



NPA Bulletin

National Parks Association ACT

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NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY INC.

Inaugurated 1960

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.

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CLASSIFIED

If you have anything to sell, swap or whatever, post your advertisement to the Editor NPA Bulletin, Box 457 GPO, Canberra, 2601, or drop it into the NPA Office, Kingsley Street, Acton. Advertisements are restricted to members of this Association and (from the next edition) to 20 words each, and are free. Closing date for the next *Bulletin* is 15 January 1985.

For sale

Cloth badges with NPA of the ACT logo, \$1.20 at meeting, \$1.50 posted. Write to GPO Box 457, Canberra 2601, or phone (062) 571063.

Field Guide to the Native Trees of the ACT, \$4 at meetings, \$5 posted. Write to GPO Box 457, Canberra 2601, or phone (062) 571063.

Articles on the environment

The environmental correspondent of the magazine *Simply Living* has written to the NPA, inviting our members 'to send in good strong environmental articles' for publication in their magazine.

If any reader would like further information, a copy of this letter is available at our office in Kingsley Street. (Don't forget, the Bulletin needs articles on environmental issues too. Ed.)

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Cover

A photograph of a banksia man found by Andrew and Suzanne Morrison while playing on the sand dunes at Bawley Point last winter. It was a relaxed weekend of exploring along the beach, walking from headland to headland, being piggybacked across stream crossing (for the kids) and sitting around beach campfires. The party camped in a banksia grove behind the sand dunes, about an hour's walk from the cars.

PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD

We are in a very significant period in the development and planning of the ACT. Much thought is being given to both the development and the conservation aspects of the environment in which we live. Old policies are being questioned and new directions appear possible. The last 18 months has seen a proliferation of reports: Ecological Resources of the ACT; the Craig Report on Self Government; Policy and Development Plans for the Murrumbidgee Corridor, for Metropolitan Canberra and for the Gudgenby Area; and a report on Nature Conservation in the ACT by the Conservation Council. In addition, this year should see the publication of the Plan of Management for Namadgi National Park.

These documents are available to the public and although the official period for comment may have passed the issues are still open. I know it is difficult for busy people occupied with lots of other matters to find the time to read and digest what are often complicated and sometimes obscure reports, but this is our opportunity to influence the planning and development of our region for the next decade or more. It is worth taking some trouble at this formative moment in the process. It will be no use complaining later when decisions have been taken and directions set (sometimes literally) in concrete.

We are privileged to live in a planned city but as the city grows and development pressures increase it is becoming more necessary to plan for the surrounding areas as well. If you have ideas on planning issues, or a particular interest in a particular area or activity, make your thoughts known, either directly to the authorities or through our NPA Committee. The Committee formulates responses to documents made public but the more contributions we have from the membership the better and more broadly-based those submissions will be.

ENVIRONMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

Morton National Park, the Murrumbidgee corridor and the boundaries of Namadgi National Park have been three main items of interest to the Environment Sub-committee in recent months.

A number of problems with 'people management' have been identified in Morton. These have been brought to the attention of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service. We have volunteered our help in one instance — to rectify track degradation problems between Corang Trig and Bibbenluke Walls. The Murrumbidgee corridor remains a matter of concern and we plan a display on the area as part of Heritage Week 1985.

Perusal of a map showing the boundaries of Namadgi National Park shows the excision of the north-west corner of the ACT from the park. The Cotter River and Bendora Dam currently mark the northern boundary. Our Sub-committee would like to see this area eventually included in the park. It contains a number of forest types including the commercially desirable *Eucalyptus fastigata-E. viminalis* association. This forest is of limited extent in the ACT, the only other occurrence being in the Tidbinbilla Range. It is also particularly distinctive as most eucalypt forest in the ACT is of drier types. Inclusion of the north-western area would also complement the proposed Brindabella National Park in NSW.

If you would like to know more about the Sub-committee's activities, please phone Kevin Frawley (H) 823080, (w) 688556.

NAMADGI SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

This Sub-committee is finding plenty to do as Namadgi National Park planning gets under way. Our representative on the Consultative Committee, Denise Robin, reports that it consists of an enthusiastic group who have many good ideas for the management of the Namadgi National Park.

In response to two requests published in the *Canberra Times* recently, our Sub-committee has prepared two reports concerning the management of the new park.

Denise Robin and Kevin Frawley prepared a statement on the ideas

the NPA of the ACT have regarding the Plan of Management for the park. This is an excellent report despite lack of time (the report had to be with the ACT Parks and Conservation Service by mid-January).

Many Sub-committee members have read *The Gudgenby Area Draft Policy and Development Plan* and have written down their comments as requested by the National Capital Development Commission. All the comments have been co-ordinated by Robert Story, Charles Hill and Reg Alder and were submitted to the NCDC early in February. The above publication is on sale for \$2 at the NCDC offices in Northbourne Avenue and Wanniasa, and is well worth reading.

Hazel Bancroft and Ross Carlton at work in the new office in Kingsley Street. Behind them are the curtains donated by Reg Alder. His daughter, Alison, screen printed the NPA logo onto the material and Dorothy Brown made them up. — Photo by Reg Alder



FINANCE AND MEMBERSHIP SUB-COMMITTEE

Although the scope of the Association's financial operations is modest, it has increased in recent years both in the level of funds involved and in complexity with the growth of such aspects as grants and the publication of the Field Guide. The Sub-committee considers that the management of these funds could be improved if a budget were drawn up at the beginning of the financial year and, accordingly, presented a draft budget to the Committee at their December meeting. This has indeed highlighted a number of important aspects of our financial position, which will be the subject of further recommendations by the Sub-committee and decision by the Committee.

COMMITTEE NEWS

This column contains a selection of items dealt with by the Committee at its November and December meetings which may be of interest to members in general.

A large proportion of the Committee's time has been given over to consideration of matters raised by the sub-committees which are reported separately. However two key issues warrant mention here as both require responses by early in the New Year. One is the Department of Territories and Local Government request for proposals for the Namadgi Plan of Management which it intended to draw up in 1985 and the other is the NCDC request for comment on its recently published plans for the development of the Gudgenby area. Coinciding as they do with the December/January holiday period, preparation of these responses has placed a strain on members.

Earlier, the Association was involved in the preparation of a conservation report on the Orroral homestead and, indeed, undertook some preliminary work towards its restoration for which grant funds have been made available. For some time further progress has been thwarted by uncertainty on the official policy for the future of the homestead. The NPA has now taken the initiative by proposing a meeting of interested parties to enable a way ahead to be determined.

The establishment of the NPA of the ACT office in Kingsley Street means that the way in which many of the Association's functions are performed can be improved and the task of setting up these new procedures is progressing. However it will still be a little while before all of these are in place. At the time of writing the lack

of a phone connection to the office is being keenly felt but it is hoped that this will soon be rectified.

The *Bulletin* is the key to communication amongst members of the Association and a principal link with people and organisations outside it. As members, we can be justly proud of the high standard of our publication but are we aware of the effort and dedication that its production demands? The Committee at its December meeting was reminded of just these things when the Editor outlined the steps involved in the publication of the *Bulletin* – collection of copy and photographs, editing, typesetting, proofreading, layout, printing, collation, preparation of labels, and dispatch – and the phoning and driving needed to meet deadlines. We have been well served by our *Bulletin* editors present and past, but it is clear that we need to find ways to spread the load and heavy responsibility of *Bulletin* production in the future.

(The telephone is now installed – 571063. – Ed.)

SPEAKERS WANTED

The ACT Heritage Week Steering Committee is looking for members of NPA who are willing to speak to school children and conservation groups during Heritage Week (14-21 April) about the objectives and activities of the Association. The talk would be of about 20 minutes duration and complemented by slides. Slide kits of NPA of the ACT and Gudgenby Reserve are available. For more details, contact NPA Publicity Officer, Anne Robertson, on 724535 (w) or the ACT Heritage Week Co-ordinator, Stephen Dovers, on 731557.

Sketch by Ken Johnson



THE LIBRARY HAS MOVED

The NPA library collection is now in our office in Kingsley Street. Kay Duggan has been busy setting it up and updating the catalogue.

The Association receives a number of interesting journals and publications from around Australia. These are all available to members for browsing through at the office or for taking home. We ask that you please sign for any book or journal that you borrow and that you return it within one month.

Some of the publications we receive on a regular basis are:

- ACF Newsletter
- Habitat
- Bogong
- Save Colong Bulletin
- National Forests Action Council Newsletter
- Far South Coast Environment Group Newsletter
- Kosciusko Huts Association Newsletter
- Fund for Animals Bulletin
- World Wildlife Fund Australia
- National Trust of Australia (ACT) Bulletin
- Australian Heritage Commission Newsletter
- Government in Focus (Digest of Fed. Govt activities)
- Wilderness Society Newsletter and Journal
- ECOS – CSIRO environmental research
- Australian Mining Review

and many others from bushwalking clubs, field naturalist groups, state NPAs, other conservation organisations etc. Come in and look through them yourselves. The office is open each Tuesday to Friday from 9.30am to 3pm.

THISTLES, THISTLES EVERYWHERE . . .

As there are thistles everywhere you walk in the Namadgi National Park and the countryside surrounding it, I thought we should feature thistles in our *Bulletin* until the situation improves.

The species illustrated in this issue is *Onopordum acanthium*, commonly known as 'Scotch Thistle' although of European origin. It quickly invades any disturbed land and takes it over, and appears to be the one most prevalent in the Namadgi area. The main problem areas are old pasture lands that are no longer used for grazing.

The question is What is being done to control the spread of thistles? – Ed.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Fiona Brand

From time to time the NPA recognises work done by members over a long period, by awarding life membership. In the past Dr Nancy Burbidge, Julie Henry, Sheila Kruse and Fiona Brand have been thus honoured, and at the 1984 Annual General Meeting the Association awarded life membership to two more members, Reg Alder and Robert Story.

Reg has just relinquished his editorship of our quarterly *Bulletin*. During his six years as editor, he introduced changes to the *Bulletin* in order to raise issues and bring the objectives of the Association more fully to the notice of members. His photographic interests have resulted in the inclusion of many photographs to illustrate the articles and a different, beautiful feature photograph on the front cover of each issue. He served his apprenticeship as a journalist in the early 1940s as assistant editor of the *Bushwalker Annual*.

Reg has been associated with the walking and environmental movement since 1938, as a member of the Sydney Bushwalkers and the NSW branch of the NPA. On being posted to Canberra in 1970, he joined our Association and has worked on various NPA committees and sub-committees since then. He has been the proponent of many proposals to bring the Association into line with management practices of the 1980s. Reg is a great walker and is, as Alastair Morrison said during his speech proposing Reg as a life member, like the piper of nursery rhyme fame, often 'over the hills

and far away' leading our members on pleasant bushwalks.

