

Minutes of a shelter hut
meeting 5 December 1970

in the Compliments of the Superintendent



KOSCIUSKO NATIONAL PARK

PRIVATE BAG VIA COOMA, N.S.W. 2630

Attendance:

A. L. Limbriol
✓ G. A. McDonald
P. Harvey
✓ A. Hinds
R. Rae
J. Rae
C. Warner
B. Leaver
N. Pallin
✓ R. Pallin
W. Davies
✓ P. Butt
✓ R. Jerrems
✓ P. Arriens
✓ R. Miller

✓ R. Vallak

K. May
✓ D. Brown

✓ A. Chaffer
✓ A. Hine
✓ J. Hogan
T. Byrne
E. Clement
✓ R. Clement
✓ P. Ormay
✓ D. Hogg

✓ T. Kneen

J. Togan
J. Staliner
✓ M. Flynn
B. Rimaldi
S. Birtus
A. Copeland
B. Hazlingdew
✓ L. Alexander
M. Alexander
M. Fogson
A. Battye
E. Butler
✓ B. Seedsman
D. Thrum
J. Swain

Tambaroora Ski Club.

Australian Alpine Club (ex Albina Lodge).

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" " " (Perisher Huetten).

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Boy Scouts Association.

Forestry Commission (Batlow).

N.S.W. Federation of Bushwalking Clubs & C.M.W.

" " " " & S.B.W.

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Canberra Alpine Club & Canberra Bushwalking Club.

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Y.M.C.A. Ski Club of Canberra.

Y.M.C.A. Ski Club of Canberra, Canberra Bushwalking Club
& Guthega Ski Club.

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Canberra Alpine Club, Canberra Bushwalking Club &
Y.M.C.A. Ski Club.

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Tate Club.

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" " & Canberra Y.M.C.A.

Canberra Bushwalking Club & Y.M.C.A. Ski Club.

Melbourne Uni. Mountaineering Club, Federation of Vic.
Walking Club.

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Winter Group.

Monaro Conservation Society.

Geehi Club.

Perisher Valley Ski Association Ltd.

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Cooma Air Travel.

Cooma Ski Club.

" " "

Geehi Club.

" "

Technology Ski Club.

" " "

" " "

Monaro Acclimatisation Society.

Tate Ski Club.

Kosciusko Fire and Rescue Association.

F. Young

S. J. J.

A. Sponar
 H. Davis
 E. Winter
 F. Pallin
 R. Cox
 P. Edmondson
 A. Palmer
 M. Walkers
 J. Findlay-Gowar
 L. McKenzie
 S. Deegan
 B. Marshall
 F. Dick-Smith
 A. Hartnett
 C. Rae
 J. Poppins.
 O. Pinkas
 J. Bosworth
 B. Gallie
 N. C. Gare
 H. Schulze
 F. Neary
 P. Barlogie
 J. Govan
 S. Heilbron
 P. Ingram
 M. Hill
 R. Leggat
 J. Beeman
 B. Loder

Sponar's Lakeside Inn.
 White's River Club.
 Yeti Ski Club & White's River Club.
 Australian Alpine Club.
 Ski Council & S.A.S.C.
 Ski Council of N.S.W.
 Valhalla Lodge.
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 " "
 Kosciusko Snow Revellers Club & N.P.W.S.
 Valhalla Lodge.
 Guthega Ski Club.
 A.A.C. (Illawong).
 Winter Group Melbourne.
 Kosciusko Chalet.
 Youth Hostels Assoc. (Vic.) & Winter Group (Vic.).
 Cooma Ski Club.
 Guthega Ski Club.
 Ku-ring-gai Alpine Lodge.
 National Parks and Wildlife Service.
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 " " " "

F. Young

{ Sydney Bushwalking Club
 " Spelae "

Ulls Ski Lodge
 Noakes Ltd

63 (incl. NPWS staff)

The meeting opened at 11.00 a.m. with an address by Mr. Gare, Superintendent of Kosciusko National Park. Mr. Gare extended a welcome to all present and thanked all delegates for their interest. A brief summary of the background of the hut problem in Kosciusko National Park was given.

