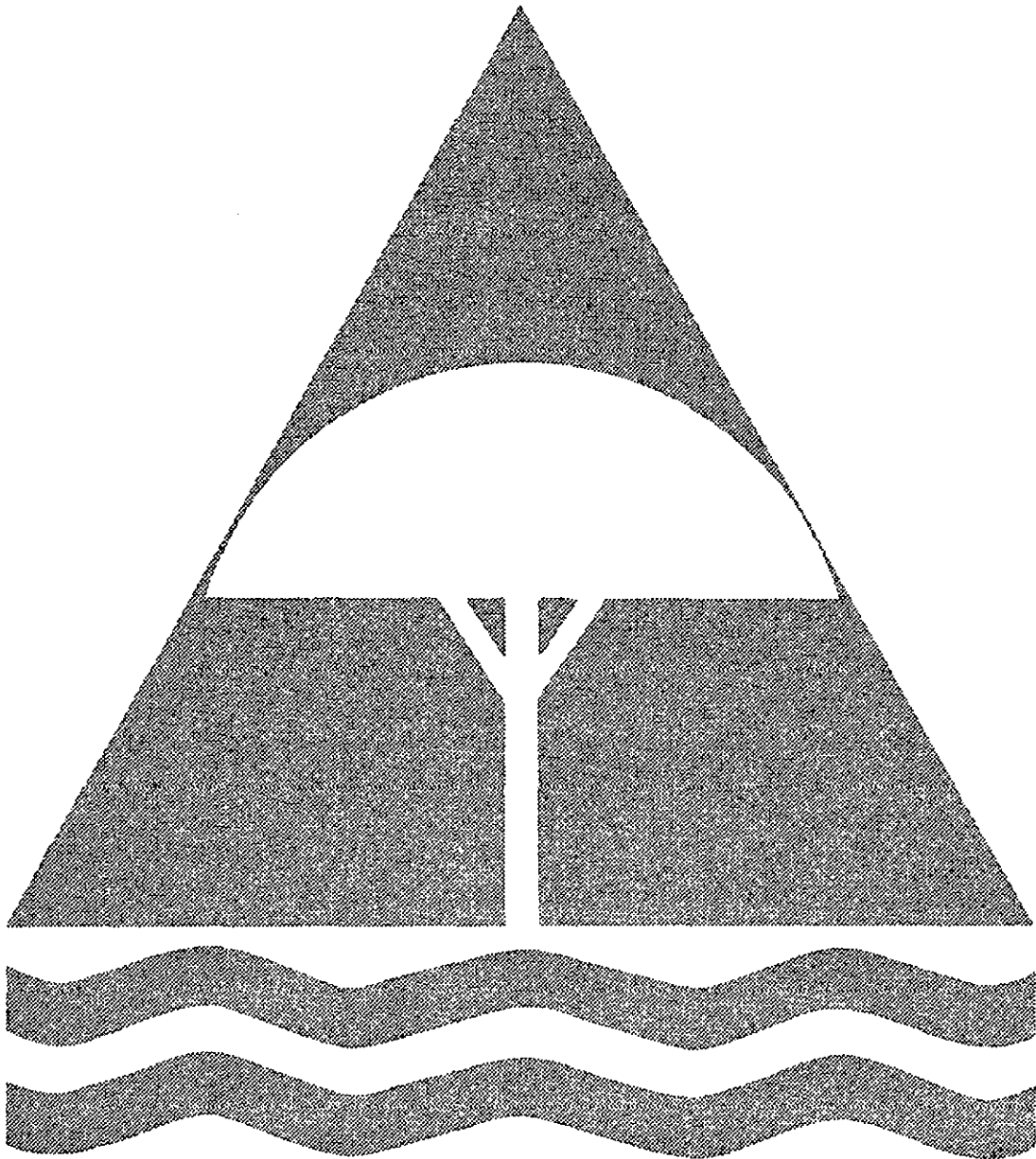


NPA Bulletin

National Parks Association of the A.C.T. Inc.



