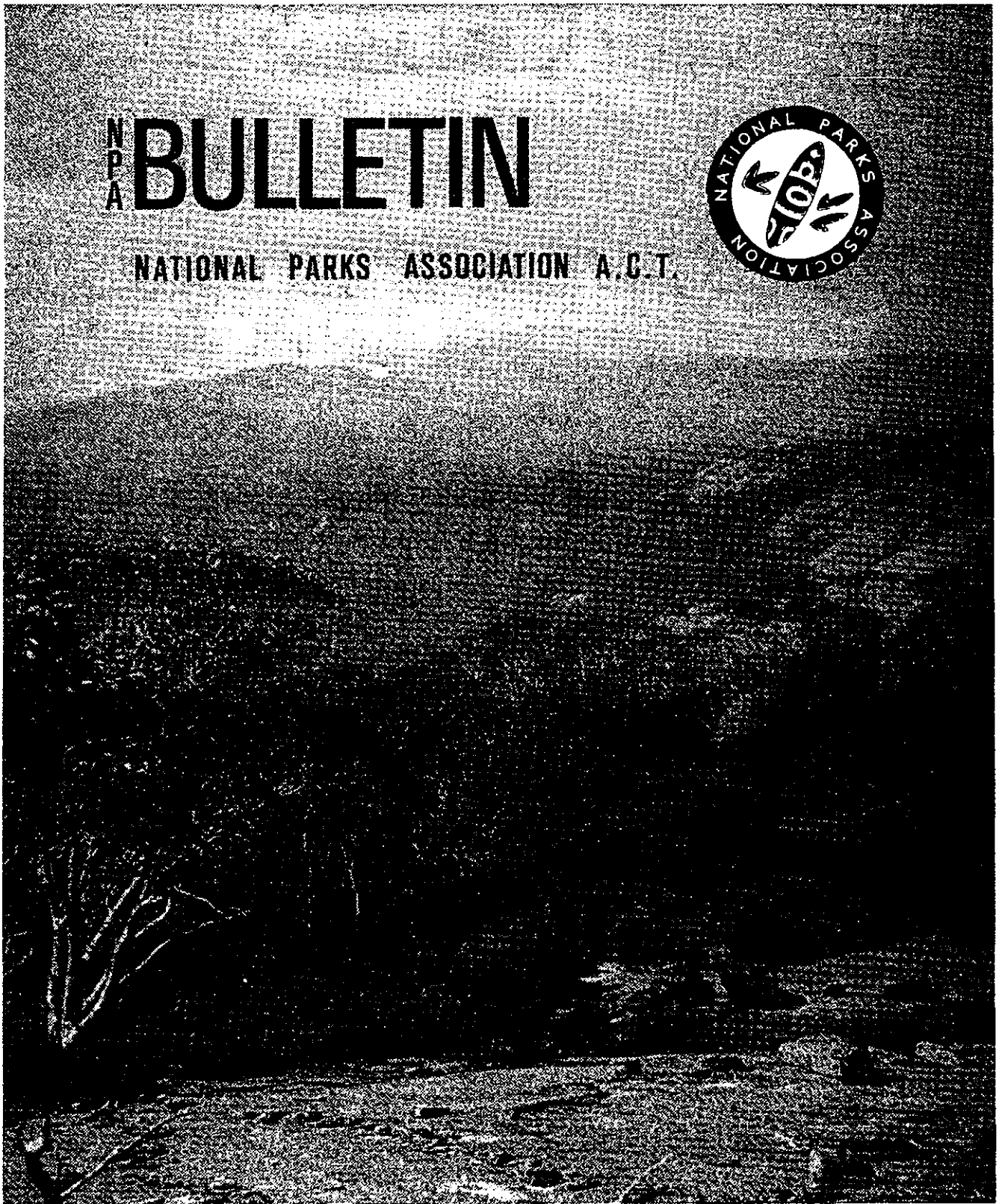


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Aboriginal stone arrangement – Gudgenby Nature Reserve

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PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and its advisors are now considering the responses to the recently published Draft Plan of Management of Kosciusko National Park. Our own consideration of the Draft Plan and subsequent publicity given to aspects of the responses by ski and tourist organisations has highlighted the need to consider the merits of preservation and recreation in national parks. I use the word preservation deliberately for this is surely what we want as our prime aim in national parks: to preserve them, that is, to maintain them unchanged, except by natural forces. As increasing numbers of people look to national parks for recreational opportunities the need to resolve this question becomes increasingly urgent.

It is not easy to find absolute principles on which to base discussion of either recreation or preservation in national parks; the need for both is to a large extent a product of our own culture, our life style. Within our society we often express the wish for both of these principles to be followed to fulfil different needs. Unfortunately, we do not often specify how the conflict between these different needs can be resolved nor how much of either we require. Helping in the preparation of a response to the Kosciusko Plan of Management certainly brings the question into sharp focus. Beyond this immediate requirement however, I believe that this question is one which the NPA and its members should consider resolving, perhaps as a long term statement of policy. These questions - How much preservation? How much recreation? - are going to become more frequently asked in the future.

We are all familiar with the arguments for 'better facilities' which inevitably accompany increased visitor usage and with the changes they can bring

COLOUR IN NATURE

Perhaps the dominant feature of landscape as we see it is the green of plants. Plants are photosynthetic organisms and derive energy from sunlight. Chlorophyll is the pigment which enables this transfer to occur. There are several chlorophyll pigments with 'a' and 'b' being the most common. There are other pigments which absorb light in different wavelengths and pass the energy thus trapped into the photosynthetic pathway of the plant. The carotenoids appear yellow-orange to us and the anthocyanins range from red to violet. They are also present in leaves, and in autumn the chlorophyll is the first pigment to degrade letting the yellow to red colours of the other pigments shine through.

to national park areas. Unintended changes, including litter and despoilation, also seem to be proportioned to the number of visitors; this effect is not confined only to areas accessible by car, many back country areas in national parks are showing increasing signs of visitor pressure. If we wish to preserve our natural areas we must be concerned about these changes.

Our need to make changes 'to develop' our parks is in many ways a selfish aim. We are putting ourselves first at the expense of other living things and their right to exist in that area. I believe we must learn to see ourselves not as dominant over nature but as part of it, to accept our dependence on nature not only for sustenance but for well-being. This of course is the paradox of human ecology. We know that change in our society is inevitable as time passes but when it comes to natural areas, be they national parks or other wilderness areas, we do not know how much to preserve for the future. On this matter let us be conservative and preserve as much as possible so that future generations will have as many options as we have. In addition, as we become a more mechanised, more industrialised society, we need more, not fewer, natural areas in national parks to fulfil the diverse pressures which society places on them. Large areas of wilderness will be needed in future as reference areas as we put even greater stress on global ecological systems.

Let us not always see ourselves as man the improver; let us rather be man the alien, man the invader, the unnatural part of the landscape. This then is my approach to the argument I started with; let us adopt a much more sensitive approach to use of our natural areas and work for increasing their numbers and size. Perhaps we may then have our recreation and our preservation too.

The colours of flowers are derived from several pigments, the chlorophylls, the anthocyanins, carotenoids and anthoxanthin. A flower can be all one pigment, the pigments can be mixed within the cells, there can be patches of colour composed of sets of cells all with one pigment in them. There can be a mosaic, each cell having a different pigments in it; and over and above this the flower can have a smooth surface, a shiny surface or a hairy surface. All these possibilities give rise to a huge range of floral colour and texture.

Flowering plants must ensure that the pollen produced succeeds in fertilizing the seeds thus maintaining the species.

Often, as in the case of most grasses and conifers, the wind acts as a transmitter. Most plants however rely on vectors to spread their pollen and the most efficient belong to the insect family of bees and wasps. Nectar, pollen, scent and colour all combine to attract these insects. Bees distinguish untra-violet, violet/blue and yellow and so it is not surprising that most 'bee flowers' are blue or yellow or reflect ultra-violet. Apart from bees, many other insects act as pollinators. Butterflies and moths use nectar as their prime food source and many plants produce long tubular flowers which let these insects feed but keep out unwanted ones. Many flies are also attracted to flowers and the large number of beeflies and hoverflies are important pollinators. Finally, many beetles are regular visitors to flowers. White, yellow and blue flowers seem to be the most attractive to all these insect groups.

