Annual Report

2006—2007
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Dear Ministers

We have pleasure in presenting the report of the Australian Alps Liaison Committee for the period 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 in accordance with the requirements of the Memorandum of Understanding in relation to the Co-operative Management of the Australian Alps national parks.

Yours sincerely

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, WATER, HERITAGE AND THE ARTS
During this reporting period the Australian Alps national parks Co-operative Management Program has 'come of age' with the marking of the 21st anniversary of the signing of the Alps memorandum of understanding (MOU) through a celebration and Alps futures workshop at Thredbo in June.

No doubt there were those people involved in the formulation of the MOU who, with great optimism and hope, could foresee this time. There were probably others that were less optimistic; for in reality there are probably very few other, if any, multi-lateral government agreements on protected area management in Australia that are as enduring. Indeed, it is unlikely that there are other agreements in Australia that have inspired so many similar models all around the World. The Australian Alps Program continued to show international leadership this year by contributing to an IUCN WCPA workshop in Ecuador on conservation connectivity, with a publication on the outcomes to follow.

The Program had humble beginnings and is still a relatively small Program, at least in terms of the resources it requires to continue to deliver tremendous value to stakeholders. It has evolved in many ways but still retains many of the fundamental elements it originally had. These Program elements, not the least of which is an enthusiastic and dedicated group of stakeholders both within and outside the participating agencies, are the key to its success. The outputs of the futures workshop, from those experienced participants and those new to the Program, will now drive strategic thinking about addressing the challenges of the next 21 years.

There have been many important projects during the reporting period that reflect the diversity of the material the program deals with, and the people involved, from within and outside the participating agencies. In collaboration with the IUCN WCPA, the AALC ran the second in a series of annual forums to close the gap between operational management and applied science. Over 60 staff from a range of agencies attended the three-day forum in Falls Creek which provided an overview of climate change research and findings of particular relevance to the management of the Australian Alps national parks. As another example, The “Dogs in Space” project has provided valuable information, which is likely to be of ongoing use to both park managers and adjoining landholders, about the spatial movements of wild dogs in remote areas of national park.

Over 20 different projects, workshops and products were produced or continued to be developed throughout the reporting period. This report outlines those achievements and highlights the ongoing success of the Program.
Glossary and Abbreviations

AALC  the Australian Alps Liaison Committee, established by the MOU
AAWT  the Australian Alps Walking Track
AOG  the Alps Operational Group, composed of Rangers-in-charge, Area, District and Operational Program Managers, and other key operational staff
Alps program  The Australian Alps national parks Co-operative Management Program, established by the MOU, and the subject of this report
Annual co-operative works program  the group of activities and projects undertaken each year under AALC funding and co-operative arrangements
Australia ICOMOS  the Australian national committee of ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites), a non-government professional organisation that promotes expertise in the conservation of cultural heritage
Australian Alps national parks  those protected areas included in Schedule 1 of the MOU
Australian Alps national parks Co-operative Management Program  the ongoing activities, projects, works and administration undertaken to implement the MOU.
Australian Alps national parks Heads of Agencies  the Heads of participating agencies
CHWG  the Cultural Heritage Working Group
CRWG  the Community Relations Working Group
Co-operative management  fostering a culture of goodwill, involving activities, projects, and complementary and supportive relationships, and adding value to those relationships through associated economies of scale, going beyond line management and individual agency constraints to ensure consistency across borders
CRC  Co-operative Research Centre
DSE  Department of Sustainability and Environment (Victoria)
IUCN WCPA  International Union for Conservation of Nature, World Commission on Protected Areas (Mountain Biome)
MOU  the Memorandum of Understanding in relation to Co-operative Management of the Australian Alps national parks (as amended from time to time)
NHWG  the Natural Heritage Working Group
participating agencies  parties to the MOU
protected area  means an area of land managed for protection and maintenance of biodiversity, and of natural and associated cultural resources
RFWG  means the Visitor Recreation and Facilities Working Group
Strategic Plan  the three-year plan prepared by the AALC (for this reporting period the ‘Strategic Plan 2004 – 2007’) to guide the annual co-operative works program
Australian Alps Co-operative Management Program

Stretching from Canberra through the Brindabella Range in the ACT, the Snowy Mountains of NSW and the Victorian Alps to West Gippsland, Australia’s alpine and subalpine environment is a unique part of our nation, a mountainous biogeographical region in a predominantly dry and flat continent.

