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SLOPES: Rabbit Control, Clean-up Australia Day and European Wasps

SLOPES <slopes.au@gmail.com>

31 January 2014 at 22:45

Bcc: frank.zipfinger@gmail.com

Dear SLOPES Members and Associates

This email from Dave Woods at NPWS is forwarded for your information.

Please copy it to your members as it contains important information regarding Kosciuszko National Park.

Regards

Frank Zipfinger
President
SLOPES

——— Forwarded message ———

From: **Dave Woods** <Dave.Woods@environment.nsw.gov.au>

Date: 31 January 2014 14:34

Subject: Rabbit Control and Clean-up Australia Day event

Rabbit Control in Perisher Range Resorts

The NPWS rabbit shooting program for the Perisher Range Resorts will recommence Tuesday 4 February. A qualified NPWS shooter, accompanied by a support officer will be targeting rabbits as well as hares, foxes and feral cats. The shooting program is likely to continue throughout February. However **'No Shooting'** will be undertaken on weekends, public holidays, school holidays or during public events. Pindone baiting may be undertaken as part of the control program pending suitable conditions (rabbits are unlikely to switch to baited carrots or oats when there's an abundance of palatable green grass).

Public notification is an important aspect of the approval and safety requirements of this program. Distributing this email to the resort lodges is one way of notifying people who may be around when the shooting is being undertaken. It would be appreciated if you could advise your members and guests about the program. Information will also be distributed amongst key public contact staff at visitor centres and entrance stations and signs will be established along main roads and key access points. You will be advised of any future changes.

If you have any concerns or questions about the program, please contact NPWS Environmental Liaison Officer, Dave Woods, on 64505616 or 0418689250 or email: dave.woods@environment.nsw.gov.au

Clean-up Australia Day – Sunday 2 March

As part of the Clean-up Australia Day campaign, NPWS is again coordinating a litter pick-up across a number of sites in Kosciuszko National Park including Perisher Valley, Charlotte Pass and the Main Range. Should SLOPES members be present in the mountains on Sunday 2 March, they are more than welcome to participate at one of the sites mentioned above. Alternatively, members can identify their own clean-up area (perhaps closer to their lodge) and the amount of time they wish to spend – any contribution is welcome.

If you are interested you can register on the Clean-up Australia Website at the following link: <http://www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au/Kosciuszko+National+Park> or contact Dave Woods on 64505616 or 0418689250 or email: dave.woods@environment.nsw.gov.au

Some of the sites that we wish to target are outside of resort areas and therefore we would like to establish contact details prior to the event so that we can discuss suitable clothing and refreshments when working in an alpine environment. Having your contact details will also allow us to communicate any adjustments to the program due to adverse weather.

European Wasps

For more than 10 years there's been an increase in European Wasp numbers in the Perisher Range Resorts, most notably in Autumn (March, April and occasionally early May). NPWS has access to Fipronil baits housed in poly-pipe bait stations; Fipronil is a broad-spectrum insecticide that disrupts the insect's central nervous system. The principle of this method is to attract European Wasps to feed on the bait and infect the nest. This control method has had good results in reducing wasp numbers in a local area and provides a means to destroy a colony when nests can't be located.

If in the coming months lodge members and patrons see European Wasps near their building, please contact Dave Woods (as per the contact details mentioned above). Bait stations can be placed in the vicinity of the lodge and NPWS will monitor the uptake of the baits and wasp activity.



Dave Woods

Resorts Environmental Liaison Officer

Kosciuszko National Park

National Parks & Wildlife Service

Office of Environment & Heritage

Department of Premier & Cabinet

ph: 6450 5616 fax: 6450 5630 mobile: 0418 689 250

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/alpineresorts/>

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