



NPA Bulletin

National Parks Association A.C.T.

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PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD

As this is my last opportunity to write to you as President, I would like to bring you up to date on some of the issues affecting the Gudgenby Nature Reserve; these are all current issues and have been pursued by the committee over the past three years. Gudgenby of course is one of the major interests of the Association.

Since inception the NPA has fought, firstly to bring the Reserve into being, and then to enhance its status as a natural area. We have no doubts about its value as a major national park; it conserves a wide range of natural ecosystems, all having outstanding aesthetic, educational, scientific, and recreational values.

The NPA has always advocated consistent conservation policies for Gudgenby. To see these policies implemented we have lobbied the relevant ministers (and their departments). This process is ongoing of course. The Minister for Territories has agreed to meet the NPA committee soon to discuss a number of these issues and to inspect parts of the Reserve.

The issues I am talking about can be summarised as follows:

- several enclaves of freehold land still remain within the Reserve. This land is currently used for grazing, a land-use which is not compatible with conservation of natural values within a nature reserve. For several years past money has been allocated for the purchase of this land; other uses for this money always seem to arise, however, and so the purchase plans lapse or are postponed until the following year. We understand that an allocation will again be made in the 1983/84 budget and hope that firm action to purchase the remaining freehold blocks will follow.

- large areas of leasehold land (approximately 7% of the total reserve) do not remain within the Reserve. An undertaking was given when the Reserve was declared that these areas would be incorporated into the Reserve as the current leases expired. Well, the first of the leases in question expired two years ago and yet this lease area is still under grazing. We have tried repeatedly during the past two years to resolve this situation, but so far without success. Visitors to the Orroral Valley, where a number of grazing leases still exist, can easily verify the damage and modification to natural systems which result from continued grazing there. It is vital for the long term integrity of the Reserve that all forms of land-use within the Reserve be compatible with the preservation of natural values. This certainly forms the case at present.

- as a follow-on from the previous point, the future of the vacant grazing property also has not yet been resolved. This property occupies a strategic position near the centre of the Reserve. The Gudgenby Valley, most of which forms part of the property, is also important as a buffer zone to the Kelly wilderness area. The future use of this area thus plays a vital role in the management of the Reserve. We are currently drawing up a draft submission to the Department of Territories asking that the entire area be allowed to regenerate to natural conditions — with active regeneration programs if necessary. We have also suggested that all or part of the present homestead buildings could become a field studies centre.

- further south along the Gudgenby Valley is the Boboyan pine plantation. We had been given to understand (although we had no concrete assurances) that at maturity there would be a "once-only" harvest of the plantation; following this harvest the area would be incorporated into the Reserve and regenerated to native vegetation. The timetable for this scenario was given as 1990-95 on estimated growth rates for the plantation. During last summer, however, a large part of the plantation, in fact approximately 300 out of a total of 360 hectares, was burnt out in the Gudgenby fire. Subsequently marketable timber was salvaged from the burnt area. Following these operations we assumed that the decision to return the forest to natural vegetation would be implemented. It now appears that conflicts have arisen over the future use of this area. One factor being evaluated would appear to be that production from the Boboyan pine plantation might be needed to meet future commitments — this from 360 ha out of a total of 12,000 ha of pine forest in the A.C.T.

The NPA is extremely concerned at the uncertainty and delay in resolving this question. It is most important that the pine plantation be ultimately removed for a number of reasons:

- pine plantations are visually objectionable in natural areas
- management of the plantation has undesirable impacts on the surrounding natural environment
- the spread of pine seedlings into adjacent grasslands and woodlands is always occurring.
- during the operations to control the Gudgenby fire last summer a large number of new fire trails were constructed within the Reserve including a number of new trails into the virgin territory of the Kelly wilderness area. At a meeting with departmental officers after the fire we were told that, with one exception, all new trails would be restored and revegetated to prevent erosion. This course of action has not been followed through satisfactorily. Some revegetation and restoration has been carried out but further restoration work on most trails will be necessary, particularly following the winter rains; serious erosion is beginning to occur and the possibility exists of unauthorised access by trail bikes and other vehicles to the detriment of natural ecosystems. The NPA has offered to undertake some of this work on a voluntary basis and we hope to begin some work this spring if the Department of Territories is agreeable.

Also included in this list of problem issues should be:

- the future of the Honeysuckle Creek and Orroral Valley tracking stations
- the declaration of Stage II of the Reserve (long overdue)
- control of feral animals, particularly pigs, rabbits and straying stock

Our efforts to resolve these issues have often met with little response from the relevant Ministers for the Capital Territory. With the change of government we are hoping that conservation in the A.C.T. will receive a higher priority and that the issues raised here on Gudgenby — long overdue for attention — will be resolved.

In an effort to overcome these difficulties the NPA has put a submission to the Minister proposing an Advisory Council for Gudgenby, comprising representatives from the various conservation and outdoor groups in the A.C.T. We see this not only as a way for improving community involvement in the planning process, but as a two-way corridor for suggestion and discussions on many matters affecting the Reserve. We have discussed this proposal informally with departmental officers and have received a positive response. We hope to raise this matter in our meeting with the Minister.

So I leave you with that hopeful if somewhat vague note.

I hope you will add your voice to emphasise our concern to see that Gudgenby, and other A.C.T. reserves, become outstanding examples of Australia's national parks. I know I will continue to work for that goal in whatever capacity I may.

OUR PRESIDENT RELINQUISHES OFFICE

The Annual Report reflects the achievements of the Association over the last three years under the leadership of Neville Esau who relinquished the office of President in August.

Neville's term has been marked by a remarkable growth in membership, greater involvement in national conservation issues and a period of great activity in the A.C.T. and nearby national parks.

His personal effort on behalf of the NPA has produced one of the most innovative and busy times for the Asso-

ciation with the involvement of many more members in our activities. He has spent many hours as outings convenor, treasurer, committee member and president with a willingness to meet any demands on his time.

A recent back operation has restricted his well known love of the "wilderness experience" and it is hoped that the future may make it somewhat less painful.

Thanks must also be extended to his family for their forbearance and tolerance while he has attended many meetings and discussions on NPA's behalf.

FIELD GUIDE NEWS

The Field Guide to the Native Trees of the A.C.T., which was the N.P.A.'s major 'Year of the Tree' project, has been selling well. By now most of you will have your own copy. 5000 copies were printed, and in the first month over 1000 copies were sold, making us all feel that it was worth the tremendous effort that so many people put into it. If this rate of sales is sustained, it is expected that our treasurer Lyle Mark, now the trauma of a tight budget is over, can relax.

Originally the Field Guide was to be a 'members only' project, but after much discussion and soul-searching it was decided that we had to get outside help to achieve the desired quality, especially as the Guide was intended for as wide a distribution as possible.

As a grant was received from the Heritage Committee of the then Department of Capital Territory, it was decided we could afford professional help with the illustrations, graphic design and centrefold map. Three people who are not members of the N.P.A. were approached.

Stephen Cole from the A.N.U.'s Graphic Design Unit was asked to design the book, Philip Jorritsma from the Bureau of Mineral Resources provided the expertise needed for drawing the large map of the vegetation zones of the Territory, and Betsy Jane Osborne was approached to draw the line illustrations.

The Field Guide Subcommittee thought that members might like to know something about these non-members who contributed so much to the Field Guide.

Betsy Jane Osborne used to work in the illustrating section of the C.S.I.R.O.'s Bureau of Flora, and provided some of the illustrations for volumes 22 and 29 of the *Flora of Australia*. She has a Diploma in Print Making from the Victorian College of the Arts and has been doing botanical illustrating for about three years now.

Betsy enjoys botanical illustrating as it's the kind of work that can be done on contract, which she prefers as it allows her time to follow the lifestyle she's chosen. She finds that botanical illustrating is a discipline that makes her draw outside herself, though she admits that most of her work does have a theme of plants. Her other main interest is painting in water colours. Drawing comes fairly naturally to her, but she admits that doing very fine, detailed botanical illustrations from specimens that are dried and flattened can be difficult. The artist has to imagine how the plant looks in living form and rearrange it mentally before putting it down on paper. Betsy agrees that it is always better to draw from live specimens.

Those who have seen the book will appreciate the quality of the illustrations she has drawn with such painstaking concern for accuracy and detail. We certainly have not been able to pay Betsy fully for all the extra time she took over the drawings or for the wholehearted enthusiasm she showed for the project as a whole.

Using a room at the Herbarium Australiense at the C.S.I.R.O. arranged by Laurie Adams, Betsy started work on the drawings on 8 January and, with Laurie keeping up a steady supply of specimens, she finally finished the work about mid-March. Extra time was taken to do the intricate magnified sections of the acacia pods and some leaf sections of the casuarinas and some acacias.

At present Betsy is working in the A.N.U. Prehistory Department, drawing stone tools.

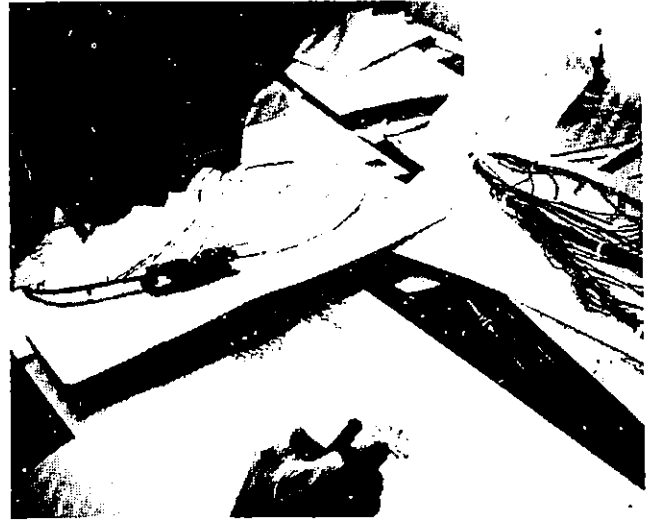
Stephen Cole graduated from Colchester School of Art in Essex, England in 1972 and some months later migrated to Australia. His first position was with Rigby Limited, book publishers of Adelaide, then two years later he came over to Canberra to his present position at the University, where he's kept busy with a wide range of design work. He also likes to be involved with freelance work to extend his range of ability and experience, hence his interest in our Field Guide.

THE COVER — The N.P.A. may not be able to take you to the Moon but being on the mammoth rocks on Tinderry Peak is almost as good as being there
— Photo Reg Alder

Since coming to Canberra Stephen has participated in a number of international graphic design exhibitions, as well as a local one, and some of his work has been published in international design books, such as *Modern Publicity* edited by Felix Gluck of Studio Vista. In 1980 he won the Andrew Fabinyi Prize at the Book Design Awards of the Australian Book Publishers Association for excellence in the design he created for an English-language textbook for secondary schools.

Creating original designs for the publications he works on Stephen finds both challenging and rewarding. The *Field Guide to the Native Trees of the A.C.T.* in particular Stephen said he found to be interesting and worthwhile because a lot of information in a number of forms had to be fitted into a small space while at the same time good legibility and an attractive design had to be ensured. These factors determined the size of the illustrations and type. In fact, the typeface used was chosen because it was designed for maximum legibility at small sizes. Basically, Stephen's philosophy is to achieve the best work possible within the restrictions of a budget. And we DID impose quite a few restrictions on him right from the start.

Stephen's main outside interest is colour photography, and the two photographs used on the cover of the Field Guide (close-up of the bark of a snow gum and the yellow box insert) are both his work.



Betsy Jane Osborne at work on the botanical illustrations for the Field Guide
— Photo Babette Scougall

Philip Jorritsma is a Cartographic Draftsman with the Bureau of Mineral Resources. He attended St Edmunds College until 1969 and then completed the Land and Engineering Survey Drafting Certificate as a Trainee Draftsman with the Department of National Resources.

Philip has drawn geological maps involving field mapping in very remote areas of Australia, such as Borroloola on the Gulf side of Northern Territory and Georgetown in northern Queensland. He is currently working in the Publication Subsection of BMR, and is Project Leader for one of the Bureau's leading publications, the *BMR Journal*, which is printed quarterly and covers a wide range of scientific illustrations.

The centrefold vegetation map in the *Field Guide* is Philip's adaptation of Professor Lindsay Pryor's map 'Vegetation of the A.C.T.'. Professor Pryor willingly gave us his permission to use the map in this way. Philip added mountains, lakes, dams and the Canberra built-up area; the grid ticks correspond with the metric grid shown on National Mapping's 1:100,000 topographic map of the A.C.T. The quality of printing allowed him to use a selection of fine screens to enhance the appearance of the map.

One of Philip's weekend interests is scuba diving and underwater photography. One of his favourite dive spots is Jervis Bay, where he has taken many photographs of a wide range of marine life.

Babette Scougall

JUST BRIEFLY

By now our long-legged member, Garth Abercrombie, whose reputation as a walker is well known is in China where his abilities will be fully tested. With four others he aims to climb Muztagata (Muz Tagh) which soars to about 7500 metres. Transport will be planes, bus along the Karokoram Highway, camels to base camp and then on foot. Good luck to them in this effort to be the first mainly Australian party to reach that height.

At a slightly lower altitude were Denise Robin and Noeline Denize who have been enjoying the delights of Pakistan including Rawalpindi and Gilgit then ascending on foot to base camp at Nanga Parbat. Hope there was a taste of lotus somewhere!

The high country of England, Finland, Austria and Switzerland attracted the indefatigable Babette Scougall and Muriel Rafferty who may show and tell of places sometime.

News from Mackay of the Snelgrove family is that generally they feel too hot to walk but have visited Finch Halton Gorge and camped in Eungella National Park where they watched a platypus and were themselves observed by lorikeets, kingfishers, butterflies and scrub turkeys which visited the camp site.

At ground level – now that Charles and Audrey Hill have removed the soil of Gudgenby from their hands they are off to Canada and Alaska to view and walk in the National Parks of that area. Talking of Gudgenby, just a few memories from that marathon effort: the energetic preparations in collecting fences, tyres etc and delivery to the site; co-operation from the Department of Territories and Local Government in ripping furrows; Bea Holt planting one of her treasured seedlings; Sybil and Bob Story working in the far distance almost alone for a long time; Ian Hayes galloping with envied vigour wherever needed; the serious and diligent tree guard factory workers; the 1930's style soup kitchen and the relief of Charlie Hill when the whole grand operation was completed.

Archaeological endeavours at Orroral were thwarted by frozen ground on the appointed day in June – no fingers were lost, just enthusiasm. At water level Ross Carlton spent an evening talking to the Lake Ginninderra Sea Scouts about N.P.A. and our activities.

Barbara Hicks recuperating, immobilised in a body plaster from an extensive back operation, wrote from Hornsby Hospital how she 'misses her weekend adventures and all the friends she met during 1982 and will always be grateful to the A.C.T. N.P.A. for such a delightful introduction to the joys, thrills and excitement of such a good past-time as backpacking'. After a period of convalescence at her parents' home at Nambucca, Barbara flew to the U.K., to be away for at least several years. She will also be missed for her assistance in proof-reading the Bulletin, even though the sessions started at 7.30a.m. when she arrived bedraggled after her early morning swim.

Finally, a word about leeches, those creatures which are likely to become attached to walkers in wet bush. They were used for bloodletting in some medical conditions in the past and sometimes the rear end was removed so that they functioned longer as a pump since they did not fill up and drop off. Ugh.



Gum Nut

RIBBON OF LIFE – ONE MAN'S REEF

(Introduced by Graeme Kelleher, Chairman of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority)

On 21 April 1983 the Association had the pleasure of viewing the well received documentary film on the Great Barrier Reef. It was co-produced by the A.B.C. Natural History Film Unit and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. The film had its genesis three years ago and took two and a half years to produce. Eight months before its completion a recommendation was accepted that the Great Barrier Reef should be placed on the World Heritage List. The Premier of N.S.W. arranged for the film to be seen by a group of international scientists who were in Australia looking at the Kakadu National Park. It has since been shown in the United Kingdom and Europe.

The brilliant underwater sequences were filmed and directed by the award winning film maker David Parer who made fifty dives for the film spending up to ten hours a day under water. His four assistants included one to work the boat and the generator, one to hold the lights, one to hold the cables free of the coral and Alastair Birtles, marine biologist from the James Cook University Townsville, to find the performers. Birtles has explored reefs around the world – in the Seychelles, the Red Sea, the Caribbean and the Pacific and he holds that the Great Barrier Reef has no peer.

In 1975 Commonwealth legislation was passed to establish a Marine Park in the Great Barrier Reef. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority is the co-ordinating agency for one of the world's biggest and most significant marine conservation projects. The Marine Park concept is based upon the need for conservation of reefs and their prolific animal and plant life.

However the management techniques differ in some respects from those applied to other parks. They are more akin to the nineteenth century concept of park management whereby all reasonable human activities including commercial usage consistent with the conservation of the Reef may continue within its boundaries. Only the recovery of minerals for purposes other than scientific research is specifically prohibited within areas declared to be part of the Marine Park. The method of controlling all other uses is by the development of zoning plans. Zones can be defined for a single use or a multiplicity of uses which may include: diving, reef walking, recreational fishing and general tourist activities. In other zones reefs may be preserved in their natural state, undisturbed by man except for purposes of scientific research.

