

# ***KOSCIUSZKO HUTS ASSOCIATION INC.***

***WWW.KHUTS.ORG***

***APRIL 2024***

***AUTUMN EDITION***

***NO: 201***



**< Currango Homestead:**

*Image NPWS*

**> Currango Homestead in  
winter**

*- Helen Taylor*



## ***Contents:***

***Details of KHA's 2024 AGM***

***Hut Rebuilds - Lost Huts***

***Return to Snowy Plain***

***Namadgi Report ... & much more***



## COMMITTEE 2023 - 2024

### President

Pip Brown [president@khuts.org](mailto:president@khuts.org)

### Vice President

Jonathan Wills [vicepresident@khuts.org](mailto:vicepresident@khuts.org)

### Secretary

Treasurer 0412 020 150

Bob Anderson [treasurer@khuts.org](mailto:treasurer@khuts.org)

### Membership

HMO Jagungal 0415 159 910

Simon Plum [hmojagungal@khuts.org](mailto:hmojagungal@khuts.org)

HMO Tantangara 044 966 3769

Peter Charker [hmotantangara@khuts.org](mailto:hmotantangara@khuts.org)

HMO Snowy 0411 407 441

Marion Plum [hmosnowy@khuts.org](mailto:hmosnowy@khuts.org)

HMO Namadgi 0413 372 476

Jean Hammond [hmonamadgi@khuts.org](mailto:hmonamadgi@khuts.org)

### HMO Support

Alan Pottie [hmosupport@khuts.org](mailto:hmosupport@khuts.org)

**Newsletter Editor 02 4655 3622**

Pauline Downing [downingpauline@gmail.com](mailto:downingpauline@gmail.com)

Snail Mail: P.O. Box 525 CAMDEN NSW  
2570

### General Committee Members

Graham Cummings, Robert Croll,  
Tony Grimmer, Colin Howie

## Membership Fees are due July 1st

HAVE you CHECKED your  
MEMBERSHIP  
STATUS???

Contact Pip Brown  
[membership@khuts.org](mailto:membership@khuts.org)

Kosciuszko Huts Association  
GPO Box 2509  
Canberra ACT 2601

Instructions for the above can be found under the  
'RENEW' menu item on the website.

## The 2024 KHA AGM

will be held on Saturday 18 May at  
Rydgges Jindabyne commencing at  
1pm.

### No. Item

1. Welcome and apologies
2. Minutes of the 2023 AGM
3. Business arising from the 2023 AGM
4. President's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Joint HMO and NPWS Reports
  - Snowy
  - Jagungal
  - Tantangara
  - Namadgi
7. Report from Namadgi NP
8. Report from NPWS Huts Rebuild Project Officer on Post Fires Construction
9. General Business
10. Constitution Amendments
11. Election of Office Bearers
12. Closure

*Members wishing to bring any business to the AGM must provide notice of this business to the Secretary no later than midnight of 29th April 2024.*

Contact details for the Secretary are :

[secretary@khuts.org](mailto:secretary@khuts.org)

and GPO Box 2509, Canberra ACT 2601

For other information etc. about KHA check these sites:

Website KHuts.org

<https://www.facebook.com/>

KosciuszkoHutsAssociation/<https://>

[www.instagram.com/p/BvkV3MphnSZ/?](https://www.instagram.com/p/BvkV3MphnSZ/?hl=en)

hl=en

# Rydges Horizons, Snowy Mountains



**KHA's AGM will be held in the Summit Room at Rydges Horizons from 1pm. Afternoon tea provided - we would love to catch up with you!**

**Rydges is offering 10% off their accommodation. Just ring them on**

**02 6456 2562**

**advise them of your attendance and membership of KHA.**

## **KHA AGM ADVANCE NOTICE**

We hope many members will be there as there will be a number of updates to the *KHA Constitution* which will need to be approved by those at the meeting.

A link to Constitution changes will be emailed to members **by 15 April**.

For more information please see April Bulletin.

All changes must be approved by the membership at the AGM in May.