The Australian Alps contain plants and animals found nowhere else in the world. They contain significant examples of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage and offer outstanding recreational opportunities. They also contain the headwaters of some of Australia’s most important rivers and streams.

In 1986, with the signing of the first Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), State, ACT and Australian government national park authorities formally agreed to manage this important national asset co-operatively. Through this spirit of co-operation the Australian Alps Liaison Committee (AALC) was formed to ensure that the parks and reserves in the Alps are managed as one biogeographical entity to protect them for generations to come.

The eleven national parks and reserves in the Australian Alps cross State and Territory borders. Together they comprise over 1.6 million hectares of protected areas. These parks and reserves are collectively referred to as the ‘Australian Alps national parks’, a conservation zone of international significance. Responsibility for strategic policy setting, planning and day-to-day management of the Australian Alps national parks listed in the MOU remains vested in the relevant participating agency.
Vision
To achieve best practice in co-operative management of the Australian Alps national parks.

Mission
Through the MOU, participating agencies agree to the following objectives:

- To pursue the growth and enhancement of inter-governmental co-operative management to protect the important natural and cultural values of the Australian Alps national parks.
- To co-operate in the determination and implementation of best-practice management of the Australian Alps national parks to achieve:
  - protection of the unique mountain landscapes;
  - protection of the natural and cultural values specific to the Australian Alps;
  - provision of outdoor recreation and tourism opportunities that encourage the enjoyment and understanding of alpine and sub-alpine environments;
  - protection of mountain catchments.

Refer to the MOU for the Terms of Agreement that describe in detail the working arrangements agreed to by participating agencies.
Organisational Structure

The following entities have functional roles in the Australian Alps Co-operative Management Program under the MOU.

Australian Alps Ministerial Council
The Ministers responsible for participating agencies, which are in turn responsible for high-level inter-government relationships and the MOU.

Australian Alps national parks
Heads of Agencies Group
The Heads (or their representatives) of participating agencies meet at least annually to consider strategic issues and direct the AALC on policy, and priority and emerging issues.

Australian Alps Liaison Committee
The AALC facilitates the development, co-ordination and implementation of the Co-operative Management Program. Its members include a senior officer from each of the participating agencies in NSW, Victoria, ACT and the Australian Government.

Secretariat
Under the terms of the MOU the Australian Government provides part-time secretariat support to the AALC and Heads of Agencies.

Alps Program Manager
The Alps Program Manager is the only full-time employee of the Program and is responsible for co-ordinating the day to day work of the program and ensuring the annual works program, as agreed by the AALC, is carried out. The Program Manager position is hosted by each of the State/Territory park agencies for two to four years at a time. During this reporting period the position was hosted by Victoria.

Working Groups
A number of working groups are established to advise the AALC on specific matters, and to assist with the implementation of the Co-operative Management Program by:

• developing new projects in key result areas outlined in the Strategic Plan;
• recommending priority projects for AALC funding;
• co-ordinating or project managing the projects.

During the reporting period, four working groups operated under the Australian Alps national parks Co-operative Management Program. They were the:

• Natural Heritage Working Group;
• Cultural Heritage Working Group;
• Visitor Recreation and Facilities Working Group;
• Community Relations Working Group.

The terms of reference for each Working Group are set out in the Strategic Plan, and are aligned to the Key Result Areas in that Plan.

In addition to the working groups, the Alps Operational Group (AOG), the Australian Alps Walking Track sub-group and the Wild Dog (Specialist) Group also met and advised the AALC on a number of operational matters.

Refer to Program structure at Attachment 1.
Program Budget

To assist in achieving the objectives of the MOU, a financial contribution is made by participating agencies. The responsibility for financial management is generally vested with the agency providing the Alps Program Manager position. In the current reporting period, Parks Victoria provided financial management support for the Program.