In many parts of the world insects, wind and water are the major pollinators. In the Americas and in Australia birds play an important part. Birds have excellent colour vision and red seems to be the colour they find most outstanding. Honeyeaters and brush-tongued parrots are the major bird vectors in Australia but the flocks of pardalotes, silver eyes and thornbills also play their part. The flowers visited by birds tend to be large, offer strong perches, provide large amounts of nectar and are red-violet in colour. Flowers such as Correa, Epacris, Adamanthos, Grevillea, tea-trees and bottle-brushes are common in Australia and rely on bird pollination to a large extent.

Finally, the seeds of many plants are housed in fruit which are usually red-orange, this colour is attractive to birds and animals who come to eat the fruit and thus help to spread the seeds either in their droppings or by regurgitation.

As in plant life so colour plays a role in animal life. Colour can be used as camouflage allowing the animal to merge into the background either to avoid predators or to be invisible from prey or in many cases both. A spider needs to be invisible to flies and from birds for instance.

Colour can also be used as bluff since many butterflies, moths and grasshoppers have dull outer wings. When they are surprised they suddenly expose brightly coloured under wings, this can startle a would-be attacker for just a short space of time the insect needs to escape. Another similar trick is to display false eyes on the rear wings or even to simulate a false head so that the attacker aims a strike at the wrong end.

Many insects, such as wasps, can defend themselves by stinging or biting, while others such as the ladybird, are poisonous or foul tasting. Warning

colours, often red, yellow or black, are displayed by these creatures to advertise the fact that they are not worth pursuing. It is not surprising that many harmless or edible insects have taken advantage of this and mimic their more dangerous cousins. Hoverflies for instance can easily be mistaken for wasps or bees and thus gain more immunity from attack.

All these uses of colour-camouflage, bluff, warning colouration and mimicry can be found in higher animals as well as insects and spiders. The tiger for instance is well camouflaged as it lies in a forest thicket. The corroboree frog exudes a poison from its skin and carries yellow/black colours to advertise this.

Colour, therefore, appears to play an important role for both animals and plants.

Talk by Norman Morrison, supported by slides, to the Association on Thursday, 17 September, 1981.

KOSCIUSKO NATIONAL PARK - DRAFT PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

This Association has responded to the request for comment on the Draft Plan of Management for the Kosciusko National Park and in doing so congratulated the National Parks and Wildlife Service of NSW and its advisers on the comprehensive and well-considered content of the Draft plan. The Association's detailed submission is too lengthy for inclusion in the Bulletin and the following comment is an abridgement which adopts the chapter headings of the Draft Plan.

Basis for Management

The Association agreed that the primary aim of the plan must be 'to preserve and protect the unique or outstanding scenery or natural phenomenon of the Kosciusko region'. In doing so concern was expressed that sufficient weight had not been given to the importance of conservation in the implementation of the objectives and to the potential conflict between many proposed recreational opportunities and the stated objectives. National parks are needed to conserve diversity and complexity in the natural environment, to preserve wildlife, and to protect areas of outstanding scenic or historic value. Although parks should provide a range of recreational opportunities, this does not mean they are only playgrounds as recreation is only one value and should be balanced against all other values in formulating management policies. In Kosciusko National Park the most important resource is an ample and continuous supply of good quality water.

Specific Area Proposals

The proposal to remove man-made

structures and rehabilitate areas was strongly supported and that such work should be given high priority. The review of the marked track system in the summit area was supported but it was noted that as many tracks follow natural routes it may be difficult to achieve dispersed visitor use without some positive encouragement. Camping in the main range areas should be prohibited and an educational programme begun to explain to visitors the reasons or the restrictions. The removal of Albina and Rawsons Huts and the provision of alternative emergency shelter was supported.

Murray Headquarters

Association members had observed the considerable influence that feral horses and the spread of blackberries had on the area and proposed that studies of the horses activities and eradication of the blackberries be carried out.

Snowy River

The Association observed that conflict arises between objectives of maintaining the outstanding scenic character of the Snowy corridor and the protection of aboriginal sites. Existing camping sites along Barry Way are already over used and causing local environmental degradation and access from these poses threats to the preservation of aboriginal sites. Planning is necessary to control existing camping sites and provide additional campsites away from sensitive areas.

Cooleman Plain

Upgrading of the access to this area is likely to cause serious conflict with the stated management objectives. All car parking and camping should be located well away from Caves Creek and measures may be necessary to limit numbers during holiday periods. Ranger supervision will be necessary to control visitor activities and to prevent vandalism to the Cooleman Homestead.

Yarrangobilly

Preference was expressed for the restoration of the area in the vicinity of the caves to a natural state and the recognition of the need for the retention of some of the historically important buildings. The unsuitability of the old Yarrangobilly village as a campsite was recognised and the need for an alternative camping area confirmed.

Historic Resources

The Association would place the management of historic resources lower in priority than the preservation and rehabilitation of areas to conserve natural values which are seen as the prime aim of national parks. Some immediate

preservation or safe custody of historic relics however may be necessary.

Wilderness Values

General agreement was expressed with the designation and management practices proposed for wilderness areas. The exclusion of some areas because of the presence of roads or tracks does not seem to be justified.

Jagungal

Proposals were made that the Jagungal area be extended in the north to Tumut Pond, west to the Cabramurra-Khancoban road and south to include a substantial area of the main range. Exclusion of vehicles along the Geehi Dam road would allow the western scarp of the main range to be included in the wilderness area. The road through Shlink Pass should be allowed to revert to its natural state, the Shlink Hilton hut removed and the area rehabilitated. Other tracks in the Jagungal wilderness area should be allowed to revert to their natural state as soon as possible.

Bogong

This wilderness area should be extended east to the Long Plain road and south to the Snowy Mountains Highway to include the area of A5 north of the highway. The proposed extension of vehicular access along Horseshoe track, Stokes Hut track and Peppercorn track should not be included. The Jounama pine plantation should become part of the wilderness area when rehabilitation is complete.

Natural Values

Although the proposed objectives emphasize the protection of natural values and preservation of flora and fauna, a number of the proposed management practices do not conform to this objective. As large scale extensions of car touring and camping are not compatible with these values, car camping should be restricted largely to adjacent areas outside the park. Existing car camping areas should not be expanded and their use rationed at peak periods.

Public Access

The proposed increase of vehicular access roads by 54% is not compatible with the management objectives for the natural environment. Kosciusko National Park is not a suitable area for four wheel drive vehicles and trail bikes and no provision should be made for this. The extension of the vehicular access tracks would lead to severe environmental degradation.

Parking and Trackheads

Secure structures should be built to

exclude vehicular traffic proceeding beyond designated parking areas. Structures at parking areas should be low key and compatible with the natural environment. There should be ample provision for rubbish collection and fuel provided at barbecues to prevent local depletion of wood which is a necessary part of the natural ecological cycle.

Walking and Bridle Tracks

These should be limited to providing access to interesting natural features outside wilderness and sensitive areas. Interpretive information should be provided. Route information at trackheads would assist in encouraging dispersal and minimise environmental damage.

Cross-Country Skiing

The general proposals are supported. Route markings in general should be removed during summer and none be erected at all in wilderness areas. No accommodation to be provided at trackheads or in the back country. Facilities should be at the minimum consistent with safety. Special consideration should be given to managing skiing in sensitive areas as serious pollution could arise.

Alpine Skiing

As numbers grow serious damage can occur in alpine and sub-alpine areas. Studies have shown where there is heavy compacting of snow, natural drainage patterns can be altered and produce serious erosion under what appears stable snow cover. Because of the concentration of large numbers of people in restricted areas and the extensive facilities employed, alpine skiing causes the most environmental damage of all the winter activities. The ideal would be to limit the facilities to their present level as the projected large increases in demand are clearly impossible to accommodate. If there are to be any extensions they should be limited to the present areas and none at all at Charlotte's Pass or Guthéga. Priority for municipal purposes should be given to day visitors as this will allow maximum visitor usage and encourage accommodation outside the park. Each proposal for expansion should be the subject of a separate environmental impact statement. Increased visitor use requires additional transport and high priority should be given to designing one which would not require the building of new roads or widening existing ones. Visitor rationing may have to be established before numbers are reached when the provision of services will lower environmental standards. There should be a 'user pay' policy where operators should be responsible for the provision of all services, site rehabilitation and maintenance to NPWS standards.