Registered in Australia for transmission by post as a periodical Category B
September October November 1975

30c
Vol. 13. No. 1.

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

"A National Park for the National Capital"

President: Ian Currie, 10 Arnhem Place, Red Hill. 958112 (H); 958107 (W)
Vice President: Brian Lee, 16 Becke Place, Garran. 813340 (H); 484470 (W)
Past President: Bill Watson, 61 Glasgow Street, Hughes. 816601 (H).
Secretary: Sheila Kruse, 50/C Currong Flats, Braddon. 486104 (H)
Asst. Secretary: Fiona Brand, 11 Dyson Street, Lyneham. 479538 (H)
Treasurer: Mike Hardware, 52 Gouger Street, Torrens. 861915 (H)
Publicity Officer: Esther Hardware, 52 Gouger Street, Torrens. 861915 (H)
Editor: Bruce Ward, 52 Carroll Street, Hughes. 492033 (W)
Assistant Editors: Norman and Jenny Morrison, 102 Launceston St., Lyons.
Outings Convener: Andrew Fordham 479784 (H); 818400 (W)
Committee Members: John Banks, Andrew Fordham, Darryl Hawke,
Charles Hill, Ralf Ianuzzi, John Schunke.

All correspondence to Box 457 P.O., Canberra City, 2601.

National Parks Association Phone Number - 956947.

Subscription Rates: Family - \$6.00 Corporate - \$5.00
Single - \$4.00 Student - \$2.00

Subscriptions fall due on 1 July.

AIMS AND OBJECTS OF THE ASSOCIATION

- Promotion of National Parks and of measures for the protection of fauna and flora, scenery and natural features 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 by organized field outings, meetings or any other means.
- Co-operation with organizations and persons having similar interests and objectives.
- Promotion of and education for natural conservation and the planning of land-use to achieve conservation.

EDITOR'S NOTE

It will not surprise anyone that inflation and rising prices affect N.P.A. finances, in particular the cost of producing the Bulletin. At a recent Committee meeting it was recommended that the cost of the Bulletin should be reduced and this opinion was endorsed at the Annual General Meeting. However, it was also made clear that members did not want any drop in the standard of the Bulletin. In fact members wanted more space to be given to several subjects. In this issue we have expanded Conservation Corner and future issues will also deal with current topics of interest to conservationists. Helen Hewson-Freund has kindly agreed to produce a new series of drawings of flora and we are most grateful to her. I would like to acknowledge our debt to Nancy Burbidge whose wonderful drawings have both educated us and given us a renewed awareness of our surroundings.

In an attempt both to cut costs and to maintain the standard of the Bulletin, we have decided on some 'Do-it-yourself' by typing and collating the Bulletin ourselves. Pat Lewis has generously consented to do the typing for this issue and the Bulletin Sub-committee will hold one of its gatherings to collate, staple and parcel the Bulletin. This issue will also be produced by a different printer. It is hoped that these measures will almost halve the cost of the Bulletin. For the present the Bulletin will be printed by an offset lithographic process, but a survey currently being carried out will allow us to decide whether duplicating or a photographic process is more suitable for our purposes. By then the Bulletin will be in the capable hands of Norman and Jenny Morrison and I wish them the best of luck in their new job. Jane and I will be sad to be leaving Canberra and the good company of N.P.A. members but we will have many happy memories of our time here.

If you feel that space should be given to a subject not currently covered, please communicate this to the Committee. Better still, send us a contribution and we will publish it if at all possible. Constructive suggestions and comments are always welcome. After all, the Bulletin is one of the major avenues through which we present the news and views of our Association.

Bruce Ward

FLINDERS RANGES TRIP

Due to lack of available time, the Flinders Trip has had to be cancelled for this year. However, it is planned to organise the trip for next year and members will again have the opportunity to see the magic of the Flinders Ranges including Wilpena Pound and Arkaroola.

If you are interested, please let Ian Currie know as soon as possible (958107 at work or 958112 at home).