An annual budget of $280,000 was provided from participating agencies, Victoria and NSW each contributing $120,000 and the ACT $40,000.

During 2006-2007 the Australian government contributed $30,000 plus secretariat support and website maintenance. In addition to this, grants of $5,000 (Parks Victoria) and $22,727 (Indigenous Coordination Centre – Australian Government) were made specifically to the Cultural Heritage Program.

The AALC allocates funding to the Australian Alps annual co-operative works program, which is developed through the submission of project proposals addressing the Key Result Areas of the Strategic Plan. The 2006 - 2007 annual works program budget is presented in Attachment 2.

Annual Reporting of performance

The Strategic Plan requires the Annual Report to:

- evaluate the success of the MOU and the Australian Alps national parks Co-operative Management Program;
- detail the outputs of the program’s projects and their benefits to Australian Alps national parks;
- communicate this information to the Australian Alps national parks Heads of Agencies group, relevant Ministers, and other interested parties.
Key Result Area: Community Awareness

Outcome

The public is aware of, and has access to, information about the unique mountain landscapes and catchments, and natural and cultural values, of the Australian Alps national parks, the actions and behaviour needed to protect these values, and the objectives and achievements of the Co-operative Management Program.

Strategies

1. **Awareness programs** Increase promotion of the values, programs and opportunities of the Australian Alps national parks to target audiences.

2. **Fire in the Alps** Increase public understanding of the role of fire in the Alps ecosystems.

3. **Customer Service** Develop training programs and information networks.

4. **Community audiences** Identify community audiences and evaluate their knowledge of, and involvement with, Australian Alps national parks.

5. **Provision of products** Develop information materials that enhance visitors’ enjoyment and understanding of the Australian Alps national parks.

**Website**

The Australian Alps national parks website is hosted by the Australian Government Department of the Environment and Water Resources. The site carries information about reference material, reports and publications, News Updates, and links to related organisations and interest groups. The Australian Alps Rehabilitation Manual (2006) is available on line for downloading. The Australian Alps national parks home page is www.australianalps.environment.gov.au

**Alps brochures**

The Australian Alps Program produces four brochures which are distributed to visitor information centres and national park and other agency offices as a package of information. During this reporting period all four brochures (Alps icon brochure, Camping in the Alps - Leave No Trace, Hut Code and The Australian Alps Walking Track) were reviewed, updated and distributed.

**ABC Stories – From a trickle to a roar**

Canberra ABC contracted (jointly funded by AALC) film maker Richard Snashall to undertake a series of “summer” and “winter” interviews for both radio and digital TV broadcast during 2006-2007. The 20 alpine stories highlighting people, places and the natural and cultural heritage of the Australian Alps are also available on the ABC website.

**Explore the Australian Alps – Revised Edition**

Explore the Australian Alps, a popular publication first developed by the Australian Alps program in 1998, but out of print for a number of years, had important elements revised in 2006-2007. Only a limited number of revisions were made as it is expected a full review and digitization of the publication will be undertaken in 2008. New Holland Press will release the revised edition in 2007-2008.
Key Result
Area: Natural Heritage Conservation

Outcome
Improved understanding and enhanced management of the flora and fauna, ecological processes and communities of the Australian Alps national parks.

Strategies
1. National Heritage Listing Contribute knowledge to a nomination on the natural values of the Alps.
2. Fire Recovery Work collaboratively on the recovery of Alps ecosystems.
3. Database management Update, maintain and encourage use of all Alps natural heritage databases.
5. Improved understanding Facilitate and support research into the natural values of the Australian Alps.

National Heritage Listing
See Program Management

Alps Rehabilitation Manual
A very comprehensive practical document, the Australian Alps Ecological Rehabilitation Manual has been printed and distributed to staff and relevant stakeholders.