New Skiing Areas

The results of the proposed study of the Crackenback area should be available for public scrutiny before any final decision is made. Development at Blue Cow needs careful design to preserve the scenic quality of the area, encroachment of facilities towards its centre should be resisted and concentrated along suitable areas on the Smiggins Hole-Guthéga link road. Apart from the present facilities at Mt Selwyn, no new alpine skiing facilities should be developed in the northern area of the park. Development at Kings Cross would downgrade the adjacent Jagungal Wilderness Area and create additional traffic problems. The northern end of the park should be retained for low-impact cross-country skiing and this should ensure adequate winter recreation opportunities for the foreseeable future.

A copy of the Draft Plan is available from the Association for the perusal of members.

FRIENDS OF NATIONAL PARKS

The Victorian National Parks Association has formed up a number of small groups whose objectives are to carry out some project (with official concurrence) within a particular national park.

A recent report in their journal 'Parkwatch' reports that in February, 14 'Friends' helped make a walking track near Baldrys Crossing and in March weeded around some trees previously planted along Bushrangers Bay. About 400 trees had been planted and of these 300 survived which is an excellent result as they had been planted without guards to keep out rabbits. These trees were given some 'Osmocote' and stakes of the missed ones were marked so they could be replanted on another occasion. This was all done in a morning. Lunch was had at 'Highfield' and later a double row of trees was planted in a paddock along a fence line. Some members planted eucalypts among bracken to see if they would survive.

Perhaps some members might be interested in forming similar groups in the ACT to carry out projects within our reserves. If sufficient interest is shown an approach would be made to the DCT with suggestions for their approval and co-operation.

THE OLD ORRORAL HOMESTEAD

The Orroral Valley was one of the first areas to be settled south of Canberra. By 1836 William Herbert had a

licensed run and a homestead 2 1/2 km down the valley from the present Orroral tracking station. Traces of this homestead are still visible at the site. Some time later Herbert moved about 1 1/2 km up the valley and built another house which is now known as the 'Old Orroral Homestead'. Both homes were of the 'double' style, i.e., two buildings a few metres apart, one serving as living and sleeping quarters and the other providing kitchen and washing areas. Homestead is perhaps too grand a title for these buildings and slab huts would probably be more accurate. The walls are of vertical slabs about 55mm thick, there are timber floors and ceilings and a roof of split shakes which have been covered at some stage with iron. The main building is about 13m x 5m and has four rooms, three of which open on to the front verandah, and two fireplaces with stone chimneys.

The house was occupied until 1950 but since then has suffered considerable damage. The kitchen building has collapsed and much of the material been removed, leaving only the stone chimney standing. One room of the main building has been used as a hay store, one as a junk store and sheep have camped in the other two. In addition, cattle have seriously damaged the verandahs, knocking out most of the posts. The building is on leasehold land which is completely surrounded by the Gudgenby Nature Reserve. The lease has recently expired and the land and buildings are expected to be incorporated in the reserve shortly. What then?

If nothing is done, the remaining building will slowly collapse. Although it is basically sound at the present time, it will inevitably follow the fate of the kitchen building and the original homestead. This would be a tragedy. Much of the physical evidence of our history has been lost and more will be lost in the future in spite of our best efforts. In many places replicas are being built to replace colonial buildings. Here we have an authentic piece of the mid-19th century. We don't have to fight to have it reserved, it is already within the park boundary. The Department of the Capital Territory accepts that the building is important but at present has scant resources with which to do anything about it. Following representations by NPA earlier this year the fence around the building was repaired and posts installed to prevent the verandah roof from sagging. However, this was a temporary expedient and more is needed if the building is to be preserved in the long term. What is involved in preservation? At least enough work to ensure the building's structural integrity and weather-tightness. At most, full restoration and maintenance in something like its original condition.

Such restoration of the main building would, I believe, be an excellent long

term project for this organisation to undertake. From its inception NPA worked for the establishment of Gudgenby as a national park and its declaration as a nature reserve was seen as the virtual achievement of that ambition. But that is surely not the end; it is in fact a new beginning. We must now give thought to the use to be made of the reserve. We must take stock of its assets and encourage development or protection as appropriate. But where previously it was enough to urge and encourage, we now have the opportunity to actually work in and for the reserve. If we could muster even a small number of members prepared to spend an occasional day or weekend working on the building we could fully restore it. The time it took would depend on the degree of our enthusiasm. But whatever the rate of progress it would be better than the alternative of watching this important link with the past slowly decay. Within our membership there must be people with skills which would be of use and some expert advice and guidance is available from the Heritage Commission. It may also be possible to obtain a grant for the purchase of materials. The Committee has already commenced discussions with the DCT to ensure that anything we do has their blessing.

Restoration of this building is a project of

- historical significance - because it was built by the first settler in the area;
- architectural significance - because it is of slab construction
- significance to NPA - because it is within the Gudgenby Nature Reserve.

If you support the idea of this project, let the committee know. We would especially like to hear from you if you are interested in:

- working on a submission for a grant;
- providing specialist advice;
- working on the project with a special skill;
- working on the project without any special skill.

This will enable us to make up a list of people to draw on when the time comes. (There have already been two offers of assistance from non-members.)

Ross Carlton

AUSTRALIAN ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL

The Australian Environment Council is now producing a quarterly newsletter and invites contributions so as to inform interested people and organisations on the work of the Council, its Committees and associated authorities. The Council's address is PO Box 1252, Canberra City, ACT 2601.

KASHMIR - ZANSKAR - LADAKH

Little Tibet, Moonland, the last Shangri-La, north of the Great Himalayan Range, in the shadow of the Karakorum, only rediscovered by the West in the 19th century, what better descriptions could there be to quicken an interest to undertake a trek from Kashmir over three major ranges to Leh, the capital of Ladakh?

Ladakh is situated on the western end of the high Tibetan plateau and for the past century its borders have been disputed over by China and India and later by Pakistan. For thirty years, prior to 1974, it had been virtually closed to foreigners and even now travel is restricted to south of one mile north of the Beacon Highway, one of the world's highest continuous roads. Our furthest northerly point reached (although to the west) was almost 500 kilometres above Tibet's capital Lhasa.

Access by road is cut from October to June and regular civilian air flights only became available in 1979. Today, there are two flights a week in the season and if you can get a booking, it is a lottery whether you might fly out. The airport is at 3,500 metres and this restricts the plane to 85% of its capacity to take-off. Changeable weather and high winds can also cause flights to be cancelled at short notice.

Two of the party had a real problem when the airlines failed to deliver their luggage and at short notice had to re-kit themselves with whatever type and size of clothes they could find. In the meantime, whether we flew out was to be our last worry and after a couple of days of luxury living on the houseboats moored on Nagin Lake at Srinagar, we set out by bus 70 kilometres up the Kashmir valley to Daksum. Here our group of 30 was to be divided into two, I was to be in the first and the second to follow a day later to finally rendezvous for the last stage together.

Daksum was a very pleasant district, at 2,300 metres on the Pir Panjal range and our stopping place was in a grassy, pine tree wood. Here we found a sumptuous hot lunch ready to be served and the ponies waiting to be loaded with our kit bags. Our tenting and cook party had already gone ahead to set-up camp at 3,000 metres on the Sinthan pass. A steep ridge climb because of a bridge wash-out was our baptism to 24 days of trekking over 340 kilometres and to climb the equivalent height of Mt Everest. Some idea of the amount of twists and turns may be gained when my pedometer showed that the distance walked was 57% greater than the map distance. Pitched tents and afternoon tea awaited us on one of the few relatively level areas on the pass for we were now almost out of the tree line.

From the campsite we could see the track winding steeply up to the pass with the top out of sight at 4,000 metres. Quite a shock to find yourself one day at the equivalent of Mt Kosciuszko and by mid-morning on the next to be as high as Mt Cook in New Zealand.

A road was being built over the Sinthan Pass and only some sections had been completed. Our tour organiser thought because of this he would seek out another route for future treks in the area, the old, more direct route, could however still be followed. Most of the work of shifting the earth and rock was being done by pick and shovel with not even a wheelbarrow to be seen. Only major rocks were blasted, smaller ones being levered over the side by many hands. Small debris was shifted by a two-man shovel system where one man pushed the shovel while another pulled on a rope attached low down on the handle. An air compressor was being pushed and pulled up the hill by a group of about 20 men in rhythm to a sea shanty type of song which called on the help of Allah to make the task easier. They could not have shouted loud enough, because the day before the compressor had got out of control and run over a man. 'Was he killed?' we asked, 'no, only hurt' - life is cheap and not easy in the mountains.

