



# HEALING COMMUNITY BY RETAINING INTANGIBLE VALUES AFTER DISASTER

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**WITH GEOFF ASHLEY AND DAVID SCOTT  
HERITAGE CONSULTANTS AND KHA MEMBERS**



# THE KHA

- Has existed for over 50 years
- Supports the NPWS and the ACT PCS to conserve network of mountain huts across NSW and ACT alpine parks and reserves

Key activities are:

- Physical maintenance of huts.
- Researching and documenting history — including engagement with associated families and undertaking oral history interviews
- Advocating hut conservation to governments
- Raising public awareness
- Maintaining traditional skills and knowledge

Many of these touch upon the intangible values of the mountains. As such KHA is well placed to work with public land managers assist with healing community through retention of social heritage values.



c. 1950s, Boboyan Area, Dick Brayshaw and  
Morris Luton, Photographer Unknown



# MOUNTAIN TRADITIONS & WAYS OF LIFE

March 1976

Queanbeyan History Bulletin

## RECOLLECTIONS OF AN UNMELODIOUS BULLOCKY

- by W.M. Cotter -

I was about twelve when I first started to work with teams, and about fourteen when I started to drive them on my own. The first trips I made were only just around here, carting wood with a slide, and when I was about fifteen or sixteen I carted wood for my aunt, Mrs Brown, who lived at Denahy's on Micalago Creek. One of the last big jobs I had was to take bullocks to Kelly's Plains, on Tantangra, in the late 1940s to haul timber for fencing. On the road home I sold the secondary leaders to Dick Brayshaw (he was about eighty then). The last time I used the team was in 1951 or '52, and I sold them after that.

Besides Cotters, other bullock drivers in the area were Jock Paul (who drove bullocks for years on Micalago Station until they changed to horses), Brayshaws at Bobeyan, Bert Reid at Tidbindilla and Thompsons at Parker's Gap. Alec Moore at Anembo had them pretty well as long as we did, and Phib Flint had some probably into the 1950s. Old Billy Hopkins was a bullock driver, but I don't know whether he drove at Michelago; I didn't know of any around Bredbo.

Bullocks were preferable to horses, which you could never cope with in really rough country, so there were no horse teams in the dis-

Capturing accounts of lost traditions and ways of life

Perpetuating traditional construction techniques & crafts







# THE AUSTRALIAN ALPS LANDSCAPE

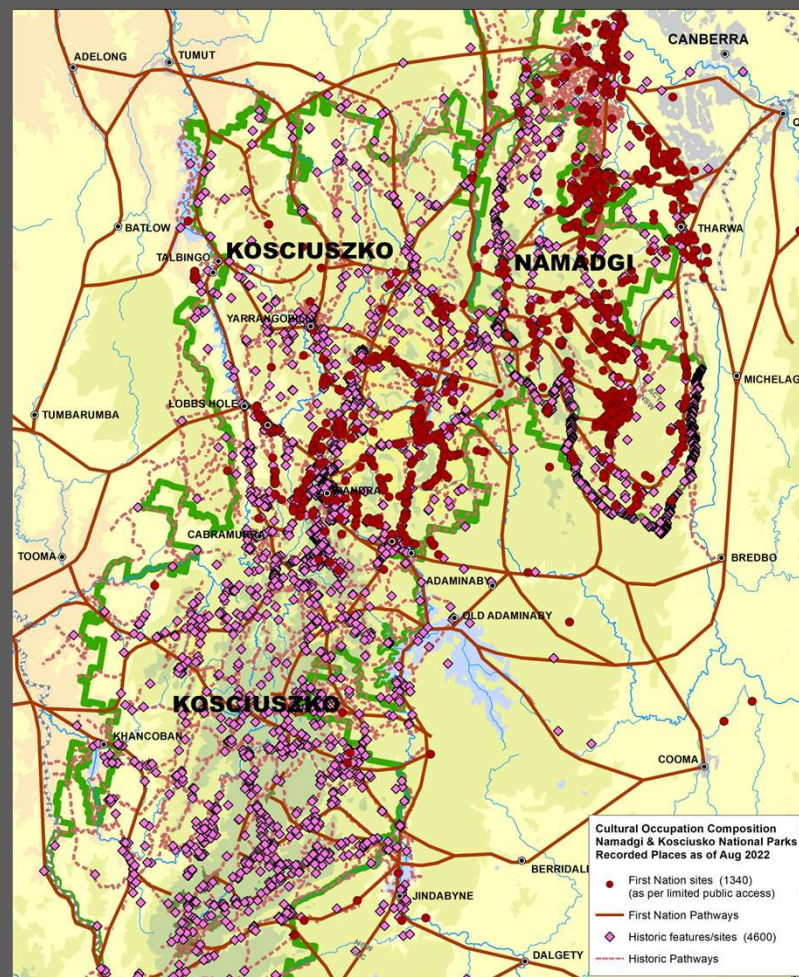
## The Australian Alps Huts of ACT, NSW and Victoria

