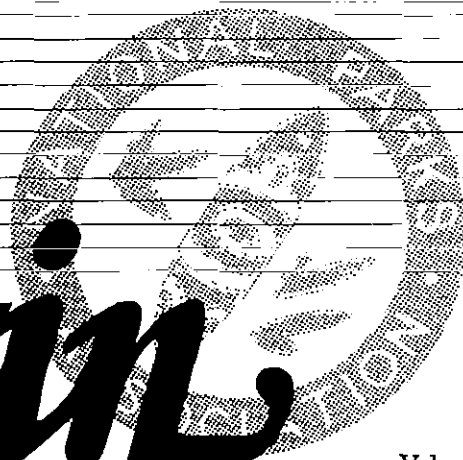


# NPA Bulletin



Volume 37 number 1  
March 2000

**NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION (ACT) INCORPORATED**

## NPA is Forty

It is forty years this month since the NPA of the ACT was established and to mark the occasion a commemorative supplement is included in this *Bulletin*. This supplement has been prepared by a dedicated group of members made up of Adrienne Nicholson, Len Haskew, Beverley Hammond, Reg Alder and Graeme Wicks and led by Fiona MacDonald Brand. They are to be warmly congratulated on producing a most attractive record of the association's 40 years which members will enjoy reading now and use as a reference in the future. Additional copies of the supplement have been printed.

## Gudgenby breakfast with the Minister

*Tuesday, March 14*

The Gudgenby regeneration area has been selected as the venue for a breakfast to recognise the work of Park Care groups in the ACT. The Gudgenby Bush Regeneration Group is one of 12 Park Care groups in the area. The Minister for Urban Services, Brendan Smyth, has accepted an invitation to attend and will have the opportunity to see the progress in the regeneration of the area, a process he inaugurated by planting the first tree some two years ago. Ann Connolly, ACT Park Care Co-ordinator, would welcome to the breakfast all supporters of Park Care, ACT wide, and those interested in the regeneration of the Gudgenby area. She is coy about the menu but it is certain that it will be interesting.

Those attending should be at the Yankee Hat carpark by 8.15am or shortly after and follow the directions to the breakfast site. Ann may be contacted on phone 6207 2193 or fax 6207 2197.

## Forty Facts and Faux Pas

On Thursday March 16 in place of the regular meeting, members are invited to an evening of fun and fellowship to mark the association's fortieth birthday. Toast the association in champagne, tell a tale from your memories of the NPA or your hopes for its future, and share the supper and birthday cake. Catch up with members and memories at 8 pm Thursday, March 16 at Forestry House.

## No general meeting in April

The association's normal third Thursday in the month general meeting would in April this year fall on the night before the Easter and Anzac Day public holidays so the committee has decided not to hold a meeting on that night. General meetings will resume on Thursday, May 18.

**National Parks Association (ACT) Incorporated**  
Inaugurated 1960

**Office-bearers, committee and convenors**

*President* Vacant  
*Vice President* Vacant  
*Immediate Past President*  
 Clive Hurlstone 6288 7592 (h);  
 040 778 3422 (w)  
*Secretary* Max Lawrence 6288 1370 (h)  
*Treasurer* Mike Smith 6286 2984 (h)

**Committee members**

Eleanor Stodart 6281 5004 (h)  
 Steven Forst 6251 6817 (h); 6279 1326 (w)  
 Neville Esau 6286 4176 (h)  
 Jacqui Cole 6241 9984 (h)

**Convenors**

*Environment Sub-committee* Neville Esau 6286 4176 (h)  
*Outings Sub-committee* Max Lawrence 6288 1370 (h)  
*Bulletin Working Group* Syd Comfort 6286 2578 (h)

The NPA (ACT) office is located in Maclaurin Cres, Chifley, next to the preschool and is staffed by Dianne Hastie. Office hours are: 9am to 1pm Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays

**Telephone/Fax:** (02) 6282 5813  
**Email:** npaact@spirit.com.au  
**Address:** PO Box 1940, Woden ACT 2606

**Membership**

New members are welcome and should enquire through the NPA office.

**Subscription rates (1 July to 30 June)**

Household members \$30 Single members \$25  
 Corporate members \$20 *Bulletin only* \$20  
 Concession \$15

For new subscriptions joining between:

1 January and 31 March – half specified rate  
 1 April and 30 June – annual subscription

**NPA Bulletin**

Contributions of articles, line drawings and photographs including colour prints are welcome and should be lodged with the office or Syd Comfort (02) 6286 2578.

**Deadline for June issue: 1 May 2000.**

*Articles by contributors may not necessarily reflect association opinion or objectives.*

This bulletin was produced by the NPA Bulletin Working Group with assistance from Green Words & Images.

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## The Hume and Hovell Track – the last 80 kilometres

Many members have now walked all or parts of the H&H Track. The good news is that the bitumen bash into Woomargama has been abolished, a new Samuel Bollard campsite has been established (water available), and the track now ends at the Hovell Tree in Albury. I was privileged to join the "core group" of 13 who had walked the whole 440 km between 22 October and 16 November 1999 as they covered this latest and last addition to the track.

From the new campsite the track passes about 10 km through native forest to gain open pastures as Lake Hume is approached. Fences are negotiated by means of well-made stiles, although some track-marking remains to be completed. Extensive views abound and a huge variety of springtime flowers are there to be indulged.

A bash along the Bowna Wymah road is unavoidable, but excellent camping and re-provisioning facilities are available at The Great Aussie Resort (\$13/night), on the

shores of Lake Hume. Alternatively, the next 7 km is along the "10 chain" stock route, and here many free sites could be found. Pastoral clearing has not occurred here, and the greatly endangered surviving white box eucalypts present a landscape believed to be much the same as that encountered by the explorers.

From the Bowna corner the track is obliged to follow the Hume Highway for 7 km, but the misery of bitumen bashing and mixing it with mega-trucks and crazy car drivers is very imaginatively ameliorated by mowing a foot-track in the tall phalaris beside the fences on the highway verge.

Back roads take you past (and up, if you wish) Mt Budginigi – a high, rocky knoll visible from the highway – to Table Top Reserve. This is believed to be precisely the spot at which H&H camped on November 14 1824, and as we were about to set off on November 15 1999, the entry in Hovell's diary for those days was read – quite moving.

The next 20 km to the Mungabareena Reserve on the outskirts of Albury proceed sensitively through bushland wherever possible, and the reserve itself is situated on the banks of the Murray. In the last 8 km the track climbs over Eastern Hill with huge views up the valleys towards Beechworth and a skyline composed of the Victorian Alps, before descending to the reality and banality of industrial Albury.

The core walkers (one of whom had already walked from Appin, was proceeding to Corio Bay on his own, and intended to return on foot as had the explorers), were extended a civic welcome at the Hovell Tree. A new series of strip maps is due early in 2000 – excellently produced in full colour as opposed to the rather drab originals. Full information can be obtained from Warwick Hull, Department of Land and Water Management, PO Box 60, Wagga Wagga.

**Ted Fleming**

# Environment Sub-committee Report

The Environment Sub-committee has had a very busy time since the last *Bulletin* report. There was no time for any long holiday breaks for sub-committee members as a number of important reports and submissions were due in January and February; these included:

- the NPA submission on the draft ACT budget
- Lower Molonglo River Corridor boundaries
- the funding submission for NPA projects, 2000-2001

The ACT Government has initiated a new process for the 2000 – 2001 budget whereby MLAs, business and the community have an opportunity to comment on a draft budget before the final budget is presented to the Assembly.

The draft budget was released on January 17, submissions being due on February 14. The key element in the process is the consideration of the draft estimates by the relevant Legislative Assembly standing committee. In the case of the draft budget for Environment ACT, which is part of the Urban Services Department, the relevant committee is the Planning and Urban Services Committee. This committee will consider submissions and have hearings in order to question departmental officers and community groups and individuals in late February. The committees will report to the Assembly by March 28 and the Government will then consider their recommendations and comments before presenting the final budget to the Assembly on May 23.

The NPA Research Officer, Ray Polglaze, is preparing our submission. We have had meetings with departmental officials and the Conservation Council as well as several sub-committee meetings in finalising our submission. Ray will be able to draw on information from all these sources. We are very concerned that while the Government has announced a

number of new strategies and plans for conservation there is little or no new money in the draft budget to fund these initiatives. Meanwhile the process of attrition of the environment budget continues. The 1999 – 2000 financial year has already seen substantial cuts in operational budgets for parks and conservation programs due to substantial increased costs from IT upgrades and salary increases with no supplementary funding. The draft budget for the next financial year looks set to repeat this reduction in services for conservation. Inevitably our natural environment will suffer from this approach.

On another front, Ray, Clive, and Rod Griffiths representing the Conservation Council have been working on comments on variations to the Territory Plan proposed by Planning and Land Management required to finalise the boundaries of the new Lower Molonglo River Corridor. This culminated in a hearing before the Urban Services Committee on February 4. The Draft Management Plan for the Molonglo River Corridor will also be considered by the Committee at future hearings.

The time has also arrived for NPA to prepare its submission for funding of projects in 2000 – 2001. In addition to applying for funding for a number of existing projects, we will be applying for funding for a number of new projects some spinning off existing projects and some in new areas, such as the Gudgenby bush regeneration project. Items considered for the submission due on February 25 include:

- input to the development of the second Namadgi Management Plan
- ecological restoration discussion paper
- Boboyan Pines and Gudgenby Valley future vision
- effects of pine plantations on nature conservation in adjacent areas

- Canberra Nature Park – case study of Mulligans Flat
- Murrumbidgee River Corridor and Lower Molonglo River Corridor Implementation Plans

Sub-committee members have recently participated in a number of field trips, led by Clive and Ray, to enable members to gain a better understanding of some of the issues and conflicts involved in current projects. We have so far visited areas of natural bush and adjacent pine forests in Molonglo, Stromlo, and Northern Cotter, and more trips are planned for the coming year. The trips have so far been an outstanding success. If you would like to participate in future field trips give me a call and I will keep you informed of the dates.

The sub-committee has had four meetings in January alone this year, so that you can see that the workload continues to increase. We are still seeking additional sub-committee members to help share this load and try to cover effectively the myriad of issues which arise in our region. Your participation and help will be appreciated. The sub-committee meets at the Conservation Council offices, Acton, on the second Thursday of each month.

**Neville Esau**

For the Environment  
Sub-committee

## NPA on the Internet

The association has a presence on the Internet and the site can be found at <http://www.spirit.net.au/~npaact>.

The web page contains information about the association, current walks program, field guides, some articles from the *Bulletin* and information on the activities at the Namadgi Visitor Centre. Links to other interesting sites can also be found.

# Calendar

	March	April	May	June
Committee Meeting	Thur 2	Thur 6	Thur 4	Thur 1
Environment sub-committee <sup>1</sup>	Thur 9	Thur 13	Thur 11	Thur 8
General Meetings <sup>2</sup>	Thur 16	No meeting	Thur 18	Thur 15
Illustrated talk – 40 years of the NPA <sup>3</sup>	Sun 19			
Canberra Alive <sup>4</sup>	Mon 20			
Gudgenby work parties <sup>5</sup>	Sat 11	Sat 8	Sat 13	to be notified
Gudgenby breakfast with the Minister <sup>6</sup>	Tues 14			

## Further Details

- 1 – Neville Esau 6286 4176
- 2 – No April meeting due to public holidays
- 3 – Fiona MacDonald Brand will deliver this talk in the Namadgi Visitor Centre at 3 pm.
- 4 – Outings Program
- 5 – Meet Yankee Hat carpark 10am, Eleanor Stodart 6281 5004
- 6 – Yankee Hat carpark 8.15am, Ann Connolly 6207 2193

## General Meetings

*Held in Forestry House, Yarralumla commencing at 8pm*

Thursday 16 March. A social evening to mark the association's forty years will take the place of the general meeting. Join other members to hear or tell stories from these forty years, to join a champagne toast to the association's future and to cut the birthday cake.

Thursday 20 April – NO GENERAL MEETING, due to public holidays

Thursday 18 May – Alpine frogs in danger, ten years on. Dr Will Osbourne. Over a decade ago it was noticed that several species of alpine frog had suffered major population declines. At that time Will and his colleagues commenced a series of studies to try to resolve the reasons for the decline. In this talk Will will report on their findings concerning the impact of climate change and the effects of increased ultra violet radiation.

Thursday 15 June. Are the weeds taking over? Geoff Butler, the Conservation Council of the South East Region and Canberra weeds officer, will talk to us about this important threat to biodiversity and how the ACT Weeds Strategy is working.

## News items

Matthew Higgins has completed recording the interviews which will form an oral history of the association. The tapes will be held by the association and the National Library, and it is hoped to type up transcripts of them.

Neville Esau is carrying out a study of the association's finances which will take into account the changed grant regime under which the association has now to operate.

The Minister for Urban Services, Brendan Smyth, released the Management Plan for Canberra Nature Park on February 9. He also announced that the Aranda Snowgums would be incorporated into the park.

## New members

Flora Macdonald, Kambah  
Margaret Maxwell, Kingston

## NPA Bulletin

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#### 4 June Sunday daywalk

Ginini Falls

Leader: Mike Smith

2 C/D

Ref: Tidbinbilla 1:25 000

Phone: 6286 2984

Meet at carpark on Uriarra Road near the Cotter Road at 7.30am. Walk from Mt Franklin to the 180m falls and return. A demanding and constant 550m descent and ascent through fallen timber. 120kms, \$24 per car.

#### 10 - 12 June long weekend packwalk

Talbingo to Tumberumba

Leader: Ross Walker

2/3/4/A

Maps: Talbingo, Yarrangobilly, Courabyra, Tumberumba 1:25 000,

H&H guide and brochures

Phone: 6254 7117

A 'jewel in the crown' of the Hume and Hovell Track, featuring spectacular mountain views and Buddong Falls. Day one (17km) involves ascent from Ben Smith campsite near Talbingo to Buddong Hut. Day two (12km) rakes in the lichen forest and over the watershed to Paddys River Dam. Day three (20+km) involves a long gradual descent along the old Tumberumba water race. Walkers should be fit. Transport arrangements and costs to be worked out, depending on numbers (limit of twelve). contact leader by Friday 26 May.

#### 17 June Saturday daywalk

Mt Ainslie

Leader: Matthew Higgins

1A

Map: Canberra street directory

Phone: 6247 7285

Half day walk on this inner Canberra hill. Mostly gentle trails, but starts with steep rubbly climb to summit. Some subtle points of interest. Return walk via Olims Ainslie Hotel Beer Garden. Numbers limited. Book with leader. 0kms, \$0 per car!

#### 28 June daywalk

Wednesday walk

Leader: Ken Free

Phone: 6295 8894

The June edition of our series of monthly mid-week walks. Phone leader for details, which will be determined nearer the date.

# NPA outings program

## March - June 2000

### Outings guide

- Day walks** carry lunch, drinks and protective clothing.  
**Pack walks** two or more days, carry all food and camping requirements. CONTACT LEADER BY WEDNESDAY.  
**Car camps** facilities often limited or non-existent. Vehicles taken to site can be used for camping. BOOK EARLY WITH LEADER.

Other activities include nature rambles, environmental and field guide studies and ski tours.

### Points to note

Please help keep our outings program alive by volunteering to lead outings. New leaders are welcome. The outings covenor is happy to suggest locations suitable for a walk if you do not have something in mind yourself. Feel free to send in suggestions for outings to the association's office as soon as you think of them, with a suggested date.

All persons joining an outing of the National Parks Association of the ACT do so as volunteers in all respects and as such accept sole responsibility for any injury howsoever incurred and the National Parks Association of the ACT, its office bearers and appointed leaders are absolved from any liability in respect of injury or damage suffered whilst engaged in any such outing.

The committee suggests a donation of TWENTY cents per kilometre DIVIDED BY THE NUMBER OF OCCUPANTS in the car, including the driver, (to the nearest dollar) be offered to the driver by each passenger accepting transport. Drive and walk distances quoted in the program are approximate distances for return journeys.

### Walks gradings

#### Distance grading (per day)

- 1 - up to 10 km
- 2 - 10 km to 15 km
- 3 - 15 km to 20 km
- 4 - above 20 km

#### Terrain grading

- A - Road, firetrail, track
- B - Open forest
- C - Light scrub
- D - Patches of thick scrub, regrowth
- E - Rock scrambling
- F - Exploratory



**11 March Saturday work party**

**GBRG Work Party**

Contact: Eleanor Stodart

Phone: 6281 5004

Help restore the bush at Gudgenby. All activities commence at 10.00am at the Boboyan Pines (Yankee Hat) carpark.

Other GBRG work parties will be held over the next few months, but dates were unavailable when we went to press. Please phone Eleanor for details.

**12 March Sunday daywalk**

**Wee Jasper Nature Reserve**

Leader: Max Lawrence

1A or 2A

Maps: Wee Jasper, Couragago 1:25 000, H&H guidebook and brochures

Phone: 6288 1370

Meet at the carpark on Uriarra Road near the Cotter Road at 8.30am. We will take the scenic drive to Wee Jasper via Uriarra, Mountain Creek and Sawyers Gully roads. Our easy walk will start from the village, and follow the Hume and Hovell Track over the steepish ridge in Wee Jasper Nature Reserve to James Fitzpatrick Trackhead. Options for return to the village include back the way we came, or back via the road (including by car if you wish!). 150 kms, \$30 per car.

**17 - 19 March hostel weekend**

**Pittwater YHA**

Leader: David Large

Phone: 6291 4830

Joint NPA/FBI activity. This outing was advertised in our previous program and is now fully booked. But you never know, it might still be worth checking to see if there have been cancellations.

**18 - 20 March long weekend packwalk**

**Folly Point**

Leader: Steven Forst

2A (pack), 3B/C/E (day)

Map: CMW Budawangs

Phone: 6251 6817(ah)

A walk via the Endrick River to Folly Point. First day is an easy packwalk to a camp site in The Vines area. A daywalk the next day out to Folly Point (famous Budawang views) for lunch, returning to The Vines camp. Walk out Monday. Contact leader by Wednesday 15 March. 340kms, \$68 per car.

**20 March Canberra Day (Monday)**

**ACT Alive**

Lawns opposite Old Parliament House

Contact: Yvonne Bartos

Phone: 6231 5699

We are asking members to help the NPA by calling in to our tent and spending up to a couple of hours answering questions about the Association and its aims, and about the display. You will also have the opportunity to see the other interesting stalls at this popular exhibition. Please phone if you can help.

**22 March daywalk**

**Wednesday walk**

Leader: David Large

Phone: 6291 4830

The March edition of our series of monthly mid-week walks. Phone leader for details, which will be determined nearer the date.

**25 March Saturday daywalk**

**Bungonia Tops**

Leader: Col McAlister

1A/B

Map: Caoura 1:25 000

Phone: 6288 4171

An easy loop walk taking in the three main lookouts with breathtaking views (Bungonia Lookdown, Jerrara Lookout and Adams Lookout). A side trip to view Bungonia Gorge and the Shoalhaven Gorge from Mt Ayre. Time and energy permitting, an optional side trip towards Jerrara Falls and Bungonia Falls. Meet at 8.00am at the Nerball Centre carpark, Northbourne Avenue Lyncham. 280kms, \$60 per car (including \$5 park entry fee).

**2 April Sunday daywalk**

**Grooves and paintings**

Leader: Frank Clements

3A

Refs: Rendezvous Creek 1:25 000 and Yaouk 1:25 000

Phone: 6231 7005

Meet at Kambah Village shops at 8.30am. A 16 km walk mainly across the Gudgenby paddocks to the axe grinding grooves on Middle Creek, and then around the ridge to the Rendezvous Creek rock paintings. Return across the paddocks. 100 kms, \$20 per car.

**9 April Sunday daywalk**

**Mount Wee Jasper**

**Leader: Col McAlister**

**3A**

**Maps: Couragago 1:25 000, H&H brochure No 3**

**Phone: 6288 4171**

A fairly hard on-track walk through dry and then moist eucalypt forest. The total climb to the summit is close to 750m, with a lovely waterfall on the way. Extensive pine plantations in the area, but little of them seen during the walk. Meet in the carpark off Uriarra Road near the Cotter Road at 8.00am. 160kms, \$32 per car.

**13 April (Thursday)**

**Closing date for bookings for Six Foot Track packwalk (29 April to 1 May).**

**15 and 16 April work party**

**Namadgi Work Party**

**Contacts: Eleanor Stodart phone 6281 5004**

**Max Lawrence phone 6288 1370**

Details yet to be finalised when we went to press, but plan on doing your bit for Namadgi on either or both days. Pine wilding search and destroy missions likely to be on the agenda. Phone for details nearer the date.

**17 - 23 April one week carcamp**

**Coolah Tops National Park**

**Leaders: Wayne Veide, Max Lawrence**

**Maps: Blackville, Omaleah 1:25 000**

**Phone: Wayne 02 6553 4351 (Wingham)**

**Max 6288 1370**

Coolah Tops has only recently been declared a National Park. Come and see why. The Tops are located on the Divide to the west of the Hunter Valley. Our cars and our base camp will be at Brackens Hut, which is booked and paid for. Daywalks will be of easy to moderate grade, and will include: The Pinnacle, Lava Tube, Xanthorrea Grove, Shepherds Peak, Norfolk Falls. Explore interesting creek systems, witness spectacular views across to the adjacent Warrumbungle Ranges. Interesting columnar basalt rock formations. Transport arrangements and costs will depend on numbers. Please book early.

**26 April daywalk**

**Wednesday walk**

**Leader: Ken Free**

**Phone: 6295 8894**

The April edition of our series of monthly mid-week walks. Phone leader for details, which will be determined nearer the date.

**29 April - 1 May three day packwalk**

**Six Foot Track (Jenolan Caves to Katoomba)**

**Leader: Ross Walker**

**3A**

**Map: Katoomba 1:100 000 and DELWC map/brochure**

**Phone: 6254 7117**

Scenic and historic walk for the reasonably fit. Day one (8km) involves a steady climb from caves to Black Range. Day two (19km) commences along edge of Kanangra-Boyd wilderness and then down to Cox's River. Day 3 (18kms) involves climbs to Megalong plateau (steady) and then to Katoomba plateau (steep). Transport arrangements and costs will be sorted out closer to the time depending on numbers. Limit of twelve, so book early. Contact leader by Thursday 13 April at latest.

**30 April Sunday daywalk**

**Cotter Rocks**

**Leader: Col McAlister**

**4A/C/D**

**Maps: Corin Dam, Rendezvous Creek 1:25 000**

**Phone: 6288 4171**

A long walk mainly on fire trails from the Orroral gate up to Cotter Gap. Then offtrack and up through bush to massive rocks, including the amazing Split Rock. Total climb over 550m. Meet at Kambah Village shops at 8.00am. 100kms, \$20 per car.

**6 - 7 May weekend packwalk**

**Namadgi Mountain**

**Leader: Phil Gatenby**

**3C/D/E**

**Maps: Rendezvous creek, Yaouk 1:25 000**

**Phone: 6254 3094**

Walk to the highest mountain solely within the ACT. Walk is nearly all off track, and involves steep climbs and scrub of varying degrees of thickness. Please book with leader by Wednesday 26 April. 100kms, \$20 per car.

**7 May Sunday daywalk**

**Mt Tennent from Corin Dam road**

**Leaders: Pat and Eric Pickering**

**4A/BC/D/E**

**Maps: Corin Dam, Williamsdale**

**Phone: 6286 2128**

Joint walk with FBI. A hard long walk, mostly off track, for fit and experienced walkers only. From the Smokers Trail carpark above Corin Dam Road we will find a route through the bush to pick up the track to the Namadgi Visitors centre at Tharwa. Up to 1000m of climb involved, and we will need to walk at a good pace. Car shuffle involved. Contact leaders by Saturday 6 May for bookings. 100kms, \$20 per car.

12 - 14 May three day pack walk

Jillicambra Mountain

Leaders: Pat and Eric Pickering

2B/D/E/F

Map: Belowra 1:25 000

Phone: 6286 2128 (h)

Joint walk with FBI. The Jillicambra massif covers an area of about 40 square kilometres, and its triple peak rises 850m above the Tuross River, which flanks it on three sides. The walk will start at the junction of the Tuross River and Woila Creek, and there will be two overnight camps along the way to the summit and back. Total climb 1000m with some rock scrambling. Phone leaders by 5 May for details and bookings. 400kms, \$80 per car.

