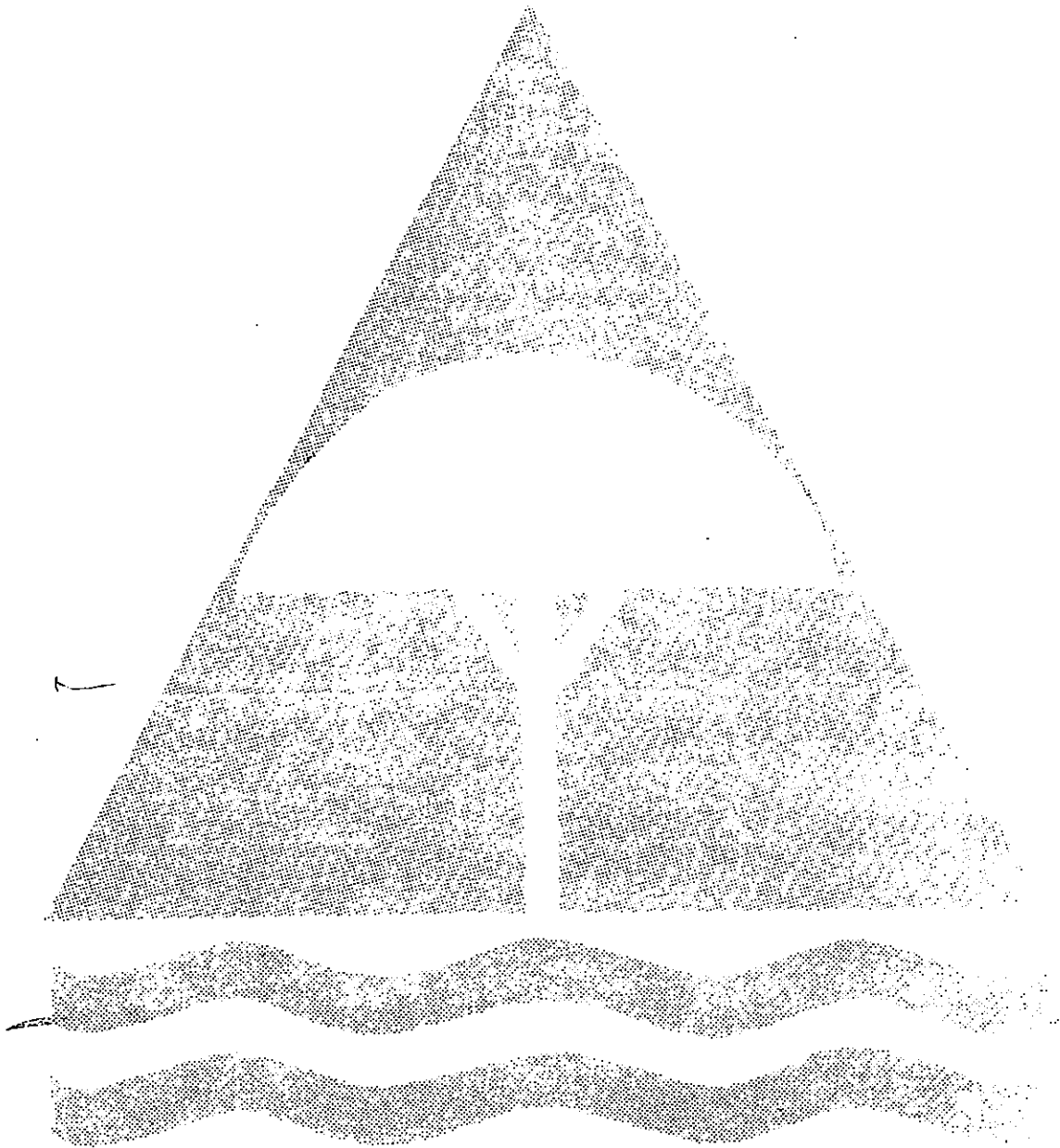


NPA Bulletin

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



*Issued March, June, September,
December*

September 1979

Vol. 7 No. 1

Registered in Australia for transmission by post as a periodical Category B

75c

PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD

The theme of this bulletin is the efforts and struggles of individuals for particular national parks and reserves. To my knowledge no book has yet been written on the subject. Since it would concern people and the natural environment, in the hands of an imaginative writer it would have considerable appeal. Perhaps there is someone with the historical inclination, the conservation interest and the time to take up the challenge.

Some of the most intriguing characters are those who have a vision which doesn't fit the times. To their own generation they often appear hopeful dreamers or even eccentrics. They do not belong to a movement of their day but point to something they believe in. One such conservation person captured my imagination in this way, though I cannot now trace the written source.

When I was a child and possessed my first map of the Adelaide Hills I discovered a fascinating place called the Humbug Scrub. Years later when a teenager, I took a bicycle and cycled the forty miles over the rough roads and up and down the steep hills just to see what was there. The highlight of the visit was the finding of a small wildlife sanctuary in the scrub and the personal enthusiasm of old Mr Bellchamber who owned it.

Recently I read where Mr Bellchamber settled there at the turn of the century. He believed that the Humbug Scrub must be preserved for future generations and that Australian animals were under threat and required preservation. In his time he could only appear as a historical oddity.

After two World Wars, a Depression and six decades of time the Humbug Scrub was finally recognised and incorporated in the Para Wira National Park. Today you can still visit the Humbug Scrub Wildlife Sanctuary alongside the national park, now a reminder of Mr Bellchamber's efforts in a land he loved.

ODD NOTES ON THE HISTORY OF THE GUDGENBY NATURE RESERVE

At a committee meeting on 10 September 1962 the secretary, Fiona Brand, was given permission to obtain a rubber stamp for the correspondence, incorporating the words "A National Park for the National Capital". The slogan was our inspiration for the proposal we put to the government on 17 June 1963, and has been our guiding light ever since (the rubber stamp itself probably wore out long ago), even though the authorities altered the shape and size of our original proposal through a series of ebb-and-flow amendments for the next sixteen years. We consider the delay and indecision cheap at the price if it means that the most recent boundary has come to stay, for it includes much more than the very modest 58 square kilometres we requested in the first instance; and as the recognized procedure in dealing with government departments is to ask for ten times what one expects, we feel that this reversal amply fulfils at least one of the criteria of a national park,

namely that it should embody some unique feature. That it has been designated a nature reserve does not mean we have lost the battle. The term is a matter of policy in the A.C.T. and the Gudgenby Nature Reserve remains a magnificent tract of country.

The proposal was the work of a small sub-committee with Julie Henry as convenor and with many other helpers who gave us the benefit of their specialised knowledge. To judge from our own efforts in respect of the original small area, the government has put a great deal of work into the amendments, in particular regarding the way the park will affect the surrounding leasehold and freehold lands, and any resumption of them. We made very few such recommendations and of course did not have the delicate task of negotiating them.

The land forms and scenery we restudied largely by stereo work on the aerial photos, using the facilities that the CSIRO made available to us at their laboratories which were then at Manuka, and much of the drafting, editing and discussion took place there as well - after hours, we need hardly add. We had to traverse the area on foot to eliminate from our minds (and consequently from our writing) the exaggerated heights and steepness that stereo photos always show, and before we could make any authoritative statement on the vegetation. The need for field work was first brought up on 16 October 1961, when the committee discussed the possibility of asking the Canberra Alpine Club or the Canberra Bushwalking Club for help, and at a committee meeting on 13 February 1962 Julie Henry agreed to see if a trip could be arranged. It took place that summer, with three members of the sub-committee joining a Canberra Alpine Club week-end trip led by Alan Bagnall to the Kelly area; this was the first really purposeful visit. Careful talking was necessary to convince some members of the club that the botanical collections were in a good cause and not merely vandalism. Nancy Burbidge, as we need also hardly add, was given the lioness's share of writing up the vegetation from her own wide knowledge and from piecemeal collections and notes made by the rest of us as time went on. We think one of the illustrative photos in the proposal was taken on the first visit but cannot be sure, because the photos in the report are only a chosen few of the piles that were taken on that and many subsequent trips, including one of a brumby foal, "small but adequate", that had been a permanent fixture in some of our drinking water.