A BANK OF NPA DISPLAY MATERIAL

From time to time N.P.A. members have organised pictorial displays for particular functions, for example, the Conservation Workshop held last April. With a permanent Sub-committee and a budget allocated from the National Estate Grant, it has been decided to establish a 'bank' of display material for future events.

Most of the material will come from N.P.A. members. The Display Sub-committee aims to build up a collection of black and white transparencies and coloured prints from members' photographs. Reproductions from the photographs will be made and the Sub-committee will develop themes appropriate to the collections. An audio-visual sequence of slides with commentary is contemplated as part of the programme. As an initial step, the Sub-committee has decided to arrange a meeting of members well known for their photographic abilities. Contributions will be screened, selected and kept for subsequent reproduction. This will probably be in late September or early October. Selection of prints will probably have to be arranged for a later date. The Sub-committee will naturally take the necessary steps to safeguard members' photographs while on loan. Although some individual members will be approached the Committee wishes to ensure that selection is made from a wide field. If you think you have worthwhile slides or prints, we would like to hear from you. We have in mind the areas covered by the April Workshop: the South-Eastern corner of N.S.W. and also the A.C.T. Jervis Bay may also be included. Broadly subject matter should cover National Parks and other natural settings.

Anyone wishing to make a contribution to our future collection should contact one of the following: Glyn Lewis, 708347 (W) or 956937 (H); Lyn Richardson, 513711 (W) or 412425 (H); Norma Price, 499546 (W); Gay Watt, 491631 (H) or approach them at one of the monthly meetings.

Glyn Lewis

NEWS FROM N.S.W.

The N.P.A. of N.S.W. has received three grants from the Government funded from the R.E.D.S. scheme.

MAPPING PROJECT

The grant is for a mapping project of \$13,000 and a cartographer and a draftsman will be employed for 25 weeks. The major work is a cartographic (cadastral) survey of coastal wetlands in N.S.W. based on a general survey carried out in 1970 by G.N. Goodrick.

HUNTER-MANNING NATIONAL PARKS PROJECT

A grant of \$8,225 has been received to employ a geographer to investigate and develop, over a period of 6 months, a number of nature reserve proposals

referred to in the National Trust publication 'Hunter 2000'. These will include Bow Wow Creek, Sugarloaf-Blackhill and areas at Port Stephens.

NORTH-EAST NATIONAL PARKS PROJECT

\$18,725 has been granted for a team of three researchers to work on some National Park proposals in the north-east of N.S.W. Areas to be considered include Paddy's Flat, Demon Creek-Timbara and Emmaville. The survey will take six months.

OUTING TO PIERCE'S CREEK FALLS

After a cold, miserable and rainy week, the day for the walk to Pierce's Creek Falls turned out ideal and all those who attended thoroughly enjoyed both the walk and the sunshine. The vehicles were left on the top of a ridge but at the bottom of an incredibly steep section of the Pierce's Creek - Tidbinbilla fire trail, and we started walking along the ridge on the fire trail. There were tremendous views of Canberra on one side and of Hardy's Range on the other. We left the fire trail to walk down the slope towards the Falls. John Banks, the walk leader, called our attention to a number of the interesting trees which grow in the area: the native Cherry Tree, first seen in an area we facetiously called 'Wombat Heights', River Gums which grow along the creeks and Grass Trees with their blobs of resin. This resin was used in the old days to make line. After a rather hectic scramble and slide down a scree slope, we arrived at the top of the Falls. This area proved to be a lovely suntrap, which we all enjoyed while lunching.

The return trip led along Pierce's Creek, past some areas of farm and then up, up, up..... We finally all arrived back just on sunset happily tired after a most enjoyable day. Many thanks, John.

Jan Kiek

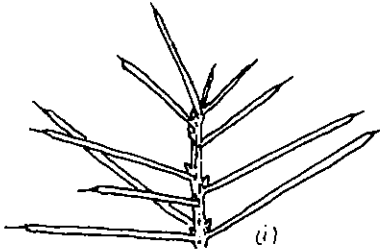
ANNUAL REPORTS

Annual reports are being distributed by hand this year to save postage. If you have not received your copy, please ask a Committee member for one.

