

# KOSCIUSZKO NATIONAL PARK

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

We had a week in a ski lodge in Charlotte Pass within Kosciuszko National Park. This is within the lease of the person who also controls the Mount Selwyn lease and owns Cooma Airport. Our lodge was the Elouera Ski Club and we were with a group of artists who had contacts with that club.

This report will not cover the artistic endeavours of the group but focus on our own time in the High Country. We begin on the morning when we wake in that High Country; Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November. It was a cool, cloudy day.

Faye and I walked 10.5km from Charlottes Pass towards Perisher. That meant we walked 5.1km out before turning around! Remember that this mana now has limited mobility and, well, is addicted to taking photos!



An alpine stream without horse damage



*Alpine podolepis*





*Prostanthera cuneata*



*Hovea montana*

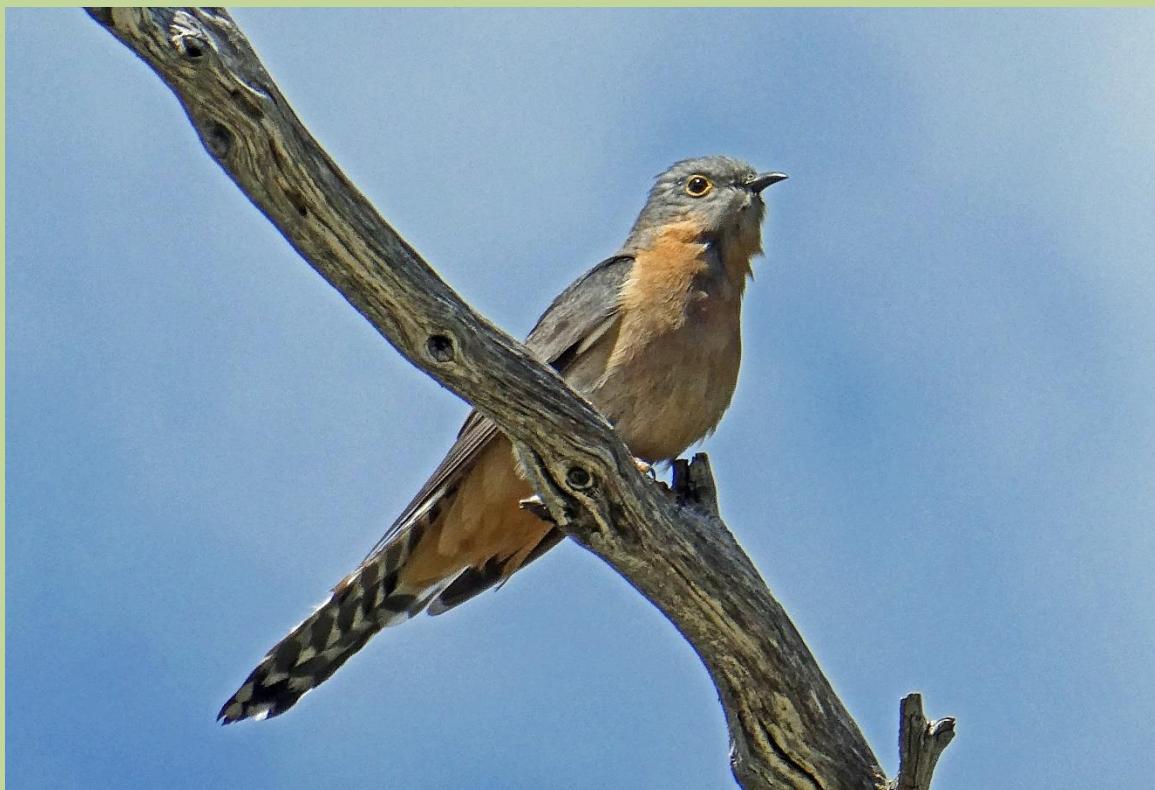




*Caladenia alpina*







This Fantail Cuckoo had a most unusual call







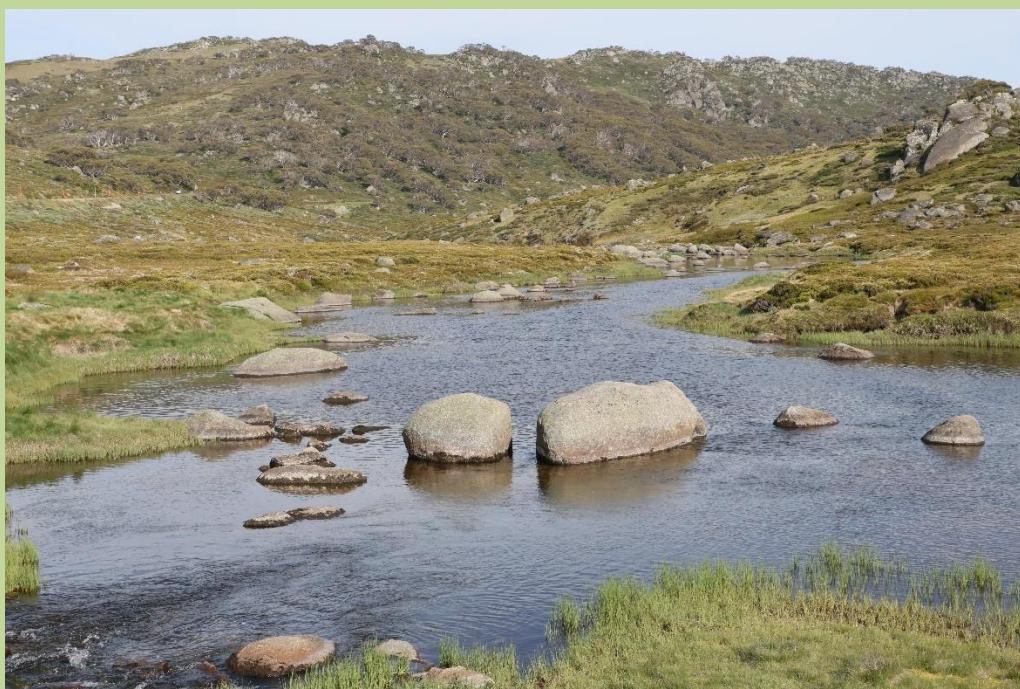
Highland Copperhead



## **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

Another day, another walk! This time we drove down to Perisher, stopped at the track head, walked up to Porcupine Rocks and then continued on for another 2km, making it another 10km trip!

We stopped along the way at Spencer Creek first. Spencer had been one of the first settlers in the High Country.



At the track head, there had been considerable rehabilitation since I was last there. We also chatted with two rangers who were setting up permanent water monitoring systems.



The track had also changed immensely. It is now an all-weather surface. It is also being extended to Bullock Flat!









Lots of Prostanthera in flower along this section







Now there are no images from Porcupine Rocks. Visibility was down to 10m and there was not one hint of a view. One just looked into the void. Thankfully there was no platform either!



The country beyond was stunning, however!





Anemone Buttercup – *Ranunculus anemoneus*





*Kunzea muelleri*



The Main Range has good snow cover





**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

It rained overnight and throughout the day. It gave me an excuse to record what the chalet looks like, prior to anyone else waking!





After breakfast, I left Faye to work on her art and went for a drive.







Those images of equipment in Charlotte Pass hints at an industry on the edge. Charlotte Pass lease is owned by the same guy who owns Mount Selwyn and the Cooma Airport and none look like major money spinners to me, especially as climate change reduces snow fall.

I drove up to the beginning of the Kosciuszko Summit Trail to check out the snow gums!



Sad that rangers should not be photographed; the toxicity of the horse-riding lobby