The questionnaires concerning huts in the Park which were widely distributed revealed general agreement on the following points:-

1. Huts definitely necessary.
2. In excess of 90% of answers were in favour of public huts.
3. Facilities in huts should be minimal and contain 10 to 12 beds.
4. Majority agreement was that all items packed in should be packed out.
5. Huts should serve a dual purpose for summer and winter.
6. Payment for use to be collected on an honour system.
7. Service vehicles only to huts.
8. No locks on huts as they are public huts. This also applied to locked boxes in the huts.
9. Single huts only. No groups of huts at the one location.
10. Majority felt that local materials should be used in the construction of huts.

Mr. Gare then quoted an extract from a letter received concerning huts which he said, appeared to sum-up the general feeling of user groups. The extract was:-

"My final plea again is for that tolerance and breadth of outlook which matches the scale of the mountains. There is no place for the narrow view, and the only thing which cannot be tolerated is that intolerance which disregards the proper and reasonable aspirations of other Park users. The construction and regular maintenance of huts will take much effort, but I believe a sufficient pool of goodwill exists among hut users to get the job done. If the huts are destroyed, something precious and irretrievable will have been lost from the mountains. What else can be said?"

Over-all, Mr. Gare said, there was very strong feeling that group assistance was necessary. There had been a number of suggestions in the way user groups could be co-opted to assist in maintenance of the huts, and one of these suggestions was the formation of a group, which could be known as "Friends of Kosciusko Huts". Details of the functions of such an association, if it were formed, would need to be carefully considered. Mr. Gare suggested that, broadly speaking, the National Parks and Wildlife Service would be responsible for siting and designing of huts and for supplying materials for major works while the Association might be responsible for organising group assistance for labour and for collecting funds from boxes placed in the huts if an honour system were introduced. Mr. Gare emphasised that this was purely a suggestion and the matter would be open to further discussion.

Mr. Schulze, Chief Ranger of Kosciusko National Park was then introduced as Chairman of the Meeting.

Mr. Schulze proceeded to discuss each of the points mentioned hereinbefore and asked those present to fully consider each question individually. Delegates present were invited to comment on any matter under discussion.

The first point was the question of retention of huts. Mr. Schulze said that some of the existing huts were unnecessary. This was particularly apparent when a hut was located in a position where it was not being used or if it was being utilised it was only by illegal shooters. In these cases, Mr. Schulze said, the retention of a hut with these known characteristics would appear to be undesirable. Commenting on Mr. Schulze's remarks one of the delegates present asked why the huts should be removed if no-one uses them anyway. If a person was in the area where one of these huts were, the delegate continued, then the hut would provide emergency shelter if needed. The mere fact that illegal shooters were using some of these huts should not in any way influence a decision to remove the huts the delegate concluded.

The Secretary of White's River Club said that members would take strong exception to any proposal to remove White's River Hut.

The Chairman was then asked to name the huts which he felt were not necessary. In reply Mr. Schulze quoted the case of an unnamed hut at the Northern end of Kosciusko National Park which was extensively used by illegal hunters. Mr. Rae, representing Perisher Huette, said that it was impossible to prevent illegal use of the huts and reiterated the remarks of an earlier speaker that illegal use should not influence removal of huts.

Mr. Jones from the Federated Bushwalkers Club then questioned the necessity of siting huts close to roads or fire trails which he felt was a contributing factor in illegal usage.

Mr. Clement, representing Tate Ski Club, suggested that any new huts should be located far enough away from roads or trails to discourage illegal use.

The Chairman then suggested that the proposed Association, if formed, could submit recommendations to the National Parks and Wildlife Service on siting of new huts or removal of existing huts. He said the removal of any existing hut would only be carried out after full consideration was given by the Association.

Mr. John Swain (Kosciusko Fire & Rescue Association) asked how many huts there were in the Park. In reply, Ranger Bob Leggat, said he was unsure of exactly how many huts there were but it would be less than one hundred.

Mr. Cox (Ski Council) said that it was not possible for a standard design for all huts, as the topography must be considered. He quoted the example of Lake Albina Lodge which was located at a very high altitude and in an exposed position and in comparison White's River Hut which is built in a sheltered position. For these reasons, he said, it would be impracticable to have a uniform design.

The Chairman then said that a map would be compiled showing locations of each hut in the Park. This map would be given to the Association, if formed, for future use.

Delegates from the Melbourne Mountaineering Club then asked if details of hut usage and other particulars of huts were being compiled by the National Parks and Wildlife Service. Mr. Schulze replied that this was being done at present.