Robert Story's association with the NPA goes back to its beginnings. He was at the inaugural meeting in March 1960 and joined the Association in that year. He became a committee member in 1962 and was President of NPA for the next three years. He then served as Past President for the years 1965/66 and committee member again for the years 1966/67. Whilst on the committee and as President he did research and editorial work on the Gudgenby National Park Proposal. This proposed area is now the core of the new Namadgi National Park. Robert took part in the publishing of a series of natural history articles in the *Canberra Times* in the 1960s, has always been a helper when submissions to government authorities have had to be written, did editorial work on the *Field Guide to the Native Trees of the ACT* recently published by this association, and has helped with its distribution to commercial outlets.

He has been our representative on the Australian National Parks Council from 1978 to 1983 and was President of this Council for the terms 1979/80 and 1980/81. He is an energetic worker for the Kosciusko Huts Association and has introduced many NPA members to the old huts in the Snowy Mountains. Robert has always been a keen bushwalker and is a willing leader of walks into his favourite corners in the Budawangs, the Deua area and Kosciusko National Park.

It was with applause that the NPA members at the August meeting watched the life membership badge being pinned to Robert Story for his work on conservation of our natural areas and his work in our Association.

DO'S AND DON'TS FOR WALKING

As this issue covers the popular autumn period, when more people will be coming on walks, it is perhaps an opportune time to remind ourselves of our responsibilities as walkers. Here are some suggestions about walking.

- Arrive at the right place at the right time
- Listen to advice from your leader
- Do not bring dogs or other pets
- Don't set off at your own pace
- Bring adequate clothes (including protective rain gear), food and water to suit the particular walk
- Wear stout footwear and bring a hat
- Bring a whistle, a torch, a box of matches, a map and a compass whenever possible
- A first aid box is a useful extra
- Do not leave the party without informing the leader
- Do not litter
- Do not pick wildflowers

This is not meant to be a list of restrictions but rather a list of the minimum requirements for you to enjoy the walk fully and to ensure your safety in unforeseen circumstances. The latter are fortunately rare. With these few factors in mind your walk should be pleasant, and you will leave the countryside unspoilt for others to enjoy.

NEW MEMBERS

The following new members are welcomed to the Association:

Marian Colton, Fisher; Marian Currie, Red Hill; Peter and Marinela Currie, Holt; Geoff Duggan, Hughes; Mr and Mrs T.D. Eaton, Curtin; Betty Emslie, St Kilda, Vic.; Jacqueline Halls, Chisholm; Daphne and Max Hayward, Curtin; Beverley Hutton, Ainslie; Mrs J.C. Iltis and family, Curtin; Carolyn and John Kennedy, Melba; E.G. Maculan, Duffy; Bronwyn and Ken McCluskey, Hackett; Christine Paterson, Weetangera; Jennie Power, Woden; Janet Thompson, Hughes; Gary Werren, Duntroon.

Q U E S T

A Club for Children Seeking a Better Environment

IF YOU

- are under 15
- enjoy the fun of discovery
- like the bush and Australia's unique wildlife
- want to do something worthwhile

JOIN THE QUEST CLUB

The Australian Conservation Foundation launched a Quest Club for children under 15 on June 11, 1984.

The Club aims to promote an understanding of the environment through participation in environmental surveys, outdoor activities and community programs. Questers will be able to participate in all the activities on their own, with their families or in an organised group.

For further details contact Jenny Whyte, ACF Youth Co-ordinator, c/o 672B Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn, 3123.

(If enough children show interest, perhaps parents would like to form a NPA of the ACT group — Ed.)

Jenny Whyte has written saying that the club has been successfully launched and that they are looking for members in other states and territories. QUEST newsletters, information sheets and enrolment forms are available at our office.)

ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL MEETING

by Alastair Morrison

On 20 and 21 October 1984 I attended a meeting of the Conservation Council of the South-East Region and Canberra (CCSERC) on behalf of the Canberra Ornithologists Group (COG). Members may be interested to have an account of the matters of particular interest discussed at the meeting which took place at Kiathara, south of Tathra. Chief amongst them was woodchipping which is by far the biggest environmental problem in south-east Australia.

The meeting was hosted by the Far South Coast Environmental Group (FSCEG) which is based at Tathra. This is a small and dedicated group of environmentalists who have over the years fought a valiant battle to protect the south coast environment. As opponents of the lucrative and highly destructive woodchip industry based at Eden they have aroused the strong hostility of powerful vested interests. The woodchip industry is well organised and out to crush all opposition. The FSCEG cannot call a public meeting to discuss the subject without risking having it swamped by truckloads of woodchip workers organised by the Eden industry. Even the venue of our Council meeting had to be moved from a public to a private location because of threatened interference.

The destruction of the south coast forests through woodchipping has been devastating. It involves clear felling huge areas, the theory being (there was no practical experience to go on) that this would lead to regeneration and sustained yield. Initially the coupes were very large and much felling took place on steep slopes leading to severe erosion. The coupes were reduced in size (although subsequently increased again) but the regenerating forest does not have the same species mix as its clear-felled predecessor. Furthermore the regrowth is extremely vulnerable to fire. When this occurs the forest is wiped out because saplings do not recover, and the seed-stock is gone; nothing is left to regenerate. The adverse effect on fauna and flora is obvious.

In 1980 the Forestry Commission was itself responsible for a disastrous fire that swept through 40,000 hectares of Timbilica and Nadgee. The fire was caused by the Commission's practice of burning the stripped bark in huge piles. These could smoulder for months. One of these smouldering piles set off a fire that did vast damage. Much of the Nadgee Nature Reserve was included in the holocaust. The Nadgee Forest, where there had been no clear felling, is recovering slowly

but much of the remainder has been reduced to virtual desert. In the summer of 1983 there was another major fire which swept in from Victoria and consumed 150,000 hectares. Regrowth was again severely affected.

The Eden woodchippers have largely worked out the areas that are readily accessible from that town. They are now spreading their activities ever further afield into the Bega and Bombala areas, and up onto Brown Mountain. Some logs are coming in from Victoria. This is described as 'integrated logging' with all the best timber going to sawmills. The royalty on woodchip logs is, however, lower than that for sawmill logs and there are grounds for believing that much sawmilling timber is actually being chipped. The FSCEG has been involved in a particular battle to prevent the destruction of Glenbog and Tanta-wanglo State Forests in the headwaters of the Bega River.

A considerable amount of timber is being made available for woodchipping by short-sighted landowners. They are short sighted because, while they derive some immediate income from sales, their land is left in a degraded state with erosion gullies caused by tractors and covered with piles of stumps, crowns and branches. The contractors only remove the trunks. There is enormous waste.

Woodchipping has brought wealth of a kind to Eden though it has been heavily subsidised by the NSW taxpayer who has funded extensive road networks and other developments. The main beneficiaries are, however, Japanese business interests. The Eden operation is, in fact, a remarkable example of latter-day economic colonialism. The 20 year term of the export license expires in 1989 and the Japanese are vigorously seeking a 20 year extension. If that is granted the Eden industry can only be sustained by destroying more and more forests stretching further and further away from Eden. There has never been enough regrowth to provide a 20 year cycle sustained yield and much of the regrowth has been destroyed by fire. Other areas of the NSW coast and Gippsland will be required to keep Eden working in a process of rapidly creeping desertification.

Quite apart from the damage caused already it is these extensions which are a main subject of concern for the environmental movement in south-east Australia and our hosts at Tathra are every much in the front line. What is particularly galling about the damage

being done by Japanese exploitation is that the Japanese would never allow their own forests to be treated in this way. As anyone who has travelled in Japan will be aware the Japanese forests are most carefully tended, almost manicured.

I have written this account because few members of our Association seem to be aware of the environmental mayhem that is taking place on their doorstep. Yet damage to the environment should be of concern to all of us and woodchipping is now responsible for an enormous amount of very serious and irreversible damage. It is turning the south coast forest lands into virtual deserts. There is tremendous erosion. Lakes are silting up and fishing destroyed. Every form of wildlife has been affected. The destruction can never be repaired. The only worthwhile course is to stop it.

Woodchipping was not, of course, the only subject discussed at Kiathara. There was much discussion of coastline problems. Fairly large areas are now being protected through the creation of national parks and reserves. A fine stretch of coast at Bournda now forms part of an excellent State Recreation Area.

The main problem of the coast lies in the lack of adequate and uniform planning legislation. Each Council is largely free to do as it pleases. There is a lot of money to be made in 'development' and some of the 'developments' to be seen — particularly on headlands — are monuments of bad and tawdry planning. The principal aim of the environment movement in this regard is to urge the NSW State Government to strengthen planning controls so that this beautiful stretch of coast can be preserved in as unspoilt a condition as possible for the benefit of posterity. There is a small and active environmental group based in Bateman's Bay called the Coastwatchers Association.

Another subject discussed concerned the Murrumbidgee corridor. A good deal of interest has been shown in Canberra concerning the ACT section of the corridor but the problem is much larger than this. The future of the area covered by the recent Parkwood sale remains in some doubt. To the south at Michelago there are reports of 100 acre subdivision running down to the river — each with its own access track. Here again the great problem lies in the lack of uniform and effective planning legislation.

In conclusion I would urge NPA members to take more positive interest in environmental matters. Canberra

has its own Environment Centre which contains a valuable reference library. It caters for more than 40 member groups which include COG, the FSCEG, NPA, the Coastwatchers Association, the Goulburn Field Naturalists, the Kosciusko Committee, Canberra Bushwalkers, Canberra Archaeological Society and many other groups interested in environmental problems. The CCSERC which is the 'advocacy arm' and which is made up of representatives of the member groups, is based on the Centre. The Centre and Council enjoy some support from the Federal Government and the ACF and are able to employ a small and very modestly remunerated staff. But given the large numbers of people in Canberra who profess an interest in the environment it is surprising how little personal involvement there is. There are many

fields of activity open to those who are interested. And like all small and struggling institutions of this kind both Council and the Centre are perpetually in need of financial support. A donation — still better regular donations — would be more than welcome.

The value of the growing regional network of environmental groups can, incidentally, be illustrated by the fact that the Goulburn Field Naturalists have kept us informed of proposed mineral exploration licenses being sought in the Lake George/Lake Bathurst areas thus enabling us to make representations opposing such licenses. Applications do not of themselves indicate that there are in fact any minerals to mine underlying the two lakes but obviously they do pose very serious potential threats to bird habitats of prime importance. ☹

GUDGENBY STATION

by Reg Alder

Surrounded by Namadgi National Park and with Namadgi Mountain looming down over it, Gudgenby Station is under the shadow of uncertainty as to its future.

In the Policy and Development Plan recently issued by the NCDC the proposals put forward for Gudgenby Station are:

B2. Gudgenby Station (western portion) to be incorporated into the reserve and existing rural use to continue in the short term. Natural regeneration to be encouraged as a buffer to the wilderness area.

