



# NPA Bulletin

National Parks Association of the A.C.T.

Vol.23 No.1

September 1985



# 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 organised 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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Membership inquiries welcome, please phone NPA office on 571063.

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Articles by contributors may not necessarily reflect Association opinion or objectives.

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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 to 20 words each, and are free. Closing date for the next *Bulletin* is 15 October 1985.

## For sale

*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.

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.

Near new boots: man's size 43B, \$50; woman's size 6 (large), \$40. Phone Noeline Denize on 514492.

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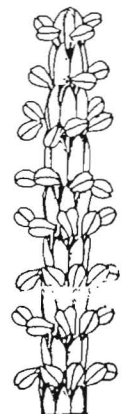
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## BULLETIN

This issue of the *NPA Bulletin* is the last one to be prepared under Babette Scougall's editorship. She was assisted this time by the new editorial collective (see June issue, p. 5) who shared the tasks of editing, proofreading, layout, and liaison with the typesetter and printer. This team will lighten the load of future editors.

**COVER**  
*Snowgum* (*Eucalyptus pauciflora* subsp. *niphophila*) at Charlotte Pass.

— Photo: Colin Totterdell



## PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD

Namadgi National Park is and will probably always remain the focus of attention for this Association. Although we enjoy the pleasures of many other parks and work for many other causes, Namadgi is 'our' park, our home ground. It is hardly surprising then that much of our activity and much of our endeavour is directed towards Namadgi. In the office there is a map (produced by Reg Alder) showing all the walks NPA has done in the park in the last six years. As you might expect, we have covered it pretty well and of course many of the more popular walks are regularly repeated. (I understand one or two are likely never to be repeated.) The Namadgi Sub-committee (expanded by a number of interested volunteers) has recently held several meetings to thrash out the Association's policy on a number of thorny management issues in preparation for the release of the Department of Territories' Draft Plan of Management (expected in September). The results of these deliberations will form the basis of our input to the Namadgi Consultative Committee and will be discussed in future *Bulletins*. In addition to walks and talks the Association has carried out a certain amount of work within the park. Trees have been planted and maintained and fire trails re-vegetated. It is planned to expand this type of activity in which members contribute directly to the enhancement of the park and work in partnership with the Parks and Conservation Service to supplement that organisation's meagre resources. The Association's other role in relation to Namadgi is publicity and education. Many people in the ACT have never heard of Namadgi and few know much about it. Increasingly, part of our task will be to explain to non-members the where, what and why of Namadgi. So whether you are an owl or a fowl\* you should find something to interest you in our Association's association with Namadgi.

\* Owls are old and wise and come out at night to hoot over policy.  
Fowls get up early and scratch about in the bush.



### DRAFT PLAN ALMOST THERE

*Denise Robin*

The Draft Plan of Management for Namadgi National Park is nearly at hand!

It is being published and will be officially launched for public comment by the Minister for Territories on 18 September.

Two-and-a-half months will be allowed for public comment. The closing date has been set for the week after NPA's alpine management seminar to allow interested parties to weigh up considerations from the seminar before putting the final touches to their submissions.

During the period the draft plan is open for comment the Parks and Conservation Service hopes to stimulate comment by circulating an exhibition on the plan around major public libraries and another in the large shopping malls. A third display will be erected in the Service's premises in Civic. With the objective of promoting informed discussion, the Service also plans to conduct a few tours within the park to acquaint interest groups with specific management issues at first hand.

The Namadgi Consultative Committee, which has assisted in the development of the Draft Plan of Management, endorsed it at the Committee's last meeting on 18 July.

It's a comprehensive document, covering all critical management issues, although perhaps not always in the direction, or as decisively, as NPA might like.

NPA is gearing up for its response. Anyone wishing to participate in this process should make contact with Fiona Brand, Convenor of the Namadgi Sub-committee.

