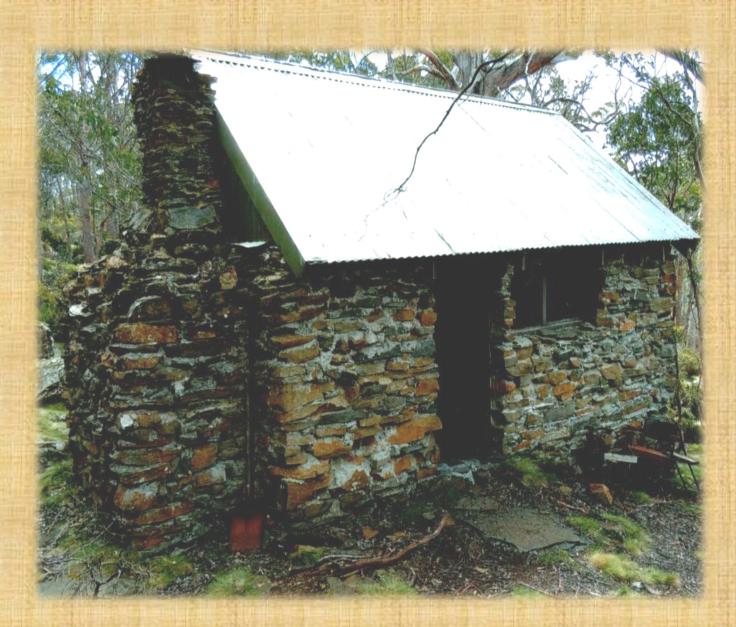
KOSCIUSZKO HUTS ASSOCIATION INC.

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John H. Jacques Memorial Hut - Ben Lomond National Park, Tasmania

Inside: Dr Bullocks Hut ... 'Rain God' ... about Clement Wragge by Ian James Frazer

I Never Tire of Looking at Huts - Tasmania

Day Walk to Boobee Hut - Snowy Trip - April 2023

KHA PRINTED CHRISTMAS 2023 NEWSLETTER

Members wishing to receive a printed Xmas Newsletter please contact

Pauline Downing - <u>downingpauline@gmail.com</u>

with your name and address.

The Committee is still to decide the minimum number of Newsletters that will be printed this year so please advise as soon as possible so we have some idea of how many members are interested.



The Newsletter will, of course, be emailed as usual.

CHRISTMAS CALENDAR

The committee will be creating a calendar again this year to be sent out with the Christmas newsletter for those that wish to have it.

We don't need expressions of interest at this stage, but we are after photos to be used for the calendar.

If you would like to have a photo considered for use in the calendar, please send one photo per member to Simon Plum, HMO, Jagungal:

hmojagungal@khuts.org

Submissions will be accepted until 5pm, 30 September, so there is no rush.

The final images will then be selected for use in the calendar.

If you have any questions, please contact Simon.

IMPORTANT:

Membership renewals Membership Fees are due July 1st

Please assist your volunteer membership team by renewing your membership by one of our preferred methods below. Our preferred method is to have all members renew by Visa/Mastercard through our website. You can use either a credit card or debit card. This method Is fully automatic, secure and requires zero volunteer effort.

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and LOGIN, then click on RENEW. If you cannot pay by card then please make a direct deposit into the KHA

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RENEW

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Bob Anderson Treasurer

KHA (formed 1971) provides volunteer support to the NSW and ACT Government to preserve the 'settlement era' vernacular architecture of the northern Australian Alps as part of the continuum of total landscape management.

We are one of only a few organisations in Australia dedicated to the preservation of traditional Australian bush building skills.

We research and document history associated with these vemacular structures and conduct public information sessions in conjunction with the various park services and other bodies to raise awareness of this history.

We are acknowledged on both the NSW NPWS and ACT PCCS Volunteering websites and we have a demonstrated track record of performance.

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GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Graham Cummings, Robert Croll, Tony Grimmer, Colin Howie

HAVE YOU checked your MEMBERSHIP STATUS??

Contact:

membership@khuts.org

FOR OTHER INFORMATION ABOUT KHA CHECK THESE SITES:

Website KHuts.org.

https://www.facebook.com/

www.instagram.com/p/BvkV3MphnSZ/?hl+en

FROM THE EDITOR

Thank you to the members who helped fill the winter newsletter with such a variety of stories - it turned out to be a bumper issue and I hope it was enjoyed by those who downloaded it.

Thank you to Matthew and Klaus for their emailed appreciation.

Also to those members who advised of their enjoyment at receiving a hard copy newsletter at Christmas 2022.

The committee asks members to nominate through my email if they would enjoy a hard copy newsletter at the end of the year.

Please send your request to downingpauline@gmail.com

and your copy will be posted in December.

A reminder will be posted in the next Newsletter/Bulletin.

Thank you to Colin Howie for editing this newsletter.

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#### **Letters to The Editor**

Good morning Pauline, Hope you are enjoying the frosty weather at Camden! We passed through there early last Saturday morning and were amazed to see frosts so close to Sydney!

On another note, I am planning on dedicating my next monograph to Phyllis Dowling, a longtime friend of mine and the key supporter and "chief encourager" of my recent book *From Goobarragandra to Long Plain.* 

The publisher is not happy with the photo taken by me of Phyllis several years ago on the back verandah of her house in Lambie Street, Tumut. Too much junk in the background they say!

And they can't photoshop it out. They've asked for a better photo of Phyllis.

Can you help me with a digital copy of Phyllis' photo which appeared on page 5 of your recent Newsletter. I have included a screen shot, so there is no confusion re photo.

Keep up the good work with the Newsletter! Kind regards,

David (Dr) I. David Lindley

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Log books may help save your life, please fill them in

If you fill in the book stating the details of your journey, number in the party and intentions, it may assist in search and rescue operations. If the log book is full, please inform the park service responsible for the hut and it will be replaced.

Sheltering in huts – never rely on reaching a hut

Plan for every situation, take shelter before you get wet and tired. When mountain weather closes in huts can be difficult to find. Ensure you are equipped to camp out as blizzards can occur any time of the year.

In severe weather, take shelter early before you get wet and tired.

On the 13th July 1972, Graeme Edenborough died a tragic death in a snow cave while trying to reach a hut. Greg Retallack, Graeme's companion, later recorded an account of the events leading to the death.

NPWS HUT RE-BUILDS UPDATE

Rebuild of Vickery's Hut is now complete and many thanks to all involved. Will organise a work party to apply retardant and paint floor. Opening planned for November. Contact Megan Bowden at Megan.Bowden@environment.nsw.gov.au for further details.