Alps Invaders revision
The Alps Invaders booklet is a field guide to weeds of the Australian Alps. In updating the booklet, species no longer deemed relevant have been deleted and new and emerging species added. A number of Alpine Resorts, Shires and Catchment Management Authorities have assisted with sponsorship to print the booklet which has now been distributed widely. Alps Invaders is available for sale.
Threatened Frog Conservation Research
A team of ecologists has been researching the distribution and implications of the amphibian chytrid fungus in the Australian Alps. Understanding why the Common Eastern Froglet is a major host species and where the disease free areas are in the Alps will be essential to the development of successful recovery programs.

Wild Dog Research
The “Dogs in Space” project has provided valuable information about the spatial movements of wild dogs in remote areas of national park. Preliminary results from tracking wild dogs with GPS collars indicate that wild dogs have a ‘home range’ of approximately ten by ten kilometres.

Deer Management Workshop
As part of the pest plant and animal best practice workshop series cross-border planning has been undertaken to run a three day workshop in August 2007 on the management of deer across the Australian Alps.

Key Result
Area: Visitor Recreation and Facilities

Outcome
Implementation of contemporary approaches to management of visitor resources and use in mountain protected areas, through supporting best-practice philosophy and principles for sustainable use and minimal impact.

Strategies
1. Workshops Foster and facilitate contemporary visitor management techniques through the provision of best-practice workshops to agency staff and interested stakeholders.
2. Australian Alps Walking Track Facilitate a co-ordinated approach to the repair, management and promotion of the Australian Alps Walking Track.
3. Visitor Impact Monitoring Strategies
Develop strategies to monitor visitor impacts within identified and acceptable ecological and social limits, using methodologies which identify and monitor visitor needs, satisfaction and expectations.

4. Plans of management
Consider emerging needs and issues for visitor recreation and facilities and their relationship to management plans.

5. Past work review
Review and summarise the past work of the Alps program on visitor recreation and facilities, and provide advice to the Alps Operational Group for consideration.

Australian Alps Walking Track signs and Message Stick
Interpretive signs have been developed for up to eleven key visitor sites (lookouts, picnic and camping areas) with vehicle access along the Australian Alps Walking Track (AAWT). The signs highlight Aboriginal heritage and custodianship, the ‘one park’ concept, and short walks along the AAWT. They will be produced and installed in 2007-2008.

The Message Stick project involves a relay walk along the entire length of the AAWT. Clap sticks (message sticks) with artwork from representative Traditional Owner and family groups will be ceremonially passed along the AAWT; symbolising the partnerships and co-operative engagement of the Aboriginal, bush walking and Australian Alps communities. Although planning continues, the walk will be delayed until the Victorian section of the AAWT has reopened after rehabilitation works have been completed following the 2006-2007 fires.

Australian Alps ‘Welcome to Country’ entry signs
See Integrated Landscape Management
Climate Change and Sustainable Practices workshop
See Integrated Landscape Management
Key Result
Area: Cultural Heritage Conservation

Outcome
Improved understanding of and respect for the Aboriginal and historic cultural heritage of the Australian Alps national parks, including sites, places and landscapes, and incorporation of these values into effective conservation and management programs.

Strategies
1. **Respect for cultural heritage** Continue to develop and interpret a strategy that will engender a sense of value, respect and ownership within the agencies and communities for the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural heritage of the Australian Alps national parks.

2. **National Heritage Listing** Contribute knowledge about the significant cultural heritage, inspirational landscapes and cultural settings of the Australian Alps.

3. **Involvement of Indigenous people** Identify and promote opportunities for the involvement of Indigenous people in all aspects of the management of the Australian Alps national parks.

4. **Threat abatement** Identify threats to the nationally significant cultural values of the Australian Alps national parks and develop appropriate threat abatement strategies.

5. **Fire Recovery** Work collaboratively on the restoration of significant cultural heritage values affected by the 2003 fires.

6. **Project tools** Develop and provide tools and processes that will assist agencies and relevant community groups to undertake cultural heritage projects in the Australian Alps national parks.
Remembering Lost Places

An illustrated publication telling stories of historic places lost in the 2003 fires has been printed and distributed. Written by historian Rob Kaufman this is a collaborative project funded externally by NSW and Victorian fire recovery programs. Remembering Lost Places is available for sale.