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### COMMENT CORNER

The Pierces Creek Falls walk on 16 June had sixty people on it, including about fifteen under-12-year-olds. This impressive number was swollen by the Kambah Group Two Cub Pack. Their leaders deserve congratulations for the way the boys behaved throughout what must have been a fairly long day for them. They had been briefed on what to do and not do in the bush and their behaviour was excellent. For the walks leader it was a delight to see young people taking a genuine interest in the environment. Is there scope for NPA to put on special walks for this age group? Preferably not in groups of sixty though!

### CONFERENCE

#### AUSTRALIA'S ALPINE AREAS: MANAGEMENT FOR CONSERVATION

This conference being organised by NPA, is intended to foster a co-operative approach to the conservation of the alpine areas of Victoria, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory. The conference will be held in Canberra on the weekend of 30 November/1 December 1985 at the Huxley Lecture Theatre, Australian National University. There will be three sessions. The first is intended to outline the natural and cultural values of the alpine area. The second will detail the management problems. The third session will examine the response of managers to these problems — what is being done and what should be done.

By coincidence, we now find that 1 December is the date the Victorian government has indicated that it will declare the new Alpine National Park. We expect, therefore, a good deal of interest in the conference, and already reactions from various quarters have been enthusiastic.

Queries, comments or offers of assistance are welcome. Kevin Frawley 823080 (H) or Neville Esau 864176 (H)



# 1969 AND ALL THAT — LAND USE IN THE SOUTH-EAST REGION

Debbie Quarmby

In the late 1960s, the time when the Eden woodchip operation was being established, almost all the remaining areas of vacant crown land in south-eastern New South Wales were allocated to national park or state forest. About 20% of the land, much of it rugged terrain unsuitable for forestry, came under the jurisdiction of the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

This land division was not done on the basis of knowledge gained from ecological studies. Virtually no research had been carried out to determine the natural resources of the area and consequently the most appropriate land uses. It remains an unfortunate fact that there is still inadequate knowledge of the area's natural resources. Neither do we know how existing plant communities will be affected in the longer term by the intensive regime associated with wood-chipping.

Of the land that was reserved, the Scott Report<sup>1</sup> says,

The parks established in New South Wales from vacant crown land at the time the chip operation was initiated were small and occupy mostly rough terrain unsuited to forestry. Their wildlife value is not known but the small size of the parks will create problems of management.

More recently, additional coastal areas have been set aside for conservation purposes. These include Ben Boyd National Park, Bournda Nature Reserve and, as a result of pressure from local conservationists, Mimosa Rocks National Park.

Representation of natural areas in reserves is significantly better along the coast, east of the Princes Highway, than it is inland. Representation of tableland is particularly poor.

The tableland forests, which include, for example, Coolangubra and Tantawangalo, are relatively rich eucalypt forests sited on deep soils. They have been found to support high populations of arboreal mammals, for example, gliders and possums. Unfortunately, research has concentrated just on arboreal mammals, and little is known about other fauna in these areas. These forests also represent catchment areas for water that supplies towns along the south coast.

There have, in the past, been a number of proposals for reserves west of the Princes Highway. They have been prompted by the ecological values of the areas concerned, the susceptibility of their highly erodible soils, catchment and wildlife considerations.

The upper Wallagaraugh River catchment was identified as an eastern New South Wales wilderness area in the draft of the Helman Wilderness Study.<sup>2</sup> It was dropped, however, as the result of a major forestry road being constructed. The catchment lies within Yambulla State Forest.

Nungatta and Nalbaugh National Parks, two small, mountainous parks, are presently divided by a lower, richer tract of Bondi State Forest. A national park link between Nungatta and Nalbaugh has long been proposed.

Further north, wildlife studies have revealed high population densities of arboreal mammals in the rich eucalypt forests of Nalbaugh and Coolangubra State Forests. As yet, relatively little is known about the possible long-term effects of intensive logging on arboreal mammals or, indeed, on any wildlife populations.