13 May Saturday daywalk

Mt Tennent

Leader: Barbara Edgar

2A

Reference: Williamsdale 1:25 000

Phone: 6230 5685 (ah)

Meet at Kambah Village Shops at 8.30am. A walk from the Namadgi Visitors Centre to the summit of Mt Tennent, using the Alpine Walking Track for part of the way. A climb of 750 metres to excellent views over southern Canberra and Namadgi from this striking landmark at the end of the Tuggeranong Valley. 40kms, \$8 per car.

14 May Sunday daywalk

Howells Peak

Leader: Brian Slee

2A/C

Maps: Rendezvous Creek, Rules Point 1:25 000

Phone: 6261 3509(w), 6281 0719 (h)

Depart Kambah Village 7.00am. Drive past Tantangara Dam to park at Gurrangorambla Creek. Walk in area north of road barrier taking in Howells Peak, Pockets Hut, Goodradigbee Aqueduct Track, and Oldfields Hut. On and off track. 310kms, \$62 per car.

20 May Saturday daywalk

Southern Namadgi huts

Leader: Col McAlister

2A/B

Maps: Yaouk, Shannons Flat 1:25 000

Phone: 6288 4171

Visit Brayshaws Hut, Waterhole Hut and Westermans Homestead (recently restored). Also some sheepyards and the ruins of Tin Dish School. A pleasant walk through open bushland and along tracks in the Grassy Creek area. Meet at Kambah Village shops at 8.30am. 150kms, \$30 per car.

21 May Sunday daywalk

High Range

Leaders: Pat and Eric Pickering

3C/D/E

Map: Corin Dam 1:25 000

Phone: 6286 2128

Joint walk with FBI. From near Corin Dam we shall climb and follow the ridge around White Sands Creek, which is a tributary of the Cotter rising near Billy Billy Rocks. There are interesting granite formations and caves, and there should be excellent views of Corin Dam and the surrounding wilderness. Total climb 850m. Contact leaders by Saturday 20 May for bookings. 100kms, \$20 per car.

24 May daywalk

Wednesday walk

Leader: Yvonne Bartos

Phone: 6231 5699

The May edition of our series of monthly mid-week walks. Phone leader for details, which will be determined nearer the date.

26 May (Friday)

Closing date for Talbingo to Tumbarumba packwalk (10-13 June)

27 - 28 May weekend packwalk

Middle Creek and Mt Burbidge

Leader: Martin Chalk

2A/B/D/E/F

Map: Rendezvous Creek 1:25 000

Phone: 6292 3502(h), 6268 4864 (w)

Walk from Yankee Hat carpark across Gudgenby Valley and up southern arm of Middle Creek. Second day will involve a packless scramble up Mt Burbidge and return along same route. Experienced walkers only. Call leader by Wednesday 24 May for bookings. 100kms, \$20 per car.

28 May Sunday daywalk

Mt Morgan

Leader: Steve Hill

3A

Maps: Yaouk, Rendezvous Creek 1:25 000

Phone: 6231 9186 (h)

A chance to explore one of the highest local mountains. Start at Lone Pine trail in Yaouk Valley, steepish climbs at times on track to summit. An extensive tour around the summit viewpoints to witness the majesty of much of the things that matter to us. Meet at Kambah Village shops at 7.30am. 200kms, \$40 per car.

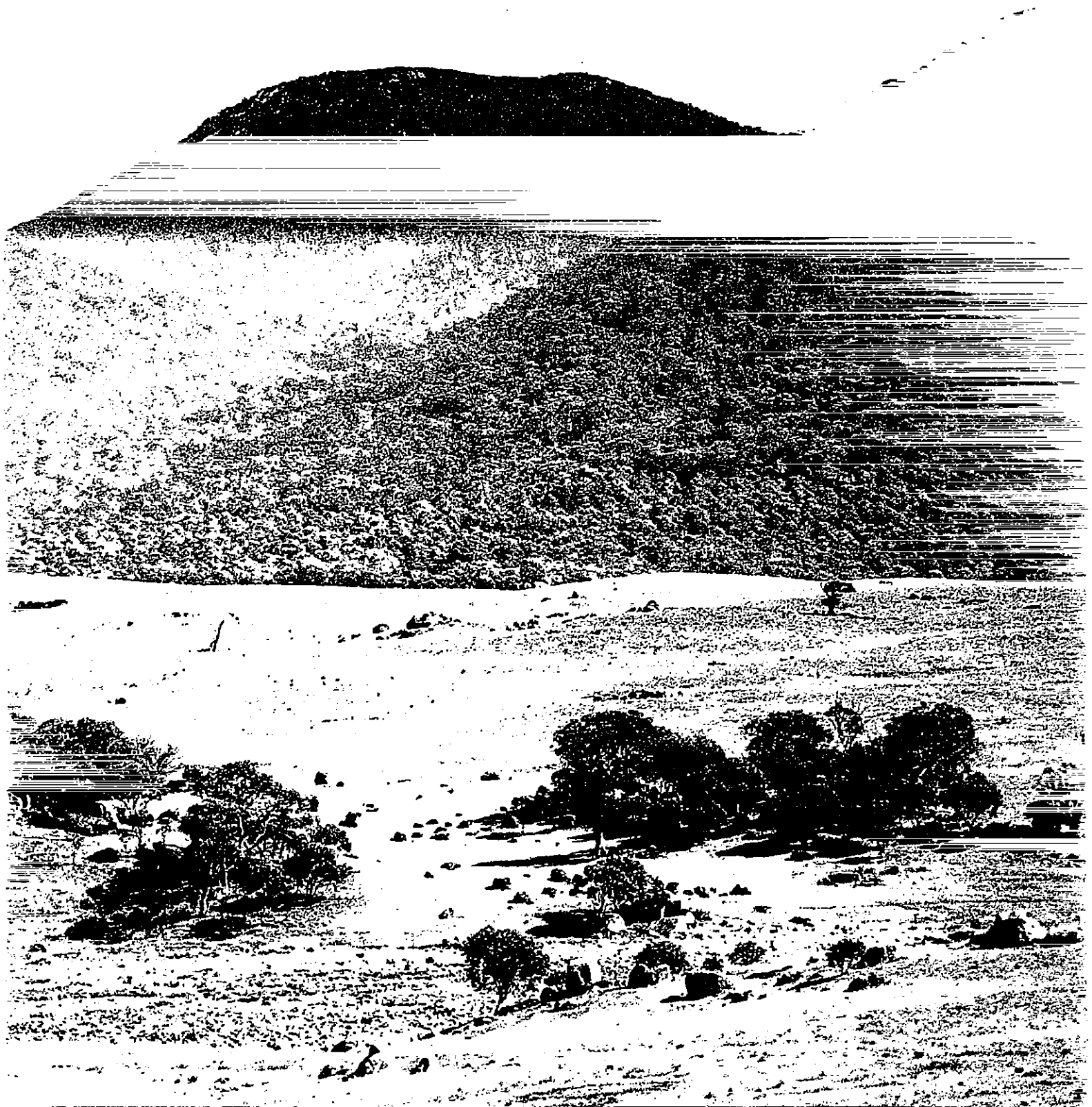


# NPA Bulletin



**40th ANNIVERSARY SUPPLEMENT**

March 2000 Volume 37 number 1



# NPA BULLETIN 40th ANNIVERSARY SUPPLEMENT

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## The National Parks Association of the ACT today

The NPA plays an active role in conservation issues in the ACT. It is routinely consulted by the ACT Government on management and development plans for the territory's remaining bushland and rural leases. It commissions research and prepares independent reports and recommendations. Members also volunteer for work parties.

NPA has a delegate to the Australian National Parks Council and is represented on the ACT Government's Nature Conservation and Namadgi Sub-committee as well as on the Conservation Council of the South-east Region and Canberra. It employs an office manager and a research officer.

In public education, the association mounts displays at events such as ACT Alive, the Tidbinbilla Easter Extravaganza and World Environment Day. In 1999 an NPA display was circulated within ACT public libraries. The NPA *Field Guide to the Birds of the ACT* was reprinted. This followed the publication in 1997 of another guide, *Reptiles & Frogs of the ACT*. The quarterly

*NPA Bulletin* carries articles on current conservation issues. Guest speakers address monthly general meetings, and a comprehensive outings program enables members to enjoy a full range of walks in the bush.

The NPA Committee is responsible for policy and management. Its members are elected at an annual general meeting.

Sub-committees and working groups are formed to assist the Committee in carrying out its responsibilities. The Sub-committee on the Environment and Namadgi meets monthly to discuss relevant topics. It initiates projects and responds to issues. The Outings Sub-committee prepares a quarterly program of walks, camps, nature rambles, environmental studies and ski tours.

The association is financed by membership fees, donations, grants and the sale of publications. It receives funding from the ACT Government for park and conservation advocacy.

*This 40th anniversary supplement has been compiled by a working group comprising Reg Alder, Fiona MacDonald Brand, Beverley Hammond, Len Haskeu, Adrienne Nicholson and Graeme Wicks. We thank the other contributors who have written articles – Gail Burns, Syd Comfort, Den Robin, and Eleanor Stodart – and those who took the photographs – Reg Alder, Fiona MacDonald Brand, Barbara Comfort, Len Haskeu, Max Lawrence, Hedda Morrison, Babette Scougall, Eleanor Stodart and Graeme Wicks. The supplement was produced with the assistance of Diane Hastie, NPA Office Manager, and Green Words & Images. It was printed by Ausdoc On Demand, Allara Street, Canberra, ACT, on recycled paper.*

# From the President

In post-war Australia, bushwalking and naturalist clubs with inspired leadership from people such as Crosbie Morrison, Ros Garnet, Myles Dunphy and Allen Strom, renewed their efforts to have a system of properly managed national parks. These would designate significant areas of wild and unoccupied land to be set aside for conservation and recreation, protected from exploitation and development. In 1953 the Victorian National Parks Association was established by the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria and other groups, to campaign for the proper management of Victorian national parks. In 1957 members from the Caloola Club and The Sydney Bush Walkers formed the National Parks Association of NSW which eventually became a state-wide organisation.

Canberra also had a group of men and women, mostly scientists, who believed Canberra could be part of the movement for national parks. By 1959, Canberra's growth had become more purposeful, federal public servants were being transferred here in large numbers and the Australian National University and CSIRO were expanding. This influx brought to Canberra not only people who were members of bushwalking clubs or enjoyed the activities of naturalist

clubs elsewhere, but also people curious to find out more about the nature of their new surroundings. You can find out what happened next in this supplement.

What are some of the achievements of the National Parks Association of the ACT? From the perspective of a newcomer, one of the most important must be the NPA sustaining itself for 40 years as a dynamic organisation to carry on the campaign for national parks and nature conservation. This has been done by the continuing recruitment of new members who want to support and take part in our conservation activities and outings program, and by committed members volunteering to take on all those interesting, and ordinary, tasks that need to be done. The camaraderie, the shared enjoyment of bushwalking and the intellectual stimulation of turning ideas, research and practical experience into submissions, have all been part of the sustaining process.

It was through unrelenting effort that the NPA has achieved the declaration of a large national park and an important network of nature reserves in the ACT, along with a strong legislative framework for their management.

For me, another important achievement has been the NPA's commitment to informing and

educating members, and the broader community, about national parks and conservation: first, through the *Bulletin* and monthly talks about natural and cultural history and conservation; then through supporting and organising conferences which brought together leading thinkers and researchers on conservation topics; and also commissioning and publishing monographs on conservation topics, and field guides to ACT trees, birds and reptiles.

In this *Bulletin* 40th anniversary supplement, celebrating the formation of the National Parks Association, the team has brought together an overview of the NPA. They look back at our 40 years of activity and glance forward to see what the future holds. The *Bulletin*, published regularly since 1963, has provided the basis for the articles which bring together many strands from the past – some are continuous such as Namadgi and Kosciuszko, others are now part of our history.

Our thanks go to the *Bulletin* anniversary supplement team members whose task was not easy as they were reacquainted with a wealth of old gems and the detail of past campaigns.

Clive Hurlstone

## NPA aims and objectives

- Promotion of national parks and of measures for the protection of fauna and flora, scenery, natural features and cultural heritage in the Australian Capital Territory and elsewhere, and the reservation of specific areas.
- Interest in the provision of appropriate outdoor recreation areas.
- Stimulation of interest in, and appreciation and enjoyment of, such natural phenomena and cultural heritage by organised field outings, meetings or any other means.
- Cooperation with organisations and persons having similar interests and objectives.
- Promotion of, and education for, conservation, and the planning of land use to achieve conservation.

## Acknowledgement

The members of the National Parks Association of the ACT acknowledge that the national park we proposed, and worked for and in, is part of the Aboriginal land of Australia.

For thousands of years Aboriginal people have lived in the Molonglo and Murrumbidgee valleys and the bordering mountains. The resources of the land have provided food, shelter and material for implements and clothing. Certain areas became sites for ceremonies, burials and toolmaking.

It is fitting that Namadgi, the Aboriginal name for the mountains to the south-west of Canberra, is the name of the ACT's national park.

We look forward to the joint management of the national park. We all cherish this area and want to protect it from any form of misuse.

# Statement by Tom Uren, September 1999

The National Parks Association of the Australian Capital Territory has asked me to make a short statement for their 40th anniversary.

I had the great privilege of being a Minister in the Labor Governments of 1972-1975 and 1983-1987. During most of that period I had portfolios associated with the ACT. I have always thought that Robert Menzies' great achievement was setting up the National Capital Development Commission and the consolidation of modern Canberra.

I am proud of Canberra - warts and all.

My ministerial responsibilities gave me the opportunity to work with people who loved and respected our environment.

With Moss Cass in 1973, we set up the Inquiry into the National Estate and arising from the report introduced into the Commonwealth Parliament the Australian Heritage Commission that included the National Register. Many of the treasures of Canberra are a part of our National Register.

It is with some pride that I mention the environmental breakthroughs achieved in the years I was associated as a Minister with the ACT.

- Any further leases of land on Bowen Island adjacent to Jervis Bay are not to be renewed. Residents are able to live out their existing leases, however Bowen Island should return to its natural habitat, home to thousands of penguins. It is one of our precious native fauna reserves.
- The boundaries of Reid Park in Civic were gazetted.
- Development was prohibited on the western side of the Murrumbidgee River. This created a conservation zone on both sides of the river.
- A rural belt has been maintained around the Lanyon Homestead ensuring Lanyon will remain forever in its heritage setting.
- During the 1983-84 period, the most rewarding decision we made was the creation of the Namadgi National Park. A young adviser working with me, Frank Muller, had a vision one day that, through the co-operation of the respective governments, a great national park would link Namadgi and Kosciusko National Park in NSW with the Victorian Alpine National Park.
- The Namadgi National Park was created in 1984.

All these decisions were opposed by the NCDC as it would close off their planning options.

I congratulate your National Parks Association as the guardians, protectors and enhancers of Namadgi and our environmental treasures in the ACT.

**Tom Uren**

[Former Federal Minister for Territories and Local Government]



*Tom Uren with NPA member  
Den Robin at the Glendale  
ranger station.*

## A will, and a way

The declaration of Namadgi National Park demonstrated something conservationists are always searching for – political will.

On the crisp sunny morning of 31 August 1983, NPA members escorted the Federal Minister for Territories and Local Government, Tom Uren, and a contingent of his office and departmental staff on a tour of what was then Gudgenby Nature Reserve.

On a map spread over the bonnet of a truck at Glendale ranger station, NPA President Neville Esau passionately explained the association's national park proposal.

Tom Uren followed the detail closely.

Then he turned to his departmental head, John Enfield, and said "John, can you arrange that?"

Namadgi National Park was gazetted on 3 October 1984!

The park covered 94 000 hectares, or 40 per cent of the ACT. In 1991, it was increased to 106 000 hectares by the addition of the native forests of Mount Tennent and the northern Cotter River catchment.

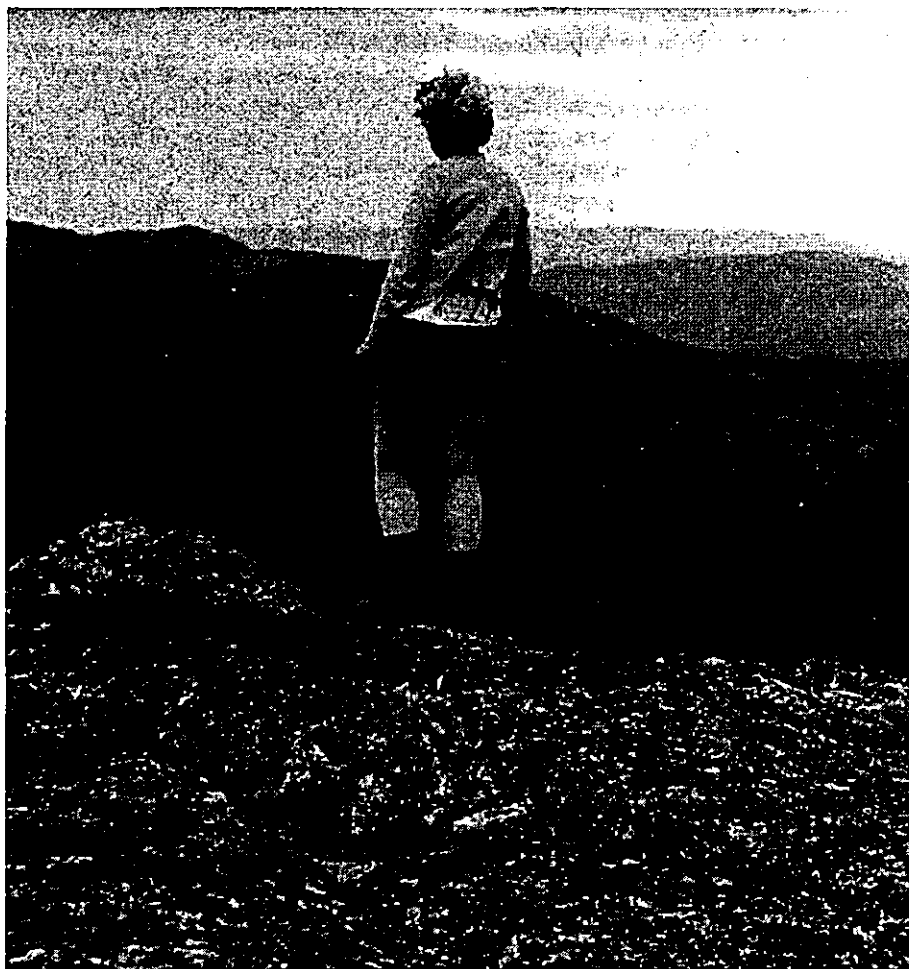
# “A National Park for the National Capital”

The September 1984 edition of the *NPA Bulletin* was designated A *Special Namadgi Issue*. The late Bob Story took the opportunity to write a very personal account of the association's involvement with Namadgi National Park. He did this at the request of Babette Scougall, who realised that a “personal” record, as opposed to an “official” record, would possibly be more interesting to those of us who were not historians. The following is an edited version of Bob's sketch.

## Namadgi – odd bits of history

It takes time for things and events to become of value. Tallies of wheat and oil in cuneiform script are priceless 5000 years after the event but they would have been a deadly routine to the clerks who made them; similarly, it is doubtful if our precious record of the meeting that formed our association – and laid the foundation for Namadgi – would have appeared as precious to the kind person who made it. She was a Mrs Waight, and the meeting took place at the Institute of Anatomy on 1 March 1960, establishing an honoured tradition by being timed for 8pm and starting five minutes late. It was a public meeting convened by a small group of people, half a dozen or so, to consider the question of a national park for the ACT. The lecture theatre had seats for 145 people but more than that must have attended because I can remember people standing. Max Day summarised the position in the various states and the Northern Territory, which all had parks of more or less “national” status. The ACT did not, and the Commonwealth had given no lead. He suggested that the public should now step in and do something about it.

My only contribution that evening was to ask a question to break the embarrassingly long hush that nearly always follows when a meeting is opened for discussion; thereafter Mrs Waight must have had a hard time keeping track of what was going on. This phase ended when a motion by Nancy Burbidge, seconded by Tom Clear, was put to the meeting and



*Julie Henry on the summit of Mount Kelly in 1962.*

carried – “that a national parks association of the ACT be formed”. A provisional committee was elected, which took care of the head, those who had attended were invited to apply for membership and provide it with a body, and we were ready to go.

## Investigations and submissions

What happened at subsequent meetings of the newly elected

Committee was the routine of constitution etc that one would expect, also a letter to the appropriate Minister telling him, or perhaps warning him, of our intentions. Understandably the Committee rather lacked direction at first as they cast round to see what areas might be suitable and made a few smash-and-grab surveys and some recommendations. The first

*continued on page 6*

## “A National Park for the National Capital” – continued from page 5

recorded survey was in the spring of 1962 when Alan Bagnall of the Canberra Alpine Club invited representatives of our association to join a club trip to Mount Kelly. Julie Henry, Fiona Brand and I went along to spy out the land. A faint bridle track came and went and came, and then went for good, and except that Alan Bagnall knew the way, the trip would have been much rougher than it was. A committee recommendation that the way in should be blazed would be greeted with disbelief today, especially when there is a four-wheel-drive track to the foot of the mountain, but was acceptable in 1962. My notes at the summit I have confirmed many times since then – “The view in all directions is spectacular, very wild and tumbled and thickly wooded to the north, bare and with streaks of snow far to the south west.” The northern view took in what is now Namadgi National Park, the snowy bits were on Mount Jagungal. I had a rather nice colour slide of the summit, with Pat Green on the skyline licking something sticky from her fingers. I collected 59 plant specimens which Nancy Burbidge subsequently determined and which are listed in the report I made. I am ashamed to say that I have forgotten who the other contributors were – all except Dick Schodde, who dealt with the birds. My apologies to them. They dealt with the mammals, freshwater invertebrates, entomology and geology.

Probably in 1963 Julie Henry and Sandy and Fiona Brand chartered a light plane and made an aerial inspection of the Kelly area. It was a bit of a disappointment, for visibility was poor, but it did give them a background for the aerial photographic work that was to follow and that played such an important part in the drafting of our original proposal. The aerial photos of the ACT and the stereoscope and maps were by grace and favour of CSIRO, sometimes unwittingly but welcome nevertheless. A good deal of the work was done in the offices of the Division of Land Research and



*Champagne celebrations for the first anniversary of Namadgi's declaration, October 1985*

Regional Survey, which were then at Manuka, with Committee and ordinary members taking part together according to their skills and willingness. The submission took months to do. It was sent to the Minister on 17 June 1963. There is a curiously old-fashioned air about the covering letter that seems unreal in 1984. As a back-up to the desirability of a national park in the ACT it points out that “... visiting scientists deplore, and within the limits set by courtesy, seriously criticise ...” Courtesy?

After our submission, Government proposals and counter-proposals ebbed and flowed until there had been nine in all. The resulting tangle is shown in map form in *Gudgenby – Proposed Gudgenby National Park Land Use Study*, commissioned by the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service. Our association was sometimes invited to comment on the various proposals, sometimes not. As far as I can make out, we commented in November 1968 on the inclusion of Nursery Swamp, in May 1969 on the inclusion of Mount Tennent, and in October 1969 on the extension of the northern boundary, but to ferret out precise details about the part we played in this period of caprice would just not be worth the trouble. Our main contribution was sustained publicity, done through correspondence and formal and

informal meetings with Government officers, articles in *The Canberra Times*, outings and general meetings.

### **Routine activities**

[NPA] outings [today] have a much wider range; early on, the area we had proposed was more the centre of attraction with at least one other camping trip to Mount Kelly and many day outings to the Brindabella Range and the Gudgenby area from which we could glimpse the as yet Unpromised Land – remote sensing as ever was, though we did not recognise it at the time.

Most people have a streak of laziness, enjoy being dragooned a little, and are interested in the outdoors, and by catering for all three of these qualities the early outings steadily grew in popularity – they were mainly by car, with scheduled stops where members were whistled up and given short bursts of natural history, sometimes through a megaphone. Things became unwieldy and a bit of an embarrassment on the roads. This was brought up in committee but as far as I can remember no action was taken. One would expect the numbers to become self-regulating as crowding infringed upon good fellowship, and because of the dust, but day trippers still come in sixties and more. The emphasis, however, is now on walking.

Weekend camping trips too have become more dispersed and more frequent; they were unusual in the first 10 years or so.

Nancy Burbidge not only played an important part in the organisation of these outings, but also had the necessary knowledge of the bush, as indeed she had of all other aspects needed to keep the association moving; to do this she would (and did) project her personality and voice over several miles of telephone wire. "Who was that?" asked someone who happened to be in my office during one such visitation. "Nancy Burbidge." "Gee! I thought it was Paul Robeson."