If our list of birds is comprehensive, our list of mammals is perhaps even a little more comprehensive than it should be. Later workers have been as hard pressed as we were, e.g. "Although little is known about the status of bats in the area, they are thought likely to occur". We did no trapping or shooting

A sad event was the demolition of the old Boboyan homestead when the owner found it was being used as a base by people who were not really interested in the surroundings and what they had to offer to the naturalist. While we sympathise with him, we hope the rangers will be able to protect and maintain the other historic buildings and traces of early inhabitants, recently studied and catalogued by J.H. Winston-Gregson. Some are rapidly

being destroyed. Speaking personally, since we know that beauty is in the eye of the beholder, we can say we have seen none that are offensive, and there are in any case not many of them. Winston-Gregson quotes a 1927 report which stresses how few changes have taken place in this area over the years. The earliest date of recorded settlement is 1836.

Pleased as we are by the far-sightedness of the government in adding so generously to the original plan, we should not lose sight of the fact that our responsibilities have likewise been increased, for we undertook to help in blazing walking tracks and building public facilities, and to collect and collate information on the flora and fauna and to prepare notes on walking tracks, scenery, geology, flora and fauna for visitor brochures. We are morally bound to honour those promises.

Bob Story

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

Over the last ten years or so there has been considerable discussion on the merits of public participation in government decision making. In Australia this debate has taken place mainly in the urban planning and social policy fields. Some experiments in wider participation in government activities have been made (for instance in the Glebe project in Sydney) with varying degrees of success.

To date there has been little discussion on community consultation in environmental matters. It was, therefore, very encouraging to hear Dr Bryan Pratt from the Department of the Capital Territory speak on this subject at the National Parks General Meeting in April. One theme which emerged clearly from his talk was the difficulties consultation involves, both from the side of the government agency concerned and that of organisations and individuals in the community who are affected by or interested in particular proposals or policy directions.

The goals of participation can vary widely, but those suggested in a recent report¹ provide a useful checklist:

- . exchange of information
- . clarification of positions
- . exposure and analysis of:
 - consumer needs
 - policy deficiencies
 - administrative arrangements
 - service delivery problems
- . influence on planning, policy formulation and decision-making
- . informal coordination of activities.

There are also a number of ways of seeking participation, and they include participation as market research, as decision-making, as the dissolution of organised opposition, as social therapy and as grassroots radicalism.² In the first (participation as market research) the responsibility and power of the bureaucracy are emphasised, and the participant is seen as a 'consumer' or customer. Administrators tend to see it as a means of obtaining reliable feedback from 'consumers' in the form of useful advice and suggestions, usually on matters of detail rather than on overall policy directions. This view of participation is most common in Australia.

In the ACT we have also seen examples of the sort of consultation exercise which is basically designed to dissolve opposition. Leaders of groups opposed to government proposals may be coopted into the decision-making process, or a series of discussions may be held with individuals and groups on a particular proposal. In these sorts of instances it has been fairly common again for discussion to centre on matters of detail. As Dr Pratt pointed out, there has also been a tendency for planners and administrators to regard their activities as involving only technical or professional concerns and for broader natural or social environmental questions to be overlooked.

At the formal level most consultation on environmental matters now happens in a basically reactive way, through channels such as asking for comments on draft environmental impact statements, management plans and so on. By the time most such documents are released for public comment, most of the groundwork for the proposal has been fairly clearly defined and its outlines set. Opportunities to discuss alternative ways of meeting the objectives underlying the proposal have often disappeared by this stage, and people wishing to query the basic assumptions of a particular proposal face a lengthy uphill struggle.

Increasingly, government administrators and non-government organisations are trying to find ways of overcoming this sort of situation, which is unsatisfactory to both. One difficulty is that few people are prepared to be involved continuously or extensively in consultative processes on general policy questions and most people will not seek (or not remember) information until they need it, or until it is obvious that a particular proposal is likely to affect them directly.

Consultation also takes place informally between government departments and non-government organisations. One advantage of this sort of consultation is its flexibility, and it is usually seen as helpful and useful by both groups. However, it can fall

-
1. Task Force on Co-ordination in Welfare and Health. Consultation and the Co-ordination of Social Policy Development. 1978.
 2. Dennis, N. Public Participation and Planners' Blight. Faber & Faber, London 1972.

down when the individuals move or office bearers change, and can be felt to be exclusive by those not directly involved. Further formal consultative processes need to be developed to overcome some of these difficulties.

Whatever the form of consultation, it is important that it should begin as early as possible to avoid it being simply a rubber stamp exercise, for the more developed plans are before being discussed, the more limited is the scope for genuine participation, or for the adoption of alternative proposals.

Perhaps the most important effect of participation is that public authorities are likely to be more concerned and thoughtful about their functions and activities than they otherwise would be. People outside of government also tend to be reassured if they are informed and consulted in more open planning processes. Another important factor is that specialist skills and local knowledge in the community and in environmental organisations can be made available to government.

If governments and administrators make decisions bearing these sorts of things in mind, it is worth some delays and expense - and greater ones may be avoided.

Lyn Leader

GARAWARRA

The Sydney Bushwalkers Club now looks back over 21 years of its history, and not the least of the highlights is the Club's record in the sphere of conservation, and in that sphere 'Operation Garawarra' must go on the record as one of the major victories of the bushwalking movement.

The Sydney Bushwalkers, of course, do not claim all the credit for the victory, but they are justly proud of the part they played with kindred clubs and organisations in preserving for posterity a choice area of coastal bushland that will always be the joy of recreational walkers and campers.

The name Garawarra is a combination of Gara (Garie) and Illawarra, and was suitably chosen when bushwalkers started the agitation for the resumption of the Gara Estate and surrounding bushland, totalling in all 5,000 acres. The full objective was not achieved and at present the reserve consists of 1,465 acres adjoining the southern boundary of National Park, with the privately owned lands at North Era; Era, and the head of Black Gin Creek, breaking a continuous reserve of glorious coastal scenery. Even the gem of the Reserve, Burning Palms beach, is somewhat tarnished by the presence of many unsightly shacks on the southern slope of the northern headland in the Gara Estate.

The first record we have of a bushwalker 'discovering' Burning Palms is from Myles Dunphy, who, with the instinct of an explorer, followed southward the trail from 'The Posts' just off the Garie Road in July 1913. Those who know Myles can imagine his ecstasy as he explored what was then a primitive paradise, apparently frequented only by occasional fishermen. Cabbage tree palms reared their heads on the terraced slopes that ended almost on the beach. Trees, vines and shrubs grew in tropical profusion and vandalism had not shown its ugly scars.

The name 'Burning Palms' became attached to the place arising from a small incident. At night Myles set a light to some dead cabbage tree palm leaves and hoisted them aloft. The beacon was observed by some campers further north, who lit a flare in reply.

As time went on the need for protecting the place became of first rate urgency. Timber getters had become active, hunters with rifles and dogs were playing havoc, the wild flower glutton was reaping a harvest, and cattle roamed their wilful way.

Myles Dunphy, as Secretary of the Mountain Trails Club, one of the very few walking clubs of the day, had his Club pressing hard for reservation, but all they could get from officialdom was a statement that reservation was not warranted. That was in 1925 and, temporarily balked, the members of the Mountain Trails Club and the Bush Tracks Club did all they could in a voluntary capacity to patrol the area and stem the tide of vandalism.

By 1927 the Sydney Bush Walkers came into existence and some Mountain Trails Club members were actively associated with the new club, which was open to both sexes. Right at its birth the S.B.W. met its first conservation task and as the Club's membership grew so did the intensity for 'Operation Garawarra'.

During the depression years of the early 1930's bushwalking became more and more popular, and those genuinely attracted to bushwalking as distinct from the passing vogue of 'mystery hikes' formed new clubs, which were immediately enlisted in the growing army for the battle of Garawarra.

An important step in the campaign was the formation in 1932 of the New South Wales Federation of Bush Walking Clubs, thus bringing together for combined action the whole bushwalking fraternity. The immediate and urgent objective was Garawarra.

Publicity in the press, printed handbills, deputations to Ministers of the Crown, and correspondence with all organisations likely to be sympathetic, roused more and more enthusiasm, and to cap it all the petition to the Minister for Lands was drawn up and nearly 5,000 signatures obtained.

The work of obtaining these signatures was immense, as large numbers of non-club walkers had to be contacted at Railway Stations and in the bush at week ends, and other people genuinely interested had to be sought out.

In due course the petition was presented to the Minister for Lands, the Hon. E.A. Buttenshaw, and the outcome was the dedication of 1,300 acres for public recreation on 17 August 1934. The new reserve was named Garawarra Park and there was a definite promise from the Minister that as long as he was Minister for Lands Garawarra would remain roadless, although it was not officially recognised as a primitive area.