The huts, hut ruins and sites of former huts across the high country areas of the ACT, New South Wales and Victoria have:

- historic, aesthetic, social, rarity and representative significance that are of national importance as a collection.
- As a collection the huts also represent a network of important cultural paths and routes on the landscape, many of which began as Aboriginal routes, and continue today such that individual, family and community social values representing important intangible values are retained in these high-country landscapes.



1977, On route to Pretty Plain Hut  
Photo by Klaus Huenke, KHA



Historic & First Nations sites across NNP & KNP, D Scott PhD thesis 2020





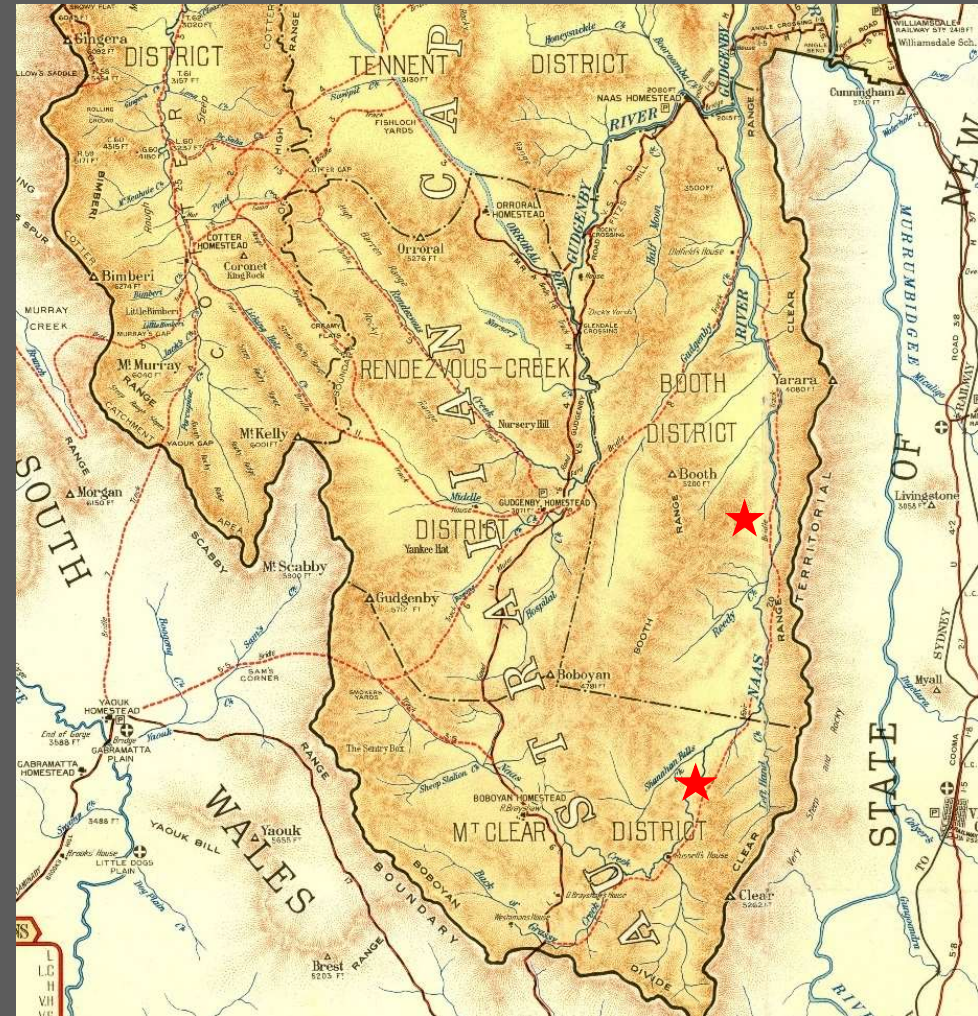
c. 1950s, Surveyors Tent at Boboyan,  
Photographer unknown