The pass was one of the many listed or said to be 'a minor ridge'. Losing more than the height we had gained by the next morning, we then found ourselves two days later up to 4,500 metres. This time it was more of a struggle as we had to traverse several steeply sloping minor snow-ice fields to gain the pass. On the way one girl baulked on a steep slope, one man walked too close to the edge of an ice bridge and fell through and another girl, because of illness, had to be assisted by two men up the final snow fields. At the top a wondrous sight of row upon row of snow-capped mountains all over 6-7,000 metres and in front of us 23 kilometres of a glacier. At first our ponies refused to go over the steep lip of the pass on to the glacier and had to be led around by an easier approach. A late lunch at the end of the glacier and then down to the campsite on a steep grassy slope. It was so steep that some put large rocks at the foot of their tents to prevent them sliding out in their slippery nylon sleeping bags.

Back down again to below the height of Kosciuszko and then up the Wadvan Valley for several days. All very hot in the enclosed valley at mid-day and a 5 a.m. rise was initiated so as to reach, whenever possible, camp by mid-day. This was possible frequently when the route was straightforward and the distance near our average of 17 kilometres per day. Initially through a narrow gorge close to a wildly rushing river, the valley then widened to grazing lands and villages where we stayed each night to gaze at and

be looked over by the villagers.

Camping just above a village on a beautiful, grassy bank alongside quite a lively river, seemed just about ideal. The next morning conditions changed rapidly as I heard a terrific roar just as I was about to get out of the tent. Looking out I saw the river was rising rapidly and soon great blocks of ice and large trees started to sweep by at great speed. Water came to within one metre of the line of tents and the consequences of a higher level would have been catastrophic if everyone in their sleeping bags and tents had been swept down the river. Good headline news, but no fun if it had eventuated. I concluded that since the flood had only been of a short duration, that an ice bridge must have collapsed, blocked the river and then burst as the water level built up. Floodings must have been regular as the villagers had built a long high, stone wall to divert flood water around the village.

As we climbed up the valley, it narrowed quickly to where an ice bridge formed our only access across the river. Another gorge and then a steep climb up the moraine to Humpet. This was a high pasture land at 4,000 metres, settled only in the summer by nomadic herdsmen and their families who lived in crudely built low stone huts. Our first rest day after 10 days of walking with the promise of the barbeque of a whole sheep for the evening meal in most picturesque surroundings. A nomad brought his very ill mother over the swollen river for help but our nurses were not able to assist as she possibly had a bad stomach ulcer. Our next objective was the Boktol pass at 4,750 metres and a stiffer proposition than our previous passes as it now involved a steep moraine and an ice glacier. Prior to reaching it we had to cross a fast glacial stream at the point where the body of a large brown bear lay in the middle of it. It had been shot by herdsmen for marauding their flocks of sheep and goats.

I had the only large scale legible map of the whole of the trek (the Kashmiris knew the way) and because of this contours were very useful for anticipating what the day's problems might be. However, in this instance the cartographers had interpreted their details incorrectly and had shown the pass ridge continuous at 5,500 metres instead of dropping to about 4,750 metres. This was not the only variation and I found all maps and publications although agreeing phonetically had different spellings and names for the same place.

It was to have been an early start and for safety everyone accompanied by the ponies was to negotiate the pass together. Dawn came misty and raining and departure was delayed until 9 a.m. when the walkers only started up the moraine. An hour and one half wait, not from the climb in an

icy, misty drizzle was hardly my idea of good planning and eventually we followed the ponies onto the glacier. Transverse crevasses meant continuous zig-zagging on the glacier and at one a pony and its handler fell in. Fortunately, it was only narrow and the man was pulled out with only minor bruises. Avalanches could be heard but not seen through the thick mist. It was all very eerie not to be able to see beyond the immediate vicinity and a great pity to be denied views of the spectacular peaks we had glimpsed the day before.

The mist suddenly lifted to intense sunlight and we found we were at a critical point of the division of the glacier. Here we lunched and then tackled a side gully filled with hard snow to climb the final 300 metres over the pass. The snow ended suddenly as we came over the top. The narrow ridge of a steep stony moraine led down for several hundred metres to where an ice glacier came in. On one steep section there was black ice which made negotiation difficult for the ponies. Lower the glacier surface had a crunchy ice surface and we made good time down to the river junction and some sparse grass to camp on. The crossing of the Himalayan range brought a dramatic change to the country, no longer any trees and only grass where there might be a soak or irrigation. Only occasionally the most stunted plants and flowers struggled to grow in seemingly barren scree. The monsoon clouds could not climb over the high peaks of the Himalayan range.

Here we met our organiser who had come up the Suru Valley by jeep to meet us with fresh supplies. We were well looked after with full and varied meals. The cook and his team went to great pains to make our meals attractive and over their 17-hour working day gave us the best available. Fresh fruit and vegetables of many varieties and the sweets were features to look forward to. Sheep were purchased and killed on the way and some 50 fowls were carried on the ponies. We had eggs every day (carried separately) and many poultry meals. Glacier ice or streams served to set jellies and chill salads while cordial laced up the unpalatable boiled water for our flasks.

The second stage of the trek brought us well into Zanskar, habitation was sparse with only an occasional small village, less than one a day on the average and if anything the high mountains and valleys away from irrigation became more arid. A 'minor' ridge climb of nearly 1,000 metres was next and the way to it was three kilometres down a motor road and over a foot bridge made from three logs with loose rocks to fill in the gaps. One girl froze in the middle and had to be assisted even though we were loath to impose greater loads.

Here we found that one-third of the party was missing, through poor direction

and lack of concern. One of the Kashmiris had to be sent to chase after them for two to three kilometres down the road. A long wait on the top of the pass for the party to consolidate again in the most spectacular surroundings on a sparkling day with Mts Nun and Kun at 7,500 metres on the other side of the valley. Over the pass we dropped steeply to a hanging valley and a most pleasant camp. Here we had the attention of small children, baskets and sheepskins (inside out) on their backs as they went about their never-ending task of gathering animal manure for fuel. Arising at 5 a.m. we found them still around with their baskets, which even then, were half full with the night's droppings.

A road bash for the next two days along the 'main' road to Padum, the capital of Zaskar. Traffic over this very bumpy, mostly natural road could be one lorry or jeep every one or two days. A rest day at Tazi-Tonazas led us to the Ringdom Gompa to sample the life of the Buddhist monks with their buttered tea and cloistered existence. The kitchen with no chimney had its ceiling dripping with shiny resinous soot. A dog at the main entrance had warned the monks of our coming whilst at the back entrance a straw stuffed dog kept silent vigil. Buttered tea later at one of the village houses and then in the evening a show by the village dancing girls. The previous evening's show had been abandoned when the village head kicked out the fire and demanded payment. Payment had however been made twelve months previous to another who had since gone off with the money. Some chang and more money brought him smiling to the next performance.

The next stage was over the Zaskar range at 5,250 metres and this brought us into the area of faint tracks and no bridges to cross the fast flowing streams. These had to be crossed early in the morning as the day's heat on the glaciers caused a minor flood each afternoon. The next camp on a sloping bare ridge was to lead us 1,300 metres up a scree gully to the pass. One of our members whose philosophy was that 'someone has to be first' and applied to this food and tent sites was determined to be first over the pass. He kept close to the Kashmiri guide and even though six of us went over the top in Indian file he claimed to be first. Shades of the argument whether Hillary or Tensing reached the top of Everest first. All reached the top without problems even though getting there for some took a good deal longer. To be able to get there was the real achievement. Our extrovert came up with his bootlaces tied together to show how easy it was. He was also helped considerably by the headphones from the portable stereo tape recorder he constantly carried, no doubt to escape the silence of the mountains he was obviously not used to.

Last year there had been a metre of

snow on the way up but this time we were lucky with none. On the other side a cornice prevented easy access to the glacier and we had to go around dangerous scree but not before a pony broke through the snow and had to be unloaded before it could extricate itself. A long run down the glacier to sidle around steep scree slopes and finally to slide down a steep gully to camp by a heavily silt laden stream at the peak of its afternoon flood. Camp water had to be obtained from clear springs or otherwise the mica and silt-laden glacier water had to be allowed to settle and then decanted.

The valley now widened, formed into gorges again and then opened up to encompass Tangi, a small village with irrigated fields, many chortens, flags and a temple which showed the villagers' Buddhist affiliations. A final rest day with the now joined second party and we prepared for passing through the last gorge. Luckily the rest day was dull and the usual afternoon flood did not come. The river dropped still further overnight and we were up at 4 a.m. to get the most out of the low level. Even so, some could not cope with the wadings and crossings and had to be diverted over a 500 metre pass. Our final lunch followed the usual pattern of being prepared earlier, carried in a set of telescoping containers and then re-heated on primus stoves.