Mr. Paddy Pallin then raised the question of maps. Mr. Pallin advised the meeting that the Snowy Mountains Authority maps were going out of print and that there was not a suitable map available for tourers. He then asked if it was proposed to print a comprehensive map. Mr. Gare then asked Mr. Pallin if he thought the S.M.A. maps were satisfactory. Mr. Pallin replied that they were not really satisfactory. Delegates from the Canberra Bushwalking and Canberra Alpine Clubs then pointed out that the 1" : 1 mile maps were out of date. They felt that the 1" : 1 mile Kosciusko sheet was the only satisfactory map available. It was agreed that further investigation of map requirements was necessary.

The Chairman then returned to the question of hut retention. In summing up he said that it appeared that all people present felt that all existing huts should be retained and, in any case, no huts would be removed prior to consultation with the proposed Association.

The meeting was then asked to consider siting of huts. In leading discussion Mr. Schulze asked if there would be any objection to erecting a hut at Consett Stephen Pass. One delegate said we must consider huts on the Main Range in relation to the terrain. At this point several people raised objection to the erection of a hut at Consett Stephen Pass. It was generally agreed that huts above the tree line should be the exception rather than the rule. To strengthen this point of view it was stated that huts above the treeline are difficult to find and of little significant value. It was then suggested that huts should be sited in valleys below the tree line. Representatives from the Perisher Ski Association then said that it was much easier to ski down to a hut with an injured skier and therefore huts in valleys would be preferable to huts on top of hills. General agreement was that huts be located in valleys below the tree line. Mr. Birtus then spoke on behalf of Dane Wimbush, C.S.I.R.O., and said that the C.S.I.R.O. would like to see huts in strategic parts of the Park in order that they could be used for scientific purposes.

Delegates formerly with Albina Lodge then discussed the purpose of huts. They said safety was one thing but enjoyment by the people was of vital importance, and should be given full consideration. There are two main types of user groups, they said, these being skiers and bushwalkers. If an Association is formed they might consider dividing caretaker or maintenance responsibilities into different areas where user groups primarily confine their activities.

Ranger Ingram then said he felt that huts should be defined in three separate categories, these being:-

1. Huts above snowline.
2. Huts below snowline accessible to vehicles.
3. Huts below snowline not accessible to vehicular traffic.

These categories were generally discussed by the meeting.

The Federation of Bushwalking Clubs said that members felt that huts should only be maintained at spartan level; after all, they said, what are huts for anyway?

The second point was then considered. Delegates from the Tate Club stated that over the years huts had "picked up" caretaker groups and, in general, satisfactory maintenance programmes were undertaken at regular intervals. The question was then asked if a huts association was formed would the association delegate maintenance of individual huts to various user groups. The Chairman replied by saying that this had been suggested, and in order to achieve satisfactory results he felt that any management committee established by the Association would need to be fairly large in order that all user groups could have adequate representation.

Representatives from Technology then spoke saying that in the past single caretaker groups have done a reasonable job in maintaining huts. Some Clubs, they said, would continue to perform good work, however, others might not. In view of this assumption it would appear dangerous to permit individual groups to maintain individual huts. Some people considered that a division of skiers and bushwalkers was not desirable. The opinion was also expressed that full consideration must be given to known routes for bushwalkers and skiers before deciding where to site a new hut. It was suggested that we need collective views from all user groups. Mr. Swain then asked if the N.P.W.S. had decided which huts to maintain. In reply Mr. Schulze said that no decision had been made as yet.

Point 3, the question of facilities, was then discussed. A question on the future of Albina was raised and the Chairman stated that as the building was already there with comparatively sophisticated facilities it will in all probability remain in this form. In general it was felt that any facilities in shelter huts should be minimal. Paddy Pallin asked if it was proposed to pull down Illawong and Mr. Schulze gave an assurance that Illawong Hut would remain.

Mr. Davis said the system of Caretaker Groups looking after huts had worked very well in the past and these groups keep the huts as clean as possible. The White's River Club members, he said, had noted that people with tents had camped in the vicinity of White's River Hut and deposited rubbish around the building. Ranger Leggat asked Mr. Davis who he thought should have preference to use huts, those in tents or those who regularly use the hut. In reply Mr. Davis said "hut users".

Delegates from the Canberra Bushwalkers Club then suggested that the proposed Association draw up specifications for hut construction as it was difficult to recommend facilities without knowing the type of construction.

It was suggested that a beacon or similar device be placed in each hut for safety reasons. This point was debated for some time by those present with several people disagreeing on the necessity of beacons.

