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PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD

On a recent tour to the Gudgenby Nature Reserve with the Minister for Territories and Local Government, accompanied by Departmental officers, we were pleased to have support for the aims of the Association for conservation plans in the area.

We, as an Association, should be involved with planning for the management of the Reserve and have proposed that a committee be formed so that our views on various issues may be made known to the authorities before decisions are made.

As this calendar year is almost gone, I take this opportunity to wish you all a most enjoyable Christmas period and hope that many of you will be present at the N.P.A. Christmas Party to see old friends and welcome new ones.

THE ORIGINS OF AUSTRALIAN BIRDS

At the General Meeting on 19th May 1983 Dr Richard Schodde of the C.S.I.R.O. Division of Wildlife Research gave a talk on the origins of our birds and where they came from. Dr Schodde is a systematist of world wide repute. He is also an accomplished field naturalist and a prolific author. Two of his works that have recently appeared are monographs of the Fairy Wrens and of Australian nocturnal birds, both works of outstanding merit. He has had a long association with the N.P.A. dating back to 1960.

Seeking to answer the question of where do our birds come from Dr. Schodde said that although 20 years ago it was thought that we know, nowadays we are not so sure. Australia has a rich avifauna with about 700 species of which some 550 breed here. This compares with about 600 in northern Asia. If the related New Guinea avifauna is added it brings the total to 1500 of which 1200 breed in the area. Only South America has a larger number of bird species.

Dr Schodde then went through the principal families of birds which are either unique to the Australian New Guinea region or are especially rich there and illustrated his remarks with actual bird skins to show the closely related forms that occur in Australia and New Guinea. These include the Megapodes, the mound builders which construct their own artificial incubators and which replace some of the game birds of other regions. There was a great wealth of pigeons and, especially, of parrots. There were 12 species of mainly parasitic cuckoos compared with only one species in Europe and Frogmouths, Owls and many Kingfishers. Dr Schodde showed how our familiar Kookaburra was replaced in northern Australia and lowland New Guinea by the more brightly coloured blue winged species and in the forests of New Guinea by the remarkable Shovel-billed Kingfisher.

These are all non-passerine birds, that is birds which lack well developed songs. It is bird song which enables a species to stake out and maintain a territory with the least possible effort. The passerines, the song birds, are more successful just because of their song capacity and they have been able to diversify into more species than other orders today.

The special groups of Australian passerines include whistlers and blue malurine wrens, the very wide spread and dominant honey-eaters, and the remarkable Bower Birds and Birds of Paradise, the males of which build bowers or have elaborate displays to attract females. In passing Dr Schodde illustrated how modern research had upset many previously held beliefs. For instance it used to be thought that groups of Blue Wrens comprised an adult male and some of his harem of brown females. It is now known that each group held no more than one female, the remaining brown birds being males subordinate and 'eclipsed' by the leading coloured bird.

How did our peculiar birds originate? Dr Schodde said that up to 20 years or so ago it was assumed that Australia had been an ornithological vacuum populated with birds

arriving mainly from Asia in waves. Local forms were thought to be largely derived from Old World families. This assumption had been invalidated among other things by the evidence of Continental Drift. The continents have not been in the places which they now occupy, having moved across the surface of the earth over millions of years. Australia, India, Africa, South America and Antarctica had originally comprised a vast southern land mass known as Gondwanaland. These areas had now drifted apart. The impact of India on northern Asia had produced the great uplifting of the Himalayas. Australia and Antarctica had been the last portions of Gondwanaland to separate.

Continental drift had profound implications for the origins of birds. Other pertinent discoveries related firstly to the distribution of flora and secondly to molecular investigations to determine genetic similarities between bird species. The rich Antarctic Beech forests of the New Guinea mountains were closely related to the fossil Antarctic Beeches of Australia as well as to the remnant beeches which still survive in southern and eastern Australia. Rain forests originally dominated the whole Australia-New Guinea region. Eucalypts are a much more modern development dating back to the desertification of Australia which began about 15 million years ago. Fossil remains show that this dessication eliminated a large proportion of the bird species once living in Australia.

Molecular studies by the American Professor Sibley have also upset all previously postulated relationships. Our peculiar Australian groups are now known to be much more closely related to each other and to crows than they are to Old World groups. The various species seem to have developed by a process of 'core radiation' from largely Australian stocks. The same thing has happened with marsupials.

Because birds are very mobile there has, of course been some colonisation of the Australia-New Guinea area by Asian bird families such as the Coucals but the general conclusion of modern research is in the direction of believing that most Australian bird families have developed on their own.

In conclusion Dr Schodde answered a number of questions. He described Wallace's Line between Lombok and Bali as marking the edge of the Australia-New Guinea influence. The question of the life expectancy of birds was raised. Dr Schodde said that much remained to be learned but ringing had shown that quite small birds could have considerable life spans, for instance up to 10 years in the case of Blue Wrens. The Brown Falcon was a peculiar long-legged, short-toed member of its group but it was not yet known whether this meant it was a primitive and unchanged form or whether it had developed its peculiarities to suit changes in the environment.

Ross Carlton proposed a vote of thanks to Dr Schodde for his very interesting and informative talk and this was carried with acclamation.

Alastair Morrison

MINISTER VISITS GUDGENBY NATURE RESERVE

The Minister for Territories and Local Government, Mr Tom Uren, has long been recognised as an ardent conservationist and so it was with high expectations that the Gudgenby Sub-committee arranged to show him at first hand some of our concerns in Gudgenby Nature Reserve, with the hope of enlisting his support for instigating some official action.

Mr Uren met our party at 9am on 31 August at the Glendale Ranger Station. After a bitterly cold and wet spell, the day started brisk and clear, with bright sunshine picking out the snow on Mount Kelly and distant peaks and glistening on the wet granite and the flows of water cascading down all the valleys.

There were six N.P.A. representatives — Ian Currie, Neville Esau, Frank Clements, Bob Story, Garth Abercrombie and myself. The Minister was accompanied by staff members John Thwaites, Frank Muller and Denis Atkins and the Government Officials included the Secretary of the Department of Territories and Local Government, John Enfield, the Director of the Conservation and Agriculture Branch, Dr Bryan Pratt, the Assistant Director, Frank Gnauck and the Reserve Biologist, Dave Kerr. Also present were the Reserve Manager, Peter Hahn, and the three rangers Rob Watchorn, Pauline Evans and Bill Martin. We were also joined by officials from the Department's Lands Division, the Forests Branch and the NCDC.

Before starting off, the N.P.A. deputation outlined, with the aid of a map prepared by Neville and Frank, some of our hopes for the future of the Reserve — the inclusion of the Upper Cotter Catchment into the Reserve, the acquisition of the remaining freehold enclaves and the incorporation of the areas now under grazing leases and the Boboyan pine plantation into the Reserve.

The Minister was emphatic about his desire to have the Upper Cotter Catchment included in GNR, making it a major national park, to be called a "National Park", and linking in with the Kosciusko and the proposed Brindabella National Parks. He gave the time-frame as "within the term of this Parliament" and asked his departmental officers to prepare submissions on the proposal for his consideration.

The morning gave us plenty of time to express our points of view to the Minister and to the various officials. Mr Uren appeared sympathetic to all of our requests, in concept if not necessarily committing himself to our sense of urgency. At the time of writing (October 6, 1983), we are still waiting to see what positive action comes out of the discussions.

The most encouraging part was that we were told informally that N.P.A.'s proposals for the establishment of a Gudgenby Advisory Committee had been supported within the Department. Precise details of how such a committee would be set up and would operate apparently are being worked out within the Conservation and Agriculture Branch of Department of Territories and Local Government. It is N.P.A.'s view that the committee, comprised of representatives of user groups and the various authorities involved in the management of Gudgenby, would be able to come to grips with many of the issues concerning the well-being of the Reserve and, of course, we are confident of representation on the committee.

The Minister's tour took us around the Boboyan pine plantation, the Gudgenby valley, the tree-planting project at Glendale, the Orroral Valley and the Orroral Homestead where the Minister took great interest in the archaeological trenches and the stabilisation work that has been done to date.

Over an early lunch around a campfire at Orroral Camping Ground we were able to talk more convivially. Some other N.P.A. members — Sheila Kruse, Bill and Phyllis

Adams and Cynthia Hook — joined us there after helping to arrange a delicious 'ploughman's lunch' complete with billy-tea.

After the Ministerial party left, we did a brisk walk up to inspect the restoration work on the Nursery Swamp fire-trail and agreed with the officials that the morning had been profitably and enjoyably spent.

Denise Robin



The nicest drink Tom Uren would agree, is a well made cup of N.P.A. tea. Denise Robin, our Vice President, saw that the billy had fully boiled and was swung and tapped in the traditional fashion.

— Photo Canberra Times

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

As a leader of a recent outing the responsibilities of a leader were in my mind for many weeks as I walked the proposed route, thought about rest sites and walk times, rang the ranger about a recent snow fall and answered phone enquiries from present and intending members.

During the actual outing I was several times made to realise that some N.P.A. members did not know or understand their responsibilities as members of a group.

Despite their choice of joining an organised group as against walking privately they moved off from rest sites when they were rested, needless of the needs of others and the leader's decision. Upon returning to the starting point where the cars were, they left without waiting for the leader to check that all members of the large day's outing (29) were safely back. Fortunately other members on the outing were outstanding in their help by taking the fast walkers ahead or staying with the slower walkers.

Bushwalking is a wonderful leisure time activity but unless 'the led' realise their responsibilities to each other, the activity will become one of stress to the leader instead of pleasure and lead to a decline in members willing to lead.

Fiona Brand

SOME THOUGHTS ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT

After the success of the rainforest preservation campaign in New South Wales and the spectacular campaign to stop the Gordon-Below-Franklin Dam in Southwest Tasmania (resulting, at the time of writing, in the Hawke Labor Government's championship of the issue), it is an appropriate time for environmentalists in Australia to reflect upon the future of the environmental cause. In this article, I wish to stimulate such reflection by setting recent events within the historical perspective of the environmental movement in Australia.

Some people would contest the statement that there is an environmental movement – preferring to call themselves “conservationists” or “greenies”, and pointing out the wide range of subjects covered by so-called “environmental” organisations. *The Green Pages*, the Directory of Voluntary Environmental Groups published by the Australian Conservation Foundation, lists groups whose primary interests encompass nature conservation, field naturalist activities, bushwalking, the establishment of national parks, wilderness preservation, architectural heritage, urban amenity, the prevention of pollution, solar energy, nuclear energy, uranium mining, peace, nuclear disarmament, alternative lifestyles, organic farming, consumer protection, public transport and cycling.

I believe that this set of organisations shares a “community of perspectives” about the relationship between human societies and the physical environment or biosphere which is sufficient to justify its description as a “social movement”. These perspectives are based on three general principles –

- (1) The principles of *ecology*. Human being as part of natural ecosystems, each element of which has evolved to be dependent upon the others.
- (2) The *perturbation* of these systems by human activities is threatening both the sustainability of existing ecological processes and the well-being of humanity.
- (3) The *causes* of these perturbations (e.g. population growth, industrialisation, increasing urban development, use of pesticides and other chemicals) must be modified to achieve harmony with natural ecological processes.