The conservation and catchment values of Tantawangalo are currently being promoted by New South Wales conservation groups, such as Canopy and the Far South Coast Environment Group, who are urging that the area be made a national park.

Still further north, the outstanding Murrabrine Forest, although sited on highly erodible soils and therefore requiring very conservative management, lacks the protection afforded to neighbouring Wadbilliga National Park.

Adjoining each other north to south, these tableland forests form part of an almost continuous belt linking natural area reserves along Australia's eastern escarpment.

Putting forward a case for increasing the area of reserves in south-eastern New South Wales challenges, at least to some extent, the current dominant use of the forests — that of being harvested for woodchips and sawlogs. This recurrent debate always 'beats about the bush' in that pro-forestry arguments are mostly economic whereas the only facet of the pro-park argument that can be readily estimated in monetary terms is that of recreation and tourism. Other aspects, such as conservation, scientific, aesthetic or educational benefits cannot be quantified easily.

The question of what priority we should place on the conservation of any given area is not new. Nor is it easy to agree on an answer. But in these days of dwindling natural areas, adequate conservation of our forests must rate high on the agenda.

## Notes

1. W.D. Scott and Co. Pty Ltd, *A Study of the Environmental, Economic and Sociological Consequences of the Woodchip Operations at Eden, N.S.W.*, 1975.
2. P. Helman, A. Jones, J. Pigram and J. Smith, 'Wilderness in Australia' University of New England, Armidale, 1976, as cited in G. Mosely (ed.), *Australia's Wilderness*, A.C.F., 1978.

## PIG CORNER

Sighted — two large female pigs in snow. North of Kiandra. Map reference Yarrangobilly 1:100 000, 355365.

Two Sundays in succession, 2 and 9 June — two groups of five or six pigs in each group, 4-5km north-east of Mt Clear camping area. Two groups of three to four pigs about 1km north and west of Honeysuckle Tracking Station. All of them were large, black species.

Sunday 21 July, Honeysuckle. Extensive damage to lawns around Tracking Station along with large quantities of droppings, both dry and weathered and fresh.

NPA tree planting at Glendale — a small amount of fresh pig ploughing was noticed on 22 June.



Nalbaugh.

— Photo by Tony Fleming

## EMAIL BOYCOTT

Queensland conservation organisations recently called for a consumer boycott of EMAIL, the large white-goods manufacturer whose products include Westinghouse refrigerators, stoves and freezers. EMAIL is the parent company of Foxwood Timber Mills which is logging the tropical rainforests of North Queensland.

The Downey Valley near Innisfail contains 4000 hectares of virgin rainforest which is the core area of 200 000 hectares of state forest. Two years ago the rainforest was North Queensland's best kept secret but the tourist industry is now beginning to appreciate the forest's potential. The 'Save the Daintree' campaign received world-wide publicity and gave the North the biggest free advertising boost it has ever had. Some evidence of a common interest between conservationists and the tourist industry is emerging and according to the Newsletter of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland 'Investors and tourists in their hundreds are coming north to see this unique area of rainforest'. The Society claims the area has the potential to make Innisfail the rainforest capital of the world.

Unfortunately, realisation of the area's tourist potential may have come too late as Foxwood resumed logging

in the area in June. As each of the giant trees comes down this beautiful area is degraded and its tourist potential further jeopardised. The Queensland Government was asked to declare a moratorium on logging to allow the relative long term benefits of the timber and tourist industries to be evaluated. They refused.

At the time of writing the battle to save the forest had reached a desperate stage. In July, a vigil was held near the forest and the call went out from conservation organisations for a nation-wide boycott of the company conducting the operation. Most companies are keen to present a good corporate image and the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland believes that a publicised boycott will ensure that Australians are made aware of the fact that EMAIL is responsible for the loss of one of our nation's priceless natural wonders.

