



NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

KOSCIUSKO NATIONAL PARK

Private Mail Bag, via Cooma N.S.W. 2630

March 23 19 77

Address reply to Superintendent
and refer to JAE:CH:7D/3

TELEPHONE: Jindabyne ~~XXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXXX~~

TELEGRAMS: Kosciuskopark 62102

ENQUIRIES: Mr. J.A. Erskine

Mr. G.G. Broome
16 Milner Avenue
HORNSBY, NSW 2077

Dear Mr. Broome,

Re: Mould's Hut

Your letter, dated February 14, 1977, on behalf of the Sydney Bushwalkers' Caretaker Group, was received here recently under cover of a recommendation from the Huts Maintenance Officer, Kosciusko Huts Association.

Earlier I had orally indicated to the K.H.A. President that enquiry was being made into an allegation that a Kosciusko National Park Ranger had deliberately burned Mould's Hut. That enquiry was recently completed with the result that a Ranger has now received official reprimand and has been disciplined for the unauthorised destruction of the hut, an act which the committee of enquiry unanimously believed to be in all respects inimical to the interests of the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

As a consequence of the above enquiry I have been authorised to tender both to your members and to the Kosciusko Huts Association the Service's sincerest apologies for this individual's act which was in no way supported, encouraged or countenanced by any section of the Service or of this Park.

In relation to your proposal to rebuild the hut I am sympathetic but by no means convinced of the validity of one argument tendered by Mr. Paynter, in his cover to your letter, that approval for early rebuilding should be given to demonstrate that "underhand tactics will not be tolerated". That, in my opinion, would be a quite poor criterion for any rebuilding. Nor can I accept that the existence of maps showing a hut's location is a sufficient justification for a hut's replacement. In such instances the dead hand of the past would always weigh against updating the hut system to meet changed circumstances. Rather should maps be updated and users be wary of old maps.

In a submission dated February 12, 1976 our Mr. G. Moore (Senior Ranger, Planning) offered certain criteria for the retention of huts, which submission is currently under study by the K.H.A.

To paraphrase, he suggested that a hut might be retained if, within a system of huts, it demonstrably:

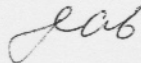
- (a) promotes survival in climatically dangerous areas; without promoting dependance upon huts;
- (b) clearly and regularly serves Park management purposes;
- M (c) supplements special recreational activities;
- (d) has rare historical values.

Your letter seems to claim values in criterion (a), above, for a restored Mould's Hut. But against this are:

- (a) its proximity to Cessjacks Hut, which served the area before Mould's Hut was rejuvenated;
- (b) ^X some K.H.A. recently-expressed doubts as to the ultimate value of Mould's Hut;
- (c) Park staff's doubts as its value in a future system of "survival" huts.

Now that Mould's Hut is gone there is time for a proper consideration of its future. The prior step, in my opinion, is to resolve basic questions about the purposes of the whole hut system, such as those questions raised by Mr. Moore's submission. The need for a new Mould's Hut can then be studied in relation to the whole system. I am not therefore, prepared to approve an immediate replacement of Mould's Hut but instead wish to leave the question open to argument in the future. In the meantime, I would be happy to look over sketches of the type of hut your organisation has in mind.

Yours faithfully,



J.A. Erskine
Superintendent
KOSCIUSKO DISTRICT

cc: Kosciusko Huts Association
6 Galali Place
ARANDA, ACT 2614

Attention: Mr. J.R. Paynter
Huts Maintenance Office