Materials to be carted into Bradley and O'Briens Hut on September 2 after which rebuild will begin and workers camping on site. Planning a work party on 14 and 15 October to install floorboards and corrugated iron. If you are interested to attend please contact Megan Bowden - details above.

Work to start on Brooks Hut in December.

Donors

Thank you so much

Peter Tormey

Peter Worsfold

T. Hewitson

Allan Riches

Graham North

Total donations for the quarter: \$315

New MembersWELCOME TO KHA

Tim O'Nare

David Brooke

Stephen Manton

Peter Miller

Allan Riches

Neil Andrews

Andrew Italiano

To the Editor

Bonjour Pauline,

For our sins, after visiting Scotland, we are currently on holiday in France enjoying the overwhelming hospitality of six French families whom we have known for many years – I know – it's a hard life, but someone has to do it!



(Above: A light snack in Paris)

Anyway, could you please include us to receive the hard copy of the KHA Christmas newsletter, and as I mentioned before, I am on standby to help you with the dispatch work.

Russell Meares

(Below Hiking in Cairngorm, Scotland)



Editor's note: Our printed newsletter is so important to some members the Meares have emailed me from their holiday in Europe! Pauline

Dr BULLOCKS HUT From Graham Scully ...

For the past 20 years I have been participating in a mate's annual walk and this year saw us booked comfortably into Pygmy Possum Lodge, Charlotte Pass in late May. Unfortunately early snow arrived and we needed to get out early to avoid being snowed in.

The weather turned cold, with fierce winds and snow denying us the usual main range walks that we had hoped to try. Instead we dropped altitude and found a newly constructed walk along the Thredbo River crossing it on an impressive swing bridge, to the Trout Hatchery. Another walk was from the ski tube carpark to Bullocks Hut.

There we met Park workers Shane Tebbit and Garry McDougall. Shane was justifiably proud of the work he had done on the restoration of the nearby stables including replacing sections of frame, reconstruction of the stable doors including the original hinges and fitting concrete bases to the new small gravel for the

posts.



Garry gave good details on how the rising damp and subsidence cracks are being repaired. The rising damp has been successfully dealt with by an injection

into the concrete bricks of river sand and a cement of silicone mixed with undisclosed chemicals, creating a chemical dampcourse.



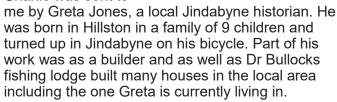
Subsidence is the other challenge to this hut, built on a small peninsula at the junction of a small creek and the Thredbo River. Subsidence seems to be the cause of several large cracks which were being repaired by Garry on the day of our visit.

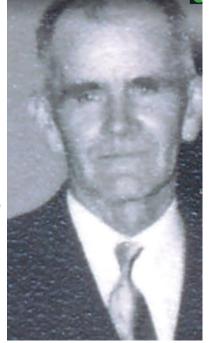


This hut was built by Charles Conway who sourced the sand/ bricks from the river.

Built when the only people able to afford to travel to the mountains were mostly well-off middle -class professionals who often employed locals as fishing guides and occasionally to build recreational huts.

My brief history of Charlie was sent to





(Below) Bullocks Hut- See History of Bullocks Hut at Khuts.org.



I called in at the **Bullocks Hut** work site this week, sadly Shane and his crew were not there but I took a few photos.

The project involves stripping the render and repairing the moisture damaged blockwork on the front accommodation building.

As noted by the signage, there is Silica dust involved therefore the crew have to wear Hazmat suits and respirators during the process.

This is a massive job and will be very labour intensive and time consuming. Therefore it will be a long term project. This stage will be followed by the application of a salt poultice, rerendering and then given a lime wash.

I'm hoping that during the later stages some members may be able to assist with the works.

Cheers, Marion Plum, HMO Snowy.



In the 1830s, Europeans began summer alpine grazing of sheep and cattle. In the 1850s, gold was discovered on the Thredbo River, although finds were not extensive. Early in the 1900s, Eucalyptus delegatensis (alpine ash) trees were logged in this area, the logs brought to a steam-powered mill on the western side of the river by bullock teams.

Trout were introduced into the streams in the early 1900s for sport fishing and this remains a popular pastime and tourist activity for the area.

In the 1930s, **Howard Bullock**, a medical doctor from Sydney, bought a small parcel of flat land in the Thredbo Valley at the confluence of the Thredbo River and the *Little Thredbo River*. At that time, Bullock and his family took two days to travel by car to this summer getaway where they enjoyed camping, fishing, bushwalking, and horse riding.

In 1934, Charles Conway was contracted to build the one-room cottage. It features built-in bunk beds on either side of the main room that has a central fireplace opposite the one door and two small shuttered windows. A separate kitchen building was added in 1938, and the garage and stables in 1947. The cottage area is maintained by the National Parks & Wildlife Service.









Day walk to Boobee Hut – Snowy Trip, April 2023

Mackeys Hut is an attractive and comfortable two room hut just off the Grey Mares FT. We camped for two nights nearby.

Six members of the Newcastle Ramblers Bushwalking Club had walked from Cesjacks Hut where we had camped for two nights to Mackeys Hut via a scrubby Doubtful Creek. The next day, our fourth day of our six-day extended backpacking trip to the Snowys we planned a round day walk from Mackeys to find Boobee Hut

It had blown strongly all night buffeting our tents which were exposed in the open area surrounding Mackeys Hut. There was no frost that morning and tents were dry as we prepared to head directly north through alpine woodland towards the open plains of Diggers Creek and to Boobee Hut about 3.5km away. After half an hour we emerged from the woodlands to look north across open ground, and we could just make out the hut in the distance below the tree line at the base of Far Bald Mountain. We kept to the elevated open slopes before finally crossing the swampy grassland of Diggers Creek to reach the hut by 10.00am for morning tea and a rest in the sunshine. What a fabulous find! The hut is in a lovely setting with views over the plains and contains interesting handmade furniture.

Boobee replaced an original hut built in the 1920's which was burnt in 1964. The present hut was the harness shed of the original hut and built in the 1930s. It was reputedly built by Bill Byatt, a miner, who also built a dam and races nearby which we saw evidence of across Diggers Creek to the east. Boobee was burnt down in the 2003 bushfires and was rebuilt in 2009 and is approximately 6.5m by 2.8m in size, with a roof and external walls of corrugated iron. The logbook which commenced in May 2015 is nearly full and indicated that not too many people visit it each year.

Day walk to Boobee Hut - Snowy Trip April 2023 ...

