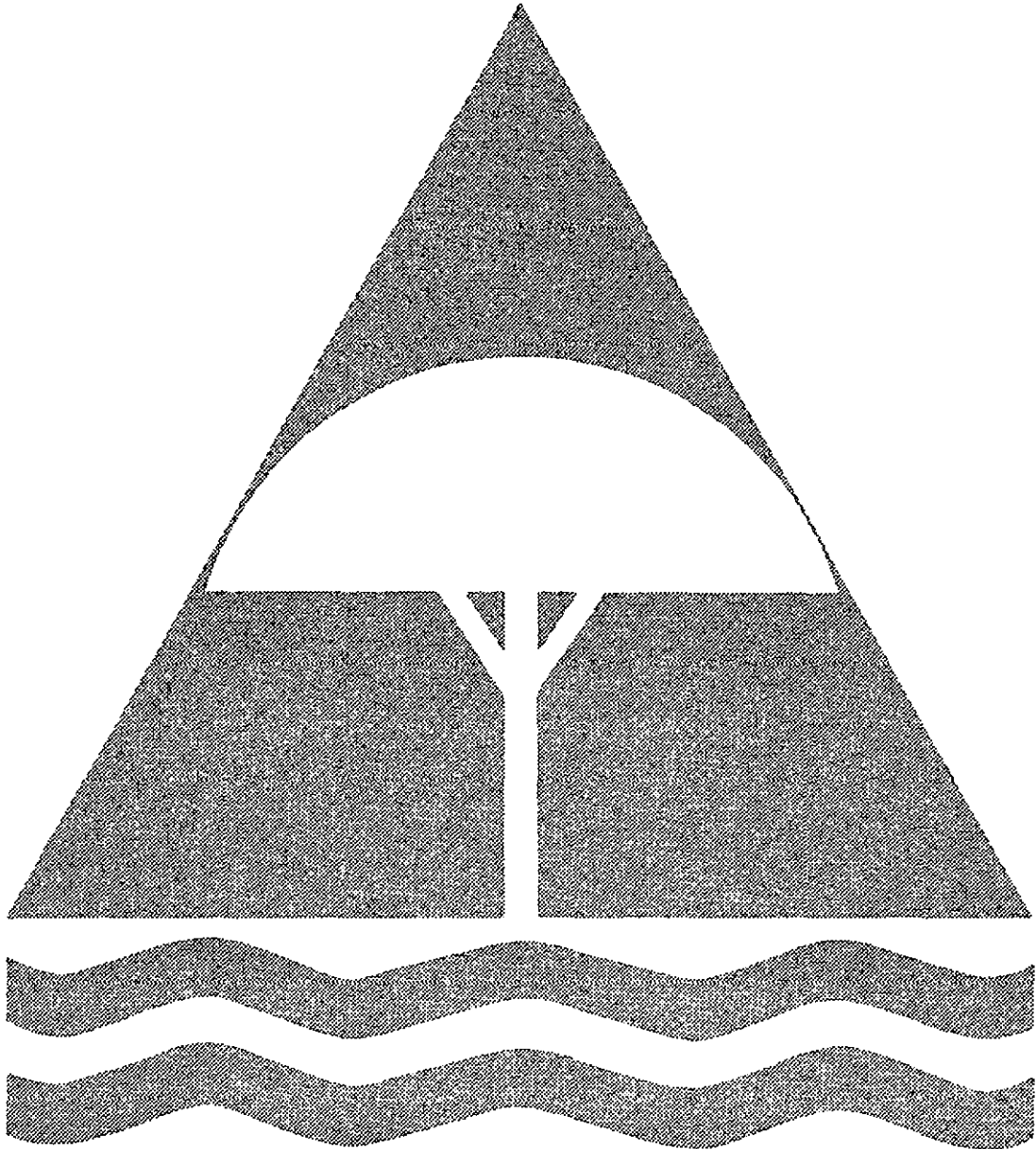


# NPA Bulletin

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



*December January February 1975-76*

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**30c**

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

"A National Park for the National Capital"

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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 nature conservation and the planning of land-use to achieve conservation.

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Just as the seasons change, so do the people behind the scenes of the Association. This time the loss is Bruce Ward, who has edited the Bulletin for the past year. Bruce is going back to Britain to take up a position with the University of Aberdeen, and we wish him the very best and hope to see him some time in the future.