## **IMPORTANT: Membership Renewals**

**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.

Card payment, online please go to: [www.khuts.org](http://www.khuts.org) and *LOGIN*, then click on *RENEW*. If you cannot pay by card, then please make a direct deposit into the KHA *NEW* Beyond Bank account:

**Account Name: KHA Inc**  
**BSB: 325185**  
**Account: 03848796**

Reference: (your name)

If you have paid by bank transfer, please register your payment on our website, *LOGIN* then click *RENEW*, click *Renew for one year*, click *Register a Direct Deposit Payment*.

**Cheers, Bob Anderson - KHA Treasurer**

**KHA** (formed in 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 vernacular structures and conduct public information sessions in conjunction with the various parks services and other bodies to raise awareness of this history. We are acknowledged on both the NSW NPWS and ACT PCS Volunteering websites and we have a demonstrated track record of performance.

**Membership Fees are due July 1st**  
**HAVE you CHECKED your MEMBERSHIP**  
**STATUS???**

Contact Pip Brown  
[membership@khuts.org](mailto:membership@khuts.org)

**Kosciuszko Huts Association**  
**GPO Box 2509**  
**Canberra ACT 2601**

Instructions for the above can be found under the 'RENEW' menu item on the website.

**COVER:** *Paintings of Currango - Daffodil Cottage, Stables and The Homestead by Helen Taylor*

Currango consists of 29 buildings built over a long period. There are three main buildings within the group - Daffodil, the main house and The Pines. It was initially constructed in 1851 for grazing, with particular periods from 1893-1908, 1915-1919 and 1925-1926. Previously, Tom O'Rourke had a summer grazing camp on the site in 1839. Early owners included O'Rourke, Leopold de Salis (of Canberra fame), Arthur Triggs, Australian Estates and others - **KHuts.org**

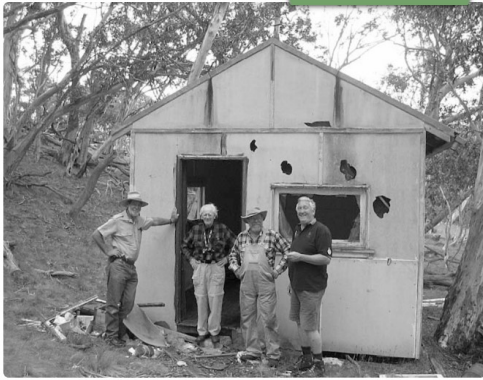


Photo G. Scully: CSIRO Researchers 2005 L-R Peter Haycock, Ederic Slater, Bill Price and Peter Fullagar Dec 2005

## ***Advance Notice - Return to Snowy Plain KNP***

### **Friday 22th NOVEMBER to Sunday 24th NOVEMBER 2024**

The weekend will begin on a Friday night and conclude on Sunday and is designed for members interested in the history of grazing, stock routes, sawmilling, gold mining, graves and CSIRO rabbit research, spanning the period from around the late 1800's to the mid 1950's. **Extracts from my personal interviews/files and other sources will be sent closer to the event to those who have indicated their interest.** I will also share what little I have gathered since the 1990's about First Nations routes and campsites. Activities will provide for both strong walkers as well as those who prefer gentle strolls. **The weekend will only proceed if there is enough interest to warrant the effort.**

Expressions of interest please by 22nd April, 2024 with your contact details to Graham Scully, 0478 609 917 or email: [scully.graham183@gmail.com](mailto:scully.graham183@gmail.com)

---

### **Donors - THANK YOU!**

Total donations for the quarter:

\$300:00

#### **Donors**

Paul Walsh

Donation on behalf of Ramblers Bushwalking Club

John Dennett

#### **New Members**

Sandy Lolicato

Nick Withford

Jocelyn Frakes

Catherine Blackburn

Alex Schoonmaker

Peter O'Connor

Maddy Broad

**New Members (continued)**

Luke Bell

Jerry Nockles

Thomas Skone

David Barker

Paul West

Dianne Goulding

Paul Byefeld

## What are the huts ?

- **Part of Australian heritage**
- **Earlier generations - ways of living and working**
- **Used for**  
*summer grazing, forestry, mining, research, hydro-electricity, skiing, bushwalking, and fishing*
- **Huts provide**  
*shelter, refuge in emergencies*
- **Ruins of significance**  
*maintained & stabilised*
- **Valued by descendants**  
*whose families built them*  
*Frank & Jacks, Black Jack, Happy Jacks, Jounama Homestead*