It was generally agreed that the more huts there are in the mountains fitted with elaborate facilities, the more chance there will be of people going into the area unprepared. Consequently additional facilities could prove to be a retrograde step.

One delegate then said that "we are trying to formulate a policy to protect a heritage, lets get down to working out a policy".

Mr. Warner (Boy Scouts Association) said that he agreed with the general principle of building huts to a 10 or 12 bed size, however, there should be a limited number of huts capable of supporting bigger parties. The question of

finance likely to be made available for the purpose of constructing additional huts was then raised. Mr. Neary (N.P.W.S.) said that the Service was unfortunately faced with stringent financial restrictions and that he couldn't see any significant amount of money being made available by the Government for at least the next three years. Mr. Warner was then asked if Alpine Hut wasn't suitable for larger groups as finance obviously wouldn't be forthcoming for sometime to permit the erection of additional larger huts. In reply Mr. Warner said that it was too far to go to Alpine Hut with inexperienced groups of boy scouts.

Mr. Gare said that the Service was currently considering these points raised. He asked that the meeting consider that larger huts need more frequent servicing and in all probability, it would be necessary to site those types of huts where they would be accessible by vehicles - that is, mainly on the periphery of wilderness and similar areas, at selected sites.

Perisher Valley Ski Association then asked were they to consider two types of huts. One type solely for shelter with minimal or no facilities and one type to be used as accommodation huts with facilities. Mr. Gare pointed out that the existing ski resorts largely provided these latter base facilities.

Mr. Warner said that boy scouts did require accommodation for more than 10 or 12 in one hut.

The Perisher Valley Ski Association delegates then said that boy scouts were one specific group and were expecting a "bit too much".

Delegates from Melbourne University Walking Club said that the question of younger groups was no different from that of older groups. They asked if it wouldn't be better to let scouts learn ski touring from established resorts such as Guthega.

Mrs. McKenzie (K.S.R.C. & N.P.W.S.) said that she felt the number of huts in the wilderness area, and the number of people who go into the wilderness area, should be restricted. It would not be desirable to have large groups inundating the area. She continued by saying that all existing huts should be considered in relation to their size and locality.

Monaro Conservation Society representative said that the club supported the concept of having huts built outside the wilderness area.

The Australian Alpine Club delegates said that the wilderness area was big enough for everyone to see. Encourage people to come - there is certainly no need to keep them out.

One person then said that limiting huts to just saving lives was a very narrow view. We should aim for a happy medium where people can come and see the Park and the huts are still there for safety purposes if needed. The main use of huts is for convenience, not safety. The delegate continued by saying that people who entered the area should, in any case, be able to survive without using huts, surely they must be able to look after themselves if they don't find a hut.

"Some people want large huts, some people want small huts", said delegates from the Canberra Bushwalking Club, "wouldn't a compromise be large huts near the edge of the Park, 10 to 12 bed size further in the Park and no huts or no more than are existing in the wilderness area."

The Melbourne Bushwalkers Club delegates said that there is no need for large huts at all as facilities for larger groups are available at places such as Sawpit Creek. Huts are definitely essential, they said so that skiers can travel light. They continued by saying that minimal facilities only should be in huts as people will travel ill-equipped if the huts contain sophisticated facilities.

The meeting was informed that for the time being at least, there would be no alterations in the size of existing huts.

The Chairman was then asked how it was proposed to control usage of the huts. Mr. Schulze said that the question of bookings had been raised. Mr. Gare said that a booking system appeared inevitable, in the long run, if usage increased over the years as anticipated.

A summary of matters discussed was then given by the Chairman:-

1. Retention of existing huts (Association to discuss with N.P.W.S.).
2. No exclusive use of huts. Maintenance to be performed by user groups.
3. Formation of a "Huts Association" with a working committee.
4. With the exception of certain huts, facilities to be minimal.
5. Size of huts to be based on existing huts.

Representatives from the Geehi Club then asked if, in the opinion of those present, should comprehensive information be given to the public on what may be found in the Park. They asked if the meeting would agree to a list being drawn up showing where huts are, what is there, etc. It was generally felt that this information should be made available. Ranger Leggat said that it would be possible for him to supply the required information.

Ranger Hill said the rubbish problem in and around huts was very real. Mr. Schulze then asked the meeting if they agreed with the "pack-in pack-out" system. Generally agreed this was the most practical solution.