The Bulletin was maintained at a high standard under his able guidance and your new editors hope they can keep it up. It is inevitable that there will be some change as with any change of editing, but we hope to stick closely to the formula already established. The Bulletin is the voice of the Association and all members have a share in it, so if you have anything to say, please get in touch with the editors .... if it's fit to print, we'll fit it in!

And with the change of seasons, so the warmer weather approaches and more people take to the bush and beach. This issue appears at an opportune moment to remind members to observe the basic rule of the bush - be careful, don't put either yourself or the wilderness at risk.

*Norman Morrison*

## FIRE-LIGHTING IN THE A.C.T.

The Association recently received a letter from the A.C.T. Bush Fire Council which asked us to remind members of the requirements for fire lighting in the A.C.T. These are reprinted below for the information of members.

1. No fires of any description may be lit, used or maintained in the open on a day of total fire ban.
2. At all times, throughout the year, only the following types of fire may be lit by picnickers outside the built-up area of Canberra:
  - a) Cooking fires in properly constructed fireplaces provided by the Department of the Capital Territory and kept clear of flammable material for 4.5 m in all directions;
  - b) Cooking fires on portable liquified gas operated appliances, around which all flammable material has been removed for a distance of 1.5 m;
  - c) Other fires as authorised by a permit issued by the Chief Fire Control Officer.

Portable solid fuel barbecues and self-made fireplaces are not permitted in the A.C.T. except within the built-up area.

## PROPOSED GUDGENBY NATIONAL PARK

The time has come to give the Gudgenby National Park cause a shove. Progress seems to have stopped altogether. We have sat back since the proposal for the enlarged park was announced by Ralph Hunt, as all succeeding Ministers for the Capital Territory and the Environment seemed committed to establishing the park with the new enlarged boundaries.

It now appears that things aren't so certain. That a national park will be gazetted is not yet in doubt. But unless we are alert, we may well find that the final size of the park is very much smaller than we had expected. Senior administrators are not yet convinced of the need for the enlarged park, and the land is subject to pressure from other interests as well as our own.

Apparently there is an ideas vacuum at the moment about the right size and the right management for the park. Now is the time for us to come up with informed ideas. If we wait until the borders of the park are finally announced, and a management plan is produced by whatever department finally administers it, we will have missed our chance and will be presented with a *fait accompli*.

The Gudgenby sub-committee met about 3 weeks ago and drew up a plan of action. The plan included the following:

- . producing a base map of the vegetation and other features of interest for display at general meetings to keep up members' interest;
- . working out ideas about the park for presentation to the Association at a special general meeting;
- . putting up these ideas to the Departments of the Environment and Capital Territory;
- . preparing immediately a case for the position of the northern park boundary (the one most in question).

In the meantime, to show the flag, the Association has already sent a letter to the new Director of the Conservation and Agriculture Branch of the Department of the Capital Territory, asking why the sign board on the Naas road marking the northern border of the proposed park has been removed.

If anybody has views on how the park should be managed, let's hear about them. Please contact me as Convener of the Gudgenby sub-committee, or Ian Currie.

It's worth remembering that the proposed expanded park contains land other than that suitable for wilderness areas. It includes a large area of agricultural land, some of which (such as Gudgenby itself) have been well

farmed for many years. What should happen to such land? The park also contains more than a dozen features of historical interest, including old homesteads and wool sheds, a unique type of fence made from black sallee, and the old police station near Naas station, which is all that remains of the old gold trail to Kiandra that ran along the Billy Range.

In many ways the park represents a history of the settlement of the Southern Tablelands in microcosm. No doubt the historical features should be preserved and maintained. We must think about such things as well as about the nature conservation values more traditionally associated with national parks.

*Brian Lee*

#### TINDERRY PEAK WALK

The NPA attempted to climb Tinderry Peak (1618m) in June 1974 from the western side, but time on that short, crisp, winter's day ran out on the rocky ridge not very far below the summit.

Our latest walk with that objective started from the higher western valley. We found the earth and rock road from Michelago reasonably good, but steep in parts. There were a couple of small washed-out gutters and two "dropped" cattle grids which demanded care. The cars were left at the start of an old road and we followed this vehicle track roughly parallel to the Tinderry Range on the eastern side in a northerly direction. This brought us to the pleasant flats of a valley; grass and a scattering of trees and shrubs made good walking. Heavy rain the night before had ensured that swampy parts were swash and waterproof footwear was put to the test for short stretches.