The NPA of ACT has written to EMAIL expressing our concern for the rainforest and seeking their justification for the actions they are undertaking. We urge members to keep themselves informed of events in Queensland. If you wish to write to the company as an individual, the address is: The Managing Director, Email Limited, Joyton Avenue, Waterloo, 2017.

## NEW MEMBERS

The following new members are welcomed to the Association:

John P. BAKER, Latham; Lesley BAND, Campbell; Patrick BELTON, Narrabundah; June BONN and family, Duffy; Robert, Joan and Tim BREEN, Macquarie; John BURDETT and family, Curtin; Mrs J. CALABY, Yarralumla; William COTTRILL, Stirling; Barbara G. DALY, Cook; Brenda DeBES, Yarralumla; Mr D. DILLEY, Waramanga; Peter DUNSTAN, Hackett; Michael and Helen EVANS, Garran; Pam FLUGEL—MAN, Lyons; Peter FOGARTY and Susan CUDDY, Kaleen; Truus and Peter FORD, Narrabundah; Steven FORST, Aranda; Alan and May FOSKETT, Campbell; Jeff FRASER, Latham; Robyn FRASER, CCAE; A.R. FREEMAN, Belconnen; Jeffrey and Meredith GILMORE, Kambah; Mr T. GLANVILLE, Flynn; Roger GREEN, Ainslie; Paul and Bernadette HARDING, Downer; John and Jane HARRIS, Cook; Russell and Julie HEARNE, Kaleen; Barbara JAKEMAN and family, Kaleen; Richard and Mary JOHNSTON, Braddon; Margus KARILAI, Ainslie; Patricia KELSON, Chapman; Richard LARSON, Daryll, Duncan and Gordon WHITE, Watson; Fay LEIGH and family, Farrer; R. and J. LIEBKE, Chifley; Ms Joy LOBO, Woden; Elaine and Mike MARLOW, Red Hill; Gordon McALLISTER, Civic Square; Simon MILLAR, O'Connor; Kevin MILLS, Wollongong; Mr and Mrs T.

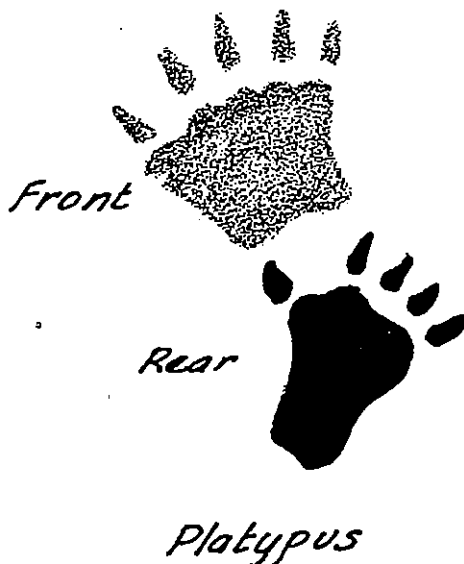
O O A S I

MOULIS, Campbell; Michael and Pamela MUSTON, Warlamanga; Sharon PERKINS, Wanniasa; Jill ROBERTS, GPO Canberra; Hugh SADDLER, Yarralumla; Ms Katie SAXBY, Melba; John THWAITE, Scullin; John and Branda WRIGHT, Yarralumla; Elsbeth YOUNG, Deakin.

## FOOTPRINTS

As promised, more animal prints to help members identify the tracks they see on their walks in Namadgi,

thus increasing their awareness and appreciation of the natural environment.



Illustrations by Ken Johnson

# THE BURNING QUESTION

Reg Alder

When James Pendergast first came to the Three Brothers station near Omeo in 1837, the bush country was fairly open, as there had been few bushfires, and no ring-barking (to cause suckers) had taken place. Places which are now wilderness and where it is almost impossible to ride through, were then fine open country not too thickly covered with large trees. In the early days a two-wheeled bullock dray was used to convey goods from one place to another.<sup>1</sup>

There is no question that, since this observation was made in 1922, continual burning has changed the ecology of the country.

