

Annual Report 2018-2019

Australian Alps Liaison Committee



AUSTRALIAN ALPS
NATIONAL PARKS



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New South Wales

The Hon. Matthew Kean, MP

Minister for Energy and Environment

Victoria

The Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio, MP

Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change

Minister for Solar Homes

ACT

Mick Gentleman, MLA

Minister for the Environment and Heritage

Minister for Planning and Land Management

Minister for Police and Emergency Services

Minister assisting the Chief Minister on Advanced Technology and Space Industries

Manager of Government Business

Australian Government

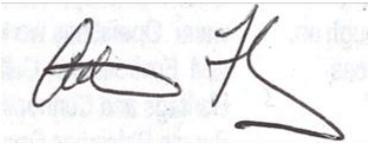
The Hon. Sussan Ley, MP

Minister for the Environment

Dear Ministers

We have pleasure in presenting the report of the Australian Alps Liaison Committee for the period 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 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,



Atticus Fleming

Deputy Secretary

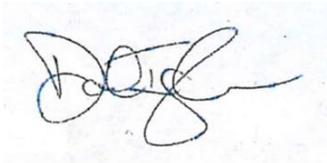
NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service



Matthew Jackson

Chief Executive Officer

Parks Victoria



Daniel Iglesias

Executive Branch Manager

ACT Parks and Conservation Service



Jody Swirepik

A/Director of National Parks

Parks Australia

Foreword

In 1986, Environment Ministers from New South Wales, Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory and the Commonwealth Government signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) which created the Australian Alps Co-operative Management Program.

In doing so, they recognised that the Australia Alps are a single bioregion of national significance that would benefit from cross border cooperation. The MoU was drafted in a spirit of collaboration and shared stewardship of the mountains. The program has a long and proud history of delivering high quality projects and plays a unique role in connecting people.

The programs vision remains consistent, '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.'

The programs core values of working together to achieve resilient natural and living cultural landscapes and connecting people to the Australian Alps national parks is reflected in its priority program areas including fostering cooperative work and research on invasive species; landscape-wide catchment and ecological issues, climate change and adaption, Aboriginal peoples heritage and contemporary culture; post-settlement heritage; communication and community building and visitor experience.

During the 2018-2019 year the Alps program coordinated and held a series of workshops and forums involving departmental staff, stakeholders and community members including the Australian Alps Walking Track Stakeholder Meeting, Alpine Resorts Environmental Forum, Heritage Building Skills Workshop, 'Working with water' Operations workshop and Environment, Cultural Heritage and Connecting People Reference Group meetings .

The program also sponsored and delivered a number of specific projects in partnership with others including conducting the 4th Australian Alps Feral Horse aerial survey; assessment of multiple feral deer control techniques; social research into weed and biosecurity hygiene compliance and messaging; assessment of feral horse impacts on streambanks and wetlands using drone captured imagery; and professionally archiving the scientific legacy of Dr Alec Costin, regarded to be the grandfather of Australian Alpine ecological research.

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
2018-2019



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; 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; contain RAMSAR wetlands; EPBC listed communities and species; and habitat covered by several international migratory bird agreements. In a time of climate change, this arc of largely connected alpine landscapes will become increasingly important as a catchment, a refugia and a wildlife corridor.

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.
- 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. The Alps Program brings

people together to learn, share and in doing so, builds a stronger alpine community. 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, the projects included the following: investigating the use of drones to survey stream bank damage

by feral horses; studying the impact of road salting on stream ecology; training sniffer dogs to locate hawkweed infestations; a visual ecology film on catchment values; and several popular multi-agency gatherings.

Meetings, workshops and forums this year.