The environmental movement came together in the late 1960's, stimulated by the effects of rapid technological and urban development, nascent fears of fossil fuel scarcities, and the popularisation of ecological principles by authors such as Rachel Carson, Paul Erlich and Barry Commoner. In Australia, an upsurge in the development of forests and coastal lands, and the inner city building boom, provided many people with personal experiences of environmental disruption. Many new citizen groups were formed at this time, in particular groups concerned with amenity issues in specific urban localities (the so-called “resident action groups”) and groups concerned with the conservation of Australia's heritage, both natural and architectural. It is important to realise that this rise of environmentalism was based, also, upon a number of older traditions and organisations concerned with aspects of the relationship between human societies and the natural environment. Australia had a small, though well-established, set of voluntary organisations devoted to nature conservation issues, national parks and town planning, and the protection of soil, water and forest resources. For instance, the Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia was formed in 1909. In New South Wales, a formal lobby group, the National Parks and Primitive Areas Council, was established in 1934 to procure a system of government-administered national parks in the state. Gradually, many of these groups and their successors have developed a more holistic ecological framework. Thus, the Australian Conservation Foundation, which was formed in 1968 to promote nature conservation alone, now concerns itself with issues of pollution, energy, forestry, agricultural production, uranium mining, nuclear power, and the control and use of land and resources. The ACF has also sponsored the formation of an Australian branch of Environmentalists For Full Employment – an organisation which

sees a solution to the unemployment problem in small-scale, worker-controlled production using technologies based on renewable energy forms. In other words, environmentalism is beginning to incorporate a range of other social issues.

There are no accurate records of the number of voluntary environmental groups in Australia. The following estimates are based on the ACF's *Green Pages* for 1974, 1978 and 1982, with some modifications to account for repetition and organisations (like the Youth Hostels Association) which are not strictly “environmental” in character. There has been an increase in the number of environmental groups throughout the 1970's and up to 1982 in all States except New South Wales and Victoria. The number of groups in these two States reached a peak between 1974 and 1978 due to a flood of small resident action groups in Sydney and Melbourne. These groups disbanded as solutions were found to their immediate concerns and as the rate of inner city redevelopment decreased. In 1974, there were about 600 environmental groups in Australia. In 1982 there were about 1,000. The membership of these groups (without taking cross-membership into account) rose by about 25% between 1974 and 1982, there being approximately 180,000 members in 1974 and 250,000 in 1982. This is 1.5% of the total Australian population.

This growth in the number of organised voluntary groups has been accompanied by a growth in the organisation of, and resources of, the movement as a whole. For example, before the 1950's nature conservation groups were small, poor and relatively powerless. In the 1950's, efforts were made to form a more powerful lobby, calling for the establishment of a comprehensive system of national parks and conservation reserves under the control of State government departments. The Victorian National Parks Association was formed in 1952 and the National Parks Association of N.S.W. was formed in 1957. Also at this time came the formation of the Nature Conservation Council of N.S.W., designed to co-ordinate the various conservation bodies and issues in the State. Similar co-ordinating organisations have been formed in each State today, together with the ACF as a national co-ordinator. Numerous Environment Centres have been set up to provide libraries, meeting facilities and other resources to small local groups. Many of the larger organisations employ research staff and can draw on capable scientific, legal and other skills from within their ranks. Some groups receive government funding to supplement their own fund-raising efforts.

Before the late 1960's, the main precursors of the environmental movements – national parks, nature conservation and town planning groups – seem to have been rather conservative pressure groups, anxious to persuade by rational argument alone and to avoid confrontation or “rocking the boat” of established social values and institutions. Many were loathe to criticise governments and concentrated upon educational activities. When the ACF was formed it was intended to be a prestigious “establishment” organisation, relying heavily upon business and industry support to lend credence to conservation issues. With the onslaught of environmentalism, many of the older groups began to lose their “establishment” image – “they became activists”, was the comment made by a member of one of these groups. Many environmentalists were prepared to go beyond the normal channels of letter-writing and consultation with politicians and government bureaucrats in order to achieve their goals. When the above methods failed, environmentalists resorted to protest activities. Confrontations with industry and business interests began to occur frequently. The most notorious example is the series of “Green Bans”, when resident action groups in Sydney and Melbourne persuaded the Builders Labourers Federation to ban work on several inner city re-development projects. There was much criticism of the ACF when it did not join in this new wave of activity, especially when it refused to adopt a strong stance against the flooding of Lake Pedder. In 1974, the ACF Council was “taken over” by more “radical” thinkers.

Thus, environmental issues were becoming political issues, although environmentalists were wary of becoming



Cattlemens' hut on Grassy Ck in the Gudgenby Nature Reserve. A 1976 survey of the Reserve said 'There are no buildings in the area, which in our opinion justify preservation, except the slab building near Boboyan (Brayshaws).' The Orroral homestead was ignored for preservation — what is to happen to buildings such as this? — Photo and comment by Reg Alder

involved directly in political debate or of supporting any particular political party. Some environmentalists have stood for political office (mainly in local government) and the short-lived United Tasmania Group was formed in 1972 to fight the Tasmanian State elections in an attempt to prevent the flooding of Lake Pedder. These attempts were unsuccessful in general, and should be regarded as forms of symbolic protest rather than as serious attempts to gain power through political office.

Environmentalists were forced into greater activism partly because, in common with several other social movements of the time (e.g. movements against the Vietnam war, racism, sexism, and demands for more government social welfare services) they were calling for the reform of government decision-making processes and were challenging the actions and attitudes of powerful sectors of the community. They were demanding a redistribution of power away from a wealthy elite to the community as a whole. These demands made for fairly poor relationships with governments who were wary of change and who tended to be dominated by developmental interests.

The set of reforms referred to above were intended to systematise the rate and nature of industrial and other developments, to allow for a consideration of environmental impacts, and to increase the public contribution to decision-making as a counter to the power of the developers. Environmental groups regarded themselves as spokespersons for "the public interest", attempting (by the assertion of democratic principles) to regain control over society's interaction with its environment. Proposed reforms included

- (1) Planning mechanisms to consider the impacts of development proposals on society.
- (2) Specific consideration of environmental impacts through the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements (EIS).
- (3) Greater public consultation and participation allowed during the governmental decision-making process.
- (4) Greater citizen access to the Courts to appeal against government decisions and the actions of developers. Until recently, people without a pecuniary interest in the effects of a development have been unable to take their grievances to Court.
- (5) Environmental legislation.

In the last few years, many of these reforms have been achieved. Most States have some method of evaluating the environmental effects of developments, and some forum for public comment within this process, Government departments concerned with matters such as pollution control,

development planning and nature conservation have been established. Some improvements in citizen access to the Courts have occurred. Now, environmental groups have attained a degree of "legitimacy" in the eyes of governments. They are recipients of government grants and are represented on some governmental Advisory Committees. Most importantly, environmental issues have become part of the political agenda — political parties include them in their policy platforms as a matter of course. Recently, we have seen the power of an environmental issue (South-West Tasmania) to sustain interest throughout a Federal Election campaign — to such an extent that it was one of the major matters mentioned in the "victory speech" of the new Prime Minister.

The Future

I think that the environmental movement has reached a watershed, and that decisions made now may determine its future progress in two directions — firstly, a change in its political strategies; secondly a change in its social perspectives.

The 1983 Federal Election saw environmentalists campaigning actively to overthrow the Liberal-National Party Government in order to bring in a government which would stop the damming of the Franklin River. Previously, the movement had been loath to support any particular political party, maintaining that environmental issues were the concern of the whole community and should cut across party lines. Will and should the movement continue its more active political involvement in the future?

In the second case, some environmentalists are coming to believe that the changes to decision-making processes which they advocated in the 1970's are insufficient to solve environmental problems. Many planning and regulatory mechanisms are not having the desired effects. For instance, EIS's are prepared by the proponent and tend to present proposals in a favourable light. There have been few instances where the EIS process has resulted in a decision to prohibit a project. While individual industries may treat their wastes, or paint their stacks so they "blend" into the landscape, their cumulative effect may be a net increase in pollution and in the depletion of scarce resources such as fossil fuels and land suitable for nature conservation or recreation. Public participation procedures can introduce so many variables that decision-makers cannot encompass them all without compromising their environmental protection aims. The recent Plan of Management exercise in Kosciusko National Park reveals this problem, as well as the

way in which business and industrial interests still have an overwhelming influence on governments. Finally, there is an increasing awareness of the costs of increasing government regulation in a society where the population, industrial base and material wealth keep expanding. As the environmentalists Birrell and Hill perceive it

"Planning does not solve the environmental problem. At best it may result in slowing down the rates of deterioration, but only at the expense of greater societal regulation and increased scarcity of access to environmental amenity." *

One response to the above problems is that a great degree of social change is necessary to achieve a society which is truly in harmony with its environment. In particular, society needs to change its economic base in order to control the ecological pressures caused by continually expanding industrialisation, urbanisation and resource use. The ACF has begun to show interest in the "Conserver Society" concept, as the long term solution to environmental problems. Such a society would be based on a steady state economy (rather than economic growth), where the stock of people and goods would be stabilised and would require a minimum of material and energy to maintain.

Whatever trajectory the movement takes in the future, it will face problems, not only from elements in the community dedicated to the developmental ethic or dependent upon industrial expansion for their livelihood, but also from its own internal disunity and organisational conflicts. So far, I have spoken of the environmental movement in monolithic terms in order to emphasise certain common themes in its development. While the majority of organised groups have moved in the trajectory described above, many conservative groups and individuals remain unwilling to "rock the boat". At the other end of the spectrum, some radical environmentalists deplore the degree of legitimacy achieved by the movement because they believe that this process will draw environmentalists into the very structures which they need to overcome to solve environmental problems. No common ideology or world view has emerged. Groups tend to concentrate upon their own particular interests and the wider environmental tones they may employ from time to time are more a set of discontinuous beliefs than a consistent vision of the future.

In organisational terms, the advances of the 1970's have not gone far enough. The boost given by government funding has been lost as the grants have declined in real terms due to inflation. Limited resources are a strain on the movement, especially due to the high costs of participating in the much-demanded reforms - e.g. the submissions to EIS's, public inquiries and Court cases. Moreover, the majority of groups are very small, having fewer than 100 members to contribute to their efforts. Lack of funds and staff have hindered the help which umbrella bodies like the Conservation Councils can give to small groups, although such interactions have been hindered, also, by ideological differences and the fear of losing independence in large, impersonal, bureaucratic structures.

Of course I am assuming, here, that environmentalists need to gain more power in politics and more influence in society in order to bring about long term solutions to environmental problems; and that greater agreement on goals in the movement and more comprehensive organisation are means to this end. Historically, the movement has been moving in these directions - should we be encouraging it to move further?

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Monica McDonald

(Presently conducting research on the Environmental Movement to a PhD in the Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies, Australian National University)

THE CASTLE . . . AT LONG LAST!

Like many people before and since my first sight of The Castle in the Budawang's, was from the top of Pigeon House, some 15 years ago. Since then I have gazed on this rocky prominence from Carong Peak, Folly Point, Mt Sturgess, and so on, and each time, the desire to climb it became stronger.

For me, The Castle became my 'Australian Everest', and for some years I bashed the ears of various members of the outings committee, to put it on the programme - before I was too old! While not the highest of the flat topped mesa in the Morton National Park, it is, nevertheless, considered the most difficult, and was not climbed till 1948.