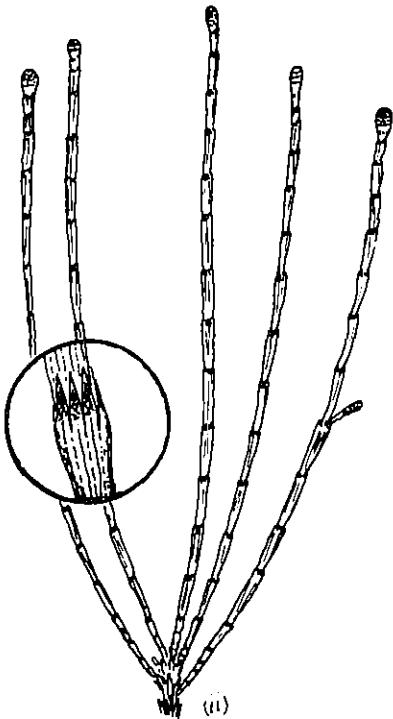
SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions were due on 1 July. Please pay them promptly.

XEROPHYTES



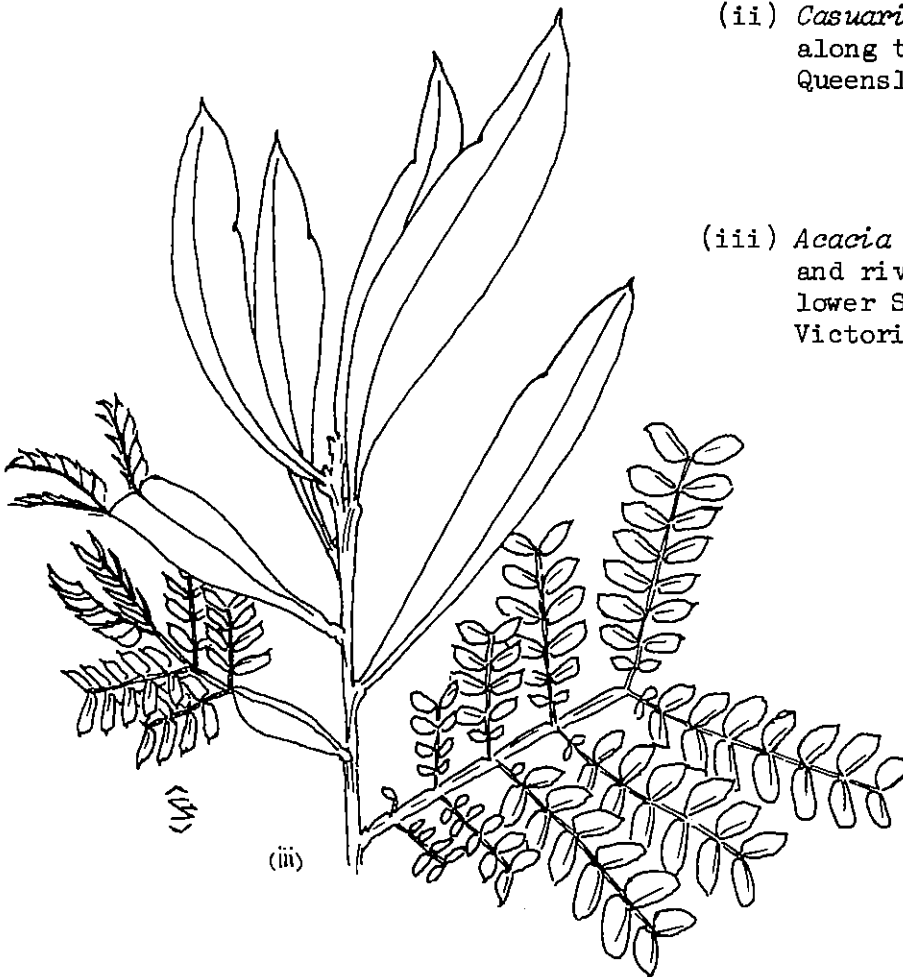
Give some thought to a plant's adaptation to conservation of water available. In much of Australia water is not always freely available to plants. Drought conditions prevail irregularly, hence the large preponderance of xerophytes. Observe the range of methods of adaptation - leathery leaves, thick cuticle, sunken stomata, rolled leaves, pubescence, woody growth, reduced leaf surface, etc. These are a combination of adaptations to reduce water loss by transpiration and to prevent tissue collapse with wilting. Reduced leaf surface is achieved in (i) *Hakea sericea* Schrad. by development of needle-like leaves, in (ii) *Casuarina cunninghamiana* Miq. by reduction of leaves to membranous scales and development of photosynthetic stems or cladodes, and in (iii) *Acacia rubida* A. Cunn. by loss of the leaf lamina (bipinnate leaf) and development of a photosynthetic petiole or phyllode. Try to find these vegetative adaptations in these and many other plants. Add these observations to floristics and you will have a greater appreciation of nature.



