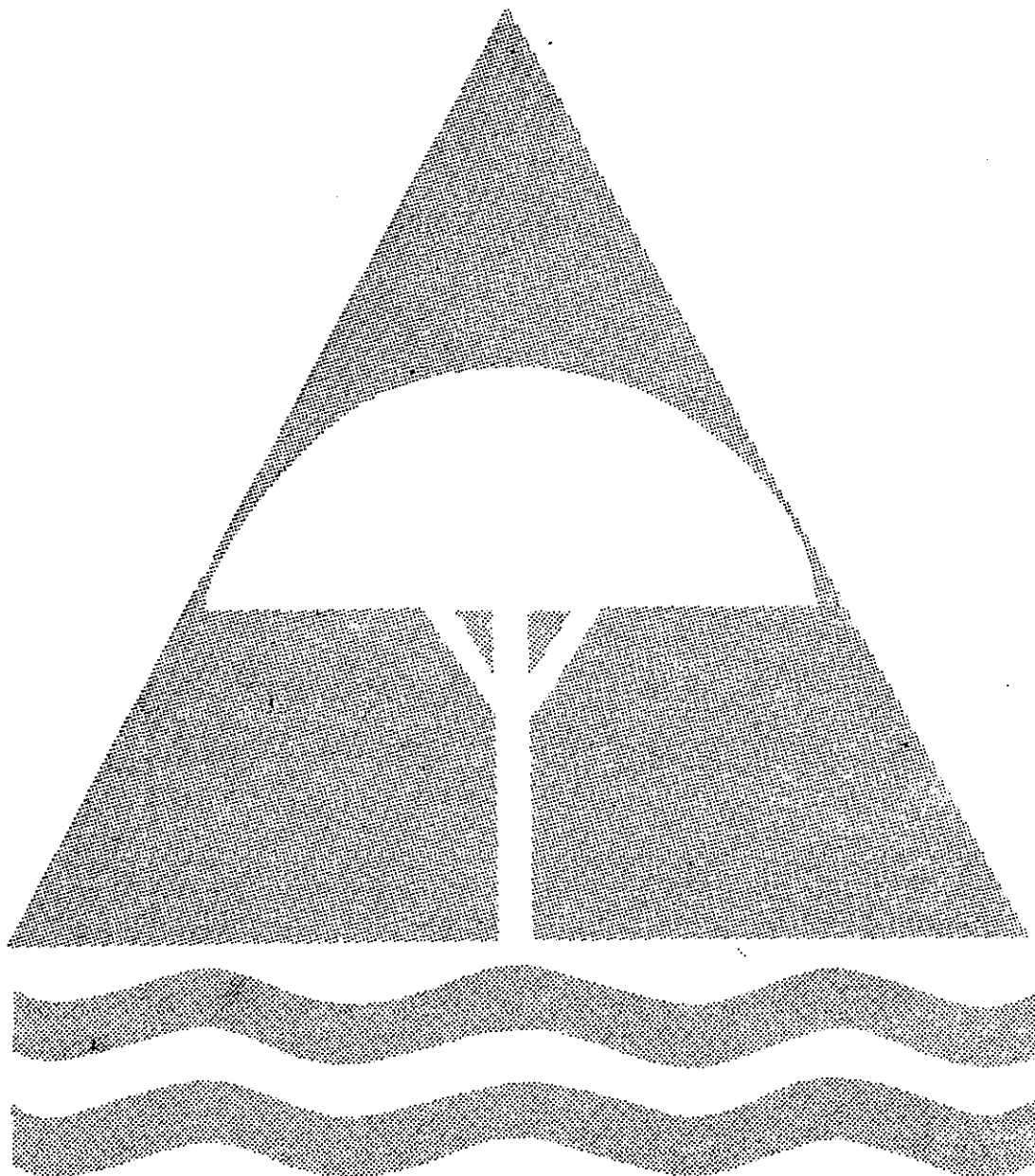


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PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD

Next year sees our National Parks Association entering its 21st year as a strong, viable and I believe significant community organisation with a record of unbroken activity dedicated to furthering the interests of national parks. Reflecting over the past 20 years is not easy unless you happen to be one of the originals. However, several achievements stand out. Perhaps the most significant was the declaration last year of the Gudgenby Nature Reserve - although not a national park as originally conceived, its final size is far greater than our early office bearers envisaged. The setting aside of this area of the ACT as a national park has been a dominant activity of our Association for two decades. There can be no doubt that this reserve would not have been declared by the Minister when it was without the consistent efforts of our Association.

Another milestone was the formation of the Australian National Parks Council, again first conceived by our Association some seven years ago. The Council now meets regularly and is active in furthering a truly national approach to the activities of national parks associations. Others include the successful application to the Commonwealth Government for a grant to assist the Association financially, and the publication of our own walks book, Rambles around Canberra.

There are many other achievements of which we can be truly proud. Of these I believe the ability of the Association to continually attract speakers of world repute to our general meetings, the publication of a quarterly bulletin, and the maintenance of a full and interesting walks programme speak for themselves.

The new committee will take us into the 80's and it is perhaps worth looking to the future for a moment to see what challenges face us. First and foremost of these is a potential decline in public interest and indeed actual antagonism to the further expansion of the national parks estate. Already a number of primary producer interests are protesting against new parks being declared. We must strive to counter this decline. Secondly we must redouble our watchdog activities to ensure that parks already declared are effectively managed, and not allow them to become subject to unwarranted criticism by park users or their neighbours. Thirdly we must ensure that the management of the newly created Gudgenby Nature Reserve embodies those values which our organisation has been striving for so long.

THE FUTURE OF THE FORESTED ENVIRONMENT

Although the long term future of the forested environment may best be determined by cooperation between the Australian and subsidiary tiers of government, the immediate future of this environment, and hence to a certain extent its long term capabilities, will be determined largely by decisions being made now by existing institutions and policies. The attitudes of the general public to formal plans and policies, and of those responsible for implementing them, will determine future developments. For example although the public recently voted for aboriginal rights and welfare to be placed under the control of the Australian government the fate of these people is still being determined by the attitudes of individuals, groups and communities.

In this lecture the attitudes of people and the ways in which concern for the environment can be developed are examined.

Australian forests have all had a history of timber exploitation and although wood has been the primary product, other benefits have also been obtained. It is only recently that the explicit role of the forests for recreation, protection of fragile areas, watershed management and conservation has been recognised by the general public. Much conflict in the last decade has been due to the emphasis different groups have placed on the varied forest benefits, and managers have often been accused of being insensitive to change.

Lack of response to change, while it may reflect insensitivity, may also reflect a greater knowledge of the total scene which justifies such resistance.

Recognition of the role of forests for non-wood benefits has caused a reaction to its timber producing role. It would be unfortunate if this reaction was carried too far and result in a denial of the real benefits that wood provides. If wood is accepted as an important commodity it must be harvested with the minimum harm to other forest benefits.

While Australia has barely 6% of its total land area under forest compared with 60% in Japan, environmentalists often lose sight of the fact that individual Australians have 10 times as much forest available to them as individual Japanese. In these terms we are comparatively rich in forests.

Local and international forecasts of the supply and demand for wood products are complex and subject to many factors. Circumstances change rapidly and there is no guarantee that Australia's future timber supplies can be obtained economically from overseas. New Zealand is often nominated as a country which could provide timber to Australia but, with the energy crisis, New Zealand is examining the role of forests in producing liquid fuels. To replace 20% of its petrol requirements with ethanol, N.Z. would need to use about 40% of its existing exotic forest area for this purpose. Since forests are a long term crop and planning must include considerable speculation it is difficult to see Australia diverting from a policy of self-sufficiency.

It is generally acknowledged that the bulk of the increase in local wood supply will be from conifers and conservationists are reconciled to this if no more native forests are cleared. This however creates problems in economics and in the availability of suitable cleared land. Conflict over conifer planting will continue but is likely to be mainly over siting and management practices. With native forests it could be different. Planners envisage native forests will continue to provide wood although on a reduced scale over the next 40 years. Conservationists however believe the most important use of these forests is the conservation of nature.

In an attempt to avoid conflict there is increasing advocacy to concentrate production by intensive management of smaller areas of native forests. Reasons against this are:-

1. Eucalypt plantations are likely to be at least as vulnerable as conifers to disease and insects.
2. The demand on soil resources by intensively-managed eucalypts is inadequately known.

3. Eucalypts appear sensitive to species-site relationships the causes of which have not yet been determined.
4. Fast growing eucalypt woods are more intractable than pines and many difficulties inherent with the eucalypts still have to be resolved.
5. The diversity of flora and fauna in eucalypt plantations may be little better than for conifers.
6. Concentration of wood production on limited areas could preclude facilities for non-wood uses in non-managed forests.