Able leader Phil Gatenby finally got it on the programme, and I eagerly awaited late August 1983 to climb this rugged mountain.

Driving in on the Western Distributor Road, we had an awe-inspiring view of our destination. Standing stark against the skyline, was Mt Owen 900m, Mt Nibelung, and then the pinnacles across to the southern end of The Castle, towering 850m above us . . . and we wondered what we had let ourselves in for!

By 11.00a.m. on the Saturday, 13 members were off up the Kallanna Ridge, a slow, steady plod leading to a steep conglomerate slope below our objective. The track then wended its rugged, narrow way under a towering wall, up and over boulders, tree roots, and along rocky slopes. Rucksacks were twisted back and forth between small gums, and acacias, boronia and tea-tree (all in bloom), bodies squeezing through rocky outcrops. Some four very hot - and wearying - hours later, we made the saddle under Nibelung, and dropped down to our camp site. Soon after, a fierce wind drove us to move our fire, cooking and comradeship to the shelter of a near-by camping cave for the evening.

Sunday dawned fine again, and by 8.30am, we were 'humping' our rucksacks back up the hill, to leave them at the saddle. Everyone seemed to gain extra strength without their weight, as we set off southwards under the high, rocky pinnacles forming a ridge between Nibelung and The Castle, with views down to Yadboro River one side, and the Clyde the other.

Slowly, the rugged path became more so, as both hands AND feet came into use - the start of Meakin's Pass to the top. I found the climb up, through, under and over, an exhilarating challenge, as techniques I had learnt (and taught) on rock and mountain climbing courses many years ago in U.K. and Austria, came flooding back. One moment we were finding foot and hand holds up narrow crevices four to five metres high, the next, spread-eagled round a rock face, again hunting for the essential foot and hand holds. Some high, narrow clefts only just took the width of our bodies (sideways), with many comments as to the merits (or otherwise) of protruding points of our anatomy! Often, it was feet forward, bottom back, hands where possible, and repeat upwards, through a 'chimney', until we eventually reached the top. The rope carried by Phil, and all my rehearsing of tying bowlines were un-used . . . and WE HAD MADE IT!

The air was crystal clear, giving us magnificent views all around up to some 100 km radius . . . Sturgess and Folly Point northwards, Talaterang and Byangee Wall so very close, then the whole coastline from Kiama (or beyond?) to the north, down to Mt Dromedary in the South. A walk across the length of 'Our Castle', brought us to the visitors book, duly signed by members under the heading of N.P.A. of the A.C.T. and then it was down, down - by any means available - to lunch at the saddle before the final rugged descent to the cars, and everyone meeting again for eats.

SO - wait, and wait long enough, and ones wishes come true - and my 'Australian Everest' has at last been achieved - a little late in life! Would I do it again? . . . YES I WOULD, but preferably after being dropped at the saddle in a helicopter! - the climb to THAT point being of far greater physical exhaustion than The Castle itself! *Oh! the B*



The newly introduced mid-week walks are proving so popular that 13 hardy enthusiasts turned out to walk along the high ridge beyond O'Malley in spite of weather forecasts of showers, cold and thunderstorms. — Photo Reg Alder

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL PARKS COUNCIL'S TENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The National Parks Association of Queensland was host for this year's annual conference of the Australian National Parks Council held in Brisbane on October 8 and 9.

Attending were delegates from 10 member organisations which represent some 23,000 members of national parks and nature conservation organisations throughout the country. N.P.A. of the A.C.T. was represented by two delegates, Neville Esau and Denise Robin.

We ploughed through a very full agenda and a number of other issues of mutual concern were discussed intensely outside the business sessions. Altogether 58 formal motions were put up for consideration. A few of these were amalgamated as they covered the same ground.

The majority of the motions had a national character, for example, the seeking of support of three State Governments for a tri-state national park on the Queensland, Northern Territory and South Australian borders (covering the Simpson Desert), the significance of Aboriginal land rights claims over national parks and Aboriginal involvement in the management of national parks, and Commonwealth funding for national parks. The other motions called for A.N.P.C. support for action being taken by the member organisations within their States.

N.P.A. A.C.T. last year forwarded many motions, but this year only presented two — one that A.N.P.C. should thank the Prime Minister for his far-sighted action in stopping the damming of the Franklin River and the other relating to the omission in the National Conservation Strategy on the subject of population control. The first motion was carried unanimously. The second was lost on a close vote. It appeared that those who did not wish to support the motion felt that population control issues were outside the scope of A.N.P.C.

The need for a permanent base, or at least address, for the Council was raised and the incoming executive was instructed to investigate the feasibility of obtaining a post office box in Canberra, tying in with the location in Canberra of the A.N.P.C. central filing system. The meeting, by acclamation, thank Sheila Kruse and Bob Story for their work in getting the filing system established.

The guest speaker at the Saturday night dinner was the project officer with the Brisbane Forest Park Administration Authority who outlined the establishment of the park, located in the hills behind Brisbane, and its role as a major recreational facility. On Sunday afternoon we were

taken there to lunch and by car to see part of the park. It provides for logging, trail bike riding, horse riding and educational use, as well as aiming to conserve some very significant natural areas, including some impressive stands of rainforest. The Brisbane Forest Park is an interesting concept, fraught with dilemmas, but obviously relevant for some areas adjacent to large centres of population which have already been disturbed. Future developments there, particularly when logging re-commences, will be worth watching.

The conference elected the following people to the Executive:

President: Rick Nelson, N.S.W. N.P.A. (re-elected)
 Secretary: Neville Esau, N.P.A. A.C.T.
 Treasurer: Dick Johnson, A.C.F./V.N.P.A.

The Nature Conservation Society of South Australia offered to host the next conference which will be held in September 1984. If any members will be in South Australia at the time, remember that observers are welcome and it is always a most stimulating event.

The selection of the campus of the Griffith University at Nathan for the Brisbane A.N.P.C. Conference was an ideal choice of a venue in a most attractive setting and with excellent facilities. The campus landscaping deserves a mention — it is covered with Australian natives, not as a garden but completely in a natural state, weeds and all. Where areas have been disturbed by construction, the natural species have been encouraged to regenerate and the eucalypts, wattles, banksias, grass trees and many low ground cover plants are flourishing again. Retaining walls and soil control measures use the local materials, like fallen logs and rocks.

The accommodation was used by competitors in the Commonwealth Games last year and the walks through the bush to the nearby stadium provide plenty of opportunity to observe the flora and animal and bird life. Barbecues and tables for outdoor eating or studying are discreetly placed in sheltered corners. Worth a visit for those interested in landscape design . . .

The N.P.A. Committee has copies of the agenda and formal motions and notes on the other discussion should anyone be interested in information on the conference.

Denise Robin

**A PROFILE –
SHEILA M. KRUSE O.A.M.**

The success of the National Parks Association of the A.C.T. depends on the consistent efforts of a few people at any one time. Over the last decade a name that would be very high on any list of major contributors would be that of Sheila Kruse.

Sheila joined the Association in early 1971, at the suggestion of Julie Henry (then President) and Gay Watt (a past Committee member), both fellow-inmates of the Currong flats. Sheila had recently arrived in Canberra, and knew she would need to develop a lifestyle different from that of her intimate family-centred life-style in Melbourne. The two organisations which were to benefit from that need were Dr Barnardo and ourselves.

In July 1971 she became Secretary at the urging of Julie Henry and retained that post until July 1981. Ten Years! She is, of course, the perfect Secretary with impeccable qualifications. She has an outstanding and fluent command of English, is systematic and her reliability sets impossible standards for lesser mortals. But her contribution is much more than a technical one. In those ten years six Presidents (all male) – George Chippendale, Bill Watson, Ian Currie, John Banks, Daryl Hawke and Neville Esau) acknowledged the importance of their partnerships with her.

From July 1981 to July 1983 Sheila continued on as an active Committee member, taking on such tasks as Convenor of the sub-committee for the production of "The Field Guide to the Native Trees of the A.C.T."

Sheila has helped to make the Association a bigger and better organisation than when she joined it. Membership has increased, the range of activities has expanded, the walks programme has developed and the Bulletin has greatly improved. Sheila would protest that she has initiated few, if any, of these changes. However, we are all aware that without her efforts few of them would have occurred.

Sheila considers herself to be a moderate conservationist. The Association was established to further conservation issues within the A.C.T., and Sheila has always felt most comfortable when local issues are being dealt with. She agrees that the closeness of the Kosciuszko National Park means that we can also contribute in that area, and major issues such as the Franklin River must be supported. She believes most members join because of the reputation of the walks programme and the meetings. Both must be of a high standard, and she has consistently worked to that end.

Her moderation has been noted and valued by members. There is a quiet strength and stability in her gracious, composed behaviour. She is never intrusive, but always perceptive and sympathetic. "The N.P.A. has given me far more than I have given it", she says with typical generosity, and goes on to tell you of the friendships, the kindnesses and the eccentric variety that the N.P.A. provides.

In 1979 Sheila was made a life member of the Association for her long and dedicated service, and in 1980 was awarded the Order of Australia Medal for her activities in C.S.I.R.O., N.P.A. and Barnardos. Rarely would two awards have been so unanimously approved.

Bill Watson



JUST BRIEFLY

Beverley Hammond has been added to the N.P.A. list of walkers of the Samaria Gorge in Crete – she welcomed a cool swim even from a shingle beach and a cooler drink at the end

Once again our Association will be represented at Buolgal this year. Soma Tidemann must have something to offset the early morning expeditions to which she subjects the participants

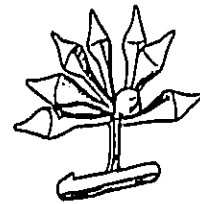
Other bird watchers have been to the Bird Observatory in the Barren Grounds Nature Reserve to see (maybe) and hear bristle birds and ground parrots. The hospitality and information are quite excellent.

Talking of bird watching – our old friend and walker Julie Henry visited Canberra recently and wondered why so many of the older members had become interested in the ornithological studies. May I suggest that it is good reason to stop.

The October camp at Ravine was set in idyllic surroundings but the rain made the exit from the valley quite interesting – as was the sight of one of the party showering in the overflow from a tent.

Finally – an invitation to join the walk to be led by Betty Campbell has even induced the participation of our Chinese Pamirs mountaineering member.

Gum Nut



**FOR THE FORTY-FIVE SOULS
AT RAVINE...
(an accounting perhaps!)**

We went to Ravine, in October;
And few of us had been, before
We brought in our tents and our tucker
And prepared for a time of rapport

Andy escorted us, bringing our wood
Then we camped on the banks of the stream
Music was everywhere – birdsong of course;
This place was truly a dream.

They'd ruins and mines and good water
Some gardens with lilacs and leeks,
And poplars, willows, cherries and mints,
But not many fish in the creeks!

Seven members set off in the morning
To climb up to Milk Shanty Falls
The rest took a stroll over meadow and mound,
To look at the mud-slabb'd Pub. walls

We came to the fire at evening
Had popcorn, plate after plate,
And marshmallows, muffins and gluwain
Made by Ingrid and Tony (or Karin and Ian – her mate).

Some "pastic spossoms" called in too
While the gluwain was casting it's spell
The rain sprinkled down on the brollies
But the singing went . . . fairly well!