C1. Eastern portion to continue under rural use until incorporated in the reserve. Ultimately to provide sites for locating possible future developments specifically related to the appreciation or management of the nature reserve. Government built or acquired facilities may be provided for lease. Initially, private enterprise development will not be permitted, but as the development of Gudgenby area proceeds and needs become clearer, policies may be drafted to allow private enterprise development. Open foreground landscape to be retained.

F2. Gudgenby Homestead to become a subsidiary management centre when Gudgenby Station ceases to be an operational rural property or when the current residential occupancy is terminated by earlier negotiation. A secondary management centre is proposed for Gudgenby Homestead, in the long term, in association with facilities for public education and interpretation of the nature reserve and for recreation (as proposed in C1). Policy F2 retains the option for use of the homestead as a management centre at an earlier time, if this proves practicable.

The proposed developments relating to the 'appreciation of the reserve' are not really specific. The proposal that it is to be used as an educational centre would be in keeping with the concept of a national park, however, the proposal that private enterprise may be allowed to take over the management seems to me to suggest that accommodation villages may be what they have in mind. What is not wanted is another Thredbo and Perisher problem with all the pressures by private entrepreneurs for profit, seeking further expansion and accompanied by increasing pollution.

It is all in the small print. We have had sufficient warning. Members



Clear felling of native forests in the Eden area. — Photograph by courtesy of the Environment Centre

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Association for Research Exploration and Aid Ltd (AREA), which is concerned with the preservation of the natural and cultural heritage of developing nations, is preparing an Environmental Assistance Program to place professional and voluntary environmental personnel in positions on Overseas Aid Projects.

AREA maintains a register of persons and contact personnel for positions with AREA and other organisations in the aid program. There is no charge for the service, however, membership of AREA is mandatory for those wishing to participate in the

program.

Because of the diversity of opportunities, the program is open to people of all experiences. However, voluntary applicants should indicate on their application what assistance they feel they are able to provide.

AREA's current projects are forest protection in Nepal, assisting with the development of a training centre for living resource conservation in Thailand, and preparation of environmental profiles of all countries receiving Australian aid. The current vacant positions are for a project officer for the Sagamatha (Everest) National Park and for project directors.

Further details are available at the NPA Office in Kingsley Street.

should be prepared to advance their opinions to the Association and also be prepared to make their own submissions to the Department of Territories and Local Government when the management plan is presented for public comment.

The time to protest is now and not wait until there is confrontation as the first sod is being turned. To do nothing will mean the demise of the park as a natural area under the control of the people who use it. (E)

NEW NATIONAL PARK FOR CANADA

The Information Officer at the Canadian High Commission has sent to the Association details of a newly declared national park in Canada — Mingan Archipelago National Park.

The park is located on the middle north shore of the St Lawrence River about 1100km from Montreal, and consists of almost all the islands and islets in the Mingan Archipelago. The area was acquired to help preserve the representative elements of the natural terrain in the East St Lawrence Lowlands and the marine life in the Gulf of St Lawrence, as well as to enable the public to benefit from the islands and to know them better.

Its maritime mid-northern climate together with the many geological upheavals of the rock layers have helped to create land formations of exceptional beauty and diversity. A great variety of plant life, often unique to the area, is found on the islands, which also have a large bird population and a thriving marine community.

Mingan is Canada's thirtieth National Park.

A copy of the information sheet and small map are held at the NPA Office.

PARK PERSONALITY PROFILES — HENRY GOLD

by Alex Colley

Henry Gold arrived in Australia in 1955 and started work as a lithographer, reproducing high quality art work for printing. This work complements his devotion to the art of photography.

He joined the Sydney Bush Walkers in 1956, an ideal way of getting to know our wilderness areas. Our bush has a reputation for sameness, and most Australians take it for granted, but Henry saw it with the unprejudiced eyes of an artist, new to the country, and recognised its real beauty. It didn't pretend to the grandeur of the famous Alps of his native country, but it was fascinating and

unique for those with eyes to see and the technique to capture its qualities on film.

Although the bush has interest and contrast, it is difficult to impart on film the brilliance and sparkle necessary for good black and white photography, his favoured medium. It took Henry a few years to develop an appreciation of appropriate lighting and to determine the most suitable types of film and methods of development. He learned a great deal about wilderness photography during a 2½ year sojourn in the United States, where he kept in touch with the Sierra Club and studied the technique used by the well-known wilderness photographer, Ansell Adams, whose approach he felt was also appropriate to the Australian bush.

In 1967, a year before the Colong

Committee was formed, Henry worked with Tom Moppett (then NSW NPA president) and Sydney Bush Walker members, Alan Rigby, Mick Elphick and John White, preparing a submission to Tom Lewis, then Minister for Lands, against the mining of Colong Caves. When Alan Rigby died, literally on the job, John White persuaded Henry to take over his role of principal photographer, and they produced the brochure *Quarry Valuable Scenery*, virtually the first shot in the Colong campaign. Myles Dunphy supplied the information for the brochure and was presented with a set of photographs. Throughout the Colong and Boyd campaigns, Henry provided most of the photographic material that was used for pamphlets, press articles and a special issue of *Habitat*. He spent a fortnight alone camping through a



Namodji Mountain with Gudgenby Station in the foreground.
Photo by Reg Alder

blizzard on the Boyd Plateau, and the best of these photographs were used for a professionally mounted display book, of which only three copies were produced. Three days after one of these was left with the then Minister for Lands, Milton Morris, it was announced that there would be no pines on the Boyd. How much this decision was due to Henry's photographs we don't know, but perhaps it tipped the scales.

The Colong Committee, realising the value of photographs in persuading the decision-makers who could not or would not visit the places they were trying to save, despatched Henry to the Border Ranges, the Blue Mountains and Kakadu early in their campaigns to preserve these areas. His photographs were widely used, not only in Colong Committee publications but also in the press, and in special issues of the *National Parks Journal* and *Habitat*. Four posters were printed for the Colong Committee and two for the National Trust. Poster sales, which aggregated some thousands, provided much needed funds for the Committee.

More recently Henry has photographed the Forbes River, Upper Hastings and Washpool Forests, has provided illustrations for Australian Heritage Commission publications, and has contributed to the ACF books, *Australian Natural Heritage* and *The Gift of the Forest*. He has also photographed the Mount Werong area for the Total Environment Centre's Canopy Committee.

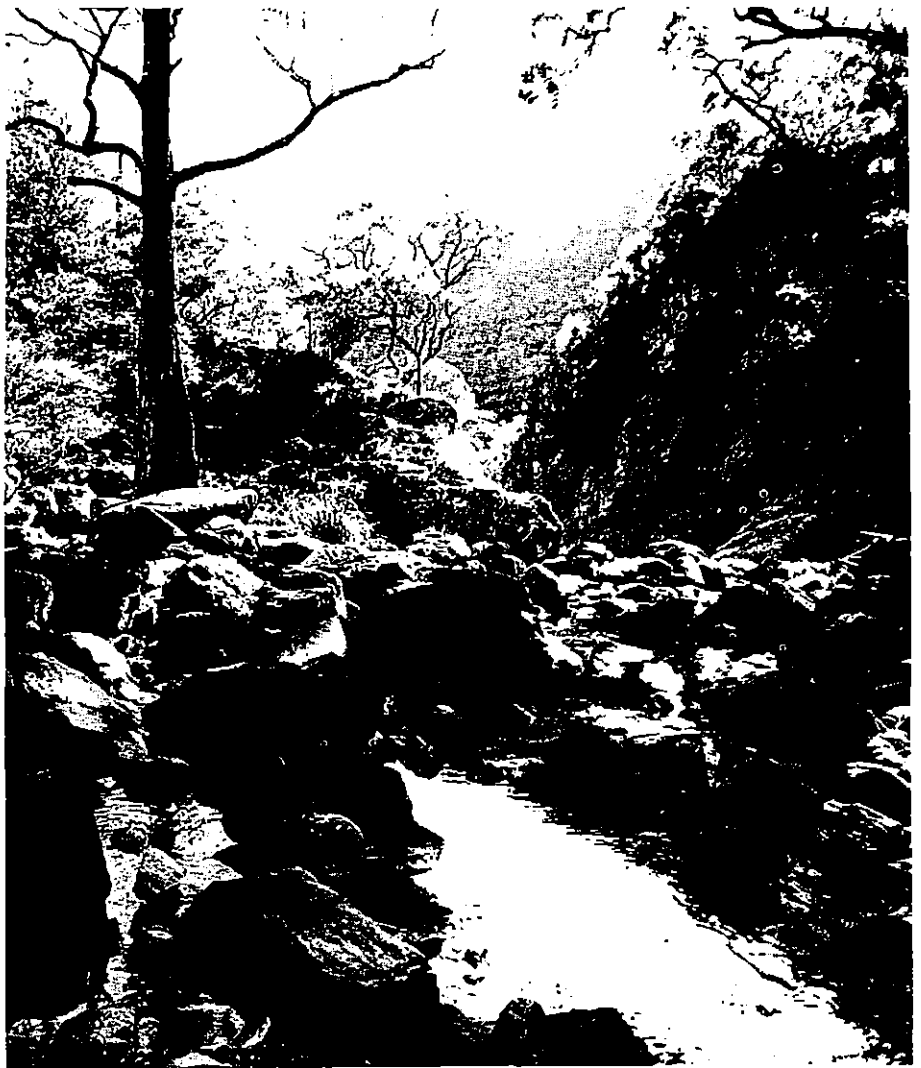
Together with Frank Rigby he published the book *The Macdonnell Ranges* and later joined with Peter Prineas to establish Kalianna Press, which has published *The Colo Wilderness*, *Wild Places* and several NSW wilderness calendars.

There can be no doubt that Henry's photographs have won many people to the cause of wilderness preservation and that much of the success of the Colong Committee is derived from them.

(This article was previously published in the Colong Bulletin.)

URGENT

Needed for the office — donation or loan of a vacuum cleaner or carpet sweeper. Please phone Kay on 571063.



Jones Creek, Ettrema Wilderness. 'Wild Places' p.69
Photo by Henry Gold



Children were given a piggyback ride across the Shoalhaven River at the start of the Big Hole/Hanging Rock walk last year. — Photograph by Babette Scougall

JUST BRIEFLY

One of our (excellent) leaders has a favourite expression 'It's pretty flat from here on', then proceeds to slog upwards! While we appreciate his describing the terrain at intervals, it is as well to know that 'one man's meat is another man's poison'.

One can't be everywhere, but I would have loved to have seen the Hegarty's chasing a platypus along the main street of Bungendore (or so I am told, on good authority)!

Betty Cambell enjoyed her tour of the US and Canadian National Parks, especially the rain forests of Olympic NP, and the joys of Yo Ho NP. May I carry your bag next time, Betty?