Proposals to separate wood production into clearly defined zones are proposals for single-use management and with sensitivity and design better use can be made of the land. Single-land uses seldom create an environment as an environment is a complicated whole. Man is part of our environment and his activities should be incorporated within it and not put to one side.

In spite of a distaste for zoning on a broad scale, conservation of part of our forests is essential to retain certain non-wood values. The question is where and how much forest should be reserved. This needs to be viewed nationally or at least on a state-wide basis. Without this the environmental debate can degenerate into small, local, emotional disputes with wide ranging consequences. Newspaper reporting of forest environmental issues and their association with other popular fronts, without giving all the relevant facts relating to the particular forest, does little to help decide the true issues and seems deliberately designed to inflame emotions and create extreme attitudes. Well publicised and readily available plans and policies are needed to prevent unnecessary public outbursts.

Many non-wood values of forests such as water, wildlife and to some extent floral values are compatible with wood production but require multiple use management for which the methodology is still developing. The greatest uses likely to cause conflict with wood production are recreation and aesthetics. This conflict arises from the marked differences in attitude between people.

A study group in the U.S.A. examined the conflict between timber and non-timber uses on the national forests. To this group, recreation appeared to be the dominant non-timber use and this could only be obtained in an undisturbed forest. Multiple use which would mar the beauty of the forest was a policy issue which only Congress could resolve. If it did not the Forest Service would face yet another crippling controversy. The overriding theme of the study group's report was that the forests should be maintained in their pristine state to allow the city dweller to escape from his increasingly unsatisfactory environment. One could argue that the urban environment should be improved to lessen the need to escape and, with increasing fuel shortages, this will assume greater importance. Even without the constraint of fuel shortages, the demand for forested recreation land appears out of proportion to its use. In the U.S.A., National Parks with 3% of the area attracts an attendance of 4% of outdoor recreationists whereas recreational land in or near a city with only 1% of the area attracts 31% of users.

These attitudes towards the forests are not confined to America. The A.C.F. values forests for passive recreation and because they are pleasant places in which to be. The appeal is not only for the individual components but for the forests en masse. The continuity of a forest is perceived as a vital element of wilderness, a quality which many regard as a state of mind, dependent on undisturbed large tracts. The Land Conservation Council of Victoria appears to have accepted

these concepts to some extent on the future use of public land. In a study of the North Eastern area, it acknowledged that in spite of a 400,000 ha area having been exploited in a manner compatible with many non-wood uses, this is no longer acceptable to community demands. The L.C.C. recommended that an area of only 10,000 ha be set aside for intensive hardwood production. Similarly the L.C.C. recommended the proposed Bunyip State Park near Melbourne be used exclusively for non-wood uses. These proposals were unacceptable to the Forests Commission, the organisation previously responsible for the multiple use of these forests. The Forests Commission pointed out that in addition to providing timber for industry the forest had a number of other economic and social values. The additional benefits of the proposed recommendations to recreationists would be virtually nil and a sample of the recreationists showed 80% in favour of the present system of management. The final resolution was for the area to be reduced to about half and to be managed by the Forests Commission as a State Park.

Conflicts of these kinds will continue to arise. How can they be resolved? In the U.S.A. over the last decade the history of environmental conflict has been one of legislation and litigation. In 1960, the Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act required national forests to be administered for outdoor recreation, range, timber, watershed and wildlife and fish purposes. Relative weights were not specified. In 1969 the National Environmental Policy Act laid down legislation relating to protecting and restoring the environment. Impact statements for all federal actions affecting human environment were required. This attracted 100 lawsuits a year with 9 affecting the Forest Service. Older laws were also used. In 1973, the Organic Act of 1897 was used to stop timber sales and hence logging in four states. Also in 1973, the Trespass Act of 1904 was used to ban logging on a watershed in Oregon even though no damage was observed. In order to specify Forest Service obligations and responsibilities more clearly the Resources Planning Act was passed in 1974. This requires the submission to Congress of long range Renewable Resources Programs and assessments each 10 years. The Act still left some discretion to the Forest Service and an amending Act, the National Forest Management Act of 1976 prescribes specific guidelines. Even with this it is impossible to define each situation so precisely as to avoid conflict.

In the U.S.A. the environmental consensus seems to be failing. The issues and demands are so far apart that resolution of conflicts to provide comprehensive management schemes is impossible and whole areas capable of multiple uses are zoned for exclusive use. During 1977 the main environmental issue on forested lands was designation of wilderness and the studied approach to each individual tract with wilderness potential was considered too slow and costly. In December 1978, the 1906 Antiquities Act was used to designate 56,000,000 acres of forested land in Alaska as National Monuments. The American system allows any individual or group for whatever motive to cause disruption, through the courts, of public activities.

In Australia, parliamentary parties respond to their identified pressure groups and it is difficult for others to be heeded. As the public does not elect the executive government the cabinet is only directly responsible to parliament as an elected legislative assembly. Decisions are made on the likelihood of support in the parliament or in the electorate and so interest group pressures occur outside public scrutiny. Political parties once in power, can cautiously implement a policy by stop and start tactics. Legislation is left to the Minister and the courts are not considered to be forums for determining policy. Nevertheless the use of law in environmental conflicts is not unknown and the appeal to the High Court on Fraser Island dispute is an example. The unions have also played a role in environmental matters by the placing of "green bans".

Courts in America and "green bans" have had their genesis in what is believed to be a lack of public participation in planning and decision-making. However who is the public? Is it everyone of us for every decision or only representatives of the public. If so how are these to be selected? Does the public make the decisions or do they only participate in discussions? With privileges come responsibilities and an amateur public if it wishes to participate in decision making must be sufficiently informed to contribute constructively.

In spite of these problems, all professionals whatever their specialisation have a bias which is so intrinsic that they cannot divorce themselves from it. It is essential that they be exposed to alternative views in their planning and accept the views of others.

The Nader study group in America proposed study teams of at least four specialists who after detailed consideration of the area would produce at least 3 management alternatives and show their trade-offs. The responsible Forest Service officer then selects a management alternative on the basis of the objectives and policy preference provided by his superiors and the public. The plan is then subjected to environmental analysis and a draft statement made to the public. Comments received are considered and a final draft environmental impact statement issued to the public which when approved becomes part of the national forests new multiple use plan. It is recognised that the recommended procedures might so complicate and delay decision-making as to bring forest management to a standstill but the Nader group justifies it as an insurance against undemocratic decisions.

In Yosemite Park a draft management plan, commenced in 1968 and issued in 1971, proved unacceptable to the public. A rough draft of a new plan was issued in July 1974 and a preliminary plan in August 1974. This was again unacceptable and in December 1974 all plans were rejected and a new process initiated. In 1975 a series of 48 public workshops were held across the U.S.A., resulting in a workbook and worksheets that presented various alternatives. These were presented for public comment and in addition 100,000 previous customers were invited to become involved in the planning. Returns received in 1976 showed a wide ranging scale of preferences to each specific issue. These will be used to develop a new draft Master Plan but it is a matter of judgement whether the results will justify 10 years delay and considerable expense.

In Australia, public participation has not been formalised into procedures. Opportunities for public comment are available where environmental impact statements are formally required and the public can state its view at public enquiries. These enquiries only come rarely when some major issue is perceived and there is no guarantee that recommendations will be enforced.

How can organisations and agencies obtain worthwhile public participation yet ensure that activities shall not be too severely delayed or diverted? In a report on planning in the A.C.T., a parliamentary joint committee recommends a system of Structure and Development Plans which will set down broad planning objectives and specific details. Public comment would be solicited at several stages and final authority would be with Parliament.

A system being followed by the W.A. Forest Service requires them to prepare working plans which, after being approved by the Governor in Executive Council, have effect for 10 years and may not be altered except on the recommendation of the Conservator. The latest plan approved in 1977 took 2 years to prepare and was the first to consider the whole range of forest land use objectives, together with policies and management strategies. This document is available to

the public. A major theme of the Working Plan is multiple use management and to define this more clearly, comprehensive planning documents which are publicly available are prepared for specific areas. These are precursors to even more detailed planning to form the basis of operational planning and control. An important aspect of the detailed planning is the designation of Management Priority Areas in which dominant uses are categorised on the broad base of potential estimated demands, need for protection, etc. To date 850,000 ha of State Forest have been categorised into Management Priority Areas and on only 4% of these is timber production the dominant use. Thus the public has every opportunity to know what is going on, what is planned for the future and thus to continuously review implementation of the plans and object to shortcomings. It may be argued the general public has little opportunity to participate in the formulation of plans - this may be true but the public does have the opportunity to be fully informed before the proposals are implemented.