To continue our round walk we climbed steeply to the west behind the hut through recovering fire affected woodland to reach the Doubtful Gap Fire Trail 150m above – the 700m of scrub was open and not difficult to walk through. The fire trail follows an elevated north south ridgeline which provides outstanding views into the Diggers Creek plains in the east, Doubtful Creek in the west and Mt Jagungal to the north. We descended south along the FT to Doubtful Gap for a luncheon break curtailed by the cold breeze blowing across the Gap. From the Gap we climbed again before descending to reach the Grey Mare Fire Trail and to walk the 2.5km section back to Mackeys Hut, arriving in the early afternoon. All up we walked 11km taking about 6 hours. Many thanks to all for the maintenance and care of the huts we visited.

Report and photos by Bob Clifton





There was plenty of evidence of the early grazing days as we crossed the Diggers Creek plains to approach Boobee Hut, and here we lounged in the sun for morning tea



The inside the hut is spartan with handmade furniture and a combustion stove. In earlier days a fire place had been replaced by a combustion stove which was subsequently stolen. So, this one is a replacement. Bob tries out the lounge chair.





I never tire of looking at huts -

John Morrow Part 2 ... The small quaint town of Mole Creek in Tasmania is a great base for hiking and hut bagging. From Mole Creek you have access to Lake Parangana and Lake Rowallan, which are the starting points for many of the great walks in Tasmania, including the Walls of Jerusalem and the Arm River track, which goes up into the midsection of the Overland Track to Pelion Plains.

In the middle of Mole Creek sits Liena Hut, a genuine skin drying hut. It is one of several built by mountains legend Ray "Boy" Miles and after his passing was relocated to Mole Creek and restored in honour of Ray. This example is the usual two rooms, one is split boards the other is slab, with an external post frame. This is one of the easiest mountain huts to visit as it is smack bang in the middle of the town.

Looking South of Mole Creek, the view is filled with the Great Western Tiers (GWT) - an almost vertical faced, flat-topped length of mountain range. At three different, but near to each other points at the base of the Tiers, are tracks leading to many of the huts. A few kilometres south of Mole Creek is an area called Weston Creek where we find the Higgs Track, which leads us to Lady Lake Hut. We walked up a very well formed but steep track for about 2 km up the GWT, then at the top you come over a rise and look straight across at this fantastic hut! It's a large iron fishing hut rebuilt in 2002/03. It has a north facing veranda, timber floorboards, ample furniture and a liquid fuel stove. It boasts expansive views of the area and the lake itself, so needless to say it's in a very pleasant setting.

From here you can continue along to Ironstone Hut at Lake Nameless. Ironstone is another fishing hut made of stone and was fully rebuilt between 1993 and 1995.

A different track at nearby Caveside leads to two vastly different and interesting huts. These are accessed from the Parsons Track. About 3 km along the lower reaches of the Tiers is Hills Hut, a former loggers' hut built in 1960. It is weatherboard and was restored in 2020 and is in pristine order. Another track located near the Walls Track leads to historic Lees Paddock. It starts at a suspension bridge that crosses the Mersey River and leads to Pencil Pine Hut, built in 1983. It is a three roomed mix of slabs, boards and iron. It's a bit rough, was locked and looked decidedly unloved. We continued on through a section of the Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park on a muddy track and crossed over a tree bridge and onto the open grazing paddocks where we spotted Lees Hut in the distance. It is a timber hut, iron roof, with front and rear verandahs. Built in 1940, it has heaps of bunks and furniture. It is a privately owned, locked hut, but is available for bookings which can be organised directly through the family. It is an ideal place to stay for its close proximity to gain access to the Overland Track.

After Hills, the track narrows and winds through the bush until it rises into a magnificent, moist and moss laden Myrtle forest and a bit below the GWT summit sits Haberles Hut. It is a tiny hut made of vertical palings and was built by a local family in 1932 as a shelter when hunting in the area. Another nearby track leads up to Whiteleys Hut, a rugged all-iron construction of "bits and pieces". It was built to support grazing in 1967. Yet another example of finding a Tasmanian hut that sits in a truly awesome and wild place.

On successive days we drove from Mole Creek along Mersey Forest Road past the Caves towards Lake Parangana and took the left turn to Devils Gullet and Lake McKenzie. The Gullet is a great short walk to an area akin to a mini—Grand Canyon. At the end of the road at Lake McKenzie, we parked and walked along the Western edge of the lake heading north towards the homely Sandy Lake Hut. It is a large, sturdy two room, horizontal board hut with a stone paved verandah and woodshed behind it. It's a delightful place to sit and gaze at the wonderful landscape whilst having lunch. Ironstone Hut can also be accessed from Lake McKenzie.

We had heard and read a lot about the legendary Walls of Jerusalem. This walk is mostly visited by those on a multi-day hike but it can also be done as a day walk for fit, energetic hikers that make an early start.

The track rises steeply for 2 km through the forest until just below the point where it reaches the plateau, and here sits the Historic Trappers Hut. It was built in 1946 and restored between 1988 and 1990. It is a typical two roomed skin drying hut. The living room is made of palings with a shingle roof and the skin room is made of slabs with an iron roof. The track continues past Trappers and winds along through open pine and eucalypt Forest, around a series of lakes known as Solomon Jewels, passing through Herods Gate and into "The Walls of Jerusalem."

This is an exquisite vision inducing place which includes Lake Siloam, The Pool of Bethesda and views of Mount Jerusalem and Solomons Throne. There are not enough superlatives to describe the jaw dropping scenery of this majestic place! It is here that we find the famed Dixons Kingdom Hut, a log cabin made of pine with a shingle roof, built in the 1950s. Further on is Lake Ball Hut, built in 1968. It's a pencil pine pole framed hut, entirely made of boards, including the external chimney. Nearby is Soli-tary Man or Tiger Hut, built by a modern-day mountain man whose identity is known to only a few people. It is masterfully hidden off track and has an intriguing story linked to it. It is set on a stone foundation with saplings fashioned into an A frame to support the green alumin-

ium that clads it. >>>

Not only that, the views are astounding, being ringed by mountain ranges and Pelion East is a prominent feature in the landscape. Heading south through the paddocks is the Reg Wadley Memorial Hut, built in 1985 of vertical boards and shingles. Being private land, it is a rare privilege to be given access to such a stunning location.