Sheila Kruse loved UK and Europe, waxing lyrical over Honfleur, a fishing town on the Seine estuary. She also asks that a weekend camp be arranged for Camargue NP in the south of France, to 'look at the birds'. Wanted – a leader/organiser.

A member watched a yellow-faced honeyeater build its nest and raise a family in his neighbour's overflow pipe (hot water system). Apparently this is VERY unusual, and luckily the water did NOT overflow! (Wise creatures birds.)

Forsaking mountains for water, Hela Lindemann has moved to live near the Clyde River in Batemans Bay area. Good luck, Hela.

Driving home at 7p.m. after a fairly tough weekend pack walk, one of our (very sober) members was asked to 'breathe into the bag'. Opportunity would have been a fine thing, he must have thought!

Edna and Bill Watson returned from their European wanderings, filled with culture, beauty and enthusiasm, and will be off for another long spell around April. Best of luck to them! (Yet another suitcase I could carry!)

The weekend camp at Lake Tilba was delightful. Walks along the bays and rocks were fascinating, as the stretch of coast to Mystery Bay contains the oldest rocks on the east coast (over 400 million years). It's 'on again' in '85 – watch the Bulletin.

There is growing concern among the 'walking' members of NPA who regularly see vast areas of damage by wild pigs. After hearing the story about someone's having his car 'charged at' near Tidbinbilla, one wonders when, how, where, and in what form the first 'human casualty' from pigs will be. It's no laughing matter, they are a MENACE, and damage is increasing.

Recently I had reason to recall my scouting training. Scouts leave messages on tracks using broken twigs, stones, drawing in the dirt and so on. The easiest one and the best to remember (and known world wide) is a circle with a dot in the middle, meaning 'Gone Home'. When leaving messages, put obvious (unnatural) signs nearby – logs across track, cairns, stones, etc. – to lead to the message.

Scribble Gum

WALKING IN NORWAY

Of walking in Norway, what can I tell?
Water sang everywhere, water that fell
Down from dark cliffs in white veils of spray
From white and gray rocks that were heaped in our way.

Waterfalls cascading across and around
Caught by the wind and bursting with sound.
Water descending near every high dome
Catching the sunlight and seeking its home.
Through part-hidden beds of gravel and scree
To rivers fast-flowing in foam to the sea.

With the stream our companion, we climbed up from Flam
Back to Myrdal where the railway comes from.
Past neat wooden homesteads and folk making hay
Green woods and wild flowers softened our way.
Buttercups, daisies, bluebells and clover
Bordered the road which steep cliffs hung over.
And filling our ears and always rejoicing
The wilful wild water never ceased voicing
Its clashing and splashing and flashing on down
To reach the broad fjord lapping the town.

We looked up to see a high col of snow
Flinging a ribbon of water below
Where on the stream bank the snow lay in heaps
Disguising the flow of spring melt that seeps
Through every crevice and cranny and crack
Till tamed in a channel to clear the rail track
So it poured and it roared through the tunnel in rock
To boil under the bridge where we paused to take stock
To rush over boulders and beside trees and grass
On its way to the fjord with its surface like glass.

Of trekking from Kardahl what must I say?
We set out quite early on a fine cloudy day
To walk through a wildness of stones, rocks and snow
On worn-down old hills and streams in fast flow.
Stepping on toes through those blue waterways,
Remember the whiteness that topped their displays
Of bubbling and gurgling and tumbling in foam
As if laughing out loud at tourists who roam
Picking steps, jumping clear avoiding foot splash
In the wetness and coldness of blue water wash.

Descending the mountain towards lovely Stalheim
The woods slowly thickened and gave us a time
For hidden in roots and foliage and logs
Rocks left by a glacier cluttered the bogs
Of gravel and mud and mosses on stone
Through which we were forcing a path all our own.
Then at last we came out in a valley of farms
Where a road let us hasten swinging our arms.
And after a climb up the high mountain's side
We found our night's shelter with feet sorely tried.

Next morning in sunshine we lingered to view
The beautiful valley that we would walk through;
Rock domes and black cliffs above lush meadow grass
Waterfalls tumbling down from the pass
Broad bars of gravel at the clear river's bends
Smooth rounded stones in its bed as it wends
Through beeches and birches on soft valley floor
Where level banks stifle its jump and its roar;
And it glides on serenely by green field and tree,
Where we followed in wonder, at last to the sea.

Gwen Hartican

Gwen rambled through Europe with International Parks Tours last year, and the trek that was arranged for them through the fiordland of Norway was the inspiration for this poem. She says she is not an habitual poet, she just wrote this poem by way of a report to other members of the party who did not make it into the wilderness areas.

ALASKA — GLACIER BAY NATIONAL PARK

Charles Hill

This is one of a series of articles about National Parks visited by NPA members Charles and Audrey Hill in Alaska in 1983.

Glacier Bay is in south-east Alaska and its entrance is some 80km due west of Juneau, the capital of the State. The Bay is surrounded by mountains and glaciers; there are many inlets and fiords, most of them with glaciers in their upper reaches. Between the Bay to the west and the Gulf of Alaska is the spectacular Fairweather Range and the Brady Icefield. Mt Fairweather (4670m) is the highest mountain in the Park, but there are numerous peaks over 3000m, often rising from sea-level.

When Captain Vancouver 190 years ago sailed through the ice-choked waters of the strait he named 'Icy', the Bay was completely filled by an immense glacier/icefield. In many places the ice was over 1200m deep. Since then the ice has receded at a rapid pace which is unique in recorded history. The area is of particular interest because one can study the flora and fauna which have colonised the bare rocks uncovered by melting ice over a known time-scale from zero to 200 years. The rapid removal of a huge weight of ice is also resulting in a measurable rebound of the earth's surface; it is rising at the rate of about 25mm per year and this will probably continue for a couple of centuries. A vertical rise of 25mm means a shelving beach gains about 300mm of dry land each year — enough to be quite noticeable!

We flew in a light plane from Skagway to Gustavus, a small settlement on a glacial outwash at the Bay's entrance. A small bus took us to Bartlett Cove where we boarded a chartered launch of about 45 tonnes. We spent all day travelling along the Bay to the glaciers at the head of Tarr Inlet. It was a most interesting journey, a little marred at times by rain and low cloud over the mountains. Hundreds of seabirds, including puffins and arctic terns, were visible, with seals, sea-lions and porpoises in the water. We did not sight whales that day.

Margerie Glacier at the Inlet head is most active and again we enjoyed the thrill of seeing the calving of icebergs from its terminus at close quarters. We headed south to the mouth of John Hopkins Inlet, looked at Lamplugh Glacier and then on to Reid Inlet with a large glacier at its head. This glacier about the turn of this century was stable for many years and built up a small terminal moraine,

now about one metre above high tide level. With four others, Audrey and I were landed on this moraine spit with three mountaineering tents and sleeping bags.

It was about 9p.m. by the time we had the tents up and secured by pegs and rocks. It being still daylight, we set off to explore and found many icebergs of all shapes and sizes grounded on the edges of the spit. On the stones and rocks small patches of primitive vegetation were gaining a hold. I had been told of a prospector's cabin built about 60 years ago and we headed along to the mainland and reached it by jumping over several channels of a rain-swollen stream. The cabin and a couple of outbuildings needed plenty of repair work, but contained lots of pioneering and household implements. The prospector's wife had planted a small garden and a rhubarb plant and a type of strawberry were still surviving. Returning to our camp we just beat the rain we could see moving down the glacier.

It rained all night, but we were warm and comfortable enough; sleep was rather disturbed by the thunderous noise of calving icebergs. It was still raining steadily in the morning and we cancelled our planned early morning walk. However it stopped by the time we needed to strike camp, return to the launch and prepare to fly back to Bartlett Cove. Small float planes appeared around the mountain shoulder under the cloud ceiling, landed nearby and taxied to the launch. We helped members of the other half of our group onto the launch, then heaved our overnight gear into our plane, clambered out on one float and up into the cabin. The pilot took off into the slight breeze drifting down from the glacier, banked across the terminus and then headed down the Bay, the mountains still concealed under cloud. A couple of kayaks were sighted below, paddling northwards.

There is a magnificent large concessioner lodge at Bartlett Cove. It is built of local timber and has many blocks connected by walkways. As well as a large lounge with picture windows, there is a lecture theatre for films, slides and talks on the Park and conservation. Despite its size the lodge is well designed to be unobtrusive in the forest and from the Bay.

We walked along the Bartlett River trail in quiet rain, which suits the spruce and hemlock forest with ferns, mosses, lichens and colourful mushrooms underneath. Footsteps too are silent, except for an occasional

squelch. Vegetation here has been establishing for nearly 200 years and was a marked contrast from our moraine spit campsite. In the afternoon we walked with a ranger to learn more of the plants and animals and then along the Bay edge and returned through the forest. Here the forest has gone a further stage and developed muskeg swamps in moist locations. The black mirror-like water, bordered with vivid green mosses and the large trees bearded with long moss strands makes an impressively beautiful environment. The camping area continues this theme with sheltered individual sites separated by vegetation and with a tree canopy overhead. A most attractive place, but the camper needs full waterproof gear from the tent fly to the boots!

We travelled by the launch again through Icy Strait to Juneau, taking an interesting shortcut only negotiable at high tide which meant a 6a.m. departure. The clouds continued to be low. Despite some missed views of the mountains, we found our visit to Glacier Bay National Park most interesting and enjoyable. (2)



Young NPA group crossing Micalong Creek last summer. — From a colour negative by Dianne Thompson



HINCHINBROOK ISLAND NATIONAL PARK

by Reg Alder

Hinchinbrook Island first sighted by Captain Cook was so mountainous that it was thought to be part of the mainland. This illusion was dispelled some seventy years later with the discovery of the Hinchinbrook Passage, a narrow strait lined with mangroves separating its 42km length from the Queensland coast between Ingham and Cardwell. The backbone of the island is capped with precipitous peaks of up to 1121 metres within 3km of the Barrier Reef side of the island. The 1:50 000 map Hillock Point and the 1:100 000 map Cardwell are essential for finding your way along the island and for locating possible sources of water.

I had been invited to join a party for a combined yachting and walking holiday of seven weeks' duration, but I declined as seven weeks seemed too long to be away and I was not particularly enamoured of the idea of a yacht cruise. Later circumstances changed, and the period away was shortened to five weeks as Alex Colley had to return to Sydney for the investiture of his Order of Australia Medal for services to conservation and the yacht cruise was reduced to getting to and from Hinchinbrook.

Transport from Sydney was in a Range Rover and we travelled with some diversions because of floods over inland roads to Rockhampton and then by the Bruce Highway to Cardwell, arriving with a day to spare and the thought would the yacht be able to keep its rendezvous for 8a.m. on August 10? There were some misgivings as it could not be sighted at the moorings at Cardwell but by 8.30 a distant mast was recognised as possibly belonging to Arrow. By nine it was alongside but with provisioning and taking on water it was mid morning before we set sail, and motored when the breeze became too light, down the very picturesque passage on a gorgeous day.