The problem of when and where the native forests of Namadgi National Park are to be burnt will shortly be raised for public discussion when the management plans are released. Thereafter a decision will be made.

This article has been written to enable NPA members to more fully understand the implications of frequent intentional burning.

In their publication on policy and development<sup>2</sup>, the NCDC makes the following statements:

- The Department of Territories and Local Government sees the basic objective of fire management as being to prevent wildfires from threatening property in surrounding areas of the ACT and NSW.
- Hazard reduction, in the form of controlled burning, is considered to be the most important management tool in reducing the effects and extent of severe wildfires.
- The effectiveness of removing fuel over large enough areas is often questioned, and with crown fires the amount of accumulated ground fuel is of little relevance. The proportion, amount, completeness and frequency of hazard reduction burning may however influence the start of a fire and hence its subsequent behaviour.
- Graziers who ran stock previously carried out controlled burns and claimed this prevented major fires. However there may have been less potential for severe fires from 1939 until recently. While the bushland can recover naturally from infrequent fires, frequent fires, especially if they are intense, can cause permanent changes in the age structure and density of a forest or woodland. Old trees die out and because of the suppression of the regeneration of young trees, they are not replaced.
- Future management must be compatible with nature conservation as well as traditional fire protection where life and property are at stake. A scheme of buffer zones is proposed where more intensive hazard reduction will be carried

out. These zones are:

- the western face of the Clear Range above Naas River
- between the old and new Bobo-yan roads
- area between Bobo-yan Road and Brandy Flats fire trail south of Glendale Crossing
- between Sentry Box and Naas Creek
- about one third of the Cotter catchment

The NCDC plan, while recognising in some of its statements the harm that will befall a natural ecosystem if it is too frequently burnt, at the same time proposes to carry out more intensive hazard reduction burning in some large designated areas of the Park. From this it can be assumed that the remainder of the Park will be subjected to possibly less intensive burns.

If a natural system is to be maintained, there is no place for regular burning when some species will be replaced by more fire-tolerant plants and trees. There will be little chance for the larger species such as trees to reach maturity and a balanced range of species to develop.

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Environment and Conservation in their August 1984 Report on Bushfires and the Australian Environment<sup>3</sup> recognised that frequent low intensity hazard reduction burning to reduce fuel accumulation is an activity causing most concern and, whenever it is used, there is a need to consider the environmental impacts. The committee also concluded that fire has long been a part of the Australian environment and has played an important role in shaping a flora and fauna which is generally well adapted to natural fire regimes and is able to recover to pre-fire levels in a comparatively short period. The impacts of bushfires on soils, however, may be more significant.

The Australian Museum, realising that fire is a dominant feature of the Australian environment and that it is seen to be a destructive force which causes death and tragedy each year, mounted an exhibition over the recent summer months called *Bushfire in a Different Light*.<sup>4</sup> The exhibition sought to place fire in its proper perspective as a force in the environment which we should learn to live with and not simply fight. The following four paragraphs are a synopsis from those on one of the displays on the consequences of hazard reduction burning:

- In an infrequently burnt forest or woodland litter accumulates, nutrients are bound up in dead material, and plant growth slows. When a fire does occur, the abundance of fuel ensures that it is a hot one. Nutrients are released, plants (including

those that fix nitrogen) increase, and so do the animals. The effect is the same as fertilising your garden.

- With the abundant food, the organisms that decompose litter proliferate and a healthy forest develops.
- Frequent burning (hazard reduction burning) on the other hand may have a harmful effect. It may prevent shrubs from completing their life cycles, and in the absence of forest legumes the supply of nitrogen is reduced and likewise the activity and abundance of soil organisms.
- Fewer soil organisms results in slower decomposition, consequently more rapid accumulation of litter and a greater risk of fire, and this in turn means that more hazard reduction burning is done. Lyre-birds, which need a thick layer of humus to support the animals they feed on, are abundant only when fires are infrequent.