J. Hammond KHA  
history presentation

Warm memories of a late member of  
KHA

Bob Guy

Small in size, the Kalora 425R is the perfect investment for a studio apartment, holiday loft, man cave or bungalow ... **OR into a high country hut.** This model wood heater will be installed in Four Mile Hut No: 2 in memory of a wonderful KHA member, the late Bob Guy





## Brooks Hut Rebuild



**Brooks Hut** is located west of Eucumbene Dam and north of Crooks Racecourse. This hut was burnt down in the 2003 bushfires and rebuilt in 2008-9.

The hut again sustained significant damage in the January 2020 fires, with only the chimney structure remaining. It has again been rebuilt.

*Photos taken by legendary hut builder and carpenter extraordinaire, NPWS Roger Rosenboom*

## KNP Hut Rebuilding Program

The rebuilding of Sawyers Rest House, Delanys and Vickerys huts has been completed, while the last coats of fire-retardant paint are being applied to Bradley & O'Briens.

These huts are the first of 11 historic huts damaged during the 2019-20 summer bushfires that will be rebuilt in Kosciuszko National Park by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) assisted by volunteers from the Kosciuszko Huts Association (KHA) and families associated with the huts.

The opening of Sawyers Rest House and Delanys hut was held early April and Vickerys Hut on 18th November.

The openings were attended by family descendants of the builders, lease holders and the many families who came after, that used and maintained the huts. There were many a story told of living in and visiting the huts over a cup of tea, scones & camp BBQ.

Big thank you to all those who assisted with the rebuild and the openings.

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

The rebuilding of these huts has succeeded in keeping the social significance/people connections to these places as well as maintaining the cultural landscape and teaching the timber skills necessary to conserve these structures.

Reconstruction of Harveys Hut is underway with the completion of the building work. Work parties are planned with the Tumut Scouts to paint and clean smoke damage in early December.

Planning is underway for rebuilding Four Mile and Happys huts in early 2024 and Round Mountain and the Fifteen Mile Ridge Linesmans huts at the end of 2024/25.

All works are planned to be completed by 2026.

Descendants and others with photographs and other historic records of these huts, or those interested in volunteering to help rebuild these huts, are encouraged to contact NPWS by emailing [srhutsrebuild@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:srhutsrebuild@environment.nsw.gov.au) or calling 02 6947 7000.

**Megan Bowden Project Officer**  
**Hut Rebuilding Program**

**Bullocks Hut:** It's full steam ahead at the Bullock's Hut complex with the worst of the damage to the blockwork, both interior and exterior, being repointed and patched. This could only be done once the paint was stripped and the render removed.

This is a massive job, and quite tedious at times, but Shane and Nigel from NPWS are amazing and we, KHA, commend them on their diligence and commitment.

Marion Plum  
HMO Snowy



## Thredbo-Perisher area in

## Kosciuszko National Park

**Applies from Wed 17 May 2023, 11.50am. Last reviewed: Wed 31 Jan 2024, 9.10am.** Closed areas: Bullocks Hut closed – Several buildings in the Bullocks Hut complex are closed until further notice for restoration works. Please do not enter the construction sites.

[Penalties apply for non-compliance.](#) For more information, call the Snowy Region Visitor Centre on 02 6450 5600 or visit the [NSW National Parks safety page](#) for park safety guidelines.

## Kosciuszko National Park

### Post-Bushfire Hut Rebuild |

### Part 2: Delanys Hut - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JVSp68Yf-zk>





## Letters to the editor -

or s/b emails to the editor?