The Park encompasses an area of 350,000 square kilometres similar in area to the U.K. or the State of Victoria.

The Great Barrier Reef is located off the coast of Queensland, it stretches some 2,000 km along the continental shelf, from North of Cape York to just South of the Tropic of Capricorn. It is not a single reef or barrier but is comprised of over 2,000 individual coral reefs and 71 coral islands. The Park encompasses the area from the low water mark on the Queensland coast and islands, to East of the outer line of reefs at the furthest edge of the continental shelf. The reef is at its narrowest near Cape Melville where it extends only 24 km before dropping away to the deep ocean floor. In the South it is 90 to 250 km wide. In the North it stretches nearly 150 km East from the top of Cape York Peninsula.

The Great Barrier Reef developed about 20 million years ago with the submergence of the continental shelf along the Queensland Coast. Since the last ice-age about 10,000 years of coral growth has covered the existing fossil reefs.

As the reef develops, wave action and storms may smash corals along its edge, throwing fragments up on to the reef. Further water movement, tumbling, and the action of boring organisms reduced the pieces to coral sand which may form a visible sandbank or cay on the reef, exposed at low tide. If the cay enlarges with the accumulation of more coral debris, it may become a nesting site for seabirds. When the cay is built up to the point that it remains exposed above

the sea at all times, seeds may germinate and vegetation will appear. The main reef builders are tiny animals known as coral polyps. They resemble sea anemones and have tentacles with which they catch food. During the day most of the coral polyps are hidden, contracted within the limestone skeleton they have built. Coralline algae found on the surface of corals and single-celled plants (200 x anthellae) living in the tissue of the coral animal, stimulate the capture of dissolved limestone from the water, which forms the calcium carbonate skeleton of the coral. Corals are usually colonial with many animals living within one common skeleton.

The beautiful sequences of the film showed how you can get closer to nature underwater than you ever can on land. It showed the marvellous ecological balance achieved and the factors of natural selection at work.

The female Golden Damsel fish lays her eggs on the coral, the male protects them and the Damsel fish in turn are protected by Gobi fish. Jellyfish and cuttlefish can change colour in response to their environment; the Scorpion fish looks like a pile of rubble; it is covered with poisonous spikes and is a close relative of the dangerous Stone fish.

Colour changes may also carry messages – a Damsel fish becomes darker when apprehensive. Flamboyant forms and hues exhibited by fish such as the Lion fish may be a warning sign to would be diners. The sea-cucumber has mucous coated tentacles which enable it to transfer food particles to a central mouth. The Spine-cheeked Clown fish finds refuge amidst the tentacles of the anemones. The mucous coat on the fish protects it from the stinging cells of the anemone's tentacles.

Sequences filmed at night magically revealed the dynamic system which operates when the day active creatures hide to rest – a Parrot fish disturbed from sleep came gently to the diver's hand – and the night active population takes over. Plankton could be seen in their myriads shimmering in the light, flat worms and sea stars emerged, molluscs went hunting and the exquisite tube-worm unfolded.

Sea urchins, the major herbivores of the reefs, destructively scrape up algae with their parrot like beaks, leaving scars on the surface of the coral. Many marine animals produce eggs. Trigger fish were shown building nests by pushing their snouts against the rubble and flapping the sand away with their gills. When the eggs are laid the female fans the water with her gills to increase the oxygen content in the water whilst the male drives off would be predators.

Examples of the continuous rhythm of growth, destruction and regrowth in the reef were revealed. Butterfly fish eat the coral polyps, the Crown of Thorns starfish turns its yellow stomach inside out and drapes itself over the living coral ingesting the polyps. Normally this starfish is just part of the natural pattern however at times its numbers increase to plague proportions and large areas of the reef can be devastated. There is evidence of regeneration of the reef around Green Island which was so affected. A census of the Crown of Thorns starfish in that area, the Christmas before last, revealed a population in excess of 6,000,000. It was found that hand given injections of copper sulphate were most effective in killing the starfish.

Man the new invader must go gently – the future of the reef depends on coral polyps; tiny creatures less than one centimetre across. Everything is dependent on the support of the public to ensure the conservation of the Great Barrier Reef.

In size and beauty, the Great Barrier Reef dwarfs all things constructed or contemplated by man. It is a miracle of survival and engineering, a living monument to nature's amazing architect – the tiny coral polyp.

Ian Currie



N.P.A. TREE PLANTING AT GLENDALE

To start with the final result, the following native trees were planted in the Gudgenby Nature Reserve near Glendale on 28 May and 4 June 1983:

<i>Eucalyptus bridgesiana</i>	(Apple Box)	230
<i>Eucalyptus pauciflora</i>	(Snow Gum)	25
<i>Eucalyptus rubida</i>	(Candlebark)	120
<i>Eucalyptus stellulata</i>	(Black Sally)	90
<i>Brachychiton populneus</i>	(Kurrajong)	3
		<hr/> 468

These figures could be subject to small inaccuracies due to difficulties of keeping tallies on the main planting day. This is a most pleasing result, with losses of trees in the milk carton stage being under 3 percent. We did have some difficulty in germination probably due to immature seed. We also had some loss at the potting stage mainly due to 'damping off' in the germination tray and consequent potting of very small seedlings. Nevertheless the final result was well up to target.

It was also pleasing to see the large number of people who helped, the interest the project generated in the Year of the Tree and native trees generally; this interest flowed on to the Gudgenby Nature Reserve and the lovely area surrounding the site. This area is perhaps too often hurried through because of the abundance of places further on which are thought to be worth more attention.

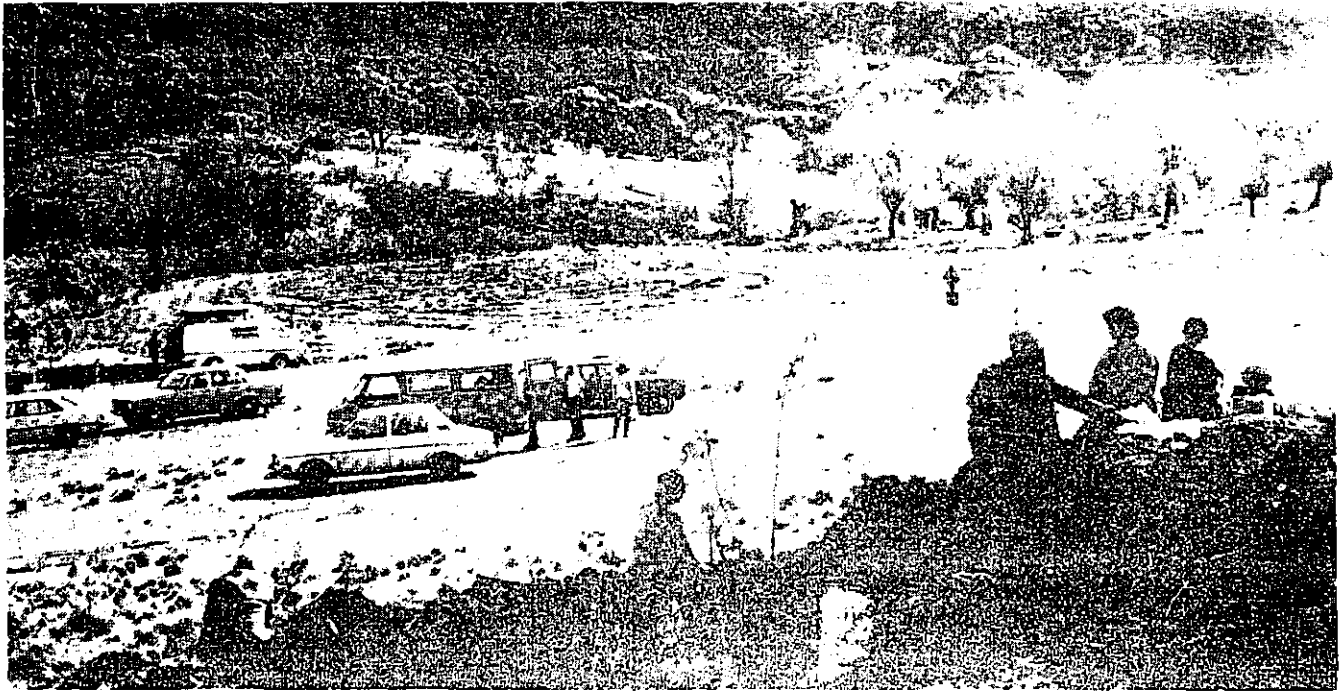
To return to the work carried out, four working bee trips were made to Gudgenby Nature Reserve in April and May to salvage wire from an internal fence in the Boboyan Pines, cut up rabbit-proof netting and plain fencing wire, transport netting, wire, tyres and cans to the site, and place pegs to guide layout.

Landscape architect Rob Wilson was invited to advise on the layout of the planting on the site. He spent some time examining the site and surrounds and reading reports on the concept of the Reserve. He was impressed with the potential of the site and produced a planting plan which had breaks in the tree cover so that intriguing views would be obtained of the river valley and the hills with rocky outcrops. Provision was also made for a possible future small area to park cars just off the road and for grassy nooks within the trees for sheltered picnics. A lightly timbered area for children to play with balls etc. was included.

The trees were arranged largely in groups of single species, but merging into one another. *E. pauciflora* was planned for drier spots, particularly near the road. *E. stellulata* was used near drainage courses and along the river. *E. rubida* was a more showy feature, whilst *E. bridgesiana* gave density and provided some screening. There are several exotic willow trees on the site and a screen of native trees was planned to avoid the visitor travelling from Canberra receiving a first impression of trees within the Reserve from non-natives. This screen was continued on the eastern side of the road to the north of the old homestead orchard. Whilst the exotics are part of history and add interest and some beauty to the area, undue emphasis is rather an anomaly in a nature reserve.

The task of transferring the planting plan from paper to the site was made easier by the preparatory work of surveyor member Brian Hammond. He drew lines of pegs on the plan between conspicuous features and gave each line a colour code. Two days before the main planting with some simple assistance from me, he placed pegs (suitably shaped offcuts) on the site to show the lines. On each peg was written the colour code of the line and the number of paces from the line start. Some intermediate pegs were also hammered in and shown on the plan. The result was that any point on the planting plan could be located with sufficient accuracy on the actual site by referring to 2 or 3 nearby pegs.

The hot dry start to autumn and its effect on vegetation already reduced drastically by drought, made the task of finding material for treeguards imperative. The young trees were unlikely to survive the attentions of starved native and



Lunch time at the first of the tree – planting days at Glendale. The area planted was approximately three times that of the ploughed area – Photo Reg Alder.

introduced animals. Many ideas were suggested; they included rabbit-proof netting from old fences, discarded motor tyres (rabbits and hares dislike the odour), cans of various sizes, plastic tube screens, aluminium foil wrapped around stems, circle of rope soaked in creosote (odour again). We were assured that Reserve boundary fences were in good order and grazing stock would not be a problem. Because the site is in an accessible, public position, we selected the following methods of treeguarding:

- Cylinder of rabbit-proof netting secured by large wire pegs or by a single stake, or a combination of the two;
- Cylinder of rabbit-proof netting bent out to form an outward lip at the bottom and a tyre placed over it. Because these were stable, substantial and easily seen, they were used near the road.
- Large or medium cans with the top cut out and bottom cut cross shaped so that 4 pointed pieces could be bent down and out. Metal pegs secured them.

The following materials for treeguards were obtained and transported to the site:

- 350 pieces of netting mostly cut from 1/2 kilometre of fencing;
- 800 pegs cut and shaped from 1/2 kilometre of reclaimed Number 8 fencing wire;
- 120 hardwood stakes (a further 120 since obtained);
- 120 medium cans from hotel kitchens;
- 30 large cans from various sources;
- 110 discarded motor tyres (courtesy Ensign Tyre Store);

As arranged, towards the end of April staff of the Reserve used a tractor and ripper to plough deep furrow contours in the non-grassy parts of the site aimed at getting water well down into the soil. Mother Nature favoured this aim with several periods of fairly gentle, soaking rain. I had also arranged with the Senior Ranger for the use of a water trailer towed by a tractor for the planting.

To avoid confusion and wasted effort on the planting day, 5 members were nominated as "overseers" and we held a planning meeting Thursday evening before the planting. Rob Wilson attended and provided a copy of the planting plan for each overseer. The site was divided into four and an overseer allocated to each. Tasks and methods were discussed in detail. To the music of gentle rain outside, we discussed bad weather contingencies. One overseer remarked

that he walked and galled in the rain and could plant trees in the rain if someone held an umbrella. Exploration of alternatives soon convinced us that we should go ahead on 28 May unless a meteorological disaster occurred.

It was good to see some gentle rain just before planting although it did make one of the working bees wet. Spirits sank when there was a deluge on the afternoon and evening before the main planting. I cancelled the arrangement for a water trailer and with artificial cheerfulness advised enquirers that we were going ahead with the planting.

To my delight Saturday 28 May dawned fine and clear but sodden underfoot. The early morning drive to the site was a scenic pleasure with mystic lakes, bands of white cloud striping the hills and bright sun on vivid green grass. Water cascaded from every gully and the Gudgeby River was 10 times its normal width, doing its best to look like the "last wild river".

The site was certainly damp, but not impossibly so, except for the several drainage courses and soaks which flowed freely. The first task was to receive the trees from their guardians and allocate them to the four sub-division overseers. They then placed each tree in its carton in its planting position, modified for any local site difficulty. Our surveyor overseer gave much help with siting, and John Hook used his tree knowledge to identify species where this was lost or doubtful. "Indelible" markings on cartons had disappeared. A punched hole code was much better, but some mavericks had appeared, possibly due to the fine seed jumping boundaries in the germination tray or other mishaps at potting.

The milk cartons stood up well. Most had the lower part deteriorated to a plastic skin, but this held the roots and soil together; they were easy to peel away when planting. Few trees showed signs of root binding.

The planting procedure was first to chip away grass or weeds from a circle 90cm in diameter, then dig a hole in the centre about 30cm across and place a teaspoonful of 12/13 month slow release fertiliser in the bottom. The tree was planted with the carton soil top level with, or slightly below, the surrounding ground level. A little water (readily available!) was used to settle the soil around the roots. On compacted parts of the site, despite the rain, a pick swung vigorously was needed to break up the soil in and around the hole. In all spots a shallow saucer was formed to help natural or artificial watering.

Meantime a hardworking team was making treeguards. In some parts of the site it proved difficult to find a small tree again after it was planted (4 or 5m apart) so the discarded milk carton was placed near each tree until its guard was affixed.

Approximately 45 workers helped at the first planting in very pleasant weather and about 350 trees were planted and guarded. The second planting on 4 June was less time consuming as the main layout had been done. The weather was quite good with a couple of brief, drizzly showers. Eighteen workers attended and over 110 trees were planted and guarded. The co-operation and hard work of all helpers on both days were of a high level and this was much appreciated.

On behalf of the Association I wish to thank all persons who helped with the project. When so many helped over a period of 12 months, it is impracticable to mention everyone personally and difficult to cover all help even generally; I apologize if I have inadvertently made one or more omissions, but here goes!

Thank you to all members who inspected the site, collected seed, germinated seedlings, collected milk cartons, potted seedlings, gave suggestions, advice and information, lent tools and equipment, arranged for commercial kitchens to save used large cans, etc. etc.

Particular mention is made of the following members or groups of members who used special skills and/or carried out tasks over long periods. A special thank you to:

- Dr John Banks who gave advice, germinated the seed and provided extra seed.
- John Hook who used his wide knowledge of eucalypts to identify both mature and seedling trees, gave advice and led the seed gathering expedition.
- Faye Kerrison who donated potting mix, the use of facilities for potting and gave freely of her time and skills.
- Rob Wilson, a recently joined member who put considerable effort into preparing several copies of a detailed planting plan.
- Brian Hammond who put much work and thought into transferring the planting plan onto the actual site.
- A number of members who attended several working bees and the plantings, expending much time, transport and effort on the project.
- Those 16 members who gave loving care to the young potted trees for up to 6 months over one of the hottest, driest periods in Canberra's recorded history.
- Robert and Sybil Story who donated 3 *Brachychiton populcus* (Kurrajong) trees to add diversity and interest.

Help was not limited to members and I wish to record our thanks to Peter Hann, Senior Ranger, and staff of the Reserve who carried out ploughing, organised a tractor and trailer for watering, made available some salvaged fence materials and arranged access through locked gates. Thanks also to Tony Fernside, Director of Forests (A.C.T.), and David Lee of his Branch who co-operated and gave permission to salvage material from a fire damaged internal fence in the Boboyan Pine Forest.

