

KEEP PADDY'S CORNER IN ANGLER HANDS

Anglers are well aware of the reserve Paddy's Corner which is on the Thredbo River immediately below the Gaden Trout Hatchery in Jindabyne. For over 100 years Paddy's Corner has been a place where anglers could access the Thredbo River and have a nice picnic or a day's fishing.

The Monaro Acclimatisation Society (MAS) became the Trustee for Paddy's Corner Reserve for the purpose of keeping it as a public access spot for the Thredbo River. As it currently stands, Paddy's Corner is the only free public access spot on the whole river.

Unbeknown to us an Aboriginal Land Claim was lodged on Paddy's Corner on 10 May 2006. Should this Aboriginal Land Claim be successful then the management and 'ownership' of Paddy's Corner will be vested in the Aboriginal Land Claim nominees. Under this scenario, access to the river cannot be guaranteed.

If this site is to remain under the trusteeship of the MAS we need to provide significant evidence of continued lawful use and occupation of the Reserve for the purposes of public recreation and a resting place for whatever period we can up to the lodgement date of the Aboriginal Land Claim, that being 10/5/06.

To assist the MAS in this we are calling on all anglers or visitors who have visited or used Paddy's Corner to provide the MAS with evidence that they lawfully used Paddy's Corner Reserve for the purposes of public recreation/resting place e.g. walking, parking, fishing etc. This evidence will need to be in the form of a Statutory Declaration.

As a friend of Paddy's Corner the MAS is asking you to do the following:

- **Fill out the attached Statutory Declaration Form and in the body of the form state the period over which you have used Paddy's Corner and for what purposes – i.e. I have regularly visited Paddy's Corner Reserve since 19*** (this must be before 10/5/2006) for fishing and bushwalking, sight seeing, picnicking etc.**
- **Have it witnessed by an appropriate person.**
- **Send your completed Statutory Declaration Form to**

Steve Samuels

President MAS

P.O. Box 7065

Kaleen, ACT. 2617

If the MAS cannot show a long and substantial connection between anglers and Paddy's Corner, we run the risk of not having Trusteeship over it, and again anglers will lose a significant access spot. This is something you should do, not leave it to others. Our passion to maintain traditional access will be tested by this claim.

Fill in your Statutory Declaration now!