From the carpark of the Lake Myrtle Track you can find Meston Hut. This track starts out as a thin scrubby track and meanders along for approximately 8 km along the edge of Lake Bill, near Lake Myrtle, round the lower northern flank of Mount Ragoona. A further 4kms on from Meston Hut you will find Junction Lake Hut. These two huts are rather similar and were built of pencil pine palings, slabs, logs and shingles in 1970 and 71. This walk could be done as a long day walk or multi-day hike which could also include the main Walls of Jerusalem area. Also in this region you will find Basil Steers Huts on the February Plains and the Borradaile Plains huts. We have yet to visit these huts but we look forward to finding them one day.

From Queenstown, we embarked on a road trip with breathtaking scenery that led us to Lake St Clair which is another gateway to finding many of the huts. We caught the ferry to the Northern end of the lake where you will find Narcissus Hut, which is the final shelter for many who finish the Overland Walk here at the 64 km mark.

This version was built in 1963 and is two roomed with gas heating, ample bunks, tables and seating, plus a large verandah. It is clad in olive coloured fine corrugated iron and also has a radio to contact the ferry. Behind Narcissus is the interesting but locked Rangers Hut built of vertical timbers with an iron roof and CGI chimney.

About a 4 km walk down the western shoreline of Lake St Clair, you will arrive at Echo Point Hut. The walk itself is through forest, mainly Myrtle and Sassafras, with some serious giants among them! There are also wonderful views with the lake and Mt Ida peeking through the forest and giving us glimpses of their magnificence. The hut was built in 1962 with vertical boards and contains benches and a stove and has a front landing plus it's very own jetty. It's an idyllic place to rest and have lunch. At a pre-arranged time, the ferry picked us up at the jetty right out the front and en-route back to the Lake St Clair Visitor Centre, we were shown the picture perfect iconic Pumphouse.

Day two of our visit to the area, we hiked to the summit of Mt Rufus where the tiny and run-down Gingerbread Hut is. Because of recent snowfall, we were sadly unable to reach the hut, but we were able to see it from a distance and the snow-capped mountain views atop the summit of Mt Rufus more than compensated for our disappointment in not being able to reach the hut. When leaving Lake St Clair, I spotted a large hut/small house almost hidden by the bushes. It is weatherboard with an

iron roof and consists of three rooms. The light blue window frames and doors seemed rather unusual until a Google search revealed it was once police accommodation. It is now locked and looks unused but is in exceptionally good order.

Our next point of call was heading to Mount Field National Park, one of Tasmania's Alpine skiing areas. We chose to stay in the unique National Parks accommodation, Government Huts, near Lake Dobson. This is a group of 5 Huts, 2 large and 3 smaller ones, built in the late 1940s for road workers in the area. We stayed in Pandani, a small two-roomed hut built of vertical boards with an iron roof. It boasts a table and seats, a wood heater with wood provided, bunks with mattresses and an outdoor setting. Basic but with that genuine hut experience.

From Lake Dobson, which has both a shelter and a couple of rustic lodges nearby, we hiked up to the tiny Alpine Village which has some unusual structures. We find the boardwalk to signify getting onto the Tarn Shelf Track, which is a day walk loop, and, in our minds would be one of the most scenic to be found anywhere. We ambled over and around boulder formations of fantastic shapes, through patchy forest of dead and living King Billy Pines with mountains and tarn backdrops then headed down to Seal Lake and dropped down to Rodway Hut a vertical timber walled, mission brown and green roofed hut for alpine shelter - near to a ski tow hut.

We then arrived at Newdegate Hut, a much more rugged and well-used older version of the previous hut where we stop to reflect and admire the gorgeous scenery. It is made of iron (roof and walls), in mission brown.

Another hut that I always longed to see with my own eyes is Twilight Tarn Hut. The place where it sits is nestled right at the lake's edge and backs on to open forest and is truly a vision. This hut is like a small house with three rooms, vertical boards, iron roof and a front verandah. The interior is like a small high-country museum. Vintage skis from various decades, ice skates, old food tins, bottles, tools and other paraphernalia, It was like a giant time capsule. The only other hut that bears a similarity, would be Spargos Hut in the Victorian High Country. Both these huts leave you with the sense that their occupants, now long gone, have only just recently departed and will soon return. The next day we visited the K. Cole F. A. Peterson Memorial Hut. Again with spectacular views overlooking The Watcher. The hut was built in 1960 and is a small A frame with a stone lower section and iron upper section with a sleeping platform. What the hut lacks in panache is made up for by its glorious setting. The beautiful shrubs and rocks around the hut, complete with manicured grasses, is one of the most enchanting Alpine Gardens found anywhere. >>>

An army of landscapers could spend years and still fail to main road. There are also fishing shack villages in the replicate nature's beauty on display here.

Our next day included a walk to Lake Nicholls and it's hut via a 2 km walk on a rocky track heading towards Mount Field East. The hut is a spacious, full-length boarded hut. again in mission brown hues. We also visited Lake Fenton Hut. I only stumbled on this hut by chance reading an old book that made mention of it, as it is not on any of the three modern maps of the Mount Field area that I had in my possession. I wasn't sure if it still existed, but we decided to look for it anyway. It is a short walk, maybe only 50 mtrs or so from the Lake Fenton carpark, semi hidden in the surrounding bushland. It is white weatherboard with a red iron roof, two roomed and in perfect condition. It is the sole survivor of two or three that were originally here. Looking directly at the front vaguely reminds me of 4 Mile Hut with its enclosed verandah.

It's similar yet also different. It's hard to imagine that a city would have its own hut and yet Hobart boasts having the Mawson's Hut replica sitting proudly near the city's docks. For those of us who will probably never see the real one in Antarctica, this is a good substitute to experience. It has been replicated right down to the smallest detail including even the old food packaging. Amazing.

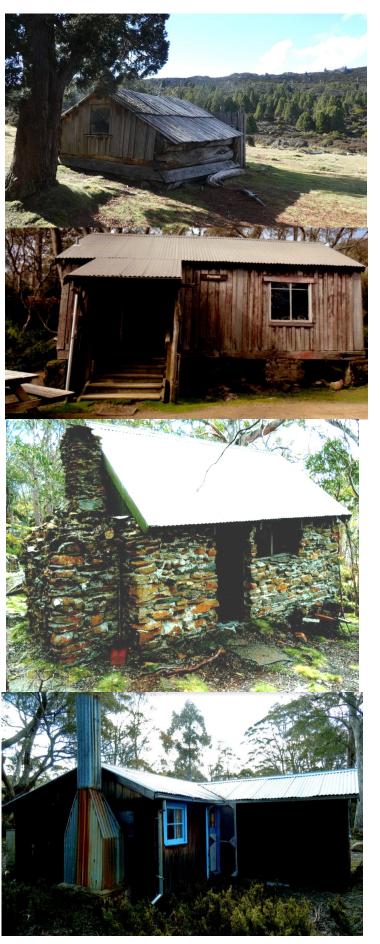
Nearby Mount Wellington is, of course, known for its staggering views, but we go in search of a few easy to find huts, nearly all built of stone. Near to the summit on the left is Luckmans (stone) hut. You can also find a stone shelter called The Chalet, along the roadway. From there you walk down to the cosy Junction Cabin, which has an iron roof but otherwise is all stone, including its water tank. Further along the same track is the Lone Cabin. From an area called "The Springs" is a walk that will lead you to the Rock Cabin.