Our leader took care to find the right spur to climb out of the valley with a minimum of rock and scrub. The granite tor formations became more obvious, both close at hand and on the skyline. After crossing a broad grassy saddle (which caused some muttering about a lovely lunch spot), we ascended the final ridge. Here there was no dodging the rocks, but it did not take long to top the ridge. We saw the cairn a little further north and after some scrambling and working our way around, over and in between the huge tors, about half the party reached the cairn. The others were content to have a longer lunch and were still able to admire the view.

The Kosciusko plateau could be seen with snowy ridges looking like low white cloud on a blue horizon of mountains, across the vivid green of the Michelago farmlands. In the opposite direction we looked down on Captain's Flat and to Mt Palerang etc. beyond. Add a foreground of granite faces and rocks pointing to the sky, and one has a viewpoint in the excellent class. A cool wind and the call of the inner man/woman cut short our meditation from the tip of the summit, and we were pleased to find a sheltered spot 3 or 4 metres below the cairn and relax over a well earned lunch. Our thanks to John Holtzapfel for a most enjoyable and satisfying outing.

*Charles Hill*

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

At the General Meeting on 18 March, 1976, Notice is hereby given that the Committee will recommend that annual subscriptions be raised and that Section 4 of the Constitution be amended to read:

"Subscriptions

4. The full annual subscription for each class of membership shall include a charge of \$3.00 per annum for one copy of each quarterly issue of the Bulletin. Subscriptions shall be as follows:

Ordinary Membership	\$8.00
Family Membership	\$10.00
Student Membership	\$3.00
Corporate Membership	\$5.00

The annual subscription shall be due and payable on 1st July of each year. Members joining on or after 1st January shall pay half the subscription for the current year. Members whose subscriptions are unpaid at 31st October shall be deemed to be unfinancial and be debarred from privileges of membership but may on payment of the overdue subscription be reinstated."

ACCESS TO BUDAWANGS THROUGH WOG-WOG PROPERTY

Since this property changed owners, the free access which was available to walkers has been denied and any access made difficult.

Therefore, a meeting of representatives from the owners, the Lands Department, the National Parks and Wildlife Service of N.S.W., the National Parks Association of N.S.W., the Bushwalker and the National Parks Association of A.C.T. was held early in October to investigate and discuss the situation.

The present situation is that a right-of-way through the property does exist and a crown road - at present in a very rough state and blocked to vehicles - leads from the property entrance to Wog-Wog Creek at the foot of the Corang Peak escarpment. This may be remade or an alternative road constructed in the future but at present only foot traffic along the existing road is permitted.

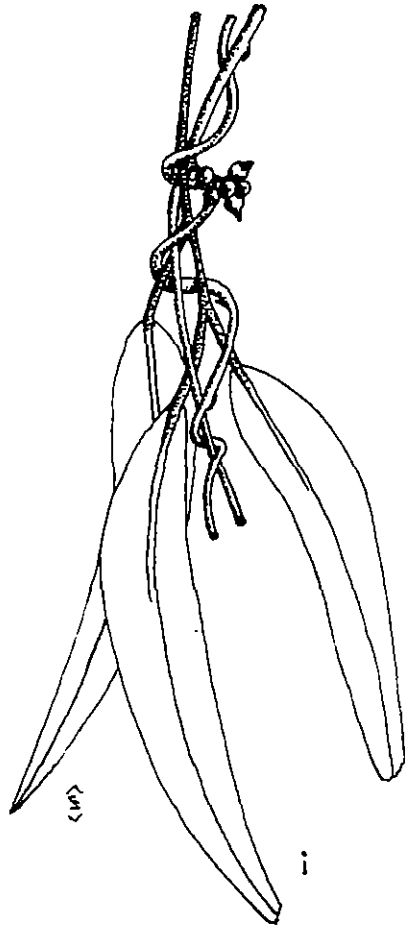
A sign is to be erected indicating the access road and the owners, police and other parties involved have been informed of this right-of-way.

*Ian Currie*

SUBSCRIPTIONS

MEMBERS ARE REMINDED AGAIN THAT SUBSCRIPTIONS WERE DUE ON 1 JULY. IF YOU ARE UNFINANCIAL, THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST BULLETIN.

STEM PARASITES



*Cassytha melantha* R.Br. Devil's Twine.