It is a significant step forward and the necessity to formulate general policy in a publicly available document which requires the approval of parliament largely precludes ad hoc departures from policy. Given good will and a constructive and sympathetic approach, such methodologies could work to the general satisfaction of the community and form the basis of more participatory but still practical methods in the future.

In the future it is extremely likely that the planning objectives which are achieved may owe more to the organisational strength, political power and leadership of the often bureaucratic agencies responsible for them than to any rational ordering of priorities or preferences. The ability of the agencies to perceive problems, obtain resources, including staff, to achieve their objectives and overcome opposition will be paramount factors.

Active and vociferous special interest groups have in the past and will in the future aid agencies to modify their views and to increase their authority. However, once a reasonable level of consensus has been reached further activism to achieve an absolute level of self interest at the expense of the legitimate requirements of others will be self-defeating.

In Australia, the environmental movement has generally been reasonable and responsible and provided an outlet for some most legitimate concerns. This reasonableness behoves forest and other land managers to react responsibly to expressed concerns and so prevent the extreme polarisations which have occurred elsewhere.

(An abridged version of the lecture given by Professor E.P. Bachelard in the series "Australia's Forests, A Perspective on Environmental Management" at the Australian National University on 22 August 1979).

AUSTRALIA'S 100 YEARS OF NATIONAL PARKS or The National Parks Wild Life Service Centenary Issue, Vol.2 Nos. 3 & 4 (which are identical publications) has pages 117-136 missing in at least one copy. Would any member who has purchased one from the Association and finds these pages missing please advise the Secretary, Shiela Kruse (tel. 486104).

KOSCIUSKO WILD FLOWER WEEKEND

It is probable that there will be a weekend in the Kosciusko area in mid-January next similar to that held in January of this year. If members are interested would they please contact Ian Currie on 958112.

MAP USERS' FORUM

The second map users' forum was held at NATMAP's Queanbeyan headquarters on 12 September - coinciding with the Australia wide Map Week exhibitions which ran from 8 to 16 September. Under the chairmanship of Mr Byrne Goodrick, staff of the Division of National Mapping exchanged information and opinion with a broad range of map users.

Good news for National Park users was that Natmap will probably issue a Kosciusko National Park map showing the whole park area on one sheet at a scale of 1:100,000 - a similar production to the popular ACT map. The Park is included in ten normal map sheets. Welcoming this Mrs Dorothy Prescott said that, as a map librarian, she was frequently getting enquiries for such functional mapping from users and from potential publishers and that this indicated some dissatisfaction with the present 'sheet line' coverage.

Bad news for all Australians is of a cut back in Natmap's topographic programme. Financial and staff restrictions make the original aim of a compilation over the whole country at a scale of 1:100,000 unrealistic. The Division will concentrate on keeping existing 1:100,000 mapping up to date for a seaboard area reduced by about one sixth from the area originally intended for publication at compilation scale. A demonstrated need will need to be established for any additional 1:100,000 map sheets. Some 1:100,000 sheets already published, but in the area selected for this economy reduction, (generally this 'intermediate' area is the inland margin of the 'seaboard area') will not now be maintained. However the whole country will be mapped at 1:250,000 in a new metric contoured edition to replace the ageing R 502 series.

John Graham of NATMAP pointed out that about twice the published area of 1:100,000 mapping is available at that scale as dyeline compilation sheets, uncontroled, for about \$2.00 a sheet. Most people welcomed this, only one speaker feeling that they would not be worth obtaining. Contour overlays for these sheets cost about \$10.00 and have to be used in conjunction with the detail dyeline. This writer feels that this \$12.00 'package' is not worth buying for recreational users; but there were speakers, representing mining and other 'commercial' users, who indicated that cost is no objection in obtaining the largest possible scale information for areas of interest in specialist fields.

Controversy arose when discussing NATMAP's policy for the withdrawal of superseded maps. Withdrawal (from sale) also means that existing map stocks are destroyed. Generally the policy is to keep only the latest map of a particular scale in current circulation, older editions still being available in map libraries. However NATMAP considers that its 1:100,000 maps are replacements for the old one inch to one mile maps (1:63,360) - hence the sudden 'loss' of the old Army mapping in Eastern Australia. Field users objected to this by saying that information on relief is lost and that, in some conditions of use, the vegetation and shading portrayed on the 1:100,000 maps is detrimental - the 'obsolete' clearer larger scale is preferred.

Lobbying for the retention and availability of 'one inch' map sheets poses problems for those involved in map production, distribution and sale. The Army representative plaintively enquired what he was to do with twenty tons of old maps which he could not sell by the sheet or by the semi-trailer load!

Bushwalkers are not alone in gloating over these precious relics of the plane table and drafting pen. Map collectors also criticised the destruction of historical documents and some thought they were a valuable adjunct for school

social studies. NATMAP staff feel that they are in the business of supplying up to date mapping and pointed out that the original air photo and compilation material for the old series is still available on request - supplementing the remaining library copies of the old maps. Others sounded a note of caution in visualising this old mapping in the hands of travellers; one speaker dwelling on the problem of grid references given from the obsolete grid leading to confusion in emergencies.

The chairman promised that NATMAP would review its withdrawal policy, perhaps with a view to asking for expressions of interest in purchasing stocks by tenderers? This writer, for one, was thus sobered and silenced by the possibility of being asked to put money where his mouth is - what would one do with twenty tons of old maps?

In discussion of mapping details Jeff Parkinson reported on the results of NATMAP's user survey on road classification. About 80% of respondents had favoured the revised system based on road function/surface/access in preference to the lane designation system commonly used. Users are particularly concerned to have access defined to avoid fruitless journeys to find a controlled road closed. NATMAP will move towards the revised system and will also experiment with colour for road symbols.

Another introduction will be an attempt to update and popularise tourist information by including current place names and features that confront the tourist on the ground. The chairman pointed out that compilation had, in the past, relied largely on the 'official names' given in cadastral publications and that gathering other data would add to the workload of field survey parties - this was accepted as a contribution to tourism.

In conjunction with its Map Week exhibits the Division displayed a wide range of its publications. Of interest were the various thematic maps dealing with resources and land use. There is now a 1:1million scale map series showing Nature Conservation Reserves - both National Parks and other types of reserve. Samples of remote sensing output were illustrative of a mass of data - some in unfamiliar presentation and colour - now becoming available for land management activities.

Map Librarians used the opportunity to display reference material for obtaining mapping information. There is a confusing variety of such publications and there is a view that this demonstrates the need for a formal Cartographic Information System to enable users to rapidly identify and obtain the most suitable mapping. Such a system is available in some countries.

New general publications, by NATMAP, include leaflet 13 which gives a price list and Australia-wide list of outlets for the Divisions products. A very good initiative by NATMAP is the production of a small booklet called 'Topographic Maps a guide to map reading' aimed to help us use their maps to best advantage. It is a pocket size description of the two map series, 1:100,000 and 1:250,000 scale, together with a clear and concise instruction in compass work for route and position finding with the maps.

For a report on the First Map Users' Forum see the NPA Bulletin for March 1979.

Brian Hammond

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Conservation and National Parks

Conservation is a bit of a mystery to me, notwithstanding that I have been saturated with it since about 1936 - to wit Kosciusko National Park and the Perisher Valley area. On one hand the bushwalkers are trying to prohibit all access to parks except by bushwalkers (of course) and at Perisher the place is, to me, quite hideous with its increasing number of chairlifts and now the Blue Cow is to have one in addition. Despite the destruction of vegetation etc. it does not seem to matter as long as the bushwalker is also a skier and the destruction is neatly covered in snow, he can turn a blind eye. There does not seem to be much for the camping motorist except Sawpit Creek, but on the other hand there has been much greater alienation of the landscape to build ski-lodges. The skiing community is much more wealthy than bushwalkers and have a lot more influence and notable personalities in their midst. So conservation does not matter much as long as the Great Ski God is satisfied.

Here we have the Perisher Valley monstrosity right slap bang in the middle of our largest National Park with the highest mountain in Australia and with new chair lifts and more buildings going up, sewerage increasingly polluting Rock Creek and the Snowy and no bushwalker or as far as I can judge any one else has worried about it. Around the "Man from Snowy" etc. there is no attempt at landscaping, rockeries containing alpine plants etc., and then there is that huge transport area all set up for sheet erosion - never a tree has been planted not even an exotic pine and not that these are really wanted in that situation - what foresight. If the State Electricity Commission wants to put power lines across some mountains, the screams can be heard from Mt York to Lake Pedder, but chairlifts used four months of the year are sacrosanct! How are the values? And to cap it all you cannot visit Mt Kosciusko except in December and January and then by bus! What a Park!