Our mail today included the lovely package of the KHA 2024 calendar and Christmas newsletter – a most appreciated, late Christmas present !

Both publications are filled with wonderful photos of our beloved Snowies and the huts, so thanks to both of you for creating such memories for us, and for all that you both do for the KHA members.

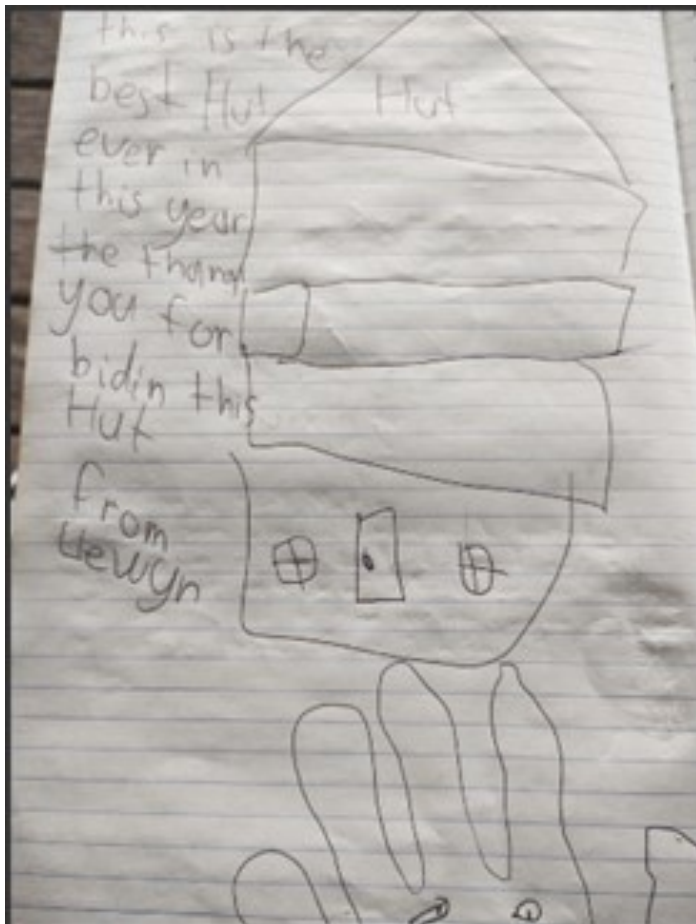
We needed a calendar at home, so the KHA one will grace our study wall and will remind us each day to get going and plan another trip to the Snowies !

All the best for 2024,  
Russell & Win Meares

Dear Pauline

Many thanks for the latest newsletter. The 'Christmas-ised' Horse Camp pic on the front cover made me smile!

Matthew Higgins



## Huts are there and maintained for history and safety as the below incident illustrates:

Hello Folks,

I recently undertook a walk from Guthega to Tharwa, and visited a number of huts on the way. I also spent the night in Witzes Hut when a couple of National Parks Rangers said I should get to the hut because there was a cold change coming overnight with 40mm of rain. We got the rain but not the cold, but in any case I hope my \$100 donation will help your ongoing maintenance programs

We certainly had a lot of rain that night and I was thankful to be in the hut rather than a tent. I came across some Snowy Hydro workers the next day who confirmed they had received 38mm in their rain gauges.

On a separate note, I was carrying a Garmin Inreach device which purportedly gives forecasts, but every forecast said 0% chance of rain! It was a lucky thing that I met those NPWS Rangers when I did.

Regards

John Lysiak

**Left:** A thank you in Daveys Hut logbook from a young child.

It makes caretakers feel very appreciated!