(i) *Hakea sericea*: common in dry sclerophyll forests of NSW, ACT and Victoria.

(ii) *Casuarina cunninghamiana*: common along the banks of rivers in Queensland, NSW and the ACT.

(iii) *Acacia rubida*: common along creeks and rivers of the Tablelands and lower Slopes of NSW, ACT and NE Victoria.



Helen Hewson-Fruend

CONSERVATION CORNER

TOWRA POINT AND THE HIGH COURT

The NSW Government has challenged the right of the Australian Government to buy land at the mouth of Georges River - Towra Point - for a reserve by appealing to the High Court.

Towra Point first came into prominence in the May 1974 election campaign when the Prime Minister promised to acquire Towra Point, a swampy area of Botany Bay, as a reserve. On June 20th 1975 Dr Cairns, the then Minister for the Environment, announced that the Australian Government had completed the purchase of 218.6 ha of land at Towra Point. The land would help the Government fulfil its obligations under the Australia-Japan migratory birds agreement. The price of the land was reported to be \$3.8 million. There is a strong movement in the suburbs on the southern side of Botany Bay opposed to any further industrialisation of the Kurnell area of the Bay.

The purchase agreement had been made under the terms of the National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1975. The N.S.W. Government seeks a High Court declaration that certain provisions of the Act are invalid. The writ further seeks a declaration that the purported acquisition of the land by the Commonwealth for the purpose of establishing a park or a reserve pursuant to the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1975 is invalid. In a statement of claim accompanying the writ the N.S.W. Government claims that under the constitution it is beyond the powers of Federal Parliament to legislate for the acquisition of the land for the reserve.

The matter is an important one for the National Park movement, as Towra Point is a test case for determining the extent of the Australian Government's constitutional power in an area which has not previously been tested.

For an excellent analysis of the powers of the Parliament and of the Australian Government in dealing with those parts of the National Estate which are within the States, the reader is referred to Chapter 7 of the Report of the Committee of Inquiry on the National Estate. The Chapter was doubtless written by Justice Hope, the Chairman, and is regarded as being quite authoritative. The case will be heard by the Full Bench of the Court, and is unlikely to be heard for several months as the Chief Justice is overseas for the next few months. When the hearing is complete, several more months will elapse before findings are announced, so it could be as long as a year before the matter is finalised. In the meantime, land acquisition by the Australian Government in the States for parks and reserves cannot continue.

Bill Watson

TRAVELS IN NEPAL

Part 2.