There is no doubt in my mind that despite their altruistic ideas, the bushwalkers want National Parks for themselves. How many times have I heard: "We want somewhere reserved for OUR walking!" They publish great photographs of the Colo River Gorge as a support for the clamour, but the average man in the street will never see it! Another catch cry is "We want this reserved for our children and our children's children" but the truth is very few bushwalkers' children ever do any bushwalking at all. I think the term "National" is a bad one as they are on the whole only for the bushwalker.

Conservationists do not want the nation to partake of all the attractions - they want the areas 'preserved for future generations', but they will not see them either. If the areas are to be preserved then the bushwalkers should be kept out of them, too, as they form tracks (which erode), light fires which could easily destroy what they assert they are preserving, trample where they wish, burn vast quantities of wood which should be returned as humus to the landscape, leave unsightly rich-ringed blackened fire places full of increasingly-sized heaps of ash, deposit excrement behind convenient bushes, not efficiently buried because entrenching tools are not carried.

If all the population were to be bushwalkers in their younger days, it would be like Pitt St down the Colo Gorge and it would be necessary to have rationed tickets to go through, like they did in the USA on the Appalachian Trail when they wore the place out. The continued use of firewood deprives the bush of rotted material and I think it will not be long before cooking stoves are compulsory. The Valley of the Monoliths is a perfect example of what I am

saying. I camped there in about 1959 and I don't think there was a sign of a cooking fire. The popularisation of places by expounding their attraction and publication of large scale maps makes things too easy and is in my opinion anti-conservationism. Some years back one particular walker who found many places on his own, would never tell anyone else about them as he didn't want them spoiled. How right he was. The more you talk the more you lose. Publicity makes it worse, the Himalayas being an example of becoming a garbage and human excrement dump.

In a recent magazine there is an account of an exploration trip in Ettrema in which the writer gives precise details of a new route, map references etc. so that others can follow and so wear a well-worn path - then he finishes up with "Keep the Ettrema Wild". He is doing the opposite by encouraging yet another trail so that in the years to come one will be able to buy a Gregory's or HEC Robinson book of maps in which all the trails in National Parks will be freely available to everyone. Is this conservation? I doubt it.

The Regional Parks idea has much to commend it in providing pleasant rural scenery for the motorist camper. The National Parks cover thousands of square miles for a handful of bushwalkers and the rest of the population can go hang. Where is the "National" part of it?

I must admit in my enthusiastic bushwalking days I was a firm supporter of the idea of national parks, but now I ponder whether the conservationists are on the right track and they are just going to all this trouble for the bushwalkers who were, after all, the protagonists in the bushland reservation field e.g. Myles Dunphy. What about the rest of the nation? No thought has been given and is there to be no provision for them? Lots of well written propaganda and excellent photographs are published, but who will ever see these places except bushwalkers?

Bushwalker

(The above letter has been abridged from a longer letter and although presenting conflicting ideas to the policy of conservation organisations and National Park management plans it is published to provide thought for discussion. Editor.)

STOP PRESS: BARGAIN BOOK SALE

In order to clear our stock, the following titles are being offered to members at reduced prices. Copies may be purchased at the next monthly meeting or by contacting Bernice Anderson (812082 H, 492669 W) or any other committee member.

Rambles around Canberra, Mortlock & O'Loughlin (1977) was \$2.50, NOW \$1.50

Hiking from Early Canberra, Cla Allen (1977) was \$1.95, NOW \$1.25

Wilderness in Australia (Eastern NSW & SE Queensland) Department of Geography, University of New England (1976) was \$5.00, NOW \$3.00

Bushwalking near Canberra, Canberra Bushwalking Club (1974) was \$2.50, NOW \$1.50

Mountains, Slopes and Plains, Department of the Interior & NPA (1971) was \$2.10, NOW \$1.25

The Wattles of the Australian Capital Territory, Nancy Burbidge (1967), was 80c, NOW 50c.

WANTED TO BUY, HIRE OR BORROW - Sleeping bag (no matter how old), light weight, preferably down, for two treks in cold climate early 1980. Please phone Olive Buckman, 733017.

DON'T BE BULLDOZED

Some of the critics of conservation are just greedy. They want to exploit natural areas, or to own part of them for their profit or enjoyment. Most, however, are ordinary people influenced by the well-paid conservation lobby maintained by mining, sawmilling and other interests. All of them will reproduce a few well-worn arguments, none of which can be substantiated. The main themes which the critics will reproduce are:

That all development is opposed: Most of Australia that it pays to develop already is developed and over much of the rest development continues. Virtually none of the country remains in its natural state, but a few areas, such as the Northern Blue Mountains, remain as only lightly developed wilderness areas. A recent study by the University of New England proves that only 1.3% of the State can be described as 'wilderness'. It is this area, plus some other tracts of great natural beauty, but too small to be developed can be classed as 'wilderness' (such as the Border Ranges and Myall Lakes) that conservationists seek to preserve. They remain as natural areas because, in nearly two centuries of intensive prospecting, little or nothing of economic value has been found in them. They are the least productive areas of the State. At present less than 3% of the State comprised of these areas, is in the national parks system. The State Government's goal is to eventually increase this to 10%.

That these natural areas contain essential resources: The answer to this is that there are no resources in national parks that do not occur in abundance elsewhere. This was proved in saving Colong Caves - there are enormous deposits of limestone elsewhere. The timber of the Border Ranges is not essential. It can be replaced by growing trees on derelict farmlands. There are rich deposits of uranium in Kakadu Park, but there are great quantities of uranium elsewhere, some within Australia. There are coal deposits under the Blue Mountains, but much greater quantities beyond the mountains in Central Queensland.

That it is wrong to 'lock up' resources in National Parks: If we were short of resources this argument might apply. But we are not. Australia is probably the richest country in the world in terms of natural resources per head, with the possible exception of the Middle East oil states. Australia therefore owes a duty to the world to preserve natural areas for the benefit of the over-populated countries that cannot afford them. Alan Rigby used to say that 'locking up' some of our resources was the wise course to take. If we were hard-pressed in another war they might be our last sources of supply.

That only bush-walkers can enjoy wilderness: This is an extension of the 'lock up' theme. It is used to justify the 'opening up' of wilderness areas by the construction of roads, motels, hotels, recreation areas etc. Once this is done, traffic, noise, pollution and the other drawbacks of city living are taken to the bush. Conservationists don't object to the facilities being provided on the edge of wilderness areas, but they do object to them intruding on them. The whole purpose of providing national parks is to enable people to enjoy natural areas. Only private property is truly 'locked up', and if we do not have areas set aside for public use, then the people are restricted to their own properties and to public roads. There is free access to all national parks. If, of course, you mean that there is no access unless you can drive your car, then wilderness is 'inaccessible'. Off-road vehicle owners have objected to the exclusion of vehicles, accusing walkers of being 'elitists'! Almost anyone can walk. We can't all afford vehicles costing between 8 and 17 thousand dollars. The off-road vehicle owners have nearly all the rest of the State to enjoy. An Australian Conservation Foundation survey showed that only a few bits of the

State are more than three miles from a road. The catch-cry that 'parks are for people' must mean, if it is to be significant, that their scenic attractions are preserved by banning development. Not everyone can walk through the larger parks but all except those unfortunate enough to be severely handicapped can enjoy part of them. Apart from development interests such as Country Sawmillers, the Australian Mining Council and the Uranium Producers' Forum, and those persuaded by the P.R.O.'s of these interests, there are several organisations whose aim is to oppose national parks. The Association for Regional Parks and Countryside Commissions, known in conservation as 'Moriarty's Mercenaries', whose guru is Professor Mellanby, want national parks on the English model. National parks would be open to mining, grazing, timber-getting and to other forms of development. Grazing would be re-introduced in Kosciusko and Precipitous Bluff in South-West Tasmania would be mined. The model for such development is the English National Park. In England, where the last natural areas disappeared long ago, parks of this type were created to give the ordinary person some access to the countryside. If the objective of the movement here were to open some of our privately-owned land to public use, as in England, it could fill a very useful purpose, but the object is the reverse - the opening of our rapidly-shrinking natural areas to development interests.