We came up the track through the showers,
Hoping that no-one would stall . . .
Thanks to Ian and Jean and the rest of the team,
A great time was had by us all.

P.S. Later, Audrey wanted to know
"Whose tent was that, over the bridge?"
She found out then (with some surprise)
But long after we'd all climbed the Ridge!!!
I was a privy forsooth – set under the skies
Unk. known to Audrey and in Disguise.

Joan Hequity

SHIFTING SANDS AND DENUDED LANDS

The head of the Victorian Soil Conservation Authority must have had a few quiet chuckles to himself in February this year after an extraordinary dust-storm turned a Melbourne afternoon into darkness. Suddenly he was being sought after by journalists from newspapers, radio and television to explain the strange phenomenon. The journalists' sudden interest in the subject was only a reflection of the public's belated realisation that if a dust-storm could descend upon Melbourne, well then, yes there must be a problem out there. So, the soil conservationists patiently explained that excessive removal of natural vegetation combined with the effect of the drought had meant there was little to stop the topsoil from blowing away.

The fact that such self-evident statements could make headline news says a lot for our capacity to forget or our refusal to learn from the lessons of the past. After all, more than 40 years ago the development of the Mallee in Victoria's north-west for wheat farming had resulted in sand drifts flowing over the roads, railway lines and irrigation channels. The Water Commission of Victoria spent over \$200,000 in 1933 clearing sand from watercourses and irrigation channels while the Premier, Albert Dunstan, was obliged to appoint a government commission of inquiry which ultimately led to the establishment of the Soil Conservation Board in 1940. ¹

Soil conservation is only one area where it has taken a disaster or a climactic event to generate awareness of a problem. The 1939 bushfires in Victoria led to a Royal Commission and radical changes to the policies and practices of the Forests Commission and Country Fire Authority. The sight of urban streams and rivers smelling and looking like sewerage drains helped prompt moves in the 1960s and 70s for the creation of government environment protection authorities. Most recently the massive eucalyptus die-back on the New England Tableland and in southern New South Wales has instilled a new appreciation of the importance of our native trees. Nevertheless we still await the growth of a total national awareness about the effect of past and present agricultural practices on the Australian environment. Far too many people still suffer from the destructive delusion so well described more than 100 years ago by the naturalist, Louisa Atkinson: "Some people argue that the earth was made for man, and must support him, and that his instinct will teach him how to cultivate it. Many a ruined farmer has tried the truth of this hypothesis." ²

The widespread and excessive clearing of native vegetation, the draining of swamps, the destruction of native wildlife, the introduction of feral animals, the damming of creeks and rivers with no thought to the effect on plants, animals and land downstream and the creation of worthless salt-pans through clearing and irrigation are some of the major debits overshadowed in the public's mind by the economic credits of a prosperous rural sector. Our forefathers can perhaps be forgiven "for they knew not what they were doing", but such a defence cannot be offered for the present-day farmers and graziers, particularly for the city farmers for whom a country property is often just another addition to an already bloated income. How many city farmers I wonder, have turned the real estate agent's "beautiful bush block teeming with wildlife" into bare paddocks lined with blackened hedgerows of cleared timber.

One of the most frustrating aspects of this destruction of native fauna and flora for agriculture is that so much of it could be avoided. By replacing the bulldozer mentality with a sensitive and intelligent approach a property can be farmed and grazed profitably while retaining many of its natural values. That in essence is the message of Roland Breckwoldt's superb book, "Wildlife in the Home Paddock." The book, to use the critic's term, is "an important work", because for the first time it provides a thoroughly practical, comprehensive guide to a subject that has previously been dealt with only in a piecemeal fashion.

The great wealth of information provided by Breckwoldt



Feral pigs have reached pest proportions in the wilderness areas of the A.C.T. and do extensive damage to fragile high grassed areas. One less to do any damage.

ranges from the design and construction of artificial floating islands in farm dams to the most effective methods of poisoning rabbits, from the planting of windbreaks to the relationship between fire and grazing and from the construction of bird nesting boxes to the impact of kangaroos and wallabies on grazing land. Clear diagrams, charts and survey data complement his concise narrative. Much of the book's value lies in the fact that Breckwoldt writes in a manner that should not readily antagonise the traditional landowner, increasingly paranoid about the dreaded greenies. It is more in the style of somebody wanting to sit down, discuss problems and work out practical solutions. The tone is set from the very first page: "While some native plants and animals coexist with crops and livestock a much larger group is displaced and species within it slip quietly towards extinction. Habitat change through clearing, cultivation and grazing is one of the major causes of wildlife decline. Yet it is still possible to conserve much more wildlife on rural lands than has been the case. Agriculture does cause change, but the type and extent of change is always negotiable.

"Wildlife conservation on farms need not be expensive and may compensate costs through enhanced property value, a more pleasant living environment and increased productivity through erosion control, shade and shelter. For example, propagating and planting the local native trees can be deeply satisfying and economically beneficial yet it costs relatively little. Other practices that benefit wildlife cost nothing but merely require a change in attitude. Imbued with an imperative to tidy up we are tempted to use the bulldozer while it is on site for rabbit control or dam building, to also push over dead trees for burning. These dead trees provide nest hollows for a wide range of wildlife and can be left standing at no cost."

While preservation of fauna and flora on the farm may not be expensive, it does require a good deal of preliminary thought and careful application. The establishment of wind-breaks and encouragement of tree regeneration are good examples. Breckwoldt shows that to get maximum benefit from wind-breaks they should be at right angles to the direction of the prevailing wind, and allowed to grow to a reasonable height to provide the greatest possible range of ground protection. Planting shorter trees and shrubs on either side of the tall trees allows the wind to be deflected over the top while a vertical face on the windward side increases turbulence, greatly reducing the range of the protected area. A slightly permeable wind-break allows the air to pass through the trees and prevents the deflected air from descending too rapidly to the ground while the removal of lower vegetation or the branches of the trees will create a wind funnel along the ground. The fencing of an area to keep out stock is often insufficient on its own

to allow tree regeneration. If weeds are not first removed and then continually controlled they will provide too much competition for the young trees. If regeneration is very thick the seedlings may require thinning otherwise they could become stunted through too much competition for light, water and nutrients.

That same careful thought and sensitivity to environmental complexity is most necessary in fire management. Drawing on a research paper by Dr Malcolm Gill, Breckwoldt outlines the four major fallacies of fire management. The first fallacy, promoted by some conservationists, is that since much of Australia's vegetation is fire-prone and could have evolved as a direct result of fire, all fires should be allowed to run their course. Quite obviously this can be a prescription for a disaster of Ash Wednesday proportions: the theory that the fires will burn themselves out safely within the confines of the natural areas away from population centres, cannot be supported by the experiences of the past 100 years.

"Another problem with allowing any fire to take its own course is that we scarcely know what the natural role of fire was, how it occurred or with what frequency," Breckwoldt comments. "Moreover a fire caused by natural phenomena such as lightning is not free of the influence of man if the reserve has been protected from fire for longer than it would have been prior to European settlement."

A second fallacy distorts the fact that many native plants have adapted to fire and proclaims that any fire is beneficial. In fact, "It is not any single fire event that is important but the pattern of fire over a very long period. The third fallacious justification for indiscriminate burning is to equate it with the Aborigines' use of fire. "While it may be true that Aborigines burnt some landscapes with regularity over a long period and brought about changes to the plants and animals, the extent of their activity and the consequences of it are by no means clear. The pattern of fire now used by Europeans may be quite different from that of Aborigines".

Finally and possibly most topically, "information about fire may also be distorted to justify clearfelling in forestry operations. It is not correct that fire and clearfelling are interchangeable this ignores the numerous differences between a fire and a clearfelling operation."

Breckwoldt concludes: "These fallacies must be replaced by an approach that recognises fire as a natural environmental variable, the effect of which differs in particular ecosystems; that fire has a role in maintaining and conserving plants and animals but that each situation must be considered separately. It is dangerous to base present fire management on sketchy information and impressions of its pre-European place in the Australian environment. It is now necessary to recognise that we have changed the landscape and the pattern of fire within it."

This eminently sensible, unemotive approach permeates all chapters of Breckwoldt's book. It is to be hoped that it finds its way on to the bookshelves of many Australian farmers and graziers because they have such an enormous influence on our national environment. As Clem Tidsell comments in an article in the August edition of *Habitat*, the bulk of Australian agricultural land is used for intensive grazing based on unimproved pastures. "No other sector has such extensive control over Australian lands. The bulk of Australia is in the hands of the agriculturalists! Hence questions of the responsibilities of and constraints on agriculturalists for environmental protection are of more than ordinary importance".

Wildlife in the Home Paddock, Roland Breckwoldt
Angus and Robertson Publishers, 1983

References

1. Spots and Spangles, Geoffrey Bolton, George Allen and Unwin, 1981, pages 148-149.
2. Excursions From Berrima and a Trip to Monaro and Molonglo in the 1870s, Louisa Atkinson, Mulby Press, 1980, page 22.
3. *Habitat*, Australian Conservation Foundation, August 1983, page 37.

Stephen Johnston

LOOKING BACK . . . A.G.M. 1983.

The 24th A.G.M. of the Association was held on August 18th 1983, and attended by some 70 to 80 members.

Following the President's, Committee and various sub-committee reports (all of which emphasised the growth in membership and activities), resignations were received - with regret - from: Neville Esau (President) Shella Kruse (Committee and Publicity Officer), Judy Payne (Secretary), Lyle Mark (Treasurer) and John Schunke (Committee).

Thanks were expressed to all these members, especially Shella and Lyle - who left the finances in a 'very healthy condition'.

Bill Adams then took over the Election of Officers for the 1983-84 period. Duly elected, were: Ian Currie as President (warmly welcomed back by the 'old stagers' who had known his quiet efficiency and growth of the Association during his previous term 1974-1978). Diana Pickering was welcomed as Secretary, with Lala Reeves as Assistant Secretary, Joan Hegarty took over as Treasurer, and Anne Robertson as Publicity Officer, with Adrienne Nicholson filling the vacancy on Committee.

One and all then enjoyed a showing of slides, taken by members on walks, camps, tree-planting, homestead renovations and other activities during the previous twelve months. These covered places of beauty and points of interest, plus many members 'doing their thing' - some of us surprised (?), horrified (?), pleased (?) to 'see ourselves as others see us' !!!

In passing a vote of thanks to the photographers and Reg Alder's presentation, the speaker paused to glance back 12 years, when the outings programme covered about 8-10 walks a year! In mentioning the growth in the number and variety of outings and activities (88 with 36 different leaders over the last 12 months) . . . she voiced a personal and special 'Thank you' to the Outings Committee, convenor, and especially the many leaders who gave time, not only to 'lead', but for reconnaissance and make a dozen and one arrangements.

Members joined in this tribute which was then followed by a relaxing happy 'wind up' to the A.G.M. with Gluecin and special goodies laid on by those 'behind the scenes' . . . Who also deserved a big 'thank you'.

Olive B.