On 25 January 1935 seven trustees were appointed to control Garawarra Park. They were Messrs H.W. Whiddon and W.F. Leighton Bailey of the National Park Trust, E.J. Ryan and A.H. Fackender of the Bulli Shire Council, J.V. Turner and W.J. Roots of the NSW Federation of Bush Walking Clubs, and G.P. Allman, Under Secretary for Lands.

Joe Turner and Wal Roots were two S.B.W. members who had done yeoman service in the fight for Garawarra, and it was fitting that they should be selected to act as Bushwalkers' representatives on the Trust.

Theo Atkinson (Rucksack Club) replaced Wal Roots when he resigned, and I replaced Joe Turner when he resigned.

The Bushwalkers' Trustees have had no easy task over the years as it must be said that as a minority they had to withstand strong pressure to allow permissive occupancies to remain on the Reserve, and also to fight strenuously against a determined move to have Garawarra added to National Park.

In the depression years and prior to the Park being dedicated many shacks and permanent camps were erected in the vicinity of Burning Palms, and one shack in the jungle south of Burning Palms had been built of trunks of palm trees. Horrible damage had been done to the natural landscape and despite stubborn resistance the unauthorised squatters were ejected from the Park.

A few well-conducted permanent campers who had been there for some years before the Park was dedicated were allowed to remain under permissive occupancy, and the revenue from their rentals helps to finance the Park administration, which depends chiefly on a small Government subsidy.

Small additions to the original grant have brought the total acreage to 1,465.

Garawarra has to some extent recovered from the blitz of the vandals of years ago, and for the last ten years a ranger has been paid to patrol the Park at week-ends.

What Garawarra could have been but for the efforts of Bushwalkers is vividly illustrated by the village of shacks and humpies that appal the eye on the adjoining Gara Estate.

Tom Herbert

(This article was written in 1948. Since then when plans were heard to build a country club and a road behind the beach at Era, a key block was purchased by the Sydney Bushwalkers for a little over \$800. A few years later this block was resumed by the State Government and the whole area of Era and Garawarra has since been added to the Royal National Park.)

BOUDDI NATIONAL PARK

The originator of Bouddi National Park (originally Bouddi NATURAL Park) was the telescope through which we children in the teens of this century looked from the verandah of our Palm Beach cottage across the wide Hawkesbury estuary of rusting boilers of the good ship 'Maitland' wrecked on Bouddi headland in 1898.

On the 5th May 1898 the 'Maitland' paddled out from Sydney. It was a dark and stormy night. Soon mountainous waves were hurling themselves over the ship. The engine fires went out. The ship floundered helplessly. People waited for the inevitable when the ship crashed onto the bombora off Bouddi headland. Some were flung overboard and perished. Eventually, one, Russell, got a life line ashore and some passengers and crew were taken safely over. But then the life line broke and more perished. Some firemen, the mate, a baby girl and the captain were still left. One can imagine the agony of the mother ashore and the wailing of the baby for a second day while the captain and mate tried to feed her

on sweet biscuits and water. At last those on shore got another life line over the mate with the baby strapped on his back were followed by the others to safety. And then the 'Herald' reporter came on the scene and reported that 39 people were saved and 24 drowned, and also that Bouddi headland was surrounded by very rough country.

When I reached years of discretion (or indiscretion, our parents might have said), about 1920 I think, I persuaded three girl friends to form an 'Expedition' to those rusting boilers. I do not remember how we got there, but I do remember that Esther wore a man's breeches and a huge Colts automatic pistol, and that the rest of us took off our skirts and romped about in dark coloured bloomers, and that when we went to get our skirts we could not find them. Horrors! Fancy going home without skirts! However, we did find them and slept on the hard, dewy, compacted sand under the stars - no Paddy Pallin tents in those days.

The next day Esther and I pored over maps and compasses and the possibility of tramping to Kincumber through the macrazamia with its pineapple-like fruit. The other two rushed off to Bouddi Skillian unbeknown to us, and we saw them no more. A severe thunder storm came up in the afternoon. The others took refuge in a friendly farm house and were treated like princesses. Esther and I slept in a smelly cow shed!

The next landmark was the formation of the Sydney Bushwalkers in 1927. In 1930 Dorothy Lawry pointed out that there were many 'Boat Harbours' on the map, but that this was special and should be called 'Maitland Bay'. No sooner said than done. The Lands Department obligingly put the suggested name on the map.

In 1935 I led a party of Sydney Bushwalkers to the new Maitland Bay and considerably further. They were not impressed. At the annual camp shortly after, I was presented with a large, long deed scroll reciting the gift to me of 'the clear fresh drinking water which takes so much finding, the glorious grassy camping sites that do not exist, the day and night flying Imperial sized mosquitoes, the sleepless nights and surfless bay, and in short the whole dog-gone place' 'in return for noble efforts to have it set aside as a national park.' For in the meantime I had been softening public opinion by writing articles for various newspapers and journals showing that the new park was all but dedicated.

Then came the Federation of Bushwalking Clubs and they were persuaded to make Maitland Bay and Bouddi a first conservation project.

Again, it was very easy. The Lands Department told Mr Barry, the district surveyor, to report, and asked the Federation to appoint three people to accompany him. Dorothy Lawry and Richard Croker and I were appointed. On the train, we cogitated where we should take him. We turned up with business-like rucksacks, rain capes, and food - and billies, I suppose. He turned up with his lunch in a red handkerchief tied to his waist belt. We did not take him. He took us and took us through the rough stuff. He also added the land at the northern end of Killcare beach, which we had not ventured to include.

The actual birth of the Park was again extraordinarily easy. The Gosford Council was asked to appoint three trustees and so was the Federation. Hudson Smith, Charles D'Arcy Roberts and myself were nominated by the Federation, all belonging to different clubs. We used to hold the Trustee meetings on the beach. Only one councillor used to come to them. We named him Steam Roller because he trampled down all our suggestions with an iron will. However, it was he who proposed the name Bouddi Natural Park. For once we were in agreement.

So Natural could then indicate no roads, buildings or other so-called improvements. Alas! When the Park became a national park, the term Natural was changed to 'National'. Later on, Mr Steam Roller was replaced by Mr Lillicrap, the Shire president, and he was a tower of strength.

When I went to China mountaineering in 1938 Charlie Roberts took over the secretaryship, and it was then that large additions began to be made. Charles had been chosen as a trustee because he had a genuine love of Bouddi, as a photo in his office showed. He also led moonlight walks through the roughest places. But when war was declared, he was one of the first to join up and he was one of the first to be killed. We arranged that the tiniest beach should be named for him, Bullinah, the Home of the Great Spirit. On the windy afternoon of 13th May, 1948, Mr Lillicrap conducted a little ceremony and Charlie D'Arcy Roberts's parents came.

Working bees among bushwalkers have now become so common that people may have forgotten the first was at Maitland Bay. Everyone predicted that it would be a failure. But sixty bushwalkers came along in May, 1940. A tank was floated round on a calm day by the honorary ranger, who lived in a hut at Maitland Bay. We built a shelter shed to provide fresh clean water in lieu of the admittedly brackish water of the well, and we built properly graded and drained footpaths to cause no soil erosion.

When I retired from the Trust, Daphne Ball of the Coast and Mountain Walkers (later Daphne McKern) took over the honorary secretaryship. She was outstandingly efficient and enthusiastic and it was a joy to see her name on the notice boards that were now erected. Alan Strom soon became president and lent the weight of his well known knowledge. It is no doubt invidious to mention the principal helpers when there are so many. But the late Bill Dingeldi was renowned everywhere for the innumerable jobs he did for Bouddi, and he is now commemorated by a shelter shed on Mount Bouddi Head, and, I am sorry to say, a road, formerly a fire trail, to it. Harry Whaite has been foremost in enthusiastic research; and when the National Parks and Wild Life Service took control and the area became Bouddi State Park and later Bouddi National Park, Harry continued in his capacity of Honorary Treasurer for about two years. And then there is Bill Holesgrove, a one time president, and Oliver Wyndham who used to lay out tracks with me before working bees. And now there is Beryl Strom who is referred to for everything.