General meetings were held in the lecture theatre of the Institute of Anatomy, and like the outings, were slanted towards various aspects of our proposal. To be honest I must be ungracious. For me at least that venue was vaguely depressing; the high roof, the haunting thought of the pickled anatomical specimens so close at hand, the physical separation of the president and secretary (on the stage) from the audience regimented into fixed rows of seats far below them (there were too many for our gatherings and half were empty) and the projectionist's unhappy Coventry somewhere up among the rafters. Speakers addressed the audience also from the stage and the poor devils were thus automatically half cut off. Most pulled themselves together and managed, but a few lost their nerve and went to pieces, at one with the audience only in praying for the end, reading their notes like the six o'clock news or lapsing into the grotesque sing-song of the airways hostess on the p.a. system. One or two quick thinkers came down from the stage to the aisle where they could talk instead of addressing.

Committee meetings were held in one or other of the CSIRO laboratories at Black Mountain, usually in the main block, the present-day Division of Entomology. The minutes of this period were meticulously formal, with Dr, Mr, Mrs, and The Misses in the places taken over by the Rosses, Nevilles,

Ians, and Anne-and-Adriennes of our latter-day saints. Equally striking to anyone with a liking for figures are the times when the meetings ended (then 9pm, now anything up to midnight and beyond) and the correspondence in and out (then three or perhaps four letters; now seldom fewer than a dozen). And for years the Secretary (Fiona) was not on the phone – unbelievable, isn't it? Never any thought of tea – or probably there was, but nobody had the temerity to express it.

#### Epilogue

Our proposal was originally submitted to the Department of the Interior [the Commonwealth department then responsible for the administration of the ACT], which was the portfolio of Gordon Freeth. A year later we asked to see the new Minister (Doug Anthony) who was "favourably disposed" but who gave no firm commitment. Nine years later we asked Ralph Hunt (then Minister for the Interior) if we could expect an "expression of intention" before the elections. He responded with a press statement to say that 278 square miles of the southern ACT would be progressively incorporated as a national park. Twenty-one years later our request was granted, and more than granted, by the Minister for Territories and Local Government, Tom Uren. The latest maps show how our original proposal has grown, how worthwhile it has been to wait, and how lucky we have been in dealing with sympathetic ministries which would listen to reason. I never felt we were talking or writing into thin air.

Matters could have been very different. I do not presume to offer this as advice or even as a suggestion, merely as my own feelings – many years ago I learnt that the most effective way into a hostile official fortress is not by using a key but by using a battering-ram weighted by public opinion. Never reason with unsympathetic people; there are surprisingly few who will accept a logical argument that is contrary to their own ideas.

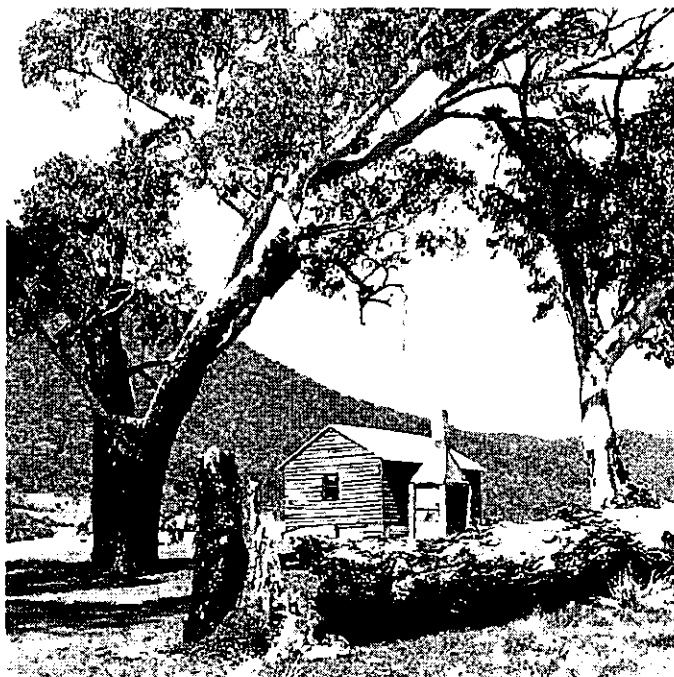
Namadgi National Park – may we turn what is usually an epitaph into a first-birthday wish, and say "May you rest in peace."

#### *The Awakening of Bimberi*

Light cloud shrouds the noble peaks in the distance  
Like an old man's hair: all wispy and wavy;  
Then magically begins to move through the majestic domes  
And float amidst the high country of Bimberi.  
Eastern Grey kangaroos bound joyfully  
Through mountain hovea and alpine grevillea,  
As a smokey mouse darts through Trigger plants and billybuttons.  
Magpies, crows and lorikeets  
All search for breakfast as, high in the morning air,  
A lone wedge-tailed eagle Spots a scurrying bush rat.  
I see a breeze float down through a valley  
Playing music through towering pines and snow gums.  
A beautiful, hushed, subdued note Wafts peacefully in the air  
As the music is tossed around from branch to branch.  
As this fresh cool alpine air Pushes delicately on a kookaburra's head,  
A white butterfly drifts delightfully through the musical notes  
And a grand cockatoo rhythmically flaps its wings  
As if in accompaniment.  
Cool crisp mountain water trickles timelessly  
In a meandering tranquil brook. It has carved out a tiny valley  
That protects and feeds its creator.  
The gold tipped fingers of the sun Reach cautiously through the thinning clouds,  
Producing brilliant flickering rays That toy with the gleaming alpine stream,  
Tantalisingly tickling its rippling surface  
As the last of the clouds spontaneously interrupts  
The sun's now probing rays.  
As I look to the near horizon Barren and bare peaks speckled  
With tufts of alpine vegetation  
Now form spectacular rugged domes.  
Bimberi has awoken.  
*Timothy W. Bull in Vol 29 no 2, 1992*

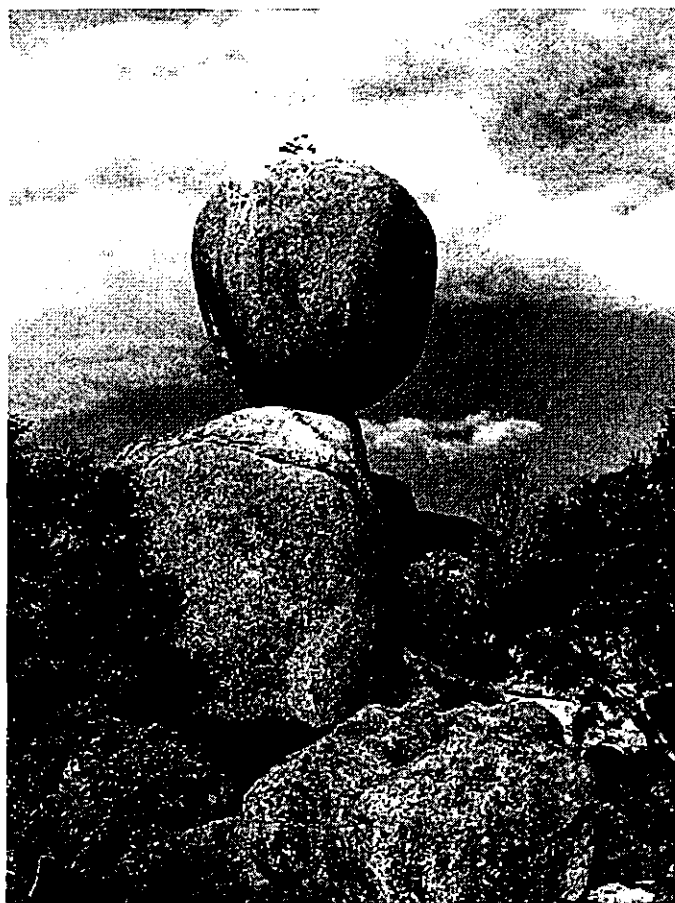
# Forty years of issues and activities

- 1960**      March 1, public meeting led to formation of National Parks Association  
Annual general meeting in June produced draft constitution  
Petition opposing golf course in Westbourne Woods
- 1961**      Proposal to NCDC for parks in ACT and nature reserves in areas of leisure and scientific interest, such as Molonglo Gorge  
TV tower on Black Mountain opposed  
Kosciusko Primitive Area proposal supported  
Members asked to suggest suitable area for national park
- 1962**      Support for fauna reserve at Tidbinbilla  
Alarm expressed about encroachment of pine plantations on natural bushland  
Sub-committee formed to survey area near Mount Kelly for national park  
Public attention drawn to firearms laws
- 1963**      Mount Kelly region selected as suitable for national park: maps, appendices and photographs sent to Federal Minister for the Interior, Gordon Freeth, June 18  
Production of bi-monthly *NPA Bulletin* with slogan "A National Park for the National Capital"  
AGM display of emblem designs  
First poster competition and wildflower display  
Gibraltar Falls reservation proposed  
Discussion of cableway on Ayers Rock and a national park for Jervis Bay
- 1964**      Incorporation of NPA of ACT  
Assurances from Minister for the Interior, Doug Anthony, that Orroral Tracking Station siting would not conflict with park area  
Deputation to Minister re Mount Kelly advised that proposal was shelved as government financial commitment was to Tidbinbilla Fauna Reserve
- 1965**      Association badge on sale  
Unflagging interest in national park for ACT
- 1966**      Senator J A Mulvihill championed in Senate establishment of national park for ACT
- 1967**      First of NPA annual public lectures delivered by Vince Serventy  
Annual essay and poster competitions continue
- 1968**      Federal Department of Interior called meeting of interested groups to disclose detail of area researched for park – Mount Clear Range, Mount Tennent and Cotter Divide  
NPA recommended wilderness area for Mount Kelly and Nursery Swamp



*Rowleys Hut – Orroral Valley.*





*Balancing Tor. Near entrance to Tidbinbilla.*

- 1969** Representatives attend official meetings on Tidbinbilla  
 First of children's Saturday afternoon nature film viewings  
 NPA public lecture by Judith Wright
- 1970** Conservation seminar, NPA and Centre for Continuing Education at ANU  
 Black Mountain Nature Reserve created
- 1971** NPA book *Mountains, Slopes and Plains* launched. Price 80c. Assisted by purchase of manuscript by Department of Interior for \$500  
 Six NPA committees existed – Black Mountain, Jervis Bay, Mount Ainslie, Gudgenby–Mount Kelly, *Bulletin* and Outings  
 Members visited newly gazetted Jervis Bay Nature Reserve
- 1972** Excursion to Yankee Hat with Government officials – need to acquire land in area of Naas and Gudgenby Rivers recognised
- 1973** NPA photographic competition

- 1974** Grant of \$5000 from National Estate Program used for walks guide book, survey report on parks for SE NSW and land use study in Kelly/Gudgenby area  
 Continued lobbying: Molonglo Parkway; Black Mountain Reserve; Ainslie–Majura Reserve; Gudgenby National Park; Murrumbidgee Corridor; bicycle tracks; and Tennent Dam proposal
- 1975** Assurance from Prime Minister – Gudgenby National Park will be developed  
 NPA sponsored Workshop of Conservation Societies to identify problems in SE NSW forests (National Estate Grant)
- 1976** Special NPA meeting called to develop plans on initiatives to be authoritatively presented because progress on declaration of national park at standstill
- 1977** NPA book *Rambles around Canberra* launched
- 1979** April 26, Gudgenby Nature Reserve, of 51 000 hectares, proclaimed by Federal Minister for the Interior, Bob Ellicott
- 1980** Nancy Burbidge Memorial in Botanic Gardens opened
- 1981** Orroral Homestead restoration proposed as long-term project

*continued on page 10*

## Forty years of issues and activities – *continued from page 9*

- 1982** Continuing concerns: Round Mountain; non-termination of grazing leases in Orroral Valley; Morton National Park; Corin Road Ski Complex; future of Honeysuckle Creek and Orroral Tracking Stations  
ACT Heritage Grant for Orroral Homestead preservation  
NPA tree planting project begins at Glendale  
First of NPA walks and displays for ACT Heritage Week
- 1983** June 6, launch of NPA's *Field Guide to the Native Trees of the ACT*  
Tour of Gudgenby Nature Reserve to explain NPA's national park proposal to Tom Uren, Federal Minister for Territories and Local Government  
Orroral Homestead work parties
- 1984** Seed-planting work party to rehabilitate emergency bulldozed fire trail to Nursery Swamp following bush fires  
**October 3: Gazettal of Namadgi National Park**  
NPA representative on ACT Government's Namadgi Consultative Committee  
Orroral Valley grazing leases added to Namadgi NP  
Issues: 4WD cars in national parks; Boboyan pine plantation; Perisher Ski Tube
- 1985** Plan of Management for Namadgi NP completed by Government in the legal context of the *Nature Conservation Ordinance 1980* (ACT). Some concern over legal deficiencies  
NPA office opens in Kingsley Street  
NPA weekend conference at ANU on *Australia's Alpine Areas: Management for Conservation* leads to formation of the Australian Alps Liaison Committee for the cooperative management of the Australian Alps  
Sub-committee discussions on Morton NP and woodchipping in SE NSW
- 1986** Responses to: papers on Bimberi wilderness area; administrative arrangements for Namadgi; Jervis Bay; recreational management in the Alpine National Parks
- 1987** NPA-commissioned report on woodchipping at Eden reprinted  
Construction of Yerrabi Walking Track to Boboyan Trig by NPA members  
Endorsement of proposal to seek World Heritage listing for alpine area  
Proposal that Namadgi NP would be given more security if declared under the *National Parks and Conservation Act 1975* led to an NPA position that management should remain with the ACT Parks and Conservation Service under the Federal Department of Territories, and not transfer to the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service
- 1988** Issues: Brindabella NP; reservation of northern Cotter area; cattle grazing at Gudgenby
- 1989** Issues: Canberra Nature Park; coastal development; south-east forests; Boboyan pines  
First work party in Budawang; Bimberi Wilderness Zone declared
- 1990** Submissions: forest resources; ACT Environment Policy and Land Bill; Very Fast Train  
First work party to cut pine wildings in Namadgi

*continued on page 12*

# NPA issues over the years



**1983 bushfires.** After a long and severe drought, in 1983 a large proportion of Namadgi National Park was devastated by bushfire.

NPA members worked with the emergency services to prepare food for the firefighters. Members later reviewed the extent of the damage and recommended rehabilitation of the emergency, temporary fire trails.



**Yankee Hat carpark.** The inappropriate siting and construction, in 1992, of the car park for the Yankee Hat track was opposed by the NPA which recommended the alternative site.



**Ginini Swamp.** Members discuss the proposed Plan of Management with consultants and the Parks Service, 1999.



**Lower Molonglo.** Lobbying the then ACT Minister for the Environment, Bill Wood, on plans for the Lower Molonglo River, between Scrivener Dam and the Murrumbidgee, 1991.



**Keeping informed.** Members in 1988 inspecting the proposed extension of Namadgi National Park around Mount Coree.

## Forty years of issues and activities – *continued from page 10*

- 1991** Issues: Ski 2000; Mulligan's Flat; Landcare; Molonglo River  
Namadgi NP additions – Lower Cotter catchment, Mount Tennent/Blue Gum Creek, parts of Gibraltar Range  
Launch of NPA publication *Conservation of Remnant Woodland and Native Grassland in ACT*
- 1992** Orroral Homestead work parties  
Jervis Bay National Park declared  
Submissions: Territory Plan; Lake Burley Griffin Management Plan; Alpine Walking Track; coastal zone inquiry; ACT greenhouse strategy; future of disused tracking stations  
Yankee Hat carpark environmental disaster pursued  
Mount Burbidge gazetted on NPA recommendation  
Mulligan's Flat Nature Reserve proposal presented to Minister Bill Wood by six conservation groups
- 1993** Issues: Lower Molonglo Water Quality Control Centre and conservation of legless lizards; Territory plan; Austel National Telecom code; statutory protection for Namadgi NP; Tuggeranong and Tennent homesteads  
Launch of NPA book, *Field Guide to the Birds of the ACT*
- 1994** NPA constitution amended to include cultural heritage  
Ecotourism in the ACT  
NPA recommendations paper on removal and rehabilitation of Boboyan pine forest presented to Environment Minister
- 1995** Contributions to Australian Alps Walking Track project, National Forest Policy, World Heritage nomination for Alps
- 1996** Murrumbidgee River Corridor and Canberra Nature Park draft management plans  
Rehabilitation of Boboyan pines area begins
- 1997** Completion of Orroral Homestead restoration project  
Discussions on: ACT Strategic Plan; ACT Government's tourism strategy; mountain bikes in Canberra Nature Park; draft Tidbinbilla Management Plan  
Launch of NPA's publication *Reptiles and Frogs of the ACT*
- 1998** Native title claims to parts of the ACT  
Submissions on Lower Molonglo Plan of Management, SE NSW forests, Perisher developments  
Jervis Bay Marine Park gazetted
- 1999** Issues: Namadgi campground strategy; Morton and Budawang's plans of management; Ginini Flats wetland management; rural residential development in ACT; future of Gudgenby Homestead

# Presidents of the association

1960	Dr Robert Carrick*		1980	Mr Neville Esau	3 years
1960	Dr A J Nicholson#	2 years	1983	Mr Ian Currie	
1962	Dr Nancy Burbidge		1984	Mr Ross Carlton	2 years
1963	Dr Robert Story	2 years	1986	Dr Kevin Frawley	3 years
1965	Mr Ian Grant		1989	Mr Syd Comfort	
1966	Mr Jim Webb		1990	Mr Les Pyke	
1967	Mr A (Sandy) Brand	2 years	1991	Ms Beverley Hammond	3 years
1969	Dr Nancy Burbidge		1994	Ms Eleanor Stodart, and Mr Clive Hurlstone	
1970	Miss Julie Henry		1995	Ms Eleanor Stodart	2 years
1971	Mr George Chippendale		1997	Mr Clive Hurlstone	3 years
1972	Mr W (Bill) Watson	2 years			
1974	Mr Ian Currie	4 years			
1978	Mr Darryl Hawke				
1979	Mr John Banks				

\* Inaugural; elected provisional President at NPA's formation in March 1960.

# Elected at first AGM in June 1960.

## Dr Nancy Burbidge – an active visionary

Nancy Burbidge was a foundation member and the second elected President of the National Parks Association during the formulation of the association proposal and an indefatigable worker towards her objective of *A National Park for the National Capital*. Unfortunately she died in 1977 before her vision became a reality.

Two memorials commemorate her work besides Namadgi National Park. These are "The Nancy Burbidge Amphitheatre" in the National Botanic Gardens (for her work in botany) and a 1720-metre peak in Namadgi National Park, named to honour her in 1992. The peak forms a triangle with Mount Namadgi with its Aboriginal ceremonial stone arrangements, and Mount Kelly, named, it is thought, after a member of a survey team defining the watershed boundary of the ACT. The gazettal of Mount Burbidge fulfilled the fifth criterion in the naming of geographic features, that is "persons prominent in the area's development".

The ACT Environment and Land Planning Minister at the time, Bill Wood, said: "Naming the peak Mount Burbidge is particularly

appropriate as Dr Burbidge was one of Australia's leading botanists, and her enthusiasm for the Australian bush also resulted in Molonglo Gorge and Gibraltar Falls Reserves being declared."

Nancy Tyson Burbidge was born on the 5 August 1912 in Yorkshire, England, and came to Australia with her parents in 1913 when her father was appointed to the Parish of Katanning in Western Australia.

Nancy graduated from the University of Western Australia with an Honours Degree in Botany and a free passage scholarship to spend 18 months at the Kew Herbarium. She received an MSc degree and studied the ecology and taxonomy of Western Australian plants at the Institute of Agriculture, University of Western Australia (1941–42) and at the Western Australian Forest Department (1942–43).

In 1943 she became Assistant Agronomist at the Waite Agricultural Institute, working on native pasture regeneration in the arid and semi-arid regions of South Australia. She came to the Division of Plant Industry of the CSIRO in Canberra as Systematic Botanist in

1946, expanding the plant collection which led to the establishment of the Herbarium Australiense.

Nancy was appointed as the Australian Botanical Liaison Officer at the Kew Herbarium in 1953–54. Between 1956 and 1965 she published revisions of a number of plant groups and the important *Phyto-geography of the Australian Region* which led to the first degree of Doctor of Science ever given to a woman by the University of Western Australia.

Her commitment as founding Secretary of the NPA, Committee member for 11 years, and President for two terms, led to the proclamation of Namadgi as well as to the development of reserves at Molonglo Gorge, Gibraltar Falls and Tidbinbilla. Nancy singly and jointly contributed to many publications, some specifically on the botany of the ACT. The association publication *Mountains, Slopes and Plains* was published on the initiative of Nancy.

In 1972 Nancy became the first Life Member of NPA and in 1976 her work was recognised with her appointment as a Member of the Order of Australia, for services to science and the community.

# Honorary Life Members of the NPA

**Honorary Life Membership.** Any person who has rendered meritorious service to or on behalf of the Association may, on the recommendation of the Committee, be elected a Life Member by a General Meeting, and for all purposes shall be considered a financial member of the Association. (NPA Constitution)

## Dr Nancy Burbidge AM, July 1972



NPA's first Honorary Life Member, Nancy was a mainstay of the association from 1959, ie before its official beginning. She held the offices of President, Secretary and Committee member for many years and was always available for advice and help in conservation matters. An *outline* of her services to NPA includes: prime mover in its founding; its first Secretary; Secretary for three years; President for two years; 11 years Committee membership; leadership in numerous outings; many important contributions to the *Bulletin*. One of her greatest enjoyments was to introduce people to the bush by leading outings and by patiently pointing out features which to the untrained eye would go unnoticed. Her *Eyes or No Eyes* series (40 in all), drawings and text on native plants from our area, appeared in early *Bulletins*; individual pieces have been repeated from time to time.

## Ms Julie Henry, July 1973

Julie's long involvement in conservation and with environmental groups is based on a great love of the bush and a determination to inspire others to "cherish it and protect it fiercely". She joined the NPA Committee in 1961, soon after arriving in Canberra, and served for nine years, including a term as President. Julie worked hard on the proposal for an ACT national park, convening the sub-committee which explored for, and compiled the initial submission for, a national park in the ACT (Gudgenby/Mount Kelly area). She also represented the NPA, speaking to the Senate Committee inquiry into the Black Mountain Tower.



## Ms Sheila Kruse OAM, June 1979



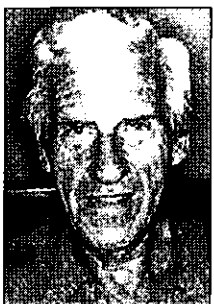
The success of the NPA depends on the dedicated and consistent efforts of members like Sheila. Sheila joined NPA in 1971 becoming Secretary later that year, a position she sustained for some 10 years. She continued as an active committee member, notably overseeing production of the "Tree Guide" and documenting NPA material to be archived. Six presidents valued Sheila's assistance and support; she has been described as having a "quiet strength and stability in her gracious, composed behaviour ... is systematic, and her reliability sets impossible standards for lesser mortals".

## Ms Fiona MacDonald Brand OAM, July 1982

Fiona was a foundation member of the NPA. She was one of those responsible for the proposed area to form a national park for the ACT. She was Secretary, *Bulletin* Editor and/or Committee, sub-committee and working group member for most of the association's first 25 years (and since) except for short periods while overseas. She keeps a close eye on environment and conservation issues in our region and willingly undertakes a stand-in role to represent NPA. Fiona has led numerous outings, provides cheerful and willing help in many NPA activities, and makes new members welcome.



## Mr Reg Alder, August 1984



Reg has been associated with walking and environment issues since 1938, in both Sydney and Canberra. He has served the NPA on the Committee and sub-committees and as the Australian National Parks Council (ANPC) national coordinator, and as editor of the *Bulletin* for six years. It blossomed under his administration, raising issues and bringing the objectives of the association more fully to the notice of members. His superb photographs often illustrate *Bulletin* articles and grace its covers; he is still a frequent contributor of articles and letters. Reg has led many outings, often "over the hills and far away". He is a keen work party participant, memorably on the Orroral Homestead restoration and the Yerrabi Track construction with its associated Heritage Week walks.