These huts are marked on information board maps but there are other lesser-known huts hidden on Mount Wellington and their whereabouts are only known by a few who are reluctant to share their knowledge with others.

From Hobart we headed to Launceston to access the state's other Alpine Ski Area, Ben Lomond. On the drive up to this Alpine Village we spotted in the bushland, quite by accident, the stone John Jacques Memorial Hut. The remarkably interesting drive up Jacob's Ladder leads you into the ski village. From here it is an easy walk to Legges Tor, which is Tassie's second highest point at 1572 mtrs. Around this summit area are six or seven private and locked huts of varying styles, which were very interesting to admire from the outside, nestled in their exquisite alpine setting. Here are also some huts in the Great Lakes and Liawenee areas, including several whole villages of fishing huts on the

northwest.

Below: Dixons Kingdom, Government Hut, John H. Jacques Memorial Hut, Police Residence



Dear KHA movers and shakers, and friends,

Thank you for another superb KHA newsletter, one of the best, if not THE BEST EVER. So many engaging and educational colour photos - a visual feast. Am very sorry I missed the Currango workshop. Next time...

And there on p.13 I see a photo of Tom Yan whom I interviewed in 1978 in his green plywood caravan at Adelong. The newsletter said he died in 1972 but that could not be. Good to see a photo of him and his tools and the resurrection of his sliprail gate, the grand northern gate to Tabletop and the Jargunal wilderness (my spelling). I look forward to the installation ceremony. When? I've attached a photo of the gate with grandson Ben and me taken by daughter Abi in 2016. A photo of the intact gate with fence which I took in 1975 is on p 118 in my People book. I cannot find a print or the negative.

The gate was part of an incomplete post and rail fence stretching about 100m towards Mount Tabletop (just visible on the 1975 pho-

'I made them, oh yes, I put in years in that part of the country. I used to manage a property in there, 45,000 acres. That was the boundary, it had no fence, I put that fence up. I did the straight bit that goes on from the slip rails. There was a hut not far from them slip rails, you could practically see it from the rails. They call it Crockett's Hut. Gordon Crockett came from Lobb's Hole.'

(Tom Yan interview 1975)

My estimation is that it was built in the 1940s not the 50s. Tom and his bullock team carried a lot of mining equipment into the Elaine, the Nine Mile and Lorna Doone. It is likely he carried Bob's slabs for Four Mile Hut. Tom knew the Hughes family very well.

It would be good if Tom Yan and all the other 80 interviews I and others did years ago could be put into a special place in the KHA web site. David Scott voluntarily digitised the four volumes of 3000 pages last year. There is a very substantial index which could be valuable to KHA members, Park staff and people interested in high country history especially the grazing and mining eras. The tapes can be listened to at the National Library but not everybody can get there or pay Canberra parking fees.

I didn't know Phyllis Dowling was ten years older than me. I never interviewed her but she spoke loud and clear about mountain history to anyone who would listen. She was a mother figure who loved Coolamine and other

huts.

Good to see John Morrow coming out of his shell. He's a good writer and a much travelled huts lover. He took a group of KHA

members to numerous huts in the Delegate/ Bombala area some years ago. I was very naughty and left early to go back to thoroughly imbibe the charm and location of Alexanders Hut. I wrote a piece, 'A very different High Country', for the Newsletter some time ago. I would love to have a colour copy of the newsletter to read at leisure, curled up on the couch, away from the screen which is so tiring. And good to reread for many months. The screen file is transitory, then lost in a thousand other messages. An edition like this should be in some of the huts. There the newsletters stay in good shape for quite a few years and are read many times over. A great KHA publicity tool, especially this edition. Yes. A must. Please print a few? Am happy to pay.

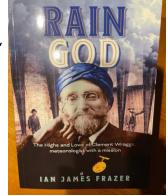
I've cut 1000 tiny leather washers (see photo insert) to go under the nails which will hold the metal strips that cover the gaps between the slabs of the rebuilt Four Mile Hut. This is what Bob Hughes did when he built the hut in the 1930s. Bob was quite fastidious about things like that. It is a rare feature, I don't know of any other huts that have it. It stops water from getting into the slabs and the tiny nail heads going right through the iron. I got the leather off cuts from a bikies gear shop in Nimmitabel.

The life of Bob and his hut is comprehensively and colourfully covered in my last book, 'The life of a mountain hut'. I still have copies for \$30 each plus postage. Please order at WWW.tabletoppressbooks.com. It includes a chapter where I compare Bob to Thoreau the American wilderness writer who built a hut on Walden Pond. Thoreau only lived there for a couple of years whereas Bob lived at Four mile, on and off, for over 20 years. Thoreau shouted his experience from the rooftops whereas Bob kept it to himself. That was the way for many high country elders.

I've just taken delivery of a new book, <u>'Rain God' RRP 35.00</u>, about Clement Wragge (cover attached), the meteorologist who had a wooden hut built on the summit of Kosciusko late the century before last, ie 1890s. It has over 400 fascinating (I mean it) pages including a

section of photos and sketches.

Often called Inclemency, he was an audacious mover and shaker, a raconteur and explorer, and a barely qualified itinerant weather forecaster. Please go to our web site, as above, for ordering.



Continued ... I had a dream:

Resurrecting that historic hut would surely be the crowning glory in a network of high country huts. It may not happen today, or tomorrow, but it could happen one day. I don't think there is any information about Wragge up there at the moment. The outline, marked by rocks, of where the hut stood, was still visible some years ago.

A group of us including Robert Green, the main driver and Graham Scully, the most elder, have been walking and investigating the easiest foot pad across the high country from the Monaro to the Murray since time immemorial, including the dusky people. WE wish to have it declared a heritage track. Many of the huts especially those in the Jargunal area were connected to it in some way. Without the foot pads which grew into tracks it was much harder to transport hut building materials. And still is today. There is much focus on wood skills and individual huts at the moment but it's worthwhile keeping in mind their broader social, historical and landscape context.