The black spot has been rutilé mining which was forced on the trustees. It was at the northern end of Killcare Ocean Beach. It destroyed the rain forest and the best camp sites, and left a desert. Even deserts can be beautiful. But we can be thankful that it has not been allowed at any other of the beaches.

Bouddi Natural Park started in 1935 as a strip of land along the coast from McMasters Beach to Killcare Ocean Beach of 650 acres (about 260 hectares). Bouddi National Park has an area of 1,067.3 hectares, with a few small additions since that calculation was made at the beginning of 1977. So the offspring of that telescope on a Palm Beach verandah have been considerable, even though the rusting boilers have now nearly disintegrated and the bell had lost its tongue when it was retrieved from a crevice in the rocks by some fishermen.

Marie B. Byles

THE BORDER RANGES

In conservation terms the 'Border Ranges' is now accepted as applying to the central portion of the Macpherson Range, between Mount Lindsay and Lamington, plus a southern spur, the Tweed Range, which is the western boundary of the Tweed Valley.

Back in 1946 and 1947, Ray Kirkby led a two-week and a three-week trip in the Western Macphersons, which rate as one of the highlights of bushwalking. Lamington, north of the Tweed Range, has long been popular amongst bushwalkers, but the 'Border Ranges' area was, for some reason, neglected, at least by the NSW walkers.

There are three State Forests on the Border Ranges - Mount Lindsay at the eastern end, Roseberry in the middle, and Wiangarrie, which includes the Tweed Range, to the west. In mid-1973, Peter Maslen told the Colong Committee of the logging of the Wiangerie rainforest, and, although the Committee didn't know the area, it adopted the project of saving the rainforest. I undertook to visit the forest in the course of a tour with Hilma, of Northern NSW. It so happened, as we approached Rathdowney, we had a puncture. The service station couldn't fix it that afternoon, so we decided to camp a little way out of town. Next morning we were surprised to see the school bus coming into our camping area. The driver, who had just purchased a Ford four-wheel-drive truck, wanted to have a look at our 'Range Rover' vehicle, the first of its kind to be seen in most of the areas we visited. We told him we were going on to Lamington and Wiangarie and he said, 'Don't worry about Lamington - it's nothing compared to Lever's Plateau. My father has a farm up there - I'll ring him up and tell him you're coming'. I didn't demur, and that afternoon we arrived at his father - Gordon Philp's - delightful home on the edge of the plateau. Gordon and his wife made us feel very much at home and he took us for a tour of the forest on Lever's Plateau. We saw what is undoubtedly the most magnificent remnant of sub-tropical rainforest in Australia. Gordon knew all the trees and other plant life, intimately. The forest was part of the Roseberry State Forest and had been saved only by the forbearance of John Lever, who held the timber rights for many years, and the cost of the road up from the NSW side was his. Gordon was anxious to gain support for its preservation. We went on to Lamington, then round to Mullumbimby, where we talked to John Brown, Secretary of the Border Ranges Preservation Society, and to Russ Maslen (Peter's father) President of the Byron Fauna and Flora Society, the leading campaigners for the preservation of the forests. We drove up the forest road to the Tweed escarpment from which we had a magnificent view of the Tweed Valley and Mount Warning.

Back in Sydney the fight for Kanangra-Boyd was at a critical stage, and the Colong Committee had little time for the Border Ranges, but by June, 1975, the battle was won and we re-arranged our priorities. It was unanimously decided that the Border Ranges came first. This was because of the outstanding scenic attraction of this last substantial remnant of virgin rain-forest, and the fact that, once logged, it would take centuries for the trees to be replaced, and the possibility that the fragile rain-forest ecology would never be restored. Shortly before this, Peter Maslen was elected Chairman of the Committee. Before long the Border Ranges had made the Sydney Press and the parliamentarians were taking an interest. It soon became obvious that our chief obstacle was the employment afforded by logging. A Government Parties Commission was formed to report on the proposal. It visited the Border Ranges, the party being conducted by the Forestry Commission which hold that, by a '50% Canopy Retention' method, it can

log the forest without causing anything but temporary damage. This of course is nonsense. Not only are the best trees, which have taken anything from 2 to 11 centuries to mature, removed, but in the process of roading, snigging, felling etc., a large proportion of the remainder of the forest is badly damaged. Nevertheless it was what the parliamentarians, for special reasons of political expediency, chose to accept. They opted for 'Multiple use' of the forest, which meant continuous logging.

High hopes were held of a more sympathetic attitude by the Wran government. It appointed an interdepartmental committee, consisting of the heads of the departments concerned. This committee, too, went on the Forestry Commission's conducted tour, but reached no conclusion whatever. Its report merely described seven options for the management of the Border Ranges, ranging from complete protection of the forests to complete destruction. Meanwhile, pressure from the Conservationists eventually led to a State Pollution Control Commission review. Unlike the previous inquiries, this was an open inquiry, which, judging from the Boyd and Culoul Range inquiries, would be fairly conducted. 129 submissions were made to the SPCC Review in favour of creating the Park, and 40 against it. The favourable submissions included many from highly qualified scientists. Two of the principal submissions were from Dr I.V. Newman, formerly a professor and lecturer in plant morphology, who conclusively disproved the Forestry Commission's claims on 50% 'canopy retention', and Dr Schaeffer from the School of Town Planning, University of NSW, who, with the help of 14 students, analysed the economics of logging and proposed re-allocation of timber quotas which would enable employment to be maintained without the use of the Border Ranges' timber. Nearly all the submissions in favour of logging could be identified with the saw-milling interests. No scientific evidence was given to support logging and no attempt was made to refute Dr Newman's submission.

Although adequate time was given for discussion at the Review, it was otherwise a hurried affair. Discussions finished on 3 April and the Commission made its recommendations on 15 April. In its report the Commission stated that, if the conservation of natural values was the sole criterion, all the three State Forests would have gone to the Park. This proposal was rejected on economic grounds - i.e., costs to the Forestry Commission and the loss of employment. The Commission recommended the creation of a Park some 40km long and averaging about 2km wide along the border. Included in this 'park' was the Forestry Commission's Grady Creek Flora Reserve, which was to be logged. This recommendation was accepted by the Government on 2 May. In the light of evidence submitted by a number of highly-qualified witnesses, the park which is to be created is quite inadequate from the viewpoint of specie preservation and park management. The proposal for the inclusion of the three State Forests has been endorsed by the National Heritage Commission, which has listed the area on its register of the National Estate. The same area, with some extensions, also has been classified by the National Trust. Although wilderness is now a scarce and irreplaceable source it comes at the bottom of land use priorities and is usually saved only if it is quite useless for any other purpose. The conservationists expect this and know that nothing will be saved from the developers without a long and bitter struggle. But what was done for Kanangra-Boyd can be done for the Border Ranges.

A. Colley

THE BLUE GUM FOREST

To those who have not been there, the Blue Gum Forest in the Blue Mountains is a magnificent stand of the *Eucalyptus Deanii* situated on an alluvial river flat at the confluence of Govett's Leap Creek and the Grose River, some 2000ft below Blackheath, in the shadow of Mount King George, a veritable cathedral on the night of the full moon. Back in April 1931, a small exploring party from the Mountain Trails Club/Sydney Bush Walkers came upon an axeman busy ring-barking. In horror of the desecration, they induced him to stay his hand and made an offer to purchase the Conditional Lease with the view of inaugurating a Reserve. In due course a purchase figure of \$260 was agreed for the 40 acres, towards which the Mountain Trailers contributed \$16, the Sydney Bush Walkers \$20 and the Wild Life Preservation Society \$50 - which does not sound much today, but 1931 was in the depths of the Great Depression when 2/-d (20¢) would have purchased no less than 8 meat pies - a guide to the then money value! Great difficulties were encountered to raise the balance after the initial deposit of \$50 but by dint of approaches to friends, business firms, appeal through the 'Herald' per medium of the then gardening writer, Mr J.C. Lockley (after whom Lockley Pylon is named), a Blue Gum ball and, not to be forgotten, the fine efforts of René Browne in organising social functions, \$100 was accumulated. It was then realised a loan would have to be raised and an approach was made to a free-lance bushwalker and conservator, the Late Mr W.J. Cleary, who then was the Commissioner for Railways, who contributed \$160, free of interest, repayable in two years (which it was). (I doubt if he was influenced by increased rail passenger traffic to Blackheath.) By the mutual agreement of all concerned, the Department of Lands revoked the Conditional Purchase Lease and created the Blue Gum Forest (Reserve 63,521 for Public Recreation), appointed a Trust comprising Dorothy Lawry, Joe Turner and the Late Alan Rigby and Roy Bennett, later to have Maurie Berry and Wally Roots in its midst, when two retired. The Forest now comprises part of the Northern Blue Mountains National Park but the small 'early step' proved to be a 'great leap' as far as conservationists are concerned. But now unsettling news. The NP & WLS has arrived at the conclusion that the trees are all about the same age of 400 years and that some show signs of dying, and, due to the dense leaf canopy, there are only a few spindly seedlings which hardly see the important sunlight for their growth. There is a theory that, probably due to a bushfire, the river flat was denuded of light growth and that the original trees all germinated at the same time, hence they will expire together. It would seem ecological situations are not permanent in Nature and that localised areas will be subject to change as the centuries roll by. Severe bank erosion is accentuating the problem.