Spencer Creek is spilling over its banks

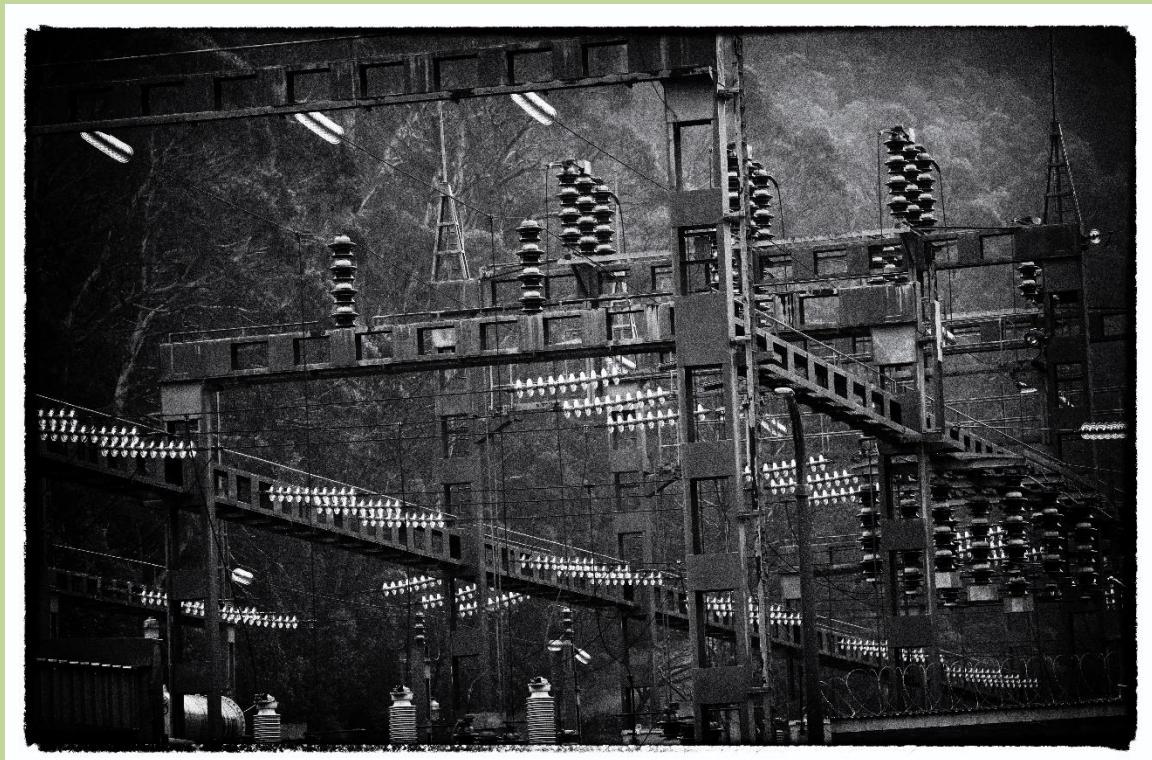


I then drove via Smiggins to Guthega via the link road! It was open.



Blue Cow ski fields

Next stop was the Guthega Power station. It's the southern entrance to the Jagungal Wilderness! My starting point for many multi-day walks! (Perhaps not as many as from Round Mountain!)