Workshop/ Forum	For	Attendance
Strategic Plan Review Workshops	AALC, reference groups and selected agency staff	30
Australian Alps Walking Track Stakeholder Meeting	Agency staff and key stakeholders	25
Alpine Resorts Environmental Forum	Environment Officers from resorts in NZ and Australia and partner agency staff	35
Heritage Building Skills Workshop	Agency staff and volunteers from KHA, VHCHA	48
Operations Workshop	Rangers and field officers from partner agencies	40
Reference and Working Group Meetings	All groups met twice this year	29

Table 1.0



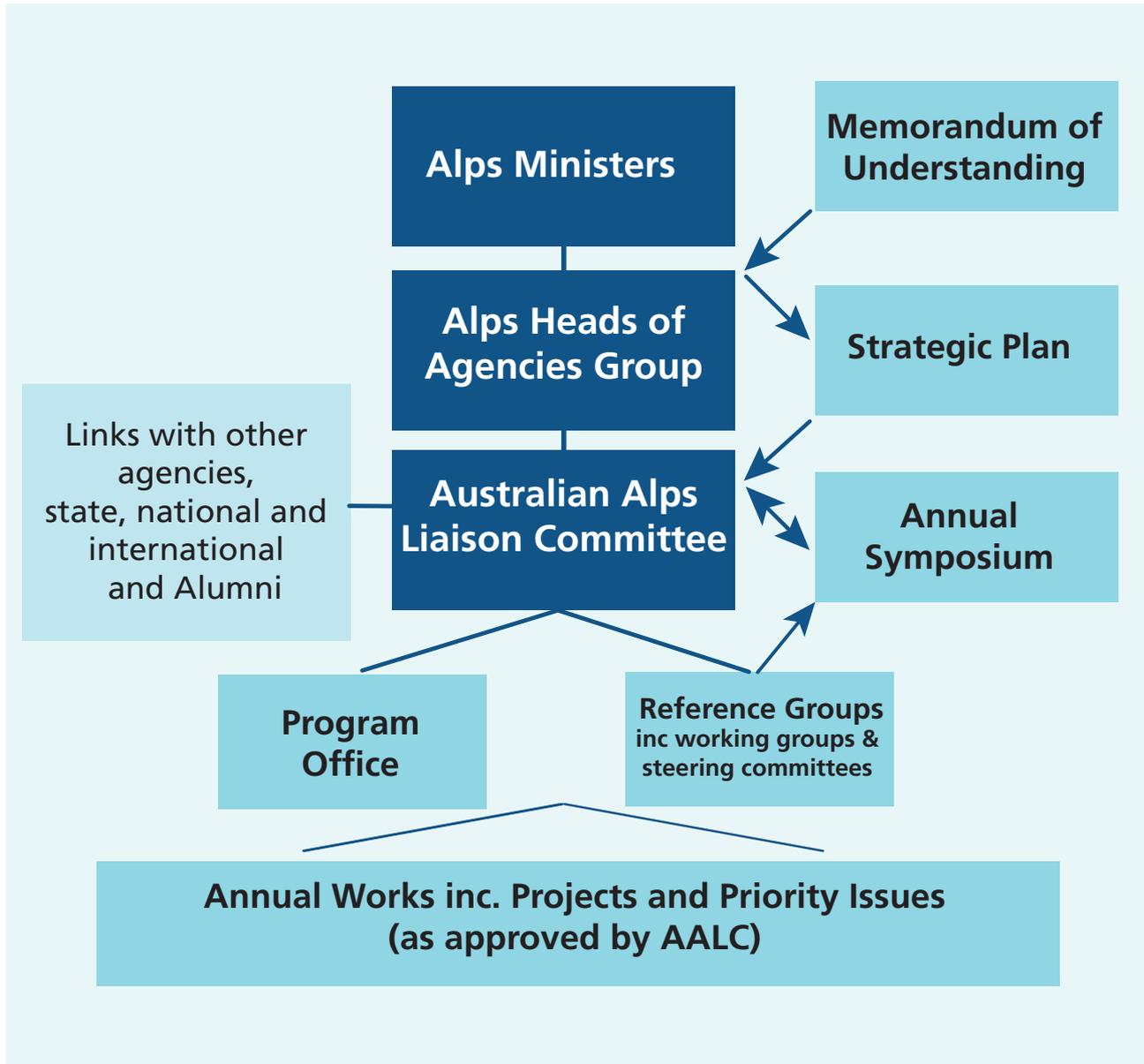
Australian Alps Liaison Committee tour of Namadgi National Park, ACT