This is a leafless stem parasite common in dry sclerophyll. It is a twining (see Fig. i) and trailing plant forming a "shawl" over vegetation upon which it is parasitic. Use of the host plant's water, minerals and synthesised nutrient is made via "pads" or "suckers" or haustoria (see Fig. ii), which penetrate into the vascular tissue of the host.

Other stem parasites are the epiphytic Mistletoes. There are two species of *Cassytha* to be found in the ACT; however, there are five Mistletoe species. Observe these stem parasites and give some thought to host specificity. You will find that different species of Mistletoe are rather more restricted in host specificity ("generosity") than are the Devil's Twines.



- Figures: i. *Cassytha melantha* parasitic on Eucalyptus.  
ii. An end on view of an older twine on an older twig showing the haustoria.

Helen Hewson-Fruend

## THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL PARKS COUNCIL COMES TO CANBERRA

What was a thought and a suggestion of our Past President, Bill Watson, some two years ago, became a reality on the weekend of the 25th and 26th October, 1975, when Canberra became the host city for the Australian National Parks Council. It is true that the first conference was held in Melbourne on 25th May, 1975, when the A.N.P.C. was inaugurated, but as the time was largely occupied with establishment details, it was resolved that another conference should be promptly held to begin the real work of the A.N.P.C. Canberra was to be the venue.

The aim of the A.N.P.C. is fundamentally to protect, promote, and extend national park systems in Australia through the meeting of representatives of non-government bodies with a special interest in national parks. It is the intention of the Council that matters of common interest be discussed and, where practicable, common policy established.

Every State has been affected by the virtual abandonment of the programme of the States Grants (Nature Conservation) Act 1975. Dr Geoff. Mosley, Director of the Australian Conservation Foundation, revealed how the Australian Government's position had softened because of the pressure exerted by the State national park and environment associations: and caused a resolution to be unanimously passed calling upon the Australian Government to restore the entire programme.

Paul Barnes, the President of A.N.P.C., presented the N.S.W. progress for an Interstate Walking Trail, a subject dear to his heart.

Ros Garnet, the Victorian N.P.A. representative and author of several books, revealed his zeal for precise thinking in his fondness for definitions and classifications of parks. A sub-committee was formed to study national park terms.

The A.C.T., through the special research of Brian Lee, made known the problem of controlled burning in national parks, with special reference to a new policy of burning above 4,500 feet in the Kosciusko National Park. A resolution opposing this new policy was passed.

There was a mixture of age and youth present. Queensland's retiring councillor, Allen Cleland (and observer at the Conference), was a foundation member, 45 years ago, of Australia's oldest national park movement, while the new councillor, Keith Jarrott, has 30 years' membership to his credit. The Queenslanders were especially interested in marine national parks.

Bob Anderson (Tas.), Tim Dendy (S.A.), Graeme Rundle (W.A.), belong to the young group and by their well prepared insights were an encouragement to the future of the environmental movement in Australia.



The Canberra Conference confirmed the need for a national group, both in the range of topics considered and in the preparation of background material.

Parting comments indicated that the deliberations of the Conference and the hospitality of the N.P.A. of A.C.T. could only be described as a "memorable experience".

*Darryl Hawke*  
Hon. Secretary, A.N.P.C.

#### CONTROL BURNING AROUND KOSCIUSKO

The Hume Snowy Council has accepted a modified version of the Hume Snowy Fire Prevention Scheme. It proposes to control burn considerable areas of three of the four wilderness areas in the Kosciusko National Park up to an altitude of 5,500 ft. A considerable proportion of these areas has not been burnt since burning by graziers was banned in 1958. Until the change of policy, no control burning has been carried out in the Park above 4,500 ft.

The Hume Snowy Council is responsible for bushfire control and control burning over most of the Kosciusko National Park and the area to the west of the park. It consists of a number of member bodies of which the National Parks and Wildlife Service is but one. The Council has legal status, so it appears that its policies are binding on its members. In time the National Parks and Wildlife Service intends to take over all fire control within the park, but at present it has neither the staff nor the funds to do so. It therefore depends on the facilities at the disposal of the Hume Snowy Council for fire control. It is thus compromised even if it wants to deviate from the Council's policies.

Two issues are at stake from the point of view of the National Parks movement:

- . should control burning be contemplated in wilderness areas?
- . what is the effect of regular control burning on the highland areas of the Kosciusko National Park?

Regular control burning will produce a contrived landscape incompatible with the wilderness area concept.