Maintenance will be required for some time, the main tasks being removal of grass and weeds close to each tree, repair of the watering saucer, watering and repair and adjustment of treeguards. We will need to watch trees which have motor tyres as part of their treeguard; tyres will need lifting off before the tree branches become large and inflexible. A further task is clearing weeds and rubbish generally. Periodically the Outings Program will include a Saturday for these tasks. With a picnic lunch by the river and time to walk around and admire the scenery, such a day should prove pleasant.

In addition to the maintenance outings, we would appreciate walking parties passing the site having a look around and reporting any damage or problems. Reports can be made to any member of the Committee.

Charles Hill

WALKING IN SOME OF NEW ZEALAND'S NATIONAL PARKS

Milford Track (32 miles), Fiordland National Park
22-25 December 1982

This summer eight friends from Canberra (all members of NPA) went to New Zealand and walked several of the tracks. All the travel and accommodation arrangements fell neatly into place and we arrived at Te Anau ready for the final connections. We were — Neville and Maxine Esau, Beverley Hammond, Reg Alder, Frank Clements, and the Webster family. For the second walk we were joined by Fiona Brand.

It was a brief half hour coach trip to Te Anau Downs and then a 2 hour launch trip during which it rained pretty steadily. The mountains rose up all around sombre and grand, snowcapped and shrouded in clouds. At 4p.m. the great moment arrived — we alighted and began the Milford Track walk — along with about 50 others! However, half of these were the organised Tourist Hotel Commission (THC) party which stayed at Glade House only ½ hour up the track. The rest of us, the "Freedom" walkers plodded on to Clinton Hut — about 2¼ hours from the start of the track. By way of explanation the THC provide organised walks with accommodation in rather superior huts which have hot showers, well equipped drying rooms and staff on hand to cook meals. At one time the THC had a sort of monopoly on the Milford Track and other walkers objected to this expensive limitation to walking the track. As a result of the agitations of these original "freedom" walkers, other more basic huts were provided, managed by the Fiordland National Park (FNP) authority. There is still a strict control over numbers on the track and you have to book to stay at the FNP huts and move on each day which means the group you set out with remain your hut companions throughout. You carry all your own provisions, have primitive washing facilities (a tin basin beside the water tank), but for a meagre \$4 a night you do have shelter, a bunk, a gas burner to cook on and a coal fired pot-bellied stove to warm yourself by.

The track followed the Clinton River which was wide, clear, green and beautiful. We had a good view of Quinton Falls along the route. The native beech forest was lovely and green too, as were all the mosses, lichens, and ferns thickly covering everything. It rained steadily, though not terribly heavily. We heard the melodious tinklings of one of the N.Z. bellbirds, and on the pebbly shore of the river we saw Paradise ducks, dark brown and black in colouring with white markings.

Beverley and I arrived last at the hut, to a scene of great hustle and bustle. Packs and people everywhere. The Freedom huts on the Milford Track are not very big — basically a living room and bunk room. The bunks are pretty closely packed with two tiers at the the outer edge and three in the middle at the apex of the roof. For two people to pass between the bunks they both have to be standing upright — there was little space for manoeuvring of hanging things. Despite the crowding, cooking proceeded smoothly in relays as folk were ready. Our first meal consisted of asparagus soup, sweet & sour lamb, vegetables and rice followed by stewed apples. This all sounds rather grand but it was all dried or freeze-dried and after a few days has a certain sameness. Maxine has very strong views on this type of food which are reflected in a particular facial expression and the strong use of a three lettered word beginning with Y. . . ! It was interesting to see what types of food other folk bring on walks — many don't seem to worry about weight. They carry large tins of powered milk, large packets of this and that and a couple of fellows had a big bundle of unwashed carrots (leafy tops, dirt, and all) wrapped up in newspapers and ate these (the carrots not the newspapers) with walnuts for breakfast (very healthy!).

During the course of the evening, the young Warden came and introduced himself — told us the hut rules and that the gas would be turned off at night and not be put on till 7a.m. and the weather forecast came through at 8.15a.m. so that there was no need to rise at the crack of dawn.

There were 25 of us on the walk – nine Americans, 1 Swiss, 2 Germans and the remainder of us were Aussies and Kiwis.

Thursday 23 December

Most folk set off along the track about 9a.m. in steady rain. The track followed the river along the valley with high mountains towering on either side down which waterfalls were cascading hundreds of feet. All day there was the constant roar of the river, noisy creeks and booming falls. Water became the over-riding element that dominated all our senses as we progressed along the track. In one place we had to detour around a bit of a lake across the original track, created by a landslip. Later we had to splash through knee deep, freezing, water and I could not persuade anyone to hold a pose while I took a photo! At the end of this stretch of water was a boat! – presumably for the comfort of the THC parties. We stopped for lunch in an emergency shelter, called the 'Bus Stop', which was positioned just before a major creek which floods rapidly. However, it was not in flood and we crossed it quite easily and several more quite turbulent streams. Fortunately there were often wires stretched across to hang onto and the water was usually no more than ankle deep.

The sun did break through briefly and occasionally. We passed the Pompolona Hut where the THC party stay and continued on to Mintaro Hut. I thought Kevin and I were last, arriving about 2.15p.m. but others arrived later including one of the Americans who had been trout fishing on the way. He caught several and saved one – a fine 5 pounder, for their evening meal.

After a warm up "cuppa" Beverley produced a pack of cards being Kevin's Christmas present a little in advance. The game was "O No! 99" and she and Kevin set about learning the rules and then cajoled more into joining in including a young fellow from Toowoomba.

The hut visitors book was lying about and besides all the humour and grouses that inevitably fill the pages, was a sad entry, which Reg read out, on the death of a young warden less than a month ago, in the course of his duty. The ranger had received a message of a walker up in the shelter hut on McKinnon Pass suffering from hypothermia and set out to provide assistance. On the way he was caught by an avalanche. Meanwhile the walker had been safely brought to the safety of a hut.

The Wardens were very young fellows but I guess they must possess a certain resourcefulness and independence to take on that sort of job. Beside being caretakers for the huts and rescuers of people in distress they also work on maintaining the track.

In the last light of evening, the keas come down to the hut. These are large mountain parrots of some notoriety. Their plumage is a dull greenish colour with patches of orange on the underside of their wings. They have strong curved beaks which they use mischievously and destructively to rip things up and cart things away – so no boots or coats can be left outside. Their arrival is heralded by their rather plaintive cry, a little like that of a seagull and they swoop down, land on the roof of the hut and stomp noisily about and slide down the roof. They are inquisitive and comic.

It rained all night and the forecast was for plenty of rain and cold westerly winds.

Friday 24 December Christmas Eve

Away about 9a.m. to a day that promised rain and more rain and *that* it certainly did!! First of all we had a two hour climb up to the top of McKinnon Pass. There were clumps of Mt Cook lillies beside the path to brighten our way as any hopes of views from the Pass rapidly faded. We had a brief stop at the emergency shelter. At the shelter the division between FNP and THC was quite pronounced. The hut was divided in two and in the THC side were two fellows with hot water urns going, cups laid out and a gas heater on – all in readiness for the THC morning tea stop! Not for us though . . . we had to plod on in the cold wind and rain.

Glancing down there was nothing to see but a bottomless sea of white, damp, mist. We had joined the ranks of the 75% who go over the pass and see nothing – what a disappointment!

We followed the emergency route down as the main route was still unsafe following the avalanche a month before. This alternative route was very steep following a river which provided a series of magnificent waterfalls as it galloped down the mountainside. I took two photos on this exceedingly wet day and as the viewfinder seemed fogged up and water dripped everywhere, was pleasantly surprised that both turned out! Eventually tired and weary we reached a T-Junction with Quinton Hut (THC) to the left (and the Sutherland Falls), and Dumpling hut to the right. Although I imagine the Sutherland Falls would have been really spectacular, we were feeling in need of food and somewhere dry, so gave the falls a miss (perhaps next time – yes, we must go back . . .) The track now ran beside the Arthur River, a raging torrent of swirling white and brown water. Water! all day water; streaming tricklets through the mossy, ferny banks beside the track; gurling in the ditches along the path; rushing, tumbling in streams across the track. There were cascading falls to splash through and narrow planks to negotiate over the excited roaring torrents of over-burdened creeks. Or a moment the track became a succession of muddy pools; the next a rippling stream over a pebbly bed or a miniature waterfall jumping between rocks. All day water – spectacular falls of foaming water, flying spray; roaring white turbulences of power crashing through rocky chasms – all noise – thundering, majestic, overpowering and awesome. There was a kind of wild competitiveness in its downward surge. And it was very wet . . . wet to the skin . . .

Finally, just before the welcome sight of Dumpling Hut we encountered a little native wood hen (weka) pecking about on the path. The other Canberrans had already reached the hut. Reg, our early starter who left at 8.30 had arrived at 1p.m. and got the fire going. Sometimes the Wardens did this, but this one was out on the track somewhere when Reg arrived. John, Kevin and I left about 8.30 and walked nonstop arriving about 2.45p.m. famished, sodden and tired.

Later that evening I sat writing my journal and recorded:

"Everyone's sitting here in the last lingering daylight and the soft light of the kerosene lamp, chatting like mad. The folk are really mixing and talking to each other. Neville is busy teaching several people the card game "Rickety Kate". I had an interesting chat to the Swiss girl who had done a number of the tracks in N.Z. Outside the weather is awful – a thunderstorm and strong winds. Looking out of the hut window at the back, the mountain rises like a cliff, spilling over with water – the falls spraying out with the strong gusty winds. I hope we can get out on the track tomorrow to get to Milford for our Christmas Dinner! (gloomy thoughts upon the alternative of Alliance freeze-dried and leftovers!). The Warden has only been here five days so can we rely on his knowledge of the track? He assures us it is usually passable between Dumpling Hut and Sandfly Point. Sometimes it is cut by floods just before Dumpling hut where we crossed some low lying land right alongside the river. However, it has rained so much it is hard to imagine that the track cannot be impassable at some point. Next morning the warden told us the track had flooded chest height overnight but the river had now dropped."

(Later we learned nearly 15 inches of rain fell in the 24 hour period!). No wonder I developed webbed feet!

Kevin was able to talk by radio to the young warden at the first hut who he befriended. Kevin befriended most people in the group – at least I hope they are regarded his chatting and card games as friendship.

During the night I awoke and contemplated the prospect of spending Christmas Day marooned in the hut. I decided if it happened I would try to organize some party games for Kevin's benefit and perhaps it might provide light relief for us all if we were cooped up! I began to mentally list possible

games. After a while I ran out of ideas. Meanwhile the rain seemed to be easing; there were definite showers and then a break although water continued to pour off the guttering which must have been broken or blocked. Eventually even this seemed to cease and the prospects of being stranded receded, I went back to sleep . . .

Saturday 25 December Christmas Day

Someone had set an alarm clock — obviously determined to go at all costs and this had us all up early and off on the track by about 8.20a.m. — in dry conditions with patches of blue visible and a brighter outlook.

The track was mostly flat on Christmas Day, following the river, crossing it by a large suspension bridge and then around the lake. The Arthur River flows into Lake Ada (formed by a slip 900 years ago).

The track was practically clear of water on this bright, cool, fresh morning. The water now ran in an orderly fashion in the little channels and ditches to which it was appointed. After crossing the Arthur River we saw a couple of impressive falls, McKay and Giant Gate. The river spread itself out into the lake, wide and green and quiet. The track was raised on board walks about 8ft above ground level and these were certainly needed as for a lot of the time we just gazed down into water of indeterminate depth with ferns and bushes submerged in it. I'm sure it would have been beyond wading depth! At one point the lakeside path seemed to have been chiselled out of the mountainside itself, like a groove. It rose steeply with good views across the lake.

Eventually we arrived at Sandfly Point — appropriately named, the sandflies hovered in clouds about us — with about 15 minutes to spare before the 2p.m. launch arrived. The powerful little launch cleverly manoeuvred across the discharging flood waters of the river, amid debris, rips and eddies. The magnificent Sound (actually a Fjord) rose round us, the mighty Mitre Peak and impressive Pembroke Glacier coming into view and the navigational channel taking the boat right up close to the Bowen Falls which are not far from the landing jetty at Milford.

So our walk ended and we *did* make Milford in time to refresh ourselves and re-emerge like new people to wine and dine in the luxury of the hotel restaurant and enjoy a festive, leisurely Christmas meal.

Judith Webster



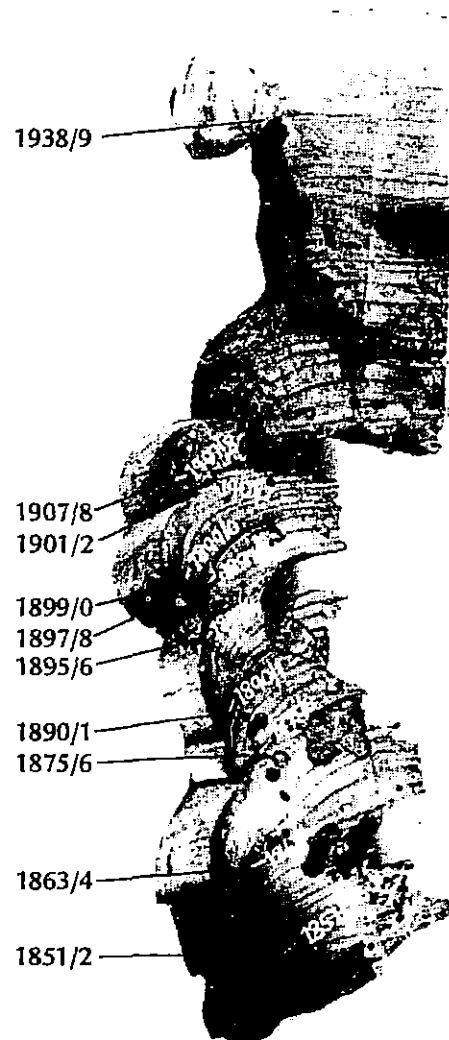
NEW MEMBERS

The following new members are welcomed to the Association: Graeme and Nora Barrow, Hackett; Hazel Bancroft, Rivett; Keith Bradley, Page; Julie Bakalor, Ainslie; Susan Craven, Scullin; Douglas and Ilona Crabb, Dickson; J. and E. Cleland, Campbell; Shirley Chittick, Hall; Mary Craft, Braddon; Sydney and Cecily Dunstall, Murrumbateman; Jenni and Wayne Davill, Giralang; M. and R. Elford, Aranda; Wayne and Glenys Gardner, Chapman; Erica Glenda, Cook; Angela Henly, Rivett; John Hemer, A.N.U.; Julie Hunt, Cook; Gerry Jacobson, Yarralumla; David Kilpin, O'Connor; George Kasperek, Rivett; Marion Lawson, Yarralumla; Bruce Lambie, Kambah; Pat Lewis, Pearce; Steve McGuinness, Narrabundah; Pat Miethke, Giralang; Audrey and Thomas Moyle, Narrabundah; Dudley and Margaret Nicol, Deakin; Regina Nicol, Page; Mr and Mrs N.C. Pearce, Yarralumla; Mervyn and Katalin Paterson, Aranda; Mr and Mrs J. Reith, Dickson; Kathy and Ralph Smith, Garran; Mandy Scott, Pearce; Diana Sartor, Queanbeyan; Brian Thirkell, Hawker; Mr and Mrs W. Whitaker, Rivett; Ian and Maureen Watson, Weetangara; Randall and Helen Wilson, Curtin.

MAN, FIRE AND SNOW GUMS IN THE BRINDABELLA RANGE

Perhaps due to the relatively late recognition of the significance of fire in the ecological processes, there have been few historical records kept or studies made of the impact of man on the eucalypt forests of Australia. Frequencies of fires in south east Australia have been derived from recent data and these may not necessarily reflect historical fire regimes.

This was the subject of the lecture by John Banks at our March General Meeting and it was based on the study he had undertaken as part of a series designed to further understanding of the dynamics of the sub-alpine snow gum forests in the southern highlands. The objective was to derive data which would span both the European settlement and Aboriginal periods and in doing so demonstrate the impact of European man through his use of fire in sub-alpine snow gum forests.



Cross section of a veteran of the Brindabellas showing the growth rings with the dates of their formation — Photo A.N.U.

Forests of this type have intermediate fire sensitivity, datable growth rings and are long lived. The Brindabella Range was chosen because of the history of European exploration was reasonably well documented and in later years forestry records of the location of fires had been kept. Thus historical records could be related to the growth rings recorded in the trees.

The Brindabella Range is about 40 kms long and has peaks ranging from 1400m in the north to 1900m in the

south. Winter snow persists for 4-6 weeks above about 1400m and the snow line delineates the sub-alpine zone. The most common tree is snow gum (*E. pauciflora*) occurring on exposed upper slopes or peaks on all sites above 1600m with alpine ash (*E. delegatensis*) in pure stands on most sheltered slopes to 1520m. At lower altitudes on the more exposed slopes mountain gum (*E. dalyrpleana*) and peppermints (*E. radiata* and *E. dives*) are found with and without snow gums. Most trees older than 100 years are fire scarred and later fires have reduced them to hollow trunks thus obliterating the evidence of earlier fires.