Indigenous welcome to country and smoking ceremony for the Heritage Workshop. Credit: R. Brymora

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

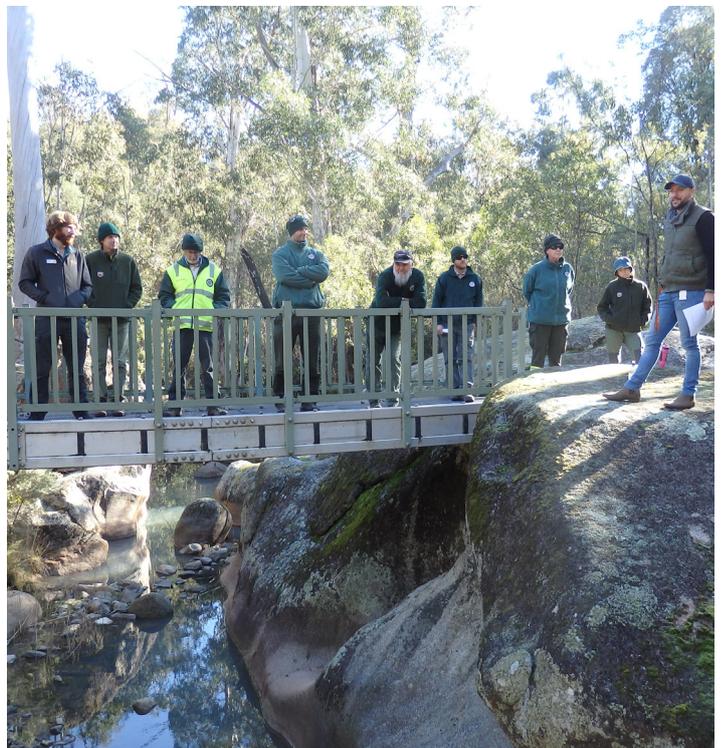
Environment Reference Group

Priority Issue	Invasive Species	Objective	<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>
Measure of Success (Outcomes)	<p>Year 2 of a 3 year project: <i>Sambar Deer Monitoring</i>. This exciting and innovative project aimed to put GPS collars on a small number of sambar deer. This would have been a world first. It is an example of the Australian Alps Program supporting cutting-edge research with strong operational relevance. In the first year of the project, all approvals and permits were obtained, study sites selected and Contractors engaged. This second year has been all about getting the collars on. To achieve this the team tried both darting and netting in a range of locations. They spared no effort and brought considerable expertise to the project. In doing so, they learnt a great about this cryptic species but were unable to successfully capture and collar one. Above all, this project has demonstrated what a challenging species the sambar deer will be to control.</p> <p>Year 1 of a 2 year project: <i>Hygiene and Biosecurity</i>. This project is using a concept known as Community Based Social Marketing. It is seeking to improve our knowledge of both practices and attitudes towards biosecurity in parks. The team has installed a number of boot cleaning stations in Kosciuszko National Park and has conducted several surveys of walkers in the vicinity of those stations. The project has also partnered with Namadgi National Park to install several boot hygiene stations at strategic locations. At this stage, data is still being collected and analysed with a view to providing management recommendations at the end of year two.</p> <p>Year 3 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. It is using UAVs and virtual drones (cameras on poles) to capture high resolution, 3 dimensional images of streambanks. Software processes the images and can produce detailed reports on both stream morphology and volumes of soil lost. Most transects that were established in the first year have been resurveyed. 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. In addition, soil loss estimates at a sub-catchment and catchment level could add significantly to the story of feral horse impact. Dr Paul contributed an article on this project to the most recent Alps newsletter. He is also assisting Parks Victoria staff with a deer monitoring project in 2018-2019 using expertise developed from this field work. All peer reviewed journal articles will be made available to the Alps Program for distribution.</p> <p>Year 1 of a 2 year project: <i>Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) to assess deer impact mitigation techniques</i>. This project is comparing the effectiveness of three deterrence methods in reducing deer impact on sub-alpine bogs: exclusion fencing, virtual electric fencing and shooting. Impact measures are taken using a UAV with a high resolution camera. The images are then processed by Dr David Paull at UNSW to produce data on soil loss and morphological change. This is great example of an innovative and collaboration whose results could well assist managers in strategic asset protection.</p>		