**Dr Robert Story OAM, August 1984**

Bob was a foundation member of NPA, served as President for two years, as Vice-president, and as a Committee and sub-committee member for many years. His enthusiasm and his expertise in the plant world made him a valuable member of the NPA team which in the early 1960s surveyed the future Namadgi and made the ultimately successful recommendation for its preservation as a national park. For several years Bob was the NPA's delegate to the ANPC and became its President in 1979. A regular and frequent walks leader, he was always an energetic, kind, helpful, generous and friendly presence; he and Sybil often opened their home to NPA meetings and gatherings.



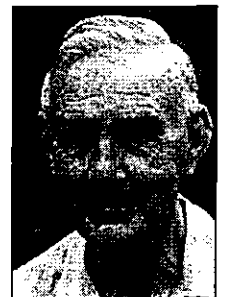
**Mr Ian Currie, August 1985**

Ian's election as a Life Member acknowledged members' appreciation of his [to then] 14 years of official and unofficial services in his first 15 years of association membership. He joined in 1970, was elected to the Committee in 1971, Vice-President in 1972, then President in 1974 (four years). He continued on the Committee and sub-committees, and became President again in 1983. At one stage Ian's re-election was said to have been by a Committee and membership "... not willing to [be deprived] of those sensible and irreverent comments we had come to value when committee discussion threatened to become bogged down or flighty". He was a frequent leader of walks and a great "camp father". This "... pipe-smoking, chocolate-eating, bird-watching, person-baiting Life Member" is also renowned for having instigated, and passed on, the warm tradition of having gluhwein at annual general meetings.



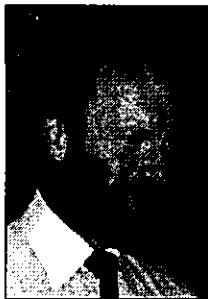
**Mr Charles Hill, September 1988**

Charles was interested in the natural environment since childhood and was always a keen walker and skier. He joined NPA in 1971 and was elected to the Committee in 1976. His attention to detail and conscientious dedication were invaluable in leading the Glendale tree planting project. Charles and his helpers did a sterling job encouraging the trees to grow. He efficiently supervised sales of the *Field Guide to the Native Trees of the ACT*. This was Charles: committed to caring for the natural environment; a cheerful leader of day walks, ski trips, car camps and (on retiring) of mid-week walks; an enthusiastic Yerrabi Track constructor; an energetic bush regenerator (describing as "fun" the work of deleting temporary firetrails in Namadgi after the 1983 bushfires); and a regular meeting attendee.



**Mr Neville Esau, August 1989**

Neville joined NPA in 1974 and has been a very active member, both physically on outings, and administratively as President (three years), Vice-President, Treasurer (two stints), sub-committee convenor and energetic member of many working groups. Neville presided over NPA during an innovative and busy time for the association and he involved many members in its activities. He (and his family) enjoy the bush and he has led day walks and pack walks over many years, and been convenor for the outings committee. He has been NPA's delegate to ANPC annual conferences.



**Dr Kevin Frawley, July 1991**

Kevin has given great support over the years to NPA activities and objectives, as President (three years), and serving on the Committee, sub-committees (notably the Environment and Namadgi Sub-committees) and working groups. He played a leading role in the development of major reports for the NPA - *Eden Woodchip Report*, *Alpine Conference Papers* and the *Northern Cotter Catchment Report*. He authored the highly strategic *Report on the Conservation of the Remnant Woodland and Native Grassland in the ACT*. Kevin represented the NPA on the Conservation Council of the SE Region and Canberra and on the ANPC. He became Chair of the ANPC in 1989.



continued on page 16

## Honorary Life Members of the NPA – *continued from page 15*

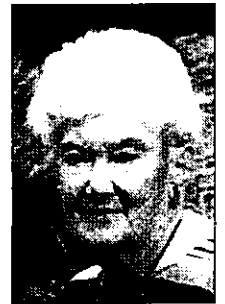


**Mr Alastair Morrison, March 1995**

Alastair and his wife Hedda joined NPA in 1969. Alastair has provided unceasing support for conservation groups with a broad community base and maintaining the aims and objectives of the NPA over many years. Alastair's commitment is exemplified by his donations, his *Bulletin* articles, his indefatigable letter writing to newspaper editors, and his participation in NPA work parties and outings. Alastair's most significant contribution to the NPA was the development, from an idea to a successfully completed project, of the *Field Guide to the Birds of the ACT* (Taylor and Day, 1993). His generous funding of this guide, and of *Reptiles and Frogs of the Australian Capital Territory* (Bennett, 1997), made these excellent NPA publications possible.

**Ms Olive Buckman, August 1999**

Olive has been a longstanding NPA member, having joined the association in 1970 (she frequently walked with NPA prior to officially joining). She has been a walks leader, a work party participant and contributor to the *Bulletin*, writing on bushcraft and first aid matters as well as of her many adventurous trips both in Australia and overseas. She has often given talks on outdoor activities to our own and to other organisations and clubs.



**Mr Jack Smart AC, August 1999**

Jack joined NPA in 1977 and has been an active member through the years, involved in developing the walks program and participating in and leading walks. Before leaving Canberra to settle in Melbourne near his family, Jack wrote "the NPA has meant so much to me, so many good walks and good friends, memories of wonderful talk on the track and round campfires. ... I cherish the friendships that I have made in NPA."

## National park values

Most National Parks ... at least at the beginning, have been made on what are, basically, grounds of feeling, and generally the first moves have come from laymen – people moved by feelings of concern. ... Scientific arguments and presentation of the case are important, but they alone will not get the message across to governments ... governments need very strong messages.  
*Judith Wright, 1969*

The Gudgenby Nature Reserve is the official name of the ACT's "national park" proclaimed by the Minister for the Capital Territory, Mr Bob Ellicott, on Thursday 26 April [1979] to coincide with the centenary of the Royal National Park near Sydney which was the first national park established in Australia.

*Bulletin Vol 16 no 4, 1979*

It was most fitting that it was an excited phone call from Julie Henry in Sydney that announced to me that, at long last, the ACT had a National Park – Namadgi National Park. ... This dream has taken 21 years to be fulfilled, but what a beautiful large park it is.

*Fiona MacDonald Brand in Bulletin Vol 21 no 5, 1984*



*View from Mount Gingera, looking over the Cotter Valley.*



# Promoting environmental awareness

Aiming to educate and interest the young in conservation, and in an effort to make children and adults aware that all native flora and fauna is protected in the ACT, NPA took an early interest in raising awareness through competitions and public displays at community events. Sandy Brand was the association's first Publicity Officer; Glynn and Shirley Lewis organised competitions for school children for many years; a Publicity and Display Committee organised the collection of material suitable for promoting the NPA and arranged exhibits and venues.

## Displays and public education

**1963** NPA presented a display of slides of native wildflowers, hand-coloured photographs and posters at the annual Wildflower Show held at the Methodist Hall in Griffith.

**1964** A display of material from the NPAs of several states was mounted at the Albert Hall during the ANZAAS Conference.

**1971/72** A small group of members arranged regular showings of wildlife and nature films for children at community venues around Canberra. Screenings were publicised beforehand in the *Canberra Times*.

In 1971, the Committee called on members for slides and black and white or colour prints from which the association could build up a master collection to use for publicity purposes. A further call for material was initiated by the Display Sub-committee in 1975.

**1973** Lyons Primary School P&C Hobbies and Crafts Exhibition. NPA mounted a display and information desk at this annual event.

**1978** Information pamphlets, one for prospective members including a membership application form and one called *Enjoy the Bush* were first produced in 1978. These are regularly updated.

The Display Sub-committee mounted an exhibition at the Jewish Centre, in conjunction with the Art Show, sponsored by the Environment Centre.

**1979** An exhibit to celebrate the centenary of national parks (Royal National Park specifically) in Australia.

**1981** The Outings Sub-committee produced a leaflet for the use of leaders of walks and camps. It discussed the necessary preparation, what should be done before and during a walk, and procedures to be followed in an emergency.

NPA was one of about 50 organisations to set up displays in the Commonwealth Gardens for the Environment Fair.

**1982** Heritage Week. Organised a walk for visitors and members to Mount Boboyan (1458m).

**1983** Heritage Week. NPA again organised a walk for the public to Mount Boboyan in the [then] Gudgenby Nature Reserve. An interesting April outing as it followed the January bushfires; participants were able to examine the early evidence of the bush's amazing power to regenerate.

The *Field Guide to the Native Trees of the ACT* was launched at the Botanic Gardens.

The Display Committee presented an exhibit in the Albert Hall. Our "touch and see" items (feathers, fruits, leaves, rocks and cultural artefacts) were an eye-catching and popular feature, particularly with children.

**1984** Heritage Week. The annual walk for visitors up Mount Boboyan.

**1985** Heritage Week: *Discover the Hidden Heritage*. As well as the Albert Hall exhibit, NPA participated in several other activities. Some members led "public" walks while others

courageously volunteered to speak to school students as part of the week's educational program. The Display Sub-committee arranged "slide and note kits" for these presenters.

*Life: Be In It*: A number of NPA members willingly volunteered for several years during the mid-eighties to lead short (about two hours) urban bush rambles as part of the annual Department of Territories and Reid TAFE sponsored *Life: Be In It* campaign.

**1986** Environment Fair in March, with displays and activities in Weston Park.

Heritage Week in April. NPA and the Canberra Archaeological Society combined to promote the prehistory and early pastoral heritage of the local region. NPA provided guest speakers to service clubs and school groups, set up a display in the Albert Hall, and organised public walks to local Aboriginal sites, with Archaeological Society members speaking on their significance.

**1987** Heritage Week: *A Week of Discovery*.

The Yerrabi Track was opened by John Langmore, Federal Member for Fraser.

Kingsley Street Markets, organised by the Environment Centre as a monthly fund-raiser. NPA set up an information and sales stall, and took its turns assisting with market organising and the "café".

**1988** Heritage Week. The Publicity and Education Sub-committee mounted a display at the Albert Hall, organised an essay competition and a full program of outings. The NPA's display won first prize in the Canberra Building Society's Albert Hall Display Award.

**1989** Heritage Week, on the theme *World Heritage*. NPA activities emphasised the nomination of the Australian Alps for World Heritage listing.

**1990** The association acquired its own display boards and its own banner! The photograph collection was updated. Throughout the year a number of displays were mounted: Monaro Environment Fair; Canberra Environment Fair; ACT Alive in March; University of Canberra Environment Day.

A display demonstrating NPA's aims and objectives, through its activities, was set up for a few weeks in each of the public libraries in the ACT.

Heritage Week: NPA organised a walk for members and the public along the Naas Creek, to explore the sites of some historic huts in the area. Some 68 people turned up for the outing.

**1991** Heritage Week: *Save the Bush*; over 40 ACT community and government groups were involved. The first event was the launch of the NPA's report, *The Conservation of Remnant Woodland and Native Grassland in the ACT*. The Chief Minister of the ACT launched the report at a gathering on the slopes of Mount Ainslie; members served tea and damper in the natural setting.

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# Promoting environmental awareness

**1992** Heritage Week: NPA again hosted public walks: to Rendezvous Creek (18 walkers) and the Yankee Hat paintings and axe grooves (38 participants).

**1993** ACT Alive, part of the growing annual Canberra Festival. NPA's interesting photographs and information tent were among many community organisations, entertainments and activities on the lawns in front of Old Parliament House. Heritage Week: A bushwalk *Botanists, Brumbies and Brindabella Skiers* was hosted jointly with the Kosciusko Huts Association, the 25 participants visiting a range of heritage sites in the Brindabellas.

The launch of the *Field Guide to the Birds of the ACT* at Forestry House proved an enjoyable and highly successful public relations exercise.

**1994** Environment Fair on World Environment Day in Garema Place. NPA was amongst many community groups with environmental interests.

Heritage Week and ACT Alive.

Displays to promote the aims and activities of NPA were shown in several public libraries around Canberra during the year.

## Competitions attract great interest

**1963** A poster competition for school children during Conservation Week attracted 664 entries. Book prizes were presented by Dr Burbidge on Channel 7's children's show.

**1966** NPA sponsored a section of the School Science Awards for essays on any aspect of plants or animals that exist or have existed in the ACT. Selected entries were displayed in the Monaro Shopping Mall in June.

**1967** A poster (for infant, primary and high school children) and essay (high school only) competition. Over 500 poster entries were submitted and displayed in the Monaro Mall. Suitable essays were published in the regular nature articles in the *Canberra Times*. Nine winners received book prizes donated by local businesses, with certificates for highly commended entries.

**1968/69** A more informal competition came from showing at the annual general meeting a selection of members' pictures taken on outings throughout the year. A prize was given for the best slide or black and white print at that year's meeting.

**1969** We sponsored a section in the Science Teachers' Association essay competition for Canberra high schools. Topics were *Why do we need National Parks?* (junior) and *The Effect of Civilisation on the Balance of Nature*. Prizes totalling \$78 were given to winners chosen from 150 entries.

**1970** Slide photograph competition: (a) best close-up study (flora or fauna); (b) best personality or action study; (c) best scenic or landscape shot; with a black and white print section for juniors. Prizes were donated by Canberra Photographic Specialists, Georges Camera Store and Manuka Photographic Centre.

Poster competition with book prizes. Of the 1000 entries received, as many as possible were displayed in the Monaro Mall.

**1971** NPA sponsored and organised an essay competition for school students in the ACT, receiving 100 entries. Winners received cash prizes at an Earth Day ceremony at the Griffin Centre. Cathy Carney's essay, addressing the statement "that environmental degradation is a crime compounded of ignorance, greed, affluence and apathy" was printed in the *NPA Bulletin*.

**1995** Heritage Week. NPA again combined with KHA to organise an outing for the general public, this time to Bushfold Flat. Matthew Higgins addressed the group on points of historic interest in the area.

ACT Alive, Canberra Day. NPA presented an interesting display and association information from its tent among the ACT community interest groups. ACT Alive is now a popular part of the Canberra Festival.

**1996** ACT Alive.

**1997** Official "opening" in April to mark the completion of the restoration of Orroral Homestead. About 100 people attended, including descendants and members of the McKeahnie and Gregory families; a great time was had by all. ACT Alive.

Launch of the book *Reptiles & Frogs of the Australian Capital Territory* at Forestry House.

**1998** ACT Alive.

**1999** Second printing of the *Field Guide to the Birds of the ACT*. Library display. ACT Alive.



NPA member Ann Robertson keeping an eye on Colin Totterdell as he judges entries in the photography competition for the Year of the Tree in 1982.

**1972** Poster competition, *Bushland Conservation*, for primary and infants school children, in conjunction with Conservation Week. Over 1200 entries were received, with the winning entries displayed in the Monaro Mall.

**1973** Photographic competition, for NPA members only – slides, black and white or coloured prints. Categories were: close-up (flora and/or fauna); scenic (landscape); man's impact on the environment (good or bad); and, action or motion. Entries (191 slides and 21 prints) were judged by Colin Totterdell and Allan Clark. Many were shown at the AGM with constructive, critical comment from the judges serving to educate, interest and entertain all.

**1982** Year of the Tree photograph competition. Colin Totterdell judged 52 *Trees of the ACT* entries. John Hook won with *Braun Barrel – Wet Sclerophyll Forest*.

**1986** In conjunction with the National Trust of the ACT, a poster competition for Heritage Week was open to both primary and secondary school students.

# Promoting environmental awareness

## Badges, T-shirts and books

In 1965 NPA produced metal members' badges based on Ed Slater's round NPA ACT logo design. Early on, a few of these were specially processed for awarding to Life Members.

NPA has also produced cloth badges (patches) suitable for attaching to clothing, and in 1982 T-shirts printed with the round logo design were available. A number of books and reports have been produced by the NPA (see page 21).



Emu



Hopping track  
Western Grey  
Kangaroo

*How many members can recognise the footprints in our logo? The single one on the left is made by an emu; the pair on the right by a kangaroo. The best places for searching for footprints are muddy creek and dam banks, patches of sand, dried out puddles and dusty roads – anywhere the ground is soft enough to take, but firm enough to hold an imprint. Can you see "ACT" on the shield?*

## Public lectures: guest speakers

For a number of years, NPA organised annual public lectures which were advertised in the local press beforehand. Attendances demonstrated the interest which could be raised when prominent people were invited to speak.

**1967** Vincent Serventy, *A Continent in Danger*. Over 350 people, members and non-members, attended an address and film at the Physics Building, ANU.

**1968** Dr Ron Strahan, Director of Taronga Park Zoo. At the Canberra Playhouse.

**1969** Judith Wright, famous environmentalist, writer and poet, spoke on *Conservation as an Emerging Concept* in the Canberra Playhouse. About 200 people attended.

"We must ... cease to be thoughtless predators and become informed managers of a world now given over entirely to our hands. We must regenerate ourselves if we are to regenerate the earth."

**1972** Milo Dunphy, a prominent environmentalist, spoke about *The Commonwealth and the Environment Shambles* at the Canberra Playhouse.

**1973** Professor Frank Fenner, *Environmental Problems: Approaches to Understanding and Solution at Local, National and International Levels*. Professor Fenner was a Director of the John Curtin School of Medical Research and Chairman of the Australian Academy of Science's Committee on National Parks and Conservation.

**1974** Dr Don McMichael, Permanent Head, Department of the Environment and Conservation. His lecture, entitled *National Parks and the Australian Government*, was presented at the National Library Theatre.

## Conferences and workshops

NPA welcomes opportunities to play an active role in the development of awareness of environmental issues, and to promote and participate in policy development to assist in achieving our objectives.

**1975** A workshop for conservation societies of the ACT and south-eastern NSW attracted 70 delegates from 37 societies. The report in the *Bulletin* Vol 12 no 4, 1975 indicated that a great deal of very useful and productive communication took place, particularly in demonstrating how small groups with strong but clearly defined and achievable objectives can be very effective.

**1985** *Australia's Alpine Areas: Management for Conservation*. NPA's Silver Jubilee Conference was held at the ANU over two days, attracting 108 registrations and 17 speakers: session 1, natural and cultural values of the high country; session 2, competing usage pressures and management problems defined; session 3, management responses to these problems; conference dinner, with guest speaker, Hal Wootten, President of the Australian Conservation Foundation. The conference resulted in the formation of the Australian Alps Liaison Committee.



Alpine conference 1985

# Promoting environmental awareness

## Meetings: informative, entertaining

### *Bulletin* Vol 3 no 6, Feb-March 1966

#### February Joint Meeting

Ecological Society of Aust. Canberra Group - National Parks Association of the A. C. T.

Date: Monday 7th February 1966, 8 p.m.

Place: Lecture Room No.1 Former Australian Forestry School, Banks Street, Yarralumla.

Feature: Mr. R. Margules, Assistant Director Parks and Gardens Section, Canberra will speak on "The Role of Outdoor Recreation and National Parks in the Modern Community".

#### February Regular Meeting

Date: Tuesday 22nd February 1966, 8 p.m.

Place: Institute of Anatomy

Feature: Mr. J McKean of Division of Wildlife Research C.S.I.R.O. will address us on "Bats of the A.C.T."

### *Bulletin* Vol 14 no 1, Sep Oct Nov 1976

at 8.00 p.m. in Room 1, Griffin Centre, Bunda Street, Civic

#### SEPTEMBER, 16th

Mr Steve Wilson of the Ornithologists Society will give a talk on:  
"Birds of the A.C.T."

#### OCTOBER, 21st

Professor Ralph Slatyer, Department of Environmental Biology, Research School of Biological Sciences, ANU will speak on:

"Why trees don't grow on high mountains?"

#### NOVEMBER, 18th

Dr Nancy Burbidge will present a talk entitled:  
"Flowers"

### *Bulletin* Vol 23 no 3, March 1986

Held at 8 pm, Room 1, Griffin Centre, Bunda Street, Civic

#### MARCH - Thursday 20

Halley's Comet is coming! Don't be left in the dark pondering the difference between conservatories and observatories, thermometers and chronometers, coronas and Corollas, supernovas and pavlovas ... come, be enlightened by *Mr Vince Ford*, a research officer at the Mt Stromlo and Siding Springs (*sic*) Observatory, as he takes us on a bushwalker's guide to the galaxy! Learn how to recognise the principal constellations and their changing position in the sky, use star charts and navigate by the stars at this evening's illustrated talk.

#### APRIL - Thursday 17

To mark Heritage Week 1986 the National Parks Association and the Canberra Archaeological Society have joined forces to promote the prehistory and early pastoral heritage of the ACT. At this evening's meeting a representative from the Archaeological Society will give an illustrated talk about the conservation and management of various significant sites in the local region. (Further information will be available in the official Heritage Week program published in late March).

### *Bulletin* Vol 36 no 3, Sept 1999

*Held in Forestry House, Yarralumla, commencing at 8.00pm.*

**Thursday 16 September. Southern Forests.** Andrew Wong, Ecologist and Campaigner with the Wilderness Society will speak on tall forests from Nowra to Narooma and the Southern Regional Forest Agreement.

**Thursday 21 October. The Nggunawal People.** Ann Jackson Nakano, historian, journalist and published author wrote the evidence for the Nggunawal Native Title Claim to Namadgi National Park. She plans to publish a 2-volume history of the Nggunawals and the first volume on the people of our area will be on sale in December. She will speak to us on the topic: "Is this the Wrong Mob?"

# NPA books help enjoyment of the bush

Since 1971 the National Parks Association has published five books to assist people to enjoy the bushlands of the ACT and surrounding areas. It is interesting to note the changes in design and presentation, and of course the changes in our environment as Canberra has spread, with housing encroaching on what were once bushland areas and opportunities for walks. For example, *Rambles Around Canberra* (1977), shows a view of Mount Tennent from the road to Lanyon Homestead, a view which has changed greatly in the ensuing 20 years.

In chronological order the publications are:

*Mountains, Slopes and Plains. The flora and fauna of the Australian Capital Territory*, first published in 1971 and reprinted in 1975. In the acknowledgments the National Parks Association thanked the Department of the Interior, which used to be responsible for the ACT, because "departmental purchase of the manuscript finally made publication possible". The 75-page publication has over 80 black and white and colour photographs.

*Rambles Around Canberra*, by Allan J Mortlock and Gillian O'Loughlin (1977). The subtitle describes it as *An illustrated collection of short interesting walks in the Canberra region*. Seventeen walks are described, each with a map. Black and white photographs and botanical drawings provide extra information for the walker.

*Field Guide to the Native Trees of the ACT*, originally published in 1983 and reprinted with amendments and additions in 1990. While no individual is given credit for the text it is noted that the botanical illustrations which accompany the discussion of each tree were by Betsy Jane Osborne. The book treats trees of the ACT under three headings: Genera other than Acacias and Eucalypts; Acacias; and Eucalypts. A vegetation map of the ACT located in the centre of the book and replicated with each specific tree



McComas Taylor (mid left) and Alastair Morrison (centre) with members examining the artwork for the bird book.

was contributed by Phillip Jorritsma.

*Field Guide to the Birds of the ACT* (1993). The text for this guide was contributed by McComas Taylor with illustrations by Nicolas Day. This publication was made possible by association member Alastair Morrison, who financially backed its preparation and publication. It identifies 207 birds with accompanying notes describing birds, their habitats and other relevant information. A second printing was run in 1999.

*Reptiles & Frogs of the Australian Capital Territory* (1997), by Ross Bennett, begins with an introduction which covers the ACT environment and conservation, and then provides information on, and colour photographs of, tortoises,

lizards, snakes and frogs. The brilliant colour photographs (over half taken by the author) are complemented by annotations which highlight the salient features of the respective animals. This publication also received financial backing from Alastair Morrison.

NPA has also published several significant reports including:

- *The Conservation of Remnant Woodland and Native Grassland in the ACT*
- *Woodchipping at Eden - A Review*
- *Australia's Alpine Areas: management for conservation*
- *The Northern Cotter Catchment, ACT: A case for its conservation and reservation*

## Oral histories project

The collective memories of some of the past presidents, secretaries and committee members of NPA have been collected by Reg Alder and Fiona Brand on tape and transcribed as written reports. These are held in the NPA office and can be accessed for research purposes.

Those who have participated so far are the late Dr R Story, Ian Currie,

Charles Hill, Bill Watson, Jim Webb, Dr Kevin Frawley, Judith Payne, Darryl Hawke, Ross Carlton, Julie Henry and George Chippendale.

Matthew Higgins has recently completed the project and interviewed more members and Bryan Pratt who had dealings with the NPA when he was ACT Director of Conservation and Agriculture.

# Letters to The Editor

The mid-1980s was a time when *Letters to The Editor* featured prominently in almost every *Bulletin*. Topics covered were extremely diverse, some letters were complimentary, some offered quite trenchant criticism of NPA, some offered advice and some requested information. The following is a random selection of inward correspondence which has featured.