Cultural Heritage banner

A banner highlighting different cultural heritage themes has been developed and distributed to park offices as an addition to existing Australian Alps lightweight portable displays.

Indigenous Interpretation Training and Employment

Bob Jones (Mandar Services) and John Pastorelli (Ochre Training) ran three interpretation training camps (Mt Buffalo, Yarrangobilly Caves and Namadgi) for a number of Indigenous rangers and trainees from across the agencies. The trainees will now be able to confidently assist in running cultural heritage interpretation activities to schools and/or park visitors.

Interim Australian Alps Indigenous Reference Group

See Agency Benefits of the MOU

Australian Alps Walking Track signs and Message Stick

See Recreation and Visitor Facilities

Australian Alps ‘Welcome to Country’ entry signs

See Integrated Landscape Management
**Key Result Area: Program Management**

(CAPACITY BUILDING, INTEGRATED LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION)

**Outcome**

The Australian Alps national parks Cooperative Management Program will be well managed, maintain its effectiveness to achieve the vision and objectives of the MOU 2003, and operate within the relevant policy context of each participating agency.

**MOU 21st Celebration and Futures Planning**

In June 2007 over 80 past and present staff and community stakeholders attended a weekend at Thredbo Village to celebrate 21 years since the first Ministerial signing of the MOU. In addition to looking back and recognizing the significant achievements of the past the participants undertook some futures planning for the next 21 years. Many of the strategies identified to create the ‘vision’ will guide the next Strategic Plan, due for review in 2007–2008.

**National Heritage Listing**

The National Heritage List is developed under the provisions of the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act. The Alps Program has prepared a Statement of Values which has been submitted to the Australian Heritage Council as supporting documentation in its assessment of the Australian Alps for National Heritage Listing. Assessment by the Heritage Council of the values of the Australian Alps continued throughout the reporting period.

**National Landscapes Program**

The National Landscapes program is a partnership between conservation and tourism announced by Federal Tourism Minister the Hon Fran Bailey in December 2006 and led by Parks Australia and Tourism Australia (National Landscapes Reference Committee). The Australian Alps has been identified as a notional candidate site offering superlative natural/cultural experiences distinctive to Australia and sought after by a global audience known as Experience Seekers.

Stakeholders in the Australian Alps Region were invited by the National Landscapes Reference Committee to attend a meeting in Albury in May to outline the initiative and discuss an Australian Alps region candidacy. It was clear from that meeting that there was strong support from stakeholders for the concept. A follow up meeting was held at Lake Crackenback Resort, Jindabyne in June.

The Australian Alps program has taken a lead role in helping to focus tourism and community efforts towards achieving an ongoing commitment and Reference Committee recognition.

**Australian Alps ‘Welcome to Country’ entry signs**

Agency discussion on an options paper prepared with designs for signs appropriate for a range of scenarios, has resulted in the decision to produce signs to promote the Australian Alps as ‘one park’ through smaller signs inside park boundaries and/or key visitor sites.

The objectives for Australian Alps signs will be to:

- promote the ‘one park’ concept across the Australian Alps with distinctive Australian Alps branding;
- respect and recognise ongoing Aboriginal connections and custodianship.

**Science Management Forum**

‘Climate Change . . . what are the management implications?’

In collaboration with the IUCN WCPA, the AALC ran the second in a series of annual forums to close the gap between operational management and applied science. In April 2007 over 60 staff from a range of agencies attended the three-day forum at Falls Creek, Victoria. The theme for this reporting period was to provide an overview of global warming and climate change with particular reference to implications for the
management of the Australian Alps national parks.

In addition a start was made to explore how we might help mitigate the impacts of climate change by employing more sustainable practices in our everyday business.

**Keep Winter Cool campaign**
This climate-change awareness initiative launched in June 2006 aims to encourage Alpine Resort visitors, staff and related industries to help combat the potential effects of global warming on the Australian Alps. It continues to be developed by the Australian Alps, Alpine Resorts Co-ordinating Council and Australian Ski Areas Association.