Priority Issue	Landscape-wide Catchment and Ecological Issues	Objective	<i>Contribute to the development of landscape-wide initiatives that deal with new approaches to ecological systems and processes providing benefit for mountain catchments.</i>
	Climate Change and Adaptation	Objective	<i>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.</i>
Measure of Success (Outcomes)	<p><i>Feral Horse Aerial Survey 2019.</i> In Autumn 2019, the Alps Program co-ordinated the five yearly feral horse aerial survey. The survey replicated the 2014 methodology which was subject to rigorous independent review and found to be both scientifically and statistically sound. Although anecdotally, the range occupied by horses has expanded since 2014, the objective of this survey was to establish what has happened to horse numbers in the 2014 survey areas over the past five years. It was all about establishing a solid benchmark based on widely accepted methods from which to build future surveys. The results are currently being processed by Dr Stuart Cairns from the University of New England and will be available in the coming months.</p> <p><i>The biennial Alps Operations Workshop.</i> There was strong interest in this workshop from all partner agencies and it was very well attended. The program included presentations on aquatic ecology, hydrology, soil science, case studies from across the Alps, biosecurity and fish barriers. The field trip took in a number of sites in Namadgi National Park and Tidbinbilla, with a focus on costly lessons learned. On the final morning, Jackson Taylor-Grant spoke to the group about the cultural value of waterways and there importance to all Aboriginal people. Feedback from attendees suggested that this is workshop topic well worth revisiting in the near future. Gatherings such as these demonstrate that the Alps Program can play a lead role in catchment protection and resilience to climate change by supporting a culture of sharing and learning.</p>		



Australian Alps national parks agency staff undertaking feral horse aerial surveys



Agency staff at the 'working with water' operational workshop, Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve, ACT

Core Value: Living Cultural Landscapes

Cultural Heritage Reference Group

Priority Issue	Aboriginal Peoples Involvement	Objectives	<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>
Measure of Success (Outcomes)	<p>The biennial Heritage Skills Workshop was held at Howman's Gap at the foot of the Bogong High Plains in late march. It was very successful event with nearly 50 attendees including two representatives from the Tasmanian Mountain Hut Preservation Society. The program included a fascinating presentation by a Dhudhuroa man on Aboriginal stone huts. He also performed a smoking ceremony and spoke passionately about his people and their country. We visited a number of high country huts to see examples of how they are repaired, restored and interpreted. Each high country hut is an embodied story of many cultures. Often these huts sit on areas that were once frequented by Aboriginal communities. Then came the cattlemen, the utility companies and the recreational users who all built structures for their specific needs. The first snows of the season came as we walked on the Bogong High Plains, lending a fabulous atmosphere to the gathering. Back at Howman's Gap, there were demonstrations on a range on old timber skills including shingle making, slab splitting and caring for antique tools. The program wrapped up on Sunday morning with a brief planning exercise at Pretty Valley Hut and a visit to Mt Mackay.</p> <p>Each agency continued to provide opportunities and processes for Traditional Owner engagement in local agency regions. The Cultural Heritage Reference Group has a strong cohort of Aboriginal members, which ensures that the voice of the Traditional Owners is part of all discussions. Aboriginal presenters attended all the major operational workshops conducted this year, recognising that their values are integral to what we do.</p> <p>Year 2 of 2: <i>Archiving the Scientific Legacy of Alec Costin</i>. This project has been a great success. The project officers have managed to acquire a huge collection of original scientific records from Alec Costin along with thousands of slides and photographs. It's far bigger collection than was anticipated. The eScholarship Research Centre at Melbourne University is digitizing and cataloguing all material including photographs, slides and written records. The cataloguing is largely complete now and the intention is for the physical collection to be housed at the National Library. This priceless archive could so easily have been lost, but thanks to this project will soon be available to all Australians for all time.</p>		