Dear Ross

I would like to congratulate the NPA on the production of "Eden Woodchipping - A Review" by Debbie Quarumby.

The publication is most timely and will be key reference material for workers on the Eden issue. Already the staff of the NSW Minister for Natural Resources and the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment have requested copies and I anticipate the appropriate State and Commonwealth Departments will soon follow suit.

Hopefully access to such a wide range of material on the Eden issue may stimulate a more informed debate on the topic.

Thank you for initiating the publication. It will be widely used and appreciated.

**Joan Staples**

National Liaison Officer  
Australian Conservation  
Foundation

Dear Editor,

As my father and I went down to a Pet Supplier to buy a fish we were very distressed to see some beautiful Australian birds in captivity and not looking as bright and colourful as they would in the bush. There were about seven sulphur crested cockatoos in the cage, sitting on a stick, a large pink cockatoo climbing up the cage and several red collared rambow lorikeets who had lost half their feathers and weren't looking as colourful as they should.

I think that birds that live in the bush belong there! Not in a tiny cage. What have they done to deserve captivity? They should be

free in the bush. It is very cruel to keep birds in captivity instead the wide bushland and I think there should be a policy about it. What protection is there for lovely birds like these who are part of our national treasure?

Yours sincerely,

**Alice Thompson**

Age 11

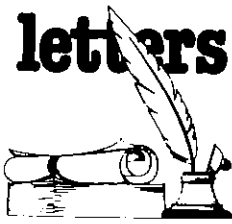
Dear Sir

I welcome the article by Ian Fraser entitled 'Jerrabomberra birdlands' which appeared in the June 1989 issue of the Bulletin. As is Ian's style, the article is generally well-researched, well-informed, communicative and to the point.

I particularly appreciate the fact that Ian has drawn attention to the **relative** value of Jerrabomberra wetlands. They are not the Macquarie Marshes or the floodplains of the Magela, but in the middle of Australia's largest inland city. They are a rare jewel indeed and one whose environmental and social values will grow exponentially as the modified environment evolves around Jerrabomberra.

I must take issue with one section of Ian's article. He paints a gloomy picture of the resources being made available for management planning by our service. We could always use more people and more resources but for the record, we have now had a number of staff totally dedicated to management planning for many months. Namadgi and Bowen Island plans have been completed. The drafts for Jerrabomberra and the Murrumbidgee corridor have been released and public submissions are being reviewed. The new government is keen to push on with the process of finalising both plans, and staff have been allocated to the tasks.

As the chief minister announced during the World Environment Day celebrations, we will be going to the citizens of Canberra in July to begin a major consultative exercise on the management plan for a Canberra Nature Park. One officer has been dedicated full time to the CNP



planning process for some months. We would welcome NPA's participation and assistance in the consultative process. It will mean a lot of hard work but also, we hope, a more responsive planning approach which the community perceives as a process they are able to shape and influence.

I believe that we have the opportunity in the coming months to achieve a number of important goals for conservation and national parks in the ACT. I believe that the new government has demonstrated a strong public commitment to conservation and I welcome the participation of the NPA in the work which must be done to fulfil that commitment.

**Greg Fraser**

Director, ACT Parks and  
Conservation Service

Dear Sir

I would like to express my thanks to the National Parks Association for assistance with the displays in the new visitor centre at Namadgi National Park.

In particular Reg Alder and Denise Robin provided a range of valuable materials, spent many hours tracking down resources and coordinated the input of other NPA members.

The centre is open seven days a week and I hope members will call in on their next visit to the park.

**Joss Haiblen**

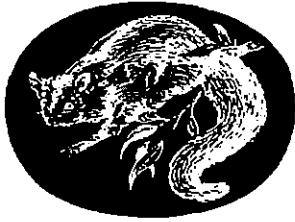
Ranger, Namadgi National Park

Dear Sir,

The caption to the photo of the Cotter Hut in your September issue asks readers' opinions as to whether the hut is an intrusion or part of the history. Our opinion is no, it is not an intrusion. We should like it to stay. And yes, it does reflect the history but we regard that as a fact, and not a matter of opinion.

**Robert and Sybil Story**

# Bulletin covers change over time



NATIONAL PARKS  
ASSOCIATION  
OF THE A.C.T.  
BULLETIN

Vol. 3 No. 6 Feb-March 1966. Annual Subscription 60 cents  
Per copy 10 cents.  
Registered at the G. P. O., Sydney for transmission by post  
as a periodical.

The *NPA Bulletin*, a source of information for members, has an interesting history of its own. The cover design, the size and the frequency of production has changed over the years.

The first cover of the small, bi-monthly *Bulletins* of the 60s, designed by Kelvin Cameron of Springwood NSW, featured a possum. It was printed in black, blue, green or red on white paper.

In 1971, the quarterly *Bulletin* was enlarged to quarto size and the new cover, green on white, displayed the shape of the ACT and the NPA badge designed by Ed Slater.

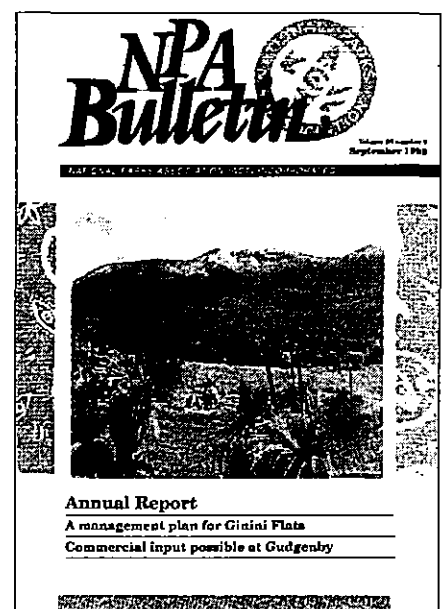
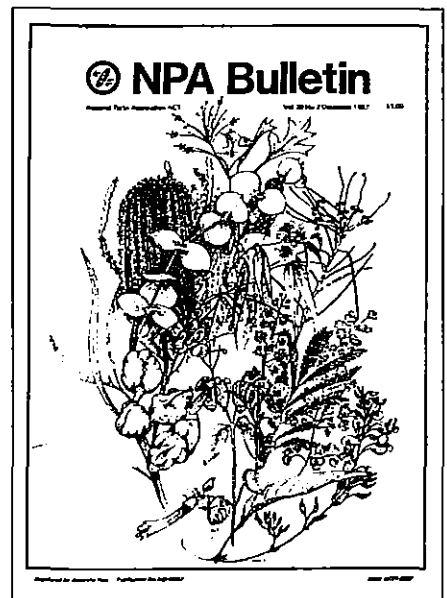
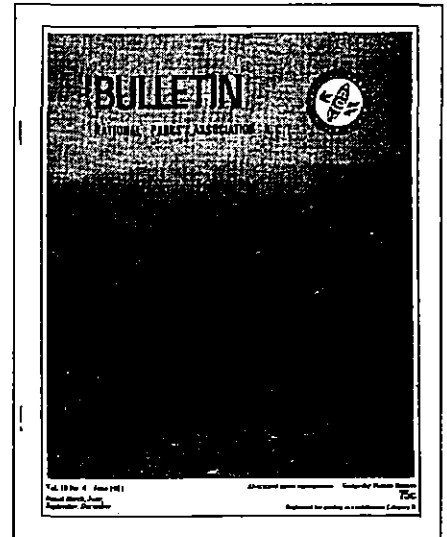
In 1974 Brian Lee took over editorship from Fiona Brand and the cover changed again. A symbolic shape, printed in cream and brown, or greens, was used until 1981 when Reg Alder introduced the now familiar large black and white photographs.

As a short experiment coloured paper was used, but in 1982, when the *Bulletin* size changed to A4, a firmer white paper gave a better reproduction.

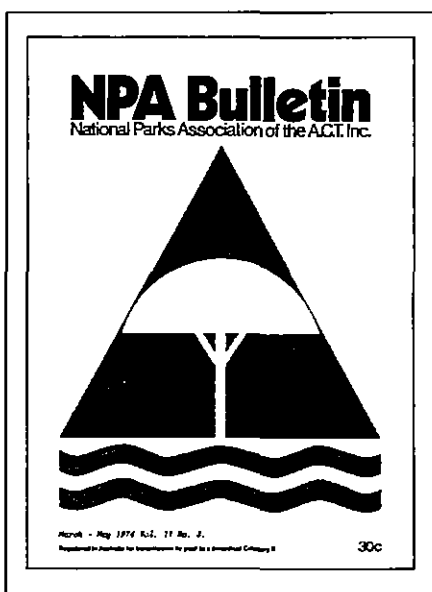
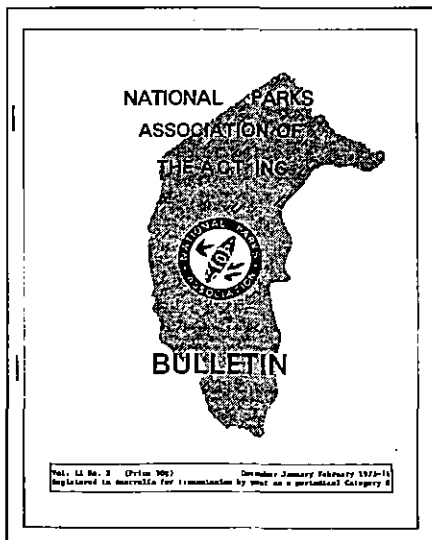
The use of members' photographs has been of continuing interest both on the cover and inner pages. One issue stood out with its cover specially produced to mark the publication of the *Tree Guide*.

When the lettering and cover design changed in 1989, photographs were still featured, producing the excellent covers of recent quarterly *Bulletins*.

The National Parks Association of the ACT is indebted to all past editors of the *Bulletin* – those not already mentioned in this article being Bruce Ward, Babette Scougall, Judith Simondson, Norm and Jenny Morrison, Margus Karilaid and Roger Green – and to Green Words and Images. We give warm thanks to the present editor, Syd Comfort, and his working group for their imaginative and careful productions.



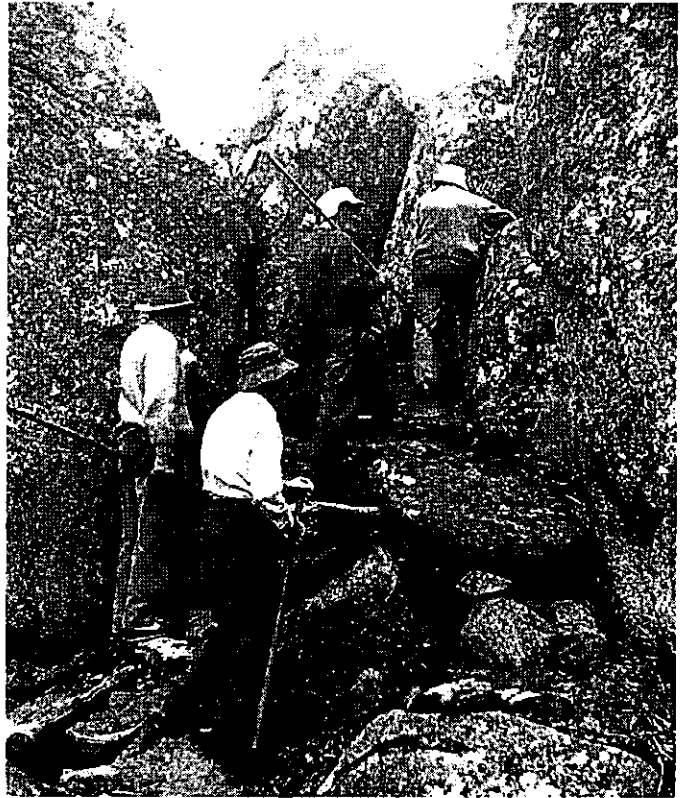
**Annual Report**  
A management plan for Ginini Flats  
Commercial input possible at Gudgenby



# Work parties over the years



*Nursery Swamp Fire Trail. Regeneration of Nursery Swamp emergency fire trail after the 1983 bushfires.*



*Yerrabi Track. Off to work on the Yerrabi Track. All tools and construction materials had to be carried in.*



*Glendale Tree Planting. The former site of the road-building depot was planted with trees grown from seed collected in the area.*



*Orroral Homestead. Replacing a corner post from the rear verandah.*



*Orroral Homestead. The first work party to restore the Orroral Homestead required the removal of hay and rubbish from the rooms.*

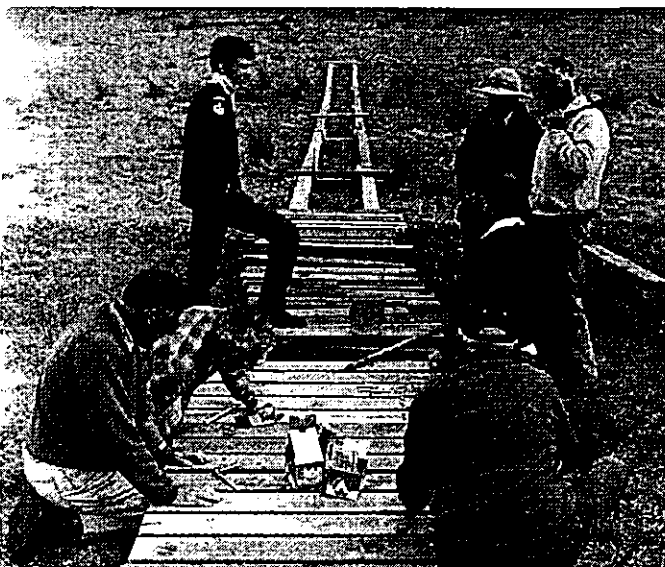




**Budawangs.** Placing stepping blocks (cheeses) in a muddy section of the track, one of several work parties in the Budawangs between the Wog Wog trackhead and Bibbenluke. Other work involved track construction, re-routing, stabilisation and maintenance.



**Briars.** Cutting and poisoning briars in Namadgi is a never-ending task.



**Orroral Track.** Building the boardwalk on the Orroral Heritage Track from the Orroral Tracking Station to the homestead.



**Boboyan Pines.** Lunchtime photo opportunity before another concerted onslaught on pine wildings (which had a high germination rate after the 1983 bushfires).



**Tennent Homestead.** Working on the Tennent Homestead woolshed.



**Alpine Track.** Building the local section of the Alpine Track, from the Namadgi National Park Visitor Centre up the slopes of Mount Tennent.



**Relaxation.** Work parties are not always exhausting.

# Minister outlines management plans

Dear Senator Mulvihill,

I refer again to your letter of 10 May 1972 concerning park management in the A.C.T., in particular to the points made to you in the letter of the National Parks Association of the A.C.T. Inc. of 8 May 1972 and incorporated in Hansard page 1472 of 9 May 1972.

In reference to management plans for the various areas the present position is as follows:

Black Mountain Reserve - a management plan for this Reserve has been completed under the guidance of the Black Mountain Advisory Committee and will be available shortly for discussion with interested groups and organisations.

Proposed Gudgenby Reserve - the broad concepts for management of this area have been formulated along the lines submitted by the National Parks Association of the A.C.T. Inc. The development of this area is dependent on acquisition of land and the availability of finance.

A management plan is being prepared for the Mount Majura and Mount Ainslie area.

A preliminary management plan has been formulated for the Jervis Bay Reserve. Additional resource survey work is being undertaken to provide more up-to-date information for management purposes.

Molonglo Gorge - the Department of the Interior has plans well advanced for the declaration of this area as a reserve under the Public Parks Ordinance.

Gibraltar Falls and other small reserved areas - consideration is being given to formal declaration of such areas.

The "Hill" or "Mountain" reserves are part of the land-use patterns within the total concept of the urban and broad-acre development about the National Capital. The ultimate use of these areas, whether for informal recreation purposes or for regeneration of natural vegetation, can only be established when development plans are more advanced and final boundaries are delineated. The characteristics of the land will determine what purposes are most appropriate on any specific area.

The Department of the Interior is preparing new legislation relative to parks and reserves. This legislation is being designed to take account of modern requirements in regard to conservation and the wise use of natural resources.

Yours sincerely,

(Ralph J. Hunt)

Senator J A Mulvihill championed NPA causes on a number of occasions in the Senate. He elicited the above letter from Ralph Hunt, Federal Minister for the Interior, responsible in the Federal Parliament for the ACT. The letter was reproduced in *NPA Bulletin* Vol 10 no 1, Sept. Oct - Nov 1972.

# Marvellous Namadgi

We had a drizzly, cold start as we walked up the Orroral valley to make camp by lunchtime which was all most of the group wanted to do after the long overnight bus trip. In the afternoon as the rain cleared, four of us walked up to what Graeme Barrow has called in his latest book, Eyrie Rock.

On the following morning we walked up to Mount McKeahnie and then after lunch took to the road and then the bridle path to Cotter Gap where we camped. From Cotter Gap we climbed up that big rock to the south. There are some good views there but the real feature is a fantastic passage-way through the rock where it has split into a precise L-shape. The line of the passageway is so straight, it looks as if it's man-made. From there we walked south along the ridge through the sometimes quite thick fire regrowth until we dropped down to Little Creamy Flats.

After lunch we climbed up on to the bluff marked GV on my map for good views (it became known to us later as Mount GV) and then south to Namadgi past the bora ground. I think the view from the top of Namadgi is just great. Although not as high as Kelly, you really are right in the centre of all that wilderness area and the weather was perfect except for a very strong westerly wind which blew for most of the trip. We returned to camp by the very easy route – Creamy Flats and along the Creamy Creek.

The following day we headed down Creamy Flats Creek through thick fire regrowth and did a side trip to Coronet Peak.

After lunch we crossed over the ridge and down towards the junction of Licking Hole Creek and Creamy Flats Creek. ... it was hard going down the steep slope but worse was the fire regrowth on the flat. At one stage we just had to take to the creek but even that was no good as the way was blocked with flood rubbish. ... Still we got to the campsite on Bimberi Creek and had enough time for a late afternoon stroll to Cotter Flats.



*Sentry Box Rock.*

The following morning we left the road about 300 metres south of the Cotter Hut for the ascent of Bimberi. It was very steep at first, then steady going and a bit scrubby on the last section before we reached the snow grass and snow gums. It was a four hour climb to the trig point to make camp. It was well worth camping on the top with a spectacular sunset that night.

Next day to Murray Gap, up Murray for lunch and then to the very nice camping spot below Mount Morgan travelling across country. After a packless early morning ascent up Morgan, we followed the road down and crossed the flat to the base of Scabby. I simply could not find the fire trail up to Scabby marked on the map, so we pushed up the ridge and finally about two thirds on the way up came onto it. It is in a dreadful condition – really it is an eroded gutter and no attempt has been made to put logs across to prevent erosion.

The views from the top of Scabby were great particularly on the southern ridge where we could see a small tarn. We then moved

through thick regrowth again along the Scabby ridge to the small tarn which had very little water in it, to camp. ... in hindsight I should have stopped at Mount Scabby.

On the along the ridge, dropping down to Sams Creek and a packless round trip to Mount Kelly and over to the mountain to its west. Sams Creek is a problem area. Too many groups going in and lighting campfires ... I have a strict policy now of no fires for groups I lead in wilderness areas. All cooking must be done by stoves.

The next day along the creek and a side trip up Mount Gudgenby where we saw the first people since leaving the Orroral valley. Then after regaining packs, along the Naas valley to camp near the yards. I had forgotten what a beautiful valley it is, but the rabbits pose enormous problems, they are in such great numbers.

On the last day after a morning walk up Sentry Box Hill ... we walked out to the waiting bus on the Boboyan road.

*Shortened letter by Stephen Johnston from Bulletin Vol 26 no 1, Mar 1989.*

# Weeds and furry ferals in Namadgi

Armed with secateurs, saws, loppers, axes and weedicide, NPA members have been on numerous work parties to assist Namadgi rangers and park staff "attack" briars, wilding pines and various other woody weeds. The volunteers have (usually) had an enjoyable day out in the park and park management has always been appreciative of our efforts.

While we have been busy cutting, pulling and spraying, parks staff and researchers have also been involved in the often difficult task of trying to eradicate feral animals. Over the years there have been *Bulletin* articles about programs to remove brumbies, dogs, foxes and pigs. The pig program was a very important item in park management and in the *Bulletin* Vol 29 no 5, Dec 1992, the then Manager at Namadgi, Brian Terrill, reported:

Feral pigs have been present in Namadgi National Park since the 1960s. Numbers remained relatively small until the early 1970s but their distribution increased until about 1980 when feral pigs could be found in most of Namadgi.

Mark and recapture programs and radio tracking programs were initiated in 1977 to gain information on movements and home range. Control programs undertaken from this time involved shooting on sight and extensive use of yard traps. These programs were conducted largely in the Cotter Valley and Gudgenby areas.

During May 1986, a cooperative exercise was carried out in Namadgi to test the effectiveness of poisoning with Warfarin as a technique for the control of feral pigs. This involved the CSIRO Division of Wildlife Ecology, Bureau of Rural Resources, NSW Department of Agriculture, Canberra College of Advanced Education and Namadgi and other ACT Parks and Conservation Service staff.

This study demonstrated that Warfarin could be effective in

reducing populations of feral pigs and in this instance the estimated reduction in the populations under study varied from 91 per cent to 100 per cent. Further cooperative research with CSIRO has indicated that the use of dogs is ineffective in controlling pigs and has also shown that May is the optimum time for a poisoning program in the southern ACT.

In 1987, the results of this research were put into practice. The traditional control methods of virtually year-round trapping and opportunistic shooting including the use of dogs were abandoned in favour of a concentrated poisoning campaign, involving virtually all Namadgi staff for a period of about two weeks. This involved several teams [covering] all areas with car and motorbike access and a team covering the inaccessible areas of Namadgi from a helicopter.

This program was very successful and was repeated in 1988, 1991 and 1992. Since 1991, these programs have been applied on a regional basis and have involved staff from Murrumbidgee River Corridor, Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, ACT Agriculture and Landcare working together with ACT Forests and local landholders.

In 1993 Peter Banks was a guest speaker at the March general meeting. He spoke on *Foxes in Namadgi* and the President of the time, Les Pyke, reported in the *Bulletin* Vol 30 no 2, June 1993, on Peter's address:

It is considered that the best solution to reduce the numbers of foxes is to reduce the birth rate rather than increase the death rate. ... a biological control is the objective of current research. It is known as immunocontraception, a process of preventing fertilisation in foxes by inducing the body's

immune system to attack the reproductive cells and prevent the normal recognition between sperm and egg.

Although that approach is the objective, it is not clear how much the fox population needs to be reduced to safeguard native fauna and allow a recovery. Peter is investigating the interaction between foxes and native fauna to assess the extent of the foxes' impact on native mammals.

Peter hopes to begin removing foxes early in April by shooting while spotlighting, using a whistle which mimics a rabbit in distress, and carcass trapping if necessary. For the remainder of this year and the first half of 1994 he will see how the populations of kangaroos and small mammals respond to fox reduction.

In 1997 pigs were back on the agenda and Ranger Craig Richardson addressed a general meeting on the topic of feral pig management. Craig's interesting address, reported in *Bulletin* Vol 34 no 1, Mar 1997, included:

Pigs first arrived in the ACT via a truck accident (so the story goes) near the southern border in 1959. They had spread to "Bobeyan" the following year. In 1964, they were seen in the Gudgenby area and in the Orroral valley in 1967. By the mid 1970s they had reached the Cotter valley.

The Namadgi park-wide control program commenced in 1987 and has been carried out annually, in May, except for 1990. The program utilises the large network of fire trails within the park to distribute bait.

The scope of the program can be gauged from figures for 1996. A total of nearly 3400 free feeds were placed. Around 1500 poison baits were taken, giving a very rough estimate of 500 pigs poisoned.

The basic objectives for the pig control program in Namadgi are to:

- monitor environmental impact caused by pigs and to support research which identifies and quantifies these impacts;
- maintain low rates of pig emigration to neighbouring properties;
- maintain low frequency of pig sightings by visitors; and
- maintain low attractiveness of Namadgi to pig hunters.

Willows have also occupied members' hearts and minds. Although NPA was not asked to have any "hands on" involvement in willow eradication, their place in the landscape created some interest for the *Bulletin*.

In September 1992 Fiona MacDonald Brand posed the question "Should willows stay or should they go?" to which Timothy Crosbie Walsh replied, in December 1992, "From a conservation point, the willow must go!"