A bus took us 150 kilometres to Leh at an average of 20 kilometres/hour over two high passes, one at 4,100 metres and then along the mighty Indus River still in flood from the glacial thaws. No cultivation in the valley except where irrigated, the mountains rising up to 7,000 metres and arid to the extreme with snow and ice only on the high peaks.

Leh was a continuing experience and we had a tour around the surrounding district to visit famous gompas and a palace museum where the deposed queen lived during the summer. Then, as we hadn't flown in, our group was last in priority for a flight out. Finally only half flew out and the remainder undertook the two days bus trip to Srinagar. I had always hoped that I could make the bus trip to see more of the mountains and to experience the road. Just imagine two whole days to go 435 kilometres on a road continuously winding and climbing. There were fixed time one-way sections and travel was phased to avoid the daily hundred truck military convoys. On the first day the bus developed fuel problems and it became a longer day to reach Kargil at 10.45 p.m., bed after midnight during a black-out and then to rise again at 4 a.m. for the daylight start.

Five days followed on the houseboats at Srinagar with local tours to the ski-resort of Gulmarg (no snow) and the fortress at Srinagar. The stay was well

worth while with time to shop, unwind and relax but not long enough for all to regain their lost weight. A wonderful trek, full of surprises and experiences and something it would be hard to repeat in variety, excitement and not without some attendant risks. At the end there is a feeling of relief to have come through without accident or illness, help could be long time coming as was shown by the nerdsman's sick mother at Humpet.

The impression now I am back home is what small mountains our hills are after spending over three weeks at above 3,000 metres and among mountains over 7,000 metres. The only reference point in the valleys that you were still at high altitude was your lung capacity which soon showed that hills were not to be rushed. We soon learnt to follow the examples of the locals.

Reg Alder

CORANG PEAK - BUDAWANGS ACCESS TRACK

Bushwalkers lost free access to the Budawangs through Wog Wog Station when a Sydney-based investment company bought the property in 1971. At first, after confrontation and negotiation, the company reluctantly permitted foot access along the farm road - see NPA (ACT) Bulletin of December 1975 and NPWS South Coast Guide of 1980. Gradually relations between bushwalkers and the owners deteriorated and now even foot access is denied to even those who might contact the owners or manager for permission to walk along the vehicular access road. The company's policy seems to be 'no access to anyone for any reason' even though the NPWS advise walkers to ask for permission to walk along the road.

Because of the delays and recent refusals on the part of the owners, NPA of ACT arranged an exploratory walk in September to investigate a route suggested by the NPWS on land to the north of Wog Wog Station which would avoid crossing the property.

Our intention was to find out how much further the route is compared to the old, its interest, difficulties and how much longer it would take to walk it. The walk started 1.2 kms north of Wog Wog Station entrance gate, along the Mongarlowe road. On compass bearings of 0.5 km legs, eleven of us followed a not-very-well-defined vehicular track along Wog Wog's northern boundary fence-line down to the creek, across it and then up an easy slope to the timbered ridge where the track petered out. Keeping to the high ridge line we walked through medium density forest, past two rocky outcrops of conglomerate from where good views of Corang Park, Korra Hill and Goodsell Basin to the east and panoramic views to the south and west were to be had. A pleasant walk for the first 6 kms. Over a

kilometre or so near the central portion of the ridge, red plastic tapes were found marking the route.

The last section, however, was through thick scrub, too high to see over and very difficult to get through even with day packs. With large packs it would be very unpleasant indeed. When we finally broke through the thick scrub we were on top of the south-westerly point of the Corang Park escarpment that looms over the green iron shed where the foot trail to the Admiration Point-Corang Peak area begins. We had lunch on the creek near the hut.

Our conclusions? All came to the same conclusion, that the last section of the access route was far too rough to be seriously considered as an acceptable alternative route into Morton National Park. Not only was it rough and scrubby in one part, but at least 3 kms longer and adding up to 2 hours to each way, thus making day outings to Admiration Point-Corang Peak out of the question.

(Old parish maps of Wog Wog show rights of way across the property to the track commencement at the green shed. If these legal routes are still in existence, walking and following them would be preferable to the proposed ridge watershed route. The existence and legality of these rights-of-way are being discussed by this Association with the NSW Federation of Bushwalking Clubs and the National Parks and Wildlife Service of NSW - Editor.)

RESCUE THE RAINFORESTS

It would be almost impossible after watching the film on the logging of Terania Creek at our July General Meeting, not to be convinced, that, unless all logging ceases in the few small areas that now remain of the once large rainforest area of the North Coast of NSW, that this unique type of environment and habitat will become extinct.

Extinct is not too strong a word because man cannot plant a rainforest, nor, it would appear, can nature regenerate the complex network of plants and animals as can be done in simpler ecosystems.

It was the newcomers to the North Coast, the people I suspect who have become environmentally aware because of their past life in the city, who led and were involved in the campaign to stop a logging company making tracks through the forest and taking out selected trees.

It was appalling to see the destruction the huge machines caused in their movement through the forest - opening up great areas that let in the strong sunlight and allowed non-rain forest plants to grow.

The bravery and sincerity of the people opposing the destruction shone out dramatically, as they stood in front of the mechanical monsters or hid in trees that were close to the trees marked to be felled. They harassed the operation for weeks - never slacking in their attempts to negotiate with the politicians and forestry personnel, and also suffered physically at the hands of the 200-odd police stationed in the area.

It would be interesting to see the balance sheet, showing the police salaries paid over that period and the profit from the timber gained - perhaps it would just break even!

At last the logging ceased but oh, the heartbreak and damage caused. And it could all start again in the Washpool Forest - the largest remaining area of rainforest in NSW.

Individuals and associations are urged to write to Mr Wran, the Premier of NSW, stating concern over the threat to rainforest areas and suggesting that logging cease, and that people thrown out of work by such an event be employed by the Forestry Commission in re-forestation schemes which are so badly needed in many areas of NSW, including the North Coast.

The individual can sway opinions and actions as an armful of letters placed on the Cabinet table by Mr Wran can be more convincing than one letter from an association.

"Save the Rainforests" is a worthy cause and donations are needed by the Native Forest Action Council, PO Box 1875, Canberra City ACT 2601.

Fiona Brand.

THE HIDDEN CORRIE

The "duckboards" squelched into the mud as we crossed the boggy area leading to the bridge just below the Meeting of the Three Waters, the sky seemed more leaden than ever, and the wind whistled past our ears. John and I and our two children (aged 9 and 7 years) had been tempted to stay in the warmth of the car, but having read of this walk six months previously in our preparations for our trip to Britain, we now found ourselves in the midst of Glencoe, Scotland, and its mountains, heading up into a side glen called Coire Gabhail. A great landslide had blocked the entrance to this glen in the distant past and created a flat area the size of several football fields. Local legend has it that the MacDonalDs used this hidden valley for pasturing stolen cattle. It was ringed by peaks, snow-capped now from the gale the previous night.

The track followed the burn up the glen for a distance, into a deep gorge filled with mosses, ferns, colourful autumn birches, and rowan trees displaying their bright red berries. And overall was the constant roaring of the burn. The path disappeared in a chaotic barrier of rocks which provided some energetic scrambling, but we headed ever-upwards and eventually found ourselves confronted by the flat expanse, the soft Scottish autumn colours intensified by a patch of weak sun which appeared briefly, and some sheep perched on the steep hill-sides raised their heads at our intrusion. Nibbling on "scroggin", we surveyed our impressive surroundings which included peaks with magical but unpronounceable names like Beinn Fhada and Gearr Aonach.

A couple of walkers appeared from the path behind us and stopped for a chat. They were heading for the top of the glen and planning to cross the peaks into the next valley. We envied them their walk and wished we had the time to continue further, but having visited the Hidden Corrie (or Lost Valley as it is also known) we had to return.

This time we found a path along the other side of the burn and this replaced the rock scrambling with sliding down scree slopes. Crossing the swollen burn was an interesting exercise; then the path led back into the gorge and we walked again through the mosses and ferns before the muddy track brought us to the welcome "duckboards" and thence the car and hot drinks from the thermos. The walk had been a pleasant and welcome three-hour break from travelling and we continued on down Glencoe feeling mightily refreshed.

Judy Payne.