Another body opposed to national parks is the association known as Neighbours of National Parks. They describe national parks as a reservoir of weeds and pests and profess to fear that their land will be resumed. As bushwalkers know, there are very few weeds and pests in undisturbed natural areas. They generally are worse in neglected cleared areas. The National Parks and Wild Life Service spends large sums on pest control whereas little or nothing is spent on other Crown Lands or vast areas of privately-owned land. In general, improved lands, except in the far west, are not suitable for parks and are resumed only when they are essential for management purposes.

National parks are for people, in particular for the great majority who live in cities and cannot afford country estates. Opposition to parks is led by those who are selfish enough to seek profit, or the preservation of country rights, in areas which should belong to the people.

One last precept. Don't be bluffed by those who describe conservationists as 'emotional' and seek 'balanced development'. Thought without development is a psychological impossibility. Conservationists do feel emotion towards the natural environment, because they care about it. Our opponents do not experience such emotions because they don't care what happens to the natural environment. Decisions by the 'powers that be' in favour of wrecking some part of the environment are invariably described as 'balanced'. The 'balance' is a product of the imagination. They cannot weigh development or conservation. They might mean that half our land should be conserved and the other half developed, but this will never happen. If ever there was a balance in conservation it has long since been outweighed by development which now extends to the 98.7% of the land outside our wilderness areas.

1981 CHURCHILL FELLOWSHIPS

Alex Colley

The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust is calling for applications for 1981 Churchill Fellowships. The aim of the Churchill Trust is to give opportunity, by the provision of financial support, to enable Australians from all walks of life to undertake study, or investigate a project, of a kind not available in Australia. There are no prescribed qualifications and merit is the primary test for the award of a Churchill Fellowship. Application forms are available from:

The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust,
P.O. Box 478, Canberra City, ACT 2601.

COMMITTEE NEWS

Rainforest logging, Terania Creek. The Committee wrote to the NSW Minister for Conservation in August, strongly urging that the then decision to log at Terania Creek be rescinded and that a full and open enquiry be held into the proposed operations; only then, it claimed, could the arguments for and against logging be justified. The Association believes that production forestry on public lands must be fully justified in social, ecological and economic terms, and that the NSW Forestry Commission had failed to do this in the case of Terania Creek. A press report of 27 September stated that the NSW Labor Caucus had voted to uphold a Cabinet decision for an independent public inquiry into Terania Creek logging.

Weddin Mountains National Park. The Committee has taken up with the National Parks and Wildlife Service, NSW, the closing of the Weddin Mountains National Park to car campers. In December last year NPA had a very pleasant camp there, and in the Winter 1979 issue of NPWS Parks & Wildlife News the area was still described as being suitable for camping, but for some months now the access road has been closed to cars and camping restricted to those prepared to carry their camping gear. However, we are pleased to report that NPWS has replied to our letter saying that 'the situation at the National Park will be reviewed following your comments regarding the need for basic facilities for the not-so-active'.

Tasmanian Wilderness Society. The Association has applied for journal subscription membership of the Tasmanian Wilderness Society.

Committee Membership. Since the election of Committee members at the annual general meeting in August, Leigh McClintock has left Canberra to take up a position in Melbourne. In terms of the NPA Constitution, the Committee has appointed John Webster to fill the vacancy. John will also take over Leigh's responsibilities as Convener of the Outings Sub-Committee.

Sub-Committees: (*Committee member)

Bulletin: Reg Alder* (Editor/Convener), Fiona Brand *, Bill and Phyl Adams, Betty Campbell, Norm Morrison, Jean Marshall and Phyl Goddard (bulletin and Mailing List typists)

Outings: John Webster* (Convener), Ian Currie*, Reg Alder*, Neville Esau*, Charles Hill, L n Richardson, Les Pyke, Penny Hebbard, Cla Allen, Trevor Plumb, Heia Lindemann

Gudgenby: John Schunke* (Convener), John Banks*, Ian Currie*, Darryl Hawke*, Bob Story.

On Ian Currie's suggestion it was agreed that the ad hoc Nancy Burbidge Memorial S/C should be incorporated into the Gudgenby S/C.

Membership: Secretary* (Convener), Membership Secretary*, President*, Treasurer*, Reg Alder*, Ian Currie*.

Publicity Sub-Committee (incorporating Display S/C): Bernice Anderson*, Publicity Officer (Convener), The Treasurer*, an audio-visual expert, a photographic display expert, other experts?

Media Sub-Committee - to monitor newspapers, collate articles, letters of information of concern to the Association and to propose follow-up action by the Committee: Neville Esau* (Convener), Darryl Hawke*, Cynthia Hook*, John Schunke*.

Librarians. Mavis Michell, assisted by Hilda Russell, is now looking after our small library of books and reports. Sybil Story handles periodicals. All books and periodicals may be borrowed by members. Bernice Anderson is in charge of book sales at General meetings.

Australian National Parks Council. At the ANPC annual meeting, held in Hobart in September, Dr Robert Story, the Association's delegate to the Council, was elected President.

General Meetings. At the September meeting neither the advertised speaker, Max Bourke, Director of the Australian Heritage Commission, nor Warren Nicholls who had agreed to deputise for him, were able to speak to us - Mr Bourke was attending meetings in Perth and Dr Nicholls had the 'flu. We were grateful to Bob Story who, at the eleventh hour, borrowed a magnificent film on Arnhem Land - Escarpment - made by BHP and lent by the Department of Science and the Environment. As advertised in the Bulletin, for the October meeting we did not invite a guest speaker to address us but after the usual business session spent the rest of the evening with music, conversation, wine and cheese.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS: Bill & Phylis Adams, Doris & Reg Alder, Alan Anderson, A. & M. Ashley, Margaret Aston, John Banks, Eleanor Baillie, Norm & Alison Bancroft, D. & L. Balfour, Geoff & Carol Bennetts, N. Blandford, Fiona Brand, Olive Buckman, R. Bird, Betty Campbell, Ross Carlton, J.A. Carnahan, George & Thelma Chippendale, Francis Christian, Heather Clarke & family, Frank Clements, Kath Collins, Dr P. & M. Cooper, Tony & Judy Corp, K. & M. Day, L. & A. Day, M. & S. Donoghoe, Bruce & Helen Drake, Ruth Davidson, Nancy Dunn, J. Doyle, Ruth Davis, E.B. Elliott, R. & J. Emerton, Neville & Maxine Esau, Marilyn & Louis Folger, Roma Fisher & family, Rev. F. Favier, Margaret Finnis, Kathleen Gilmour, Shirley Gardner, Mr & Mrs P. Hegarty, Joan & Ray Hegarty, Charles & Audrey Hill, Cynthia & Reg Hook, Dr & Mrs D. Hebbard, Mr & Mrs D. Hawke, John & Kath Holtzapffel, Colin & Hilary Hughes, Isabel & Bruce Hamilton, Dr B. Holt, Cecil & Merryl Hunter, Anne Heard, Ralph Jannuzzi, J. Lynne James, Robin & Peter Judge, Gladys Joyce, Graham Kenaley, Mr & Mrs Ken Kerrison, Marjorie & Jim Landman, Leigh McClintock, Alistair & Hedda Morrison, Lyle Mark, Harold & Jean Marshall, Norm & Jenny Morrison, Mrs M. Michel, Pat Michel, Mr & Mrs Ian McLeod, Dr Margaret Middleton, Joe & Jean Marshall, Gary Medaris, Les & Margaret Pyke, W. & L. Perry, Norma Price, Trevor & Winsome Plumb, Betty & Lyn Richardson, P.J. Roberts, P.A. Redfern, George & Jenny Rothchild, Alan & Pam Ray, G. Schneider, Geraldine Spencer, J. Stoffel, Geoff & Maureen Snelgrove, Jim & Lyn Shelton, Diana Spencer, Colin & Yvette Samandsett, J. & A. Slobbe, Babette Scrougall, Pam Swaffield, Betty Temple-Watts, Ivan & Carole Thompson, Eric & Pamela Wright, Neville & Patricia Windeyer, Gay Watt, Alison & David Yoeman.

NEW MEMBERS: Denis Blair, Deakin; Beryl Beetham, Farrer; Judith Cooney, O'Connor; Joan Cordell, Turner; L. & F. Conley, Ainslie; J. & D. Cope, Hughes; Mr & Mrs S. Comfort, Mawson; M. & E. Edwards, Macquarie; Hazel Gibson, Duffy; Dr K. Gardner, Campbell; L. & H. Harradine, Queanbeyan; G. & M. Hartun, Weston; Rosemary Hook, Chifley; Wilma James, Curtin; Margaret Kennedy, Canberra; Terence Kennedy, Canberra; Lyndall Langman, Holder; Frances Lyons, Higgins; Peter Oram, Aranda; J. & J. Payne, Warramanga; Hilda Russell, Canberra; R. & B. Scott, Watson; I. & J. Smith, Cook; Ian Tranter, Hackett; Mandy Walker, Hackett; A. & A. Walker, Hawker; Douglas Young, Canberra.