A dispute is now going on among the experts within CSIRO about exactly how control burning will affect alpine and sub-alpine regions. The Ecology Section has submitted a document to the Director of the National Parks and Wildlife Service outlining its objections to control burning in such areas.

The CSIRO ecologists suggest that all naturally started fires (by lightning strikes) should be allowed to run their course in the wilderness areas - as has happened from time immemorial. The opposing view is that wildfires like

those of 1939 and 1972 will occur from time to time unless the amount of available fuel is kept down, and these are too devastating to be tolerated.

The Ecology Section is accumulating evidence that frequent control burning of the sub-alpine region above 4,500 ft. is undesirable. However, it doesn't yet seem to have enough information to prove this. So arguments about the effects of regular control burning on sub-alpine areas remain unresolved.

*Brian Lee*

#### SENSES TRAIL....LAMINGTON NATIONAL PARK

Recently opened at Binna-Burra, the Senses Trail gives to the visually handicapped the opportunity to explore the environment of the park, using touch, smell, hearing and taste. Guide rope and braille signs direct the walker, but if unable to read braille, cassettes and players are available. Sighted people will be encouraged to use the trail by blindfolding themselves and having a companion to read the brochure which is also available for the walk.

#### NEW MEMBERS

Susan Andrews, W.A. Alford, Cliff and Ann Bosson and family (Higgins), William and Katherine Boswell and family (Dickson), Neville Byrne (student), Shirley Chittick (Hall), F. Cooper (Curtin), David and Charlotte Elworthy, Shirley Gardner (Campbell), Francoise Gilroy and family (Ainslie), Mrs J.R. Hall (Sutton Forest, NSW), Miss D.V. Lowe (Hackett), Mr and Mrs W.J. Perry (Campbell), Doug. Pollock (student), Kim Pullen (Melba), Robert Taylor, Mr and Mrs R. Hegarty (Deakin) and Mrs L. Tucker (Campbell).

#### LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS

Development pressures on Jervis Bay. Seventh Report of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Environment and Conservation. AGPS, Canberra, 1975.

A national system of ecological reserves in Australia. Australian Academy of Science Report No. 19. August 1975.

Conservation of Major Plant Communities in Australia and Papua New Guinea. Australian Journal of Botany Supplementary Series No. 7. July 1974.

(The last two items were donated by Professor Ralph Slatyer, to the Association.)

## A REMINDER FOR NPA OUTINGS

Although N.P.A. outings are often mild by nature, some basic rules should be followed for walks in the MEDIUM to HARD categories.

- . Proper walking boots should be worn.
- . Adequate clothes, food and water to suit the particular walk should be catered for.
- . Each member should be fit enough to not unduly delay the party.

## 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.

## NPA OUTINGS

### JANUARY

11th, Sunday  
Koorabri

Ref: Canberra 1:50,000

'Koorabri' is on the Goodradigbee River in the Brindabella Valley. The day should be very easy and pleasant to commence our walks for 1976.

No track, 6 km., Easy.

Meet at Brindabella P.O. (turn left before crossing the Goodradigbee R.) at 10 a.m.

Leader - To be nominated.

24th-26th, Saturday to Monday  
January long weekend.

Ref: Kosciusko 1:100,000

Efforts are being made to acquire accommodation in the Snowy Mountains. As in previous long-weekends, accommodation will be limited. It is therefore suggested that overspill members book to camp at Sawpit Creek. The venue for the long-weekend will be announced at the last General Meeting of 1975.

Leaders - Julie Henry 485130 (home)

Andrew Fordham 479784 (home).

### FEBRUARY

1st, Sunday  
Vanity's Crossing

Ref: Cotter 1:50,000

On request the Walks Committee have decided to put on another barbecue. Fire places are provided, so bring food, drink and bathers.

Meet on the Cotter to Tidbinbilla road at the first road after Pierces Creek turnoff (about 2 km).

Leader - Jan Kiek

King Andrew Fordham 479784 (home).

7th-8th, Saturday, Sunday  
Budawangs

Ref: Corang 1:50,000

This outing will be a pack-carrying outing aimed at the more energetic members of NPA. Transport will be left at the entrance to Wog-Wog Station before commencing the 12 km. walk to the lagoons on the Corang River. A climb and descent of about 200 m will be encountered on the way. If the weather is unpleasant a camping cave will be utilised for the night.

No track, 74 km, Medium-Hard.

Meet at Braidwood (Nerriga turnoff) at 9.30 a.m.