*This is the best hut ever in this year thank you for you bidin (building) this hut*

*- From Llewyn*

***The source of this story comes from Harry Hill to Colin Hoad thence to John Williams. Tommy Yan, of sliprails fame, moved from Kiandra in the late 1920's or early 1930's to Lobbs Hole near Ravine Copper Mine.***  
**Graham Scully**



## **An unexpected visitor - Circa 1930s**

Yan moved to Ravine sometime in the 1920s. Col Hoad tells the story of a small plane that was entered in an air-race to Adelaide. The plane developed magneto problems when flying over the Ravine area. The pilot was able to land the plane on a flat area not far from Yan's house. The pilot walked up the hill to Yan's house but found no one was at home, the Yans being away at the time. The pilot was able to use Yan's phone and order parts that were required to fix the plane. Although the Yans were away the pilot stayed at the house until the parts were delivered. It took about a week for the parts to arrive. The plane was finally fixed and when ready to go the pilot left a note promising to send money for the food that he had eaten and for surety left some tools and a spare wheel at Yan's house. The next problem was the lack of runway needed for take-off; a plan was devised to drag the plane up the hill with horses and man power and then tie it to a tree with the nose facing down-hill. The plan then was to take the engine to full revs, cut the rope and hope for the best.

Col was a young lad at the time and was on hand with his father and a couple of others to carry out the plan. The method was put to the test and fortunately for the pilot it worked. He took off safely and reached his destination a day or so later. The pilot kept his word and sent money to the Yans to cover his food costs. Yan's house was still standing in the 1950s; it was seen by Harry Hill who paid a visit to Ravine at that

time. It was most likely destroyed by the bushfires in 1964. The late Mr. Yan was born at Kiandra and was a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Yan, early settlers of that area. In early life Mr George Yan had a selection at Yarrangobilly and also drove horses and bullock teams, carting wood and also groceries and supplies to the Kiandra residents from Tumut and Cooma. He disposed of his original property about 28 years ago. About this time he suffered a slight stroke, which left him blind in one eye. Later he carried on grazing on his property at Lobb's Hole, to which he added lease country. He retired about seven years ago and came to Tumut to reside with his wife, handing over the control of his grazing interests to his sons, Jink and Arthur.

[http:// oa.anu.edu.au/obituary/yan-george1679](http://oa.anu.edu.au/obituary/yan-george1679)



I have attached the photo that the rebuild of the Yan 's Slip Rails was based upon.

It was taken by Mike Hinchey during a cross country ski crossing from Mt Franklin to Guthega in 1974. It was this photo that enabled us to model the replacements of the original Slip Rails. The Slip Rails were prefabricated at the NSW Parks Heritage Workshop at Currango in March 2023. Park staff and KHA members were able to assist in the Slip Rail recreation. Mike Hinchey, Mick Preston and myself (Bogong), Megan and 3 members of the Nordic Ski club were there. The Nordic Ski club members were at the 4 Mile Hut rebuild. **Graeme Infeld**





<< **Matthew Higgins** works on **Yan's sliprails** at the Australian Alps National Parks Co-operative Management Program in conjunction with NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service. Heritage Skills Workshop last March 2023.

Photo : Graham Cummings

**Below** : Four Mile Hut - prior to its loss to bushfire

(Photo: Matthew Higgins)



**Comment from Matthew:**

NPWS has done excellent work with the post-2020 fire rebuilds to date at Sawyers Hill, Delaneys and Vickerys

< : A recent photo from **Megan Bowden** showing great progress at the Four Mile rebuild.

Ian Griffith from the NSW Nordic Ski Club (along with other club members) has spent most of January 2024 assisting NPWS staff on the Four Mile Hut rebuild.

>> Fitting corrugated iron on bottom of east verandah wall, ready for slabs



<< Fixing kerosene strips with Klaus Hueneke - strips attached with leather washers & clouts over gaps between slabs on north wall.



# November 2023 Report

from Jean Montgomery, HMO Namadgi

Pauline,

We just got back from doing some maintenance on my huts, stockyards at Waterhole and Forest ACT. Very upsetting to say the least. I will mention what happened at the meeting ...Jean Hammond  
Report for the 8th to the 9th November 2023 inclusive  
by J Hammond and D. Argall, who assisted

**Day one:** Grass was cut at Glendale in front of the KHA containers and down the hill. Next visit hoping to borrow a couple of brush cutters from Parks to cut a lot more grass in front on the hill leading up to the containers. Previously I was mowing for days but now it is far too long and contains weeds.