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources defines a national park as an area generally remarkable for its natural features which on a relatively large area offers one or several ecosystems left untouched, or almost untouched, by human exploitation.<sup>5</sup>

From this definition, hazard reduction burning destroys the very objective by which a national park is created. I consider hazard reduction burning has no place in a national park.

## References

1. *Cattlemen and Huts of High Plains* by Harry Stephenson.
2. *The Gudgenby Area - Policy Plan and Development Plan*, Draft for discussion, NCDC, September 1984.
3. *Bushfires and the Australian Environment*, Report by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Environment and Conservation, August 1984.
4. *Bushfire in a Different Light*, Australian Museum Exhibition, Summer 1984-85.
5. *National Parks of the World*, International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.



## ANNUAL REPORT

The NPA of the ACT's Annual Report for 1984-85 is now available. Interested members may obtain copies from our Kingsley Street office or, if preferred the Report will be posted to you. Phone Kay on 571063.

## ARBORETA IN THE BRINDABELLAS

Ken Eldridge

When the Australian Forestry School came to Canberra in 1926 one of the first actions of the principal, C.E. Lane Poole, was to establish an arboretum at Blundells Flat at the foot of Mount Coree. Between 1929 and 1969 forest researchers associated with the Australian Forestry School and the Forestry and Timber Bureau established 30 arboreta in the Australian Capital Territory. Many species of trees were planted — 63 of the 100 or so species of the genus *Pinus*, 53 other conifers, and 32 hardwoods.

All the trees were planted in square plots, usually of 100 trees or more. Now visitors can go to the arboreta and see mature stands of most of the famous trees of the world — Scots pine, white pine, sugar pine, loblolly pine, juniper, Douglas fir, noble fir, black spruce, giant sequoia, and many others. These botanical gardens of trees contain one of the largest collections of conifers in Australia.

In the arboreta one can learn the characters which distinguish many of the world's trees. Putting aside the textbooks, we can visit a small forest of mature trees of each species, feel the texture of the bark, see the shape

of the crown, look at the litter accumulating on the ground, collect needles and cones, smell the resin, and wonder at their great size and beauty.

All the arboreta are well mapped and the plots are labelled. The five which have been best maintained are No. 1 Blundells (1929), No. 3 Reids Pinch South (1932), No. 4 Piccadilly (1932), No. 5 Bendora (1940), and No. 8 Blue Range Camp (1943). The others are generally smaller in area, have fewer species, and are in need of thinning and cleaning up. As many readers will know, Westbourne Woods (1913) is the oldest and largest of the ACT arboreta, but that is another story.

Some members of NPA have a special concern about those arboreta which are surrounded by eucalypt forest in the upper parts of the Cotter catchment and are close to or within the Namadgi National Park. The highest arboretum, No. 26 Mount Ginini (1959), was completely cut down in 1979. No. 7 Stockyard Creek (1940) 2 km south-east of Ginini contains the best spruces and firs, and No. 6 Snowgum (1941) is also at high altitude. The arboreta at Cotter Hut and at Pryors Hut, in the saddle between Ginini and Gingera, are not registered as part of the Forestry and Timber Bureau series.

In addition to their great botanical value several of the higher altitude arboreta have a problem in the spreading of *Pinus contorta* (lodgepole pine) into the surrounding snowgum woodland. Unless this species is completely and promptly eradicated from within and around arboreta numbers 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and any remnant of 26 the spread of these pine weeds will become very difficult to control. Seedlings established from the other species, even including *radiata* pine, are relatively easy to control compared with *P. contorta* which produces abundant seed at an early age.

The Division of Forest Research of CSIRO, which took over the research functions of the Forestry and Timber Bureau in 1975, no longer has an outdoor gang of forest workers to attend to the maintenance of arboreta. However, several CSIRO staff know the arboreta well and care about their botanical future. Accordingly CSIRO wishes to continue to contribute to the planning of scientific, educational and public use of this unique cultural and educational asset.