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL PARKS COUNCIL MEETING

The sixth annual conference was held in Hobart on 22-3 September this year, with one delegate each from the Northern Territory, South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, Tasmania, the ACF and the ACT, and two from Western Australia. Bruce Davis from Hobart remains secretary, Paul Barnes and Keith Jarrott stepped down from the executive as required by the constitution, their places being filled by me and by Peter Bascomb (Melbourne) as president and treasurer respectively.

Business started and ended promptly as scheduled and the programme was much too full for a comprehensive discussion in the Bulletin. The main items were resolutions directed either to State or Commonwealth authorities, in broad outline as follows:

- a. requesting that the rights of lessees in national parks should not infringe on those of visitors
- b. requesting adequate staffing and finance for the routine maintenance of national parks
- c. requesting protection of roadside vegetation
- d. expressing disquiet at any heedless exploitation in south-west Tasmania
- e. proposing or supporting the establishment of national parks in Lord Howe Island, Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland
- f. drawing attention to the lack of public transport in many national parks throughout Australia
- g. requesting the executive to look into the matter of Aboriginal land claims in national parks and to develop a policy
- h. requesting the executive to press for the establishment of marine national parks.

A very important matter that concerns us and other 'outdoor' organisations was referred back to me for more information - frivolous summonses in respect of objections to mining. It will probably have to be handled by postal ballot, since our funds do not allow much travelling and executive meetings will have to be kept to a minimum in the current year. The treasurer initially asked for an annual government grant of \$7600 but received \$1500, which was subsequently cut to \$950.

The limitation on travelling is a severe handicap, since the main function of the ANPC is to keep in close touch with what is going on or lacking in the field of nature conservation generally, and to press for any necessary action. This in turn requires the delegates and the executive to attend various conferences and to meet each other and the relevant authorities as often as possible. To eke out the funds, I am asking members of the NPA to billet the ANPC delegates at the next annual conference, which takes place here in September 1980. I shall put a reminder in the Bulletin nearer the conference date.

R. Story

WALKING IN NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL PARKS

At the end of 1978 I made my first visit to New Zealand, thrilled that I had found a tour covering exactly what I wanted - 30 days, mainly visiting and walking in National Parks, rather than city and other sights. Not only was the tour 'specialised', but members could choose: Group 1 which stayed at bases and did day walks, or used huts supplying all food and bedding, hot showers and drying rooms, while carrying only a minimum of clothing etc. (the group I chose!) or Group 2 which did a two and a half day hut walk in one National Park and used the 'freedom huts' in others - but carried ALL cooking/eating utensils, sleeping bags, food, etc.

We spent five days in North Island. There were 16 of us including Richard and Sue Groom, our leaders. We travelled in small private buses: Auckland to Rotorua via Waitamo caves, morning around 'geyserland', then on to Tongariro National Park, with its lovely active volcanoes. Here we dropped the 'toughies' north, to do their two and a half day walk, while the rest of us continued to the Chateau Tongariro area and stayed in self-contained ski-chalets.

A visit to Park H.Q. and a walk in the mist to Silica Springs filled our first day (with my birthday celebrations in the evening) and on the second I was able to carry out a long-awaited plan, to climb Mt Ruapehu, to the Crater Lake, about 500 ft below the summit at 9,175 ft. I had talked two of the Park staff and a Sherpa into coming with three from our group, for we badly needed transport to get about five miles up the road to the ski village. The day was brilliant, deep blue skies and sunshine for our seven hours climb. It was not long before we left the rocks and were on snow, plodding up a glacier. Much later the park staff and myself lost a good hour traversing a 45° slope which turned from snow to ice and got steeper and steeper. It was quite frightening as Jose and I balanced in icy footprints while the boys hacked steps to get us down. We slowly gained the height lost, to top a col and drop down to the beautiful, almost boiling, steamy lake and a fantastic view all around us. The downward trek took two and a half hours. And while I was tired and pleased with the wonderful day, I paid for it, having got second degree sun/snow burn to 36% of my body! We drove to Wellington and flew to Christchurch, most of which was 'lost' to me, and then a wonderful flight (now joined by three more members): Christchurch, Mt Cook, Queenstown, and Manapouri, with a bus to Te Anau, thus entering Fiordland National Park. Thinking that will power would carry me over the Milford Track, I hobbled to join the group in a very wet, miserable coach and launch trip, plus wading through streams, to Glade House. But I realised that with legs twice their size, no knee and little ankle reflex, plus terrible pain, not even the Buckman will power would work! Next day (equally wet but now cold as well) I sadly waved the group off and made the dismal trip back to Te Anau, a B/B unit, visited the Doc, then back to wonderful folks who 'bent and lifted me' in and out of oil baths and bed, plus giving drugs, anti-biotics, cream, etc. for the next few days.

I re-joined the group at Milford Sound Hostel (they'd had the wettest, coldest, snowiest trek for the year) and we spent a lovely day on the Sound, while I exercised my knees etc. and so was able to do the Hollyford Track. This was a delightful, varied, three days: walking among the beech forests with the greatest variety of ferns, mosses and lichens ever seen; jet boating on the river; Lake Alabaster with its superb reflections; Lake McKerrow; etc. We spent a happy first night at Lower Pyke hut with Mt Madeline towering over us, and the second at Martins Bay, where we also walked to play among the fur seals. The pups were a delight as they posed for us but the bulls were a little frightening when they suddenly roared from under your feet, and I found myself

jumping from rock to rock at a speed I would have thought impossible in the state I was in! We also had an interesting morning around the old McKenzie homestead, learning much of the hard life of the early settlers. Then a Cessna flight down the coast and right up the Milford Sound, the clouds clearing as we reached its head, and landed on the very small airstrip.

Next came the Routeburn - coach up through the Homer tunnel again to our starting point at The Divide, then slowly climbing to the Key Summit area, with very close views of the Darren Range, Mt Crosscut and Lyttle. Dropping to beautiful Lake Dowden, we again climbed - Mt Lyttle at 6,277ft seemed almost within arms reach and below us was the valley of the Hollyford River which we had walked beside so recently. A steep drop brought us to the McKenzie hut, with cups of tea, hot showers and an introduction to the Kea, the delightful, mischievous sage-green parrot-like bird who will take and eat anything - clothing, lead on the roof, and even boots and laces - so that each hut had its large box labelled 'Kea-proof boot box'.

Four days are allowed for the three-day walk as the next step of the track is very exposed. Bruce, our guide, decided the weather was in our favour, so upward we climbed again on a spur of Ocean Peak, then turned along the Hollyford Face. Soon we could see not only the river but also the length of Lake McKerrow, and almost the sand bar and sea, while across from us were spread Adelaide Peak, Mt Gifford and Revelation (both over 7,000ft) and ahead Mt Madeline at 8,380 hiding Mt Tutoko at 9,042ft, which we had seen quite close from the jet boat on Lake McKerrow. This day we had the joys of the Mt Cook Lily - actually *Rununculus Lyallii* - taking the name 'lily' from its huge dinner plate sized leaves, so like the water lily leaf. They were everywhere, breathtaking in their beauty, layer upon layer of soft white petals and bright yellow stamens like a ballet dancer's tutu! Lunch was perfect - fantastic views, sunshine by a waterfall, and 'magic' as Bruce produced a buried plastic bin complete with Gaz stove, tea, coffee, cups, etc.!

A turn eastwards and we climbed to the Harris Pass at 4,150ft, leaving behind us not only the Hollyford valley but also Fiord N.P. as we crossed into the Mt Aspiring National Park and the Routeburn valley. A pleasant drop down through magnificent scenery to the hut, and there we spent our 'day off' sitting in the sun, writing, sketching, the hardy under the natural showers of the many falls. After an early lunch some climbed back to the saddle and Conical Hill, others to tarns, or photographed the wild flowers. Next day - down, down to Routeburn flats, then along the rushing river through a lovely gorge, and finally to Bryants Lodge for lunch and the coach to Queenstown.

Our two days at Queenstown were spent in various ways: jet boating, 4-wheel drives up the Upper Skippers Canyon and oar powered raft back, shopping, walks, climbs, etc. Again, the weather was perfect.