# THE NAMADGI NATIONAL PARK LEVEL

## The Stockmen's Huts ACT Heritage Listing (H58)

- Good examples of type
- Have important associations with early families in the region
- Directly associated with pastoralism in the ACT high country, an industry which no longer exists there. The huts show the graziers' shelter needs on holdings away from the home property
- Significant cultural resource to the community



Bridle Tracks established primarily along First Nations paths  
Federal Capital Territory Map 1929 (1952) NLA





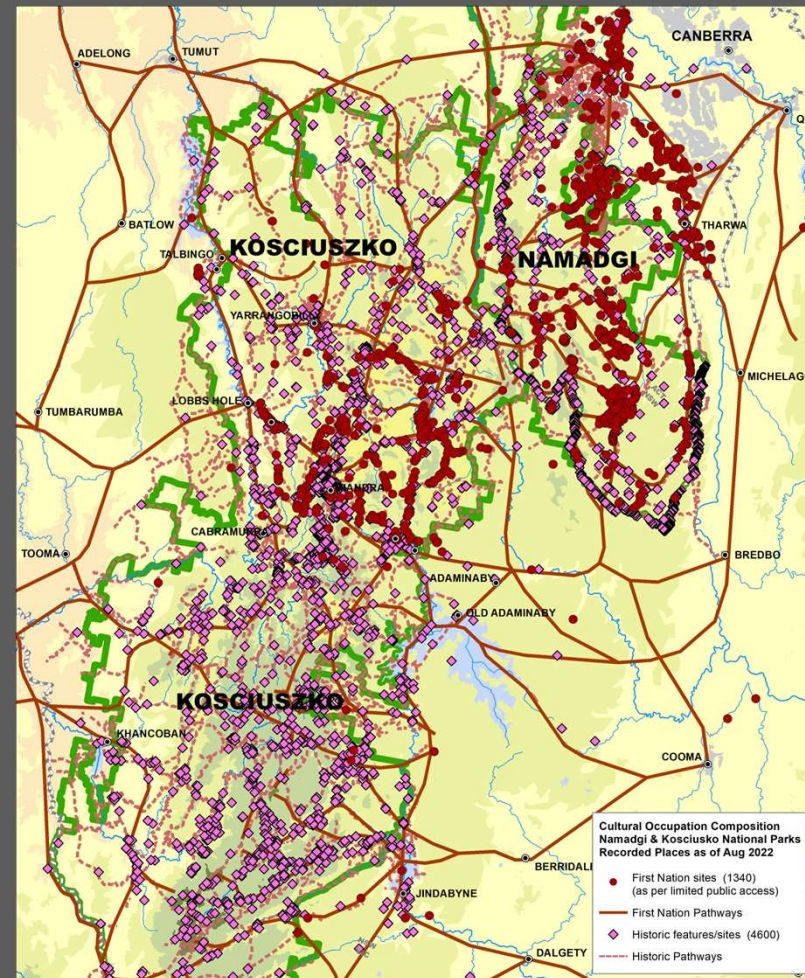
# THE NAAS RIVER VALLEY

Huts in the Naas River demonstrate the evolved use of that landscape from one of exploitation to the present national park.