B.G. Harvey

THE APPLICATION OF GEOLOGY TO MODIFYING THE EARTH'S SURFACE: FOR BETTER OR WORSE

'We shall try to see the scientist with no axe to grind other than the axe of truth and no product to advertise save the product of honest and careful enquiry.' Facts from Figures, M.J. Moroney.

Modification of the earth's surface is a very nondescript phrase for the chaos brought about by earthquakes, volcanic activity, floods, landslips, rock falls and tsunamis; we regard these events as natural disasters because they threaten human life; however, it may be no less a disaster to man if the extinction of other forms of life take place, perhaps over 1000 years, perhaps 10 years or even 10 seconds. It is difficult to convince the man in the street

that slow change is taking place, and harder still to convince him that he is or may be contributing to that change. That brings us to modification of the earth's surface by man's activities, and one of them is engineering construction.

Engineering geology is the application of geology to engineering construction, and the aim is to achieve the stability of a structure on its foundation and maintain it throughout the life of the structure; for example, Googong Dam was built to provide a water supply and we hope that it was built with as little effect on the surrounding area in both the short and the long term as can be engineered economically. There is always some effect, and if it is accepted by society of the day with full knowledge of the facts, we can do no more.

In assessing the stability of a road cut, we can tell from the orientation of joints those blocks that are stable, and those that are unstable. A block is unstable if the angle of rest is greater than the angle of friction of the slope on which it rests, and it is stable if the angle of rest is less than the angle of friction. However, if the surface on which the block rests should become saturated, then the angle of friction will change and a formerly stable block could become unstable; similarly an earth tremor may initiate the movement of a block along a surface and initiate a dynamic situation. Our problem is compounded by the fact that a rock face consists of numbers of blocks, and any movement of one of them may effect the stability of another, so how should we classify a slope and make a considered judgement as to whether remedial action should be taken to ensure stability. This is done by the statistical assessment of the joints on slopes so that a prediction can be made of the percentage of the face of the slope that will fail, assuming various conditions of wetness of rock joints, and various earthquake intensities likely to be experienced during the life of the structure.

The assessment of probability of failure is complex; however, we should all accept the statistical concept of probability as a valid means of assessing risk. No matter what we build, there is a risk of failure by earthquake; such a risk is considered to be insignificant over most of Australia, but nevertheless it is invariably considered in the design of every major structure. The probability of destruction by flood is a fact if you build on the riverbank, and although many people who live on the banks of rivers may not realise it, the probability is there as was demonstrated a few years ago by the Brisbane River flood. That brings us to look at the concept of safety; there is no such thing as absolute safety; there is always probability and so you construct as economically as possible a structure to withstand only those probabilities that you consider must be catered for. In doing so you make a value judgement on behalf of society. It is important that we recognise that safety cannot be proven, that we promote public discussion of probability and risk so that the scientist exercises his judgement knowing the expectations of society, and that society accepts the economic penalties that may accrue from its expectations of safety.

Geologists and geophysicists study the earth from different points of view; the geologist observes the physical characteristics of the earth and describes and quantifies them as best he can, whereas the geophysicist endeavours to interpret geological phenomena in time and space in accord with physical laws in static and dynamic situations. Almost every manifestation of rock structure in geology is of such a magnitude that its initiation probably required many catastrophic events to bring it about, so it is easy to see how structural geology, rock mechanics and soil mechanics are involved, but hydrogeology is even more important as a means of initiating catastrophic movement. The

pressure of water in rock or soil can initiate slope failure, and as water is also a medium for the transport of dissolved salts and nutrients for life, changes in the hydrogeology of an area have consequences for plant and animal life that may take a long time to be identified. In Western Australia the exploitation of forests is attributed with increasing the salt content of groundwater and thereby causing dieback of native vegetation. Water may also be the medium for the transport of a pollutant, be it hydrocarbons from an overturned tanker that soak into the soil, leachate from a landfill site, or seepage from a tailings dam; the major key to pollution is an understanding of the hydrogeology.

The title of this talk contained the phrases 'the application of geology' and 'for better or worse'. Construction, mining, exploitation of forests, agriculture, irrigation and water conservation and urban engineering are all modifications of the earth's surface that require the application of geology and affect stability of one kind or another in the environment. Geology, however, is one of a number of sciences whose study will lead to an understanding of the processes taking place. We should remember that our problems are multi-disciplinary ones, and that the probability of any events taking place will require contributions from all sciences if we are to meet the expectations of society. I consider those expectations to be a consensus of opinion that accepts a trade-off between acceptable risk and the economic penalty that it exacts.

'Far better an approximate answer to the right question, which is often vague, than an exact answer to the wrong question, which can always be made precise.' John W. Tukey, Ann Math Stat.

E.G. Wilson

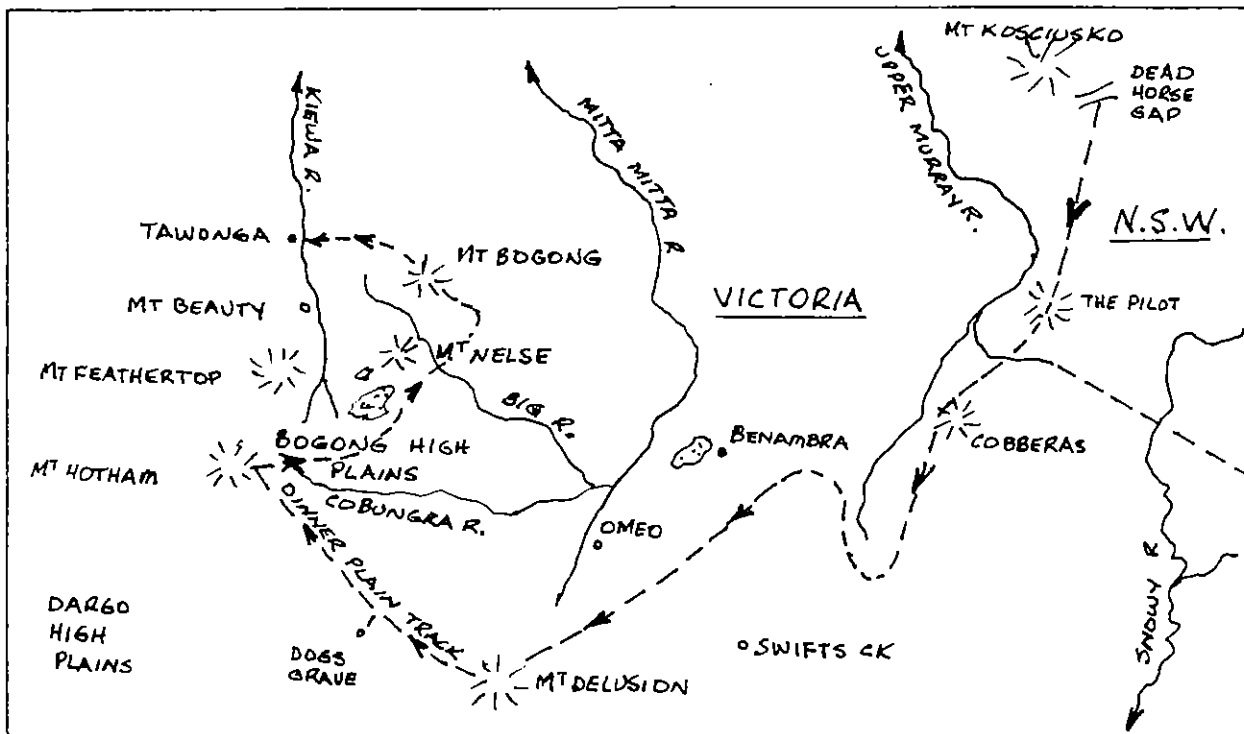
Text of lecture given to the Association on 17 May 1979. Many interesting slides of natural and man-initiated disasters, mining activities, etc. were shown to supplement the lecture.