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL PARKS COUNCIL ANNUAL CONFERENCE - PERTH, SEPTEMBER 1981

Perth is a long, long way from even the nearest other centre of national park activity, and for a conference it is much cheaper to bring the Perth councillors to the East than to send the others over there. This year things were different, since it so happened that the Queensland councillor would be in WA on a holiday trip at conference time and would thus not constitute a drain on ANPC funds. So 12-13 September saw nine councillors round the conference table in the former Perth German Club, a vast echoing building of high ceilings and wide stairways which reflect the style of living of the Kaiser's Germany. It is now being restored from what was a run-down state and provides office space for various greenie and near-greenie societies, also a meetings-room for a society preoccupied with the use of marijuana - this according to a notice on the door, but as to the

direction of their activities, the notice didn't say.

One of the main functions of the annual conference is to add nation-wide backing to the attempts of individual societies to 'protect, promote, and extend national parks'. These attempts are tabled as motions, and if approved by a majority vote, are forwarded to the appropriate authority in the name of ANPC. During the year the executive keeps each councillor informed of progress or otherwise, and he or she in turn must keep the parent society fully in the picture and vote according to the parent society's policies or wishes at the annual conference. And there's plenty to vote about, since there's plenty to be done in each of the three fields in our charter. We considered off-road vehicles and weed control and litter and publicity and funding and, most of all, the plant communities and types of country not yet represented in national parks.

All councillors without exception needed prodding to get their motions circulated in good time for caucus discussion, and none of them did, in fact one never got in touch throughout the year. He didn't attend the conference either. Of course we don't want councillors to move something just for the sake of doing so - ANPC represents round 12000 people and to bring that number into discredit through idle submissions that lapse into vagueness or irresponsibility would be disastrous. That is where the annual conference comes in as a means of informed discussion and amendments to the motions where called for. We had a good example of this with what appeared to be a perfectly sensible and necessary motion about a national park in the Queensland rainforest. It was withdrawn after the Queensland councillor and the president of the NPA of Queensland gave us some information on the background politics. Among others withdrawn was one that a Government department could owlishly carry out to the letter while leaving everything almost exactly as it was.

Besides some administrative matters, three motions went forward in our name (NPA of the ACT) - one to the Prime Minister, who is being needed to cut grants to any greenie organisation that criticises Government policy (ANPC is not entirely disinterested, as you can imagine), and two with plans to combat the horrifying litter that is spreading over our national parks.

The dedication of the WA conservation societies is exceptional. It must be hard indeed to maintain it in their never-ending battle with the 'almighty dollar' and with an officialdom that is often sincerely perplexed as to why there should be such a clamour over a patch of inaccessible and unproductive marsh, or a forest that overlies a wealth of aluminium ore. It is a blessing heavily disguised

that headlong exploitation of the forests there (in the teeth of greenie resistance) is now resulting in hard and brackish and even saline water, to the extent that the Government is beginning to get rattled. It is a long and disturbing story that we could see and taste at first hand. Our whole conservation movement of course is full of politics, and in WA they fairly writhe.

The exceptional dedication of our hosts and hostesses was matched by their hospitality. They put us up and put up with us, fetched and carried for us, transported us, and fed us, and if there was any panic behind the scenes there was certainly none in front. They even offered to organise trips for us and to take part, but we let them off that one, and scattered on our own when the conference ended. The Storys got a car from 'Rent-an-oldie' and took in the southern corner of the State, as far east as Albany and the Stirling Range National Park. We had never before seen wild flowers in such profusion and colour.

Bob Story.

COMPANY REPORT - TWENTY FIRST BIRTHDAY

Seems these Annual General Meetings are just to please the Companies man in the ACT. Only the Incorporateds have to have them. It's all to get the Committee, and especially the Auditors and the Treasurer, into a find stew getting the books balanced.

Very hard on the Secretary, who has to remember what went on for the whole YEAR and then persuade a couple of members that it is all remembered quite as it was - to go into the next year's minutes.

Not surprising that when the NPA captures these Secretaries and Treasurers with these fabulous memories, it never lets them escape. After all, most of cannot remember things for a week, let alone a year; and these paragons are some of the few on public display.

Presidents and ex-presidents fret about all this remembering and so it was that the meeting on the 20th August 1981 got off to a bad start when the President, Neville Esau, and the advertised ex-President (rememberer of earlier meetings) Bob Story were both apologetically sick. However, Vice-President Ian Currie, who thought he could just about remember how to do it, decided to have the meeting anyway. He announced that Secretary Sheila Kruse had very nearly escaped - but had been recaptured and turned into a Publicity Officer. Bill Adams then elected everybody in a high speed election, which must have brought tears of joy to any Companies man who might have been lurking around. Bill captured a new Secretary, Judy Payne, and then retired from the

fray having launched NPA into its 22nd year in fine style.

Meanwhile the Vice President rapidly summed up year twenty-one. The Treasurer tried to escape but was recaptured, getting his own back by threatening that next year he jolly well will put up the subscriptions. However, to prove he wasn't really so upset he assured us the NPA is still in the black. We hope the Companies man is as pleased as we are about this.

Then we got down to the business of remembering in earnest. Fortunately Julie Henry, Honorary Member and ex-President, had made a trip from Sydney to be with us. Julie, looking back over twenty-one years, was a little sad at first, pointing out that we still have not achieved the primary aim of the Association of having a 'National Park in the National Capital'. However, she cheered up in the recollection of the early days and the hard work that had gone into the first NPA proposals and the achievement of familiar places like Molonglo Gorge, Black Mountain and Gudgenby. She suggested that if the fight for Black Mountain had been successful before the days of the original masts, then all the later aggression would have been avoided.

Julie paid tribute to the many

INVESTIGATION OF NEW PARKS

AND RESERVES IN NSW

On Thursday 18 June, 1981, Mr Mark Butz, Senior Ranger of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, SE Region, gave a talk to the Association on the 'Investigation of New Parks and Reserves in NSW'. It has always been a contentious subject between those being directly affected by the acquisition of land and others who see the need for reservation. Mr Butz spoke freely on the processes involved and of the problems experienced by the National Parks and Wildlife Service in investigation, implementation and trying to satisfy the needs of all parties concerned.

The NP&WS has a statutory responsibility to investigate areas which may be suitable as future national parks and reserves. These investigations can be initiated through crisis situations initiated by lease conversions, the activities of other departments, new Crown leasehold policies and by the rational process of increasing scientific interest in areas to preserve remaining remnants of natural vegetation or habitats. A prior assumption that acquisition is the best option is not necessarily true and in the first instance the various natural

given to comparison with other service areas and proposals, land use considerations, management problems and appropriate forms of protection. Environmental planning is now part of a state-wide inventory and management and land use decisions contribute to a state-wide environmental planning system. This could reduce the amount of detailed investigation for some areas if they may not be subsequently reserved. From the documentation concrete recommendations are made.

In the implementation process other departments and councils are consulted when a justification of interest and the proposed management scheme is outlined. This, of course, brings repercussions with ministerial correspondence, contact with media and availability of the information to the public.

There are many problems with carrying out investigations to gain samples of all major ecosystems and the decision to reserve or not to reserve. One problem is with categorisation and at the present vegetation, special and major alliances are used to no accounting for understory variation, individual species, special environments or restricted habitats. There is no matrix of environments. There is then the problem of area with a fixation on percentages and the problem if an endangered species is only found on one hectare and allowed to fade. Subjective decisions on the size of reserves are difficult to make with the need for replication, maintenance and consideration of the basic criteria of naturalness, diversity and effectiveness. Then there are difficulties in landscape conservation in which wildlife refuges and covenants help.

There are disparities between the ideal picture and reality where on one side the Academy of Science in its recommendations paints the ideal. Reserves gain in value as they may end up as our only sample although becoming increasingly isolated and not being able to fully conserve the species. Each reserve should have a cone of maximum protection with a buffer zone surrounding and be of a size and structure to safeguard the ecological and genetic requirements of communities and species. Public use needs to be regulated and directed towards appreciation of natural resources and there should be a continual scientific input into the selection, establishment and management of reserves.

Boundaries are critical to size and shape of reserves and whether they become islands, have a core area and a buffer. With fractured patterns of tenure, straight cadastral lines and right angles in the landscape our chosen boundaries are often realistic and therefore far from ideal. The alternative to set a boundary close to ideal is usually counter-productive leading to controversy, bitter

dispute and political intervention. Replication is a very hard thing to justify in economic terms and politically. As 'Parks are for the People' is ingrained in many and this causes difficulties in having the public appreciate natural values as there is an expectation that access and activities will be facilitated.