The many villages through which we passed were very picturesque. Building stone and slate are readily available and many houses had thatch on the roof. Houses were simple, usually two storey, built close together and were colourful. They were often plastered over with a terracotta coloured or pure white clay rendering on the walls. Often both colours were used in patterns. Animals were highly valued, such as domesticated buffalo, cattle, sheep, goats, a few donkeys or ponies. These animals were housed at the lower level with a small ladder connecting with the living section upstairs. The people used very little furniture and all cooking was done on the floor of the room, over a small open fire contained by two or three small bricks. The smoke escapes as best it can. Most of the houses had beautifully carved wooden shutters at the windows but never glass. Quite often a row of yellow pumpkins or corn cobs were put on the roof to dry out. All available land was terraced. Entire hill-sides were terraced, presenting a cascade of enormous steps. Water was obtained from the numerous rivers and streams and often a piece of bamboo was used to form the village "tap". Clothes were washed here and the locals bathed themselves - spasmodically, even if in a modest manner. As children the people wear little or no clothing, but the women especially, when adult are well covered with a variety of garments. Their clothing is often threadbare and they manage to put patch on top of patch until the garment is just an assembly of patches. Almost every female of any age wears jewellery, necklaces, bracelets and nose and ear-rings. Coral and turquoise necklaces according to size and number, would often be indicative of the wealth of the family: still worn with patch on patch garments and by people with running noses. Another lady might have many handmade pure gold ear-rings outlining one entire ear. Some gold nose ornaments I saw would have defied any successful use of a handkerchief.

One thinks of Nepal as the Himalayas, of mountains with deep snow and especially low temperatures. Mountains and snow - yes, and extremes of temperatures, but we saw an amazing variety of things sub-tropical. There were bananas, mandarins, lemons (some of enormous size but pithy), pineapples, sugar cane, a type of grapefruit called pomeloes and varieties of cactus plants which were used for hedges. There was a lot of bamboo. There were large areas of Daphne bushes just coming into bloom, remnants of last season's Helichrysums, a species of Primula, wild Briar Roses and lots of Tree Orchids. Remind me to return in the Spring.

We had magnificent views of the Annapurna Range from Ghandrung and were hoping to get into the "sanctuary" area, as it was called by the first British climbers who attempted the ascent of Machapuchare in 1956 and 1957. The Modi River flows in a deep gorge between the bastions of Annapurna South and Machapuchare. Above the gorge the valley opens and terminates in a magnificent amphitheatre of glaciers and mountains, this is the "sanctuary". Heavy snow falls (seldom experienced in winter) with avalanche danger, prevented us from getting very close to the area. Annapurna was first climbed by the French in 1950. Our Sherpas knew the history of mountains and their

climbers in the Himalayas and indeed many of them had taken part in high altitude expeditions.

Quite often we had to stop during the day to give way to a donkey or mule train. Indeed the train could be heard quite a long distance away, as each animal had at least one bell around its neck, and each bell produced a different sound. Several of the animals had high standing head-dress of bright red or blue. What goods were not transported throughout the country were carried by porters such as ours. This is the only transport in Nepal. In spite of the lack of hygiene in the country, many trekkers return for yet another adventure and to experience the friendliness, kindness and consideration for one's fellow man as shown to us especially by the Sherpas, porters and the villagers of Nepal.

Norma Price

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following: Dugald and Esther Brown, Callum and Marjorie (Macquarie), Rod and Desiree Olsen, and Scott (Holt), Mrs K. Glennan (O'Connor), Heinz and Verena Gerber (Deakin), Kenneth and Patricia Campbell, Katrina and Ian (Manuka), Elizabeth Banahan (Griffith), Mr and Mrs Kenneth Vine (Duffy), Hela and Mike Lindemann (Mawson), James and Norma May Morris (Latham), Mr and Mrs J. McKenna (Farrer) and Mark Richardson (Cook).

NEW LIBRARY BOOKS

Plan of Management of Kosciusko National Park. National Parks and Wildlife Service N.S.W. (1974)

Draft Recreation Policies for Googong Dam and Environs. Department of the Capital Territory (1975)

Environment Information (Sheets) Nos. 1-10. Department of the Environment (1975)

NPA OUTINGS

SEPTEMBER

7th Sunday
West Canberra

Ref: Canberra District Map

Although very close to Canberra, this walk keeps one well away from the signs of civilisation. Leaving transport at the Drake Brockman Drive, the route leads steeply down to the Molonglo River. Following the river for about 2 km., the junction of the Molonglo and Murrumbidgee Rivers is reached. A large area of sand makes a pleasant lunch spot.