Sampling sites were subjectively chosen on Mt Franklin, Mt Ginini, Ridge 1600 and Bimberi Peak. The Mt Ginini site was divided into north and south aspects. A total of 39 trees were sampled by cutting cross sections from the fire scar zones of suitable scarred trees. These samples were sanded smooth to reveal the tree rings from which the scars were dated with samples from living trees. Scars were examined to see if the season of the burn could be determined, graziers and gold prospectors frequently burnt in mid to late summer and if Aboriginals did light fires purposefully the reasons remain unknown. As the last wild fire would predate samples from young even aged stands the relationship between tree ages and known major wild fires was established for a number of stands. Infrequent fires in snow gum stands cause characteristic growth flushes, persisting for several years and then declining to expected values. These may occur in trees with or without scarring and although a less accurate method it can provide data when other information is lacking. Records of the Forest Branch in the A.C.T., kept since 1906 were invaluable for independent verification of fire scar dates.

Individual tree fire scar chronologies were derived from all 39 sample trees and these showed that fire free intervals varied greatly from a maximum of 107 years in a tree on Bimberi Peak to 24 fires in 81 years in a tree on Ridge 1600. The chances of an individual fire scarring all trees varied from 15% on Mt Franklin to one in two on the northern and drier sites of Mt Franklin and Mt Ginini. Mean fire intervals for individual trees were relatively uniform between trees on the same site but variable between sites, about 6-8 years for Mt Franklin, Mt Ginini North, Ridge 1600, about 10 years for Mt Ginini South and 20 years for Bimberi Peak. Combined site data showed fires becoming more frequent from about 1850 and not declining till after 1950. Fire scarring indicated fires occurred late summer or early autumn but seasonal conditions and stress periods may have caused the late wood to be laid earlier and thus the fires may have been earlier than indicated.

Trees were aged from regrowth stands which had established themselves after the 1939 fires near Mt Ginini and showed regeneration had occurred in the season of the wild fire presumably from surviving root stocks and was essentially complete in 10 years. Trees destroyed in the summer of 1953/54 on Mt Bimberi were still establishing some 20 years later. Other results showed regrowth stands in the late 1860's at Bulls Head and Ridge 1600 and in the 1870's for Mt Ginini.

Post fire growth flushes suggested infrequent major wild fires occurred on Bimberi Peak in the decades of 1730, 1760, 1770, 1810, 1830, and 1850 for the period 1718-1870.

Historical records generally refer to calendar years and this makes difficulty of interpretation and deciding in which summer they occurred and the degree of significance to be recorded. From the period 1859 to 1975 historical records suggest 19 summers with wild fires, however the tree scar records show 85 summers with wildfires at the five study sites.

Aboriginal use of the snow gum forests extends back over perhaps 10,000 years with annual summer visitations primarily for feasting on the aestivating Bogong moth. The Aboriginals did not burn indiscriminately and the mosaic nature of fires of about once a decade on Mt Ginini and once every second decade on Mt Bimberi suggests lightning strikes rather than being initiated by Aboriginals.

The first European period of 1820-1850 saw occupation

of the best grazing lands and transhumant summer grazing in the sub-alpine and alpine regions was gradually initiated as a regular practice after the disastrous 1837/39 drought. Graziers as a matter of course would have needed to replace unpalatable vegetation with new growth and maintain access by deliberate burning.

In the summer period of 1850-1870 there was further exploitation by increased grazing and the search for gold. There was an increasing need to fire for fresh growth and for the prospector to clear undergrowth to expose soil and rock underneath. In this interval there was a three to six-fold increase in fires and the widespread establishment of even aged stands suggests that some of these must have been destructive crown fires. Historical records confirm the severity of fires at this time. An increased period of fire frequency might be expected to produce less fuel, but the evidence is otherwise and an explanation is that large weekend trees could have progressively fallen and thus provided the fuel over the 20 year period. Frequent burning weakens the overstorey and causes an 'explosion' of woody scrubs and tree seedlings thus reducing access and encouraging the lighting of more fires. This is confirmed by the modern practice of graziers to fire a forest as soon as it will burn.

In the third period of 1870-1950 the uses of the Brindabella Range changed, the movement of sheep and cattle for summer grazing intensified and lasted until 1956 when the graziers' leases were withdrawn. Gold prospecting diminished and was insignificant by 1900. The timber getters moved in about 1900 and stayed to 1963. There was unofficial firing by Rangers from 1929-1952 to protect the hardwood timber resource and conifer plantations. The fire history from fire scar technology, stand origin dates and historical sources clearly indicates that fires now occurred nearly every summer. Despite these frequent fires, major wildfires occurred in 1876/77, 1899/1900, 1919/20, 1925/26 and 1938/39 and this demonstrates the high fuel loads and flammability of the regrowth forest.

Post 1950 saw the demise of summer grazing and changes in the dominant use of the Snowy Mountains with fire suppression becoming increasingly effective in preventing unauthorised burning-off. The fire history shows a dramatic decline in the number of fires with only two fires at all sites except for six at the Ridge 1600 site which may be attributed to the presence of the highly flammable kerosene bush (*Bossiaea foliosa*) and greater success for a lightning strike.

Forest stands may now develop to maturity and in time perhaps woodlands will once again dominate the sub-alpine zone.

(Abridged by Reg Alder from a paper on the lecture by John Banks, Department of Forestry, A.N.U.)



BARREN GROUNDS COURSES

Courses of interest to members are held at the Barren Grounds Bird Observatory – more details can be had from P.O. Box 3, Jamberoo, N.S.W. 2533, phone (042) 36 0195.

September 9-11 Bird Calls – their Identification and Recording \$48.

September 30-October 3 The Wild-flowers of Barren Grounds \$66.

October 7-9 Birds' Nests and Breeding Territories \$48.

November 11-13 Birds for Beginners \$48.

November 18-20 Ground Parrots and Bristle-birds \$48.

November 25-27 Fire Ecology Workshop (2) \$48.

December 2-4 The Reptiles and Amphibians of Barren Grounds \$48.

December 30-January 2 Ground Parrots and Christmas Bells \$66.



NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY INC.

ANNUAL REPORT 1982-83

This is the twenty-third annual report of the Association, covering the period 1 July 1982 to 30 June 1983.

COMMITTEE

President	Neville Esau	Treasurer	Lyle Mark	Reg Alder	Beverley Hammond
Vice-President	Denise Robin	Assistant Secretary	Fiona Brand	Ross Carlton	Charles Hill
Secretary	Judy Payne	Publicity Officer	Sheila Kruse	Ian Currie	John Schunke

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Membership Secretary	Fiona Brand	ANPC Councillor	Robert Story	PAST PRESIDENT John Banks
Librarian	Sheila Kruse	Public Officer	John Schunke	
Sub-Committee Convenors	See pages 2 and 3	Auditors	Ernst & Whinney	

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1982/83 has been a particularly interesting and busy year for the Association. Apart from a large number of regional conservation issues which have demanded our attention, we undertook some special projects to mark the Australian Year of the Tree. As well, our preservation project on the Orroral Homestead has continued at a steady pace.

Before I comment on some of the conservation issues we have dealt with, I would like to pay a special tribute to all the members who worked on the special projects. In particular I would like to thank Sheila Kruse and Babette Scougall, Charles Hill, and Ross Carlton for their devoted work during the year on the Field Guide project, the Gudgenby tree planting project, and the Orroral Homestead project respectively. The details of these projects are given in separate reports so I won't repeat them here. I would just like to add that I have been proud and pleased to be part of these projects; I believe that they have strengthened the Association during 1982/83 and I hope their benefits will continue to be felt in the future.

The problems of the Gudgenby Nature Reserve continued to occupy much Committee time. Again the details of this work are in the Gudgenby Subcommittee's report. I wish to emphasise the importance of Gudgenby and its future to the Association, and our commitment to the conservation of the natural values of the Reserve. We hope to meet the Minister for Territories and Local Government soon to discuss a range of topics concerning the Reserve including land use and acquisition, feral animal control, fire management, and the formation and role of an Advisory Council.

The Committee has also considered a range of issues in other parks and reserves in the south-east region. These have included:

- Morton National Park – access, conservation of natural resources, control of vehicular access, overuse of some camping areas
- Kosciusko National Park – illegal grazing, fire management, the Cooleman karst management plan, access problems
- Deua and Wadbilliga National Parks – access problems, control of vehicular access.

There have been many other issues before Committee concerned with conservation, both within our immediate region and wider afield. Some ongoing issues are Tallaganda State Forest and its future as a conservation area, the proposed Brindabella National Park, the Smoker's Gap ski facility, and the future of the Victorian alpine area. Two major national issues which I mentioned in my last annual report, rainforest logging and the Franklin Dam, have both seen progress for conservation during this last year. The results achieved here are both an indication of the immense work carried out by conservation bodies to promote these issues and an inspiration for future resolution of remaining national issues.

In conclusion I would like to thank committee members for their untiring efforts during the year. I would also like to thank those members and committee members who served on the various subcommittees and who helped with submissions. Our thanks also to Bernice Anderson for handling book sales; to Adrienne Nicholson and her helpers for suppers at general meetings; to Robert Story for his generous support and advice during the year and for acting as Association delegate to the Australian National Parks Council; to Alan Munns for filling the role of projectionist; and to all those members who led walks, camps, and field trips during the year.

1982/83 has seen a high degree of member involvement in our various projects and subcommittees. This has been a great source of satisfaction to me and other committee members. I thank all those who have taken part in these activities and look forward to your continued support in 1983/84.

NEVILLE ESAU
President

July 1983

COMMITTEE

The 1982/83 year must surely be recorded as one of N.P.A.'s busiest times with Committee, sub-committees and members generally participating in various projects. Details of these projects and the work of the sub-committees appear elsewhere in this report as do comments showing our increased membership and average attendance at general meetings.

Committee met on eleven occasions during the year and has endeavoured to review the major conservation issues, particularly those affecting areas within or close to the A.C.T. These have included developments, or the lack of them, in the Gudgenby Nature Reserve, the Smoker's Gap ski facility, the Kosciusko National Park Plan of Management, access to Morton National Park, and the clearing of native forest in Tallaganda Forest. This has inevitably entailed extensive correspondence with Ministers, government departments and wildlife services, and the setting up of ad hoc committees or study groups. Submissions were prepared on the Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Perisher ski-tube access system and the National Conservation Strategy for Australia.

Neville Esau and Denise Robin appeared for N.P.A. before the Parliamentary Joint Committee on the A.C.T. at a public hearing on the Murrumbidgee River as a result of our earlier submission. Members of Committee represented the Association at meetings of kindred organisations including the Environment Centre, Conservation Council of the SE Region and Canberra, the Native Forests Action Council, and the A.C.T. Council of Cultural Societies. The President was N.P.A. delegate at the annual conference of the Australian National Parks Council in Sydney in September in the absence overseas of A.N.P.C. Councillor, Robert Story. Denise Robin and Judy Payne attended as observers. In April Ross Carlton and Denise Robin represented N.P.A. at an N.P.W.S. seminar regarding the future of the Coolamine Homestead complex.

SUB-COMMITTEES

Bulletin Sub-Committee

EDITOR
Reg Alder

EDITORIAL
Sheila Kruse
Denise Robin
Babette Scougall

PROOF-READING
Barbara Hicks
Bill Holesgrove
Peter Barrer

DESPATCH
Bill Adams
Phyllis Adams
Fiona Brand
Betty Campbell
Norman Morrison
Jenny Morrison

This year saw substantial change in the format and style of the Bulletin. These changes have had wide acceptance by members and many have undertaken the time-consuming tasks of researching and/or writing articles which have widened the interest in the Bulletin and the Association.

The Association must be commended considering the small number of members and limited resources in producing a Bulletin readily comparable with those from the larger Associations. Over 30 members have contributed articles and photographs and it is hoped many more will contribute, as a viable Bulletin is one of the many ways interest can be maintained in the Association and its work.

Gudgenby Sub-Committee

CONVENOR
Denise Robin

Reg Alder
Fiona Brand
Frank Clements
Ian Currie

MEMBERS
Beverley Hammond
Charles Hill
John Schunke
Robert Story

The ongoing issues affecting Gudgenby Nature Reserve were overshadowed last summer by devastating wildfires which burnt through 80% of the Reserve.

During the fires, which raged for three weeks, the Association contributed to the firefighting effort by making meals for the firefighters. The Gudgenby Sub-Committee has been vigilant since then, monitoring the rehabilitation measures taken on fire trails cut and/or reactivated during the fires and other urgent restoration work. Not all work has been carried out to our satisfaction, partly because of lack of adequate funding. The Sub-Committee hopes a more sustained effort will be made this spring. N.P.A. will be taking part in some resowing projects.

Progress has been made on other issues that the Association has been pressing for for a long time. We now have access, for our information, to the Department of Territories and Local Government's management plan for Gudgenby and feel that our opinions on policy issues are valued by the Department.

We have been told that Stage 2 will be declared this financial year. Progress is being made towards our proposal for the establishment of an advisory committee for the Reserve, to operate in a similar manner to the advisory committees for all national parks in New South Wales.

Once again during A.C.T. Heritage Week Charles Hill organised a public walk up Mt Boboyan, and our thanks are also due to Charles for his tremendous job in co-ordinating the Association's tree planting venture at Glendale.

The Sub-Committee appreciates the co-operation it has received during the year from the Conservation and Agriculture Branch of the Department of Territories and Local Government, and the support received from our members in our various projects in Gudgenby Nature Reserve.

Outings Sub-Committee

CONVENOR

Beverley Hammond

MEMBERS

Garth Abercrombie
Reg Alder
Betty Campbell
Frank Clements
Ian Currie

Neville Esau
Phil Gatenby
Charles Hill
Les Pyke
Babette Scougall

The Outings Sub-Committee meets quarterly to prepare a program of easy to harder walks, pack walks, car camps, and special interest outings. This year we are trialing mid-week walks, often on the first Wednesday of the month.

Special interest outings have included ski trips, flower and tree identification rambles, ecological studies, and bird watching excursions. One group of members enjoyed a house party at Edrom Lodge and we have reserved the same accommodation for the Canberra Week holiday in 1984.

Suggestions for outings are always welcome. Potential leaders need to reconnoitre their walk and provide the committee with details of meeting place and time, approximate distances and the type of terrain to be covered. The pamphlet "Guidelines for Leaders" summarises the leader's role for the day of the outing.

One of the best ways for new members to become part of the Association is to participate in outings and work parties.

Display Sub-Committee

A new sub-committee was formed in February with Anne Robertson as convenor and members Jill Davidson, Norma Price and Peter Arriens. Its major effort was a display during A.C.T. Heritage Week in April when the main theme was Gudgenby and the fire damage; Orroral Homestead also featured and an assortment of "touch and see" items, e.g. cultural artefacts, rocks, leaves, fruit, etc. was a popular section of the display.

Kosciusko Sub-Committee

This new sub-committee is convened by Neville Esau with members Craig Allen, Tony Bayes, Penny Hebbard, and Babette Scougall, and it has pursued a number of issues related to conservation and management in the Kosciusko National Park.

Illegal grazing during the recent drought was a major issue; other matters included fire management, intrusion into wilderness areas by 4WD vehicles and trail bikes, and the Coleman Karst Management Plan. Members had two on-site meetings with Andy Spate, the N.P.W.S. Investigations Officer for Coleman, to discuss management problems and plans for the Coleman/Cave Creek area. A submission was prepared in response to the EIS on the Perisher ski-tube access.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

(a) Year of the Tree

We referred in the 1981/82 annual report to plans for the Association's participation in the Australian Year of the Tree with the publication of a field guide to the trees of the A.C.T., the planting of trees in the Gudgenby Nature Reserve and a photographic competition for members, and to our application for a Heritage Grant for the field guide. All three projects have been satisfactorily carried out.

Field Guide to the Native Trees of the A.C.T. We received a Heritage Grant of \$3,000 from the (then) Department of the Capital Territory and in August formed a sub-committee to plan the publication. The grant enabled us to engage the services of a professional graphic designer, a botanical illustrator and a mapmaker, but the text, the photographs, the editing and proof-reading were the work of N.P.A. members. Advance order forms and promotional leaflets were distributed to N.P.A. members and kindred societies, schools and colleges, and to bookshops. The Field Guide was launched by the Minister for Territories and Local Government on 14 June. 5,000 copies were printed. It has been well received and early sales have been satisfactory.

Tree Planting Project. The climax of this project came in May/June with the planting of 460 trees at Glendale Crossing in Gudgenby Nature Reserve. This followed the successful propagation of seeds collected from the area and members cared for the growing seedlings over the summer months. Organiser, Charles Hill, and his many helpers devoted much time and effort to the project, including the provision of tree guards around the young trees, and the care of the developing plants will be an ongoing interest for members. The Association is grateful for the co-operation and assistance received from the Department of Territories and Local Government and the staff of the Gudgenby Nature Reserve in this project.