There are difficulties in keeping reserves in a condition as near as possible to nature as possible. There can be political pressure to manipulate the area by widespread burning, baiting dogs and pigs, by relief grazing, by carving the blocks into 'manageable' blocks with tracks and all the attendant problems of uncontrolled use, incendiarism, spread of weeds, disturbance of fauna, erosion. There are also problems encompassing a range of landscapes involving developing freehold agricultural land because politicians state there is no interest in such lands when they are subjected to intense lobbying.

The acquisition of lands is a political process since for one sector of society to achieve a gain another must lose and someone must make a value judgement and often this has little to do with a rational scientifically based investigation and acquisition programme. Reserves are only a resource as long as a significant part of society deems them to be a resource but this ideal can be intercepted by political processes arising from the nature of tenure or ownership of the land involved. While awaiting for the reserve to be acquired there are interim problems with weeds, fences, stock, fire and clearing. One of the greatest weapons held by the opponents to reserves is the question as to why are more reserves required when there are difficulties in adequately managing the present ones.

A new direction for investigations is emerging in the form of Environmental Planning - a weighing-up of all the available options. The NPWS will be working in with the Department of Environment and Planning and local councils in the preparation of local and regional environmental plans to achieve the objectives of conservation. Different circumstances will involve different approaches but with the one unifying feature of community involvement in the establishment of our resources. Investigations will not only concentrate on nature conservation values, scenery and recreational potential but will also delve into social, economic and therefore political ramifications. Organisations like the National Parks Associations will have to justify and compete against other interests in the acquisitions of reserves, they will no longer come by reason of a natural process.

There are a myriad of value judgements involved which implies that some sectors of the community must lose

for the benefit of others. The time has come where community involvement in new area investigation has become the order of the day and all people who have a commitment or motivation, wherever they may be in the spectrum, will have to stand up and be counted. The new order is that natural resources belong to the community.

(Adapted from the speaker's notes by Reg Alder.)

MEMBERSHIP

The following new members are welcomed to the Association: Robert and Faith Van Deyk, Watson; Wanda Carter, Barton; John Chinn, Duffy; Alice Glover, Waramanga; Bernadette Layton, Lyons; Portia McCusker, Yarralumla; Joe and Fay Pelle and family, Farrer; Marilyn Twiss, Spence; Carla and Richard Begbie, Bungendore; Marguerite Woodward, Wanniasa; Gloria Robbins, Hackett; Bob and Myredth Bristow, Evatt; Mary Pickering.

RENEWALS

Bernice Anderson; Monica Attridge; Dr V & Merle Bailey; W. Blandford; Kath Boswell; Olive Buckman; Steve Camkin; Valerie Chapman; Richard & Jenny Emerton; Kathleen Gilmour; Keith Green; Pat & Brian Hammond; P.F. Hebbard; Charles & Audrey Hill; Cynthia & Reg Hook; Thelma Hunter; Mary Hutchinson; Brigit Hodgkin; Graham Kanaley; Margaret Kennedy; Victor & Elizabeth Barta King; Lyle Mark; Kathleen Moriarty; Richard & Lester Pratt; Mr & Mrs W. Perry; Alan & Pam Ray; Lyn Richardson; Dennis & Wendy Ross; Ian & June Smith; Andrew Snedden; Pamela Swaffield; Chris & Judy Watson; Gabrielle Watt; Betty Wakefield.

THE WINSTON CHURCHILL MEMORIAL TRUST

1982 Churchill Fellowships have been awarded to two park rangers for overseas study on National Park issues.

Mr J. Jervis, a ranger in the National Botanic Gardens will study in the USA, the techniques and methods of National Park Rangers in interpreting and communicating natural occurrences and phenomena to the public, particularly to children and senior citizens.

Mr I. Cawood, a ranger at Ayers Rock, is to attend an International Seminar on National Parks in Michigan USA, and to study the impact and management of visitor numbers, concessionaires and the involvement of indigenous people in the National Parks in the USA and Canada.

Applications for Churchill Fellowships tenable in 1983 and closing on 28 February 1982 are available from PO Box 478, Canberra City, ACT 2601.

ENVIRONMENT FAIR

NPA was one of 40-50 societies who set up a stall at the Second Environment Fair in the Commonwealth Gardens on Saturday, 10 October. The loan of display stands enabled us to mount an attractive display of posters and the excellent photographs of the Gudgenby Nature Reserve collected by the Display Committee when it was under Glyn Lewis' direction. Sales of "Rambles Around Canberra", Cla Allen's "Hiking in Early Canberra", and assorted posters paid the \$5 participation fee to CASEREC, and provided a small profit for NPA.

TALKS

Within the last couple of months we have had two requests for a speaker from NPA. The First Curtin Guide/Ranger Unit asked for a speaker on Bushwalking, and the College for Seniors, which meets once a week at the Wesley Uniting Church at Forrest, wanted an illustrated talk on NPA. Olive Buckman has accepted both these engagements for NPA.

NPA LIBRARY

A new library catalogue has been prepared and is on display at General Meetings when the library cupboard is open. The catalogue is divided into six sections: Environment and Conservation; Flora and Fauna; Land Use (sub-section ACT); National Parks, Reserves, Wilderness; Recreation; Miscellaneous. Both catalogue and publications have been colour-coded to make it easier for borrowers to find the things they're looking for.

LETTERS

To: Chief Mining Warden, Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (NSW) - Application for Exploration Licence

The Association has lodged an objection to the application of Peko Wallsend Operations Limited for an Exploration Licence for Group 1 minerals over an area of 256 square kilometres within the counties of Cowley and Buccleuch.

This area covers part of the Kosciusko National Park and of the prospective Bimberi Wilderness areas.

To: The Premier of NSW, Mr Wran, 16
September 1981

I have had drawn to my attention a report in the Sydney Morning Herald of 7 August that you were considering the establishment of a rainforest fund, as a possible solution to the present controversy over the logging of rainforests on the North Coast.

The Committee of the National Parks Association of the A.C.T. wishes me to say that it applauds your constructive attitude to this problem as it allows some hope for a new approach to the preservation of rainforests. The weekend camps and day walks of our Association frequently take us into New South Wales; as a result we take a keen interest in the NSW natural environment generally and have as great a concern for the conservation of your fragile areas as we have for those in the A.C.T.

We hope that a Government rainforest fund can be established without any delay, and that it may be instrumental in removing the threat of logging from the Washpool and Upper Forbes River rainforests.

To: The Hon. Michael Hodgman, M.P.,
Minister for the Capital Territory, 16
September 1981

I have had brought to my attention two items which appeared in the Canberra Times on August 5 and 6 respectively concerning the feral pig problem in the Gudgenby Nature Reserve. The item on August 5 quoted criticism by the Member for Eden-Monaro of the damage being done by pigs to grazing lands as well as to the Reserve, and his opinion that the development of the Reserve should be slowed down. The item on August 6 reported a reply to Mr Sainsbury by a spokesman for the Department of the Capital Territory. I attach copies.

The NPA Committee wishes me to assure you that the National Parks Association is aware of the magnitude of the problem the Department has to grapple with in its efforts to free the Reserve of feral animals and noxious weeds, and fully supports its eradication programme.

FROM NPWS (NSW) NOWRA DISTRICT - MORTON

NATIONAL PARK EXTENSIONS

In reply to a query from the Association about extending the Morton National Park westwards from near Corang Peak to The Gorge and northwards to the Endrick River, the Service has replied that this forms part of the proposed Corang additions and it is expected that the additional area will be gazetted within the next twelve months.

THE SHORTEST SCHEDULED WALK ON RECORD??

Only the leader and two other 'hardy' members braved the elements on Sunday 27 September - and decided to carry out the planned walk despite small numbers.

However, after only 20 metres or so of battling head on into gale force winds of 60 km an hour, with gusts up to 90 km - and faces being cut with sleet - a unanimous decision was taken to 'abandon the programme' as it was felt that such physical torture (which would have worsened as we gained height in the open) was NOT the 'object of the exercise'.

After a hasty retreat to the car, another decision was taken - yes, we DID need fresh air and exercise, and this we found for a pleasant three hours lower down the valley around the Orroral Valley river. Our small numbers were rewarded with plenty of animal and bird life and walking in sheltered valleys while the wind constantly roared in the trees and hills above us. Although a little shattered when a 6-8 metre gum branch crashed down within a metre or so, we later enjoyed blue skies and sunshine but noted on our return the damage caused by the 'roaring forties' - including a 'STOP' sign which had succumbed to the wind since we passed it earlier in the day.