Our landing point was on the southern end of Picnic Beach, opposite Lucinda, the sugar port of Ingham. A 6km jetty juts out to sea for ships to be loaded with sugar. Disembarking from the yacht was by a small rubber raft which could take only one person and two packs, or vice versa. It took some time to off load the party of six and their packs. Water had to be carried as we had no knowledge of its availability on that end of the island. Feeling somewhat like Robinson Crusoe, but with no signs of any footprints, we set off along the long beach, committed to our fate to walk the full length

of the island.

Permits are needed to camp on the island, they are issued for seven days only, and may be obtained from Cardwell. Camping is not permitted for more than one overnight stay in any one place. By the nature of the island I cannot see how these conditions could be regulated as there are virtually no tracks and access to the various beaches is only easily achieved by sea.

When we were looking from the beach into the rain forest for a campsite our feeling of isolation was broken when we sighted a picnic table through a break in the trees. A beach 6kms long and one isolated table and a national parks sign both almost hidden except from almost immediately opposite them. The particular spot must have been well known to locals since there were no natural features to guide you to it. The clearing in the rain forest was made use of and we made our first camp. To conserve our fresh water the vegetables were cooked in salt water but the result was rather salty for discriminating palates. Most water bags had leaked and from this we learnt that they will only hold water if they are pre-wetted and kept damp all the time.

The next day after 5kms we came to an estuary which required swimming our packs across. As I landed over oyster covered rocks I was surprised to find two of our party about to climb into a launch for the crossing. Two men had been up the estuary to a waterfall and on coming around the bend were probably as surprised as we were to see each other. The beach was now finished and with a heavily indented coastline it was obvious from the map contours that a coastal walk besides being longer was out of the question. A straight-line ridge and sidling walk of 5kms across to Zoe Bay seemed the logical route even though it meant a 200 metre climb. It was our first experience of rain and open forest on the island, and any thoughts of easy progress were soon dispelled for in seven hours we had only advanced some 2.5kms. A fortunate twist of a creek as we finished sidling around a ridge before coming to the watershed saddle gave us water for the night camp. The site had to be cleared of debris to provide the minimum of space needed for our tents.

Michael Morcombe's *Australia's National Parks* in its descriptive summary variously describes walking activities in the national parks as nature trail walks, hiking, walking, bush walks, bushwalking, rough bushwalk-

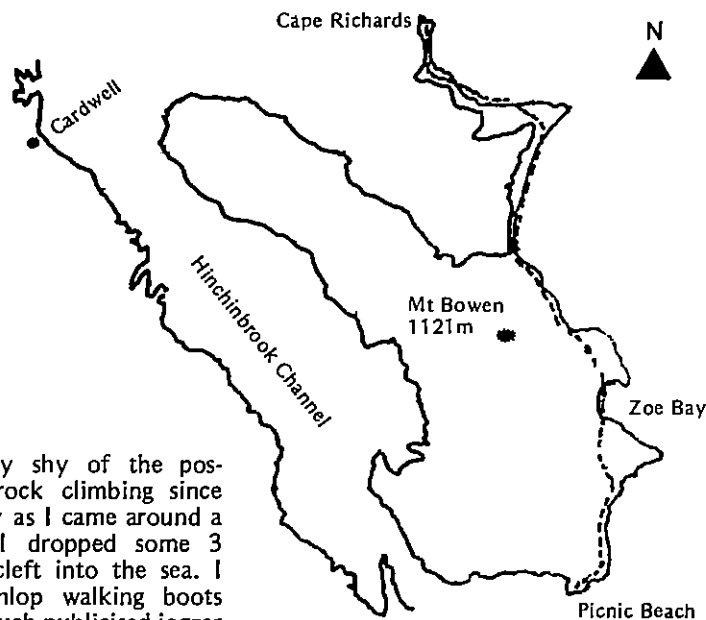
ing and rugged bushwalking. The walking activities on Hinchinbrook are the only ones he describes as 'extremely rugged bushwalking into a largely unexplored trackless mountainous interior'. It was of little use to read this on my return.

The next day the saddle was fairly level for a while and as is always the case we found a better campsite within a short distance. The ease of advance ended there as we encountered a mat of swamp grass which seriously hindered progress. The ground was solid underfoot but the grass was over my head and the only way through it was to push until you could go no further, stand back, push it down with your hands until your feet could complete the operation. Then push in once more and start all over again. Being the youngest of the party I was given this job which had to be continued until we could enter the creek bed. Monsoon rains scour the creek beds clear and if one lies on your route it is the best way to walk. Soon we were happily rock hopping all the way down past a waterfall and tempting pools to Zoe Bay. Yesterday's distance was all over in a couple of hours.

On the way down we could see the yacht with its sail up but apparently stationary on the far side of the bay. On arrival we found it had stranded trying to make the estuary for shelter from the chop of the bay. By lunch time it was well and truly careened by the 3 metre tide and had to wait until evening to be refloated in the light of a full moon and gain an anchorage in the deep lagoon. This cast doubt on whether it could pick us up at the northern end of the island unless it could escape before the next extreme high tide in a week's time. As it happened, by marking the channel an earlier sailing was possible and we met on time. There are however regular daily launches from the northern end of the island.

While at Zoe Bay, without packs, one member of the party and one from the yacht attempted to climb Mt Bowen from the southern flank but met cliffs and returned at 10p.m. without torches. It was a harrowing experience of 13kms for the yacht man as it took him some 3 days to recover. The island is not won easily.

We went on to the next bay with the yacht owner, hoping to climb Mt Bowen from the northern side. One look at the mountain and its adjoining peak The Thumb ruled out any possibility of an easy climb up their side flanks. The rest of the party opted out except for Dot and Peter.



I was particularly shy of the possibility of any rock climbing since on that same day as I came around a small headland I dropped some 3 metres down a cleft into the sea. I was wearing Dunlop walking boots which have the much publicised jogger tread. On a cursory examination this tread would appear to offer an excellent grip. In practice however the wedge shaped pattern has no grip at all if only part of the foot is placed on a slope where the lower edge of the boot cannot grip. Making a simple stretch step, my landed foot suddenly broke away and down I went pack and all. No damage to myself except for a scratched arm and a sore elbow. A lucky escape.

Our climbers soon found that their proposed route was impossible and took to the creek which led up past the mountain to the saddle behind it. This proved negotiable but time consuming, and they spent the night food and tentless alongside a fire just below the summit. A direct descent from the summit without ropes was out of the question and they returned by the same route arriving back at noon. They had only travelled 12kms from

the previous morning. By this time we were expecting to have to mount a rescue party and it would have been quite a problem as their proposed route as drawn on the beach was well away from their actual one.

We were now in a section which was used by walkers and were able to follow rudimentary tracks for most of the time up to Ramsay Bay. Here launches bring tourists across Missionary Bay 6kms through channels in the mangroves almost to the frontal dunes of the ocean. At this point we met a party of James Cook University walkers who advised us there was little possibility of water on the peninsula at the end of the 8.5km Ramsay Beach.

Filling up our water buckets we set off for what appeared to be an easy day. The beach took 1 hour 20

minutes to 2 hours to walk and we settled down to swim and lunch before attempting the 3km walk across a low saddle through which there was supposed to be track. If there ever was one it had long since disappeared and we had to bush bash again through the forest up to the saddle. This took 3 hours and then we had to find water in some pools of the creek and a small fresh water lagoon at the beach. Pushing through scrub and balancing while carrying a full water bucket is no easy task and we were wet through with the afternoon's exertions.

The map showed possibly beach along the next stretch. There may have been at extreme low tide but it was 3 hours of rock hopping for us, with some very large ones to go over or under. We then had a stretch of beach walking until we joined up with the made tourist tracks of the northern end.

And so back to civilisation and improvements. The bare road and excavations for the unimaginative fibro cabins of the resort, the tinsel of the dining room and the bar, canned music, the pumped water in the swimming pool and the hum of generators soon brought us back to what can happen in the name of development. A barge was being loaded with six weeks' accumulation of bottles and cans. At least they were not dumped on the island!

There are however different rules in Queensland, part of the Point Tribulation National Park was excised for the development of own 'your own 1ha of rainforest'. How safe can the remainder be once the Daintree-Bloomfield road is finished? Or any other Queensland national park?

Hinchinbrook is true wilderness, nature is in equilibrium and must remain so. (2)



FERAL PIGS

One subject mentioned briefly at the General Meeting in November was feral pigs. Their numbers appear to be increasing rapidly, causing much concern to all. To help get a clearer picture of both their numbers and their distribution, the Committee asks members to please report any sightings of pigs, or any large areas damaged by pigs, in the Namadgi area. Phone in the details (including map reference where possible) to the NPA office on 571063, or pass on the information to a Committee member. The information collected will be published each quarter in the *Bulletin*, as well as passed on to other authorities.

The cosy Horse Gully Hut was a welcome sight to the mid-winter pack walkers last June long weekend. Less welcome were the numerous thistles, seen here silhouetted against the hut. Each flat area that normally would be chosen for a tent site was thick with thistles, making it unpleasant for some. — Photo by Reg Alder.



BOOK REVIEWS

AUSTRALIA'S WILDERNESS EXPERIENCE

Reviewed by Alastair Morrison

At first sight this appears to be yet another glossy coffee table book. Nothing could be further from the truth. It is certainly beautifully illustrated with the photographs of the gifted Steve Parish but the text and the presentation as a whole look very seriously at the Australian environment, at its evolution and complexities and at the modifications which it is undergoing today.

Allan Fox has written a thoughtful and imaginative historical account of the Australian continent and the life that occupies it. Some of the account may be a little fanciful such as his scenario of aboriginal arrival in Australia but it is thought provoking and very readable.

He goes on to describe the process and impact of European settlement, outlines the main regions of Australia and ends with a surprisingly hopeful conclusion. There are suggestions for further reading and a number of interesting and original chronologies.

This bare outline does no justice to the nature of the writing. Fox has a fine command of the English language. His text is extremely detailed and well informed, the underlying theme a deep love for our natural environment. He is no specialist but an all round and widely experienced naturalist. Some idea of the nature of the writing can perhaps be gauged by the following example from p.144.

This habit of looking for favourite places came to me when I was quite small, when the world of the forest was a land for giants, when shrubs were as trees. I can still remember those halcyon, far-off days when as a family we would wander over the hills near Timor Rock, Warrumbungles, or Blue Mountain glens. . . . we would sit or lie down on the warm, friendly rocks and listen to the bush, to the big sounds and the tiny sounds, and watch the Wedge-tailed Eagles tumbling and soaring against the freedom of the rushing, weaving clouds . . . white against blue . . . wren's twitter against clear echoing carolling thrush . . . pungent daisy bush against damp earthy smell . . . thud of Wallaroo against the sighing Cypress. All of the spectrum of sounds, colour, form, scent and texture was entering my awareness and has lived with me ever since. I had personalised those little bits of earth and at a future time those same bits would sustain the energy needed to drive a special effort to protect that country from inept management and to fire the enthusiasm to effectively communicate my feelings for the land. Thus environmental education.