All this prompted Babette Barber Scougall to ask in March 1993, "So how? And when? As well as why?" Babette saw the removal of the willows as a form of "ethnic cleansing" and asked "Will it stop with willows? Why not include the poplars and cypresses too, indeed everything the pioneers planted in their landscapes to make themselves feel comfortable in what must have been, to them, an alien and often hostile land?"

Members must have found the answers to all three authors' questions too hard because correspondence and articles on the matter seem to have ceased at this point. We went back to attacking the briars which didn't seem to arouse passion of any sort!

## The park as a focus for research

The proximity of Namadgi NP to the teaching institutions in Canberra (ANU, UCan, ADFA and the suite of CSIRO Divisions) has resulted in a concentration of research in the park.

Early work (1940 onwards) focused on the Brindabella Ranges and the Cotter River valley, concentrating on forestry, botany, hydrology and fire ecology research. CSIRO continues some of this early work, specifically with the fire ecology project at Piccadilly Circus, seeking long-term information (50yrs+) on the impact of different fire regimes on the ecology of snow gum woodlands.

The research projects database at the park lists over 300 projects conducted since the declaration of Gudgenby Nature Reserve (1979). Projects cover the full range of natural heritage research and more recently have included research in cultural heritage. Some projects involve long-term monitoring of changes – for example, the ANU established 90 Permanent Vegetation Monitoring Plots in the Cotter catchment to assess long-term (100yrs +) vegetation response to factors such as fire and climate change (global warming, ultra-violet B changes). The Brindabella Bird Banding Group had a study site in the Brindabellas for over 30 years, trapping and banding 10 000 individuals of 20 species of passerines. Data analysis of this research is ongoing.

An Ecosystem Dynamics Group (ANU) project started with an Honours student looking at snow gum regeneration and recruitment and led to further research (PhDs and Masters) into the photosensitivity of snow gums in freezing conditions. It also gave valuable information to assist regeneration at Boboyan pine forest; eg winter shading of seedlings significantly increases the survivability of snow gum seedlings.

Management-oriented research programs include pest species control (eg feral pigs, vipers bugloss, broom), endangered/threatened species, rehabilitation (eg Boboyan pine forest), stream health monitoring, geomorphology, biogeography and palaeoecology research and archaeological and cultural surveys and research.

National parks remain an important repository of sites for research into natural systems. Namadgi encourages research and a database of the work that has been carried out is maintained. More recently a database of long-term research projects, researchers and institutions throughout the Australian Alps national parks has been established. Access to this database is available at the park office.

**Trish Macdonald**  
Ranger  
Namadgi National Park

## The floral emblem of the ACT

In May 1982, *Wahlenbergia gloriosa* – the Royal Bluebell – was declared as the floral emblem for the ACT. The genus occurs in South America, New Zealand and Australia. The species was named in 1947 and is restricted to above about 1300m in the high montane forests and woodlands of the ACT, south eastern NSW and eastern Victoria. *W. gloriosa* can be cultivated to form a frost-hardy ground cover which will flower in Canberra October to February. It does best in a moist, light, enriched soil in either a sunny or semi-shaded position. It can be propagated by division, cuttings or seed. The Royal Bluebell is protected in the wild.



# Heritage walk leads to Yerrabi Track

The traditional route for NPA walks to the Boboyan Trig had been from the Gudgenby car park, over Hospital Creek and up the scree slope. However, Alastair and Hedda Morrison had a much easier route from the Adaminaby road and one day Reg Alder accompanied them to enjoy the extensive views of the southern peaks of Namadgi.

In the early 1980s the association had become involved in organising Heritage Week walks. A previous walk had been to Nursery Swamp and Reg suggested that Boboyan trig would show the newly declared Namadgi to the public.

A shorter route to that taken by the Morrisons was reconnoitred and accepted. This involved walking through the bush, so the route was marked with plastic tapes and members led groups of the public to the peak, where they were greeted with tea and biscuits. The walk was immensely popular, however it involved removing all of the tapes after each walk. It soon became apparent that the route should be

formalised so that the public could go at any time unescorted.

A proposal was put to the Parks Service in December 1986 for the association to construct a basic track. In February 1987 NPA members Reg Alder and Alastair Morrison led Parks Service personnel over the proposed route to demonstrate its value and beauty. Approval to construct the track was given on 10 March 1987.

A Heritage Walk was programmed again for April 1987. Reg Alder and Charles Hill determined the best route by taking a compass course from the swamp back to the road and another compass course to the trig point saddle. Work commenced with Reg Alder as project leader, assisted by Charles Hill, Alastair Morrison, Les Pyke, Bob Story, Brian Hammond and Syd Comfort.

The track meandered around trees and logs on the basic compass courses avoiding the need to remove logs or trees. The route was lined with dead logs and branches, with litter left on the ground. The only

tree removal was through a dense copse of wattle germinated from the 1983 fire. The effectiveness of not causing any soil disturbance has been demonstrated by the still virtually erosion-free track.

Cement and water were carried in to construct the steps down to the Tor. A deposit of decomposed granite was used as aggregate.

Two brochures were produced by association members, one on the track route and the other a series of nature notes. The track was officially opened by John Langmore, Federal Member for Fraser, on 14 June 1987.

George Chippendale, a former President of NPA, in a congratulatory letter said: "I believe the track to be one of the outstanding contributions the Association has made to the people of the ACT and visitors. Few people would appreciate the work of members in finding the way, clearing it without harming anything, carrying cement to the top, making stairs and making signs to identify some plants."

## An Un-named Walk

As part of my soon-to-be-announced program for getting to know the Namadgi National Park, I take the unusual step of describing a walk I'll be leading in the autumn. One of the reasons for doing so is to Currie favour with Past-President Ian in the hope that he'll go on the walk.

Reg Alder has described to me that part of the walk I haven't yet reconnoitred and I'll tell you what he saw. Yes, Neville and Maxine, Esau spider webs – spider webs wet with dew, glistening in the morning sun – and as I believe this spider, Judy and John, is a pretty good Webster where we'll be going, we're in for a visual treat, so bring your cameras everyone.

The meeting place will be the Kambah Village shops at 8.30 am. If anyone wants to go to the toilet before driving off, then Glynn and Shirley can show you where the Lewis.

Now having arrived at the starting point, Phil, we go through a Gatenby the time we've got through it, the walk will be well under way. The first section is along a fire trail, which means that Lyle won't have to Mark the track with tape, and even if Sheila goes we'll Kruse along at a fair bat. Of course Judy and John (not the Websters, they've had their turn) might suffer some Payne at, and Syd derive little Comfort from, the fact that there is a steep hill to climb. Charles will take that Hill in his stride. But Norma won't take it on at any Price, while Jack is Smart enough not to either. Professors are all alike!

Unfortunately the walk won't feature any large rivers or creeks, so there'll be no point in John taking a Hook or line. (Another John who always Banks on there being plenty of trees about will be able to indulge his interest however.) But to get back to fishing: according to Les

there are no Pyke(s) in the waters around the ACT. They (the waters) are too cold for him! (If I keep this up there'll be no Pyke on the walk either.) Denise, also, I am sure, will find the waters too cold for dis-Robin for swimmin'.

The lunch-time spot will be in the open, so I hope Arno is not troubled by the Wynd. Bob, if he is back from overseas, should enjoy the Bird life.

I should have mentioned earlier that last year, at his request, Reg and I swapped walks – he led one of mine, and I one of his. I assure readers there will be no such Alderation in leadership for this walk.

To conclude, I would like to point out that the success or at least the enjoyment of this walk will be determined by the weather – the clemency of the weather.

*Shortened version of article by Frank Clements in Vol 22 no3, 1985*

# Interpretation at Namadgi

Gudgenby Nature Reserve was declared in 1979 after approximately 20 years of community group proposals and departmental investigations. The reserve incorporated pastoral valleys and rugged ranges in the southern portion of the Australian Capital Territory. A small visitor centre was built just inside the reserve some 50 kilometres south of central Canberra.

In 1984 Namadgi National Park was declared incorporating the Gudgenby Nature Reserve and much of the Cotter River catchment.

Namadgi, Kosciusko National Park and the Victorian alpine parks come under the Australian Alps National Parks Memorandum of Understanding, a cooperative management agreement signed by State, Territory and Commonwealth Ministers in 1986.

## The problem

The transition from Gudgenby Nature Reserve to Namadgi National Park was accompanied by an increased interpretive effort at the site-specific level, especially the establishment of walking tracks. There was also an increase in ranger-guided interpretive activities. However, it soon became clear that the printed materials and the visitor centre were inadequate for the new park.

Whereas access to Gudgenby Nature Reserve was from the south side of Canberra, the much larger Namadgi National Park could be reached by exiting Canberra on its western side as well. The location of the visitor centre no longer made sense.

Similarly, the Gudgenby Nature Reserve brochure went out of date and was replaced by three A4 handouts designed as temporary measures.

In 1986 a management plan for Namadgi was released with an accompanying community information campaign. This was perhaps the first community-wide media exposure for Namadgi.

## The solution

In 1989, park management saw the inevitable increase in park visitation as an opportunity to interpret the park in such a way as to set appropriate visitor expectations and standards of behaviour.

Firstly, a colourful map and guide to Namadgi National Park was produced. The text covers natural and cultural topics and brings together the park rules and regulations in a way that emphasises minimum impact techniques.

Early in 1989 construction was commenced on the new Namadgi National Park visitor centre located just south of Tharwa village. The new building is many times larger than the old and includes large display areas and a 66 seat theatre as well as office space. The location is as central as possible to all the park access roads, is "on the beaten track" as far as the standard ACT tourist drive is concerned, and is only 8 kilometres from the edge of the urban area.

Two briefs covering interpretation were put out to tender in May 1989 – one relating to the design of displays and the other to the production of an audiovisual. The briefs identified aims including orientation to Namadgi and the southern ACT in general, and environmental education. The chief objective for the audiovisual was to inspire viewers to visit the park.

One hallmark of the major projects for 1989 has been the commitment on the part of management to involve staff at ranger level. A large amount of staff time has been allocated to the preparation of text and map specifications for the map and guide to the development of briefs and storylines, and liaison with contractors for the visitor centre projects.

## Evaluation

In a situation such as faces Namadgi, a "keep quiet" approach could only invite all the management problems associated

with visitors who are unaware of rules, regulations and appropriate behaviour. To get these things across in an informative and enjoyable (even inspirational!) way, and to be able to do it in advance of large-scale visitation, is a golden opportunity to establish a high standard of care for the park for years to come.

**Joss Haiblen**  
Ranger

Namadgi National Park

*(This is a shortened version of the article reprinted in NPA Bulletin Vol 27 no 1 Mar 1990 after first publication in the Australian Ranger Bulletin.)*

## Congratulations

Dear Dr Frawley

Thank you for the copy of resolutions from the Conference of Australia's Alpine Areas: Management for Conservation held late last year.

I understand that this was a very successful conference and I note the resolutions arising from it.

The support shown for the proposed Australian Alps National Parks Agreement is appreciated and I assure you that this matter will be pursued in conjunction with the other parties to the proposed Agreement.

It is the intention of my Government to achieve the passage through Parliament of the legislation necessary to establish the Alpine National Park in Victoria.

In regard to the third resolution of your conference, I am pleased to say that planning for the existing alpine parks and adjacent areas has commenced with the planning team for this project being recruited at the present time. Also, steps are being taken to appoint up to six additional rangers for the alpine area.

I congratulate your association on holding such a valuable conference.

**Joan E. Kirner**

Victorian Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands  
*(From Bulletin Vol 23 no 4, June 1986)*

# The protection of Black Mountain

The future appearance and use of this prominent mountain within the city of Canberra was of great concern to the NPA in the 1960s and 1970s. The association formed a Black Mountain sub-committee to lobby for a reserve over all of Black Mountain. The committee reported in the *Bulletin* Vol 7 no 5, April-May 1970:

As suggested by Mr. Nixon, Minister for the Interior, a meeting was arranged with representatives of the Dept. of the Interior, the National Capital Development Commission and members of our sub-committee. This was held on 12th March.

The Minister had stated in a letter that the need for a further road in the area was definite, but that it had not yet been sited; when the road was sited he would be in a position to declare a reserve. We [NPA] had expected to learn the reasons for the necessity for this road, the Tuggeranong Freeway, to impinge on the area which could be Black Mountain Reserve. We were, in fact, asked where this road could be placed. As far as can be determined at present, this freeway may reduce the possible area of the Reserve by 20%.

The basic attitude presented to us was that the area of the Reserve cannot be decided until all development has taken place. We regard this as the exact opposite of a conservation outlook. The official representatives also stated that it was unrealistic to have natural bushland in the heart of a city.

There has been nine years of correspondence by the Association on this matter, with much development taking place on Black Mountain in that time. We feel that it is urgent that individual members of the Association express their views by letters to the Press, the Department and the Minister. We have written to the Minister suggesting a meeting with him on

the proposed Reserve where we can point out the threats to the Reserve. Service organisations have been contacted and we hope that local groups will support our views.

Then in late 1970 another threat arose as reported in the *Bulletin* Vol 8 no 3, Dec 1970-Jan 1971:

Members will be deeply concerned at the proposal for the installation of a major TV complex (with restaurant!) for the PMG Dept. on top of Black Mountain. No doubt you will have followed the publicity in the Press with interest and been heartened by the support given by the general public to the opposition to the tower.

Now that Black Mountain, after ten years, has been created a nature reserve, it is most gratifying that Canberra people appreciate its value as a natural reserve in the city environment and are prepared to oppose the despoliation of its naturalness.

Your committee has lodged the Association's objection to the tower with the Minister for the Interior and has given support to Senator Mulvihill's suggestion for a public hearing. Any pressure, public or private, which members can bring to bear against the construction of this tower on Black Mountain will be of considerable value.

In the *Bulletin* Vol 9 no 2, Dec 1971-Jan 72, President George Chippendale wrote:

As NPA members will know, this Association has been active for about ten years to achieve the declaration of Black Mountain as a reserve. At present it is declared a Park, and is administered in an understanding way by the Dept. of the Interior. Indeed since its declaration as a Park, we have had excellent cooperation with the Department.

In June of this year, our Association sent a letter to Mr. Hunt, Minister for the Interior, asking if there was to be a tower on Black Mountain, and if so,

what type of tower. We also asked if some opportunity would be given for a public forum at which views might be expressed on this matter.

By March 1973 NPA, under the leadership of President Bill Watson, was appealing to the Federal Minister for the Environment and Conservation to:

completely reappraise the need for the proposed PMG Tower on Black Mountain, its siting and style. We make this request because our Association is especially concerned with the protection of natural areas within the ACT. As you know the tower will be built in the middle of a Natural Reserve...I emphasise that our 300 members oppose the tower...The ecological problems were aired during the Public Works hearings...A structure of this sort, if permitted,...will create a precedent and it will be much harder to resist further claims for other buildings on hilltop sites...Technological developments could alter the need for a tower." *Bulletin* Vol 10 no 3, Mar Apr May 1973.

A citizens' Committee to Save Black Mountain was formed and a public meeting held on the lawn outside Parliament House on 29 May 1973. This meeting did cause the Caucus to discuss the matter again but no decision was made before the Parliament went into winter recess.

As it was rumoured that the Standing Parliamentary Committee on Works would let the contract for the tower during the recess, the Committee of Citizens to Save Black Mountain decided to take the matter to the Supreme Court of the ACT. The matter was heard before Justice Fox at first and then later before Mr Justice Smithers. Julie Henry appeared before the Senate Committee on Works to place NPA's arguments and the association donated \$100 to the Save Black Mountain committee.

Work began on the Black Mountain site as the court case



dragged on and finally, as can be seen now, the tower was built despite huge public displeasure.

Rod Panter wrote in the *Bulletin* Vol 11 no 3, Mar Apr May 1974:

In retrospect, the ensuing court case brought by fourteen citizens against the Government was extremely worthwhile, not only because the case was the first of its kind in Australia, but because new aspects of the project were brought to light.

## The rewards of walking

What I have put into my outdoor activities has been more than repaid by what I have got back in return over forty years – the good and bad experiences, the successful and unsuccessful forays against government, the pleasure of countless walking trips, but above all the friendships made with the “outdoor people” – they are a very special breed. *Julie Henry*

As a leader of NPA walks and camps I hope I have contributed to members' enjoyment and mental well-being (bruises, scratches, bites and blisters notwithstanding!) *Charles Hill*

...a word about leeches, those creatures which are likely to become attached to walkers in wet bush. They were used for bloodletting in some medical conditions in the past and sometimes the rear end was removed so that they functioned longer as a pump since they did not fill up and drop off. Ugh!



## When members get out and about

NPA members have always had the local area as their main conservation focus, but they are also keen national parks visitors both within Australia and overseas. Members have reported their wanderings and observations in various editions of the *Bulletin*.

Some excursions were undertaken with other groups; Shirley Lewis wrote about the experiences of eight members who visited the Grampians in Victoria with the Society for Growing Native Plants. She wrote “whichever area we visited it was like an extensive flower garden.” They saw the Grampians in many moods and such was the variety of native flowers all around them that it didn't seem to matter that they walked “to the top of Mount William in thick mist and fog unable to get any view”.

Sarah Abercrombie had more success with the view when she and her father climbed New Zealand's Mount Egmont in 1986. Sarah could see “too much” as she climbed down into the crater with only a little orange daypack and wearing sneakers. Another party there at the same time had it all – crampons, ice axes, boots, gloves and hats!

Charles Hill was an inveterate traveller and supplied many articles, with Audrey Hill as photographer. They gave detailed accounts of the parks they visited, including the walks and conservation issues. Areas they visited and wrote about include Girraween, Blackdown Tablelands and Kakadu. At Kakadu they rolled out of the sleeping bags very early to watch the sunrise – so early in fact that there was just “sufficient light to see the negotiable ledges and handholds” on the route to the lookout. “The sun and clouds did not combine to make spectacular sky colours that morning. However, any faint disappointment evaporated as the strengthening light revealed a rock spire about two hundred metres away and standing on one foot on the very top was a large, beautiful jabiru – surely kinglike as it surveyed its domain.”

Many members travelled abroad to experience different surrounds and

other cultures. They have left their footprints in the Himalayas, North and South America, Europe, etc.

Den Robin wrote of her pleasure at seeing a snow leopard in the 4700-metre high valley of Chunkung in Nepal. Den's Sherpas quickly gave chase as it was also the first time most of the Nepalese in the party had seen the animal. The media were waiting in Kathmandu where their account was met with some scepticism. In fact they were asked more than once “And did you see any yetis?”

Judith Webster really appreciated an outing to Dubbo Falls, writing “the falls were great! ... Slanting sunlight, fine flying spray, rainbows and glistening rocks combined to create a marvellous spectacle” reminding Judy of experiences on the Milford Track.

In 1983 Adrienne Nicholson joined the confronting “No Dams” campaign in South West Tasmania. This well-orchestrated campaign eventually proved successful.

1989 was a time when conservationists were being jailed in south eastern New South Wales for protesting about the logging in Coolangubra and Tantawangalo State Forests. Fiona Brand, Shirley Lewis and Reg Alder went to the South-East Forest Alliance camp to see what was going on. Fiona wrote that they were very impressed with the sincerity and commitment of the mainly young protestors. Several people turned up just to have a look but became activists almost immediately – they fell under the spell of the beauty of the area, or they were shocked seeing the devastation in areas that had been clear-felled. One of the photos accompanying Fiona's article shows the 42 unsuspecting bushwalkers who went for a stroll in a section of the Coolangubra Forest and ended up in police vans because the area was out of bounds to all but loggers.

In the 1990s, members backpacked in national parks all over Australia. In fact, more and more members walked in national parks world wide.

# The restoration of Orroral Homestead

The settlement history of the Orroral valley goes back to between 1826 and 1830 when a squatter, William Herbert, staked a claim in the Orroral valley. The property passed through various owners until about 1849 when it was acquired by Charles McKeahnie.

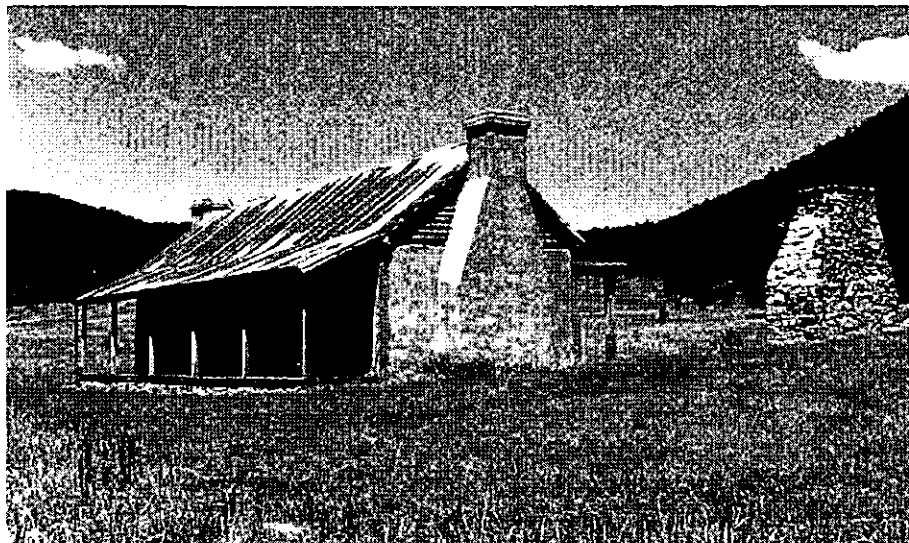
Charles and Elizabeth McKeahnie's son, Archibald, married Mary McMillan in 1864 and the birth of their first child was recorded in 1865. Other children were born at Orroral in 1867, 1873 and 1877. It could be assumed that they needed a substantial building and oral history is that the present building was constructed over 10 years.

The homestead consists of four rooms, the end ones each having a fireplace. On the river side a wooden-floored covered verandah extends the full length. The rear wall, which has a novel suspension system, is protected by a narrow verandah. At the rear of the present structure up to recent times was the kitchen building of the same length. It was the practice to isolate, because of fire, kitchen buildings from the residential unit. At the rear of this building on the slope above there was a schoolhouse and to the west of it a storeroom. All that remains of the kitchen is the stone chimney and for all of the other buildings there are only a few stones and post holes to mark their outlines.

The homestead was occupied until 1950 when a home was built nearby; from then on it deteriorated through being used to store hay and lack of attention to drainage.

Upon the declaration of the Gudgenby Nature Reserve in 1979, the management plan identified the Orroral homestead as being worthy of preservation. At an NPA Committee meeting in June 1981 the availability of Heritage Grants was discussed and as a long-term project, President Ross Carlton suggested an application be made for a grant and he would accept the role of coordinator.

Following representations to the Parks Service a fence was erected around the building and posts



*The restored Orroral Homestead in 1996.*

installed to prevent the front verandah sagging any further.

A grant of \$2800 was received on 22 July 1982 on the basis that work carried out would be in accordance with the principles of the Burra Charter. In addition, a conservation plan had to be prepared, a consultant architect nominated and, before any work could be progressed, approval had to be given by the ACT Heritage Committee.

Peter Corkery, principal lecturer in architecture at the Canberra College of Advanced Education, undertook the task of determining the significance of the structure, documenting its construction features and formulating a policy for future management. NPA researched the history of the site and published a record in the *NPA Bulletin* Vol 20 no 4, June 1983.

Work parties commenced in late 1982 and continued until early 1984; clearing the building to allow access for measurement, carrying out temporary repairs, building a drainage trench and assisting the archaeological survey.

A further grant of \$5620 was received in December 1983. During 1984, 1985 and 1986 several letters were sent by the NPA to the department and the Heritage Commission expressing concern about delays which were allowing the building to deteriorate, almost beyond the point where it could be reasonably saved.

In August 1986 the Orroral valley homestead was nominated by the National Trust for registration by the Australian Heritage Commission. This was accepted on 18 April 1989. At the same time the NPA was informed that the architect Peter Freeman and Partners had been employed to prepare a stabilisation plan. In January 1990 advice was received that money from National Estate Grants could be used on the project. An NPA work party was organised to assist with the removal of flooring and to work on drainage problems.

In September 1991, an article in the *NPA Bulletin* drew attention to *A Decade of Neglect*, during which no substantial work had been done to stabilise or restore the building. This notification of delays was timely for publicity at a symposium on *The Cultural Heritage of the Australian Alps* in October 1991. The Kosciusko Huts Association also expressed concern and noted that the chimneys were in imminent danger of collapse. Part of the kitchen chimney did fall out before it could be stabilised.