The return to the starting point is effected by a circular route through grazing land.

No track, 6 km., Easy.

Meet at the far end of Drake Brockman Drive at 12 noon.

Leader - Red Alder 542240 (home).

13th Saturday
Black Mountain Walk

Ref: Canberra District Map

Our biannual visits to Canberra's local reserve are always popular. Although the encroachments on the reserve are on the increase because of the P.M.G. tower, the interest in the natural features of the area is worth maintaining.

Track 4 km., Easy.

Meet at Belconnen Way Entrance at 2 p.m.

Leader - George Chippendale 812454 (home).

20th, 21st, Saturday, Sunday
Mimosa Rocks

Ref: Bega 1:100,000
Coalen Point 1:100,000

This area, north of Tathra, is perhaps one of the most magnificent rock areas on the south coast. Camping will be at the Mimosa Rocks Reserve which gives easy access to the coastal area and views. The weekend will be held in association with the Bega/Tathra Conservation Group.

No track, Various distances, Easy.

Meet at Bega at 11 a.m.

Leader - Biona Brand 479538 (home).

28th, Sunday
Tinderry (East side)

Ref: Michelago 1:50,000
Captain's Flat 1:50,000

This is the third time in recent years that the N.P.A. has visited this spectacular area. This time it is intended to drive to the East side via the Michelago-Captain's Flat Road, before commencing walking. The walk is a medium to hard push to the top of Mount Tinderry. The magnificent views at the climax of the climb are well worth the effort.

No track, 12 km., Medium rough.

Meet at Michelago at 9.30 a.m.

Leader - John Holtzapfel 815817 (home).

NPA OUTINGS

OCTOBER

4th-6th, Saturday to Monday
Castle/Pigeon House

Ref: Ulladulla 1:50,000

Camping will be at Yadboro on the upper Clyde River in the Yarboro State Forest. Forest roads allow a close approach to the escarpment of the coastal range through attractive timber stands still being milled. Splendid views may be had of the spectacular masses, walls and gorges in the sandstone. Easy rambles in the vicinity of Yadboro and two separate day climbs to the top of Pigeon House and the Castle.

Some track, various distances, medium steep.

Meet at the Woodburn Junction on the Prince's Highway, 16 km past Tremeil at 11 a.m. on Saturday.

Leader - Red Alder 542240 (home).

Contact - Andrew Fordham 818500 (work).

12th, Sunday

Tidbinbilla Reserve

Ref: Cotter 1:50,000

An easy day's walking on good tracks in this well kept area. It is hoped to cover several of the various trails during the day.

Track, 10 km., easy.

Meet at Tidbinbilla Information Centre at 10 a.m.

Leader - Charles Hill 958924 (home).

18th, Saturday

Black Mountain

Ref: Canberra 1:50,000

An encore of our ever popular visits to our local reserve. Sclerophyll forest is not widespread in the A.C.T. and Black Mountain is therefore always worth a visit.

Track, 3 km., easy.

Meet at Belconnen Way entrance at 2 p.m.

Leader - Laurie Adams 465912 (work).

26th, Sunday

Pierce's Creek Forest to Tidbinbilla Reserve

Ref: Cotter 1:50,000

The walk commences at the Pierce's Creek turn-off on the Tidbinbilla road, 2 km. from Cotter. A hard 3 km. climb takes walkers to the ridge at over 1300 metres. A solid tramp of 17 km. will lead to Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve. The views on this walk are perhaps the most spectacular in this area.

Track, 20 km., hard and steep.

Meet at Cotter Kiosk at 9.30 a.m.

Leader/contact - Andrew Fordham 818500 (work)

NPA OUTINGS

NOVEMBER

2nd, Sunday
Monga Waratah

Ref: Araluen 1:50,000

At this time of year the Waratahs - *Monga emsis* - should be in full bloom. The trip is well worth the drive from Canberra.

Track, 3 km., easy.

Meet at the top of Clyde Mountain by the Monga turnoff at 10.30 a.m.