After this was completed, we drove over to Brandy Hut to start work over there. Dave tackled the net at the back which is aging and had come away from the building and at one end the possum could climb



through. This netting will have to be replaced entirely due to its age. I will look into where we can get this for its width. The current one we have is not wide enough for replacement.

Above: repair to net

Grass was cut around the hut and thick grass was cut with my grass cutter. The gutters were checked and the gutter guard that is in place is working and has kept out 90% of the leaf litter. Twigs and leaves removed off roof. The inside of the hut was cleaned. Noted the stains remain on the furniture and the concrete floor despite all the scrubbing I did when we found the hut in that state last visit. The old pots and chair have disappeared (by who ???). Two months previously the hut was vandalised.

We replaced the box on the fire extinguisher and some newsletters as damaged. The gaffer tape was removed from the metal pipe leading from the tank as it did not fix the leakage.

Water tape stretched and applied over the area as per instructions from a plumber. Tested before we left and no leak noted. Time will tell. The tape is clear, not coloured.

**Day two:** Poured rain throughout night and early morning. We drove out to Horse Gully before conditions could worsen with the warning that another downpour was to happen later that day. On arrival again upsetting as the interior was a mess and the hinge on the door had been broken. I was only there two months ago and we sealed all the holes up and the hinge was in good working order. It appeared that rats had entered and shredded and damaged the chairs which the caretaker has removed for repairs. Items were found stolen last visit and reported to Parks. I also replaced my metal bucket as my previous one was burnt. The interior was cleaned. The grass remains short after last mowing by caretaker and the gutters are okay. We replaced the box on the table with a new one last visit as it was damaged. Hung up a calendar for 2024 on the wall and supplied some toilet paper.

As the door cannot be closed for security from outside vermin, we have wrapped wire around the door handle which is attached to the outside wall.

**Mowed outside, interior with stains from where the solution was poured.**



mess we found



Brandy Flat Hut



# GOURMET WALKERS/SCHLINK HILTON WORK PARTY

27th to 29th November 2023

Monday morning the **27th** - We met with Andrew Miller and Marion Plum in Jindabyne.

After discussing our plans and with assistance from Marion (especially in obtaining paint) we headed to the hut. On arrival around midday Gail and Di set about checking the hut while Terry and John hand cut a ute load of wood.

Returning to the hut with the firewood we found a large group of students and teachers from Shellharbour Anglican College setting up tents around the hut.

The teachers were great and the students proved to be extremely well behaved and very much enjoying their tramp. The group was approxi-mately 40 in number and many showed con-siderable interest in the hut and KHA involvement.

Gail and Di discovered rats had attacked material we had left in the back section of the hut.

This included eating plastic boxes, a paper towel, toilet paper, plastic cups and bowls, hand sanitiser, handwash and most of the contents of our first aid kit!!!! The damaged items were removed by Andrew when he visited the following day. Thanks Andrew.

The front window, LHS of the entry, was in a bad state with a considerable gap between the upper and lower panes.

We removed the damaged part and replaced it with a more weatherproof timber section as a 'stop gap'. All the walls in the main area were sugar soaped and let dry. Before lighting the fire we had time to put a base coat on the wall behind the fireplace The colour is darker and more practical being near the fireplace and behind the wood container.

This colour was used for approximately one third the height of the back wall.

**28th** - A section of interior wall beneath the front window in the main room was badly deteriorated. We removed this and replaced it with a new board. We also attached batons either side from floor to ceiling. None were there prior so it looks much better.

A second coat of paint was applied to the lower back wall area and the remainder of the room was 'cut in' and painted with the new lighter coloured paint.

After this had dried sufficiently a second coat was applied. The final touch was using the dark colour again. John carefully applied this to all the skirting boards. No-one else wanted this job! A great result overall.

There will be enough paint to complete at least two more rooms that will benefit down the track.

They are okay for now.

During the day Andrew drove in to see how we were going. It is always great to see him and a good excuse to stop for a cuppa and enjoy Di's great snacks.