**Australian Alps Newsletter**
The newsletter *News from the Alps* is one way of keeping staff and other interested stakeholders in touch with projects and activities of other Australian Alps national parks agencies. It is also a valuable method of raising and maintaining community awareness of the Australian Alps national parks and the benefits arising from the Co-operative Management Program.

During the reporting period editions 33 (winter/spring) and 34 (summer/autumn) were produced. The newsletter is distributed widely to Australian Alps national parks staff, the recreation and tourism industry, tour operators, external organisations, educational institutions, and user groups, with a circulation of over 500 copies and being available on the website.

In addition to the printed newsletter, agency staff and selected interested stakeholders received four electronic ‘News Update’. These are emailed on a seasonal basis.

**Training and development**
Staff in participating agencies benefited from a number of training and development opportunities during the reporting period. The highlights have been the Indigenous Interpretation Training which a number of Indigenous staff undertook for both mentoring and capacity building purposes, the Science Management Forum on Climate Change and the release of the long awaited Rehabilitation Manual and Alps Invaders.

Three staff from the participating agencies attended an international workshop in Ecuador looking at how to manage and implement large scale continental connectivity. The AALC funded the attendance of the Program Manager who jointly prepared a paper titled “The Australian Alps Program - Enhancing Connectivity through Cross Border Co-operation”.

**Alps Operational Group**
The Alps Operational Group met once during the reporting period. This forum of field-based managers helps facilitate the integration of the Alps Program into agency programs and advises the AALC on how the program can best assist operational managers.
Responsibility for policy, strategic planning and day-to-day management of each of the Australian Alps national parks remains vested with each participating agency.

The AALC seeks to give land managers appropriate technical tools and sound scientific advice in management reports and strategies, to assist in achieving the objectives of the MOU in delivering best-practice land management across the region. All participating agencies have been active contributors to the AALC and working groups.

The benefits of co-ordination and sharing of knowledge during the year were achieved through:

Fire control and fire recovery

The benefits of cross border co-ordination and relationships between staff were evident during a number of fire control operations during the 2006-2007 fire season.

Since the 2003 fires, agency staff have continued to work on joint responses to a number of issues, benefiting from work undertaken within the Program on fire-monitoring reference plots, rehabilitation techniques and monitoring, and pest plant and animal control.

Promoting community and interagency partnerships

The Alps Program continued to foster strategic partnerships through the following:

• the *Keep Winter Cool* global warming awareness campaign in conjunction with the Alpine Resorts Co-ordinating Council and Australian Ski Areas Association;
• the Australian Alps National Landscapes program by taking a lead role in bringing together local, regional and State tourism organizations and park agencies;
• The 21st MOU Celebration where community representatives and agency staff (past and present) worked together to set long term strategic directions for the Australian Alps program.

Best practice management

Information and ideas were exchanged through the running of a number of workshops on topics including:

• climate change (direct and indirect impacts) research and management implications;
• wild dog control;
• deer management.

Australian Alps Walking Track liaison

The ongoing coordination of a strategic approach to managing the Australian Alps Walking Track included the development of an interactive web page and interpretive signage.

Interim Australian Alps Indigenous Reference Group

Ongoing engagement and involvement of Aboriginal people in the Alps Program plus the establishment of the Victorian (Alps) Indigenous Reference Group has opened the way for this group to be convened in the following reporting year. In the interim, every opportunity has been taken to involve and liaise with Aboriginal Traditional Owners and custodian groups around the Alps on a range of matters in an effort to strengthen understanding and co-operation. In particular there has been involvement through:

• the mentoring of a number of Aboriginal people undertaking the interpretation training and employment program;
• setting strategic directions for the Australian Alps Program at the MOU 21st anniversary celebration;
• AAWT sign design and establishment of the Message Stick project.
Inter-Agency Liaison

Ministerial Council

The Alps Program predominantly facilitates resolution of common issues and the sharing of knowledge and advice with direct benefits for operational staff in their various park management roles. The Alps Ministerial Council supports the Alps Program by providing high-level intergovernmental endorsement.