Leader/contact - Ian Currie 958107 (work).

9th, Sunday
*Brindabella

Ref: Brindabella 1:50,000

After walking across an open forest area Bramina Creek is crossed. A fire trail is then followed and this leads to the summit of Mt Bramina, a climb of 500 metres. The return to the cars will be made back along the same route. Track, 20 km., medium.

Meet at the Goodradigbee Bridge at Brindabella at 10.00 a.m.

Leader/contact - Lyn Richardson 412425 (home).

23rd, Sunday
Hurdle Creek

Ref: Cotter 1:50,000

Hurdle Creek is at the 1,000 metre level in the ACT, just outside the Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve. Lyre birds are not uncommon in the area. Another feature of the area is the variety of ferns to be seen; examples are the Soft Water Fern and the Bracken Fern. Many others should also be observed during the outing.

Track, 8 km., easy.

Meet at the Cotter Kiosk at 9.30 a.m.

Leader/contact - Pat Jeffress 493264 (home).

30th, Sunday
Yankee Hut

Ref: Gudgenby 1:50,000

Yankee Hut is on the edge of the wilderness area of the proposed Gudgenby National Park. On this walk pleasant views of the Gudgenby valley can be obtained.

No track, 15 km., medium, steep.

Meet at Tharwa at 8.45 a.m.

Leader/contact - Julie Henry 485130 (home).

* Easy alternative walks under a leader will also be organised.

NPA OUTINGS

DECEMBER

6th-7th, Saturday-Sunday
Barren Grounds Nature Reserve

The Reserve is on a 'hanging swamp' plateau, 700 metres above sea level, which affords superb views of the Illawarra coast. The area is one of open heath and contains a profusion of sandstone heath wildflowers (hopefully we may see some Christmas Bells) and a great variety of bird and animal life, including the Ground Parrot and the Eastern Bristle Bird. Track, various distances, easy.

Meet at the Reception Centre, Barren Grounds Nature Reserve at 11.00 a.m.
Route: Canberra to Robertson via Moss Vale.

Leader - Jan Kiek.

Contact Andrew Fordham 818500 (work).

14th, Sunday
Christmas Party

As usual, the always successful Christmas Party will be held at the Blue Range Hut. Music and song sheets will be provided, the whole proceedings being led by our President.

Meet at Blue Range Hut at 2.00 p.m.

Leave Canberra on the Cotter Road, and turn right onto the Uriarra Road just before Cotter. At Uriarra Homestead turn left on the Brindabella Road, and watch for signs to your right after a few miles.

GENERAL MEETINGS

At 8.00 p.m. in Room 1, The Griffin Centre, Civic.

SEPTEMBER

18th, Thursday

Ecological islands.

Professor Ralph. Slatyer, Department of Environmental Biology,
Research School of Biological Sciences, Australian National University.

OCTOBER

16th, Thursday

Mammals of the Forests of Eastern Australia.

Dr C. Tyndale-Biscoe, Department of Zoology, Australian National
University.

NOVEMBER

20th, Thursday

Survey work in North-Eastern Australia.

Dr Robert Storey, Division of Land Use Research, C.S.I.R.O.

National Parks Association outings summary

SEPTEMBER

7 Sunday	West Canberra	Walk
13 Saturday	Black Mountain	Walk
20 Saturday	Mimosa Rocks	Camp
21 Sunday		
28 Sunday	Tinderry	Walk

OCTOBER

4 Saturday to	Castle/Pigeon House	Camp
6 Monday		
12 Sunday	Tidbinbilla	Walk
18 Saturday	Black Mountain	Walk
26 Sunday	Pierce's Creek Forest to Tidbinbilla	Walk

NOVEMBER

2 Sunday	Monga Waratah	Walk
9 Sunday	Brindabella	Walk
23 Sunday	Hurdle Creek	Walk
30 Sunday	Yankee Hut	Walk

DECEMBER

6 Saturday	Barren Grounds	Camp
7 Sunday		
14 Sunday	Blue Range Hut	Christmas Party