Five of my books are still in print and for sale at a special price of \$150.00 plus postage. They are attached. Please go to the website WWW.tabletoppressbooks.com.

Cheers from a bloke who's been around for a while, a while, a while...... **Klaus**Below: with grandson Ben and me taken by daughter Abi in 2016



'Celebrating High Country Lore, Literature and Learning' Klaus (AM, MSc) and Patricia Hueneke, ph 02 6242 0995

Online shop: www.facebooks.com/
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"If you want intelligent children give them a book. If you want more intelligent children give them more books." Jackie French A day on the Perisher ski patrol In 1967 during university holidays I found work at a lodge in the Perisher Valley. They gave me a mattress to sleep on in a cubbyhole under the stairs. As I tried to go to sleep ski boots clunked up and down above my head. I helped to make sandwiches, serve breakfast and dinner and when needed, make beds. This gave me quite a bit of free time during the day. I heard that if I got on the ski patrol I would be able to ski for free. I liked skiing for free especially on Mount Perisher, one of the best runs anywhere. I also heard that wearing the red cross on a white background would give me extra status and might attract a femme fatale.

To qualify, I had to do a test run with a two metre long aluminium rescue bucket down the mountain. Without an injured patient, thank the Lord. The blood bucket, or more politely, a banana boat, has two pairs of steel handles which are used for steering and to hang on to. I was paired with a gung-ho guy who had done it all before. He took the lead at great speed and I, in the rear, whether I liked it or not, had to hang on to save the contraption from crashing as well as reduce our speed. This meant a lot of side slipping and edging. We were skiing on hard pack so my ankles, calves and knees were shattered by the time I reached halfway. I yelled, 'Stop, I need a break', which thankfully he did.

I got down alright but didn't make first grade or attract a femme fatale. The boss had been watching me with binoculars. Head in shame, I was sent back to patrol around the Kindergarten T-bars near the Valley Inn. I wasn't really prepared to rescue anyone or qualified to administer first aid, so was very glad that it didn't happen. As the days went by I got bored with downhill skiing. The lodge owner, Eric Mawson, from an old Monaro family, heard of this and offered me a pair of wooden crosscountry skis and a pair of boots to try ski touring. He also told me about waxing. I found a companion and took off for Guthega. Standing on Mount Blue Cow I spied the Main Range, Gungartan, Jagungal and a huge expanse of snow covered ridges and valleys as far as the eye could see. I was hooked. So much to explore. That was the beginning of the rest of my life. Everything happens for the best.

Klaus

'Rain God – the story of Clement Wragge and his hut on Kosciuszko' by Ian Frazer. The book is available from www.tabletoppressbooks.com, \$35 plus postage.

Queensland's first and only Government Meteorologist, Clement Wragge, visited his Kosciuszko hut just once, in April, 1902, two months before its abandonment. In contrast, Egerton and Rupert Wragge — the eldest and next-eldest of his six sons — knew the two-roomed cabin inside out from their months of weather-watching on the summit. Egerton volunteered there in 1899, aged 19, and returned in 1902 as acting officer-in-charge. Rupert left school in Brisbane to fill a staffing gap in 1899. He was aged 17 then.

Today, you can make out the site of their father's observatory a little downhill from the summit trig, a cleared patch between granite boulders. Graham Scully reports having found a brass hinge there, possibly from an instrument case. He has passed it on to Matthew Higgins. Most of the observatory's instruments were kept a few yards from the volunteers' quarters in a raised louvered case called a Stevenson Screen. When snowbound, the observers' sole access to and from the hut was via its stone- chimney.

I think there's a strong case for commemorating Wragge's spartan weather station and its 14 voluntary observers. He believed the eyes of the "whole civilised scientific world" were fixed on Kosciuszko. In 1897, he convinced the NSW Premier George Reid and South Australian philanthropist Robert Barr-Smith of the national importance of taking simultaneous weather observations on the summit, Merimbula and two other coastal stations. This was to replicate his achievement in Scotland more than a decade earlier of correlating observations from Ben Nevis, Britain's highest peak, with the sea-level data from Fort William. In 1887, he capitalised on his Ben Nevis pedigree — embodied in a gold medal from the Scottish Meteorological Society — in gaining appointment as Queensland Government Meteorologist.

In 1897, Reid and Barr-Smith accepted Wragge's assurance that leading British physicists warmly supported his reprise of the Ben Nevis experiment on Australia's highest mountain. Reid over-ruled NSW astronomer Henry Chamberlain Russell, who scoffed at the barometric correlations and believed existing High Country data from Kiandra adequate for routine forecasting. Barr Smith gave £150 for a waterproof, hurricane-rated Arctic tent and sheepskin sleeping bags. Reid contributed £100 towards the research and pledged £600 for improvements to the Jindabyne to Kosciuszko track. In April 1898, NSW gave £336 more [around \$70,000 today] to build a permanent cabin after a storm shredded the tent between the first summit observations in December, 1897, and the station's demise in July, 1902-successive NSW governments spent £2231 on its operation. But after Federation in 1901, there was scarce money in Queensland or any other State to publish the volunteers' figures. Wragge struggled to get just the first full month of observations printed.

In 1900, he presented this data, from January 1898, to the Paris Exposition Universal, a world fair celebrating major achievements of the 19th century. There were more than four years' unpublished records among stores and equipment salvaged after NSW withdrew funding. The Kosciuszko notebooks are believed to have been still in Clement's possession when he died in Auckland in December, 1922, but were lost in a fire in 1928.

Coincidentally, around Christmas 1913, the lonely summit hut met a fiery end believed caused by lightning. It had previously been maintained by the NSW Tourist Bureau as a summer shelter. Under NSW National Parks' guidelines, park managers can consider applications to commemorate places, events and people of significance. I think a plaque beside the trig would be in order for the volunteers who knew Wragge's hut better than the great man himself. Unfortunately, their first leader, 52-years-old Charles Iliff, of Brisbane, a retired sea captain, was hurt in the storm that wrecked the Arctic tent. He resigned in April, 1898, before the hut's completion. His successor, Wragge's 19-year-old nephew Bernard Ingleby, survived getting lost in heavy snow in August 1898, while skiing back from the Jindabyne post office. Years later, having made his name as a poet and advertising man, he wrote, "Our pretty little standards of failure and success, our nicely catalogued and labelled ideas of right and wrong . . . they don't seem to matter much when you've thrilled to Kosciusko, I tell you."