At a meeting with the Heritage Unit in October 1991 it was agreed that remains of the Heritage Grants could be used to employ a stonemason to rebuild the chimneys. Volunteers from the NPA and the Kosciusko Huts Association assisted the stonemason in his work.

During December 1991 and January 1992, park employees, contract tradesmen and NPA volunteers worked on the main fabric of the building to clear out underfloor rabbit warrens, to replace posts, wall plates and flooring and to carry out surface draining work. The collapsed kitchen structure was removed and the area cleared. The exterior and interior chimney walls were

rendered with cement and plaster and the end timbers of the western wall gable were replaced.

In 1992, because of vandalism, the 1950s homestead was demolished to the level of the underfloor brickwork.

It was not until April 1997 that work on the homestead was finally declared completed by the ACT Minister for Conservation and Land Planning, Gary Humphries. A set of photographs prepared by NPA for

the day has been retained in the Namadgi Visitor Centre.

The final task required to be completed was a drainage trench with an impervious membrane, to be dug around the higher side and ends of the building to divert ground water away from the foundations.

With this done, hopefully the Orroral Homestead will stand for another hundred years.

## Orroral grazing leases added to Gudgenby

In the *Bulletin* Vol 21 no 4, June 1984 Neville Esau was able to write:

The Minister for Territories and Local Government, Mr Uren, announced a number of additions to the Gudgenby Nature Reserve last December and among these were the grazing leases of the Orroral Valley.

The NPA has been lobbying successive ministers for over five years on this issue. All the major upland valleys in the Reserve, Orroral, Gudgenby and Naas have been used for grazing since the nineteenth century with changes to the natural ecosystems reflecting this use. It is important for the integrity of the Reserve as a conservation area that all these areas be incorporated into the Reserve and be allowed to regenerate to natural conditions. This would add to the diversity of the ecosystems represented and thus become more representative of the systems typical of this area. Of the other valleys mentioned, Gudgenby is still used for grazing, although the Minister's announcement said that this too would be added to the Reserve. When and how this will occur is as yet unclear. Naas Valley still contains freehold land. Mr Uren said that this would be progressively acquired; not a very reassuring statement as successive ministers have been making similar statements since 1968, and to date only a small portion of the freehold land within the then planned boundaries has been subsequently acquired.

The NPA will continue to lobby on this point as indeed on many other issues affecting the Reserve. I appeal to members to write to Mr Uren expressing their concern

at the continued use of leasehold and freehold land within the Reserve for grazing and that this land be restored to the Reserve as soon as possible.

## For the Forty-Five Souls at Ravine (an accounting perhaps!)

We went to Ravine, in October;  
And few of us had been, before.  
We brought in our tents and our tucker  
And prepared for a time of rapport.  
Andy escorted us, bringing our wood,  
Then we camped on the banks of the stream.  
Music was everywhere – birdsong of course;  
This place was truly a dream.  
They'd ruins and mines and good water,  
Some gardens with lilacs and leeks,  
And poplars, willows, cherries and mints,  
But not many fish in the creeks!  
Seven members set off in the morning  
To climb up to Milk Shanty Falls.  
The rest took a stroll over meadow and mound,  
To look at the mud-slabbed Pub walls.  
We came to the fire at evening,  
Had popcorn, plate after plate,  
And marshmallows, muffins and gluhwein  
Made by Ingrid and Tony (or Karin and Ian – her mate).  
Some "pastic spossoms" called in too  
While the gluhwein was casting its spell –  
The rain sprinkled down on the brollies  
But the singing went ... fairly well!  
We came up the track through the showers,  
Hoping that no-one would stall ...  
Thanks to Ian and Jean and the rest of the team,  
A great time was had by us all.  
P.S. Later, Audrey wanted to know  
"Whose tent was that, over the bridge?"  
She found out then (with some surprise)  
But long after we'd climbed the Ridge!!!  
"Twas a privy forsooth" – set under the skies  
Unbeknown to Audrey and in Disguise.

Joan Hegarty, *Bulletin* Vol 21 no 2, Dec 1983.

# Input to Canberra Nature Park plan

Canberra Nature Park (CNP) now comprises 25 sections totalling 6000 hectares, covering most of the undeveloped hills and ridges close to urban Canberra and some important remnant grasslands. Any plan of management for the park must take account of the diversity of the park and of a wide range of views about its role and function.

During 1988 and 1989 the Parks Service initiated the plan of management process by raising public awareness of the park, surveying public attitudes and inviting community involvement in development of the plan. Nearly 600 submissions were received, including one from the NPA which emphasised the need to give the park proper legislative protection and to ensure that the plan would protect its landscape, bushland, rural and recreational values rather than permit it to become another urban park.

During the early 90s development of the plan of management was held back because more fundamental issues were being pursued. These were the development of the Territory Plan, the enactment of the *Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991* and the report of the Commonwealth Joint Parliamentary Committee on the National Capital on the national capital's open spaces. The Land Act set up categories of public land and provided a place for the CNP within this legislation whilst the committee report reinforced the importance of natural values in the open spaces by concluding that "the ecological values of the National Capital Open Space System are the principal reason for its existence".\* During this time the boundaries of existing CNP units were substantially settled and new areas incorporated, notably, grasslands in Gungahlin.

1996 saw the release of a draft management plan for CNP which proposed the following vision for the park:

"A series of diverse nature reserves throughout urban Canberra to conserve native flora, fauna and habitat, and to provide opportunities

for appreciation, recreation, education and research in accordance with protecting the natural and cultural heritage, and landscape values of the area."

The plan adopted a zoning system to identify management strategies in keeping with area management objectives, and addressed management issues on a function-by-function basis.

Early in 1997 the NPA collaborated with the Conservation Council in developing a 50-page response to the draft management plan. The submission recognised the important part the management plan should play in the conservation of an area which represents the nearest natural reserve for the majority of the ACT's residents and argued that the plan should more strongly reflect the priority that the conservation of the natural environment has over other uses of the park. Specific area management plans were proposed which would provide, within overall strategies, clear guidelines for the management of each unit in the park.

Two issues came to prominence at this time: horse riding in CNP and cycling in the park. Supporters of these sports sought greater access to the park, the equestrians seeking greater use of Mount Painter, Pinnacle and Aranda Bushland areas and the cyclists looking for sites for mountain bikes, particularly in view of approaching national championships.

In late 1997 the Parks Service issued a report on the consultation process and published a revision of the plan titled the *Final Draft Management Plan*. This maintained the pattern of the original draft but introduced some significant changes including giving precedence to conservation processes in the management objectives and extending the areas in Aranda Bushland available for horse riding.

Meanwhile the ACT Administrative Appeals Tribunal had before it an action involving access to Aranda Bushland by horse riders. This case was heard in early 1998, the tribunal suggesting that horse riders should

wait until the proper processes associated with the final draft plan of management for the CNP had been complied with. It also saw merit in the collection of base-line environmental data for the area so that any future environmental impact could be measured.

In 1998 the final draft management plan was considered by the Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Urban Services, its report being released in September 1998. Again, the NPA joined with the Conservation Council and proposed that implementation plans be incorporated into the management plan, that horse access to the park be limited, that park user education be reinforced by on-ground enforcement and that a mountain bike track be established outside the park.

The Standing Committee in its report generally supported the final draft but made a number of specific recommendations including that the area available to horses be limited, that an independent environmental audit of the management of CNP take place on a three-yearly basis and that expert advice on the whole issue of horse riding in CNP be sought. Subsequently, Dr Jill Landsberg undertook such a study which recommended further restriction of horse activity in the reserve. In the light of this advice and of the findings of the Standing Committee, the Parks Service amended the final draft and in this form, the management plan has gone forward to the Minister.

At the time of writing (early December 1999), the plan had not been brought to the Assembly so that it cannot be expected to be in place before about April 2000. The development of the plan has been a real test of stamina for those who recognise its significance. Let's hope the outcome appropriately rewards that persistence.

*Our Bush Capital. Protecting and Managing the National Capital's Open Spaces.* Report of the Joint Committee on the National Capital, Canberra 1992.

# Bush regeneration at Boboyan

Syd Comfort (*Bulletin*, September 1990) wrote: "The Boboyan pine plantation lies ... within the Namadgi National Park ... south from the foot of Yankee Hat ... Generally the pines have not grown well and the condition of the plantation has been further depressed by a bushfire which burned out about a quarter of the plantation in 1983.

"The forest is an intrusion into the national park, it degrades the natural values, and is particularly detrimental to views across the slopes below Mount Gudgenby. NPA has ... pressed for the clearing of the pines and revegetation by natural species."

In June 1995, NPA's Project Officer, Nicki Taws, wrote: "[We welcome] the ACT Government's decision to remove the Boboyan pine plantation [allowing] rehabilitation of the area to a condition appropriate to its location within Namadgi National Park." Nicki listed the issues involved in removal of the pines, rehabilitation and the need for "monitoring and maintenance of the site ... for a number of years". Nicki pointed out that "the location of the plantation beside the Old Boboyan Road, with ready access to the wilderness area and its close proximity to the Yankee Hat rock shelter, adds to the potential of the rehabilitated area to act as a focal point for visitor use."

In June 1996, the *Bulletin* printed President Eleanor Stodart's letter to Ms Dianne Garrood (Business Manager for the ACT Parks and Conservation Service) regarding the department's *Recommendations for Rehabilitation of Boboyan Pines*, seeking a more definite program for the progress of events in the whole project. Eleanor was able to say: "We appreciate the way you have consulted with the NPA on this project and other issues of mutual interest which have recently arisen. I hope that we will continue to have an opportunity to contribute in this way towards our joint goals of improving the ACT environment."

And contribute we (NPA) have, under Eleanor's leadership.



*NPA's President, Clive Hurlstone, planting a tree among burnt pine logs in the restoration area.*

Removal of the pines began in the summer of 1996-97 and in the March 1997 *Bulletin* Robin Miller (convenor Namadgi Sub-committee) reported "... a contractor will ... be working during the first half of 1997 to collect more seeds of native species for later distribution in the area. Nearly 150kg of seeds, mainly *Eucalyptus pauciflora* and *Eucalyptus rubida* have already been collected. ... Ann Connolly is in charge of the project and [welcomes] offers of volunteer groups to assist with the revegetation."

Eleanor reported in the September 1998 *Bulletin*: "Felling of the Boboyan pine plantation is on hold till markets improve, but rehabilitation of the area already felled is now under way, thanks to groups of volunteers. ... in June and July interested people formed

the Gudgenby Bush Regeneration Group with the aim to assist with rehabilitation of the Boboyan pine area as recommended in the management plan of Namadgi National Park." Eleanor Stodart is President of the group. During June the slash on the ground after tree felling was successfully burnt, leaving an ash bed. Eleanor continued: "The first work parties of the Gudgenby Bush Regeneration Group were held on 11 and 12 July (1998) when weather was favourable. ... Thirty-three people attended on Saturday and more on Sunday. About half of Saturday's group were involved in sowing seed into prepared ground. For broadcasting, the seed was mixed with sand. ... The project has a strong element of pragmatism as planning has to be fitted in with the ranger's normal duties."

The work parties continued in 1999, with a committed group of NPA members joining in. Some germinated stock from Yarralumla Nursery has been planted and The Society for Growing Australian Plants has offered to continue the work.

Ranger Steve Welch has been appointed to be in charge of the project during the summer months of 1999-2000.

## Dragon emblem recommended

In response to a request from the government, the environment sub-committee looked at possible nominations for faunal emblems for the ACT. At their recommendation, the [NPA] committee has nominated the southern striped earless dragon, which ... is a little charmer, and the gang gang cockatoo. Although seemingly a small thing to do, such a nomination can be an important aid for the protection of endangered species. We await the result of the nominations with interest.

*Eleanor Stodart in her President's Foreword in Bulletin Vol 33 no 2, 1996.*

# Controversy over Gudgenby goes on

In the NPA's original proposal for "A National Park for the National Capital", the area advocated included only the unalienated land around Mount Kelly and excluded the freehold land in the valleys. In 1979, the Gudgenby Nature Reserve was declared and the Gudgenby property as freehold was excluded from the reserve. Upon acquisition by the Government, the owner W. Bootes was allowed to continue occupancy of the homestead and to graze cattle under a lease agreement. Lease periods were shortened over time until 1989 when they were cancelled and the cattle withdrawn.

The future of the Gudgenby property raised considerable controversy within the association and in the pages of the *Bulletin*. The campaign for the cancellation of leases and the removal of cattle was carried out in conjunction with that for the removal of cattle from the Orroral valley. In the March 1982 NPA *Bulletin*, the President in his foreword drew attention to the extent of the grazing leases remaining in the reserve after its declaration in 1979. This was in spite of the stated intention of the department to acquire them progressively as leases expired and as finance permitted. None of these intentions had been realised.

The failure to adhere to the original intentions had serious implications for the future of the reserve especially since the valleys within the reserve had been subjected to intensive grazing for over 100 years, natural woodland removed and the areas sown with introduced grasses. Apart from affecting the integrity of the reserve as a natural area, pastoral land management with the spread of exotic weeds and grasses, the run-off into the streams of pesticides and fertilisers all could have a serious effect in the boundary areas.

There was disagreement among some members to the President's foreword and opinions were advanced that there could be no good reason why all pastoral activity should cease in the reserve. Some



*The 1962 Gudgenby Homestead.*

pastoral activity could continue, it was argued, without detriment to the reserve, with the Bootes family continuing to make their home there for as long as they liked. As events unfolded, the lack of immediate action allowed the Bootes family to retain an interest in the property until 1989.

Opinions were advanced that removal of the cattle would cause the area to revert to coarse scrub and allow weeds to proliferate. Since the withdrawal of the cattle, the kangaroo population has expanded rapidly to the extent that the natural regeneration of trees and scrub has been impeded by their numbers. The grass is being kept closely cropped.

In 1983 when a major fire engulfed most of the south-western and southern section of the reserve, the Gudgenby property was spared because of the sparse grass cover caused by drought conditions and cattle grazing. Representations to

the Minister to cancel leases were unsuccessful although a case was fully documented.

The future of the Gudgenby property (which had been managed by the same family for 50 years), and suggestions for its use, were discussed with the ACT Conservation and Agriculture Branch in 1983. These suggestions included:

- allowing the property to return to its broad valley type vegetation to provide a buffer zone to the nearby wilderness area;
- continuing rural use whilst remaining viable;
- promotion as a type of model farm as an educational resource;
- development by private enterprise;
- use as a subsidiary management centre for the reserve; and
- use as a site for a field study centre/visitor centre with possible government-built and managed cabins for accommodation.

In 1984 the Orroral valley lease was added to the reserve and Namadgi National Park was declared. The future of the Gudgenby property was still unclear although the Minister said, as had many before him, the remaining properties would be progressively resumed. The grazing of the cattle ceased in 1989.

A draft management plan for Namadgi National Park was circulated for comment in 1985. A study was carried out by consultants on the future of the Gudgenby station. NPA made no objection to any extension of the lease (if necessary) until informed decisions could be made, but any lease extensions which were granted were to require the lessee to act in the interests of park policy.

The saga shifts to 1990 when the consultant Scenic Spectrums report was released to the NPA. This 189-page report recommended a mixture of open paddocks and revegetation

with native species. It assessed the significance of the cultural and natural qualities of Gudgenby which included the natural history, Aboriginal prehistory and surviving sites, European settlement and history of the reservation.

Even though the Gudgenby Station was part of the Namadgi National Park, which is listed on the National Estate for its natural heritage values, it cannot be said that the highly-altered station automatically exhibits a similar degree of natural heritage significance. The European artefacts at Gudgenby were rated "high" on four of the seven National Estate criteria, its significance depending on the station being accepted as an uncommon example of a montane valley grazing station. The significance is to a lesser degree dependent on the reconstruction of the 1850 homestead.

The third option of the report on the Gudgenby Station was

recommended, ie the option for maintenance of open paddocks near the station and around the 1885 settlement clearings, replacement of the pine plantation with native plants; accommodation of staff or voluntary groups in the 1964 homestead; retention of the Hudson ready-cut home, cattle yards, fences and period power lines for interpretation; and reconstruction of the 1850 homestead.

The report concluded: "It would be in the best interest of Australian heritage for the various management and conservation proponents to come together in the spirit of cooperation and national pride to achieve a practical and appropriate solution."

In 1999 decisions still have to be made as to the future of the Gudgenby Homestead.

*Based on Bulletin articles by K Frawley, A Morrison, N Esau, D Robin, F Brand and R Green.*

## Glendale restoration project

As part of the International Year of the Tree (1982), NPA, under the guidance of Charles Hill, resolved to plant some native trees in the Gudgenby Nature Reserve, "to give some practical help to the large task of looking after national parks and reserves."

The chosen site just north of the then information centre had been used for storage of road making equipment, was heavily compacted and certainly needed rehabilitation. Charles estimated that the site would take 300-400 trees and he suggested that NPA should nurture about 500 seedlings to allow for accidents. It was decided to plant snow gum, black sallee, apple box and candle bark as they grew in similar situations and that "2 or 3 kurrajongs would be tried to add variety".

Rather than purchase seedling trees, the Committee of the day decided to gather local seed, and grow them in small batches spread around "volunteer minders" so that there would be flexibility for planting out when conditions were favourable.

As it turned out 468 seedlings were planted out, including the three kurrajongs. Landscape architect Rob Wilson, who was impressed with the potential of the site, produced a design for the plantings which had breaks in the tree cover so that views of the river valley and the hills with rocky outcrops would be possible. "A lightly timbered area for children to play with balls etc was included."

The task of transferring the plan from paper to the site was undertaken by surveyor member Brian Hammond. Charles and Brian placed coloured pegs on the site to mark the planting positions and the colour coding enabled the accurate identification of each and every plant.

Forty-five members turned up for the first work party and they planted 350 trees. At the next session 18 volunteers managed to plant the remainder.

Charles foreshadowed that periodically the Outings Program would include a Saturday for weeding and other maintenance. "With a picnic lunch by the river and

time to walk around and admire the scenery, such a day should prove pleasant," Charles wrote.

Surveys were taken regularly and in 1988 Charles wrote the "the survey team were pleasantly surprised by the results". He produced some very detailed tables showing both tree growth and losses - after five years the cumulative loss had been 47.5 per cent. Not all losses were due to unfavourable weather - kangaroos had done some nibbling, the park mower/slasher had accounted for a few and vehicle bumper bars were obvious culprits. A resident wombat had also buried some trees under the spoil from its burrow!

When Charles was interviewed by Judith Simondson she asked him what he felt that he had contributed to NPA.

Charles's reply included the following: "The tree planting project comes to mind. It was a large team effort and I hope my role as organiser and leader helped the effort of the team to achieve something worthwhile."

# A long association with Kosciusko

Volume 1 no1 of the *Bulletin*, published in April-May 1963, records the beginning of the association's relationship with Kosciusko National Park (KNP) – a relationship and concern that continues to the present day. That early *Bulletin* records the efforts of Nancy Burbidge to lobby the NSW Minister for Lands to stop "the spoliation of the Primitive Area by the Snowy Mountains Hydroelectricity Authority". In the August-September *Bulletin* of the same year Julie Henry wrote about a meeting with the Park Superintendent, Neville Gare. This meeting, which included representatives "from Canberra outdoor clubs" inspected the new visitor reception area, and discussed a draft plan for the controlled development of Kosciusko State Park (KSP). In a back-to-the-future comment Julie wrote: "The tardiness of the Trust in developing a formal plan and making it available for public information is to be very much regretted, and those present expressed this point of view." Also on the agenda was the question of maintenance of existing huts.

One of NPA's earliest guest speakers was Thistle Harris, whom the *Bulletin* describes as the "noted writer of books dealing with Australian wildflowers". In her talk she praised the superintendent and rangers of KSP and their effort to preserve the area while allowing visitors to see it to its best advantage.

The continuing tradition of outings in the Kosciusko area began at this time too. Fortunately today's outings convenors do not feel obliged to add riders to their outings descriptions like the one to Cooleman Plains in February 1963 which stated: "Yarrangobilly is 80 miles from Canberra over rough road and very steep hills so that cars *must* be in first class mechanical order."

In 1972 the association wrote to the NSW Minister for Lands strongly opposing resumption of grazing in KNP. The association was pleased to receive the Minister's reply part of which read "... the association's support in this matter is appreciated and you may rest assured that there is no current intention to reintroduce grazing within the national park".

1974 saw the Snowy Mountains Authority under fire again. A photograph and article by Brian Lee showed the dangers associated with carrying out engineering works in natural bushland. Headed *SAFE BET BUT* ... the article gave details of the effects of burst concrete pipes near Geehi Dam. Brian was pleased to report that the pipes were to be lined with stainless steel.

The following years saw continued concern, lobbying and action. A few of the many activities that involved NPA included:

**1975** Controlled burning around Kosciusko

**1979** Perisher Valley planning study

**1980** Revision of KNP's plan of management including fire management

Participation in a seminar at the Canberra College of Advanced Education on *The Conservation Status of Kosciusko National Park*

**1982** Brumbies and pigs in the Tom Groggin area

Management of the Cooleman Plains area

**1983** The formation of a KNP Sub-committee comprising Tony Bayes, Babette Scougall, Penny Hebbard and Neville Esau

Den Robin and Ross Carlton attended a 5-day workshop on the future of Coolamine Homestead

**1985** NPA's Silver Jubilee Conference: held at the Huxley Lecture Theatre, ANU, 30 Nov-1 Dec, focused on a cooperative approach to the management of the alpine zone of south-eastern Australia. The conference title was

*Australia's Alpine Areas: Management and Conservation*. Kevin Frawley and Den Robin presented papers. The conference was well attended with 106 registrants and 18 invited speakers. NPA members proposed several of the resolutions adopted by the conference. Kevin Frawley edited the papers for publication.

**1987** Decision by the Committee to oppose cloud seeding in KNP and associated work areas

Endorsement by the Committee, in principle, of a proposal by the Australian National Parks Council to seek World Heritage nomination for the Australian Alpine Area

**1988** NPA submission on the impact of an international ski run at Thredbo

A detailed submission by the association on the Thredbo Village Master Plan concluding with a statement that the plan should not be approved

Over the years the *Bulletin* has featured many book reviews on publications concerning KNP and no doubt members' libraries reflect this interest too.

A *Bulletin* article in 1990 asked members "to keep an eye open for problems or potential problems in [Kosciusko] ... for example, weed infestation, feral pig damage, erosion and unusual flora and fauna sightings", so that the Environment Sub-committee's relevant submissions would be more informed.

The *Ski 2000* proposal, its amendments and the subsequent proposed developments at Perisher Village, is one focus for the association at present.

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*Kosciusko State Park became Kosciusko National Park in 1967 with the passage of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1967.*

*The former spelling of Kosciusko has been changed officially to Kosciuszko. Both versions occur in this supplement.*



# The Murrumbidgee River Corridor



*Seeking specimens of the wingless grasshopper Keyacris scurra near Kambah Pool. The grasshopper exists only in "islands" of relatively undisturbed grassland and grassy woodland, some important areas of which are in the Murrumbidgee River Corridor.*

The Murrumbidgee River flows through the ACT for 66km, from its entry at Angle Crossing to a point 3km north of Uriarra Crossing where it re-enters New South Wales. The landscapes along the river valley include spectacular rocky gorges, rolling rural plains and thickly wooded hills.

Most Canberrans are familiar with some components of the river corridor. Surveys have shown that on a typical summer Sunday, up to 1000 people are attracted to the recreational areas on the river. The most popular sites are Pine Island and the Cotter-Casuarina Sand areas. The recreation demand can be expected to increase, particularly in areas adjacent to Tuggeranong with its increasing population.

From the late 70s, the NPA showed concern about the conservation status of the Murrumbidgee River in the ACT. In July 1981 the association prepared a submission for an inquiry on the river, conducted by the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the ACT. The submission called for the declaration of the Murrumbidgee River Corridor, its legal protection as a nature reserve and a halt to further urban development in Tuggeranong and the west Murrumbidgee area. NPA representatives elaborated on these proposals at a Joint Committee

hearing in November 1982.

Towards the end of 1983 the NCDC called for comments on its draft policy and development plan for the Murrumbidgee Corridor. The NPA, with the Molonglo Chapter of the Australian Conservation Foundation, convened a symposium (25 February 1984) funded by a grant received from the Community Development Fund.

About 80 people attended. Key speakers included local politicians and representatives of government departments, the CCAE and the conservation movement. The symposium provided a wealth of information on the natural and cultural values of the Murrumbidgee River and the threats to it, plus an outline of the NCDC's plans.