The photography is remarkably varied. Not all the photographs relate directly to the text but they provide an imaginative and moving backdrop to it. Many were taken under water. Steve Parish is unquestionably a photographer of great ability and talent.

Although much of the book makes depressing reading, Allan Fox ends by expressing a fair degree of optimism. He draws hope from the considerable changes in public attitudes and awareness regarding the environment that have taken place in Australia of recent years. Let us hope that he is right.

The book is a valuable and original contribution to environmental literature. Not only is it readable and well illustrated but it will also be an especially useful text book for lecturers and teachers.

Australia's Wilderness Experience
Text by Allan Fox
Photography by Steve Parish
Rigby Publishers 1984
\$25

BUSHFIRES AND THE AUSTRALIAN ENVIRONMENT

Reviewed by Kevin Frawley

Bushfires are one of the major natural hazards which occur in Australia. All natural hazards involve the effects of destructive natural forces on human settlements. However, it is clear that human behaviour partly defines the severity of the hazard. Floods are destructive, for example, because urban development is unwisely located on floodplains, and excessive tree removal is allowed in catchments. Likewise, bushfires are destructive because of the subdivision of high fire risk bushland, especially in areas with marked seasonality of rainfall.

Since European settlement, tens of thousands of Australians have experienced the disastrous consequences of attempting permanent settlement in a landscape which had been subject to wild fire and Aboriginal burning for thousands of years. Victoria provides a grim example, having experienced a succession of devastating fires: 'Black Thursday' of February 1851 when the Melbourne sky was completely obscured by smoke and dust; the Otway Ranges fire of February 1919; 'Black Friday' of January 1939 which left more than 70 dead; and the recent 'Ash Wednesday' fires (February 1983).

Not surprisingly, out of this experience has grown a widespread fear of fire but paradoxically there has also been a failure to learn the lessons of the past. In *Bushfires and the Australian Environment*, the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Environment and Conservation has done a very sound job of drawing together Australian bushfire experience and framing recommendations for an improved national approach to the problem.

In its conclusions, the Committee draws attention to the effects of European settlement on fire regimes. While endorsing hazard reduction (control) burning, it stresses the need for an examination of environmental effects and suggests in some instances no action should be taken to prevent or contain bushfires. Given the inevitability of fires, the Committee was alarmed by the ignorance in the community of methods of bushfire survival and property protection.

There is much in the report of interest to the conservationist. A brief review of the role of fire in the Australian environment (where the relationship between fire and soil erosion is reported) is followed by a discussion of changes to natural fire regimes. Control burning and the use of fire as a land management tool are given good coverage (one-fifth of the report). The ecological costs of control burning are outlined, though this remains a critical area for further research. Importantly, given the propaganda of anti-National Park groups, the Committee notes that 'the major cause of fires since European settlement has been escapes from agricultural and pastoral burning off.' (p.7).

The report is recommended as a concise yet thorough treatment of its title. It provides a good starting point for understanding something of fire in the Australian environment. Any reader interested in following up in more detail topics raised in the report could consult the Hansard evidence at the National Library or at the Committee office (House of Representatives).

*Report by the
House of Representatives Standing Committee
on Environment and Conservation
AGPS, Canberra, 1984
RRP \$3.90*

(Both books are available from the NPA Library.)

'NAMADGI — A NATIONAL PARK FOR THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE, OF THE PEOPLE'

A summary of the talk presented by Dr Bryan Pratt, Assistant Secretary, Land Management, and Dr David Shorthouse, Supervising Biologist for Namadgi National Park, to the Association at the general meeting on 15 November.

Dr Pratt opened the talk and explained the structure of the new ACT Parks and Conservation Service, which brings together the Land Management functions of the Department of Territories and Local Government. One branch is responsible for urban parks, nature reserves and open lands in the ACT, and other branches cover ACT forests and the Australian National Botanic Gardens.

Dr Pratt outlined the recent steps which resulted in the declaration on 3 October of Namadgi National Park, and acknowledged the long campaign by the NPA during the last 20 years to establish a national park in the ACT. He hoped that as stated by the former Minister Mr Uren, Namadgi would be in every sense a park of the people — to be used by residents of and visitors to Canberra and to belong to the people of the ACT, who would be represented on a Consultative Committee established by the Minister to advise him and the Department on management, planning, and development.

David Shorthouse illustrated his talk with slides showing some of the uncommon plants and animals of Namadgi and views across forested hills and valleys. Within the boundaries of Namadgi some 14 of the 19 main vegetation types of the ACT can be found. They range from the drier sclerophyll woodland along the Clear and Booth Ranges to the wetter forests in the Cotter catchment and the sub-alpine bogs and swamps. David discussed some of the major management and planning issues that would be covered in the Plan of Management, including the wilderness area round Mount Kelly, the need to protect the water supply, reservoirs on the Cotter, conservation of endangered flora and fauna, and the protection of cultural heritage sites including Aboriginal paintings, the Orroral homestead and other historic buildings. Other matters included the successful assault on rabbits in Grassy Creek and Nursery Swamp and the problem of feral pigs.

He hoped that visitors to Namadgi would contact the rangers when they were able to — perhaps at the visitors' information centre or when a ranger was on patrol. A good relationship between visitors and staff was one way of ensuring that the park was truly one for the people.

A lively discussion followed, with many questions to both Bryan and David.

AN UN-NAMED WALK

As part of my soon-to-be-announced program for getting to know the Namadgi National Park, I take the unusual step of describing a walk I'll be leading in the autumn. One of the reasons for doing so is to Currie favour with Past President Ian in the hope that he'll go on the walk.

Reg Alder has described to me that part of the walk I haven't yet reconnoitred and I'll tell you what he saw. Yes, Neville and Maxine, Esau spider webs — spider webs wet with dew, glistening in the morning sun — and as I believe this spider, Judy and John, is a pretty good Webster where we'll be going, we're in for a visual treat, so bring your cameras everyone.

The meeting place will be the Kambah Village shops at 8.30a.m. If anyone wants to go to the toilet before driving off, then Glyn and Shirley can show you where the Lewis.

Now having arrived at the starting point, Phil, we go through a Gatenby the time we've got through it, the walk will be well under way. The first section is along a fire trail,

which means that Lyle won't have to Mark the track with tape, and even if Sheila goes we'll still Kruse along at a fair bat. Of course Judy and John (not the Websters, they've had their turn) might suffer some Payne at, and Syd derive little Comfort from, the fact that there is a steep hill to climb. Charles will take that Hill in his stride, but Norma won't take it on at any Price, while Jack is Smart enough not to either. Professors are all alike!

Unfortunately the walk won't feature any large rivers or creeks, so there'll be no point in John taking a Hook or line. (Another John who always Banks on there being plenty of trees about will be able to indulge his interest however.) But to get back to fishing: according to Les there are no Pyke(s) in the waters around the ACT. They (the waters) are too cold for him! (If I keep this up there'll be no Pyke on the walk either.) Denise, also, I am sure, will find the waters too cold for dis-Robin for swimmin'.

The lunch-time spot will be in the open, so I hope Arno is not troubled by the Wynd. Bob, if he is back from overseas, should enjoy the Bird life. Of course, in case some NPA member is named Burns, we don't want any bush fires!

I should have mentioned earlier that last year, at his request, Reg and I swapped walks — he led one of mine, and I one of his. I assure readers there will be no such Alderation in leadership for this walk. Talking of leadership, I won't mind if, on this walk, Ross brings a can of Carlton Light to celebrate his election as President, but I remind him that Joan always brings some Goodrum, and Ian some other Beveridge.

Well, readers will be glad to know that I don't possess a list of all NPA members — I'm very glad myself that I don't — for if I went on any more Fiona would Brand me a bore, and Gary would start making Schneider remarks. But I hope that Bob and Sybil at least have enjoyed my Story.

To conclude, I would like to point out that the success or at least the enjoyment of this walk will be determined by the weather — the clemency of the weather.

See you on the walk!

Frank Clements



ORIGINATOR OF THE TERM 'BUSHWALKING'

Maurie Berry, pioneer of the term 'bushwalking', died on 28 August 1984, aged 82.

He was a close associate of Myles Dunphy, and in the 1920s was an active member of the Mountain Trails Club, a male-only conservation and walking club. At an historical meeting held at the NSW Sports Club in October 1927, it was decided that a mixed-sex walking club should be formed. During that meeting Maurie moved the motion that the club be known as 'The Sydney Bushwalkers' and thus was coined the expression 'bushwalking', which not only has universal acceptance now but has also been entered in the Macquarie dictionary.

He had a lifelong devotion to conservation and bushwalking for, besides belonging to the abovementioned clubs, he was also an active member of the National Parks and Primitive Areas Council, the Wildlife Conservation Society, the NSW National Parks Association, the Blue Gum Forest Trust and, during the war, the Bushwalkers Services Committee. On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Sydney Bushwalkers he was created an honorary member.

Reg Alder

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NEW DIRECTIONS FOR NPA NOW?

At a time when we are enjoying some satisfaction from the recent declaration of the Namadgi National Park, the articles in the December *Bulletin*, 'Tuggeranong - Too Late?' and 'NCDC Plans for the ACT', are stern reminders of the reality of development and the need to adequately project conservation values into decisions on planning and land use.

The Tuggeranong situation demonstrates the value of advocating a conservation position before decisions are made which commit future development along an almost inevitable course. Alastair Morrison has identified a number of aspects of NCDC plans which are open to question on conservation grounds and the issue arises as to what approach should be adopted by the Association to the matters raised.

As our association name implies, the Namadgi National Park must continue to be of prime interest for although the park has been established its continuing well-being will require vigilant, energetic, and imaginative action. We have been and are active in the matter of the Murrumbidgee corridor. We have a committed interest in Ororral. We work through and with other like-minded organisations such as the Conservation Council of the South-East Region and Canberra. We undertake other activities of an educational and promotional nature such as our involvement in Heritage Week and the publication of the Field Guide. All of these things are in addition to our regular program of meetings, walks and publication of the *Bulletin*.

There is a need to recognise that if we respond in too many directions our limited capacity will be too thinly spread and our effectiveness in any one area correspondingly reduced. There are many areas and issues which it would be appropriate for the NPA to enter so that selection of those most suited to our objectives and capacity is indicated.

Perhaps with Namadgi declared and major issues emerging through recently released planning documents it is an appropriate time for us to identify those directions in which we should now be concentrating our energies.