Olive Buckman.

(I know of two Association walks as short or shorter in recent years. On one, of which I was the leader, only my wife and I arrived at the meeting place with flooded creeks and pouring rain. On another, the leader did not turn up even though subsequently it did turn out to be not so bad a day. On day walks as the number who might attend is unknown, the leader is expected to attend at the meeting place and from there make the decision whether the outing should be cancelled. The Association has prepared a brochure setting out the 'Guidelines for Outings Leaders' and all leaders should ensure that they have received a copy. Editor.)

NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OUTINGS

Please notify the leader by the previous Wednesday of your intention to go on any weekend outing.

The Committee suggests a donation of 3 cents per kilometre (calculated to nearest dollar) be offered to the driver by each passenger accepting transportation. Distances quoted, for one way only, are approximate and for guidance only.

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

December 5-6 Saturday-Sunday
Leader: Garth Abercrombie 814907 Jagungal: Pack Walk
Ref: Kosciusko 1:100,000
Meet: Contact leader for details. A long pack walk to Jagungal (the Big Bogong) via the upper reaches of the Tumut River.

December 6 Sunday
Leader: Betty Campbell 811771 Pialligo Wet Lands:
Bird Watching
Ref: ACT 1:100,000
Meet: 4.00 p.m. Dairy Flat Bridge (south side). A bird watching excursion in the area just east of Lake Burley Griffin. A wide range of water birds to be seen. Bring late afternoon tea.

December 13 Sunday
Orroral River: Christmas Barbeque
Meet: 3.00 p.m. Orroral Picnic area. The annual Christmas get-together, this year at the picnic area beside the Orroral River crossing, in the Gudgenby Nature Reserve. Wine, cheese, biscuits etc. provided, may be even a Christmas cake; bring your steaks for an evening barbeque.

January 24 Sunday
Leader: Frank Clements 317005 Red Rocks: Walk/Swim
Ref: ACT 1:100,000
Meet: Kambah shops 9.30 a.m. Easy walk from Kambah Pool to Red Rocks. Some river bank rock scrambling. Swim, 8km total walk.

January 30-31, February 1 Long Weekend
Leader: Garth Abercrombie 814907 Geehi: Pack Walk
Ref: Kosciusko 1:100,000
Medium/hard parkwalk. Contact leader for details. 240km drive.

January 30-31, February 1 Long Weekend
Leader: Ian Currie 958112 Wapengo: Car Camp
Ref: Bega 1:100,000
Coastal camping out from Bega. Walks in Mimosa National Park. Swimming, contact leader for details. 270 km drive.

February 7 Sunday
Leader: Neville Esau 864176 Swamp Creek: Walk/swim
Ref: Act 1:100,000
Meet: Uriarra Crossing 9.30 a.m. Easy walk upstream from junction at Uriarra Crossing. Swim. Total 8km walk.

February 13-14 Weekend
Leader: Fiona Brand 479538 Goodradigbee River: Pack Walk
Ref: Brindabella 1:100,000
Beginners' pack walk; 1 hour each way on track. Swimming, walks from camp site. Contact leader. 80km drive.

February 14 Sunday
Leader: Les Pyke 812982 Blue Gum Creek: Walk
Ref: ACT 1:100,000
Meet: Mugga Road-Monaro Highway 8.30 a.m. Walk in varying country, no tracks, open plain, some climbs. 60km drive, 10km total walk.

February 21 Sunday
Leader: Ross Carlton 863892 Mt Boboyan: Walk
Ref: ACT 1:100,000
Meet: Mugga Road-Monaro Highway 9.30 a.m. Easy walk in open country, gradual climb, views. 70km drive. 3km total walk.

February 27-28 Weekend
 Leader: Reg Alder 542240
 Medium pack walk via Cooleman Homestead. Contact leader, 95km drive. Caves Creek: Pack walk
 Ref: Tantangara 1:100,000

February 28 Sunday
 Leader: Lyn Richardson 415498
 Meet: Mugga Road-Monaro Highway 9.00 a.m. Walk in open bush, two short climbs, skirt around swamp. 55km drive. 10km total walk. Nursery Swamp: Walk
 Ref: ACT 1:100,000

March 7 Sunday
 Leader: Betty Campbell 811711
 Meet: Tharwa Bridge 10.00 a.m. Very easy walk from Angle Crossing turnoff. Birds, river life, flowers. 4km total walk. Tharwa Area: Walk
 Ref: ACT 1:100,000

March 7 Sunday
 Leader: Garth Abercrombie 814907
 Meet: Tidbinbilla Information Centre 9.00 a.m. Medium walk up fire trail to saddle, climb ridge - open scrub. 10km total walk. Tidbinbilla Peak: Walk
 Ref: ACT 1:100,000

March 13-14-15 Long Weekend
 Leader: Ian Currie 958112
 Car camp by creek. Gold panning? Walks. Contact leader. 125km drive. Araluen: Car camp
 Ref: Araluen 1:100,000

March 13-14-15 Long Weekend
 Leader: Frank Clements 317005
 Medium/hard pack walk in Kosciusko National Park. Contact leader. Kosciusko: Pack walk
 Ref: Kosciusko 1:100,000

March 21 Sunday
 Leader: Jenny & Norm Morrison
 Meet: Eucumbene Drive-Cotter Road 9.30 a.m. Very easy, young family walk along Cascade Track in Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve. Morning walk, picnic lunch. 1.5km total walk. 30 km drive. Tidbinbilla: Walk
 Ref: ACT 1:100,000

March 20-21 Weekend
 Leader: Hela Lindemann 515917
 Beginners' pack walk, near hut. 5km walk with pack each way, plus day walks. 50km drive. Contact leader. Brandy Flat: Pack walk
 Ref: ACT 1:100,000

March 21 Sunday
 Notice in next Bulletin. Harder Walk

March 28 Sunday
 Leader: Charles Hill 958924
 Meet: Mugga Road-Monaro Highway 8.30 a.m. Walk up Honeysuckle Creek in open scrub, short 200m climb. 50km drive. 10 km total walk. Honeysuckle Creek: Walk
 Ref: ACT 1:100,000

Mid-January Alpine Lodge Weekend. Contact Margaret Aston 887563 or Betty Campbell 811771 for details of this mid-January weekend.

NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY INC.

Inaugurated 1960

President: Neville Esau, 11 Rymill Place, MAWSON ACT 2605
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Telephone: 88.1397 (Secretary), or 48.6104 (Publicity Officer)

Annual Subscription Rates

1 July - 30 June:	Family members \$10	Student members \$3
	Single members \$ 8	Corporate members \$5

For members joining between:

1 January - 30 June: Half specified rate
1 April - 30 June: Annual Subscription - 15 month's membership benefit.

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 organised field outings, meetings or any other means.

Cooperation with organisations and persons having similar interests and objectives.

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

National Parks Association outings summary

December

5-6 Saturday-Sunday	Jagungal	Pack Walk
6 Sunday	Plalligo	Bird Watching
13 Sunday	Orroral River	Christmas Barbeque

January

24 Sunday	Red Rocks	Walk/Swim
30-31-Feb.1 Australia Day	Geehi	Pack Walk
30-31-Feb.1 Australia Day	Wapengo	Car Camp

February

7 Sunday	Swamp Creek	Walk/Swim
13-14 Saturday-Sunday	Goodradigbee River	Pack Walk
14 Sunday	Blue Gum Creek	Walk
21 Sunday	Mt Boboyan	Walk
27-28 Saturday-Sunday	Caves Creek	Pack Walk
28 Sunday	Nursery Swamp	Walk

March

7 Sunday	Tharwa Area	Walk
7 Sunday	Tidbinbilla Peak	Walk
13-14-15 Canberra Day	Araluen	Car Camp
13-14-15 Canberra Day	Kosciusko	Pack Walk
20-21 Saturday-Sunday	Brandy Flat	Pack Walk
21 Sunday	Tidbinbilla	Walk
21 Sunday	T.B.A.	Walk
28 Sunday	Honeysuckle Creek	Walk

GENERAL MEETINGS

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

December: No Meeting.

January: No Meeting.

February: Thursday 18, 1982. Reg Alder, NPA, 'Kashmir-Zanskar-Ladakh'.
Read the story and come and see the slides of these unique countries.