A subsequent NPA submission stressed that the Murrumbidgee River is first and foremost a natural asset both as a habitat for several species of migratory birds, fish, fauna and flora, and for its scenic qualities.

Fish species include Murray cod and golden, silver and Macquarie perch. The last is listed as an Australian endangered species. Ninety-three bird species have been recorded in the corridor, 23 of which are particularly associated with the riverine environment. The autumn

migration of honeyeaters is one of the most dramatic wildlife displays in the region, with estimates of up to 10 000 birds an hour passing a given point.

Important remnants of natural vegetation exist in pockets along the corridor including riparian stands of the river oak and manna gum. Four rare, threatened or endangered plant species are also present: *Discaria pubescens*, *Drabastrum alpestre*, *Pomaderris pallida* and *Thesium australe*.

Cultural associations with prehistory and present history of the ACT region include inconspicuous scatters of Aboriginal stone artefacts and developed European precincts such as Lanyon, the Paddy's River mines, the De Salis cemetery, William Farrer's laboratory and the Tuggeranong stone wall.

The Murrumbidgee Corridor, based on the boundaries shown in the draft policy plan, was listed on the National Estate in 1985. The same year the Lanyon-Lambrigg area was declared a Landscape Conservation Reserve. In 1986 preparation of a management plan commenced aiming to provide a clear statement of management programs designed to achieve these objectives.

The Murrumbidgee River Corridor is a most valued conservation area within the ACT, second only to Namadgi National Park.

*Based on Bulletin articles by Den Robin and Greg Hayes*

## Tax deductible

The Minister for Home Affairs and Environment has advised "that as part of the 1982/93 Budget, the Government has decided to allow donations to [NPA] to be claimed as tax deductions ...

"The Government is aware of the valuable work being carried out by your organisation in the promotion of national parks and reserves and the conservation of flora, fauna and natural resources."

*In Bulletin Vol 20 no 2, 1982*

# NPA's ongoing interest in Jervis Bay

Although the ACT is an inland territory, the NPA has always had an interest in that small piece of coastal territory, Jervis Bay, which was also once administered by the Department of the Interior as Commonwealth land.

In 1966 and 1967 the NPA President, Jim Webb, led outings to Jervis Bay.

## February:

Date: Weekend outing - 4th-5th February, 1967

Place: Jervis Bay area

Leader: Mr. J. Webb (phone 43661)

Meeting Place: 9 a.m. at the Riverhaven Motel, Nowra, located near bridge over Shoalhaven River, OR 9.45 a.m. at Turnoff to Jervis Bay from Pacific Highway.

Feature: To investigate the area, noting the flora and fauna (especially the birds) looking for despoliation of bushland and seashore. For motel booking, contact the leader. Several camping grounds available either near motel or at Jervis Bay.

*NPA Bulletin* Vol 4 no 3, Dec 1966-Jan 1967

Members have continued to visit this area and to take an interest in its administration.

J H Hill wrote the following article concerning the proposed Jervis Bay Atomic Power Station, in the *Bulletin* Vol 7 no 6, Jun-Jul 1970:

As everyone knows, the Government is rushing ahead with the plan to establish a nuclear power station at Jervis Bay. This is a step of vast significance to Australia, yet there has been little publicity and virtually no public discussion of the wisdom of the move. There is no doubt that nuclear radiation itself has *enormous potential for destruction*, even when it is used with peaceful intention. What assurance does the public have that the introduction of nuclear power to Australia is not a gigantic mistake. There have been mistakes which have caused great harm in the past, but no decision has the same potential for harm as the introduction of nuclear power. The Australian Atomic Energy Commission is restricting all but favourable publicity regarding the establishment of the reactor, as though the members of the

Commission were the only people with sufficient wisdom to make the decision. I suggest that the members of the commission are emotionally committed to the concept of nuclear power and so unable to make a calm and rational decision. I also suggest that they are aware that if certain facts regarding the potential of nuclear power stations for destruction were made public there would be strong resistance to the proposal, and that this is the main reason for the secrecy, not national security as is contended. As official sources of information are *not available one is forced to turn to other sources* and one which I suggest every member should consult is a book just published called *Perils of the Peaceful Atom* by Richard Curtis and Elizabeth Hogan and published by Victor Gollanz Ltd. this year. If only a few of the dangers described and well documented in this book are correct they would justify great caution before joining the fashionable rush into nuclear power. I therefore suggest that a subcommittee be formed to investigate the matter and to arouse public awareness.

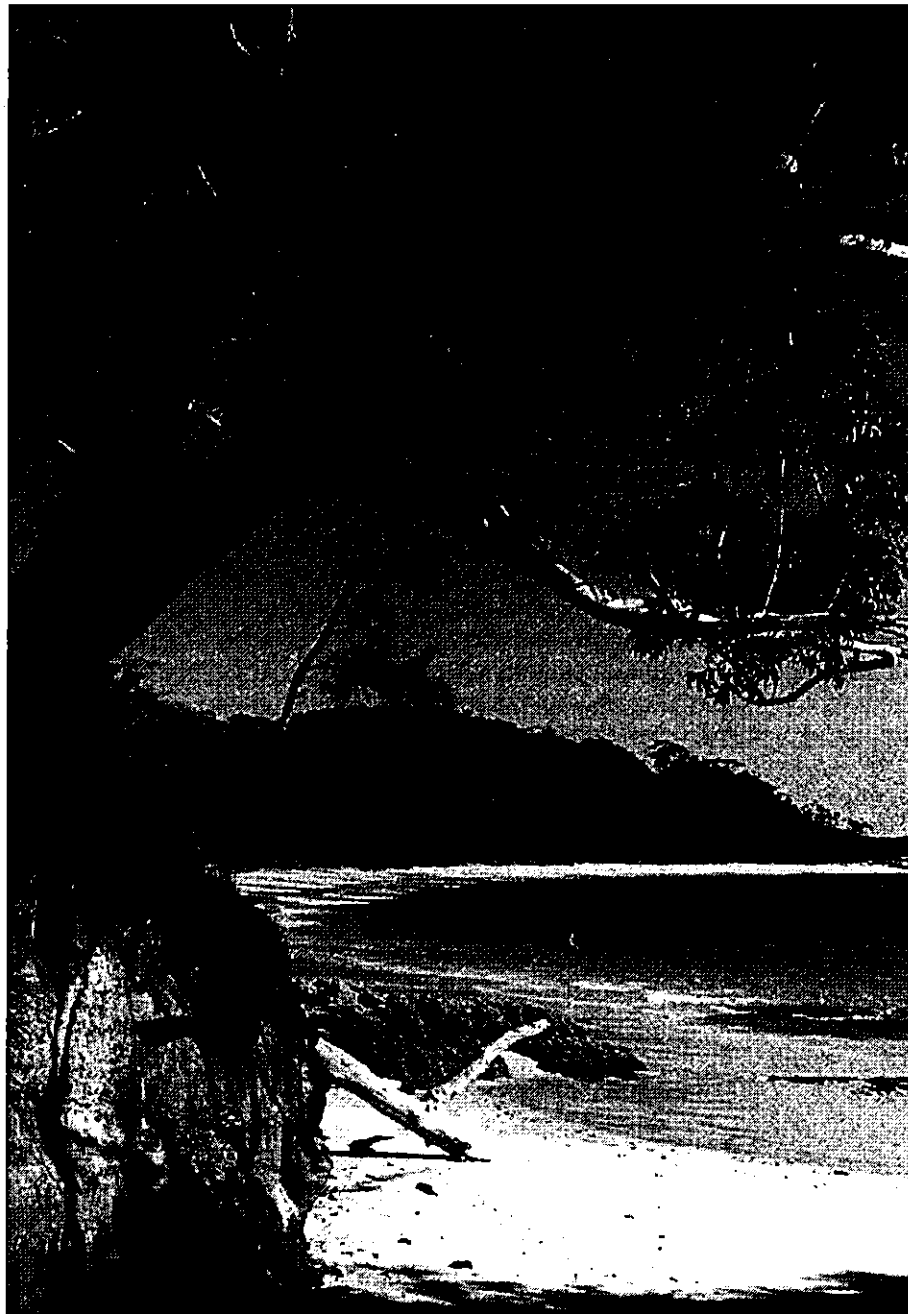
Fortunately, after the Atomic Energy Commission had dug a huge hole behind Murrays Beach, it was found that an atomic power station was *not economically viable*, and so that huge disturbed area became a car park! Sadly, the power station was not stopped for environmental reasons!

In 1972 the *Bulletin* reported a fire control policy for Jervis Bay, to protect all the man-made areas and the 10 670-acre nature reserve.

Volume 24, no 1 (September, 1986) *Bulletin* had several articles about Jervis Bay. A *Brief History*, by Neville Esau, featured the presence of the naval establishments since 1915, the *National Botanic Gardens Annexe* in 1951, logging in 1954 and the area planted with pines in 1969. Also mentioned were the declaration of the nature reserve in 1971, the court challenge by the lessees on Bowen Island to prevent the island becoming part of the nature reserve and the continued use of Beecroft Peninsula as a naval gunnery range. Kevin Frawley wrote an article about *The Natural Values of Jervis Bay* and Phillip Ford wrote about *The Navy in Jervis Bay*. The latter highlighted proposed plans to move the navy armaments depot, fleet port and other facilities to Jervis Bay. He concludes by saying: "The conservation values of the area have been long known and recognised by incorporation in the National Heritage Register. Inputs by NPA of the ACT could be influential in determining the outcome."

The *Parkwatch* column of the *Bulletin* Vol 26 no 2, Jun 1989 reported:

The Jervis Bay Protection Committee has suggested the entire Bay and associated waters should be declared a marine reserve, zoned for different degrees of protection. Publicly owned land listed by the Heritage Commission, and private land between Wowly Gully, Lake Wollumboola, Warrain Beach and Carama Inlet, should be declared national park, except for areas of aboriginal land claims.



*Murrays Beach at Jervis Bay.*

Further, the March 1990 *Bulletin's Parkwatch* reported the association's support for a national park and marine reserve. In December 1991 Den Robin wrote in our *Bulletin: Jervis Bay – one third won!* Den continued to keep NPA aware of issues and reported in 1992, *Bulletin* Vol 29 no 3:

While the campaign continues for the declaration of stages two and three of Jervis Bay National Park, much activity is going into establishing an appropriate management regime over the area so far secured.

The Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service, responsible

for the portion declared in April, is now drafting the management plan. It is considering 60 submissions, about half from community groups and half from individuals.

NPA's Jervis Bay Working Group has had several meetings this year with officers of ANPWS and has been satisfied that the Service is considering, in a sympathetic way, all the major issues.

Happily, Den Robin reported in the *Bulletin* Vol 35 no 2, June 1998 that:

Jervis Bay Marine Park was gazetted on 2 January this year,

realising a long-held ambition of the NPA ACT. With the waters around the Solitary Islands near Coffs Harbour, it became one of the first two marine parks in New South Wales.

The marine park includes the waters of Jervis Bay and its tidal tributaries and a narrow offshore band stretching from Kinghorn Point reef in the north to Sussex Inlet in the south. Wreck Bay is included.

The new park aims to protect rich marine life, including some of the largest seagrass beds on the east coast of Australia, some 231 species of marine algae (seaweed), many sea birds, the endangered grey nurse shark, a colony of fur seals, a resident pod of bottlenose dolphins, a large colony of little penguins that breed on Bowen Island, many fish species, and, often late in spring, visiting whales resting on their return journey to Antarctic waters.

## Woodchips

By channels of coolness the  
 echoes are calling,  
 And down the dim gorges I  
 hear the trees falling.  
 The scream of the saws with  
 their groaning is blending  
 – The valleys fling back the  
 tearing and rending.  
 They come! With a roar –  
 and the great metal claw  
 Tears at the moss, and the  
 saged forest floor –  
 The earth shudders softly,  
 and mutely bows down  
 As they tear at her heart,  
 and strip off her gown.  
 Behind, in the stillness, a  
 sobbing is heard –  
 Soft is their weeping – so  
 hushed is their crying –  
 The Bellbirds! The Bellbirds!  
 The Bellbirds are dying.

Val Osborn, *Bulletin* Vol  
 12 no 2,  
 Dec Jan Feb 1974–75

# NPA outings offer lots of variety

*Bulletin* Vol 5 no 2, Oct–Nov 1967

**November.**

**Date:** An extra outing - 12th November, 1967.

**Place:** Westbourne Woods (Now Royal Canberra Golf Course)

Meet at the main gate at 10 a.m.

**Feature:** Mr. Hamilton of the Forestry School will show us this beautiful Arboretum which formerly belonged to the Forestry School and was a public park. It was handed over, despite great public opposition, to a private club in the early 60's. This outing is not without danger - 'watch for flying balls.'

Lunch at the lakeside - fireplaces and tapwater.



*Namadgi. Morning snow on a pack walk to Namadgi stone arrangements in 1985.*



*Fishing. Time to relax on a car camp in 1990.*



*Black Mountain. An annual event on the NPA outings calendar is a wildflower identification wander on Black Mountain in spring.*

*Bulletin* Vol 15 no 1, Sep Oct–Nov 1977

**13th, Sunday**

**Mt Aggie:** Walk Ref: A.C.T. 1:100,000

Beginning at the Bendora Hut this walk will follow a fire trail up the Cotter Valley towards Mt Aggie. The length of the walk could be suited to the mood of the party. The full distance to Mt Aggie and return is approx. 16 km. This walk should provide excellent opportunities to study the flora and fauna of the Cotter Valley at close range.

**Walking:** easy

**Distance:** up to 16 km total.

Meet at Piccadilly Circus at 9.30 a.m.

**Leader:** Hela Lindemann 864926



*Christmas party. NPA rounds off each year with its Christmas party in a bush setting.*

*Bulletin* Vol 25 no 1, Sep 1987  
8 November - Sunday Dual  
Walk (C/B)

Hardy Range, Cotter Hill,  
Pipeline Road

Ref: Cotter Dam, Tidbinbilla  
1:25 000

Leaders: Charles Hill 95 8924,  
Shirley Lewis 95 2720

Meet at the corner of Cotter Road  
and Eucumbene Drive at 0830. More  
demanding and varied walk is up  
and along Hardy Range, descending  
steeply over Cotter Hill. Mostly off  
tracks with tangled scrub at times.  
15 km walk, main climb of  
200 metres with ups and downs on  
the Range. Less demanding walk is  
along Pipeline Road to the foot of  
Cotter Hill. 14 km walk with ups  
and downs, steepish at times. Both  
walks return along Pipeline Road  
with good views and wild flowers.  
35 km drive.



*Back packing. A 1986 weekend pack walk to Folly Point in the Budawangs.*

*Bulletin* Vol 34 no 3, Sep 1997

2 November Sunday daywalk 2A

Brandy Flat and beyond Ref: Michelago 1:25 000

Leader: Col McAlister Phone: 6288 4171

Meet at Kambah Village Shops at 8.30am. A pleasant walk on fire trails  
from Gudgenby back to Glendale with lunch at Brandy Flat hut. Fine views  
of both the Booth and Billy Ranges. An initial descent followed by a steep  
climb, but thereafter easy walking. Suitable for beginners. Small car shuffle  
involved. 90kms, \$18 per car.

8-9 November weekend packwalk 2A/D/E

Southern Namadgi Peaks Ref: Yaouk 1:25 000

Leader: Mick Kelly Phone: 6341 2330

The walk starts from Old Boboyan Road carpark through pines to Gudgenby  
Saddle, where we will take a sidetrip (climb!) to Mt Gudgenby summit.  
From the saddle we will head on into the Naas catchment, and set up camp  
on Sheep Station Creek. Sunday we will climb Sentry Box, and return to  
cars via Old Boboyan Road and Hospital Creek hut. Walk is mainly on tracks  
and trails, but will involve some challenges. Total distance is about 23kms,  
and there are steep climbs (without packs) of up to 600m. Suitable for fit  
beginners. Contact leader by 29 October. 100kms, \$20 per car.



*Yass cemetery. A history outing to  
Yass cemetery.*



*Crossing the Naas. One of six river crossings on a  
pack walk to Oldfield's Hut.*



*Starting Young. Camping in national parks can begin  
at any age.*

# The NPA role in the next 40 years

*Where to next? When NPA began 40 years ago the ACT had no land protected in reserves. Today over half the ACT is in Namadgi National Park and other reserves. NPA is still needed however – as much as when it began.*

Unfortunately, ensuring the reserved lands continue to be protected is not something we can take for granted. Their value for tourism is two-edged, they can indeed be used to bring tourists to the ACT and to encourage longer stays, but if looked at too simplistically as money-spinners the very values that attract tourists will be destroyed. As well, localised threats such as mountain bike race tracks on Black Mountain and John Dedman Drive on O'Connor Ridge, unchecked, could soon see the degradation or loss of much parkland.

Environment ACT has adopted a practice of having generalised management plans of reserved areas, with more detailed implementation plans produced each year. NPA has spent considerable effort writing submissions on management plans in the last few years and will continue to do so into the future. Namadgi National Park's Management Plan was adopted in 1986 and although good in general terms is completely out-of-date in many specific areas. It urgently needs updating. The possibility of inclusion of Aboriginal people in the process has some very good potential but at the moment is resulting in lack of progress. As well, the implementation plans will need annual appraisal to ensure the detail of conservation work is sustained.

Many areas outside the reserves contain natural values worthy of conservation. Although some might be added to reserves, most will need other methods of protection. Many of these areas are on private leasehold, land administered by ACT Forests and land administered by the Commonwealth Government. NPA has spent considerable effort in the past year working to improve the system of Property Management Agreements for private leasehold, and is now working on a project looking at the values on ACT Forests land. Both projects will need attention for some time into the future. Commonwealth Government land is being protected by

memoranda of understanding between it and the ACT Government.

In modern democracies, governments are short term and they only look at long-term goals where there is strong community support. NPA provides an important channel for support for conservation of natural areas. It has demonstrated its ability to work towards a goal over many years, the many individual members are able to look much further forward than are governments.

Increasingly also, less security and continuity of position makes it more difficult for public servants to have a long-term view, and governments often respond better to advice from community organisations, which represent votes, than from their own officials. NPA members can stand back and look at problems in a way that hard-pressed officials are unable to do. NPA also has community memory.

Increasingly governments are valuing their activities in monetary terms alone, but the best things in life cannot be measured in monetary terms. How can you measure the value to ordinary citizens of a walk through their local section of Canberra Nature Park, of the delight in the orchids in Aranda Bushland, of just driving home with tree-clad hills all around, or of knowing they can escape for a few hours (or a weekend) into the peace of Namadgi? Even when longer-term goals can be measured shorter-term gains often take preference.

A government which can find millions to develop a motor race that is noise and chemical polluting and a profligate consumer of fossil fuels, needs to balance its budget by maintaining areas to refresh the air and the human spirit. The community will continue to be the richer for having organisations like NPA prepared to work alongside, but separate from, governments to ensure that the needs of future generations are considered.

# "Eyes or No Eyes"

## EYES OR NO EYES NO. 32

Australian Blackthorn (*Bursaria spinosa*) is a common shrub of our woodland and dry forest areas. It blooms in late summer and sometimes a few flowers can be seen even during the early winter months. The creamy white flowers have a spicy-honey scent but this is more attractive to the beetles which pollinate them than it is to human noses.



The brown seed capsules become dry and rattle when the branches are shaken. Apart from these rattling sounds the bushes are easily recognised by the sharp spines along the branches. These spines are referred to in the Latin name "spinosa".

If you look closely you will find that each spine is really a very short branch because each has one or two small leaves near the base and each develops in the axil of a leaf on the main stem.

N.T.B.

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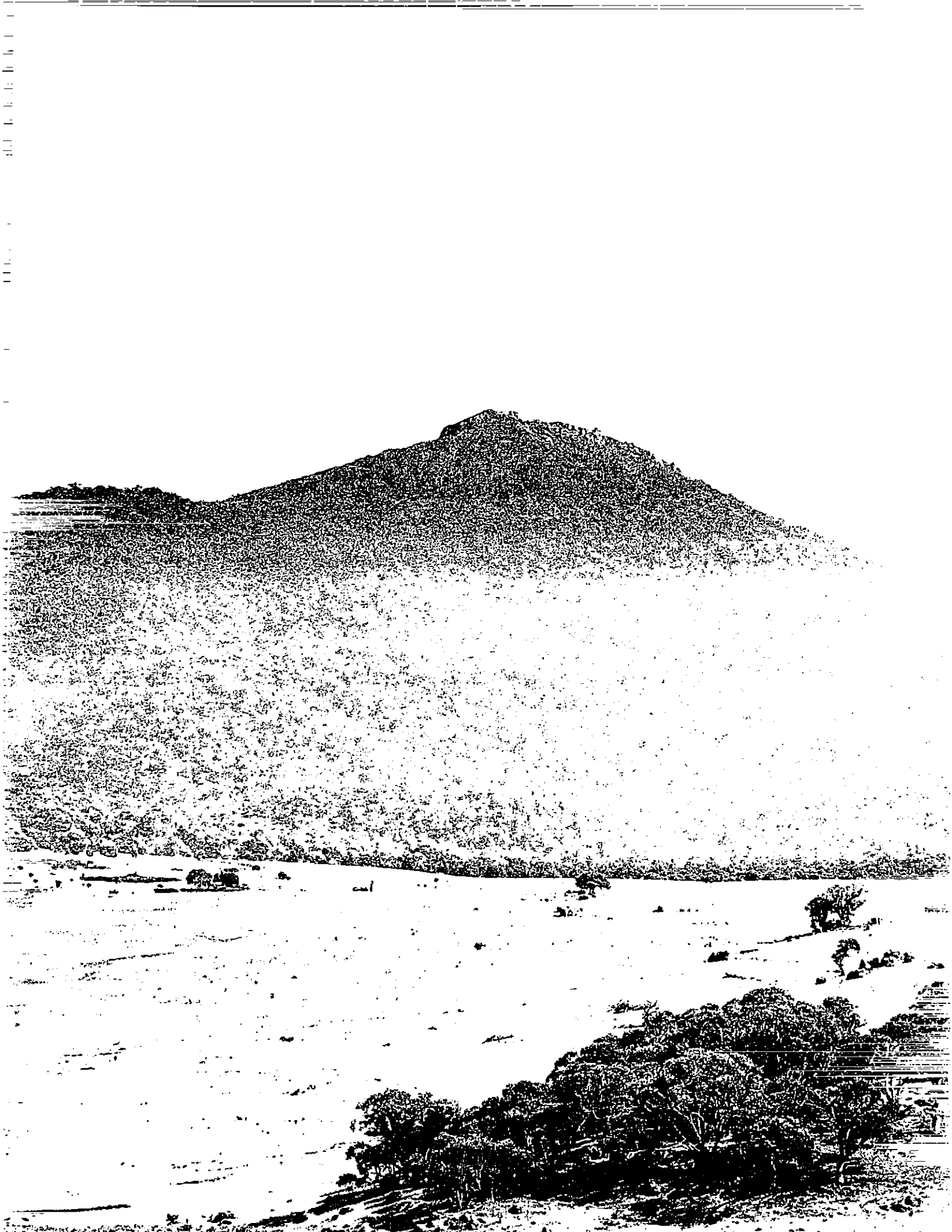
National Parks Ass. of the A.C.T. Bulletin June-July, 1969

In the very first *NPA Bulletin* Vol 1 no 1, Apr-May 1963, Nancy Burbidge wrote:

Some people can go into the bush and see nothing, others find every rare flower there is. It is a case of "Eyes" or "No Eyes." Nearly everyone starts as a "No Eyes" but if they are interested they can learn enough to join the "Eyes".

Between 1963 and 1971 Nancy Burbidge contributed a series of 40 of these articles aimed at encouraging people to look carefully at the things around them. The drawings and associated texts drew attention to characteristics, both similarities and differences, relevant to the identification of many interesting plants found in and around the ACT.

Between 1975 and 1978, Helen Hewson-Freund produced a series of eight articles, again combining sketches with information, describing the characteristics of some types of plants (eg mistletoes).



*Two mountains in Namadgi National Park – one with an Aboriginal name and the other European. This photograph of the Gudgenby Valley, shows (front cover) Mount Namadgi, whose summit is the site of significant Aboriginal stone arrangements, and (back cover) Mount Burbidge, named in honour of Dr Nancy Burbidge, a foundation member of the NPA and a prime mover in the long campaign that led to the establishment of the park. Photo by Reg Alder.*