Danish-born Harald Ingemann Jensen volunteered through the winter of 1898, when 18 years old. He and surveyor Basil de Burgh Newth, 22, of Candelo, were lost for a week in dense fog. A blanket of snow said to have been the deepest in 20 years covered the main range that year. Robert Leslie Burcher, 20, also of Candelo, succeeded Ingleby in October, 1898, and later served in the Merimbula station.

Tenterfield-born Noel Alfred Carr, 18, filled in for a month in January, 1889 and Ernest J McLure, 17, son of Jindabyne's postmistress, spent seven weeks on the summit later the same year. Clement's teenage sons, nicknamed Edgy and Bert, both nearly froze to death in 1899, during their three months as relief observers. Murray Leith Allen, 57, a retired maths teacher from Goulburn, took charge for nine months in 1900, followed by Philip Sydney Whelan, 27, an ex-merchant seaman who ran the station for most of its final two years. Whelan [1873 – 1943], later worked in the Brisbane weather bureau, joined the AIF in World War I and was severely wounded in France. In retirement, he collected many first edition books, authors' manuscripts and letters, which he left to the National Library.

As it stands, Clement Wragge's Kosciuszko connection is commemorated solely by Wragge's Creek, signposted on the road from Jindabyne to Perisher. Surely he needs better recognition as a pathfinder for Australian meteorology and High

Country tourism. In 1898, he rated the Australian Alps as equal to any of New Zealand's sublime mountains. In later years, he travelled Australia with a lantern slide show promoting Mount Kosciusko and the Grand Snowy Ranges. "If you want to see some of the wonders of nature, go to Kosciusko, with its wonderful cloud scenes, . . ." he told an audience in November, 1898. ". . . come away an atheist if you dare."



Wragge, second right, stands in a fleecy coat at his campsite near the summit of Mount Kosciuszko in December 1897. Among the crew who set up the weather



station were overseer Captain Charles Iliff, far left, guide James Spencer with pipe, third left, and observer Bernard Ingleby wearing a beanie, fourth left. Charles H Kerry, *Wragge's Camp*, *Snowy Mountains*, *New South Wales*, c.1900, National Library of Australia, Tyrrell Collection.

Right: photo Graham Scully
Site of Wragges Observatory



Our Caretaker Group of Daveys Hut

After given the choice of three other huts back in the late 1990s decided on an unknown, to us, hut called Daveys Hut.

Something must have guided our choice as we became part of the family to Connie Williams (nee Bolton), including her elder brother Jack Bolton who we met at a weekend organised by Graham Scully, who was president at the time, (1987-1992).

Through Connie and Jack we learnt much about the grazing era of Snowy Plain and much about the way of life of the people who once lived in what is now the Kosciuszko National Park,

We met Jack in 1992 and after he moved to Berridale - to the mountain country.

He spent some time at the hut when our caretaker group was carrying out maintenance and told us lots of yarns.

He also taught me how to make damper in my new Furphy camp oven.

Here is an excerpt from my last book :-

Stories from the High Country - 2018

CAMP OVEN COOKING - Jack Bolton could turn his hand to many things. He was also a camp cook and he taught me how to 'season' my new Furphy camp oven.

The first time I turned out a damper was memorable. Fresh bread is always a siren song when you are out of reach of a bakery. Food tastes incredible when cooking in a camp over. You haven't lived until you have had roast lamb and vegies cooked in in this way. It's the allround heat that makes the meal special.

Jack told me how bread was made in the mountains. The rising agent, yeast, was made from hops.

'Dad used to make hop bread before ever we went into the mountains. You boil the hops, put in a few raisins and a few grains of wheat, once you got a bottle started it could blow the cork off, so you had to tie the cork down.

After you get your bottle working, that's when you start a new bottle and then only use the hops. It's the old fashioned way of making yeast. You wouldn't make up all the bread at once.

When I boiled the potatoes, I'd leave one piece of potato back in the water. Mash it up. The potato water helps keep the bread from drying out. It will keep a week or two.'

You can see the excitement of a perfect damper ... and it was delicious!

Pauline Downing







When Australians go overseas

https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/when-reciprocal-health-careagreements-apply-for-australians-who-go-overseas?context=22481

These are agreements with some countries where visitors can get publicly funded medically necessary care.

Countries we have an agreement with

Belgium

Finland

<u>Italy</u>

Malta

the Netherlands

New Zealand

Norway

the Republic of Ireland

<u>Slovenia</u>

<u>Sweden</u>

the United Kingdom

If you live in Australia

you can get help with costs for medically necessary care when you visit any of those countries.

This includes:

- emergency care
- care for an illness or injury that can't wait till you get home.

You still need to get your own travel health insurance.

Australian Alps National Parks

Inspire and challenge your spirit of adventure

European settlement



The post-settlement, or European, cultural heritage of the Australian Alps consists of a wide range of elements. Each of them has something to tell us about the mountains' past since the early nineteenth century.

Many Alps visitors will be familiar with the stockmen's huts and other shelters that dot the high country. Indeed these are then most obvious manifestations of cultural heritage. But this heritage can be found in other forms too, like rough-built stockyards, early ski runs, the remains of old sawmills and stamper batteries, overgrown tracks, brumby trap yards, survey marks defining State boundaries, arboreta and other types of sites.

The primary themes in the mountains' postsettlement history – grazing, mining, forestry, hydro-electrical engineering, skiing and bushwalking, and others – have in many cases left sites which can reveal fascinating and valuable information about how people lived in and used the high country before the birth of the parks.

It is only comparatively recently that the real value and significance of this cultural heritage has been recognised, as is indicated by earlier destruction of some huts, the loss of historic Kiandra, and other events. Happily, the way in which cultural heritage can complement natural heritage qualities in the Australian Alps national parks is now better understood, and cultural sites are seen as the special assets that they really are.

Culture and history

The traditional owners 'were the first conservationists.

They understood biodiversity and sustainability, flora and fauna, geology and fire management – all in caring for country' Uncle Ernie, Taungurung Clan

The Alps reflects a history of diverse uses and connections. Retaining links with this

past is an important part of management across the Australian Alps national parks.

The Australian Alps were home to Aboriginal people for thousands of years before the early 1800s when European pioneers and explorers moved into the Alps. Although the alpine landscape can appear rugged and at times hostile, it is actually very fragile and sensitive to disturbance. For thousands of years Aboriginal people passed through leaving little obvious evidence of their presence in the landscape.

After the first European settlement in the early 1800s, graziers arrived in the 1820s and 30s, gold miners in the 1850s and saw millers soon after. Skiing was introduced to Australia at Kiandra gold fields in NSW in the 1860s. The past 60 years has seen the development of large hydro-electric and water supply schemes, extensive road networks, ski resorts and tourist facilities.

