the Scientific Legacy of Alec Costin (Yr 1 of 2)	Preserving the heritage and cataloguing the science of Alec Costin.
Samba Deer Monitoring (Year 1 of 3)	Using GPS collars to uncover the secrets of this highly damaging pest species.

Ongoing Projects

Volunteer Co-ordinators Forum (rolled over from 2016/17)	Sharing the experience of volunteer engagement across the Alpine region.
Cultural and Spiritual Values of the Alps: Oral History Pilot (Yr 3 of 3)	Recording the stories of Aboriginal people with connection to the Alps.
Impact of Road Salting on Alpine Streams (Yr 3 of 3)	How much salt is ending up in the streams and what are the consequences?
Quantitative Assessment of Feral Horse Abundance (Yr 4 of 4)	Developing practical tools to assess horse abundance in a complex landscape.
UAV Assessment of Feral Horse Impact of Stream banks and Wetlands (Yr 2 of 3)	Can drones and cameras accurately measure horse impact and be a cost effective monitoring tool?
Hawkweed: Partnerships, People and Pooches (Yr 2 of 2)	Training dogs to detect weeds in the landscape and incorporating them into an integrated invasive species program.



Attachment 4 Australian Alps national parks Regional Map



All photos from Australian Alps Library