The matter of formation of a huts association was then discussed at length. There was a suggestion that regional sub-committees be established. Mr. Pallin said it was premature for regional sub-committees and that there should be one steering committee to establish a constitution and set out aims and objectives of the Association.

The following motion was then moved:

"That an Association be formed comprising those present and those who may later wish to join, tentatively named the Kosciusko Huts Association."

An amendment was then moved which read:-

"An interim steering committee of seven be elected".

A further amendment was then moved and which was adopted by the meeting. The amendment became the motion and was passed. The motion passed now reads:-

"That an association tentatively to be named the "Kosciusko Huts Association" be formed and that an interim steering committee of nine be elected".

A further motion which reads as follows was then passed:-

"The steering committee when elected shall prepare a draft constitution and operating procedures for the Association before the end of April, 1971".

Nominations were then called for the steering committee and the following persons were nominated:-

Paddy Pallin	Robin Miller
Alan Hinds	Phil Butt
Mike Flynn	Roger Clements
Herman Schulze	Laurie Alexander
Tom Kneen	Barry Seedsman
Jean Findlay-Gowar	Frank Dick-Smith
Peter Arriens	Reet Vallak

Of the above Phil Butt declined to accept nomination.

A ballot was conducted and the following persons duly elected:-

Paddy Pallin	Herman Schulze
Robin Miller	Laurie Alexander
Alan Hinds	Tom Kneen
Roger Clements	Barry Seedsman
Peter Arriens	Frank Dick-Smith (alternate delegate.)

Mr. Robin Miller was elected as Convenor.

The meeting then discussed air drops in the Park. The Chairman showed those present a tin which was the type of container used in air drops. He expressed concern that in one hut alone 13 of these containers had accumulated. Mr. Butt said that, in his opinion, air drops were unnecessary as all supplies could be packed in. Representatives from Southern Alps Ski Club said that there could possibly be an exception for air dropping hard fuel.

On the subject of dual purpose huts the meeting felt that it was not necessary to differentiate between user groups. Dual purpose huts were quite sufficient.

Collection of fees by the honour system was then discussed. The Chairman is to prepare a submission to the Director of National Parks and Wildlife recommending that the Association be permitted to instal honesty boxes in the huts. It was suggested that the fee be fifty cents per person per night. There was some dissent on the honour box system. It was also suggested that people post the money to the Association.

Vehicular access was the next item on the Agenda. It was decided that Service vehicle trips be reduced to an absolute minimum. It was also decided that all vehicles should be prevented from crossing virgin land unless for emergency purposes. The meeting suggested that Park staff use horses instead of vehicles for service trips. It was generally felt that vehicles used for maintenance purposes by user groups should be permitted to drive as close as possible to the hut, perhaps along fire trails, if these maintenance parties have to take in heavy equipment. Mr. Gare said that essential vehicle access should be kept to the minimum necessary for management purposes. Mr. Edmondson said that access by oversnow vehicles along the main routes should be permitted to allow people who can't ski to see Mt. Kosciusko in winter. Ranger Hill said that studies have shown that excessive usage over the same track results in erosion even if snow is on the ground. In general the meeting opposed the use of oversnow vehicles.

Discussion then centered on locking of huts. It was generally agreed that no locks should be permitted on huts with the exception of locks on honesty boxes or emergency rations cupboards. Members of White's River Club asked that an exception be a section of White's River Hut which has always been locked. Some delegates present expressed opposition to the proposal of retaining locks at White's River Hut.

The next item discussed was that of single huts. It was generally agreed that single huts should be placed at strategic locations. Mr. Edmondson said that it might be better to have two small huts close together in case of fire. Mr. Pallin said that huts located on the periphery of the Park could perhaps be sited close together.

Discussion then centered on the materials which should be used in the construction of shelter huts. It was generally agreed that huts should be constructed from local materials. Mr. Schulze, the Chairman, said he felt that it may be advantageous to investigate the possibility of erecting prefabricated huts. This could be particularly beneficial, he said, if in say thirty years time it was found necessary to re-locate any of the huts. It was suggested that Anare Division be contacted for details of hut design in the Antarctic; such design could assist in planning future huts for Kosciusko National Park. The question was then asked about the colour scheme which should be adopted for future huts. Should huts be coloured in such a manner that they blend in with the surrounds or should they be coloured so as to be easily discernable from a distance? One suggestion was that colouring was not particularly important because of the fact that in inclement weather conditions it would not matter what colour scheme was adopted, the huts would still not be visible from any great distance. One delegate then advocated the use of short pole lines leading to each hut and he suggested that the probable maximum length for any such line would be 100 yards. Mr. Pallin said the length of the pole lines would be entirely dependent on the terrain; perhaps, he said, markers on trees close to huts would adequately serve the purpose of directing people to huts. Speaking again on materials, it was generally felt that rock constructions blend in ideally with most surrounds; however, there was a problem of transporting rocks to the site. Another factor that requires consideration is fireproofing the huts.