**29th** - Andrew had advised of a potential problem crossing the creek near Horse Camp Hut on Wednesday. Plenty of precipitation was forecast. It commenced raining late Tuesday and did not let up. So, very early morning, we packed, swept the hut and headed off in constant rain. After due consideration, we drove through the crossing with water showering over the ute.

Finally, many thanks to Marion and Andrew. We are happy with what we achieved in the time available and very much enjoyed every minute.

*Cheers,  
Torch, on behalf of Corcy, Merle  
and Lady Di (AKA Terry, John,  
Gail and Dianne)*



## Lost Huts - Matthew Higgins

The re-building of huts in the mountains following the 2020 fires is a reminder of the huts that have gone for good. Here's three which now exist only in memory, photos and documents.

**Rutledges Hut** on the Thredbo River was a fishing hut built for the grazier Rutledge family and was erected in 1935. My photo of it was taken in 1985 and the hut was lost to fire shortly after. The hut stood at the Thredbo Diggings camping area. Bullocks Hut further downstream is another fishing hut of the same era and happily, stands today.



**The Royal Military College Duntroon Ski Lodge** on Mt Ginini started life in 1951 (after RMC took over a small ski hut from a group of Canberra skiers). This hut is in the middle of the attached photo).

RMC expanded the enterprise as seen in this 1953 photo by David Cook, and a ski run was cut on the mountain too. The lodge was enjoyed by cadets until it was demolished in 1969.



**Dicky Cooper Hut** was built for grazing in the 1890s, and stood near Dicky Cooper Bogong, not all that far from Whites River and Schlink Hilton today. Bert Bennett's photo of his ski friend R.B. Sykes standing on the roof was taken in the 1950s. The hut collapsed during the following decade.



Cheers, Matthew

Dear Pauline - Here's a little something for the newsletter. Both photos by me. Well preserved in time: Gavels Hut, 1984 and 2018 - Cheers, Matthew

This hut was built in 1931 and was used for grazing. It is built of timber and horizontal weatherboard cladding with a timber floor and an iron roof. The chimney has a brick hearth.

Located at the southern end of Tantangara Plain between Gang Gang Mountain and Bulgar Hill. Access to the hut is via a fire trail from near to Tantangara Dam or from the Snowy Mountains Highway.





**Bradley & O'Briens &  
Brooks Hut Restoration  
after destruction by fire**

**Open Day Sunday  
24th February 2024**



**Alan Pottie - January 2024**

We actually visited the hut on a Club activity ...a few photos attached. Looks great. I am wearing two hats here with the Wagga Wagga Four Wheel Drive Club.

Some of our members have put in a good few days with the NPWS builders on Bradley/O'Briens. We have offered vehicle support to transport attendees in on Sunday as well. In addition, two of our members (who are KHA members as well) will be further assisting the 3D scanning program over the weekend and beyond.

*Photos: Alan Pottie*



## Work Party Report - Daveys Hut



*Pauline & Colin - Photo Graham (Caretakers)*

**12 December 2023.** Arrived at Snowy Plain via Island Bend Fire Trail to lush and green pasture.

Two campers, father and son from Katoomba NSW had stayed overnight in their tents prior to their walk to Kidmans Hut. Graham showed them a shorter route behind Daveys Hut rather than follow the stock routes on the plain.

We were very happy with the condition of the hut, its cleanliness and lack of damage. The only immediate need was to use wood preservative on the 100 year plus exterior. Advice is being sought via HMO Marion Plum and Andrew Miller as to this. The woodpile in the old laundry was a marvel of sequential sizing from fine twigs and kindling to logs for the fireplace.

**Graham** started quickly on the major job of re-puttying the laundry/woodshed window. He removed the old and cracked putty replacing it with fresh oil based putty as used in the old days and painted the frame in oil based primer. It is necessary to leave the renewed putty some time before repainting.

**Colin** swept out the hut. The wood box beside the fireplace had a white foam box holding newspapers. This had been chewed by small critters leaving the area strewn with white plastic bits. The foam box was removed to prevent further mess.