Sit down in one of the arboreta for half an hour, lean your back on a tree, look around, and see if you agree that it is a place for human enjoyment and spiritual reward. ☺

## WHERE HAVE ALL THE RANGERS GONE?

Reg Alder

Not too far away I hope.

On a recent tour involving national parks in two states, in two of the parks visited there were visitor-information centres of sound and attractive design that had been erected in the past twelve months. Both had professional and compelling visual displays that would attract the most casual visitor. In the corner of each was a counter with display boards and invitations to purchase posters and publications, all without prices.

Behind an inner wall of each centre was, apparently, an office; in one a door with 'staff only' on it and in the other a blank door behind the counter. On the outside of each building there were entry doors to these inner sanctums with no indication at either what the purpose of the office was or whether the public was welcome to inquire.

I was at one park almost two days and did not see one ranger, although it was obvious by the hum of a generator that someone must have been home, but the entrance drive said 'no access'.

At the other I could see a person inside and on knocking he came out to hurriedly answer my question with an attitude that indicated it was rather a bother to be disturbed. A notice said 'Do not call at the residence unless the matter is urgent'.

It is my understanding that, to be appointed, rangers now need to have tertiary qualifications, and this no doubt means that their excellence is in the form of research and writing reports. Something of which today there is an increasing amount is the answering of a never-ending pile of correspondence.

However it does mean isolation from the public. The public needs something more than static displays to satisfy their curiosity as to the right places to go and how to get to them in the time available. In addition, the type of person selected to be a ranger should be one who is able to communicate easily with the public and with a broad general knowledge, rather than one who is a specialist in a narrow academic field.

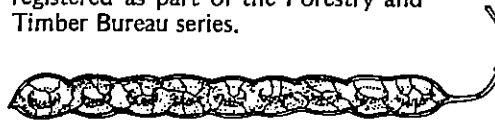
Perhaps the architects and planners of information centres could, before completing their design, place themselves in the role of an inquiring, inquisitive visitor and put the rangers where they are observable and easily

accessible to the public. The directors of our wildlife services should also think of the public when they make ranger appointments. The person with the highest academic qualifications may not necessarily be the best ranger, one who would be prepared to suffer public contact, occasionally in a confrontation situation.

At Easter the reserves and national parks in the Eden area were attended to by one casual ranger, whose employment was not covered by the National Parks Service but subsidised by the Wildlife Foundation. In one day he travelled some 300 kilometres over rough roads to service the area he was given the responsibility for. From the time spent in travelling it is obvious that he could have devoted little time to any particular area. There is no longer a permanent ranger at the Nadgee Nature Reserve.

From these few facts it can be seen how few rangers are available to service the enormous areas which are now the responsibility of the National Parks and Wildlife Service. Once again, administration takes up more than its fair share of the staff available.

A great change in policy and funding is needed to put rangers where they can be seen and talked to. ☺



# SURVEY OF GLENDALE TREE PLANTING 1985

Charles Hill

In the June 1985 Bulletin I described the survey carried out in 1984 of the trees at Glendale and mentioned some of the difficulties encountered. Since that article was written the 1985 survey has been carried out and the results are shown in the two tables below. The difficulties in 1985 were less because of the lower weed growth and higher trees. However we still had trouble distinguishing between *E. bridgesiana* and *E. rubida* which at the juvenile stage can look rather alike. In some cases leaf shape and position were not much help as the leaves had been partially or completely eaten by insects and leaf and stem colour was not clear.

Regeneration had occurred on the perimeter of the site near a few adult trees and eight regenerated trees which could be confused with planted trees were noted and recorded. These have been included in the Growth Table but excluded in the Totals and Loss Table as they distort results.