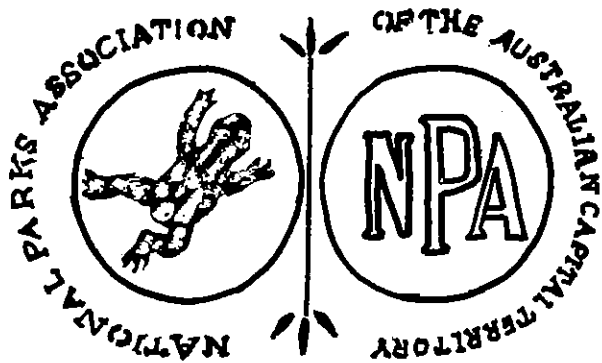
WESTBOURNE WOODS

Members of the general public know surprisingly little about Westbourne Woods. A little book by Tony Rout and Ken Eldridge will give them a useful introduction to a most attractive woodland close to Canberra city. It provides the names of the trees in any part of the Woods and in a separate list the localities of nearly 200 native and exotic species that are growing there. Public access is limited but at least it exists through monthly conducted walks. The booklet points out that neglect of the plantations is not wholly a matter of history and to maintain the health of the dominant trees "will involve much expenditure". Westbourne Woods is worth a great deal to Canberra and the warning is timely. The launching took place at the Royal Canberra Golf Club on 15 July. Those of us who remember the unrest and ill feeling amongst conservation groups when Westbourne Woods was leased to the golf club are pleased that co-operation and good relations between the two sections of the community now prevail.

The Conservation Council of the South-East Region and Canberra Inc.

Obtainable from the Environment Centre, price \$4.

Robert Starv



One of the designs submitted for a logo for the Association. It was not accepted and the corroboree frog was subsequently adopted by the Canberra Bushwalkers.

THE LAND OF ARKAROO

The Gammon Ranges National Park — South Australia.

Let's be lazy walkers and take a Cessna at Broken Hill for points west.

The ridges of the Barrier Range break away in a straight north-south line marking the Mundi-Mundi fault with plains of red sand stretching away to the salt-whitened horizon of Lake Frome. This closed catchment of red dunes has been fed by creeks rising in the Barrier and Flinders Ranges. In surrealistic sweeps and swirls old dune crests break the salt surface.

Deltaic gravel fingers spew out from the western shore marking the end of Balcanoona Creek which starts a thousand metres up on the crest of the Northern Flinders Ranges now a wall of blue ahead.

According to the Adjnmathanha Aboriginals, Arkaroo, the legendary brown snake came down to slake a massive thirst from the waters of Lakes Callabonna and Frome. He drank and drank until the lakes were almost dry. Salt soon began to do its work. With a painful rumbling gut the snake writhed his way up into the hills to the soothing coolness of the fresh water in the Yackie spring away up in Mainwater Pound. On the way, Arkaroos writhings formed the looping, meandering gorges and valleys of Arkaroola Creek. On still, quiet nights it is said that Arkaroo's gut still rumbles in protest and as he shifts his position, the mountains tremble.

Beyond the great gravel deltaic aprons, kilometres wide and a hundred metres deep, the results of the "trembling" crust lie as if stirred in a giant cauldron.

Flying up Balcanoona Creek and swinging north towards Arkaroola the geological story is plain to see. The "master sculptor" had laid out masses of limey mud in a vast shallow sea which had a bottom already covered with massive layers of glacier-ground boulders cemented within a dough of bluish silt. Domelike algal structures, (stromalites) flourished in these seas to be buried from time to time during active periods of erosion and deposition . . . fine shales, sandstones, conglomerates and more shales, layer upon layer . . . hard, soft, hard, harder, soft . . . deposition kilometres deep occurred as the bed of the geosyncline buckled beneath this massive shift of pressures. At about the time jellyfish, sea pens and other soft-bodied animals were rulers of these shallow seas a period of truly massive erosion of the neaby continent was initiated and vast depths of sand and sediment were swept into the sea . . . fossil mud cracks, ripples, rainsplashes and the first, impressions of the buried soft bodies (the Ediacara Fauna) tell the story.

Pressure, crustal movement and heat changed and hardened many of these rocks. Major faulting and fracturing released the tensions in the crust, allowing metaliferous vapours and fluids to rise and in places, masses of plastic deep-lying rock oozed towards the surface developing dia-

pirs with inclusions of copper, silver, gold, lead and cobalt. Further north great intrusions of magma along with uranium and radium ore bodies formed the basis for the Arkaroola landscape. The Paralana Fault system running through the east of Arkaroola and Balcanoona is still very active . . . hence much of the rumbling.

Today, Balcanoona, Arkaroola, Whywhyana, Italowie, Weetootla and Bolla Bollana creeks have cut gorges through these rocks which lie like a tapering stack of smaller and smaller saucers . . . the resistant and blocky Pound Quartzites on top producing the Gammon Plateau edged with massive cliffs and gorges. Not even the feral goats have found that country very hospitable.

Lower down, each rim of harder rocks produce the concentric steeply dipping ridge systems, each type controlling the slopes, depth and type of soil, caverns, outcrops and water retention qualities. Rabbits have found the dolomites most desirable while the yellow-foot wallabies, the tillites (glacial origins) and the quartzites.

High on the tops is mallee and melaleuca scrubland, benches and slopes of spinesix then more belts of mallee and cypress pine and the lower slopes and Pound floors are dotted with the fresh green rounded canopies of the *E. intertexta* the gum coolibah. Dark grey green stands of *belah* (*Casuarina cristata*) mark calcium rich soils while the blue grey mulga, the more acid soils. Ribbons of great old river red gums grand enough to inspire the Hans Heysens among us marked the watercourses, while the flood-plains were brightened by pale green masses of *Acacia victoriae*.

The extremely arid conditions (30 mm of rain over the past 2 years) dusted the whole scene with red.

The Adjnamathanha people (Of the hills) have been in these hills for perhaps 2,000 generations or more and have witnessed the passing of the diprotodon and the large marsupials, perhaps leaving behind engravings of their image on the sandstone faces. Europeans have seen perhaps 20 or more species of mammals disappear in five generations. Permanent waters are rare and near these the Aboriginals left their campsite debris. Italowie Gap used today as the pass for the Leigh Creek road was also a pass along the ancient trade routes for the Flinders Ranges red ochre going to the Bulloo and the Cooper and for the returning loads of the mild narcotic pituri and the occasional baler shell from the Gulf of Carpentaria. Today the Aboriginal people have a reawakened interest in this land and hope to play a significant role in managing the Park.

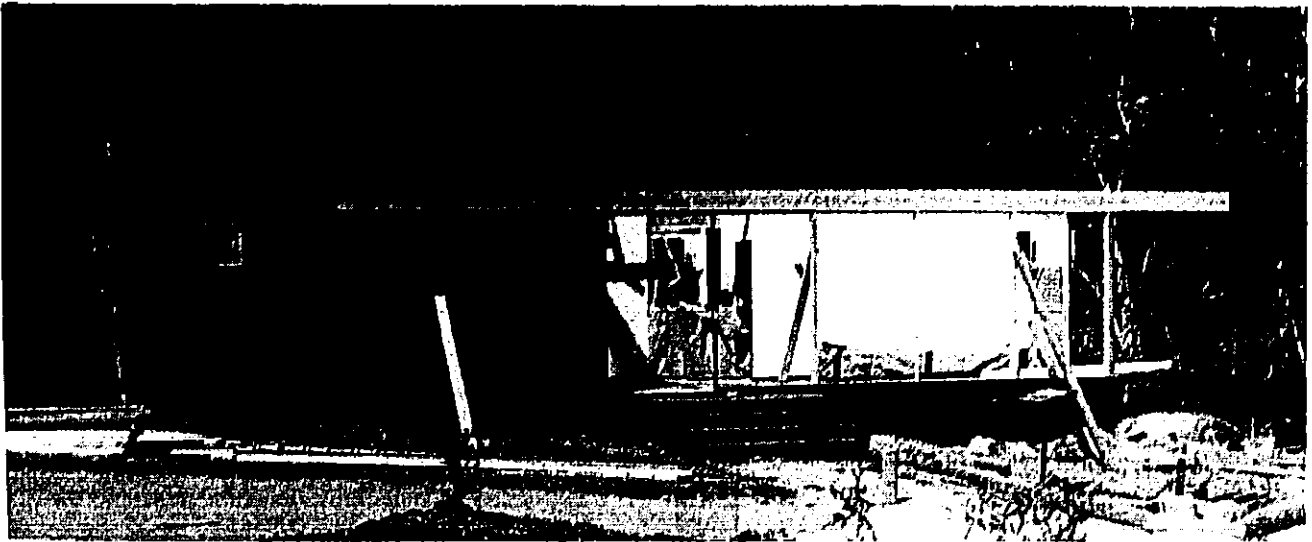
Quick on the heels of explorers Eyre and Frome came sheep herds, the donkeys, the camels, the cattle, the foxes, the rabbits and the goats along with the ever-hopeful prospectors. There was much mineral but widely scattered and dispersed. The surface of the faulted and fractured areas is littered with fascinating reminders of hope, despair and disaster.

On what was once a location central to the mines at Bolla Bollana a fine complex of smelter buildings and village was built . . . its fuel was coal shipped from England and hauled to the smelter by camel! After its initial test no more ore passed across the hearth.

The recent story of the area is typical of the degradation caused by Europeans to our arid lands and in the words of one proud neighbour, "we made this land what it is!"

Fortunately Reg Sprigg gave Arkaroola a respite and recently some 190,000 hectares of adjoining North Flinders Ranges which was once Balcanoona Station and which carries and is surmounted by some of Australia's grandest scenery has been proclaimed the Gammon Ranges National Park. Its Plan of Management is soon to be placed on public exhibition. Much has been left completely unsaid in this all too brief follow up of my talk. There is only one really effective way to appreciate our landscapes and that is first hand experience. If there is sufficient interest in the Gammons I would be happy to show people around on an N.P.A. activity during 1984.

Lecture, supported by slides, by Allan Fox to the association on June 16, 1983.



The Information Office near Glendale was badly damaged in a windstorm during September. The farmhouse opposite escaped damage. Restoration work is in hand
 — Photo Reg Alder

PARK PERSONALITY PROFILES DOROTHY MABEL LAWRY — A PIONEER OF THE CONSERVATION MOVEMENT.

Born on the 16th October 1894, the only child of Thomas and Mabel Lawry, Dorothy was to combine a career as a Chartered Secretary with a life-time's commitment to conservation and the development of national parks. An unlikely combination one might think for someone whose only links with the land go back to the 18th century, when the family were Cornish yeomen/farmers.

She was to become a member of several bushwalking and conservation groups with her interest dating from 1919 when asked by a work colleague Barbara Thompson to go walking with her. Barbara was wanting to get fit in readiness for the return from the United Kingdom of a cousin and husband who had taken up walking and camping. Their early walks were a 10 mile round trip from the Spit by gravel road to Frenchs Forest and return; and with another friend Dorothy Perry from Moss Vale to Fitzroy Falls, down into Kangaroo Valley and up the Cambewarra Mt. Lookout and return to Moss Vale; staying in the boarding house at the Falls and at the Kangaroo Valley Hotel.

On the return of her cousin, Dorothea and husband Evan, the whole group went walking regularly at weekends. Tents, sleeping bags and rucksacks were made from patterns cut from Evan's gear.