- Prior to 2020 three stockmen's huts existed in the valley but all distinctly different and all used for different purposes in the grazing era thus demonstrating the range of human activities associated with grazing and the connectivity between local families and associations with the natural resources of the valley.
- Often collocated with Aboriginal sites



2013, Naas River Valley near Mt Clear Campground, Photo by Simon Buckpitt



Historic & First Nations sites across NNP & KNP, D Scott PhD thesis 2020



# THE HUTS

## Demanding Hut

In addition to the historic, aesthetic and social values identified in the earlier serial listing, Geoff Ashley has assessed that Demanding Hut has:

- strong social and cultural landscape value associated with a cultural path in the landscape — here an historic pastoral cultural route (which may also be based on older Aboriginal cultural routes) along the Naas River Valley that connected the Queanbeyan region with the northern Long Plain of now KNP
- the contemporary use of this hut and route (that is part of the Bicentennial National Trail) provided an ongoing connection to that historic route

## Max and Burts

- Was an excellent example of a hut built in expectation of likely land resumption. The Oldfields were double/triple disposed of land: first leases in KNP, then freehold converted to leasehold on establishment of the FCT, and eventually resumption into the Park.

Healing options being explored within the ACT:







# HEALING BUSHFIRE IMPACT



2020, Max and Berts after the fire, Photo by Allan Bendall



Demandering



Max and Berts







# CONSERVING A LIVING LANDSCAPE: CONNECTION TO PAST MOUNTAIN OCCUPATION & PEOPLE

Bringing people together to perpetuate this legacy  
through the ongoing repair and replacement  
of key points of connection



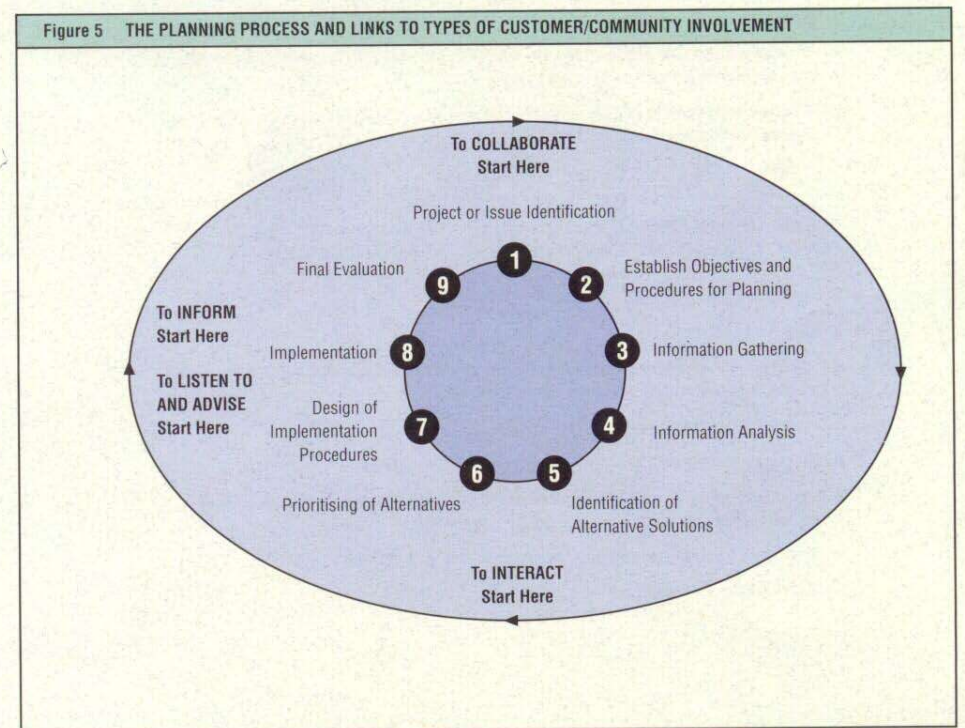
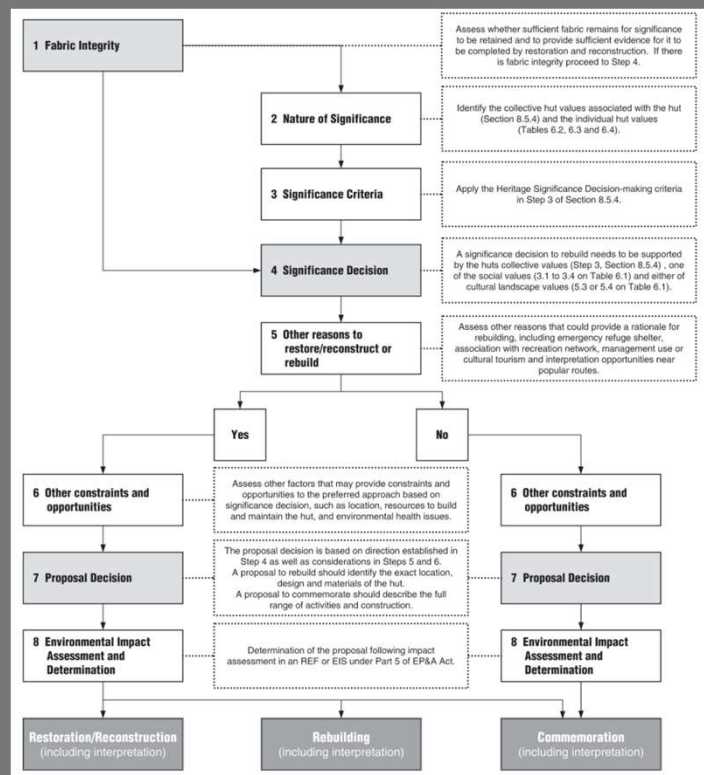