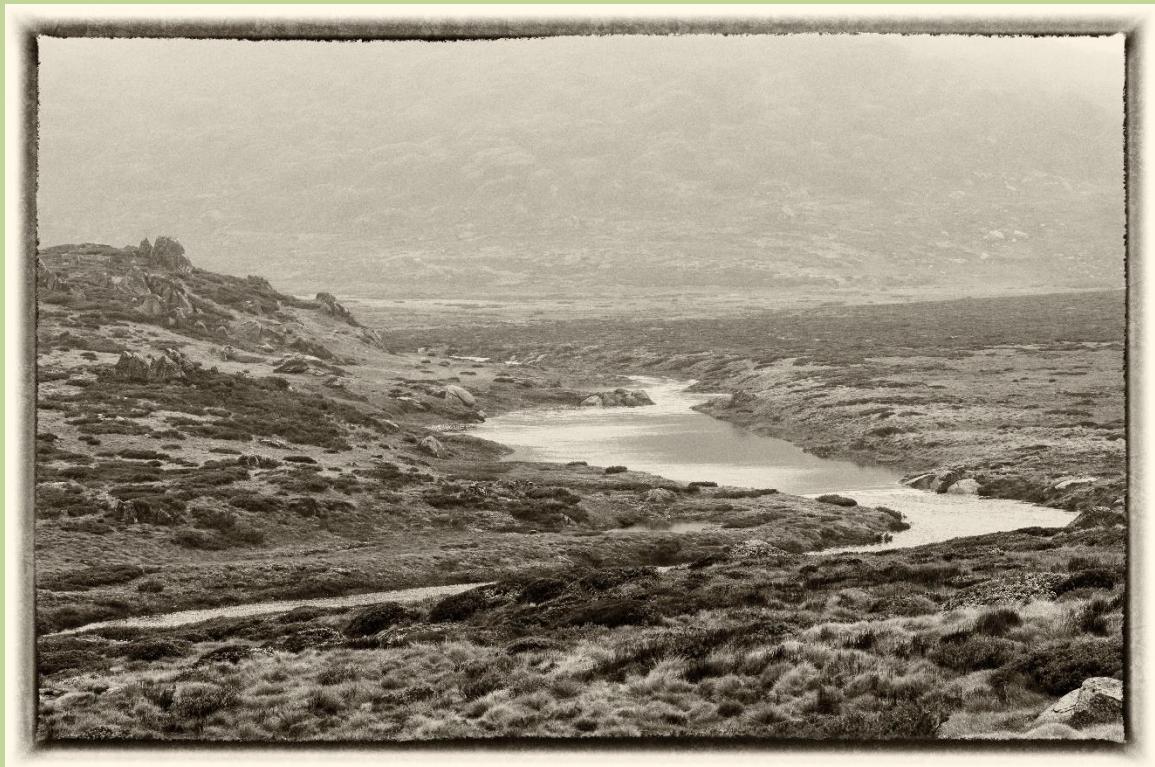
Down in Island Bend





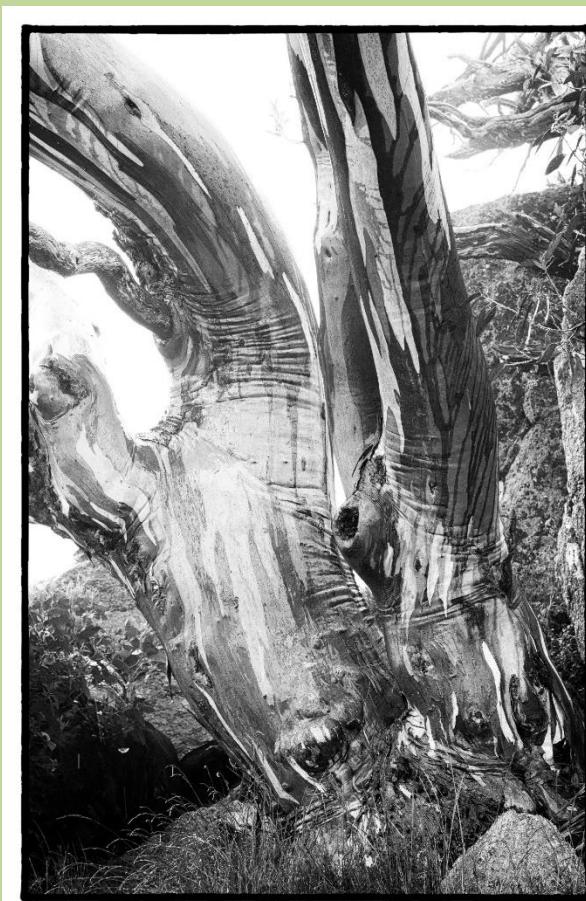
The Eastern Grey Kangaroos look a little wet







I returned to the chalet well before lunch and Faye and I headed down to the Stillwell Hotel for a pizza. It was nice to sit at the window, look at the female Flame robin outside and eat pizza with a beer chaser. And as the rains continued into the afternoon, I took time out for myself while Faye returned to drawing.