By 1929 Dorothy was a member of the Naturalists Society of N.S.W. and the Sydney Bushwalkers (founded in 1927). Over the following years she was, among other things, Secretary, President, Editor of the Magazine and Delegate to the N.S.W. Federation of Bushwalking Clubs. On resigning from The Sydney Bushwalkers in 1971 at the age of 77 upon return from 20 years in Auckland she was made an Honorary Member of the S.B.W.

A farmer, Mr Hungerford was cutting timber on a 20 ha lease he had purchased in order to graze cattle in the Blue Gum Forest at the junction of Govetts Leap Ck and the Grose R. when Mountain Trails Club and Sydney Bushwalker campers persuaded him to stop cutting until money was raised to buy the lease from him.

Following publicity of their cause in Sydney, The Wildlife Preservation Society paid a \$50 deposit and a meeting was arranged in the forest to negotiate the purchase. Some walked there from the train at Blackheath whilst Dorothy was almost precipitated into action as a conservationist when she drove to the meeting from Sydney with Harold Chardon and Win Lewis of the S.B.W. and Roy Bennett the President of the Wildlife Preservation Society.

At Blackheath they picked up Mr Lockley, 'Redgum' of Sydney Morning Herald who had been giving the issue good

publicity. Driving around on the Bell Line Road they met Mr Hungerford at the top of what is now known as Pearce's Pass. This is the track through cliffs into the Grose Valley he had cut with Mr Pearce, who had an adjoining lease, in order to get cattle into his own lease. Having led the party down the track into the forest the group had lunch and then the menfolk had their meeting while the women roamed among the trees. Mr Hungerford agreed to accept \$260 for the lease provided it was paid within one month.

Walking out with the bushwalkers Mr Lockley pointed out a feature on the cliff above Govetts Leap Creek saying it was like a pylon. Thus it became named as 'Lockley Pylon'.

In Sydney in the midst of the Depression collecting \$260 was to prove a difficult task. Despite publication of a circular only \$100 was raised. A more attractive one was produced and seen by Mr W.J. Cleary, Commissioner for Railways and a lover of trees, who despite his family responsibilities lent the \$160 interest free for 2 years (Dorothy Lawry was one of the guarantors for the loan).

With this loan the two clubs bought the lease and Mylos J. Dunphy, Secretary of the Mountain Trails Club gave the title deeds to the State Lands Department asking that the 40 acres be gazetted a Reserve for Public Recreation to be managed by a trust of four.

With Roy Bennett (W.L.P.S.) as chairman and members Alan Rigby (M.T.C.), Joe Turner (S.B.W.) Secretary and Dorothy Lawry (S.B.W.) the Trust was declared in September 1932. (Alan Rigby resigned soon after this and was replaced by Maurie Berry M.T.C.)

Joe Turner later resigned and Dorothy became Secretary until about the end of World War II. Bill Holesgrove, by then President of the N.S.W. Federation of Bushwalking Clubs and today a member of the N.P.A. (A.C.T.) filled the vacancy.

At the time of the declaration of the Blue Gum Forest Trust both banks of the Govetts Leap Creek between Rodriguez Pass and the Grose River and some distance above and below this junction were reserved. While not included in the Trust the northern bank became the responsibility of the Blue Mountains Shire and the southern that of the Blackheath Council.

The Trust and the Council worked together for many years. Working bees of bushwalkers from Sydney borrowed tools left by council workers on Friday evening at Perry's Lookdown. After camping overnight the tools were carried down into the forest for the working bee, and carried out

on the way home to be ready for the Council workers on Monday morning.

By conducting fund-raising activities the loan was repaid and the Trust was enlarged to appoint Mr Cleary (later Chairman of the A.B.C.) to represent unattached walkers.

The S.B.W. Club was asked by the Scouts Association to produce a booklet Bushwalks and Byways around Sydney and Dorothy took on the job as editor. Royalties of 1½c/copy netted about \$100 which was donated to the Blue Gum Forest Trust and until about 1945 it was the only income the Trust received.

Recognizing the need for more such conservation initiatives Myles Dunphy encouraged bushwalkers and campers to form clubs and organized the N.S.W. Federation of Bushwalking Clubs. Dorothy Lawry was a delegate from the S.B.W.

Garrawarra Park was obtained when a petition was drawn up and taken through the Illawarra trains for signature. It suggested that a strip of privately owned and crown land, south of The Royal National Park be reserved for recreation purposes.

Bouddi National Park was established after Dorothy and Marie Byles along with S.B.W. member Richard Croker accompanied Mr Barry, the District Surveyor and his son, on an exploratory walk from Little Beach, south of Mc Masters Beach, to Maitland Bay. With both Killcare and Mc Masters Beach built as holiday resorts he agreed that it would be a good thing to have the coastal strip remain unspoiled. On this trip, as on many others Dorothy's car was put to good use and on this occasion after tea in Gosford and delivering Mr Barry and his son to the station the three bushwalkers drove back to Sydney.

Dorothy Lawry's contacts grew and she was always to be found involved in some conservation work. She helped in the production of Jocelyn Squires' (nee Henderson) book 'Fire or Water' which led to the withdrawal of summer grazing leases on the heights of the Snowy Mountains. For a period she edited 'The Bushwalker Annual'.

In 1948 she spent a winter 'working holiday' planting some 22,000 seedling pine trees for a commercial company. She commented 'Sawmillers don't plant the trees, rather they purchase mature trees'.

While living in New Zealand after 1951, Dorothy Lawry and her aunt Miss Elsie Battley became foundation members of a local Tree Society. Using old timber from a dismantled boundary fence Dorothy built a 'bushhouse' roofed with bamboo and with walls of wire-netting. For the next 18 years she propagated trees including a Kauri tree which after 7 years she gave to the Purewa Cemetery to grow to maturity. Some spare acorns were planted behind the bush house and after only 10 years cropped acorns. A year later a second generation of English oaks grew up.

The fate of these trees is not known as after the death of her aunt in 1971, Dorothy returned to Sydney and now lives in a Retirement Village at Turrumurra. She has lodged notes on her life and career at the Mitchell Library where they are available to anyone who wants to read them, or make copies.

Barbara Hicks from notes provided.

NEW MEMBERS

The following new members are welcomed to the Association: David Bain, Chisholm; Len Crossfield, Kambah; R. and V. Campbell, Farrer; Geoffrey Clarke, Cook; Tim Falkland, Watson; Robert and Margaret Forster, Hackett; Ingrid Friedrich, Hawker; Lesley Hale, O'Conner; Diana Mackay, Campbell; Sharon Moore, Kambah; Margaret Patrick, Kingston; Susanne Pearce, Cook; Judith Price, Spence; Robert Pearson, Weetangerra; Gary Rosser, Kambah; J.R. and D.P. Shaw, Chifley; Elizabeth Smith, Campbell; Mr and Mrs Street, Queanbeyan; Peter Tormey, Campbell; Stewart and Sheila Turner, Aranda; Steve Watts, Aranda; Judy Walters, Dickson; and Dr Annabel Wheeler, Dickson.

THE MOUNT WARNING AREA

Association members who may be contemplating a tour northwards might care to consider a visit to the mountainous northeast of New South Wales. My wife and I made such a tour last August and although it was marred by mechanical problems we were extremely impressed by the spectacular beauty of this part of Australia. The area has been the scene of dramatic confrontation between environmentalists and the timber industry, a confrontation that has now been resolved by large scale additions to the local National Parks.

Our experience refers to the period just before the expansion of National Parks was decided on but even then the area was a most attractive one to visit. The landscape is a broken, volcanic one. The climate is benign and the region still supports substantial areas of splendid rain forest which will enjoy more protection in the future than they have done in the past. It is a centre of interesting social change. A large and growing population of alternative lifestylers have settled on many of the former dairy farms in the area. It was they who provided the backbone in opposing rain forest logging.

I would suggest that visitors from Canberra might stop off en route at the Warrumbungle or Kaputar National Parks and then head for Mount Warning. The mountain lies in the centre of what was once an enormous volcano, its precipitous and knobby peak being the volcano's central plug. The 2000 hectares of the Mount Warning National Park is covered with rain forest.

There is nowhere to stay within the National Park itself but just below is situated the well run Wollumbin Caravan Park and Nature Reserve, a private enterprise institution with good facilities. During holiday periods advance bookings are probably necessary. It is only a short drive from the Caravan Park to the car park at the start of the walking trail up the mountain.

The track to the 1156 metre summit (it seems much higher) is a well made one though the last 90 metres is up a steep gully equipped with chains. For a stout walker the time to the top should be 2-2½ hours. It took us 4! Interesting rain forest birds may be seen from the track while the view from the top is magnificent. To the east one can see the coast. To the west there is a wide, semi-circular valley containing farms and forest land and bounded by steep cliffs. Mount Warning is the first point on the Australian mainland to see the sunrise. Our visit was made particularly memorable by the company of two young men one of whom had brought a flute with him. He played some extempore airs for our entertainment on the summit.

The only problem we encountered was that the car park seems to have a resident thief. Our Kombi was broken into though fortunately nothing of value was taken. Later at the Caravan Park we were told - rather late in the day - that this sort of thing had happened before. Only a week previously a purse containing \$80 had been stolen out of a locked car boot.

From Mount Warning we visited the Mebbin Forest to the west. It is being logged but there is a fine camp site. A gigantic Ironbark 56 metres high just off one of the Forestry Roads is well worth a visit. The track going there was slippery after rain and fearing we might not get back the way we came we pressed boldly on only to encounter an even worse place. This was surmounted with chains but in removing one of the chains I was successful in getting it wound firmly round the brake drum. While sorting out this small problem a large and flashy 4WD came up the track. Normally in such a situation you expect that the other motorist will at least pause to wish you well but the flashy 4WD slowed down, saw that we were in trouble and accelerated briskly by. They were certainly not local people who on these occasions are always considerate and helpful.

At the Mebbin camping area we had the company of some very tame Grey Butcher Birds and also of 3 outsize and equally tame Goannas. The latter might not be entirely agreeable playmates for genuine campers but they were no problem for campervanners.

To the West of Mebbin lies the Wiangaree Forest and a

fine Forestry Commission Scenic Road runs along the top of the cliffs to be seen from Mount Warning. The road has several beautiful and well maintained lookouts. We spent a night at the Blackbutts Picnic Area which looks out over the valley to Mount Warning. I am not sure whether we were supposed to do this but it is something we have often done before in similar situations. Even if camping is frowned on it is our contention that in a Campervan you are not camping but merely parking overnight. Above this Picnic Area towered a grove of tall Blackbutts. There was a brilliant moon and sunrise over Mount Warning was very beautiful.

We continued along this Scenic Road the next day. A feature of these roads in the northeast is the number of Pademelons - small wallabies the size of a hare - which continually scuttle across in front of the car. We stopped at several other lookouts and at a charming patch of well preserved rain forest at Brindle Creek. Here there is one of the few large Red Cedar Trees to survive - 48 metres in height. There are stands of Antarctic Beeches hereabouts and several walking tracks leading off from the road through the rain forest though we did not explore these.

Yet another fine forest road lies still further west - the Toonambar Forest Way. We intended to follow this to the Cambrldge Plateau and so out to the Bruxner Highway. The Forest Way commands views to the north to the precipitous Mount Lindesay, another volcanic remnant close to the Queensland border. But the going involves many steep ups and downs which we navigated slowly and carefully. Unfortunately - probably due to overheating - it was too much for the motor of our 13 year old Kombi. Late in the afternoon and a mere 150 metres short of the Mount Lindesay Lookout where we planned to spend the night the motor emitted a loud clank and stopped abruptly.