Once more on the move with an interesting day coach run through varied scenery, made extra beautiful by the acres and acres of variously coloured lupins, over the Lindis Pass to Twizel, a new town of some 6,000 workers on a vast hydro-electric scheme linking many lakes and our first view of Mt Cook, albeit from a distance. Along the shores of the deep, glacial, green Lake Pukaki, fed by the Hooker, Tasman and Mueller Glaciers, and so to Mt Cook village. The mountain itself was now hidden by cloud and it remained so for some days. Conditions were far from good for our 'toughies' to do the Copland Pass, so after settling in self-service chalets we raided the local shop and for the next four nights there were great comings and goings between chalets as groups joined forces in cooking the evening meal - movements not only of bodies but tables, chairs, etc., as we were two fold to each four-berth chalet!

Our first day, with clouds fairly well down, was spent walking the Hooker valley from its start, through masses of lupins along the track, over suspension bridges, past the 'snout' of the Mueller Glacier and - great excitement - avalanches poured down Mt Sefton while we lunched.

Most of us tackled Mt Sebastapol the following day, many only making it to the Red Tarns but some further still, till eventually a group of four or five of the 'toughies' - plus me! - reached the top, the last part requiring both hands and feet, on very loose shale and rock. The weather closed in and down we came, most glisading down the shale, while I picked my way down the steep rock face. Soon after, the weather cleared and Mt Cook came out in all its glory with blue skies beyond.

The Mueller hut on the range of that name, at the back of The Hermitage, was the objective for many of the group next day, while others went to Kea Point, Governors Bush Trail, etc. Once again, the weather clamped down. Four made the hut, two more of us the snow line, and others the tarns. That night, as we carried tables and chairs from hut to hut, it started snowing, to the great joy of the Queenslanders!

On our last day at Mt Cook National Park we awoke to bright blue skies and snow everywhere - right down to the ground, the trees, hedges and, of course, the mountains, and for the first time we had perfect views of Sefton (10,101ft) and Mt Cook (12,349ft) with St Davids Dome (Mt Hicks) nestling at the side. By lunch time the clouds were coming down and we waited at the wee airport, luggage on a trolley, for the command 'off'. However, it was raining over the Alps at Fox Glacier, and just as our time was running out and it looked like having to make a ten-hour coach trip (we saw the luggage loaded onto a nine-seater) names were called for various small Cessnas, and it was up and off. Our little plane went down the valley over Lake Pukaki, turned and followed up the Tasman Glacier. Some of the snow-covered mountains were almost at arms level! From my side I had perfect views of the Hochstetter Glacier, making a wonderful series of slides. We got closer and closer to the ridge of peaks all well over 10,000 ft, dropped over a Col, and followed the Franz Josef Glacier down, out towards the sea and finally turned back to land at Fox Glacier. The change of scenery for a 15 minutes flight was amazing. Eastward of the Alps we had masses of bare grey rocks, grey morain everywhere, and on the west side thick green, tropical, lush forests, almost up to tree line. We were now in Westland National Park.

We were all up early next morning to get to Lake Matheson for the famed reflection of Tasman and Cook - not perfect for us but very beautiful nevertheless. Later, most of the group donned heavy, studded boots, and climbed on and around the Fox Glacier - our last walking day, to our sorrow.

Finally we had a long coach trip up the west coast, with its interesting history of early pioneers - old gold mining towns, etc. - over the Arthurs Pass and the Canterbury Plains and so to Christchurch for our last night.

Along with my trek in Nepal, the whole month was one of the outstanding memories of beautiful, very varied, interesting scenery, grand companions, pleasant walks, on an excellently organised tour with the best of leadership. Interested?? InterNATIONAL PARKtours, Binna Burra Lodge, Beechmont, Q. 4211 will be your contact, or phone me 733017 if I can give further information.

Olive Buckman

WEDDIN MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

Weddin Mountains National Park was recently visited by a group from the Association and although relatively close to Canberra (about 240km) is not very well known. It is a true wilderness area and there are no facilities of any kind in the Park. Road access is complicated. The Park has an area of about 10,000 hectares and is situated about 19km south-west of Grenfell.

The Weddin Mountains rise about 300 metres above the surrounding plain to 800 metres, are crescent shaped and about 23km long. The mountains are a residual highland of upper Devonian rocks and the abrupt scarp line suggests that faulting may have occurred in the rocks, resulting in an upthrust of the mountain range. The name Weddin is apparently aboriginal for 'to stop' or 'remain'. The area was inhabited by the Wiradhui tribe, signs of their camps having been found.

The mountains are a relatively isolated sample of western slopes wild life and vegetation and because of the rugged nature of the range, the sense of wilderness has been retained. As a result, kangaroos, emus, and several parrot species are particularly common, while spiny anteaters, possums and gliders live in the area. The swamps around the base of the range support ibis, egrets, Pacific and white fronted herons, white galahs, parakeets, pandolotes, thorn-bills, wedge-tail eagles and Peregrine falcons. The vegetation ranges from savana woodland and low scrub on the bottom land slopes (including Blakeley's red gum, Mugga stringbark, Bloodwood, Burrawang, Spider flowers and wattles) to stands of White Cypress on the upper levels of the range.

The district was first settled in 1833 and gold was found in 1866 at about 400 metres south of the present Grenfell Hospital. Henry Lawson was born on the Grenfell goldfield in 1867. Some famous visitors to the area were the bushrangers Gardener, O'Malley and Hall, who were reputed to have lived in a cave in the mountains when they had to seek refuge from the law. Ben Hall first arrived in Grenfell when he was 10 and on marriage at 20 took up a station at Wheogo, a few kilometres north of Weddin. It was after his wife left him and he had been arrested and tried for an alleged robbery that he took up bushranging when he found his horses dispersed from his property. All the bushrangers were apprehended in the period 1863-66.

It is possible to walk the range from end to end and a stream near Weddin Gap makes a suitable camp site on a two-day walk. The best access is via a ridge on the east side of the range beneath Euraldrie Trig. From Grenfell take the Holy Camp Road (running west from Lawson Park at the south end of the town) to its end. In wet weather the last kilometre can be boggy. No water is available at this camp.

The area is managed by the Griffith District of the National Parks and Wildlife Service of NSW (P.O. Box 1532, Griffith, 2680, telephone 634117).

A FIELD GUIDE TO THE NATIONAL PARKS OF NSW

Centennial celebrations are usually an excuse for a flood of platitudinous speeches, flag waving and junky souvenirs. They are forgotten very quickly and leave no permanent marks. A fortunate exception was the centenary of Australia's first national park, the Royal, perched on the southern edge of Sydney's sprawling suburbia.

Along with the politicians' speeches came the declaration of a significant number of new national parks. In Victoria, Croajinalong, an extensive strip of coast and forest hinterland running west from the NSW border; Tingaringy, a

wilderness area adjoining the southern boundary of the Kosciusko National Park and of course in ACT the Gudgenby Nature Reserve. The 16-year wait was worth it. But most important of all was the inclusion of the vast Colo wilderness into the Wollemi National Park, a move which surprised and delighted conservationists, fearful that the Colo Gorge would be flooded for yet another dam.

At the same time, with no pre-publicity, a new book was issued to mark the centenary. Alan Fairley's A Field Guide to the National Parks of New South Wales is a superb book. For anyone wanting to know more about the remaining natural areas of NSW it is indispensable. Fairley's Field Guide to Sydney Bushland has had much success as a comprehensive guide to the national parks around Sydney. Comprehensiveness is the greatest value of his second book. Each park is basically covered under location and access, history, geology, fauna, flora and suggested activities. In the average six pages devoted to each of the 45 NSW national parks, Fairley includes a remarkable amount of information. Most importantly it is highly readable and will satisfy the specialist as well as the general reader. For example, he avoids the absurd scientific snobbery of only referring to trees and plants by their botanical names; he includes both the botanical and the common names.

Previous books on national parks and nature areas have largely ignored the battles that have been, and are continuing to be, fought for their preservation. These essentially coffee-table productions imply that somehow remaining natural areas are the gifts of benevolent governments and face no threat to their future. Fairley bluntly shows this to be nonsense. Apart from describing how the parks were declared in face of many challenges, he clearly describes the threats of the present and future.

One small quibble is that he appears to make no mention at all of the Jervis Bay Nature Reserve or, what was at the time of publication, the proposed Gudgenby Nature Reserve. While these do not fit the letter of the book's title, they do fit the spirit. Jervis Bay and Gudgenby are to all intents and purposes national parks in the area of NSW. But this is to be hypercritical.

