

YARRANGOBILLY CAVES HOUSE

Andy Spate

As can be seen from the accompanying clip from the Snowy Times (summer 2012-2013 edition - free tourism-oriented newspaper circulating across the Kosciuszko region) the two-story section of Caves House will re-open in the New Year. This is fantastic news.

George Bradford, supported by Mick Pettitt and others, has done a fantastic job of getting the renovated, refurbished single-story section opened a few years back. This, in turn, was achievable following the great efforts of Jo Vincent (née Ingarfield) in getting fire protection and water upgrades as well as the ecologically-friendly sewage treatment plant. George has had a whole series of 'wins' in attracting funding and has had some wonderful 'green' ideas many of which he has put into practice.

Occupancy rates in the single-story have been amazingly high and it is booked out on weekends and holidays months in advance. Hopefully, George will tell us all about what he has achieved in a future issue of the Journal and at Waitomo.



YARRANGOBILLY

After being closed for nearly fifty years, the single storey section of Yarrangobilly Caves House was fully restored and reopened by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) in 2007 to provide heritage-style group accommodation in two self-contained wings. Due to its immense popularity, the redevelopment of the two-storey section into one and two-room suites with accompanying ensuites is nearly complete. Funding for this project was provided from the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) under the Heritage Assets Revitalisation Program (HARP) and the Kosciuszko National Park Centenary Fund which is generated through visitor entry fees to the park.

By early 2013, Caves House will be able to accommodate 42 guests. The 1901 East and West Wings are each completely self-contained, with a fully-equipped kitchen (including stove, microwave and slow cooker), dining room, family/lounge room, bathroom, veranda and outdoor barbecue area. While the newly renovated 1917 section has separate bedrooms with ensuites, it provides communal kitchens and lounge areas. There is also a laundry/drying room for guest use and a function/conference room that is available for hire. Bookings may be made online at www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/bookings or by phoning 13000PARKS.

Left. Yarrangobilly Caves House from the Bluff Lookout following the near catastrophic February 2003 bushfires. Photo: Lorraine Cairns.

Above. Clipping from the Snowy Times.

Below. Advertisement for Yarrangobilly Caves.

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