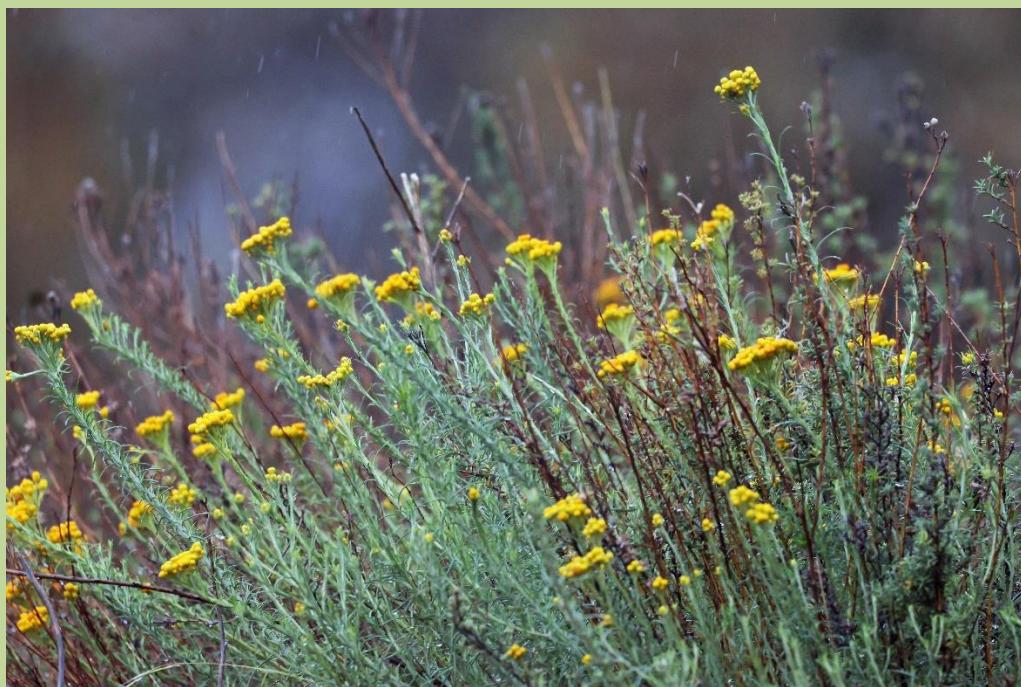


### Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023

As it was still raining heavily this morning, Faye and I gave up on our walk, hopped into the car and drove through rain to Waste Point and the Creel Bay huts.



I think these guys were preparing for white-water rafting!





We used the carport for our morning tea break to avoid the rain. Creel Lodge is available for short term accommodation now.



Hut two is also available; in fact, three places are available. Some are still used as staff accommodation and a few require repair work.

I had a chat with NPWS staff there. Sadly, these places are being cordoned off and fenced in, due to the constant harassment they are suffering as a result of the horse-shooting operations. That is totally unacceptable.





Afterwards, we stopped off at the Thredbo River Picnic area, walked the multi-user track to the Hatchery and back (3.4km, with an extension to Collins Flat) and had lunch by the river.





Wash bay for bikes and boots



Raised platform avoiding the old rough track below (flood prone)