Australian Alps Walking Track management and stakeholder meeting, Alpine National Park



Australian Alps Cultural Heritage Reference Group on a field trip of former Snowy Hydro sites in Kosciuszko National Park

Core Value: Connecting People to the Australian Alps national parks

Connecting People Reference Group

Priority Issue	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>Measure of Success (Outcomes)</p>	<p>In early March, the Alps Program held a forum at Thredbo to discuss the environmental issues and challenges faced by alpine ski resorts. Attendees included representatives from ski resorts in NSW, Victoria and New Zealand. There were also staff from Parks Victoria, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service and the New Zealand Department of Conservation. Participants identified priority topics prior to the gathering. These included human waste management; threatened species management; water use and efficiency; social issues; cultural heritage and many more. A rich well from which to draw. Conversations were robust and respectful with everyone making a strong contribution. There was a lot of sharing ideas: successes, failures, lessons learned. Ski resorts are big operations with big environmental footprints so it was particularly encouraging to hear their representatives talking about environmental stewardship as a key part of their daily business. Last item on the two-day agenda was a field trip around Thredbo Village led by Euan Diver. We looked at various installations and facilities such as solar streetlights, wildlife corridors, mountain bike tracks and water bottle refill points. It's the sum of all the little things that can make a big difference. It was obvious from the two days of discussions that all the resorts could benefit enormously from sharing their experiences more regularly. To this end it was proposed that another forum be held in two years' time. Maybe one of the New Zealand resorts could play host.</p> <p>The Australian Alps Walking Track (AAWT) working group held its biennial meeting at Falls Creek in December. It was productive gathering with lots of vigorous discussion. Attendees included agency staff, bushwalking groups, guidebook authors and business representatives. Area rangers from right along the track presented condition reports and project updates. One of the most serious issues discussed here was the drying of the track and increasing reliance on water tanks. Climate change will make this worse over time. There was general agreement in the room that tanks are now a vital part of the AAWT. There was a presentation from 'Guthook Guides' (http://guthookguides.com.au/), a worldwide portal for walking tracks accessible through smartphone apps. The idea of including the AAWT on the guide was supported and the Alps Program is now will assisting with that process. There was a wide-ranging conversation about who walks the track and where they source their information. Twenty years ago, there were no chatrooms, no blogs and no smartphones. Now they are ubiquitous. Walkers just search the internet and download whatever they can find. The meeting agreed that it would be a good idea for the Alps program to oversee the creation of an official version of the AAWT route that complies with agency plans of management and is updated with any changes (this is now a work in progress). Climate and technology have changed. This meeting was all about how the AAWT can embrace that change while remaining one of the world's epic alpine treks.</p> <p>The Alps 'Inspire and challenge your spirit' brochure is a very popular item at regional visitor centres. The program office distributes these free on request. The brochure includes a strong 'leave no trace' message and a simple map of the twelve protected areas covered by the MoU. The brochure was updated this year to include some fresh images and messages. The Program has a small collection of promotional material such as badges and stickers. We have ensured a good level of stock will be on hand to pass on to the next Program Manager.</p> <p>3 x News from the Alps newsletters were published. We highlighted the importance of scientific monitoring, showcased flagship environmental programs and looked back on three years of achievements. We also published the first ever Alps crossword. Yet another breathtaking innovation. This on-line publication continues to be an important medium for sharing the Programs activities with agency staff and key stakeholders. This on-line publication continues to be an important medium for sharing the Programs activities with agency staff and key stakeholders. Each new edition is published on the Alps website and promoted through the Facebook page and electronically distributed to stakeholders, agency staff and key stakeholders.</p> <p>A short promotional film about the past, present and future of the Australian Alps Program is nearing completion. This will be a valuable resource for explaining and promoting the Program. Since 1986, it has been connecting people, protecting the environment and promoting our shared cultural heritage for the benefit of all partner agencies.</p>		