The meeting then moved on to general business. Commenting on a suggestion that rescue sledges be placed in huts, the Chairman said that he supported such a proposal if finance could be found. Another delegate suggested that mountain safety should be discussed and the matter of formation of a rescue

organisation should receive early consideration. It was pointed out that an organisation similar to what he had in mind already existed. There was some discussion on rescue organisation in the Park and one delegate said that he felt that the "Kosciusko Huts Association" should not become involved in search and rescue. Mr. Gare then said that Search and Rescue procedures were moving towards increased efficiency. He continued by saying that Police co-operation had been excellent throughout the area when search and rescue operations were effected and that there was a definite need to seek the help of the Police Department in these matters. That Department was the legal authority, in any case, for public safety in the State of N.S.W.

Mr. Edmondson then said that communications in search and rescue operations should be discussed. In his view communication equipment in huts was a definite necessity and, he said, the Kosciusko Huts Association and the National Parks and Wildlife Service should aim towards progressively instituting communications equipment in all huts. Mr. Gare said that experience in the past, and subsequent discussions with the Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Authority had revealed that maintenance of communication equipment in such remote locations was extremely difficult.

The proposed Tri-State Trail was then discussed by those present. The meeting was informed that in 1964 an article appeared in the National Parks Journal which proposed the construction of a walking trail from the Australian Capital Territory to Victoria. Mr. Gare supplied details of similar projects in the U.S.A. and said that he felt that the concept had great possibilities. The meeting should however realise that the promotion of such a concept meant it will be inevitable that there will be heavily increased usage on the one trail. A Victorian representative said that work has commenced on the Victorian section of the trail, and the physical nature of the track is mainly along the lines of a wide walking track. All clearing work on the Victorian section is being done by hand with the only mechanised equipment used being chainsaws. Present Victorian proposals are for the N.S.W. link-up to commence at Tom Groggin. There was some discussion on this link-up point and it was suggested that the Victorian Minister for Tourism be contacted when N.S.W. plans are formulated. There are no plans to have huts along the trail in the Victorian sector. The Chairman said that the entire route in N.S.W. will, in all probability, be through this Park. He asked the meeting if it was felt that the Service should undertake all the work on their own. He pointed out that some sections of the track already exist particularly along fire trails. The representatives from the N.S.W. Federation of Bushwalking Clubs said that the Federation would support the proposal. There appeared a genuine interest in the idea among those present at the meeting. On the Victorian section, markers are being used to define the trail and the Chairman said that he felt this would also be necessary on the N.S.W. section as a significant number of inexperienced walkers were expected to use the trail. There was some concern that sections of the trail would traverse areas zoned as wilderness areas in the Park.

The Chairman concluded proceedings by thanking all persons who attended the meeting.

The meeting closed at 5.00 p.m. after which the steering committee of the Kosciusko Huts Association met to discuss formation of a constitution.

P. BARLOGIE,
MINUTES SECRETARY.
10th December, 1970.

PRESS RELEASE

1. INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE KOSCIUSKO HUTS ASSOCIATION

A meeting was held at the Sawpit Creek Information Centre on Saturday, 5th December, 1970. The meeting was called by the Superintendent of the Kosciusko National Park, Mr Neville Gare, to discuss the future of mountain huts in the Park. The meeting was attended by delegates from organisations and clubs interested in the use of the huts and in alpine conservation generally. A number of interested individual persons also attended.

Those attending the meeting agreed that they should co-operate to advise the Parks Service on the requirements for refuge huts in the Park and to provide practical assistance in the maintenance of the huts.

The meeting voted to form an association called, for the being, the Kosciusko Huts Association. A Steering Committee was formed to draft a constitution and to formulate proposals for the Association's activities.

The next general meeting of the Kosciusko Huts Association is planned to be held before winter 1971. Interested persons or organisations should contact the Secretary of the Steering Committee, Barry Needsman, Box 35, P.O., Adaminaby, N.S.W. 2630.

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