We had become so used to the reliability of our Kombi that its sudden immobility seemed quite improper. But there was nothing for it but to stay where we were. This was no hardship. We had a beautiful view and we carried plenty of food and water.

The next day we were succoured by a kind and helpful Forest Ranger on his rounds. He towed us to a slightly

better camp site off the road and took us on a guided tour of the forest. He left after promising to alert the NRMA in Kyogle. This he did and early next morning two young men in a Holden utility arrived. They had never been on the road before and implied that if they had known what it was like they might not have come at all. But they did a very efficient job of towing us out though not without some anxious moments for me at the wheel of the Kombi. They brought us safely to the comfortable caravan park at Kyogle.

Here the trouble was diagnosed by the town's experienced and highly competent resident VW expert Mr Marian Betaznik as a snapped off valve head. The only way to become mobile again quickly was to obtain a replacement motor. It materialised remarkably quickly and 8 days after our mishap we were on the road again though with a much depleted bank balance.

This rather disjointed narrative does not pretend to be a comprehensive guide to northeastern New South Wales. But I can strongly recommend it as an area to visit. There is some fascinating country to explore both on foot and by car. It is quite a compact area and could readily be toured by car from the Wollumbin Caravan Park or one of the other Caravan Parks of the region. The mountain roads are not, however, suitable for caravans. Even before the present expansion of the local National Parks the Forestry Commission was to a large extent providing such facilities as a public relations exercise but they have done this uncommonly well. The NPWS will have its work cut out to maintain the same standards. There is probably little to be seen in the Lamington National Park of Queensland which cannot be seen in the northeastern corner of New South Wales.

One final observation. It has on several occasions struck us what excellent service can be obtained when urgent need arises in the smaller Australian towns. In Hawker, Dubbo and now Kyogle we have received the most efficient and courteous attention when we have struck mechanical trouble over the years at inconvenient times. Kyogle will remain in our memory as one of the most pleasant small towns in Australia.

Alastair Morrison



You can always find a good stick to help you across a creek on N.P.A. outings

Photo Rabbette Scougal

WALKING IN SOME OF NEW ZEALAND'S NATIONAL PARKS

Routeburn Track (24 miles) Fiordland & Mt Aspiring National Parks

29-31 December 1982

The 8 from Canberra were up early to catch a coach from Milford to The Divide to commence the Routeburn Track walk. The coach driver advised us that the clutch had gone on the coach; also the starter solenoid. However, he had someone lined up to start the engine with a broomstick (somehow poking around); who then ran round and hopped in while we rolled slowly forward. He drove carefully up to and through the Homer Tunnel and then stopped in order to check tickets and collect any unpaid fares. Keas immediately descended on the coach, walking around the roof and one sitting on the open door and peering inquisitively in at the strange passengers!

At the Divide there were quite a few walkers milling around. Reg waited here for Fiona who was arriving by coach from Queenstown at 11.15a.m. The rest of us walked down to Howden Hut which only took 1½ hours. We dumped our gear to claim some bunks – on this walk one did not have to “book” and had to take one's chances on getting somewhere to sleep. The huts varied in size accommodating from 12 to 50. At this time of year, with people walking the track in both directions, some huts frequently have twice as many people as bunks. Having established our claim, we walked back some way to a side track marked to “Key Summit”. This was about a 20 minute climb to a spot providing very good views. The day was overcast, dry and a cool 15° – not quite the same as Canberra summer temperatures but certainly more comfortable for walking! Just as we descended from Key Summit we met Reg and Fiona and were relieved the link-up arrangements had all worked out.

We had lunch at the hut – trampers were coming and going all the time – one party took a look around and decided there would not be enough room for them and went off down the track to camp. There are places along the Routeburn where one can camp but this is not really possible on the Milford – I don't think it is actually banned but it is not encouraged. One has to obtain a permit and camp 500 metres off the track which would be in thick squelchy bush and one would probably be bushed too!

In the afternoon some of us did a pleasant walk along part of the “Greenstone Track” to Lake McKellar. The Routeburn and Greenstone Tracks combined would be a good, extended walk.

Howden Hut was larger and more modern than any we had encountered before – it accommodated about 40 and had 10 gas burners. It also had flushing toilets – such luxury!

29th December 1982

During the night it rained hard but stopped before we got up. It was cloudy and cool. We were up and off by about 8 a.m. – why the hurry I don't know unless it was a desire to get a bunk in the next hut – which was only a three hour walk. We tramped along the side of the range with good views of the Hollyford Valley and snow covered peaks. We reached Lake McKenzie hut at 11a.m. This hut was even more grand than the previous one – it had a spiral staircase in the middle leading to a loft with additional sleeping accommodation. It accommodated about 50 persons. There was a long wooden seat outside the front of the hut where we sat and enjoyed the sun and scenery. The lake scene was a delightful study of greens – the water several soft shades and the scrub and forest on the many little islands and lake shore adding lighter and darker shades.

On the far side, above the tree-line we could watch walkers ascending and descending the track to the Harris Saddle.

Thursday 30th December

We were packed up early for the longest day over the Harris Saddle. The others all got on the track before us. John and I left about 8.20 – Kevin had shot off with Beverley and Frank and we didn't catch up with him till late in the day. Just after leaving the hut, near the lake edge, was a patch of fascination forest. Fiona said it put her in mind of an enchanted wood from a Walt Disney film. It was full of big rocks and boulders and fallen trees – all overgrown with a thick green mossy padding, inches thick, and a heavy growth of little, dark green ferns. The trees trunks were similarly coated so the whole scene was green lumpy, bumpy, crooked and spooky!

The path wound up and down through all the lumps and bumps and eventually into clear forest, gradually beginning to zig zag slowly up the side of the mountain. We came clear of the trees and had a good view of the lake and hut. Higher and higher, passing a small plaque, attached to a rock, in memory of two young people aged 15 and 13 who perished in a storm near that spot in 1963 – a reminder of the hazards of the exposed mountainside in bad weather. The path doubled-back and we turned a corner and came onto the side of the Hollyford Valley again. There were magnificent views right down the valley to the sea. The Darran range was on the other side of the valley – its peaks high and snow capped. The weather was improving all the time, getting clearer and clearer – it was really lovely. We walked along high over the Hollyford Valley for about an hour, at one point passing fine patches of the pretty Mt. Cook lillies. Then we climbed up to the saddle and John and I had lunch with Reg and Fiona in a warm sunny spot near the emergency hut and near a little mountain tarn. There were fine views of mountains and just below us Harris Lake, which I thought looked as though it was in a volcanic crater but John thought otherwise.

The lake spilled over in lovely falls, tumbling down over open grassland towards the Routeburn Valley. It was a glorious afternoon – getting really warm now – the bright sky practically cloudless – a day to remember. One felt like dancing down the path singing “The hills are alive with the sound of music” . . . Soon another spectacular view opened up before us – deep down to the Routeburn Valley with the river curving through wide grassy flats. We stopped briefly at Routeburn Falls hut – it was very small and we had been advised it was popular with people walking in the other direction, being well situated for commencing the long day over the saddle. For this reason, we decided to continue down to the lower hut – only another hour. We met many folk going up the track pressing on to the higher hut – we did hear there were 36 up there (in a 12 bunk hut – very cosy!). The lower hut, Routeburn Flats, is prettily sited at the edge of the forest beside the grassy river flats. Although this hut gradually filled up, it did not overflow and we were glad we made the effort to walk the extra hour.

Friday, 31st December

We got up in a leisurely way as we only had a 2 hour walk to where the bus picked us up at 2p.m. After leaving the grassy flats the track entered the forest. The river began to enter a narrow valley and eventually was racing through quite a chasm and the track was high on the steep side. It then dropped gradually down again to an open grassy valley where there was rather fine shelter. To call it a “shelter” was a bit of an injustice – it was a large hut with fire place and would provide very adequate protection if one was stranded in bad weather for any reason. We had several hours to spare and sat in a meadow beside the river enjoying the sun and our last pack-type lunch. Reg did a bit of “spit and polish” work on his shoes ready for the big city!

The coach ride back was quite scenic, a large part being along Lake Wakatipu. As we entered Queenstown it became evident it had been a hot day. In contrast to the day we had left, the tourists had arrived and were out in great numbers. There were dozens of people picnicking by the



Tidbinbilla Peak and Camels Hump under snow

— Photo Hedda Morrison

lake, water skiing and boating. The town itself was packed. We checked into our hotel — on the corner of a busy street — on New Year's Eve — it looked like being a noisy night. It was something of a shock to the system to arrive back to "civilization" after the quite beauty of the last few days. The Routeburn and Milford Tracks already seemed to be acquiring a dream-like quality. Oh! to get back to the forest, rivers and mountains. We will return . . . we will return . . . to that beautiful country — even the rain has a certain lure!

Judith Webster

ABORIGINAL OIL SHEIKS?

One of Australia's more conservative and colourful State premiers once opined that landrights would turn many Aborigines into the antipodean equivalents of the oil sheiks of Araby. Reading two very interesting books on the aboriginal Dreamtime (see titles below), it became clear to me that this politician could hardly have been farther off the mark. Like a number of other so-called primitive peoples, and quite unlike our own Western, European society, the Aborigines do not know private property; they are in fact non-acquisitive. Their passionate attachment to the ancestral lands has little or nothing to do with property rights in the Western sense, but stems directly from their Dreamtime philosophy.

The Dreamtime or Dreaming (which is perhaps the better term) is the legendary time when the Aborigines' first ancestors lived and the land was without features, although perhaps not altogether 'without form and void' as in the Judaeo-Christian creation myth. The ancestors, super-human of proportions and power yet living in the usual aboriginal manner, shaped the land by their mighty exploits. Here a boomerang thrown by them would carve out a valley or a waterhole; there a goanna or kangaroo they hunted would shape a creekbed, billabong or gilgai with its tail. More importantly, by their paradigmatic examples the ancestor-heroes established a blueprint that was to govern the lives of the aboriginal people coming after them. They set the rules for kinship, initiation, rituals and dances; they determined the relationships between the sexes and between the several totemic groups making up the tribe; in fact, there was no part of life they did not cover with their binding example. At death, their spirits wafted up into the sky, where they can be seen in the twinkling stars, but their bodies stayed behind on earth to form hills and rockformations. They also left behind a covenant which promised an uninterrupted supply of power from the spiritual realm, necessary for the maintenance of

life in all its forms, to those offspring who would follow the example of the ancestors in faithful detail.

For the Aborigine, the Dreaming is not a thing of the past, something fondly remembered when the ancient myths are recited or acted out. Rather, the Dreaming is the 'cosmological' time he is living in every day of his life. When he looks up to the sky, the stars show him that the ancestors, though remote, are in real contact; when he regards the land, its features tell him of their great works as told in the Dreamtime myths. Every moment of his life the environment demonstrates to him the need for the faithful upkeep of the old traditions and customs. His own life and that of his kinsmen, wives and children depends on his faithfulness in this regard, not to mention the lives of the plants and animals he gathers and hunts for his subsistence. The ties between the Aborigine and his land are many and strong, but the sense of property plays no role in them.