Core Value: Skilled and well-connected agency staff

Connecting People Reference Groups

Priority Issue	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>
Measure of Success (Outcomes)	<p>During this financial year, the Program has continued to embrace digitization and social media as a means of improving general communications. Printing costs have been lowered while breadth of distribution and access to information has been improved. The efficiencies mean more resources are available to support projects.</p> <p>The Australian Alps national parks Facebook page has been operating for over two years and has around 2500 followers. It 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 Program Manager moderates the Facebook page under the authority of the AALC. All new public reports are uploaded to the website, which has around 400 subscribers.</p> <p>The digital library project is now almost complete. The Sawpit Creek library is now just a storage area for items that have been digitized. The next step with the digital is to develop an online catalogue for remote access.</p>		
Program Management			
Objective	A well-managed and effective practice to achieve the vision and objectives of the MoU	The AALC met thrice during the year for a full update on projects and the program more broadly.	
Outcome	An efficiently managed Program to the satisfaction of key stakeholders and the Heads of Agencies	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	

Table 2.0



Australian Alps Connecting People Reference Group on post meeting field trip to McKillops Bridge Snowy River National Park, Victoria



Alps agency and Alpine resorts management staff at the 'Resorts Forum', above Thredbo valley, Kosciuszko National Park, NSW

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 inc. associations, organisations, authorities, universities, and local, state and federal government departments. The much appreciated 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.

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

Attachment 1 Program Structure as at 30 June 2019

	Australian Government	New South Wales	Australian Capital Territory	Victoria
Responsible Minister	The Hon. Sussan Ley, MP Minister for the Environment	The Hon. Matt Kean, MP Minister for the Environment and Energy	Mick Gentleman, MLA Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Minister for Planning and Land Management, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister assisting the Chief Minister on Advanced Technology and Space Industries	The Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio, MP Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change and Minister for Solar Homes
Australian Alps Head of Agencies	Dr James Findlay Director of National Parks, Parks Australia	Anthony Lean Chief Executive Office of Environment and Heritage	Ian Walker Executive Director, Environment, ACT	Matthew Jackson Chief Executive Officer, Parks Victoria
Australian Alps Liaison Committee AALC	Luke Scott Director Parks Science and Strategy, 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	Kerri Villiers Manager, Regional Operations Eastern 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	Lois Padgham Mel Barton Gail Neuss Stephanie Pulsford	Gary Bellesini Gail Wright Meaghan Raymond
Environment Reference Group	Jeremy Groves (Convenor) Clare D'Arcy	Duane Shawcross Mel Schroder	Julian Seddon Lisa Evans Ben Stevenson	Keith Primrose Elaine Thomas Mark Mickelburgh
Cultural Heritage Reference Group	Anthea Brecknell Jim Newman	Megan Bowden Barrina South	Krystal Hurst Jennifer Dunn Mary Mudford	Katherine Mullett Fleur Smith

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 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. Representatives of this group participated in the strategic plan review in Oct 2018.



Attachment 2 Financial Report

Year Ending 30 June 2019

REVENUE (all figures EXCLUDE GST)		
Opening Balance 1 July 2018		
Project carry-overs from 2017-18 ¹		\$49,000
Agency Contributions	ACT	\$40,000
	NSW	\$120,000
	Victoria	\$120,000
	Commonwealth	\$35,000
TOTAL (cash and in kind contributions)		\$364,000

¹ This amount is the sum of a number of projects that came in under budget plus the deferment of a Strategic Planning workshop. It also includes an unallocated amount resulting from an underestimate of residual funds by the P&CS finance team.