Photographic Competition. The 52 photographs of trees were on display at the November general meeting and were judged by Colir Totterdell who commented on the high standard of the entries. John Hook won the prize with his "Brown Barrel, wet sclerophyll forest" (*Eucalyptus fastigata* according to the Field Guide), and five other entries were highly commended.

(b) Orroral Homestead

Two work parties were held during the year, one in October to clean up around the buildings, and one in March to undertake some urgent protective work. Both were well attended, successful and enjoyable.

Work has progressed throughout the year on the preparation of a conservation plan for the building. While it was originally expected that this would be completed by December, the task has appeared to expand constantly ahead of us. Peter Corkery, Senior Lecturer in Architecture at the C.C.A.E., has the task of putting the plan together, and our thanks are due to him for the amount of work he has put into this which has far exceeded expectations at the time of our (somewhat informal) agreement with him. Our thanks also to Ric Butt of Strine Design who has been associated with Peter in this work.

The first task in the preparation of the conservation plan was the detailed measurement and recording of the building and this was carried out by a group of Peter's 1982 college students. The second task was a documentary history of the property which was compiled by a group of members under the able leadership of Denise Robin.

The third in-put was provided by Jonathan Winston-Gregson of Access Archaeology Pty Ltd who was contracted under a separate Heritage Grant to examine the site prior to the implementation of improved drainage works. A number of members were able to assist Jonathan in this work and thus acquire some knowledge of the techniques involved in historical archaeology.

Once the conservation plan is completed, we will be in a position to plan our future activities in relation to this project.

MEMBERSHIP

During 1982/83 there was a remarkable increase in membership so that there are now 524 adult members in our Association. Of these adults, 14 are students and 3 are life members.

It is interesting to note that many new members joined after reading the Bulletin copies placed in public libraries, while others came on a couple of outings before deciding to join the Association.

GENERAL MEETINGS

Attendance at the regular monthly meetings has been encouraging throughout the year with an average of 70 members and visitors attending each meeting. These meetings are planned to provide a variety of guest speakers and films on conservation or national park topics and Committee welcomes suggestions from members for this activity. Details of the speakers and features are given later in this report.

CO-OPERATION WITH KINDRED SOCIETIES

N.P.A. is affiliated with the following societies:

Australian National Parks Council; Australian Conservation Foundation; Canberra and South-East Region Environment Centre (CASEREC); Conservation Council of South-East Region and Canberra; A.C.T. Council of Cultural Societies (Griffin Centre); N.S.W. Federation of Bushwalking Clubs; Kosciusko Huts Association; Native Forests Action Council; Tasmanian Wilderness Society.

Library Acquisitions 1982/83

The National Estate in 1981 – Aust. Heritage Commission report, 1982	82/5
Directory of services available to the rural landholder to assist in the improvement of property for wildlife habitat. ed. D.E. Baker, ANPWS, 1982	82/6
We need national parks – papers presented to N.P.A.Q. 50th anniversary seminar.	82/7
National Parks and Wildlife Foundation Annual Report, 1982.	82/8
Towards a national conservation strategy – discussion paper, 1982, Dept of Home Affairs & Environment, for National Conservation Strategy for Australia: Living Resources Conservation for Sustainable Development.	82/9
Commonwealth Legal Aid Commission Annual Report, 1979-80.	82/10
Public choice in Tasmania: aspects of the lower Gordon River hydro-electric development proposal. H. Saddler, J. Bennett, I. Reynolds, B. Smith, CRES, ANU, 1980.	82/11
An economic evaluation of national parks. A.M. Ulph and I.K. Reynolds, CRES monograph 4, CRES, ANU, 1981.	82/12
Future demand and supply of electricity for Tasmania and other matters – report of Senate Select Committee on SW Tasmania, 1982.	82/13
Bounty (Books) Act 1969.	83/1
Nature Conservation Reserves in Australia (1982). ANPWS Occ. Paper 7. ed. M.D. Hinchey.	83/2
Check list of Australian caves and karst, 1979. Aust Speleology Federation.	83/3
National Parks and Wildlife Service, N.S.W., Annual Report, 1981.	83/4

We received newsletters and periodicals from a wide range of A.C.T. and interstate kindred societies and government departments. Reg Alder scans all these publications, reports to the Committee, and reproduces items of particular interest in the Bulletin.

OUTINGS 1982-83

OUTING	LEADERS	OUTING	LEADERS
JULY			
Billy Billy Rocks	John Webster	JANUARY	
Mt Houghton — pack walk	Neville Esau	Shoalhaven River	Reg Alder
Hospital Creek Falls	Beverley Hammond	Deua — pack walk	Garth Abercrombie
Pebble Beach — camp	Fiona Brand	Bournda Recreation Reserve — camp	Ian Currie
Mt Majura	Hansene Hansen	FEBRUARY	
Cotter Gap	Lin Richardson	Murrumbidgee River.	Fiona Brand
Saw Pit Creek — ski touring camp	Garth Abercrombie	Durras South — camp	Neville Esau
AUGUST			
Molonglo Gorge	Olive Buckman	Mt 74.48	Garth Abercrombie
Mt Booth	Les Pyke	Murrumbidgee River	Noeline Denize
Tinderry Peak	Reg Alder	Blundell's Flat Arboretum	Ken Eldridge
Bundanoon — camp	Ian Currie	Cascades Hut — pack walk	Reg Alder
Wadbilliga Trig — pack walk	Phil Gatenby	MARCH	
Lake George — bird watching	Betty Campbell	Old Yankee Hat	Frank Clements
Kiandra — day ski tour	Geoff Robin	Orroral Valley	Margaret Aston
Pierce's Creek — barbeque	Neville Esau	Rendezvous and Nursery Swamp	John Webster
SEPTEMBER			
Mt McDonald	Bill Adams	Happy Jacks — pack walk	Frank Clements
McKeanie	Garth Abercrombie	Three Mile Dam — camp	Ian Currie
South Budawangs — pack walk	Babette Scougall	Black Springs	Lyle Mark
Middle Creek	Brian Hammond	Orroral Homestead — work party	Ross Carlton
Black Mountain — wild flowers	George Chippendale	APRIL	
Micalong Swamp — field nature outing	John Banks	Bimberi and Gurrangorambla Ranges	
Billy Range	Hela Lindemann	— pack walk	Phil Gatenby
OCTOBER			
Woola — pack walk	Phil Gatenby	Oldfields Hut — camp	Ian Currie
Hardy Range	Trevor Plumb	Boboyan Hill — Heritage Week Walk	Charles Hill
Mt Hartwood	Lin Richardson	Lake Burley Griffin — bicycle ride	Fiona Brand
Majors Creek Waterfall — family outing		Half Moon Creek	Reg Alder
		Edrom Lodge, Two fold Bay	
Pierce's Creek Falls	Denise Robin	— houseparty	Jenny Cusbert
Lake Burley Griffin	Lyle Mark	MAY	
Mt Tumatulla	Geraldine Spencer	Mt Majura	Hansene Hansen
Lake Burley Griffin — bicycle ride	Reg Alder	Orroral Ridge	Frank Clements
Murrumbidgee/Molonglo Junction	Fiona Brand	Moodong Peak — pack walk	Bob Story
Bluegum Creek Headwaters	Betty Campbell	Boboyan and Pheasant Hill	Charles Hill
NOVEMBER			
London Bridge and Homestead	Hansene Hansen	Mt Lowden	Hela Lindemann
Orroral/Middle Creek — pack walk	Reg Alder	Yaouk Peak	Garth Abercrombie
Bullen Range	Hela Lindemann	Murrumbidgee River	Margaret Aston
Mt Gingera	Beverley Hammond	Point Hut Crossing — bird watching	Betty Campbell
Crown Mountain	Garth Abercrombie	Devil's Peak	Les Pyke
Cave Creek — field nature study camp	Andy Spate (NPWS)	JUNE	
Orroral Heights	Lin Richardson	Mt Ainslie — mid-week walk	Olive Buckman
Gibraltar Rocks — family outing	Norm Morrison	Mount Blundell	Hela Lindemann
Mt Gudgenby	Frank Clements	Cotter Rocks	Phil Gatenby
DECEMBER			
Feints Range	Garth Abercrombie	Ettrema — pack walk	Tony Bayes
Purnoo Lookout	Ian Beveridge	South Moruya Head — camp	Charles Hill
Orroral River — Christmas party		Gudgenby Huts	Beverley Hammond
		Mt Booth	Jack Smart
		Honeysuckle	Les Pyke

GENERAL MEETINGS 1982-83

July	Sonia Tidemann, ANU — "Booligal Birds and their Habitat"
August	Annual General Meeting — slides of year's activities
September	Dane Wimbush, C.S.I.R.O. — "Kosciusko Alpine Flora"
October	Kevin Frawley, N.P.A. A.C.T., "The North Queensland Rainforest — Retrospect and Prospect"
November	Year of the Tree photographic competition and "On the Edge of the Forest" — film
February	Frank Clements, N.P.A. A.C.T. — "In the tracks of ancient man around Lake Mungo"
March	Dr John Banks, ANU — "Man, Fire and the Brindabella Ranges"
April	"Ribbon of Life — One Man's Reef" — film. Introduced by Graeme Kelleher, Chairman, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
May	Dr Richard Schodde, C.S.I.R.O. — "Australian Birds — where do they come from?"
June	Allan Fox, Environmental Consultant — "Planning for people in the Gammon Ranges National Park, South Australia"

FINANCE

The Association had an unprecedented surplus of \$5322 for the year to 30 June 1983 from income of \$9508 (\$3070 in 1981/1982) and expenditure of \$4186 (\$3335). The surplus is due largely to a surplus of \$4489 on the sale of the Association's recently published 'Field Guide to the Native Trees of A.C.T.'. Other contributing factors were increased income from the higher membership fees introduced from 1 July 1982, bank interest of almost \$1000 and donations of \$310.

During the year the Department of Territories and Local Government provided a Heritage Grant of \$3000 to assist in the publication of the Field Guide, and a further \$5800 for four other Heritage Grant projects (refer to Note 3 to the Financial Statements for financial details of each project). This gave the Association considerable liquidity and explains the high interest income. At 30 June 1983 the Association had \$7131 of surplus funds in an investment account, \$4707 of which was unexpended grant monies.

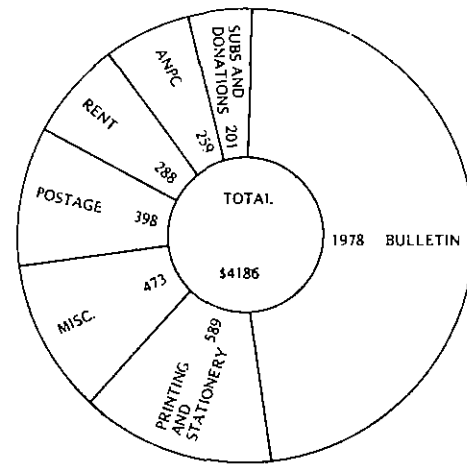
It is expected that the Field Guide will sell well through 1983/84 and contribute another large surplus to that year's accounts. Your Committee has considered this and has decided that those surpluses should be used for special projects which will contribute significantly to the objectives of the Association.

Members will be aware that the Association makes available at almost cost price a wide range of quality books from a leading Australian publisher. Bernice Anderson is the Books Sales Officer responsible for this project and her conscientious efforts in selling about \$1000 of books during the year is greatly appreciated.

It is particularly pleasing to be able to report that a defamation case brought against the Association and six other defendants some seven years ago appears to have been brought to an end with all parties, including the plaintiff, filing for its withdrawal. As a result the Auditors have noted that there is no need to retain the contingent liability of \$20000 which has appeared in previous statements.

The pie diagram shows a simplified presentation of major expenditures for 1982/83 Full financial details are contained in the statements attached to this Annual Report.

Major Expenditures 1982/83



AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1983

AUDITORS' REPORT

To the members of National Parks Association of the Australian Capital Territory Inc.

We have examined the books and records of the National Parks Association of the Australian Capital Territory Inc. and have obtained all the explanations and information required by us. In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements which have been prepared on the basis of the accounting policies outlined in Note 1, are properly drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the Association as at 30 June 1983, and the results of the Association for the year ended on that date.

Canberra
29 July 1983

ERNST & WHINNEY
Chartered Accountants

TREASURER'S STATEMENT

I hereby state that to the best of my knowledge and belief the accounts of the National Parks Association of the Australian Capital Territory Inc. give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Association at 30 June 1983 and the results of the Association for the year ended on that date. The rules regarding the administration of the funds have been observed in accordance with the constitution of the Association.

Canberra
29 July 1983

LYLE MARK
Treasurer

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 1983

	1983	1982
	\$	\$
ACCUMULATED FUNDS		
Opening balance	3,885	4,150
Surplus (deficit) for year	<u>5,322</u>	<u>(265)</u>
	<u>9,207</u>	<u>\$3,885</u>
These funds are represented by;		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash at bank — current account	218	1,199
— investment account	7,131	1,907
Commonwealth bonds (mature 1.5.86)	2,000	2,000
Stock on hand	<u>6,614</u>	<u>218</u>
	15,963	5,324
NON CURRENT ASSETS		
Equipment — after deducting accumulated depreciation of \$565 (1981/82 — \$528)	<u>147</u>	<u>184</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	16,110	5,508
LESS: CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Subscriptions in advance	1,561	1,382
Accrued legal fees	—	241
Unexpended project grants (Note 3)	4,707	—
Accrued field guide costs	<u>635</u>	<u>—</u>
	<u>6,903</u>	<u>1,623</u>
	<u>\$ 9,207</u>	<u>\$3,885</u>

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1983

	1983	1982
	\$	\$
INCOME		
Subscriptions	3,405	2,144
Interest received	981	410
Surplus on sale of books, badges & t-shirts	21	225
Surplus on sale of field study guide	4,489	—
Royalty on book sales	53	148
Sundry income	25	17
Donations	310	46
Travel refund	<u>224</u>	<u>80</u>
	<u>9,508</u>	<u>3,070</u>
LESS: EXPENDITURE		
Advertising	—	47
Bank charges	13	7
Bulletin — typing	918	327
— printing	850	641
— postage	160	126
— administration	50	—
Conference & travel	259	439
Depreciation — Note 1 (c)	37	46
Donations & subscriptions	201	355
General — printing and stationery	589	386
— postage and telephone.	398	219
Legal expenses	—	243
Miscellaneous	215	128
Petty cash	70	30
Rentals and storage	288	216
Social	98	125
Special project — tree planting	<u>40</u>	<u>—</u>
	<u>4,186</u>	<u>3,335</u>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR YEAR	<u>\$5,322</u>	<u>\$ (265)</u>

**TRADING ACCOUNT FOR SALE OF BOOKS BADGES
& T-SHIRTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1983**

	1983	1982
	\$	\$
Sales	<u>990</u>	<u>600</u>
Opening stock	218	65
Purchases	<u>1,060</u>	<u>528</u>
	1,278	593
Less: Closing stock	<u>309</u>	<u>218</u>
Cost of goods sold	<u>969</u>	<u>375</u>
SURPLUS ON SALE	\$ 21	\$ 225

**TRADING ACCOUNT FOR THE SALE OF THE FIELD
STUDY GUIDE TO NATIVE TREES IN THE A.C.T.
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1983**

	1983	1982
	\$	\$
Sales	2,430	
Grant received	<u>3,000</u>	
	<u>5,430</u>	
Purchases	7,246	
Less: Closing stock	<u>6,305</u>	
Cost of goods sold	<u>941</u>	
SURPLUS ON SALE	\$4,489	

**NOTES TO, AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1983**

Note 1: Accounting policies

- (a) The accompanying accounts have been prepared on the basis of the historical cost convention.
- (b) Non current assets have been valued at cost less accumulated depreciation.
- (c) Depreciation has, under the reducing balance method, been determined so as to allocate the costs of assets against the revenue for the period which approximates the effective working lives of those assets.
- (d) Stock on hand has been valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Note 2: The Association has been one of seven defendants facing a civil action by a third party for damages for libel in the district courts of New South Wales at Wollongong. As the seven year statute of limitation period was reached on 24 June 1983 the seven defendants and the plaintiff have mutually agreed to file for withdrawal of the case. Accordingly the contingent liability of \$20,000 which has been recorded in the financial statements of previous years is now not expected to arise.

Note 3: Unexpended Project Grants

	ORRORAL HOMESTEAD	ORRORAL CONSERVATION PLAN	ARCHAEOLOGICAL PLAN	PROMOTIONAL/ INFORMATION PLAN	TOTAL
Grant received	2,000	800	1,000	2,000	5,800
Expenditure	<u>188</u>	<u>405</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>1,093</u>
Unexpended Grant	<u>1,812</u>	<u>395</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>4,707</u>

PARK PERSONALITY PROFILES

MYLES DUNPHY – 'SOMETHING OF A NATURALIST'

It is unlikely that any individual has achieved more for conservation in N.S.W. than Myles Dunphy. Yet to many people today the name Dunphy is associated only with his son Milo, an architect of the burgeoning conservation movement in the 1960's. It would be reasonable to assume, however, that Milo's determination to protect the quality of the lives of ordinary Australians by repeatedly challenging 'developments' of dubious social value was inspired, as many people have been, by the example of his father.