Leader - Paul Sharpe 468810 (work).

NPA OUTINGS

FEBRUARY continued

15th, Sunday

Murrumbidgee River

Ref: Cotter 1:50,000

Two members of the NPA recently discovered a walk along the Murrumbidgee River flats, above the bridge at the water pumping station. For those who like wading, swimming and generally getting wet, this should be an enjoyable excursion.

No track, 6 km., Easy.

Meet on the Cotter side of the bridge at the pumping station.

Leader - Andrew Fordham 479784 (home).

21st-22nd, Saturday, Sunday

Shoalhaven River

Ref: NSW Lands Dept.

Caoura 1:3160

A short walk with packs down 500 m to the Shoalhaven River where camp will be made. Sunday will be spent exploring the area and finally return to the cars by making a steep ascent on a graded track.

Track, 4 km., Medium-Hard.

Meet at Long Nose Point at 11 a.m.

Turn off the Hume Highway just beyond Marulan towards Bundanoon. Then turn right to Long Nose Point at the sign just beyond the overhead railway bridge.

Leader - Reg. Alder 542240 (home).

29th, Sunday

Flea Creek

Ref: Cotter 1:50,000

The outing will consist of a walk along tracks to Flea Creek and along the Goodradigbee River back to the bridge at Brindabella.

Track, 8 km., Medium.

Meet at the Goodradigbee Bridge at Brindabella at 10 a.m.

Leader - To be nominated.

MARCH

13th-14th, Saturday, Sunday

Jervis Bay

Ref: Jervis Bay

A camping weekend at Green Patch Camping Ground. Walks may include the 'dune regeneration area' at Bherwherre Beach, and along the beach to the 'Hole in the Wall'.

Beach walking, various distances, EASY.

Meet at Green Patch Camping Ground at 11 a.m.

Leader - To be nominated.

NPA OUTINGS

MARCH continued

21st, Sunday  
Booroomba Rocks

Ref: Bimberi 1:50,000  
Michaelago 1:50,000

This will be a two-hour walk (each way) along a fire trail. Lunch and water should be carried. Please note that Booroomba Rocks could be very dangerous for unattended children.

Track, 12 km, MEDIUM.

Meet at Honeysuckle Creek Tracking Station at 10 a.m.

Leader - Bill Adams 487584 (home).

27th-28th, Saturday, Sunday  
Wee Jasper

Ref: Goodradigbee 1:50,000

Camping will be at Micalong Creek Campsite which is 9 km south of the Nottingham Road. The main excursion of the weekend will be to Mt Wee Jasper. This will consist of a drive to the Wee Jasper Road, then a walk to Mt Wee Jasper for lunch. After lunch the ridge to the east will be followed, then turning south-east back to the camp ground. Alternatively the reverse route can be followed.

No track, 10 km, MEDIUM.

Meet at Wee Jasper at 10 a.m.

Leader - Lyn Richardson 412425 (home).

\* \* \* \* \*

Will members please note that the contact for all NPA outings will be:

Andrew Fordham,

2 Westgarth Street,

O'CONNOR, A.C.T. 2601

Telephone: 479784

For walks in the MEDIUM to HARD categories, it is hoped that an 'easy alternative' can be catered for. However, this will depend on numbers of members attending and the availability of leaders.

\* \* \* \* \*

CANBERRA BUSHWALKERS ASSOCIATION

The editors have been given a list of weekend walks and camping trips of the Canberra Bushwalkers. Anyone wishing to know details of these trips can get the information from Norm. Morrison (621263 W) or Garry Medaris (496188 W).

GENERAL MEETINGS

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

DECEMBER

No meeting

JANUARY

No meeting

FEBRUARY

Thursday, 19th

Park Planning

Ray Margules, Consulting Forester and Landscape Architect

# National Parks Association outings summary

## DECEMBER

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

## JANUARY

24 Saturday to		
26 Monday	Snowy Mountains	Camp

## FEBRUARY

1 Sunday	Vanity's Crossing	Walk
7 Saturday-		
8 Sunday	Budawangs	Camp
15 Sunday	Murrumbidgee River	Walk
21 Saturday-		
22 Sunday	Shoalhaven River	Camp
29 Sunday	Flea Creek	Walk

## MARCH

13 Saturday-		
14 Sunday	Jervis Bay	Camp
21 Sunday	Booroomba Rocks	Walk
27 Saturday-		
28 Sunday	Wee Jasper	Camp