EXPENDITURE & CARRYOVER 2018-2019 (all figures EXCLUDE GST)	
Expenditure 2018/19	
Program Office (Salaries)	\$152,000
Program Office (Administration)	\$18,877
Program Promotion	\$25,553
Connecting People Projects	\$20,298
Environment Projects	\$79,545
Cultural Heritage Projects	\$21,409
Sub-Total	\$317,682
Carryover (to 2019/20)	46,318
TOTAL EXPENDITURE & CARRYOVER	
	\$364,000

Table 4.0



Project expenditure by category	Actual Expenditure to 30 June 2019
Program Management	
Program Manager, employment and (including on-costs)	136,000
Program Administration support	16,000
Program Operating inc. administration, AALC and Reference Group meetings	15,000
Strategic Plan Workshop and Production	3,877
	Subtotal \$170,877
Program Promotion	
Annual report (2017-2018)	1,180
Alps 'News from the Alps' Newsletter	2,520
Collateral, promotion purchases & brochures	6,853
Alps Promotional Video	15,000
	Subtotal \$25,553
Connecting People	
Alpine Resorts Environmental Forum	16,218
Australian Alps Walking Track Forum	4,080
	Subtotal \$20,298
Environment	
Sambar Deer Collaring and Monitoring	40,000
Hygiene and Biosecurity	4,545
Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Modelling Deer Control Options	4,000
Unmanned Aerial Vehicles Stream bank Monitoring	18,000
Operations Workshop: Working with Water	13,000
	Subtotal \$79,545
Cultural Heritage	
Archiving the Scientific Legacy of Alec Costin	10,909
Heritage Building Skills Workshop	10,500
	Subtotal \$21,409
TOTAL for 2018/2019	\$317,682

Table 4.1

Attachment 3 Summary of Projects Approved for 2019-2020

The Australian Alps Liaison Committee has approved following major projects, forums and workshops for the 2019-2020 financial year