FROM SNOW TO SNOW

A teenage dream of walking the Great Dividing Range from the Grampians to Cape York—I didn't quite make it as the years passed, but I did tramp many of the sections. Here is a short account of walking a part that is sort of local to Canberra, solo last year in December.

Geoff Moseley, writing an account of his 1971 walk from Canberra to Mt Skene, said 'avoid walking with the early morning sun in your eyes'. So with this in mind I planned my route southward from Dead Horse Gap near Thredbo, not over the trails so admirably traversed by Geoff and his companions, but along the main range with all its humps and turns in a south-east arc till I could swing off onto the Bogong High Plains and then that other snowy peak of our high country, Victoria's highest, Mount Bogong.

A reconnaissance in November with a very nimble 4-wheel drive Suzuki enabled me to touch the range at strategic points where I put down a series of food dumps. These would enable me to be independent of human habitation for sustenance over the whole 20 days I had allowed myself. Also with a good idea of the water situation I returned to Canberra and packed my rucksack.



Day 1. A dreadful day of driving sleet as my family waves me off into the sodden snow gums near Dead Horse Gap. South to Cascade Hut. Sleep snugly while the bush drowns, with thanks to the Illawarra Alpine Club which maintains this haven. Day 2. Can't believe it. Fine and sunny. South through beautiful tall forest to Tin Mine huts. To my right the country drops off into the blue Indi Gorge. Signs of horsemen ahead of me. The hut log-book at Tin Mine tells of Cooktown-to-Melbourne trail riders gone before by several days. I sleep in Charlie Carter's hut—think of Charlie dying here in the winter of 1952 when his horses got away on him. A dingo howls in the night. Day 3. Climb The Pilot in perfect weather, looking back to snow on Kosciusko and away west to snow on Bogong—my goal so far away. Camp on the border at Cowombat Flat. Remains of 1953 crashed DC-3 aircraft. Day 4. Try to climb Mt Cobberas No.1 during afternoon. No tracks. Can't make it in time. Turn back and camp. Brumbies inspect the tent at dusk. Day 5. Pick up food from base of tree near Native Cat Flat. Wild wind on the ridge all day. A dry run—I bail water from seepage puddles. Made welcome at unexpected mining camp. Wonderful hot shower. Day 6. Dip off the range to cross the upper Tambo. Families of kangaroos playing on forsaken cow pastures in the valley. Slog over to within sight of Lake Omeo. Wild storm during the night. Have to shift tent because of dangerous tree. Day 7. Dawn breaks clear. Bush alive with bird calls. No trails to the ridge so I take to the open pasture land. Hard walking, Grass very lush and wet, many thistles. Wish I was back in the forest. Throw my pack over how many fences!

Day 8. Onto bush trails again. Recover food from empty wombat hole. Camp near Mount Jonas in tall Ash forest. Gurgling calls of phalangers during the night. Day 9. Cross over Tongio Gap—the road from Omeo to Bairnsdale. A grazier kindly takes my mail to post out. Pass through hills with marvellous names. Gingie Mungee. Mungo Bala. Day 10. A long haul up to Mt Delusion. Shining mica schist underfoot. Plenty of emus and wombats. Glades of Bedfordia and Olearia. Try to find the summit, but too many thick trees, can't locate the highest point—Delusion is a good name! Make camp with Lyrebirds calling all around. Day 11. Moist Gippsland airstreams show effect in tall Ash forests

thick with ferns. Wallabies bouncing ahead of me in the morning light. Going west now. Groves Gap for lunch. See first snake of the trip. Come upon deserted loggers camp. Saturday afternoon of course—they're all at the pub. I push on past Shanahans Mountain, on to the hut at Dog's Grave. Beautiful etched grey granite memorial to a drover's dog, and the Dargo pioneers. Hut with window holed by vandal bullets. Wombats grubbing around the camp. Day 12. A seeming endless road through endless grey gums. But at dusk a fine mountain lagoon with ducks. Most water I've had since I left the border. Mosquitoes too—glad I have a net. Day 13. Fine food dump at Dinner Plain. Make camp on a balmy hot afternoon and do my laundry. Prospect of some civilization tomorrow at Hotham Heights. Big clouds coming up in the west. Day 14. After a wild night of electric storms and lashing rain, set off in drizzle towards Hotham Heights. A soggy hike. Glad my gear is good or I'd perish. I hit the motor road. Cars pass me with lights on in the misty rain—must think I'm mad. At last the semi-deserted ski resort—and the Snowbird Chalet. Wonderful hot shower (again). People to talk to. Phone home to say all's well. Day 15. Snow overnight! The landscape is white. Do I leave for Dibbins Hut or not? Set out mid morning over light snow, in occasional sunshine. Pass memorial to Charles Derrick. What a man! What a tragedy that afternoon in 1965! The weather looks tricky. I'm glad to reach Dibbins. Day 16. It's really wild up above. On the ridge I see gums bending in the wind. I'll stick to this hut for today. A bloke could die up there. Fixed creek crossing, swept the hut, buried rubbish. Time passed. Day 17. Clear skies so off I go. Up, up, up and suddenly the expanse of the Bogong High Plains before me. Mount Feathertop off to the west. Open grassland rather soggy. Crystal clear air, and views forever. Brumbies in the distance and crows circling over Mt Jim. Would like to be here in February for the flowers. Pass well known huts near Rocky Valley. Cope Hut. Wallaces Hut. Traverse Mt Nelse in late afternoon. Mt Buffalo's ridges silhouetted purple away in the west. Find Ropers Hut as the day fades. Day 18. Down notorious Duane Spur with knees sagging. The Big River is rushing wildly. How do I cross? Found a strung wire to hold on to. The cold water makes my legs ache. There are leeches at the river's edge so I leave quickly and climb the T-spur. A party of schoolboys comes down, on outdoor training out of Mount Wills. At last the ridgetop. Maddison's Hut burnt down. I pass the Cleve Cole Hut and see the ridge to Mt Bogong leading off into the sky. A cairn in the distance is my goal. Huge views back towards Kosciusko now. Did I really come that far? Suddenly the cairn is close—I'm there. Standing on Bogong at 4 in the afternoon I am victorious. Two lads come up from Cleve Cole Hut and we point out views, landmarks to each other, flinging arms out over the high space to other peaks, other valleys. Goodbye, and I clamber down the Staircase Spur. Summit Hut at head of the spur is a burnt ruin. I pass cairn to three people who perished in 1943. Must reach Mountain Creek before dark. A school group is camping mid-ridge near Bivouac Hut. Water tank sign says 'This water grows hair on your chest'. I keep going. Boil the billy with Mountain Creek water as darkness falls. Day 19. Oh no! I wake with rain falling on my camp. Packing wet gear is a bind. I splish and splosh along the creek trail to the roadhead. As I warm up I start to enjoy the morning, walking towards a comfy caravan at Tawonga campground.

It's all over. But I'll be back up there again some day.

Roy Pullen

(Lecture to the Association on Thursday, 21 June 1979.)

CONDITIONS OF EXCESSIVE COLD

In an earlier issue were mentioned two conditions which occur with exposure to very hot and humid weather. The two that follow occur in very cold and wet conditions. Hypothermia is in many ways the complete inverse of heat stroke. There is the similarity, though, that when the body temperature passes well outside the normal range, the temperature control mechanisms cease to function effectively and become incapable of restoring the temperature to normal by themselves. Thus left untreated hypothermia, like heat stroke, will progress further and further until death occurs.

Hypothermia. On a still, dry day, air temperatures may drop quite low without causing a great loss of heat from the body. However wind, especially with rain or snow and when the body and clothes are wet, increases the loss of heat enormously and may bring about a danger of hypothermia. Thus it is essential when walking in country where these weather conditions may occur to carry protective clothing that keeps both wind and water out. Other points to remember are that wool is good at keeping warmth in even when damp, compared with other materials, and that a lot of heat may be lost from around the head, so warm headgear is a must in such conditions. Bushwalking areas in Tasmania and in the high country of the mainland are notorious for sudden changes of this type and several fatalities have occurred.