The Ministerial Council did not meet during the 2006-2007 reporting period.

Heads of Agencies meeting

This annual meeting is an important opportunity for Heads of Agencies, or their delegates, to come together, review progress and discuss future directions and projects for the co-operative management of the Australian Alps national parks.

During the reporting period the Heads of Agencies formally met once in Falls Creek (Victoria) at the Climate Change Workshop in April 2007. The key focus of the meeting was to update the Heads of Agencies on the Alps Program, National Heritage Listing, A2A initiative, the Australian Alps ‘one park’ signs and the future involvement of Aboriginal people in the Program.

Integrated management

Key senior managers and planning staff continue to explore practical ways to integrate planning across the Australian Alps national parks, in the context of new management plans developed for Namadgi, Kosciuszko and Baw Baw national parks.

The Alpine, Snowy River and Mt Buffalo National Parks management plans are also due for review in the near future.

These plans will continue to reflect the diversity of management approaches but will strive to complement one another in a broader biogeographical context. This underlines the significance of the MOU, under which participating agencies have agreed to work closely together to ensure, where possible, common approaches in planning and resource management issues.
The Australian Alps has partnerships with a range of external organisations. During the reporting period several organisations played a major collaborative role.

**IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) Mountains Biome**

This has an active membership of 450 mountain protected area experts in 60 countries. It develops best-practice mountain protected area management texts for capacity building, and organises mountain management workshops. Three staff from participating agencies attended one of these workshops in Ecuador during the reporting period. See the information under ‘Training and Development’.

The quarterly Mountain Protected Area newsletter is circulated to agency staff via the Alps program.

The IUCN WCPA has collaborated with the AALC in the presentation of the first in a series of Science Management Forums.

**Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) with financial and staff support of Australian Alps workshops and publications.**

**Australian Alps Aboriginal Traditional Owner and Legislative Groups**

**Koorie Heritage Trust** in the production of the First Peoples Gathering DVD.

**Alpine Resorts Co-ordinating Council** and the **Australian Ski Areas Association** in the development and launch of the Keep Winter Cool Campaign.

**CSIRO, University of Melbourne, Latrobe University and Deakin University** academics and scientists participated in a range of forums and workshops throughout the reporting period.

**Leave No Trace Australia** is a not-for-profit organisation promoting a national Leave No Trace environmental skills and ethics program. Supported by the Australian Government and other interested parties, this is developing a program specifically designed for the Australian Alps environment.

**National Parks Associations of Victoria, NSW and ACT**

**Kosciuszko Huts Association** and **Victorian High Country Huts Association** Volunteers from both these organisations participated in the Hut Maintenance workshops at Currango Homestead and Dinner Plain (predominantly Victorian representation).

**VicWalk, Canberra** and **NSW Bushwalking Clubs**

Contributions and ongoing support for cross-border co-operative management of the Australian Alps Walking Track.

**Tri State Touring Alliance (Tourism Victoria, Tourism NSW and Australian Capital Tourism and key industry stakeholders)** in the establishment and future implementation of the Tri State Touring Strategy and Action Plan encompassing the Sydney-Canberra-Melbourne touring corridor and featuring the Australian Alps.

**Catchment Management Authorities, Shires and Alpine Resorts** in their sponsorship of the printing of the *Alps Invaders* booklet.

The much-appreciated contributions of these organisations are further evidence of the growing profile, strength and relevance of the Australian Alps national parks Co-operative Management Program.
### Program Structure as at 30 June 2007