Cleaned the toilet and its interior. We were told a new toilet was being installed.. But keeping the exterior.

**My jobs were the fiddly bits** I cleaned out the boxes with books and replaced other small items ie; band aids. It was a surprise that the two books on Daveys Hut featuring the original owners and Davey Williamson also historic Huts and Homesteads of Namadgi National Park written by self were still there, although dog eared and obviously much read. Great history lives on. I cleaned the windows also.

The notice board in the hut with old photos and other information about its owners etc; I was dismayed, that some photos of family and locals had been prised off and

removed.

Checked the log book for advice on problems, most were comments about the history and the joy of being in a pioneers' homestead and how well it is maintained.

The grass is 45 cms and needs cutting. Ranger Andrew Miller advised it will be cut when it cures more. Previously cut grasses are laying about, dried out, possibly fire fuel?? Our opinion is it should be cleared away from the hut when the field officer group does the whipper snipping.

We noticed the fencing wire had been twisted upwards and hooked over the barbs on the top wires. This was obviously done to allow the feral horses availability of the fodder within the fenced off area through the opening of the wire. Graham and I unlooped the wire but it has taken a lot of tension off the fence. Geoff Brodie, one of the original caretakers before KHA's inception, travels down to spend time at the hut, sometimes in wintery weather. He has the skill and tools (Fence strainer) to do the job.

We left as a hailstorm was starting ... the father and son were advised to stay in the hut overnight due to the deteriorating weather situation - this was a safety issue. Better to be inside and not walking during an electrical storm in the mountains.

*(Above: Colin helping Graham finish off the puttying job)*



See you next time Davey.

**PLEASE SEND your work party story to me - we all enjoy reading what it achieved by our caretakers to ensure the continuity of the history of our pioneers.**

***Pauline Downing***

**BTW: Have you got a story about Davey's ghost?**

**OR** ... any similar visits to other huts in your experience? I have three so far. Two instances of Davey opening and closing the hut's door in the late hours of the night. None of the people sleeping there that night had left their beds. And myself and another caretaker were sitting in the main room on an overcast, grey day when we heard a man with a deep gruff voice speaking, too low for us to understand, so we went outside and looked around the back of the hut for him ... there was no one there? It has been suggested it was a wombat??

(DPE) The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) is upgrading the spectacular Mount Kosciuszko Summit walk in Kosciuszko National Park to repair flood damage, make the track more resilient to future weather events and improve accessibility to the popular Mount Kosciuszko summit. Visitors are advised to expect delays and diversions on the walk and at the Mount Kosciuszko summit until mid-April 2024, with works to be delivered in stages outside peak visitation times. The Mount Kosciuszko Summit walk may be temporarily closed for up to a week in February 2024, with alternate access to the summit via Kosciuszko walk (Thredbo) or the Main Range walk (Charlotte Pass). We will advise of closure dates as planning progresses. The improvements are being delivered as part of the Australian Government’s Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements and the NSW Government’s Improving Access to National Parks program.



**NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service**

## **Upgrades at Mount Kosciuszko Summit walk**



**Mount Kosciuszko Summit walk. (DPE)**

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) is upgrading the spectacular Mount Kosciuszko Summit walk in Kosciuszko National Park to repair flood damage, make the track more resilient to future weather events and improve accessibility to the popular Mount Kosciuszko summit.

**Visitors are advised to expect delays and diversions on the walk and at the Mount Kosciuszko summit until mid-April 2024, with works to be delivered in stages outside peak visitation times.**

My latest short nature video, 'Frogmouths Forever' is now on YouTube. Should you wish to have a look, the link is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UHIDA7sd2w0>.

There is narration and natural sound on the soundtrack so make sure you have your volume on; the video is just under five minutes long.

If you watch the video I hope that you enjoy it. I trust that it will spread awareness of this marvellous Australian bird, and assist conservation. Feel free to share the link.

Cheers Matthew



Photo: **Matthew Higgins** - Ice Pond adjacent to the Upper Thredbo River, 2023