The river was boiling



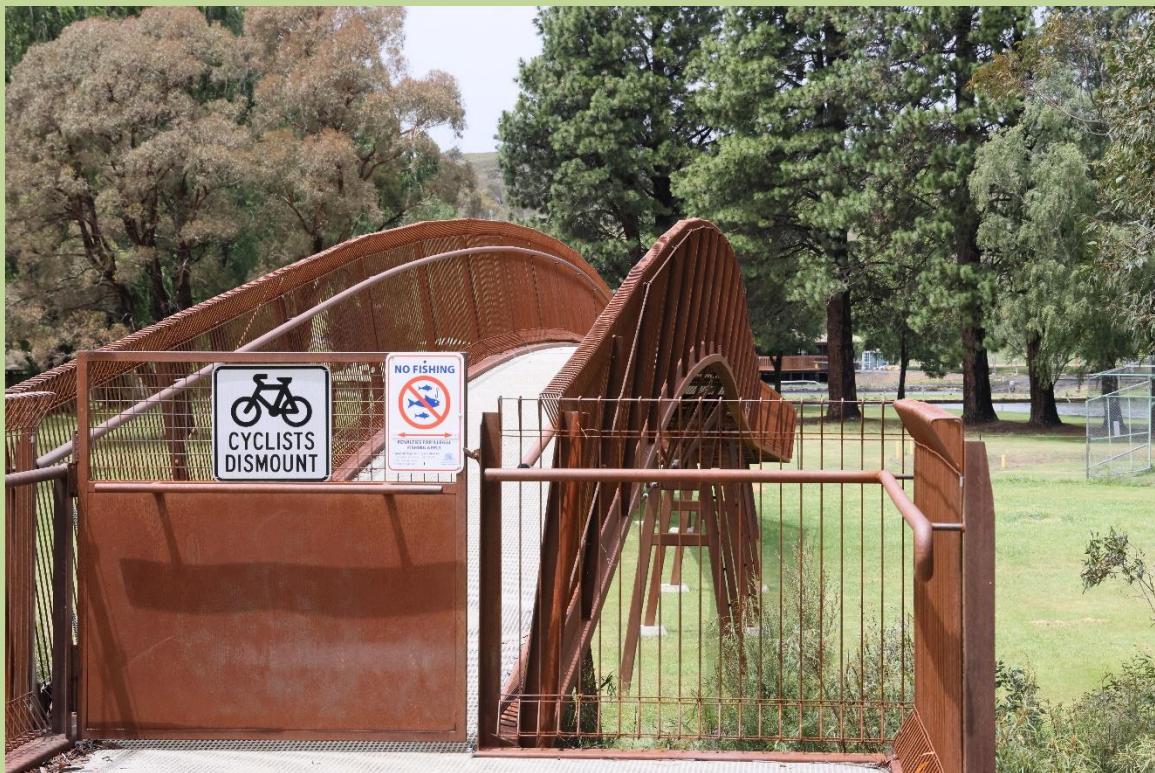


Peek-a-Boo





*Hakea acrocarpa*







*Prostanthera lasianthos*



And of course, the area was rich in birds: Rufous Whistlers, Grey Fantails, Willie Wagtail, Red-browed Finch, Yellow-faced Honeyeaters, Grey Shrike-thrush, etc. I'll complete the bird list at the end of the stay.

## **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

As it was still raining this morning, and as it looked like it was closing in, Faye and I left the lodge before anyone had risen, drove to Jindabyne, filled up with petrol and proceeded to Berridale and then across the back road towards Adaminaby. Our first stop was the Top Hut TSR, as managed by FOG (Friends of Grasslands).

Now FOG had had a working bee there last weekend and we could spy where Margaret Ning and her team had poisoned some intrusive weeds. But we also found many lovely plants of the Monaro too!

















*Convolvulus angustissimus*, Grassland Morning-glory, opening up

We then drove to Adaminaby for lunch. Well, that was the plan! But at the Adaminaby TSR we saw some cars and a group pf seven people in the field. We stopped, went down, joined them. David Eddy was leading the group and of the 7 I knew 4!



*Convolvulus angustissimus*, Grassland Morning-glory





Monaro Golden Daisy – (*Rutidosis leiolepis*)<sup>1</sup>



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<sup>1</sup> [Monaro Golden Daisy \(Rutidosis leiolepis\) | Conservation project | NSW Environment, Energy and Science](#)

The Monaro Golden Daisy is a low, tufted perennial with a woody root-stock. Leaves are dark green, woolly underneath, to about 10 cm long and 3 mm wide. The solitary, slightly domed flower-heads are 15 mm across, and occur on numerous 25 cm tall woolly stems. The stems bear a few small leaves. Flower-heads are conspicuous and bright yellow, and surrounded by pale brown, translucent, papery bracts. Flowers appear in summer.



*Discaria pubescens* – Hairy anchor plant, Australian Anchor Plant (another endangered plant. Robert Humphries worked on it as his first project)



Chamomile Daisy (Matricaria sp)



*Velleia paradoxa* – Spur Velleia



David Eddy, a font of knowledge regarding the botany of the Monaro



We then returned to base. It was still raining. But after a hot chocolate, we went walking once more! Up the road to Charlotte Pass (itself about 2km) and then on the fire trail towards Kosciuszko summit. Well, we got half in while there was no rain. At the end of the walk, however, we were rather wet! At least we walked 8km this afternoon but my knee demanded a drink of Shiraz.



