

THE HUB

Many years ago, when the very first Science Management Forum was held, it was thought to be shockingly innovative and daring. The very thought of bringing senior scientists together with the people who managed the Alps day-to-day, park managers and rangers, was in those days a very fresh idea.

History shows it was a brilliant one, providing invaluable support for land managers whose job it is to maintain and protect the diversity of the Alps. And this is why the Australian Alps Program continues to leap at opportunities to bring these two groups together - in November last year the Alps Program hosted the most recent Science Management Forum.

In this instance the scientists present are currently working on a research program, federally funded and dubbed the Landscapes and Policy Hub: they were understandably keen to meet and exchange information and discuss research needs with Alps managers from across the three states. As for the land managers taking part, they'd recognised an opportunity to work with an impressive suite of names - leaders in their fields of study and as the Forum progressed, with obviously warranted reputations.

During the Forum, a shared pool of respect grew: researchers noted the calibre of experience and skill which the land managers brought with them, while land managers spotted some very useful collation, modelling and analyses being proposed via the Hub. Of course it was likely to be a quick falling-into-stride given the goal of both parties is ultimately the same (from different perspectives): to conserve biodiversity at landscape scale.

This session, and others that are planned with the help of the Alps Program, form only part of the Hub's agenda which spans two case study areas, Tasmania's Midlands and the Alps. Looking at the Alps, the Hub is researching around the factors which are at play every day. (With input from Alps managers it's no surprise to learn some of the factors being discussed are very familiar - fire, climate change, invasive species, threatened species etc etc.)

When the program of research draws to its close, the Hub will present its findings at the Federal level. It will have helped to define what we need to know to inform appropriate actions to conserve biodiversity in the face of human and natural drivers of change. It will also have developed tools, techniques and policy options to support regional scale biodiversity planning - something which is relevant to both land managers and State and Federal policy makers.

For more information visit <http://www.nerlandscapes.edu.au/>

who was there...

Frazer Muir (Operations Coordinator, NSW NPWS), Graeme Worboys (IUCN WCPA Alps Consultant), John Wright (Knowledge and Management Effectiveness Branch Parks Victoria), Mark Taylor (DSEWPAC Heritage & Wildlife Division Assistant Secretary, Parks and Protected Areas, Parks Australia Division), Michael Lockwood (UTAS and Hub Project Leader), Michael Mitchell (UTAS and Hub Researcher), Sarah Clement LaP Hub (Murdoch University and Hub Researcher), Steve Horsley (NSW NPWS and Convener Australian Alps Liaison Committee), Sue Moore (Murdoch University and Hub Project Leader), Andrew Harrigan (NSW NPWS Resorts Division), John Tisdell (UTAS and Hub Project Leader), Peter Jacobs (Parks Victoria Chief Ranger Alpine & Mt Buffalo National Parks), Sara Quon (CEO of Tourism North East), Sayed Itekhhar (UTAS and Hub Economist), Ted Lefroy (UTAS and Hub Director), Bec Harris (UTAS and Hub Climate Research Fellow), Greg Lee (UTAS and Hub Climate Analyst), Kären Watson (DSEWPAC, Recovery Planning and Implementation), Ken Green (NSW NPWS Snowy Mountains Region Principal Research Scientist), Nathan Bindoff (UTAS and Hub Project Leader Climate Futures), Chris Johnson (UTAS and Hub Project Leader), Dan Brown (Parks Victoria, Environment Land Water & Flood Recovery), Duane Shawcross (NSW NPWS Pest Management), Iris Curran (Parks Victoria Ranger Alpine Parks), Jethro Bangay (Parks Victoria Ranger Omeo), Nick Beeton (UTAS and Hub Ecosystems modeller), Pam O'Brien (NSW NPWS Area Manager Snowy River), Rob Hunt (NSW NPWS Ranger/Vertebrate Pest Management Unit), Brett Murphy (University of Melbourne Research Fellow and Hub Vegetation & Fire), Dan Jamieson (Parks Victoria, Fire & Environment), David Bowman (UTAS and Hub Project Leader Vegetation and Fire), Fiona Coates (DSE Arthur Rylah Research Institute Senior Plant Ecologist), Grant Williamson (UTAS and Hub Eco Spatial Analyst), Phil Zylstra (University of Wollongong Research Fellow, Centre for Environmental Risk Management of Bushfires), Charlie Pascoe (Parks Victoria Manager, Environment Land Water & Flood Recovery), Mel Schroder (NSW NPWS Environmental Monitoring Management, Kosciuszko National Park), Reg Magierowski (UTAS and Hub Stream Ecologist), Peter Davies (UTAS and Hub Project Leader Freshwater Ecocystems), Roger Good (Private Consultant & Alps Specialist), Simon Nally (DSEWPAC Heritage & Wildlife Division, Recovery Planning and Implementation), Brendan Mackey (Griffith University and Hub Project Leader Bioregional Futures), Gary Saunders (NSW NPWS Manager, Reserve Conservation Planning and Assessment), Luciana Porfirio (ANU and Hub Researcher), Sue Berwick (VIC Department of Sustainability and Environment Regional Manager Biodiversity North East), Sue Gould (Griffith University and Hub Researcher), Tobi Edmonds (NSW Office of Environment and Heritage Conservation Planning Officer, Landscape & Aboriginal Heritage Protection)



Above: Among those at the many science management forum tables were (L-R) Frazer Muir (NSW NPWS) Michael Mitchell (The Hub) and Mark Taylor (AALC), together working to conserve biodiversity at landscape scale.

Left: A field trip was a great way for forum participants to gain an understanding of the complexities of managing parks landscapes inhabited by, e.g. the threatened Mountain Pygmy Possum (*Burramys parvus*).