Even more important for the bond with the land is the concept of the 'conception totem'. As it happened, the ancestors of the heroic time dropped all kinds of bits and pieces from their bodies, their carrying utensils and weapons while they were on walkabout. Given their origin, it goes without saying that these sacred objects or churingas were highly charged with spiritual power. After the departure of the ancestors, those power-laden leftovers and droppings served to animate countless 'spirit-children' that were ultimately born as human beings. These spirit-children take on the form of a particular mineral, plant or animal, and they, rather than sexual intercourse, are responsible for a woman's pregnancy. At some time after conception, the pregnant woman by means of a dream or sudden intuition will remember where and by what particular spirit-child her condition was caused. The environment being full of spirit-children of some description, she will remember where the child entered her body. The stone, plant or animal in that spot that harboured the spirit-child will become the 'conception totem' of the baby once he or she is born. Thus next to the social ties, every individual Aborigine has a very strong and personal bond with the land where he was born.

It is the maintenance of these collective and individual bonds with the Dreaming which, generally speaking, causes the Aborigines to seek landrights, not the remote possibility of 'striking it rich' that so easily controls the mind of an average white Australian.

References: R. Tonkinson, 'The Mardudjara Aborigines', 1978.

W.E.H. Stanner, 'The Dreaming', 1950.

Arno Wynd

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.



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 – Streeton Drive 9.30a.m. Easy walk up Swamp Creek to attractive pool. Grass and shade. Bring lunch and swim togs. 20 km drive.

*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

DECEMBER 18 PACK WALK

Shoalhaven Gorge

Ref: Bungonia 1:25,000

Leader. Neville Esau 864176

Easy pack walk. Down to Shoalhaven River via Towong then up Shoalhaven to gorge 8-10 km. Drive 120 km.

JANUARY 7 SATURDAY TREE MAINTENANCE

Glendale Crossing

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

Leader: Charles Hill 958924

Anytime from 9.30a.m. Ring leader for details.

JANUARY 14/15 WEEKEND AT PERISHER

R.A.N. Ski Lodge

Ref: Kosciusko 1:100,000

Leader. Diana Pickering 865627

\$5.00 per night. Arrive Friday night or Saturday morning. Everybody welcome. Walks, wildflowers. Ring leader before 5th January. Bring sheets, pillowslip (or sleeping bag) and food. 200 km drive.

JANUARY 22 SUNDAY WALK-SWIM

Swamp Creek

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

Leader: Charles Hill 958924

Meet Cotter Road-Eucumbene Drive 9.30a.m. Easy walk up Swamp Creek to attractive pool. 20 km drive.

JANUARY 28, 29, 30 LONG WEEKEND CAR CAMP

Bombala

Ref: Bombala 1:100,000

Leader. Ian Currie 958112

Camp near Bombala in State Forest. Near water. Area is catchment for Genoa and Wallagarragh Rivers. Walks from camp arranged. Meeting in parking area next to swimming pool first turn to right after crossing bridge at Bombala. Contact leader for details by 25th January.

JANUARY 28, 29, 30 PACK WALK

Kowmung River

Ref: Gurnang 1:25,000

Leader: Phil Gatenby 526994 (W)

Compulsory swimming. Contact leader for details. 250 km drive.

FEBRUARY 5 SUNDAY WALK-SWIM

Cotter-Murrumbidgee

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

Leader: Fiona Brand 479538

Short walk up Murrumbidgee from Cotter Camping Reserve. Meet Cotter Camping Reserve 9.00a.m. 20 km drive.

FEBRUARY 11 SATURDAY TREE MAINTENANCE

Glendale Crossing Ref: A.C.T. 1:100,000
 Anytime from 9.30a.m. Ring leader for details.

Leader: Charles Hill 958924

FEBRUARY 12 SUNDAY WALK-SWIM

Shoalhaven River Ref: Bralwood 1:100,000
 Easy walk along Shoalhaven River. 4 km to swimming spot. Meet at southern end of Warri Bridge 10.00a.m. 60 km drive.

Leader: Neville Esau 864176

FEBRUARY 18, 19 PACK WALK-SWIM

Corang River Ref: Budawangs Bushwalkers' Map
 Pack walk-swim along Corang River to Cascades Lagoon area. 140 km drive. Contact leader for details.

Leader: Babette Scougall 487008

FEBRUARY 19 SUNDAY WALK

Gudgenby Nature Reserve Ref: A.C.T. 1:100,000
 Easy walk in Shanahan Mountain area. 60 km drive. Meet Kambah Village shops 8.30a.m.

Leader: Ian Currie 958112

FEBRUARY 22 MIDWEEK WALK – WEDNESDAY

GinInderra Falls Ref: Brindabella 1:100,000, Canberra UBD
 Walk on tracks through Falls Reserve to Murrumbidgee. Bring lunch, swimming togs. 5 km walk, 100m down and up. Entrance: Adults \$1.80. Meet parking area Kippax P.O., West Belconnen.

Leader: Charles Hill 958924

FEBRUARY 26 SUNDAY WALK

Nursery Swamp Ref: A.C.T. 1:100,000
 Walk up fire trail into Nursery Swamp from Orroral Valley. 10 km. Meet Kambah Village shops 8.30a.m. 50 km drive.

Leader: Ian Currie 958112

FEBRUARY 25, 26 PACK WALK

Goodradigbee-Micalong Creek Ref: A.C.T. 1:100,000
 Easy pack walk 2 km. Contact leader for details. 80 km drive.

Leader: Reg Alder 542240

MARCH 4 SUNDAY ORRORAL HOMESTEAD WORKING PARTY

Ref: Rendezvous Creek 1:25,000
 Jobs for all. Bring gloves, tools and lunch. Billy tea provided. All welcome.

Leader: Ross Carlton 863892

MARCH 3, 4 PACK WALK

Ettrema Ref: Nerriga 1:25,000
 Contact leader for this medium-hard walk in Budawangs. Friday night start probable. 170 km drive.

Leader: Garth Abercromble 814907

MARCH 10 SATURDAY TREE MAINTENANCE

Glendale Crossing Ref: A.C.T. 1:100,000
 Anytime from 9.30a.m. Ring leader for details.

Leader: Charles Hill 958924

MARCH 11 TWO SUNDAY WALKS

(1) Easy – Tharwa Area (Garth is going!) Ref: A.C.T. 1:100,000
 (2) Harder – The Onion Ref: Michelago 1:100,000

Leader: Betty Campbell 811771

Leader: Phil Gatenby 526994 (W)

Tinderry Ranges. Medium walk and climb. Scrub and rock scrambling. Meet Kambah shops. Both walks 8.30a.m. 60 km drive.

MARCH 14 MIDWEEK WALK – WEDNESDAY

Nursery Swamp Ref: Rendezvous Creek 1:25,000
 Walk up fire trail from Orroral Valley. 10 km. Meet Kambah Village shops 8.30 a.m. 50 km drive.

Leader: Reg Alder 542240

MARCH 17, 18, 19 EDROM LODGE (LONG WEEKEND)

Twofold Bay Ref: Eden 1:100,000
 A return visit to this lodge built in 1913 and now operated by the Forestry Commission. Provided: bed, mattresses, refrigeration, stove, utensils. Bring: sheets, blankets or sleeping bags, food. Dormitory style rooms. \$6.00 per person per night. Walk, swim, fish, visit Boydtown. 275 km drive. Contact leader by 14th March for reservations.

Leader: Jonny Cusbert 815331

MARCH 17, 18, 19 PACK WALK

Broken Dam – 9 mile Ref: Cabramurra 1:25,000
 Medium walk: Selwyn Quarry, 4 mile, Tabletop, 9 mile, Broken Dam. 220 km drive via Cooma. Ring leader for details.

Leader: Ian Haynes 514762

MARCH 18 SUNDAY WALK

Gudgenby Nature Reserve Ref: Rendezvous Creek 1:25,000
 Walk up Middle Creek. Scrub, some climbing. Meet Kambah shops 8.30a.m. 50 km drive.

Leader to be announced

MARCH 25 SUNDAY WALK

Corin Dam Lookout Ref: A.C.T. 1:100,000
 Medium walk with climbing up fire trail and scrub. Meet Eucumbene Drive and Cotter Road 8.30a.m. 45 km drive.

Leader: Hela Lindemann 515917

MARCH 25 SUNDAY WALK

Gudgenby Nature Reserve Ref: A.C.T. 1:100,000
 Grassy Creek. Easy-medium walk in this area. Drive 65 km. Meet Kambah shops 8.30a.m.

Leader: Les Pyke 812982



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

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Outings Convenor: Beverley Hammond, 21 Hyndes Cres., HOLDER A.C.T. 2611
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Telephone: 865627 (H) (Secretary), or 643959 (W) 310154 (H) (Publicity Officer)

Annual Subscription Rates

1 July-30 June:	Family members \$12	Student members \$5
	Single members \$10	Corporate members \$5
	Pensioners \$ 5	Bulletin only \$5

For new members joining between:

1 January-31 March:	Half specified rate
1 April-30 June:	Annual Subscription – 15 month's membership benefit

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.

DESIGN BY REG ALDER
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TYPESET BY BELCONNEN TYPESETTING – 547390

National Parks Association A.C.T.

OUTINGS SUMMARY

December	4	Sunday	Mt Gingera	Walk
	4/5	Weekend	Belowra Creek	Pack Walk
	7	Wednesday	Swamp Creek	Walk
	11	Sunday	Orroral	Christmas Party
	18	Weekend	Shoalhaven Gorge	Pack Walk
January	7	Saturday	Glendale	Tree Maintenance
	14/15	Weekend	Perisher	Ski Lodge
	22	Sunday	Swamp Creek	Walk/Swim
	28/29/30	Long Weekend	Bombala	Car Camp
	28/29/30	Long Weekend	Kowmung River	Pack Walk
February	5	Sunday	Cotter/Murrumbidgee	Walk/Swim
	11	Saturday	Glendale	Tree Maintenance
	12	Sunday	Shoalhaven River	Sunday Walk/Swim
	18/19	Weekend	Corang River	Pack Walk
	19	Sunday	Shanahan Mountain	Walk
	22	Wednesday	Gininderra Falls	Walk
	26	Sunday	Nursery Swamp	Walk
	25/26	Weekend	Goodradigbee/Micalong Cr	Pack Walk
March	4	Sunday	Orroral	Working Party
	3/4	Weekend	Ettrema	Pack Walk
	10	Saturday	Glendale	Tree Maintenance
	11	Sunday	Tharwa/Tinderry Range	2 Walks
	17/18/19	Long Weekend	Twofold Bay	Edrom Lodge
	17/18/19	Long Weekend	Broken Dam	Pack Walk
	18	Sunday	Middle Creek	Walk
	25	Sunday	Corin Dam	Walk
	25	Sunday	Grassy Creek	Walk

GENERAL MEETINGS

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

DECEMBER -- No meeting.

JANUARY -- No meeting.

FEBRUARY -- Thursday 16 1984.
 Garth Abercrombie, N.P.A. member.
 Subject: Climbing Mt Muztagh Ata (7546m) in China's most western province Sinkiang.

REMINDER N.P.A. CHRISTMAS PARTY AT THE ORRORAL VALLEY
 PICNIC GROUND 3P.M. SUNDAY 11 DECEMBER 1983.