Born in Melbourne on 19 October 1891, Myles Dunphy's earliest bush memories are of the Kiama district where his family moved when he was still very young. Intensely inquisitive, Myles possessed a copy of 'The Boys Own Book of Natural History' by the Reverend J.G. Wood, given him by his father. The family's sole other authority was 'Science for All', in several volumes and also bought by Myle's father. Thus it was that after hiking trips with other boys through the mountains of the Kiama district Myles was able to find explanations for the objects he found and of the features and changing nature of his unspoiled boyhood world. He and his little mates topped 'Bong Bong Mountain (Barren Grounds) to look over Jamberoo, and on the jungle like Dhouwalgha Mountain above Minnamurra Falls. He found fossilised wood boulders in the mouth of the Minnamurra River, found a small volcanic neck choked with scoria near the Blowhole; chiselled spirifer fossil shells from a headland cliff south of Kiama, cleaned and mounted the long, powerful beak of a dead albatross cast up on Kendall's Beach . . .'¹

When in 1907 the family moved to Sydney Myles was 16, and as the oldest of 6 children had to start work to support them. Myles now organised the Orizaba Cricket Club amongst the boys of North Annandale. More significantly the offshoot Orizaba Tourist Club soon arose with the novel object of conducting day walks beyond the outskirts of Sydney.

Humble as it seems, the formation of this little group was a milestone in the history of Australian conservation. For it is back to its members and their cause that the origins of the highly effective N.S.W. National Parks and Primitive Areas Council can be traced.

Typical ventures of the Orizaba Tourist Club would include walks from Manly to Newport and back, or to Maroubra Beach. It was the Blue Mountains, however, that really came to attract Myles and his friends. The 2½ week walks of 1912, 1913 and 1914, each in September/October when Myles took his annual vacation, were major adventures into largely uncharted country. In the diary of the 1914 trip Myles wrote:

'Turning east, we could see a large gap cutting into the plateau yonder. This would be the gorge of Box Creek, the mouth of which is only marked on the map. It is unsurveyed and officially unknown. We could see right up Box Creek Gorge. Its rugged beauty was a sight to see . . . At the head of the gorge we were astonished and surprised to see a most magnificent waterfall of four great leaps plunging down from the plateau level down into the gorge . . . Now we are virtually the discoverers of these falls — they are not charted.'²

By now Myles had embarked on evening classes in architecture and construction at the Sydney Technical College which with typical perseverance, was to lead to his registration as an architect in 1923 at the age of 32. With contacts from the college, family and work, Myles now set about forming a walking club more suited to his sense of adventure. In this way the Mountain Trails Club was formed in October 1914, with Bert Gallop (from Myle's Kiama days), Roy Rudder and Myles the core. Other young men to join at this time were George Matcheson, Raphael Doyle, Harold Peatfield, L. Roy Davies, Johan de Mol, Jack Cockerill, Fred McKenzie, John Griffiths and Alan Rigby.

It is interesting to observe the very different perspective people had on these activities at the time. The word 'bush-

walker', for instance, did not exist, and it was not until The Sydney Bushwalkers was formed in 1927 that the term had ever been heard. Furthermore, country tramping was generally based on roads, at least up till about 1920 when motor traffic began to force it off, with walkers staying in hotels and boarding houses at night. So while there were active walking groups in N.S.W. and Victoria before Myle's time, The Mountain Trails Club was a pioneer in its scope and aims.

The Club was quite an exclusive affair. 'Membership was by invitation only, and proposals for membership were subject to the veto of a single member at a secret ballot held after the nominee had been seen in action on three trips.'³

A major problem the group faced was gear. In the end Myles and Bert Gallop developed a standard sundowner swag, with swag roll and gunny bag, ground sheet and cape, towel shoulder pad, light belt-axe, nested billy cans and a few other details. The first rucksacks did not come into use until about 1927.

In 1916, aged 25, Myles became a part-time assistant teacher in building construction at Sydney Technical College, and six years later was appointed full time. When as a lecturer in Architecture he retired in 1963 he had been a Fellow of the Royal Australian Institute of Architecture for 12 years. Myles continued to receive recognition from the profession, being made a Life Fellow in 1970. But it was for services to conservation that he was awarded an OBE in 1977, aged 85, and it is to the most effective years of this service we now turn.

The first major public success Myles and his colleagues could claim was in 1932 with the reservation of an area north of Blackheath in the Blue Mountains, at the confluence of the Grose River and Govetts Leap Creek, an area known as Blue Gum Forest. Led this time by Alan Rigby the group engineered a new lease for a walnut planter and saved a magnificent stand of blue gum backed by 600 metres of sandstone cliffs and talus slopes. This stand is now incorporated in the Blue Mountains National Park.

On that occasion they had had the sympathetic ear of the N.S.W. Lands Department. Not so, unfortunately, in the case of the beautiful Couridjah Corridor, again in the Blue Mountains, a run of canyons from Picton Lakes to the Burragorang. It contained a 14 km long strip of forest ½ km wide, dominated by tall blue gums and giant iron barks, and was described as 'the only graded way into the mountains'⁴. The Mountain Trails Club had known about it since 1914, but when Myles approached the Forestry Commission some years later to have it declared a public reserve, the Commission responded by investigating its timber reserves, and the cutting it all out.

In 1932 came a happier development with far-reaching consequences for conservation in N.S.W. In response to proposals for a large national park in the Blue Mountains, Myles set up the National Parks and Primitive Areas Council, with representatives from the Sydney Bushwalkers, the Bush Tracks Club, the Coast and Mountain Walkers and the Mountain Trails Club. Myles became secretary, with 12 councillors in all. The body was no less than researcher, proposer and planner for the entire N.S.W. conservation reserve system, and was not superseded until the N.S.W. National Parks and Wildlife Service was set up in 1967 with the strong support of Premier W.J. McKell. In its 30-odd years of life the Council saw 14 parks officially established and initiated another 10, some of which have since been gazetted. These included Heathcote National Park (gazetted 1943 as Heathcote Primitive Area), Warrumbungle NP (1954), and more recently, Barrington Tops NP (1970), Werrikimbee NP (1977), Budawang NP (1978), and Deua NP (1979). But the Council's best work was securing Kosciusko NP (1944), and Blue Mountains NP (additions continuing, latest in 1978).

Myles commitment to the Blue Mountains makes the extensive reserve system there today almost a personal tribute. As early as 1922 he had drawn up a plan for a Blue Mountains NP, but it was not until 1931 that Surveyor-General

Mathews asked him to submit it. The Council at once secured a fortnight to put it in order, submitted it, and had it officially recognised. The plan divided the proposed park into 4 areas, with Myles seeing the establishment of the southern portion as the first important move. In the event, the first move came from the Department of Lands which in 1937 reserved a large area in the southern portion, ostensibly for the preservation of flora and fauna. When the Forestry Commission subsequently cut over this reserve, with the intention of planting it all to pine, there ensued a major public outcry. The fate of the areas was not finally settled until 1969 when it was included in Kanangra NP.

The declaration in 1959 of the Blue Mountains NP was the first major reserve arising from Dunphy's plans. It approximated his 'central division', with extensive additions later from his 'northern division'. Finally in 1978 the dedication of 160,000 ha from the 'southern division' linked the existing Blue Mountains NP (centre) with the Kanangra Boyd NP (south) and brought Dunphy's 1922 proposal closer to fulfilment.

Following a Dunphy trip into Kosciusko in the summer of 1930-31, the National Parks and Primitive Area Council (in 1935-36) exhibited plans at Farmers Gallery in Sydney for a Snowy-Indi Primitive Area. This was to consist of two adjoining areas, one in N.S.W. and one in Victoria. The story is now quite well known of how E.S. Clayton, head of a N.S.W. Government sub-committee on soil conservation persuaded Premier McKell and Lands Minister Tulley to come riding with him in the high country during one parliamentary recess, and thereby headed off plans to 'develop' the Snowy Plains. 'It was on that ride, we may well believe', writes W.K. Hancock, 'that the decision was taken forthwith to draft a bill to establish the Kosciusko State Park⁵. The Park was gazetted in 1944. It is quite likely, moreover, as Wills-Johnson speculates, that simply by having placed the idea of a Snowy-Indi Reserve before the N.S.W. public 10 years before, Dunphy had helped ensure there was enough public support to carry the day. It is sad to observe that more than 50 years after Dunphy's initial proposal and nearly 40 after N.S.W.'s action, Victoria has still not completed what could be one of the world's great temperate wilderness areas.

At the time of writing this item Myles Dunphy was over 91, and living in Oatley West, Sydney. In a letter to our Editor, Reg Alder on 30 May, 1982, Dunphy writes:—

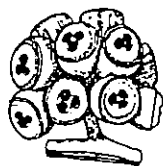
'I had been something of a naturalist, conservator, and mountain trailer or bushwalker' a true but modest summation of his remarkable contribution. Tragically Dunphy's eyesight deteriorated quickly in 1978-79, and as he explained in his letter to Reg, he had to write with the aid of a 40x short focus telescopic lens at 1½ inches from the paper. This loss he puts down to 'bad luck', which he would have us weigh against 'a bit of luck' he had when the optician made his new multiple lens.

No doubt the fortitude of the man is well known to those who have had the good fortune to be fellow walkers. To those of us who have not known him, however, his foresight and dedication to conservation and his decades of highly effective leadership will always be a source of great inspiration.

References

1. 'Australia's 100 Years of National Parks' N.S.W. NPWS p. 55.
2. 'Walk' 1978, Melbourne Bushwalkers. Article by Graham Wills-Johnson, p. 14.
3. As ref. 2, p. 14.
4. As ref. 1, p. 57.
5. 'Discovering Monaro', W.K. Hancock, Cambridge University Press, 1972, pp. 165-7.

Peter Martin



SMOKERS GAP SKI RUN

The Association has been very concerned that a lease was granted without public consultation or an Environmental Impact Statement to a private developer to construct a pilot ski run using artificial snow in bushland on the headwaters of Gibraltar Creek near Smokers Gap. Consultation and correspondence has been of no avail in halting the project.

Environmental Impact Statements are at the discretion of the Minister and in this instance one may only be required if the lease is extended beyond four years. Besides a flourishing stand of native timber being cut down and the ground surface manicured, water is required to make the artificial snow and this can only be drawn from the meagre supply of the headwater swamp of Gibraltar Creek. This could have serious consequences to the supply of water to the Gibraltar Falls and Woods Reserves as no limitations are placed on the amount which may be drawn off.

The lease only calls for water purity samples to be taken every three months and although the Building Code may place control on the effluents from the operation, no standards are laid down in the lease for their disposal.

There is a present limitation of 100 skiers on the site and parking for 80 cars. It is proposed in the next stage to make provision on the ski run for 1200 skiers which besides stripping another considerable area of bushland there will be on the same ratio a need for parking 1000 cars and major extensions to the service facilities. All of this must seriously intrude into the natural bush of the headwaters of Gibraltar Creek. Nothing has been said that the second stage will be the final one.

It is a mockery of the Act to allow developments of this nature and magnitude to proceed without proper prior investigation of all the consequences. We may have our own miniature Franklin Dam in the A.C.T. as future developments must surely require the damming of Gibraltar Creek and with it the devastation of the area and the diminution of its water to all the reserves down as far as the Cotter.

Three months pleasure – nine months of an eyesore in the scenic corridor to Corin Dam between the Gudgenby and Tidbinbilla Nature Reserves.

Reg Alder

ASSOCIATION RECEIVES HERITAGE GRANTS

The Association has received a grant of \$2,000 to be used towards offsetting the costs of disseminating information on the promotion of natural conservation issues.

The Committee would welcome the involvement of, and suggestions from, members in planning how to derive the maximum benefit from this grant. The approval of future grants will depend on the approach made by the Association in the use of this grant.

Based on a recommendation from the A.C.T. Heritage Committee, this is the first heritage and promotions project funded by the Community Development Fund.

In addition a grant of \$1,000 has also been received to carry out an archaeological survey of Orroral Homestead. The work is being carried out by professional archaeologists under contract to the Association.

SUMMER SCHOOL ON MOUNT KOSCIUSKO

The University of New England will be holding a 'Summer School on Mount Kosciusko', based at Jindabyne from January 22 – 27, 1984. There will be a follow-up programme to the course held early this year. The fee of \$140 covers all lectures, field trips and evening sessions, lunch and morning tea each day with bus trips on Wednesday and Friday. Accommodation is the responsibility of the student. More details are held by our Secretary.

FIELD GUIDE LAUNCHED

N.P.A.'s "Field Guide to the Native Trees of the A.C.T." was launched with a flair on 14 June, despite a last minute move indoors caused by bitterly cold and foggy weather.

About 100 people thawed with the help of television lights and a drop of red and white as Territories and Local Government Minister Tom Uren reminisced pleasantly about his gradual awakening to the virtues of native flora.

Tom Uren revealed himself to be an enthusiastic gardener with a considerable knowledge of trees. His confession about his conversion from exotic imports to native trees ensured that the launching attracted considerable local media attention.

Everyone agreed that the Field Guide was a very attractive and professional publication and a great credit to N.P.A., Chief Editor Sheila Kruse and her team of contributors.



The Minister for Territories and Local Government, The Hon. Tom Uren launching our Year of the Tree Field Guide to the Native Trees of the A.C.T. to a capacity audience at the Botanical Gardens. — Photo Reg Alder

COOLAMINE WORKSHOP

Way up in the high country near the headwaters of the Murrumbidgee is the Coolamine Plain, an area of relatively level grassland about 1250m above sea level. On the edge of this plain is Coolamine Homestead, the most significant historic site within the Kosciusko National Park. At the end of April, Denise Robin and Ross Carlton represented the N.P.A. of the A.C.T. at a 5-day workshop run by the N.S.W. N.P.W.S. at Yarrangobilly Caves House, the subject of which was Coolamine Homestead, its past, present and future.

The workshop came about because of the serious concern expressed in a number of quarters over the future of the buildings at Coolamine. Vandalism, added to the ravages of time and the weather have brought them to the point of near collapse. The Plan of Management for the KNP says of Coolamine, (Section 1.3.4)

"Short term stabilisation followed by restoration, maintenance and protection of the site must have priority . . . The Service, in consultation with technical experts, historic conservation bodies and community interest groups, will undertake a detailed management study of the Homestead to determine future management and to draw up the necessary technical specifications."

The workshop was the first part of this consultative process and brought together people from the local N.P.W.S. staff, other N.P.W.S. regions, the K.N.P. Advisory Committee, the School of Architecture of the University of N.S.W., the N.S.W. Heritage Council, the Heritage Commission, the National Trust, the Cooma Museum, the Kosciusko Huts Association and the N.P.A. of the A.C.T.

Delegates included architects, landscape architects, archaeologists, and traditional craftsmen (an axeman and a blacksmith).

The group lived at Caves House and travelled to Coolamine each day, a journey of about 45 minutes. The days were spent measuring, recording and photographing the details of the buildings and trying to establish how they were constructed, the soundness of their present condition and

Shiela's work as co-ordinator was recognised at the outset when President Neville Esau presented her with a colourful arrangement of flowers. As Tom Uren pointed out with a twinkle, they were mainly exotics.

Almost everyone who had contributed was at the launching. Babette Scougall, being overseas, missed it. So did botanist Laurie Adams, who was also overseas.

Sybil Story gathered together one of the world's best groups of sandwich makers, ensuring that when guests left they felt content and well fed.

So N.P.A.'s first venture into the world of commercial publishing (backed as it was by a Department of Territories Heritage Grant), had a fine start.

The Field Guide began selling extremely well, and copies are still available through Sheila Kruse or Canberra booksellers.

Geoff Robin

the best way to approach their preservation. Talks were held with Tom and Molly Taylor, the last permanent residents to see if their recollections could fill in some of the gaps in what is known of the buildings' history. In the evenings there was discussion of the day's findings and an attempt to work through from what was known and what had been learnt to what should be done. Differing philosophies of management emerged and discussion sometimes continued until after midnight. (Not much after, because that was when the lights went out.)