The first warning of hypothermia is a vague, unpleasant feeling of coldness and exhaustion. With it comes an irritability, unco-operativeness and lack of morale that may strike other members of the party as uncharacteristic. This is a most important warning sign, often not evident to the victim, who may attempt to push on wrongly convinced it is only tiredness. Thus while it is hard to judge this general weariness, it is best for all in a group to be alert for such signs in a companion who may feel reluctant to complain. At an early stage hypothermia is easily dealt with, and a rest in sheltered conditions as soon as it is suspected, with some energy food taken while resting, may be sufficient. However it is important not to stop in an exposed place where the lack of movement only exacerbates the loss of body heat and further chills the victim.

The second definite warning is uncontrollable shivering, and when this occurs the body temperature is already several degrees below normal. Although it may begin apparently innocuously, the shivering becomes convulsive and more violent as body temperature falls. The shivering is an attempt to increase temperature by increasing muscular activity, but in bad weather conditions or when the victim has got cold even while exercising it will not compensate for the heat loss.

If body temperature continues to fall mental functions become impaired: the victim loses co-ordination and may stumble, mumble incoherently, act illogically or seem to be very sleepy. When the temperature reaches 30°C (86°F), the cessation of shivering indicates that the body has become incapable of returning to normal by itself and treatment is urgent if coma and death are to be avoided. At this late stage the muscles are stiff and unresponsive, and the pulse rate and breathing are slowed.

The treatment is to warm the victim immediately. The party should stop at once and put up a tent or make a natural shelter. Wet clothes must be stripped off and the sufferer got under cover and into warm dry clothes and a sleeping

bag. A second person should get into the bag to accelerate warming. When the victim has recovered consciousness hot, sweet liquids and food that is quickly converted to energy may be given. Never try to give food or liquid to an unconscious person as this may cause choking.

After the first danger 6 to 8 hours pass before full recovery. With a case of hypothermia it is wise to assume there is still danger and make for home.

Frostbite. Unlike hypothermia, which is a general chilling of the whole body, frostbite occurs when an exposed part of the body becomes so cold as to actually freeze, though the body core is still warm. It is most likely to occur in the extremities: fingers, toes or ears especially.

There are three degrees of frostbite, the 3rd degree being the most serious.

1st degree: the outer layers of the skin freeze. The affected part at first feels burning cold, then numb. Although the surface skin is white and hard, with pressing soft and resilient tissue can be felt underneath. Warm the part by holding it against warm skin; for example nipped fingers under an armpit, or toes against another person's abdomen. As the area rewarms, sensation will return with a painful prickling; the skin may be mottled and swollen for the next day and appear stained for a number of weeks. Precautions should be taken against further freezing.

2nd degree frostbite involves damage to deeper layers of skin, which is shown on rewarming by the formation of blisters. Treatment is the same as for first degree frostbite.

3rd degree frostbite involves the freezing of the whole thickness of skin and some underlying tissue. The affected part feels stiff and stony. As freezing progresses pain gives way to numbness, with finally an illusion of warmth, which is a real danger sign. Once this degree of freezing has occurred it cannot be thawed without great pain. It may be better not to attempt to thaw out frozen feet until nearer help, as the victim can walk many miles, if he must, with feet frozen. Once camp is made there is no choice but to warm the affected part. If hands are affected it is best to thaw as soon as possible, since prolonged freezing causes circulatory impairment as well as local tissue damage. Gangrene may follow thawing and the frost-bitten areas in this case are lost.

Warming should be done of all the part at the one time in a bath of warm water not hotter than 42°C (108°F). (On testing with an elbow it should beel pleasantly warm, not too hot.) Keep the water at this temperature while warming; never pummel the damaged flesh, rub it with snow, break the blisters that may form nor try to exercise the part. Never apply direct heat.

As a precaution against frostbite of the foot boots should not be overstuffed or tight, as this restricts the circulation. If the feet feel cold ease off straps and laces for the same reason.

The best way to avoid all these conditions, due to excessive heat as well as cold, is to be adequately prepared for unusual weather; in good condition physically; aware of the danger of exercising to exhaustion and ready to deal with any trouble early.

John Hook

LOCAL NEWS

Life Member At the June General Meeting Sheila Kruse was voted to be a Life Member in recognition of the conscientious and efficient manner she has carried out the duties of Secretary of this Association since 1971.

Royal National Park Centenary exhibit organised by our Association in the Woden Plaza was very successful. The exhibit attracted considerable interest and there were several enquiries about joining our Association.

Kakadu National Park The Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service requested suggestions for inclusion in a draft plan of management. An Association sub-committee prepared a list of suggestions and these have been forwarded to the Service.

Committee Resignation Because of a work commitment Lyn Leader is leaving Canberra for 12 months and will not be able to continue on the committee. With the proximity of the August Annual General Meeting the Committee decided not to seek an immediate replacement.

Jervis Bay Nature Reserve The Association's comments to a draft Plan of Management for the Jervis Bay Nature Reserve have been forwarded to the Department of the Capital Territory.

Petrol Costs The purpose of meeting close to Canberra and giving each other transport is to save petrol. Drivers are not allowed by law to charge passengers, but naturally our members who leave their cars behind will want to make some contribution to expenses. The committee has suggested as a guide that 2 cents per kilometre be offered. It would assist if this amount was calculated to the nearest dollar, to avoid problems of change. The items in this bulletin have a a new item of information and this is the approximate return distance from the Canberra rendezvous. There is no system that is perfect and if the above suggestion is taken as a guide to a voluntary contribution all members will benefit and help to conserve our resources.

Hannel's Spur - Pack Walk From Thredbo this will mean (a) a ride up in the chair lift with a rucksack and costing \$2-\$3 or (b) a 2-hour walk up Merrit's Spur and meeting at the top of the chair lift. From there the route is to Wilkinson's Valley, down 660 ft and across it to the top of Hannel's Spur and then with a steep and scrubby 1580 ft descent to Moira's Flat to camp in a small glade. On Sunday the final 3430 ft descent to Geehi down a steep drop with a fringe of blackberries at the bottom. A car shuffle is needed with walkers being dropped at Thredbo and drivers continuing on to Geehi to pick up survivors. Anyone willing to do the driving can count on a pleasant camp at Geehi and a warm greeting from the aforesaid survivors. Party limit about 8 and rain or blizzards may mean cancellation.

Lake Tarli Karng In the Victorian Alpine area 45 kilometres north of Heyfield lies Lake Tarli Karng at an altitude of 1500 metres. Discovered in the 1850's, it became known as the "Mystery Lake" because of its remoteness and no visible outlet. Six kilometres to the N.E. is 1700-metres Mt Wellington. An NPA member, Lyle Mark, visited the Lake some years ago and is planning to walk in again over the Christmas/New Year period. A 30-35 kilometre walk and 4-5 days from Canberra is involved. Five members have expressed interest and the party could be made up to 12. Final plans will be made after a reconnaissance planned for October. Anyone interested please contact Lyle Mark on 497488 (BH).

Environment Posters produced by the Department of Science & the Environment are available for use as education aids and display purposes in the community. They are available from the Department, Australian National Parks & Wildlife Service, D.C.T. Information Office and the Canberra and South East Region Environment Centre.

New Members The Association welcomes the following new members:- Andrew & Annette Hrast, Duffey; Janina Shewan, Torrens, Jane Sharwood, Acton; Mickey Hayer, Woden; Patricia Brown, Mawson; Gordon and Audrey Lawrie, Garran; Paul Redfern, O'Connor; Rick & Lester Pratt, Curtin; Phillip Lynch, Farrer; Koorine Else-Mitchell, Narrabundah, Andrienne Nicholson, Rivett, Margaret & Ken May, Charnwood, Dr Thelma Hunter, A.N.U; Mr & Mrs T. Bunning, Chapman; John Cornish & Jane Frost-Cornish, Chifley.

Membership Renewals C.G. Butcher, Richard Beidleman, Mollie Bouquet, Mary MacDonald, John Shunke, Mery & Cecil Hunter, Phyllis & Donald Spencer, Dr & Mrs H. Worner, Kath Moriarty, Pat & Brian Hammond, Jean & Ian Currie, Hela Lindemann, Beverley Hammond, Andrew Snedden, C. & R. Allen, J. & G. O'Loghlin, Sybil & Robert Story, Frank Hanlin, Hansen Hanson, Richard Boswell, Alan Mortlock, D. & S. Moss.