Wild Celery



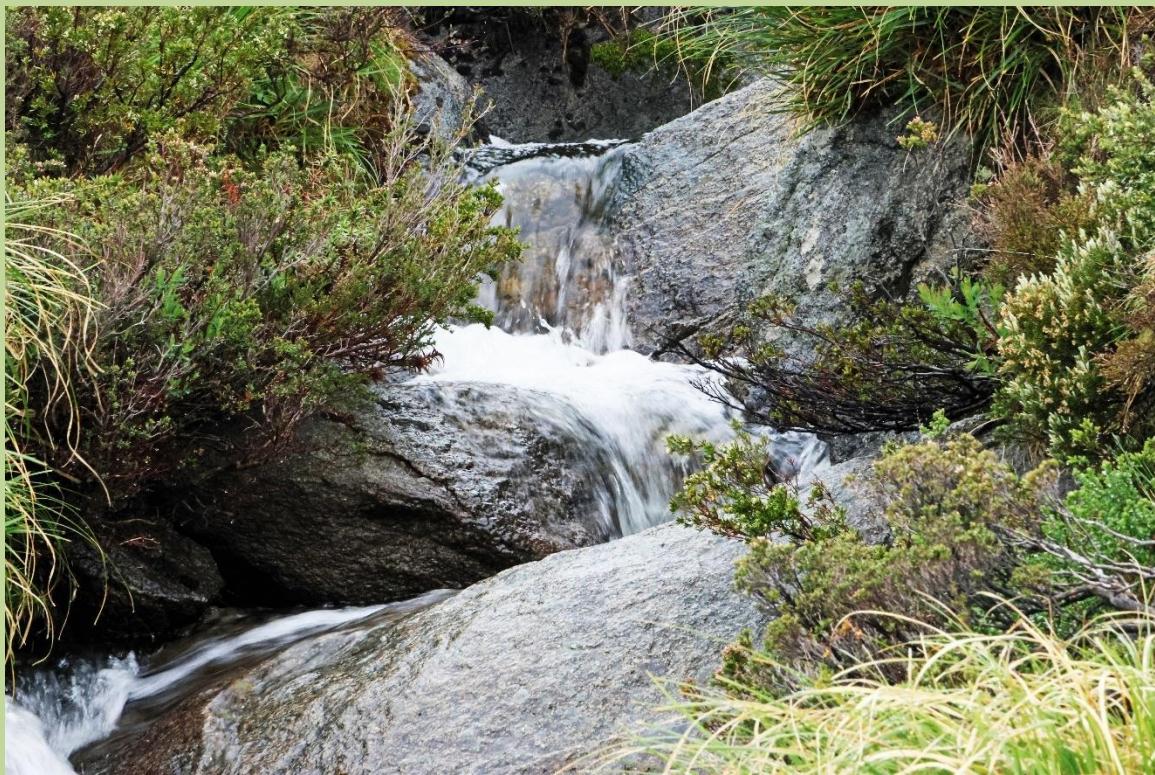




## **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2023**

Saturated again! We walked 4.5km along the Kosciuszko Summit trail today, walked through sunshine, total white-out, sago snow and heavy rain. Repeat! It was truly delightful. It was also the day the Coast to Kosci 2023 run ended!









Native Celery





David Vroom strides out

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<sup>2</sup> The winner striding out. Eden to Kosci (Coast To Kosci 2023 | Coast To Kosciuszko)  
David Vroom was the winner! His run was stunning! See [Commentary C2K 23 | Coast To Kosciuszko](#)





One of these runners cramped up!!!! A that stage he was coming 2<sup>nd</sup>. He had to be happy with 3<sup>rd</sup> place.



The Snowy River



We returned to base for lunch as more rain arrived during the afternoon.

### **Bird List – the Monaro and Kosciuszko**

1. Darter
2. Pied Cormorant
3. Great Cormorant
4. Little Black Cormorant
5. Australasian Grebe
6. Pacific Black Duck
7. Australian Wood Duck
8. Eurasian Coot
9. Masked Lapwing
10. Silver Gull
11. Wedge-tailed Eagle
12. Black-shouldered Kite
13. Australian Kestrel
14. Galah
15. Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
16. Crimson Rosella
17. Fan-tailed Cuckoo
18. Australian Koel
19. Laughing Kookaburra
20. Superb Fairywren
21. Spotted Pardalote
22. Striated Pardalote
23. White-browed Scrubwren
24. Brown Thornbill
25. Red Wattlebird
26. Yellow-faced Honeyeater
27. Eastern Spinebill
28. Flame Robin
29. Grey Shrike-thrush
30. Rufous Whistler
31. Grey Fantail
32. Willie Wagtail
33. Satin Flycatcher
34. Magpie-lark
35. Dusky Woodswallow
36. Australian Magpie
37. Pied Currawong
38. Australian Raven
39. Little Raven
40. Welcome Swallow
41. Australian Pipit
42. Skylark
43. House Sparrow
44. European Goldfinch
45. Red-browed Finch
46. Silvereye
47. Eurasian Blackbird
48. Common Starling