S. Comfort

A LETTER FROM QUEENSLAND

Fiona Brand received this letter from one of the early members of NPA and thought others would like to hear from her too.

Dear Fiona,

I do enjoy getting my NPA Bulletin. As one of the very early members of the NPA I'm thrilled to hear of the Namadgi National Park.

At 83 I'm still camping with the Toowoomba Field Nats and the Queensland Ornithologists. Also I've joined the Lake Broadwater (near Dalby) Natural History Society. They are doing a study of their Environmental Park. I'm doing illustrations for them in black and white, drawing fish, flowers and ferns as a change from only painting birds.

Every good wish to you and the NPA in the coming year.

Betty Temple Watt

LEAVE NO SIGN OF YOUR PASSING

With the increasing availability of leisure time and the popularity of camping one notices and smells the growth of problems in areas we use and enjoy.

Most prominent are the proliferation of fireplaces, the diminution of the firewood supply and the amount of rubbish, excreta and sanitary napkins in the vicinity of popular campsites and as a result a reduction in water quality.

To alleviate these problems we can and must take, as a minimum precaution, the following steps:

Sanitation

Human waste (excreta), toilet paper and sanitary napkins must be BURIED under dirt and not just under a few leaves or a rock. If you can't make a hole with your footwear, carry a small trowel or spade.

This burial should be done well away from places where people may take water.

Rubbish - If you can carry it in, you can carry it out. DO NOT put foil or foil-lined packs on fires. Carry a spare plastic bag and put all rubbish in that, and carry it out.

Leave campsites, in fact your route, CLEAN. Leave no sign of your passing save perhaps your footprint.

Fires

Use existing fireplaces.

Make fires as small as possible.

Use only dead timber.

Where timber is scarce, as in alpine country and areas of heavy use, CARRY AND USE a small stove.

The above is only a small part of what is called etiquette in the bush and if we all practice 'cat' habits then the quality of our enjoyment in the bush will be enhanced rather than reduced.

As a final observation I believe that the NPA should challenge magazines and commercial organisations to publicise the problems created by the misuse of our country, instead of just exploiting it for their own profit.

The problems are acute and we must act now before it is too late. Changing the habits of members of walking clubs is a start but we have to reach the whole population. There is no point in setting aside large tracts of land as parks and wilderness areas if they are only going to become open sewers and rubbish tips.

Craig Allen



FOR OUR BIRD WATCHERS

The Royal Australasian Ornithologist Union has sent us a list of courses they are running this year. Some of the courses offered during March and April at their Barren Grounds Observatory include Radio-Tracking Techniques for Research (8-10 March), Birds for Beginners (22-24 March) and Learning about Natural History (4-8 April). Other courses are also held at their observatories in Eyre, WA, and Rotamah Island, Victoria. The full list is too long to publish in this *Bulletin*. For details of the 1985 program, phone Kay Duggan on 571063.

COMMENT CORNER

MT GINGERA 4 November 1984

Members who went on the Mt Gingera outing on 4 November had an interesting day. They walked from Mt Ginini to Mt Gingera via Cheyenne Flats and found a collapsed slab hut at the Stockyard Creek crossing. Fencing remains were also nearby, which made us wonder whether this was the stockyard that gives the Creek, Spur and Saddle its name.

Does anyone know the history of the hut? Is it worth tracing the history to establish whether it has real significance? Perhaps anyone with knowledge of its origin or history could pass the information on to the Editor so that the Committee can build up a dossier on it.



Two other quick comments: the creek near the collapsed hut was home for a very dark green leech, a colour I had not seen before; and we found the remnants of a telegraph line just to the north of the hut. Did the hut have a telephone?

Finally, our Ranger friends might be interested to know that on a recce for that walk I sighted six pigs on Cheyenne Flats.

Lyle Mark

Readers are invited to write brief accounts of places of interest they have seen while out bushwalking – especially in the ACT – for this new column. Ed.



NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OUTINGS

All persons joining an outing of the National Parks Association of the A.C.T. 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 A.C.T., 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.

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.

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

MARCH 3 SUNDAY WALK

Red Rocks

Ref: ACT 1:100,000

Leader: Beverley Hammond 886577

Meet: Kambah Village Shops 9.30am. Walk upstream on tracks with some sandy patches and rocks from Kambah Pool to steep river rock walk on the Murrumbidgee. Bring swimming gear. 5km drive, 8km walk.

MARCH 3 SUNDAY 'FIELD GUIDE' WALK

Cotter/Tidbinbilla

Ref: ACT 1:100,000

Leaders: Laurie Adams 465912(w),
John Hook 959666, Peter Ormay 512428

Meet: Corner Cotter Road/Eucumbene Drive 8.30am. Members interested in becoming more proficient in the use of our Field Guide will be coached by the authors. Easy, short distances.

MARCH 3/4 PACK WALK

Ettrema

Ref: Touga 1:25,000 Nerriga 1:25,000

Leader: Phil Gatenby 416284

Walk to Ettrema Gorge down Transportation Spur; return via Myall Creek or Myall Ridge. No tracks, some swimming. Contact leader by Wednesday for details. 170km drive.

MARCH 9 SATURDAY TREE MAINTENANCE

Glendale Crossing

Ref: ACT 1:100,000

Leader: Charles Hill 958924

Bring some tools. Anytime after 9.30am. Ring leader for details.

MARCH 10 SUNDAY WALK

Shoalhaven River

Ref: Braidwood 1:100,000

Leader: Dianne Thompson 886084

Meet: 9.00am Kingston Railway Station. Ramble along Shoalhaven River to swimming spot. 4km walk and 70km drive.

MARCH 10 SUNDAY WALK

Mt McKeahnie

Ref: Corin Dam 1:25,000

Leader: Frank Clements 317005

Meet: Kambah Village Shops 7.00am. 18km walk, mostly along Orroral Valley with a steep 500m climb. 42km drive.

MARCH 13 WEDNESDAY MID-WEEK WALK

Lake Burley Griffin

Ref: Canberra UBD

Leader: Sheila Kruse 486104

An easy ramble beside the lake, not all on bicycle paths, with a stop for lunch on the way. Meet at Scrivener Dam car park (Black Mountain side of the Dam) at 10.00am. A car shuffle will be arranged for the end of the walk at Black Mountain Peninsula.

MARCH 16/17/18 CANBERRA DAY PACK WALK

Mt Jagungal

Ref: Eucumbene 1:50,000 Kosciusko 1:100,000

Leader: Ian Haynes 514762

Five huts walk (including Mackeys and Cesjacks) from Eucumbene Cove through Snowy Gap. Contact leader before Wednesday.

MARCH 16/17/18 CANBERRA DAY CAMP

Wallaga Lake via Central Tilba

Ref: Narooma 1:100,000

Leader: Denise Robin 814837

Camp on property of Warren and Lyn Nicholls by Wallaga Lake. Beach walks, climb Mt Dromedary or explore historic Tilba Tilba. Contact leader for details.

MARCH 23/24 PACK WALK

Mt Owen

Ref: Ulladulla 1:100,000 CMW Budawang

Leader: Dudley Nicol 722757(w) 824371(h)

Walk from the Clyde end of the Western Distributor to Mt Owen, base of the Castle and Monolith Valley. Contact leader for details before Wednesday.

MARCH 24 SUNDAY RAMBLE

Upper Cotter

Ref: Cotter 1:25,000

Meet: Cotter Kiosk 10.30am. Pleasant ramble of 6-8km. Carry lunch. 10km drive.

Leader: Betty Campbell 811771

MARCH 24 SUNDAY WALK

Mt Gingera/Cheyenne Flats

Ref: Corin 1:25,000

Meet: Eucumbene Drive/Cotter Road 8.00am. 14km walk from Mt Ginini through Cheyenne Flats, headwaters of Stockyard Creek, across Snowy Flats to Mt Gingera. Return along fire trail. 60km drive.

Leader: Lyle Mark 862801

APRIL 5/6/7/8 EASTER HOUSE PARTY

Twofold Bay Edrom Lodge

Ref: Eden 1:100,000

Leaders: Joan and Ray Hegarty 813973

The Lodge was built in 1913 and is now operated by the Forestry Commission. Provided: bed, mattress, refrigerator, stove, utensils. Bring: sheets, blankets or sleeping bags, food. Dormitory style rooms. \$6/person/night. Walk, swim, fish, visit Boydtown. Members only. Contact leaders early. You are asked to pay your \$18 before going. Post cheques to Ray Hegarty, 4 Gormanston Crescent, Deakin.

APRIL 5/6/7/8 EASTER PACK WALK

Nadgee Reserve

Ref: Eden 1:100,000

Leader: Fiona Brand 479538

Four day pack walk over coastal heathland and beaches. Contact leader by 20 March. Numbers limited.

APRIL 14 SUNDAY HERITAGE WEEK WALK

Hospital Creek

Ref: Yaouk 1:25,000

Leader: Beverley Hammond 886577

Meet: Kambah Village Shops 9.30am. Walk from Boboyan Pine Forest to rocky outcrop on Hospital Creek on fire trail and across open paddocks. Return by old Boboyan Road. 55km drive with two creeks to ford. Easy walk. Visitors welcome.

APRIL 14 SUNDAY WALK

Nursery Hill

Ref: Rendezvous Creek 1:25,000

Leader: Neville Esau 864176

Meet: Kambah Village Shops 8.30am. 10km walk, no tracks, with 450m climb. Good views over Nursery Swamp and Rendezvous Creek. 45km drive.

APRIL 13/14 CABIN WEEKEND

Koorabri

Ref: Brindabella 1:100,000

Leader: Ken Johnson 485979

Bird watching and walking from Koorabri in the Brindabella Valley. \$4/head, limit 12 NPA members. Contact leader early.

APRIL 17 WEDNESDAY MID-WEEK WALK

Mt McDonald

Ref: ACT 1:100,000

Leader: Charles Hill 958924

Meet: Eucumbene Drive/Cotter Road 9.30am. 6km walk with 150m steep rise. Tracks and forestry roads. Very good views. 10km drive.

APRIL 20 SATURDAY TREE MAINTENANCE

Glendale Crossing

Ref: ACT 1:100,000

Leader: Charles Hill 958924

Anytime after 9.30am. Ring leader for details of jobs to be done.

APRIL 20/21 CAR CAMP

Weddin Mtn National Park

Ref: Grenfell 1:100,000

Leader: Reg Alder 542240

Camp among cypress and ironbark trees. Short walks to viewpoints. Own water essential. 230km drive. Contact leader before Wednesday.

APRIL 21 SUNDAY FAMILY NATURE RAMBLE

Tidbinbilla

Ref: ACT 1:100,000

Leader: Norm Morrison 821734

Meet: Entrance gate to Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve 10.30am. Family stroll and picnic to some of the dams often overlooked in the Tidbinbilla Reserve.