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.

Membership exceeds 300.

NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OUTINGS

Please notify leader of intention to come on all weekend outings.

September 2 - Sunday Smoker's Flat: Walk
Leader: Les Pyke 812982 Ref. ACT 1:100,000
Meet: Cnr Eucumbene Drive and Cotter Rd., 9 a.m. (90 km)

Some tracks, some scrub, very interesting hanging bog - medium.

September 9 - Sunday Sentry Box: Walk
Leader: Neville Esau 864176 Ref. ACT 1:100,000
Meet: Cnr Mugga Rd. & Monaro Highway, 8.30 a.m. (160 km)

Recent attempts on this rugged mountain have been beaten by weather. Hope for a fine day this time. A stiff climb for those who want some exercise. Excellent views - overall grade medium.

September 16 - Sunday Mt. Coree: Walk
Leader: Ross Carlton 863892 Ref. ACT 1:100,000
Meet: Cnr Eucumbene Drive and Cotter Rd., 9 a.m. (90 km)

A relatively steep climb from Blundell's Flat, wonderful views from the summit.

September 22/23 - Sat.,Sun. Currockbilly Mt: Pack Walk
Leader: Leigh McClintock 474587 Ref. Ulladulla 1:100,000
Meet: Canberra Railway Station, 9.30 a.m. (260 km)

An exploratory hard walk in an area we don't know much about. An easy Saturday getting to the foot of the mountain. Climb up on Sunday without packs.

September 23 - Sunday Honeysuckle Ck: Walk
Leader: Trevor Plumb 813258 Ref. ACT 1:100,000
Meet: Monaro Hwy & Mugga Rd 9 a.m. (50 km)

An easy walk for those who do not want to tackle the slightly more strenuous programme in the same area by Lyn Richardson.

September 23 - Sunday Honeysuckle Ck: Walk
Leader: Lyn Richardson 412425 Ref. ACT 1:100,000
Meet: Cnr Mugga Rd. & Monaro Highway, 9 a.m. (50 km)

Some spectacular rock formations in the peak south of the tracking station, with excellent views. Medium.

September 29/October 1 - Araluen: Camp
Saturday - Monday Ref. Araluen 1:100,000
Leader: Ian Currie 958112
Meet: Araluen Hotel, 12 noon

A bush camp in a lovely setting but without amenities. Programme flexible but we will take the chance of exploring the Upper Deua area. Bring water. Ring leader of intention to come and for instructions.

October 6 - Saturday Black Mountain: Nature ramble
Leader: George Chippendale 812454
Meet: Belconnen Way entrance to Black Mountain Reserve, 2 p.m.

Learn more about the local flora under the guidance of an expert.

November 24/25 Sat.,Sun.

Geehi: Camp

Ref. Kosciusko 1:100,000

Meet: Geehi by arrangement with Bob Story 812174 (500 km)

Bush camp by the Upper Swampy Plains River. Drive to Olsen's Lookout, walk to Mt Youngal or just laze around. This is an integral part of the Hannel's Spur walk - see details and contact Bob Story before 19 November.

November 24/25 - Sat., Sun

Hannel's Spur: Pack Walk

Leader: Bob Story 812174

Ref. Kosciusko 1:100,000

Meet: Thredbo 10 a.m. (500 km)

For details see Local News.

November 25 - Sunday

Ginini-Gingera: Walk

Leader: Hela Lindemann 864926

Ref. ACT 1:100,000

Meet: Cotter Rd & Eucumbene Dr 8.15 a.m. (150 km)

Hela plans to make the outward walk along the ridge to enjoy views not available from the track. Wild flowers would be a highlight. Medium/hard.

December 1/2 - Sat.,Sun.

Thredbo Diggings: Camp

Leader: John Webster 476769

Ref. Kosciusko 1:100,000

Meet: Contact leader

A relaxed weekend with no set programme. The campsite is alongside the Thredbo River. Crackenback Ridge, Ramshead Range and Dead Horse Gap are alternatives for Sunday.

December 2 - Sunday

Scrivener Dam Area: Walk

Leader: Leigh McClintock 474587

Ref. UBD Tourist Map

Meet: Car park at Scrivener Dam (Government House side) 9.00 a.m.

Easy walking mostly around the edges of the pine plantation, which is more attractive than it sounds. No natural water along route.

December 9 - Sunday

Micalong Ck: Walk/Swim

Leader: Lyn Richardson 412425

Ref. Brindabella 1:100,000

Meet: Cotter Rd & Eucumbene Dr 8.00 a.m.

or Wee Jasper P.O. 9.30 a.m. (150 km)

Micalong Ck is a tributary of the Goodradigbee, which has delighted members when camping there or at Wee Jasper. Though a fairly long distance, we thought it to be a worth-while visit for day walkers. Bring swimming gear.

December 16 - Sunday

Orroral Picnic Area: Christmas Party

Meet at the Orroral Picnic Area 3.30 p.m.

Bring the family to our major local event of the year. It is the best chance to get to know each other because we do not always meet on outings or at general meetings. Picnic area is on left about half-way between Boboyan Rd and the Tracking Station. May be advisable to bring portable BBQ's if there is no fire ban.

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

Inaugurated 1961

'A National Park for the National Capital'

President:	Darryl Hawke, 8 Emery St., Chapman, 2611	883763(H)	897098(W)
Vice-President:	John Banks, 9 Furphy Pl., Garran, 2605	816641(H)	493632(W)
Secretary:	Sheila Kruse, 50/C Currong Flats, Braddon, 2601	486104(H)	
Treasurer:	Neville Esau, 11 Rymill Place, Mawson, 2605	864176(H)	494554(W)
Asst. Secretary:	Fiona Brand, 11 Dyson St., Lyneham, 2602	479538(H)	
Publicity Officer:	Cynthia Hook, P.O. Box 580, Manuka, 2603	959666(H)	
Committee Members:	Reg Alder, Penny Hebbard, Charles Hill, Leigh McClintock, John Schunke, Lyn Leader		
Past President:	Ian Currie, 10 Arnhem Place, Red Hill, 2603	958112(H)	958107(W)
Editor:	Reg Alder, 45 Starke St., Higgins, 2615	542240(H)	

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

National Parks Association Phone Number: 486104 or 956937

Subscription Rates: Family - \$10 Corporate - \$5
Single - \$8 Student - \$3

Subscriptions fall due on 1 July

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE

NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION

GENERAL MEETINGS

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

THURSDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 1979

Max Bourke, Director of The Heritage Commission, will give an illustrated talk on projects that the Commission explores.

THURSDAY 18 OCTOBER 1979

A social evening for members to chat and meet new friends; wine and savouries with usual refreshments.

THURSDAY 15 NOVEMBER 1979

Colin Totterdell, Official Photographer, Plant Industry, CSIRO. We shall hear about the approach to photographing wild flowers, especially in the Kosciusko area (Colin's photos appear in the newly-published 'Kosciusko Alpine Flora')

National Parks Association outings summary

SEPTEMBER

2 Sunday	Smokers Flat	Walk
9 Sunday	Sentry Box	Walk
16 Sunday	Mt Coree	Walk
22/23 Sat-Sun	Currockbilly Mt	Pack Walk
23 Sunday	Honeysuckle Ck	2 Walks
29 Sat-Oct.1 Mon	Araluen	Camp

OCTOBER

6 Saturday	Black Mt	Nature Ramble
14 Sunday	Honeysuckle Ck	Walk
21 Sunday	Bush Bottom	Walk
21 Sunday	Pierces Ck Falls	Walk
27/28 Sat-Sun	Mt Clear	Pack Walk
27 Saturday	Naas Ck	Walk

NOVEMBER

4 Sunday	Yaouk Pk	Walk
10/11 Sat-Sun	Big Dubbo Hill	Pack Walk
11 Sunday	Mt Murray	Walk
18 Sunday	Boboyan & Pheasant Hills	Walk
24/25 Sat-Sun	Hannel's Spur	Pack Walk
24/25 Sat-Sun	Geehi	Camp
25 Sunday	Ginini-Gingera	Walk

December

1/2 Sat-Sun	Thredbo Diggings	Camp
2 Sunday	Scrivener Dam	Walk
9 Sunday	Micalong Creek	Walk
16 Sunday	Orroral	Xmas Party

DON'T FORGET

Annual Subscriptions are due
1st July

NPA Bulletin

September 1979