In little more than 200 years of European occupation, the Alps have witnessed remarkable changes, as well as achievements in exploration, engineering, recreation and farming. Although the human impact on the Alps has been great, the people who have passed through have left a rich, varied and fascinating heritage.

https://

theaustralianalpsnationalparks.org/thealps-partnership/culture-and-history/

A National Landscape

The Australian Alps is a landscape which inspires and challenges the visitor – whether on foot, horse, bike, ski or in a car through a network and variety of journeys, destinations and sustainable visitor facilities. Being part of the National Landscapes Initiative confirms the Alps as a magnificent destination for many reasons...

https://theaustralianalpsnationalparks.org/thealps-partnership/national-landscapes-and-national -heritage

New DNA testing shatters 'wild dog' myth: most dingoes are pure

Kylie M Cairns Published: May 30, 2023 6.08am AEST

For decades, crossbreeding between dingoes and dogs has been considered the greatest threat to dingo conservation. Previous DNA studies suggested pure dingoes were virtually extinct in Victoria and New South Wales. Reinforcing this belief, the term "wild dog" has replaced the word dingo in most legislation and policy across Australia. "Wild dog" is a coverall term defined as "any dog living in the wild, including feral dogs, dingoes and their hybrids". It's the term used on signs in National Parks and other lands advertising the target and presence of meat baits impregnated with the poison 1080. These baits are laid to reduce the risk of wild dogs preying on live-stock

Our new research used the latest genetic testing methods to establish the ancestry of wild dogs across Australia. Most of the 307 wild animals we tested were pure dingoes. Only a small proportion of wild dingoes had dog ancestry, probably from a great- or great-great-grandparent. There were no "first-cross" (50/50) hybrids or feral dogs in our wild-caught sample.

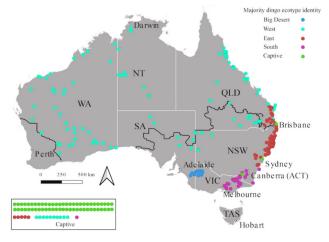
Essentially, all the "wild dogs" were dingoes. The results challenge public perceptions and call into question well established management practices. We argue the term "wild dog" should be removed from public language and legislation. Dingo and feral dog should be used instead. And the role of the dingo as Australia's apex predator should be restored, for we are the greatest threat to their existence. (**Better results from better tests** - The dingo (*Canis dingo*) has been in Australia for 5,000 to 11,000 years. But while dingoes are genetically distinct from domestic dogs, they can breed with them.)

Scientific support for the idea that few pure dingoes remain in eastern Australia came from skull measurement tests developed in the 1980s and a DNA test developed in the 1990s. Applying these approaches, Victoria listed dingoes as a threatened species after finding just 1% of animals killed in pest control programs were pure dingoes. Similarly in NSW "predation and hybridisation by feral dogs (*Canis familiaris*)" was listed as a key threatening process in 2009.

But DNA testing methods have improved since then. When we compared old and new DNA testing methods in our study, we found the original method frequently misidentified pure dingoes as hybrids. This is because the technique used a relatively small number of DNA markers, only 23. We used 195,000 DNA markers. A DNA marker is a genetic change that can be used to study differences between species, populations or individuals. This is the same sort of technology used for human ancestry or family tree testing. In general, more DNA markers means more information about an individual and more accurate DNA test results. The older method was also unable to account for geographic variation in dingoes. We found evidence of at least four populations or varieties of dingo in Australia, which we call: West, East, South and Big Desert.

A map showing the distribution of the four wild dingo populations across Australia from Cairns et al. 2023.

So when we looked at Victorian dingoes, nearly 90% of the animals we tested were pure dingoes. In NSW, over 60% of the animals we tested were pure dingoes and only two animals had less than 70% dingo DNA. Dog ancestry was more common in NSW and Queensland dingo populations where there were intensive lethal control programs, such as aerial 1080 poison baiting, along with higher numbers of pet domestic dogs. One explanation is that lethal control programs carried out during the dingo breeding season may increase the risk of dingo-dog hybrids, as it does for wolves and coyotes in North America. Australian aerial baiting programs can kill up to 90% of the dingoes in an area, reducing the availability of mates for any remaining dingoes.



These findings have important implications for our knowledge of dingoes and how they are managed. We need to ensure public policy is built on robust, up-to-date knowledge of dingo identity and ancestry. Wildlife managers and scientists should ensure that the DNA testing methods they use are accurate and fit for purpose. It is crucial that updated genetic surveys be carried out on dingoes, using the latest DNA methods to inform local dingo management plans. Dingo conservation plans should consider the presence of geographic variation and the differing threats the four dingo populations may be facing. Currently, dingoes fall into a grey area: because they are both a native animal and agricultural pest; and because their identity has become ambiguous due to the widespread adoption of the term wild dog.

Lethal control programs have been extended into conservation areas, including national parks, with the primary purpose of minimising livestock losses on neighbouring lands.

During 2020-2021, NSW dropped more than 200,000 1080 poisoned meat-baits from planes and helicopters to suppress "wild dogs". This year Victoria renewed its "wild dog bounty" program. It pays landholders A\$120 per wild dog body part. Under the scheme, about 4,600 "wild dog" body parts have reportedly been redeemed since

2011.



Alpine dingoes can be found at high elevations along eastern Australia. Michelle J Photography, Cooma, NSW., Author provided

Restoring an apex predator

Our study shows the term "wild dog" is a misnomer. The animals being targeted for eradication as an "invasive" pest are native dingoes.

The threat of dingo-dog hybrids has also been exaggerated. While dingoes can pose a threat to some livestock, as apex predators they play an essential role in maintaining healthy ecosystems. The dingo keeps natural systems in balance by preying on large herbivores and excluding invasive predators such as feral cats and foxes. This in turn benefits small marsupials, birds and reptiles. We need to balance managing dingo impacts on agriculture against ensuring they can perform their vital environmental functions.

The term "wild dog" should be removed from public language and legislation. Dingo and feral dog should be used instead. This change in terminology would accurately reflect the fact that a vast majority of the wild canines in Australia are pure dingoes – and the hybrids are predominantly dingo in their genetic make-up.

A name change would also align with calls from Australia's First Nations people to respect and acknowledge the dingo as a native and culturally significant species.

Read more: <u>From the dingo to the</u> <u>Tasmanian devil - why we should be</u> <u>rewilding carnivores</u>

https://theconversation.com/new-dnatesting-shatters-wild-dog-myth-most-dingoes -are-pure-206397?

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