APRIL 20/21 PACK WALK

Tantangara Plain

Ref: Tantangara 1:100,000

Leader: Ian Haynes 514762

Hard walk. Huts and old mining areas. Contact leader for details before Wednesday.

APRIL 27 SATURDAY BIKE RIDE

Lake Burley Griffin

Ref: Canberra UBD

Leader: Gary Schneider

Meet: Boat terminal at 2.00pm or Weston Park Treehouse 3.00pm. Ride around the lake with an afternoon tea stop at the Treehouse, where south side residents might begin the ride.

APRIL 27/28 PACK WALK

Deua River

Ref: Araluen 1:100,000

Leader: Bob Story

Contact leader by Wednesday for details of this walk. Practically no climbing but lots of wading across the river and opportunities to swim. 140km drive, rough towards the end.

APRIL 28 SUNDAY WALK

Bulls Head Area

Ref: ACT 1:100,000

Leader: Lin Richardson

Meet: Eucumbene Drive/Cotter Road 8.30am. Medium walk of about 12km mostly on fire trails, in the Bulls Head area off the Mt Franklin road. 50km drive.

APRIL 25/26/27/28 CAR TRIP

Some members are considering doing a car trip in a westerly direction, starting Anzac Day. The Outings Convenor will record expressions of interest. Phone 886577.

MAY 5 SUNDAY WALK

Tinderry Peak

Ref: Michelago 1:100,000

Leader: Ken Johnson 485979

Meet: Michelago Post Office 8.00am. Wide views from Tinderry Peak. Steep winding sections through scrub, with some rock scrambling, for about 4km. Total distance 16km, mostly on fire trail or track, with a 500m climb.

MAY 5 SUNDAY WALK

Mt Lowden

Ref: Braidwood 1:100,000

Leader: Arno Wynd 478542

Meet: Canberra Railway Station 8.30am. Drive via Captains Flat to Tallaganda State Forest. Climb on tracks and through forest to the top of Lowden. There is a lovely park with short marked walks for family members who want an easier day.



MAY 6/7/8/9/10 PACK WALK

Bateman s Bay-Toubouree Ref: Nelligen, Durras, Kiola 1:25,000 Toubouree 1:31,680 Leader: Reg Alder 542240
Delightful 55km coastal walk along beaches and forest roads and across headlands. All camps away from public areas. Initially 3 days food carrying. 200km drive or public transport. Contact leader early.

MAY 11/12 CAR CAMP

Big Hole Car-park Ref: Kain 1:25,000 Leader: Gary Schneider. Telephone contact: Beverley Hammond 886577
Meet at the car-park 9.00am. Walks to Big Hole, Cleatmore Caves, Marble Arch. 95km drive via Braidwood or Captains Flat. Telephone before May 5 if more detail is required, otherwise Gary will see you there!

MAY 12 SUNDAY WALK

Booroomba Rocks Ref: ACT 1:100,000 Leader: Shirley Lewis 952720
Meet: Kambah Village Shops 9.00am. Walk of 9km along fire trail, track and some scrub, to high point with extensive 360° views from area of granite outcrops. Climb of 300m. 32km drive.

MAY 15 WEDNESDAY MID-WEEK WALK

Blundells Flat Ref: ACT 1:100,000 Leader: Robert Cruttwell 813100
Meet: Eucumbene Drive/Cotter Road 9.30am. Medium walk through forest tracks. 8-10km with some climbing.

MAY 19 SUNDAY NATURE OUTING

Arboreta Ref: ACT 1:100,000 Leader: Ken Eldridge 815685
Meet: Eucumbene Drive/Cotter Road 9.30am. Drive to inspect three Arboreta – Bendora, Piccadilly and Reids Perch off the Mt Franklin Road. The leader is a forest research scientist with CSIRO.

MAY 19 SUNDAY WALK

Honeysuckle Creek-Three Peaks Ridge Ref: ACT 1:100,000 Leader: Charles Hill 958924
Meet: Kambah Village Shops 8.45am. Ridge south of Apollo Road has spectacular rock formations and views. Medium walk 10km through open forest with some rocks and scrub. Climbs total 430m. 40km drive.

MAY 26 SUNDAY WALK

Mt McDonald Ref: ACT 1:100,000 Leader: Margaret Aston 887563
Meet: Eucumbene Drive/Cotter Road 10.00am. Enjoyable fire trail walk of about 6km from the Cotter Dam lookout with a climb up to the fire tower for 360° panorama of Murrumbidgee River, Bullen Range, Tidbinbilla Range, Uriarra. 10km drive.

MAY 26 SUNDAY WALK

Camel Ridge/Tidbinbilla Peak Ref: Tidbinbilla 1:25,000 Leader: Olive Buckman 488774
Meet: Eucumbene Drive and Cotter Road 8.30am. Climb approximately 700m on fire trail then go through open bush and along a rocky ridge for extensive views. Return on fire trail. 12km walk. 25km drive.

JUNE 2 SUNDAY WALK

Yankee Hat Paintings Ref: Yaouk 1:25,000 Leader: Dianne Thompson 886084
Meet: Kambah Village Shops 9.30am. Walk from Boboyan Pine Forest to rock overhang near base of Yankee Hat. Fairly flat but some fences and a swamp crossing. Aboriginal paintings. 50km drive.

JUNE 2 SUNDAY WALK

Naas Creek Ref: ACT 1:100,000 Leader: John Webster 476769
Meet: Kambah Village Shops 8.30am. Walk from Mt Clear camping area 'up the creek' and back. About 12.5km. 60km drive.

JUNE 8/9/10 QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY WEEKEND CAR CAMP

Bournda Ref: Leader: Ian Currie 958112
Camp at Bournda State Recreation Area on shore of Lake Wallagoot. Beach and forest walks. About 200km drive. Meet at campsite at noon on Saturday. Contact leader before Wednesday for transport or information.

JUNE 8/9/10 QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY PACK WALK

Budawang Range Ref: CMW Budawangs Leader: Neville Esau 864176
Beginning at Newhaven Gap we will visit Folly Point, Holland Gorge and Mt Tarn, returning via Quilty Mt. Contact leader before Wednesday for details of this medium walk. 160km drive.

JUNE 16 SUNDAY WALK

Pierces Creek Falls Ref: Corin Dam and Tidbinbilla 1:25,000 Leader: Lyle Mark 862801
Meet: Eucumbene Drive/Cotter Road 8.30am. A 12km walk along Hardy Range fire trail and walking tracks. Short 150m descent to Falls. 15km drive.

JUNE 16 SUNDAY WALK

Brandy Flat Hut Ref: Michelago 1:25,000 Leader: Shirley Lewis 952720
Meet: Kambah Village Shops 9.00am. 10km walk along fire trail over undulating terrain from Glendale Maintenance Depot to hut. 41km drive.

JUNE 19 WEDNESDAY MID-WEEK WALK

Molonglo Gorge Ref: ACT 1:100,000 Leader: Olive Buckman 488774
Meet: Morshead Drive, first barbecue area east of main Duntroon entrance 10.00am. 6km walk on track with some rocks and short climbs. 10km drive.

JUNE 23 SUNDAY WALK AND BIRD WATCHING

Orroral Valley Ref: ACT 1:100,000 Leader: Ian Currie 958112
Meet: Locked gate off road just before Orroral Tracking Station 10.00am. Short walk down the Orroral Valley on fire trails and tracks by the river. Bring lunch and binoculars.

JUNE 23 SUNDAY WALK

Mt Booth Ref: Michelago, Colinton 1:25,000 Leader: Frank Clements 317005
Meet: Kambah Village Shops 8.30am. 16km walk from Boboyan Road. Steep climb of 600m, scrub and stony sections, mostly bush but a few tracks. 60km drive.

National Parks Association A.C.T.

OUTINGS SUMMARY

March	3	Sunday	Red Rocks	Walk/swim
	3	Sunday	Cotter, Tidbinbilla	Tree Guide ramble
	3/4	Weekend	Ettrema	Pack walk
	9	Saturday	Glendale Crossing	Tree maintenance
	10	Sunday	Shoalhaven River	Walk/swim
	10	Sunday	Mt McKeahnie	Walk
	13	Wednesday	Lake Burley Griffin	Mid-week walk
	16/17/18	Weekend	Mt Jagungal	Pack walk
	16/17/18	Weekend	Wallaga Lake	Car camp
	23/24	Weekend	Mt Owen	Pack walk
	24	Sunday	Upper Cotter	Ramble
	24	Sunday	Gingera/Cheyenne Flats	Walk
	April	5/6/7/8	Easter	Edrom Lodge
5/6/7/8		Easter	Nadgee	Pack walk
14		Sunday	Hospital Creek	Walk
14		Sunday	Nursery Hill	Walk
13/14		Weekend	Koorabri	Cabin, walks
17		Wednesday	Mt McDonald	Mid-week walk
20		Saturday	Glendale Crossing	Tree maintenance
20/21		Weekend	Weddin Mt National Park	Car camp
20/21		Weekend	Tantangara Plain	Pack walk
21		Sunday	Tidbinbilla	Family nature ramble
27		Saturday	Lake Burley Griffin	Bike ride
27/28		Weekend	Deua	Pack walk
28		Sunday	Bulls Head	Walk
25/26/27/28	Anzac weekend		possible car trip	
May	5	Sunday	Tinderry Peak	Walk
	5	Sunday	Mt Lowden	Walk
	6/7/8/9/10	Week	Batemans Bay-Toubouree	Pack walk
	11/12	Weekend	Big Hole	Car camp
	12	Sunday	Booroomba Rocks	Walk
	15	Wednesday	Blundells Flat	Mid-week walk
	19	Sunday	Brindabella Range	Nature outing
	19	Sunday	Three Peaks Ridge	Walk
	26	Sunday	Mt McDonald	Walk
	26	Sunday	Camel Ridge/Tidbinbilla Peak	Walk
	June	2	Sunday	Yankee Hat Paintings
2		Sunday	Naas Creek	Walk
8/9/10		Weekend	Bournda	Car camp
8/9/10		Weekend	Budawang Range	Pack walk
16		Sunday	Pierces Creek Falls	Walk
16		Sunday	Brandy Flat Hut	Walk
19		Wednesday	Molonglo Gorge	Walk
23		Sunday	Orroral Valley	Walk/bird watching
23	Sunday	Mt Booth	Walk	

GENERAL MEETINGS

Held at 8 p.m., Room 1, Griffin Centre, Bunda Street, Civic

- MARCH** — Thursday 21
Films — 'The Artisans of Australia' produced by the Australian Heritage Commission, 1hr 10 mins.
- APRIL** — Thursday 18
Les Mitchell, consultant ecologist with the National Parks and Wildlife Service, speaking about nature conservation in the Australian Capital Territory and surrounding district.
- MAY** — Thursday 16
Carol Helman, botanical consultant who recently completed a study of rainforests of south-east New South Wales, speaking about temperate rainforests.