Fairley devotes two pages at the end of the book to proposed new national parks in NSW. It is gratifying that, to my knowledge, all these have now been declared. This is in no small part due to the energies of Paul Landa, the NSW Minister for the Environment. It is to be hoped that future editions of Fairley's book will mark the continued expansion and improvement of national parks throughout NSW.

* A Field Guide to the National Parks of New South Wales by Alan Fairley; published by Rigby; \$12.95.

S. Johnston

Walking in the Warragamba Dam catchment area is popular with Sydney bushwalkers. There are restrictions, however, and entry within two miles of the stored water is entirely prohibited. Beyond two miles entry is permitted if the leader of the group carries a Water Board permit, a letter of permission from the General Secretary of the Boy Scouts Association or a badge certifying membership of one of the NSW Federation of Bushwalking Clubs.

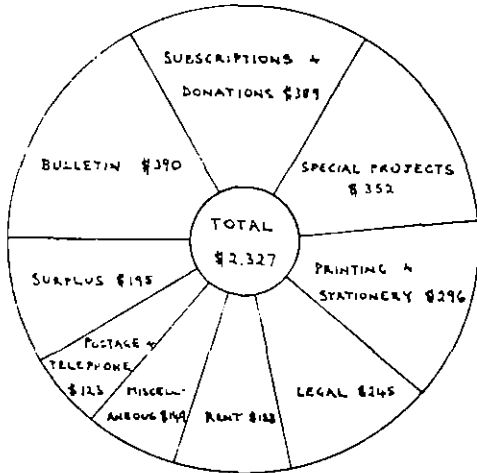
The restrictions do not apply to persons lawfully on private property or public roads (not fire roads) within the area.

To assist in maintaining purity of the water supply, all members of the party are expected to fully co-operate in matters of bushfire prevention, sanitation and preservation of natural flora. To protect wild life, firearms should not be carried.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

The pie diagram below shows how the NPA \$ was spent in 1978/79. The Committee considered the general financial situation at its October 1979 meeting and noted that income received from membership subscriptions was only \$1732. A further \$411 was received from book royalties and \$212 from bank

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ACT.
EXPENDITURE 1978/79



interest. Quite clearly, with a surplus of only \$195 for the year, the Association would have been 'in the red' if we had had to rely solely on subscriptions. Looking through to 1980/81 the Committee is most reluctant to increase subscription rates and will look at other measures to achieve a balance. A continuing tight watch will be kept on expenditure, but more importantly the Committee is giving consideration to a membership drive in the first half of 1980. All current members can assist in this objective by talking to those friends, relatives and acquaintances whom they believe might have an interest in joining the Association. We will need a net gain of about 100 members over 1980 to meet our anticipated expenses with no increase in subscriptions - quite a challenge!

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.

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: To be advised Ref. UBD Tourist Map
Meet: Car park at Scrivener Dam (Government House side) 10.30 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.

January 26/28 Sat-Mon Nadjungbilla/Tuross Gorge: Camp/Pack Walk
Leader: Hela Lindemann 864926 Ref. Cooma & Cobargo 1:100,000
Meet: Cnr Mugga Rd & Monaro Hwy 9.00 a.m. (400km)

Hela Lindemann will coordinate arrangements for the camp, which is a repeat of the popular trip we did in 1978. There may be a limit to numbers, so book early. Some indoor sleeping, cooking and bathing facilities are available. Neville Esau (864176) will lead an exploratory pack walk, starting from the campsite. Rough going, but distances will not be long. Both pack walkers and campers should bring swimming gear.

February 3 Sunday Orroral: Walk
Leader: Hela Lindemann 864926 Ref. ACT 1:100,000
Meet Mugga Rd & Monaro Hwy 8.30 a.m. (100km)

A medium walk along the fire trail and then up onto the ridge for splended views.

February 9/10 Sat-Sun Roof-top ramble: Pack Walk
Leader: Fiona Brand 479538 Ref. Kosciusko 1:100,000 (400km)

From Charlottes Pass up to Lake Cootapatamba and Mt Kosciusko. There should be some flowers to see. Contact Fiona re transport details.

February 10 Sunday Tidbinbilla: Field Trip
Leader: Peter Ormay 512428 Ref. ACT 1:100,000
Meet Tidbinbilla Visitors' Centre 9.30 a.m. (50km)

Peter is a ranger at Tidbinbilla and has offered to give us a closer and more informed look at some of the pleasures and problems of the reserve. Programme should take up to 3.30 p.m.

February 17 Sunday Shoalhaven R.: Short Walk
Leader: Reg Alder 542240 Ref. Braidwood 1:100,000
Meet Canberra Railway Stn 8.30 a.m. (150km)

About a 3km walk downstream from Warri Bridge for a day of swimming.

February 24 Sunday Murrumbidgee Gorge: Walk/Swim
Leader: Darryl Hawke 883763 Ref. ACT 1:100,000
Meet Mugga Rd & Monaro Hwy 8.30 a.m. (100km)

Another delightful swimming spot, but this time the walk in and out is medium grade.

March 1/2 Sat-Sun Naas R.: Beginners' Pack Walk/Walk
Leader: Hela Lindemann 864926 Ref. ACT 1:100,000
Meet Mugga Rd & Monaro Hwy 8.30 a.m. (100km)

Hela wants to prove you do not have to be a hairy mountain man to enjoy pack walking. Only short distances are involved, with camping in or by an old hut. Day walkers on Saturday will have time to go in to the camp site and out again.

March 8/10 Sat-Sun Yadboro: Camp
Leader: Ian Currie 958112 Ref. Ulladulla: 1:100,000

Yadboro is an ideal spot to enjoy the magnificance of the Budawangs from a fixed camp. Bush camping with no facilities. Please contact Ian for details.

March 16 Sunday Middle Cotter: Walk
Leader: Bernice Anderson 812082 Ref. ACT 1:100,000
Meet Eucumbene Drive & Cotter Rd 8.30 a.m. (100km)

Medium walking/scrambling below the Bendora Dam.

March 23 Sunday Gallen Crossing: Picnic/Swim
Leader: Bill Adams 487584 Ref. Braidwood 1:100,000
Meet Canberra Railway Station 8.30 a.m. (200km)

A similar programme to the Shoalhaven River day in February only at a less frequently visited spot just above the Shoalhaven Gorge.

March 29/30 Sat-Sun Mt Kelly: Pack Walk
Leader: Pat Michell 473264 Ref. ACT 1:100,000
Meet Mugga Rd & Monaro Hwy 8.30 a.m. (100km)

The best-loved of Gudgenby's mountains eluded us last time. This time Pat will take us up on the Saturday!

March 30 Sunday Glendale Crossing-Half Moon Ck: Walk
Leader: Penny Hibbard 814070 Ref. ACT 1:100,000
Meet Mugga Rd & Monaro Hwy 8.45 a.m. (100km)

A medium walk across the saddle above Half Moon Ck. Some excellent views across the Naas Valley.

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

Inaugurated 1961

'A National Park for the National Capital'

President:	John Banks, 9 Furphy Pl., Garran, 2605	816641(H)	493632(W)
Vice-President:	Neville Esau, 11 Rymill Pl., Mawson, 2605	864176(H)	494554(W)
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Committee Members:	Reg Alder, Fiona Brand, Ian Currie, Cynthia Hook, John Schunke, John Webster		
Immediate Past President:	Darryl Hawk, 8 Emery St., Chapman, 2611	883763(H)	897098(W)

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

National Parks Association Phone Number: 486104 or 956037

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

Subscriptions fall due on 1 July

GENERAL MEETINGS

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

DECEMBER No meeting

JANUARY No meeting

THURSDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 1980

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

(This will replace the talk advertised for September but cancelled due to illness.)

National Parks Association outings summary

DECEMBER

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

JANUARY

26/28 Sat-Mon	Nadjungbilla-Tuross Gorge	Camp/Pack Walk
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FEBRUARY

3 Sunday	Orroral	Walk
9/10 Sat-Sun	Kosciusko	Pack Walk
10 Sunday	Tidbinbilla	Field Trip
17 Sunday	Shoalhaven R.	Walk
24 Sunday	Murrumbidgee Gorge	Walk

MARCH

1/2 Sat-Sun	Naas R.	Pack Walk and Sat. Walk
8/10 Sat-Sun	Yadboro	Camp
16 Sunday	Middle Cotter	Walk
23 Sunday	Oallen Crossing	Picnic/Swim
29/30 Sat-Sun	Mt Kelly	Pack Walk
30 Sunday	Glendale Crossing	Walk

A cross in this square means you are unfinancial and regretfully we can send no further bulletins unless the subscription is paid. We would be sorry to lose your membership and support.