# WORKING TOGETHER

KNP Hut Rebuilding Decision Making Process, from:  
*KNP Huts Conservation Study*, prepared by GML for  
NPWS, October 2005

The Planning Process and Links to Types of  
Community Involvement, Chris Johnston and Kristal  
Buckley from: *AICOMOS National Conference 27-29*  
November 1999







2022, Three Generations of Quakers and 30 years of hut conservation work at AGSM Celebrations. Photos by Peter Clarke.



# HEALING TOGETHER AFTER BUSHFIRE

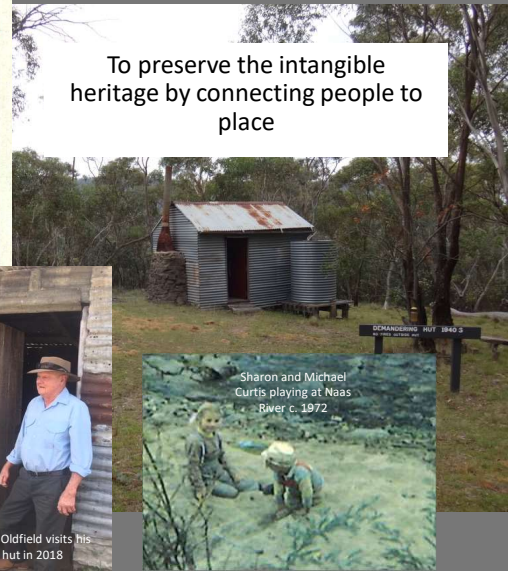
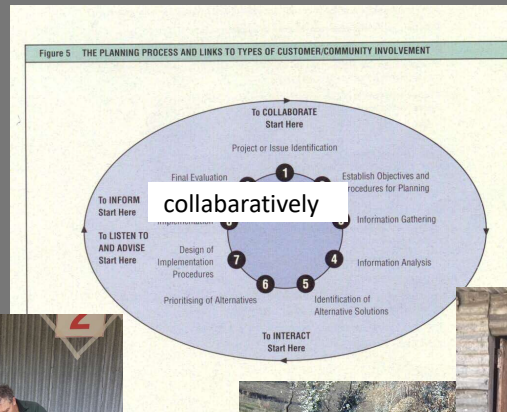


Human volunteers and staff from ACT, NSW, Vic, and Tas at a 5 rainy workshop

Coming together rain, hail, or shine



and working together



To preserve the intangible heritage by connecting people to place

Max Oldfield visits his hut in 2018



Sharon and Michael Curtis playing at Naas River c. 1972

