

# HERITAGE

## Brumbies

The implementation of the Horse Management Plan for KNP commences a concentrated effort to capture and remove all brumbies from four main areas and along the highways. We disagree with brumby exclusion areas and we will continue the fight to have the legendary and iconic Brumby formally recognized and protected, with sustainable numbers left to roam free within KNP.

## Huts and Homesteads

Under the NPWS stewardship of KNP there has been a significant decline in the overall number of huts with many lost through fire and neglect. Stockman and ski huts and pastoral homesteads are a heritage resource of exceptional significance. NPWS must ensure they provide appropriate resources to prevent further loss in numbers and restore all the huts destroyed or damaged in the 2003 fires.

## Stock Routes, Wagon and Bridle Tracks

These are the thoroughfares that provided access to the pastoral leases, huts, homesteads, mining and logging sites. For over a century they have been a vital link between the high country and all outside regions and though still needed, have been lost due to NPWS closures. Their important heritage status has to be formally acknowledged and restored.

## Settlement, Hut, Mining, Logging and Grave Sites

These sites must be formally identified, recorded and their heritage significance acknowledged.

## Aboriginal Involvement

We respect the deep spiritual, natural and cultural connections the Aboriginal people have with the Snowy Mountain High Country. Aboriginal heritage must be protected.



## ACCESS

**The 2006 Plan of Management** for KNP introduced further horse riding exclusion areas. When added to existing wilderness zones, horse riders are now prohibited from 60% of KNP. In addition, the inaccessibility of the terrain and location of vehicle based horse camps, results in horse riders having practical access to less than 10% of KNP. Our aim is to reverse all prohibited areas and prevent any future restrictions.

## Wilderness Zonings

We will continue to lobby for responsible access to historic sites within wilderness zonings (Main Range Management Unit excluded) by horse riders provided they are using historic stock routes, wagon and bridle tracks and fire and management trails.

Also, where appropriate fire and management trails exist, and with permission, allow vehicular access to historic sites for people who have direct or generational links with the site and who have no other means of access, that is, the very young, old or disabled.

## Vehicle Based Horse Camps

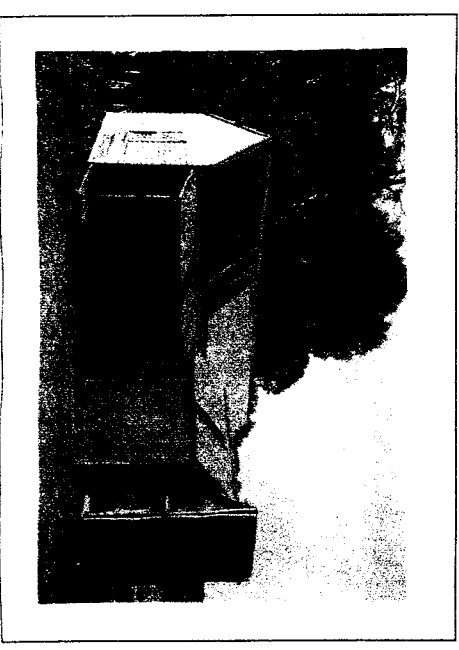
Our goal is to increase the number of these camps to restore access to all areas previously available.

# LAND MANAGEMENT

We have expressed our concern on many occasions to NPWS and our politicians in what we see as the decline in the overall health and wellbeing of KNP. Since the withdrawal of grazing in 1972, after 135 years, we have lost the management practices initiated by the Aborigines and adopted by the European pastoralists. With grazing and regular cool burning native grasses were healthy and there was an abundance of native fauna and flora.

Significant improvements are needed in NPWS land management skills in relation to:

- **Bushfire** prevention and containment through fuel load reduction and maintenance of fire trails and fire breaks. We call for reintroduction of cattle grazing in appropriate areas.
- **Predator feral animals** need more NPWS commitment for eradication, especially wild dogs and pigs.
- **Weeds** that are taking over the once pristine plains and frost hollows, with particular emphasis on the blackberry that is choking the streams and gullies



**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

Please write clearly

I.....  
 We.....  
 .....  
 .....

Apply for membership of the Snowy Mountains Bush Users Group Inc

Signature ..... Date...../...../.....

Please write clearly

Postal Address: .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 ..... State..... Postcode.....

Phone: ..... Mobile: .....

Email: .....

Please specify your interest: i.e horse riding, brumbies, fishing, 4WD, hut management, bushwalking, pest management, cycling, heritage, other.....

Annual Subscriptions:     Single \$10.00     Family: \$20.00  
 Renewable 1<sup>st</sup> January each year.

**Send this form with payment to:**  
**SMBUG**  
**PO Box 711**  
**TUMUT NSW 2720**

**Contacts**  
**President: Tim Jeffery 69442480**  
**Vice President: Michael Piper 69449130**  
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**Treasurer: Mary Owen 69441365**

**Snowy Mountains  
 Bush Users Group INC  
 (SMBUG)**

*Protecting Our Mountain Heritage*

**www.smbug.com**

*The Snowy Mountains Bush Users Group Inc. is a voluntary organisation formed in December 2003 by citizens concerned with the management of Kosciusko National Park (KNP). We use the Park as a meeting place, coming from all over Australia to share a love of the mountain country.*

*Our aim is to protect our mountain heritage, our traditions, the environment, and continued access to heritage sites by traditional means. We are passionate that current and future generations have the right to freedom of access to all parts of KNP for recreational use.*