Briefly, the history of Coolamine is as follows. (For this I am indebted to Klaus Hueneke's book *Huts of the High Country*.) The Coolamine Plain was discovered by Terrence Aubrey Murray of Yarralumla in 1839. The first huts were built in the same year and from then on Murray's stock grazed the area every summer, being brought up from his squatting station in the Tumut area. By 1873 the run was in the hands of Leopold Fane de Salis of Cuppacumalong. De Salis built a hut which stood until the 1940s. In 1881 the run was purchased by Frederick Campbell of Duntroon and the McDonald family took up residence as tenants, building a homestead about half a mile from de Salis' hut. Campbell employed George Southwell as overseer at Coolamine and he and his wife and baby moved up to the plain in 1882. They built a homestead beside de Salis' hut. A cheese house was added in 1889. In the 1890s a bigger and more comfortable homestead was built so that the Campbells could spend a part of each summer there. There is some doubt as to whether this building was originally built on its present site beside Southwell's building or was brought there from another site. It is known that it was in its present position in 1907. In 1907 the Southwells were replaced by William and Sarah Taylor of Braidwood. In 1927 the property was bought by the Litchfield Brothers and the Taylors moved out but in 1934 their son Tom moved back with his new bride, Molly. In 1939 they moved to a more comfortable house at Curango, a few miles to the south, where they still live. The National Park was declared in 1944 but Coolamine remained a freehold enclosure until 1975. There has been

no permanent resident since 1939 but many people have camped in the buildings for short periods. Some of these have recognised their historic value and treated them with respect. Others have torn the paper off the walls to light their fires and have burned many of the wall slabs themselves.

Of the various buildings that have existed on the site at one time or another, four are left. The oldest of these is Southwell's Homestead. This was of slab construction, but the walls have gone. What is left is the fairly intact roof and the frame which leans precariously and is held up by guy wires. Vestiges of the wooden floor exist along with the partly collapsed stone fireplace with its iron chimney. During the workshop this fireplace was dismantled and some archaeological work carried out around its base (among the rabbit burrows). Investigation of the frame timbers revealed that very few can be saved. Restoration would require the use of new material for something like 70% of the building.

Beside Southwell's building is a smaller corrugated iron garage which was previously the kitchen. The original kitchen burned down in 1919 and was replaced by this structure. It is reasonably intact.

The main building of the complex is Campbell's Homestead which is still habitable. One wing has collapsed and the material has been removed. Only traces of this remain. The main part of the building consists of 5 rooms and 2 verandahs. It is of slab construction and is largely intact. It has, however, suffered serious damage and is beginning to collapse. Both the fireplaces are leaning outwards and are propped. The western wall has sagged and it too is propped. The floors are not longer sound.

The fourth building is the little cheese house. Again the roof is intact but the walls, of interlocking logs this time, have deteriorated and the structure is braced and propped.

As well as the buildings, the area contains numerous fences and stockyards whose condition varies from 'partly collapsed' to 'traces only remaining'.

Delegates to the workshop were impressed by the fact that this was not just a talkfest: it was a real, 'hands on' learning experience for everybody present. A degree of urgency was injected into the discussions by the very real fear, expressed by the Parks Service, that the buildings, particularly Southwells, might not survive another winter unless some immediate work was carried out.

What the Service sought from the delegates was advice on

- the approach they should adopt to the management of the site
- the amount of restoration which should be undertaken
- the uses to which the restored site should be put
- methods which should be used in any restoration
- priorities for work required for short term stabilisation.

Options for the future include

- stabilisation and management as a ruin
- restoration to habitable condition with continuing maintenance to permit use of the buildings by walkers and campers i.e. management on the same basis as the huts in the Park
- restoration to some earlier condition and management as a centre of interpretation for the architecture and history of the high country grazing.

At the time of writing the Parks Service has not stated its plans but if indications from the workshop are any guide they will favour the third option. This is a mammoth task and will require years of work and continuing commitment and financial support from the N.S.W. Government. Protection of the restored buildings in this remote area is a worry for which no real solution has yet been found. Whatever the outcome of their deliberations, the Parks Service deserves full marks for the workshop which was a great idea, well executed. It was a wonderful experience in itself and of tremendous relevance to the task this organisation has undertaken at Orroral. Our job is much smaller but so are our resources. All the questions, both philosophical and practical, raised at Coolamine must be answered for Orroral also.

Ross Carlton

HOW THE RAINFOREST WAS SAVED

When future generations look back on the history of the Australian conservation movement they might well see the years 1982 and 1983 as the turning point in its development. That distinction will rest on two achievements: the High Court ruling on the Franklin River dam and the New South Wales Government's decision to preserve 88,000 hectares of rainforest. What makes these achievements so important is not just the enormous value of the natural assets at stake, but that the battle for their preservation gathered support from all sectors of Australian society.

The pejorative labels attached to conservationists, "hysterical, illinformed, greenies, emotional, long-haired, unemployed," have clearly lost whatever impact they might once have had. The reality is that the conservation movement now has widespread support from Middle Australia and politicians and developers can only ignore it at their peril. The broadening of support has been due to a number of factors: the attainment of higher levels of education by an increasing proportion of the population, greater appreciation of things non-material, increased leisure time and the growth of political sophistication among the conservationists. But overriding all these is "the fact that nothing can stop an idea when its time has come."

That beautifully simple adage is quoted in the introduction to the Colong Committee's booklet, "How the Rainforest was Saved: The Inside Story of the 10 Year Battle." Amid the welter of glossy, superficial pictorial books on Australia's natural attractions, this simply produced, 48-page booklet stands out by making an important but rather complex story most compelling reading. As it moves through the conservationists' first initiatives, the biased inquiries and political stalemates, the plethora of reports and the violent demonstrations, the reader can only wonder that the battle was ever won. After losing so many in the past the eventual convincing victory takes a little getting used to.

If there was any luck involved, it was luck created by the conservationists. Or, as the booklet's introduction very neatly puts it: "The most frustrating aspect from the point of view of the enemy was that, despite winning most of the battles, they lost the war because of the growing public awareness of the need for the preservation of the rain-forest, the obstinate refusal of the 'greenies' to accept the decisions which went against them and the inability of the timber lobby to satisfactorily answer the claims of the conservationists."

To briefly summarise the story is difficult, there are so many interwoven strands. Suffice it here to highlight some of the aspects which best typify the battle.

In the beginning there were the sincere but abortive initiatives of local people like John Lever in the northern New South Wales border area to protect some small areas of rainforest in the 1950s and 1960s. Then came the small sparks that were to ignite a decade-long battle. "Late in 1972 a farmer named Richards, living at Barkers Vale on the southern edge of Wiangarie, asked his friend Russ Maslen of Mullumbimby if he could use his position as an Honorary Ranger to stop people shooting brush turkeys and stealing beech orchids in the rainforest behind his farm. Russ was intrigued how anyone could obtain large quantities of beech orchids (*Dendrobium falcorostrum*) which he, as an orchid fancier, knew only grew on the tall antarctic beech (*Nothofagus moorei*). So on a week-end of December, 1972, he and some friends visited the area and found the answer - the Forestry Commission had cut down the 2,000 year old trees because they were in the path of a new road! Aghast at wanton destruction, he organised another visit in mid-January, 1973 with John Brown, Vince Morris, Jim Gasteen and John Meek. Sitting on the Tweed Range escarpment they formed the Border Ranges Preservation Society and began to plan their now historic campaign."

Other local people and the timber interests were immediately hostile. "Feelings ran high in the predominantly timber towns of Murwillumbah, Kyogle and Casino. The timber lobby attacked the 'preservationists' for wanting to 'lock up' a vital renewable resource which provided employ-

ment, claiming ad nauseam that a multiple use forest was infinitely better than an unroaded National Park visited only by hardy bushwalkers. Foresters claiming expertise took every opportunity to denigrate the ignorant, misguided amateurs.

"The adequately financed public relations machine of the timber lobby deluged the media with releases full of glowing praise for the current forest policies. In May 1973, when the media campaign was at its height, the Forestry Commission achieved a coup by taking a large party of journalists and local government representatives on a fact-finding tour of Wiangarie State Forest thus winning strategic support."

The first Government inquiry gave a taste of things to come. "On his return from Wiangarie, Mason (the Minister for Forests) decided, however, to hold a closed inquiry into the future of the Border Ranges forests. At the Annual Conference of the Associated Country Sawmillers he announced that the members of the Government Parties Committee on Forests would be: Jim Brown, M.L.A. (Convenor), Country Party - Raleigh; Frank Duncan, M.L.A. (Lib.), owner of the sawmiller, Duncans Holdings; Bruce Duncan, M.L.A., Country Party - Lismore and relative of Frank Duncan; Kevin Rozzoli, M.L.A., Liberal - Hawkesbury, conservationist. Just in case the three to one weighting was insufficient to ensure the right result, the Secretary was the Minister's personal assistant and an outspoken critic of the voluntary conservation movement!

"With minimum publicity because the Committee didn't want any, the Secretary called for public submissions. The Colong Committee organised 30. Pointedly ignoring the C.S.I.R.O. Rainforest Ecology Unit in Brisbane, the Government Parties Committee sought advice from Dr Milton Moore, a grasslands expert from Canberra. During an inspection of the forest, members of the Committee argued against him when he recommended a five year moratorium on logging to enable research. Despite having spent several days in the presence of senior Forestry Commission officials, the Committee refused to see Sydney conservationists. It gave two members of the Border Ranges Preservation Society exactly one hour to state their case. In short, the Inquiry was a classic case of 'political symbolism'; its conclusion, favouring multiple use, i.e. continued logging, was never in doubt."

By 1978, "the rainforest issue had become the most contentious environmental issue in New South Wales." To defuse the contention before the State election of that year a political/environmental compromise was formulated with the declaration of the very narrow Border Ranges National Park that extended for 50 kilometres but averaged only two kilometres in width.

The following year the focus swung south to Terania Creek where protesters confronted the sawmillers, tied themselves to trees, drove steel spikes into logs and cut up trees. About 150 police were called in and 39 protesters were arrested. Alarmed by the massive publicity the confrontation received, the Wran Government fell back on the tried and true method - "when in doubt set up an inquiry." Conducted by a retired Supreme Court judge, Simon Isaacs, Q.C., it was the fifth inquiry into the northern New South Wales rainforests and like the previous four decided against the conservationists.

Meanwhile the publication of Helman, Jones, Pigram and Smith's "Wilderness in Australia" had brought the Washpool wilderness between Glen Innes and Grafton to the attention of conservationists and a new battlefield had opened. "The public awareness campaign for Washpool followed the same pattern as for the Border Ranges four years earlier. Celia Smith and the other courageous members of the newly-formed Clarence Valley Branch of the N.P.A. put the case for a national park locally while in Sydney, Milo Dunphy and Jeff Angel in the Total Environment Centre, N.P.A., The Colong Committee, National Trust and A.C.F. all cooperated in the production and distribution of pamphlets, posters and articles as well as arranging media tours, lobbying politicians and bureaucrats and addressing meetings."

But they didn't have it all their own way. "Led by Mrs

Patsy Evans, wife of the Manager of Duncan's Grafton Mill, a 270 strong anti-conservation group, calling itself LEAF (Ladies Environmental Awareness of Forests) was formed in Grafton. Adopting the tactics of the conservationists the group demonstrated outside Parliament House in Sydney and lobbied all politicians. Their message was that 'if M.P.s heeded the anti-logging propaganda of the preservationists, then the people of New South Wales could kiss goodbye to the entire logging industry on the North Coast.'"

By 1981 attention had swung back to the Goonimbar State Forest north of Nimbin which included part of the Terania Creek Basin. "The Far North Coast branch of the N.P.A. began pushing the Association's park proposal in mid 1981. They resumed pressure for the Nightcap National Park, dedicated by the Forestry Commission in 1937 but forgotten and largely logged during and after World War 11.

"By mid-1982, shocked by the devastation caused by logging in Griers Scrub and frustrated by the failure of Cabinet to announce a policy on rainforest, about 100 locals formed the Nightcap Action Group (N.A.G.) and began a campaign of harassment in the forest and Murwillumbah.

"Through August and September the protests were non-violent obstruction such as blocking roads with vehicles and rocks and putting 'Araldite' in locks. For various reasons the logging contractors were forced to camp beside their bulldozers.

"The adrenalin flowed, assaults took place and shots were fired. Police were constantly in attendance and arrests took place - first 2, then 7, then 13, then 32."

In September, 1982, Mr Murray Wilcox, Q.C., obtained an injunction from Mr Justice Cripps in the Land and Environment Court in Sydney. "The case was heard over four and a half days between 7th and 13th October. Judgement was given on 22nd October, Mr Justice Cripps finding against the Forestry Commission. He ruled that an Environmental Impact Study is a necessary prerequisite of logging where there is likely to be a significant effect on the environment. Mr Justice Cripps was quick to grasp the points at issue and prevent time-wasting legalistic nonsense which turned the Terania Creek Inquiry into such a fiasco."

With statewide opinion poll showing 69 per cent of people supporting rainforest preservation, the final decisive move in the 10 year struggle was made on Tuesday, October 26, 1982, when State Cabinet held an all-day meeting to decide on the Border Ranges, Washpool, Nightcap and Hastings River rainforests. "All the evening T.V. and radio news bulletins then headlined the Government's decision to preserve most of the remaining rainforest. So loud and long had been the conservationists' attack on the Government's indefensible 1978 decision to log Grady's Creek that it was the first area mentioned by the Premier in his T.V. interview.

"The Border Ranges National Park would now include the whole of Wiangarie, Roseberry and part of Mt Lindesay State Forest (virtually the 1975 Colong Committee proposal), with Grady's Creek unlogged. The Murray Scrub would become a Forestry Commission Flora Reserve. Washpool would become a national park except for 20 per cent on the northern section. The Black Scrub would be added to the New England National Park and part of the Never Never State Forest would be added to Dorrigo National Park. The Forbes River catchment would be added to Werrikimbe National Park. Nightcap National Park would include Terania Creek and Goonimbar State Forest. Barrington Tops National Park additions were to be studied for two months.

"Thus 93 per cent (88,000 hectares) of the list of seven not negotiable areas given to the Cabinet Rainforest Committee by the conservationists at the meeting on May 20 were to be protected - all in National Parks except the 500 hectares of Murray Scrub, which would become a Forestry Commission flora reserve."

The decisions predictably brought strong reactions: those who had condescendingly derided the conservationists as being an unrepresentative minority were stunned by the massive victory that "minority" had won. They were forced

to realise that the conservation cause was a force to be reckoned with, not cursorily dismissed. Exasperation came from the Leader of the National Country Party, Mr Leon Punch: "The greenies have taken over the government;" bitterness from the radio talkback superstar, John Laws: "A plague on the house of the greenies." But the conservationists in a sincere and politically astute gesture placed a large advertisement in the Sydney Morning Herald which said "Thank you for the rainforest" to the Premier and Deputy Premier.

As with all the other writing in the Colong Committee's most impressive little booklet, the concluding paragraphs are perceptive and lucid. "It is the essence of democracy that Governments do what the people want. The conservation movement made it very clear exactly what the people

wanted. Not until this was clear to the majority of Labor parliamentarians, after 10 years of campaigning by the conservationists, was Neville Wran able to overcome the development faction within the Labor ranks.

"By stimulating public awareness of the rainforest issue, the voluntary conservation movement provided the climate whereby the Wran Labor Government was able to do what was environmentally desirable as well as what was politically expedient."

HOW THE RAINFOREST WAS SAVED – the inside story of the ten year battle – The Colong Committee, 18 Argyle Street, Sydney, N.S.W. 2000 – \$5.00 posted.

Stephen Johnston

*The President and Committee
wish all members*

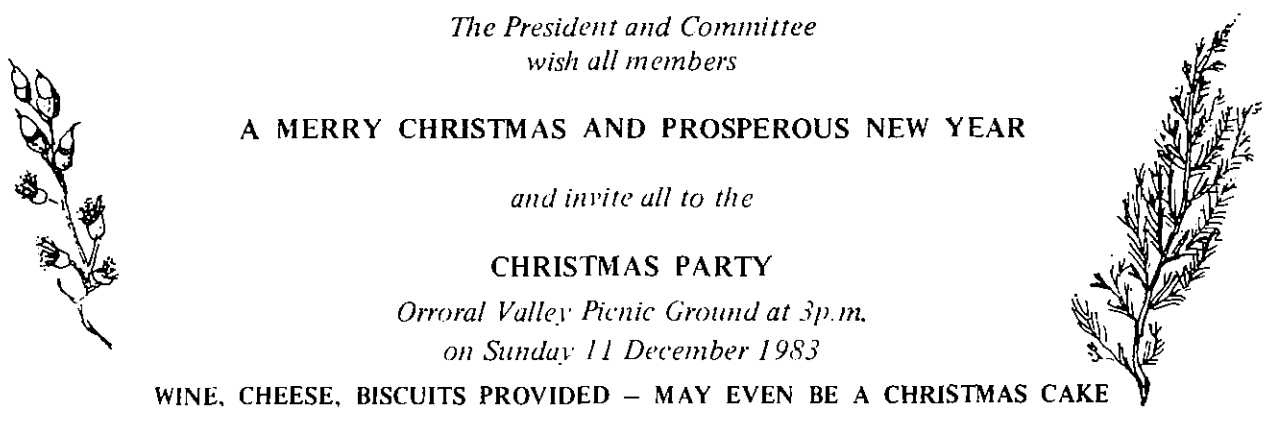
A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

and invite all to the

CHRISTMAS PARTY

*Orroral Valley Picnic Ground at 3p.m.
on Sunday 11 December 1983*

**WINE, CHEESE, BISCUITS PROVIDED – MAY EVEN BE A CHRISTMAS CAKE
BRING AN EVENING MEAL**




Edrom Lodge, Twofold Bay where National Parkers spent an enjoyable three days over the Anzac Day Weekend. – Photo Babette Scougall

EDROM LODGE REVISITED

Thirty-four souls retreated to the tranquility of Edrom Lodge on the southern shores of Twofold Bay over the Anzac weekend. The Man with the Scissors cut a hole in the clouds and the sun shone through upon us, while heavy rain was falling all around.