New Projects

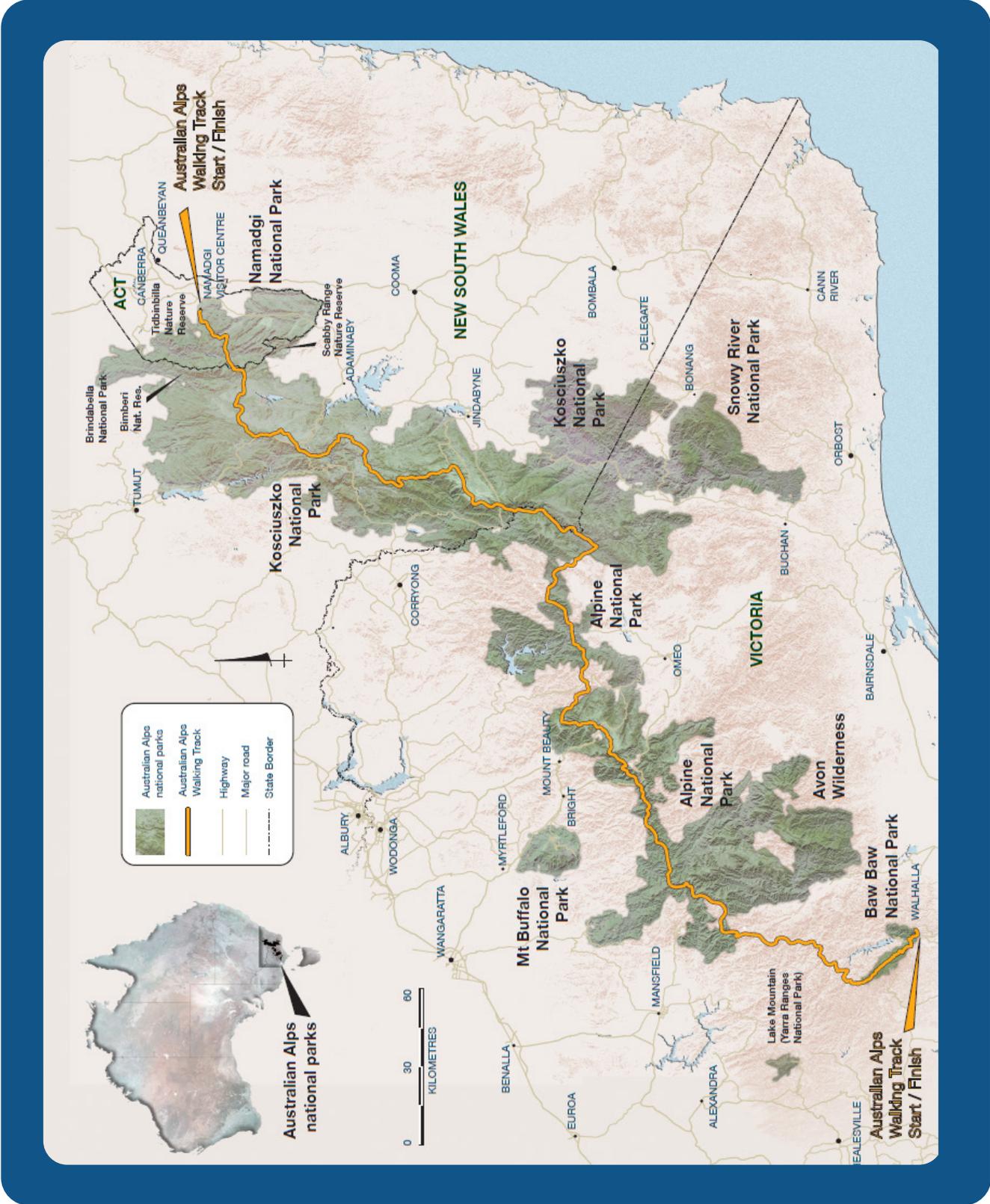
1. **Science Management Forum** - A review of the 2016-2018 Strategic Plan and development of the 2019-2021 Strategic Plan.
2. **Aerial Horse Survey** - Reporting on the Aerial Horse survey that was conducted in Autumn 2019.
3. **European Wasp Impacts** - A research project examining a range of environmental issues associated with the highly invasive European Wasp.
4. **Guthega Skink** - A collaborative research project focussing on the 'genetic rescue' of the critically endangered Guthega skink. A charismatic species, endemic to the Australian Alps.
5. **Snowgum Dieback** - This project aims to fill some substantial knowledge gaps about snowgum dieback in the Alps: causes, extent, species impacted and possible management responses.
6. **Digitizing the Scientific Legacy of Alec Costin (Yr 1 of 2)** - This project will aim to digitize important archival material previously described and catalogued .
7. **Signage in Significant High Country Huts** - A workshop looking at how best to interpret remote high country huts with a focus on how technology can be applied.
8. **UAV (drone) Assessment of multiple deer control techniques (Year 1 of 3)** - Trialling 3 methods of deer control at Lake Mountain and using UAV modelling technology to assess their effectiveness.

Ongoing Projects

1. **Hygiene and Biosecurity (Year 2 of 2)** - Using community based social marketing to better align our biosecurity messaging and infrastructure with community values.
2. **Samba Deer Monitoring (Year 3 of 3)** - Reporting on a multi-year project that sought to GPS collar sambar deer.
3. **UAV (drone) Assessment of multiple deer control techniques (Year 2 of 3)** - Trialling 3 methods of deer control at Lake Mountain and using UAV modelling technology to assess their effectiveness.



Attachment 4 Australian Alps national parks Regional Map



All photos from Australian Alps Library