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<td>The Hon Malcolm Turnbull, MP</td>
<td>The Hon. Phil Koperberg, MP</td>
<td>Mr Jon Stanhope, MLA</td>
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<td>Minister for the Environment and Water Resources (Australian Government)</td>
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<td>Australian Alps Head of Agencies</td>
<td>Bruce Leaver</td>
<td>Dr Tony Fleming</td>
<td>Mr Russell Watkinson</td>
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<td>First Assistant Secretary Parks Australia Division Department of the Environment and Water Resources</td>
<td>Deputy Director General Head - National Parks and Wildlife Department of Environment and Climate Change</td>
<td>Director Parks, Conservation and Lands Department of Territory and Municipal Services</td>
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<td>Australian Alps Liaison Committee (AALC)</td>
<td>Bruce Leaver</td>
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<td>First Assistant Secretary Parks Australia Division</td>
<td>Regional Manager Snowy Mountains Region</td>
<td>Manager, Programs Coordination Parks, Conservation and Lands</td>
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<td>Program Manager</td>
<td></td>
<td>Stuart Cohen Mary Green</td>
<td>Monica Muranyi (Convenor) Lois Padgham</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Relations Working Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natural Heritage Working Group</td>
<td>Ross Scott</td>
<td>Genevieve Wright Josh Bean</td>
<td>Murray Evans (Convenor) Dave Whitfield</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visitor Recreation and Facilities Working Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cultural Heritage Working Group</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dean Freeman (co-convenor) Megan Bowden (co-convenor)</td>
<td>Jennifer Dunn Adrian Brown</td>
<td>Chris Smith Colleen Nagle Mick Douthat</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Financial Report Year Ending 30th June 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opening Balance</td>
<td>$101,215</td>
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<tr>
<td>Revenue (Contributions)</td>
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<td>Additional Funding DEW</td>
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<td>Additional Sponsorship ICC/PV</td>
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<tr>
<td>Revenue Publications</td>
<td>$3,200</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$442,142</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expenditures</td>
<td>$368,338</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carryover (06/07)</td>
<td>$73,804</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$442,142</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Projects under Key Result Areas</th>
<th>Budget Allocation</th>
<th>Expenditure to 30th June 2007</th>
<th>Dollars Carried Over to 07/08</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Manager &amp; Program Administration</td>
<td>113,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Management</td>
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<td>Communication &amp; Web</td>
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<td>Alps Operational Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capacity Building/Operational</td>
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<td>Implementation</td>
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<td>Futures Strategic Planning &amp; 21 MOU Celebration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science Management Workshop Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Integrated Landscape Management</td>
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<td>47,078</td>
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<tr>
<td>PROJECTS UNDER KEY RESULT AREAS</td>
<td>BUDGET ALLOCATION</td>
<td>EXPENDITURE TO 30TH JUNE 2007</td>
<td>DOLLARS CARRIED OVER TO 07/08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rehabilitation Manual</td>
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<td>Alps Invaders</td>
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<td>Wild Dog Research (Dogs in Space)</td>
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<td>Conservation Threatened Frogs (Chytrid Fungus Research)</td>
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<td>Deer Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natural Heritage Conservation</td>
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<td>Australian Alps Aboriginal Reference Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>Remembering Lost Places</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cultural Heritage Display</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECTS UNDER KEY RESULT AREAS</th>
<th>BUDGET ALLOCATION</th>
<th>EXPENDITURE TO 30TH JUNE 2007</th>
<th>DOLLARS CARRIED OVER TO 07/08</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Partners</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indigenous Interpretation Training &amp; Employment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indigenous Landscape Survey Skills Training</td>
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<td>Cultural Heritage Conservation</td>
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<td>ABC Stories</td>
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<tr>
<td>Touring Guide (2nd edition)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Service Announcements</td>
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<tr>
<td>Style Guide &amp; Fact Sheet Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>AAWT (Message Stick &amp; Signs)</td>
<td>32,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Awareness</td>
<td>62,000</td>
<td>31,706</td>
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</table>
### Projects Under Key Result Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Projects Under Key Result Areas</th>
<th>Budget Allocation</th>
<th>Expenditure to 30th June 2007</th>
<th>Dollars Carried Over to 07/08</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Climate Change &amp; Sustainable Practices Workshop</td>
<td>20,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recreation Impacts &amp; AAWT Planning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recreation and Visitor Facilities</td>
<td>22,000</td>
<td>31,196</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Totals 06/07**

- **Budget**: 442,142
- **Expenditure**: 368,338
- **Carry over 07/08**: 73,804