Most had arrived by afternoon tea time on Saturday, some showing signs of having paused at the Nimmitabel Bakery on the way. The remainder of the day was spent settling in and exploring the local bush tracks and beaches. After dinner a roaring fire caused paralysis in some while others, coming in from the moonlit verandah, discovered a latent talent for indoor bowls.

Over breakfast next morning on the front verandah plans for the day were tossed to and fro and finally one group packed lunch and prepared to conquer Mt. Imlay, while a second group set off towards Green Cape Lighthouse and Bittangabee Bay. Having satisfactorily disposed of the milling throng our intrepid leader was free to stroll in peace along the sand, and swim in the smooth green waters of Edrom's own private beach.

On Sunday night we gazed transfixed at beautiful slides of the Kimberley's (Ian Currie), as well as an excellent

collection centred on the nearby Quaroburagun Pinnacles shown by new member Cecily Dunstall. Following this we all sat around the fire and sang loudly and tunelessly for some considerable time before tottering off to bed.

Monday dawned clear yet again and the view across the Bay continued to cast its spell. However by 11.30 everyone had had a turn at chasing a mop, broom or vacuum cleaner around the house and the kitchen was again spotless. Very soon afterwards all but seven of the thirty-four had departed.

It is accepted practice to climb into cars and depart when all is packed and the house is clean and still, but the remaining seven found the lure of Edrom too strong and opted for a last swim or stroll before leaving. A leisurely trip home, taking in the Pinnacles, followed by a picnic lunch in Ben Boyd National Park and pancakes at Bredbo completed the weekend.

The social intercourse which is possible in a houseparty situation, the spell cast by the perfect setting beside the Bay with the Blue mountains in the distance and the magnificent Scottish baronial mansion which is Edrom Lodge all combined to make this one of the most enjoyable N.P.A. weekends.

Jenny Cusbert

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 FOUR cents per kilometre (calculation to nearest dollar) be offered to the driver by each passenger accepting transportation. Drive distances quoted from the meeting point, for one way only, are approximate and for guidance only. Walk distances shown are total.

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 officer bearers and appointed leaders are absolved from any liability in respect of any injury or damage suffered whilst engaged on any such outing.

SEPTEMBER 4 SUNDAY WALK

Sams Creek Ref: Yaouk 1:25,000 Leader: Frank Clements 317005
Meet: Kambah Village Shops 8.00a.m. 20 km walk from Boboyan Pine Forest through saddle to Sams Creek, possibly circling Mt Gudgenby on way back. 50 km drive.

SEPTEMBER 4 SUNDAY WALK

Lake George Ref: A.C.T. 1:100,000 Leader: Betty Campbell 811771
Meet: In Bungendore at Braidwood turnoff 10.30a.m. 6-8 km walk on the shores of Lake George. The aboriginal name of Wee-ree-waa was changed to Lake George for King George IV when Governor Macquarie visited the area in 1820. It was full at that time and again in 1874. Water lapped the Federal Highway in 1962. Come and see what has happened since recent rains. Should be some birds. 40 km drive.

SEPTEMBER 7 WEDNESDAY MID WEEK WALK

Black Mountain Ref: Canberra UBD Leader: George Chippendale 812454
Meet: Belconnen Way entrance 9.30a.m. Ramble to see flowers in the morning. If you would like to bring lunch, some of the party plans to extend the walk after the nature ramble.

SEPTEMBER 11 SUNDAY WALK

Caloola to Brandy Flat Hut Ref: A.C.T. 1:100,000 Leader: Hela Lindermann 515917
Meet: Kambah Village Shops 8.30a.m. Drive to Caloola Farm then walk on the new fire trail to Brandy Flat Hut. Boil the billy for lunch. Return on same route; easy stages; 14 km walk, 30 km drive.

SEPTEMBER 10/11 WEEKEND PACK WALK

Brogro River Ref: Cobargo 1:100,000 Leader: Phil Gatenby 815236
A medium hard walk in the Kybeyan Range east of Cooma. Contact leader. 160 km drive.

SEPTEMBER 17 SATURDAY NATURE RAMBLE

Black Mountain Ref: Canberra UBD Leader: George Chippendale 812454
Meet: Belconnen Way entrance 9.30a.m. Morning ramble to see the flowers, for those aged 4 to 80. Bring morning tea. Finishes 12.00.

SEPTEMBER 18 SUNDAY WALK

Tidbinbilla Peak Ref: Tidbinbilla 1:25,000 Leader: Fiona Brand 479538
Meet: Cotter Road, Eucumbene Drive, Duffy 8.30a.m. Climb the fire trail from beyond the Koala enclosure, then scramble through scrub to the Peak, 14 km walk and 25 km drive.

SEPTEMBER 24 SATURDAY TREE MAINTENANCE PARTY

Glendale Crossing Ref: A.C.T. 1:100,000 Leader: Charles Hill 958924
Please phone the leader for details of this working party to check on the trees planted by members as one of our Year of the Tree projects.

SEPTEMBER 25 SUNDAY DRIVE AND RAMBLE

Bundanoon Ref: Moss Vale 1:100,000 Leader: Ian Currie 958113
We know it's 160 km to Bundanoon, but you'll find the flowers worth viewing – boronia especially. Please contact the leader.

SEPTEMBER 25 SUNDAY WALK

Naas Creek Ref: A.C.T. 1:100,000 Leader: Les Pyke 812982
Meet: Kambah Village Shops 8.30a.m. The Mt Clear homestead has been demolished and a camping area has been established near that site. This is an easy 14 km walk in the river valley with some fire trails open grasslands, creek crossings and minor climbs. 60 km drive.

OCTOBER 1/2/3 LONG WEEKEND SNOW CRAFTS

Kosciusko National Park Leader: Pieter Arriens 887977
Please contact the leader for details of this weekend, to be held in conjunction with the Kosciusko Huts Association. Build igloos and cross-country ski on "some accessible peak."

OCTOBER 1/2/3 LONG WEEKEND PACK WALK

Woila Ref: Badja 1:25,000 Leader: Phil Gatenby 815236
Contact leader for details of this hard walk – no tracks, some climbing. 140 km drive.

OCTOBER 1/2/3 LONG WEEKEND CAR CAMP

Kiandra Area Ref: Yarrangobilly 1:100,000 Leader: Ian Currie 958112
Please contact leader for details of this camp. Camp road leads from near 3 mile dam to 'Ravine' on Lick Hole Gully.

OCTOBER 5 WEDNESDAY MID WEEK WALK

Billy Billy Rocks Ref: Corin Dam 1:25,000 Leader: Charles Hill 958924
Meet: Kambah Village Shops 8.30a.m. Look at Smokers Gap trial ski run. Walk without tracks to Billy Billy Rocks – 6 km with 200 m climb. Some forest litter and rocks not difficult. Spectacular granite for good views. 40 km drive.

OCTOBER 8 FIRE TRAIL REHABILITATION PROJECT

Gudgenby Nature Reserve Leader: Neville Esau 864176
Volunteers are needed to help rehabilitate some of the fire trails constructed during the January fires. Only light work – seeding is required, although a walk into the site is involved. Please contact the leader and help maintain the values of the Reserve.

OCTOBER 9 SUNDAY NATURE WALK

Brindabella Range Ref: A.C.T. 1:100,000 Leader: Kim Pullen 465829 (w)
Meet: Cotter Road – Eucumbene Drive, Duffy 9.00a.m. Nature walk to observe insects. Bring magnifying glass etc. and lunch. The leader is an entomologist at C.S.I.R.O. Actual location to be determined closer to the outing.

OCTOBER 16 SUNDAY WALK

Pierce's Creek Falls

Ref: Cotter Dam 1:25,000

Leader: Lyle Mark 816985

Meet: Eucumbene Drive -- Cotter Road 8.30a.m. 12 km medium walk at easy pace via Hardy Range, suitable for beginners, mainly on fire trails and walking tracks with a short steep descent and climb out 15 km drive.

OCTOBER 22 SATURDAY BOTANIC GARDENS TOUR

Botanic Gardens

Ref: Canberra UBD

Leader: Rangers

Meet: 10a.m. Car Park Notice Board. This guided tour as a follow-up to the talk given at the October meeting by Dr Robert Boden, Director, National Botanic Gardens. Bring lunch and enjoy the Gardens in spring time. Tour should last approx. 2 hours.

OCTOBER 23 SUNDAY WALK

New Yankee Hat

Ref: Rendezvous Creek 1:25,000

Leader: Charles Hill 958924

Meet: Kambah Village Shops 8.30a.m. See the burnt Boboyan Pines and regeneration in the native forest. 12 km walk mostly without tracks, 550 m climb up ridge. Then drop off ridge to return via Bogong Creek. Very good views of Gudgenby Nature Reserve. Some burnt scrub and rock scrambling. 50 km drive.

OCTOBER 29 SATURDAY FIRE TRAIL REHABILITATION PROJECT

Gudgenby Nature Reserve

Leader: Fiona Brand 479528

Volunteers are required to help rehabilitate the more accessible parts of a number of fire trails constructed during the January fires. Light work -- seeding. Please help preserve the values of the Reserve. Contact Leader for details.

OCTOBER 30 SUNDAY WALK

Orroral Valley

Ref: Rendezvous Creek 1:25,000

Leader: Neville Esau 864176

Meet: Kambah Village Shops 9.30a.m. An easy walk up the Orroral Valley. Open creek, grazing areas and fire trails, with lunch at a treed river glade. 40 km drive.

OCTOBER 30 SUNDAY WALK

Upper Blue Gum Creek

Ref: Corin Dam 1:25,000

Leader: Lin Richardson 415498

Meet: Kambah Village Shops 9.00a.m. This walk is about 14 km long, from the Corin Dam Road to Blue Gum Creek. Mixed open and timber, off tracks, with some climbing involved.

NOVEMBER 2 WEDNESDAY MID WEEK WALK

Red Rocks

Ref: A.C.T. 1:100,000

Leader: Olive Buckman 488774

Meet: Kambah Village Shops at 9.30a.m. About 8 km walk on the banks of the Murrumbidgee from Kambah Pool upstream to the steep river rock wall. 5 km drive.

NOVEMBER 6 SUNDAY WALK

Pierce's Creek

Ref: Cotter 1:25,000

Leader: Betty Campbell 811771

Meet: Cotter Kiosk 10.30a.m. Pleasant walk of 6-8 km along the creek. Bring your Field Guide to Native Trees, as well as binoculars and bird books. 10 km drive.

NOVEMBER 5/6 CAR CAMP AND WALKS

Major's Creek

Ref: Araluen 1:50,000

Leader: Bob Story 812174

Camp on a property near Major's Creek with walks into the hills above. Contact leader for details. 100 km drive.

NOVEMBER 13 SUNDAY WORKING PARTY

Orroral Homestead

Ref: Rendezvous Creek 1:25,000

Leader: Ross Carlton 863892

Jobs for all, bring gloves, tools and lunch to the homestead. Billy tea provided. All welcome.

NOVEMBER 19/20 WEEKEND PACK WALK

Rock Flats

Ref: Rendezvous Creek 1:25,000

Leader: Reg Alder 542240

A scenic walk in the Gudgenby Reserve from Orroral Valley over to Rendezvous Creek and up to the Rock Flats. 18 kms return with 50 km drive.

NOVEMBER 20 SUNDAY FAMILY OUTING

Hospital Creek Waterfall

Ref: Yaouk 1:25,000

Leader: Norm Morrison 821734

Meet: Kambah Village Shops 10.00a.m. An 8-10 km circular walk from the carpark at Boboyan Pine Forest: on forest roads and across open grassland to the waterfall. Return across the grassland to the old Boboyan Road. 50 km drive.

NOVEMBER 26 SATURDAY TREE MAINTENANCE PARTY

Glendale Crossing

Ref: A.C.T. 1:100,000

Leader: Charles Hill 958924

Another working party to check our trees -- weed removal, repair of enclosures etc. Contact leader for program detail.

NOVEMBER 27 SUNDAY WALK

Baroomba Rocks

Ref: A.C.T. 1:100,000

Leader: Ross Carlton 863892

Meet: Kambah Village Shops 9.00a.m. An 8 km return walk from Honeysuckle Creek tracking station to Baroomba Rocks. A 300 m climb -- you may see some climbers on the rocks. 32 km drive.

NOVEMBER 27 SUNDAY WALK

Gudgenby Ridge

Ref: Yaouk 1:25,000

Leader: Frank Clements 317005

Meet: Kambah Village Shops 8.00a.m. Hard, 20 km walk to explore the peak, map reference 715.418, north west of Mt Gudgenby. Steep, 700 m climb through scrub. 50 km drive.

DECEMBER 4 SUNDAY WALK

Mt Ginini -- Gingera

Ref: Corin Dam 1:25,000

Leader: Glyn Lewis 956937

Meet: Eucumbene Drive -- Cotter Road 8.30a.m. 14 km walk through open country and on fire trails from Ginini to Gingera to see the Bogong moths at their aestivation sites in narrow rock crevasses. 50 km drive.

DECEMBER 4/5 WEEKEND PACK WALK

Belowra Creek

Ref: Wadulla 1:100,000

Leader: Phil Gatenby 815236

Medium-hard walk in the Yadboro area. Swimming. Contact leader. 150 km drive.

DECEMBER 7 WEDNESDAY MID WEEK WALK

Swamp Creek, Uriarra Crossing

Ref: A.C.T. 1:100,000

Leader: Charles Hill 958924

Meet: Cotter Road -- Stretton Drive 9.30a.m. Easy walk up Swamp Creek to attractive pool. Grass and shade. Bring lunch and swim togs. 20 km drive.

DECEMBER 11 SUNDAY CHRISTMAS PARTY

Orroral Valley Picnic Area

See details elsewhere in Bulletin.

NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY INC.
Inaugurated 1960

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DEADLINE DATES for NPA Bulletin contributions: 15 July, 15 October, 15 December, 15 April

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 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 A.C.T.

OUTINGS SUMMARY

September	4	Sunday	Sam's Creek	Walk	
	4	Sunday	Lake George	Walk	
	7	Wednesday	Black Mountain	Ramble and Walk	
	11	Sunday	Brandy Flat Hut	Walk	
	10/11	Weekend	Brogo River	Pack Walk	
	17	Saturday	Black Mountain	Nature Ramble	
	18	Sunday	Tidbinbilla Peak	Walk	
	24	Saturday	Glendale Crossing	Tree Maintenance	
	25	Sunday	Bundanoon	Drive and Ramble	
	25	Sunday	Naas Creek	Walk	
	October	1/2/3	Long Weekend	Kosciusko Park	Snow Crafts
		1/2/3	Long Weekend	Woila	Pack Walk
		1/2/3	Long Weekend	Kiandra	Camp
		5	Wednesday	Billy Billy Rocks	Walk
8		Saturday	Gudgenby	Fire Trails	
9		Sunday	Brindabellas	Nature Walk	
16		Sunday	Pierce's Creek Falls	Walk	
22		Saturday	Botanic Gardens	Tour	
23		Sunday	New Yankee Hat	Walk	
29		Saturday	Gudgenby	Fire Trails	
30		Sunday	Orroral Valley	Walk	
30		Sunday	Upper Blue Gum Creek	Walk	
November		2	Wednesday	Red Rocks	Walk
		6	Sunday	Pierce's Creek	Walk
	5/6	Weekend	Major's Creek	Camp/Walk	
	13	Sunday	Orroral Homestead	Working Party	
	19/20	Weekend	Rock Flats	Pack Walk	
	20	Sunday	Hospital Creek Waterfall	Family Outing	
	26	Saturday	Gudgenby	Tree Maintenance	
	27	Sunday	Baroomba Rocks	Walk	
	27	Sunday	Gudgenby Ridge	Walk	
	December	4	Sunday	Mt Gingera	Walk
4/5		Weekend	Belowra Creek	Pack Walk	
7		Wednesday	Swamp Creek	Walk	
11		Sunday	Orroral	Christmas Party	

GENERAL MEETINGS

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

- SEPTEMBER – Thursday 15 1983.
 Brian Lee, N.P.A. member.
 Subject: National Parks—Lookout, viewpoint, keep to the track.
- OCTOBER – Thursday 20 1983.
 Dr Robert Boden, Director, National Botanic Gardens.
 Subject: The role of Botanic Gardens in endangered plant conservation.
- NOVEMBER – Thursday 17 1983
 Wildlife Film Night.
 The Echidna
 The Mallee Fowl
 The Penguins of Macquarie Island.
 (Films by courtesy of C.S.I.R.O. Film Centre).