It is realised that five of the six shown are natural regeneration starting from scratch within the last year; further, these are without the benefits from soil preparation and fertilisation. Also a few *E. bridgesiana* and *E. rubida* of reasonable size have had the main growing stem die back due to insects etc. and new shoots have appeared from the base but are under 30 cm high. It is of interest that, allowing for the *E. pauciflora* regeneration, each of the species has about the same percentage under 30 cm.

Going to the other extreme, *E. pauciflora* has the highest percentage of trees above 90 cm, closely followed by *E. stellulata* and with *E. bridgesiana* a trailing last. To some extent this differentiation is caused by differing habits of tree growth; both *E. pauciflora* and *E. stellulata* produce a strong erect leader stem at an early stage while *E. rubida* and particularly *E. bridgesiana* tend to have many horizontal growing stems.

water and was therefore planted near the river, creeks and channels. However it does not appreciate wet feet and some of the planted positions on two occasions were completely under water and remained very damp indeed. A contributing factor was that because of some 'damping off' in the germination tray, many of this species were potted at a smaller stage than desirable and were quite small at planting out. However the surviving trees are growing very well with 36% over 90 cm high.

While the percentage loss of *E. pauciflora* appears rather high, this is distorted by the relatively small number planted out. Actual numbers lost are only two in each of the two years.

Despite vigorous attack by a variety of insects, the loss rate of *E. bridgesiana* and *E. rubida* is most satisfactory. Insect attack has caused some of the trees to have a poor appearance - chewed leaves, bare twigs and scarred stems. Nevertheless they are still surviving!

## Treeguards

Treeguards cause extra work during maintenance and the question of when to remove them permanently is often raised. When the trees are under 60 cm high the guards prevent the growing tips and tender leaves being eaten completely by rabbits and hares. Once the main growing tips are above reach of these animals, there is still a danger of the tender bark on the main stems being nibbled near ground level. If the nibbling continues right around the stem, the tree is effectively ring-barked and dies completely. There are numerous rabbits near and on the site and we need to continue guarding until the bark becomes hard. Some tree guards have been removed as an experiment and with plenty of other food about, no damage has been noted. In the 1985-86 growing season many guards with motor tyre protectors will have to be removed while the branches are still supple. However, as can be seen from the Growth Table, slower growing trees will still need protection together with those damaged by insects etc. and growing again from the base.

## Growth including natural regeneration

Species	Date	Under 30 cm		30-90cm		Over 90 cm		Total	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<i>E. bridgesiana</i> (Apple Box)	22.3.84	21	77	158	82	14	7	193	100
	24.4.85	11	6	147 <sup>(a)</sup>	78	30	16	188	100
<i>E. pauciflora</i> (Snow Gum)	22.3.84	5	22	12	52	6	26	23	100
	24.4.85	6 <sup>(b)</sup>	22	11 <sup>(a)</sup>	47	10	37	27	100
<i>E. rubida</i> (Candlebark)	22.3.84	20	16	91	73	14	11	125	100
	24.4.85	9	7	81	65	34 <sup>(a)</sup>	28	124	100
<i>E. stellulata</i> (Black Sally)	22.3.84	19	37	40	66	2	3	61	100
	24.4.85	3	6	27	58	17	36	47	100
Total	22.3.84	65	76	301	75	36	9	402	100
	24.4.85	29	7.5	266	69	91 <sup>(a)</sup>	23.5	386 <sup>(b)</sup>	100

## Comments on Growth Table

One would expect that the latest figure (24 April 1985) would show almost nothing under 30 cm high, not much change in numbers between 30 and 90 cm high and a considerable increase in numbers above 90 cm high. The Table agrees generally with this expectation, but the numbers shown under 30 cm indicate that some trees are growing very slowly. The *E. pauciflora* looks worst in this regard until

## Comments on Totals and Losses Table

The total of planted trees surviving at the 1985 survey is 378 with the loss in the last year at 6% and the cumulative loss since planting at 19%.

It will be noted that the losses of *E. stellulata*, both last year and cumulative, are much higher than for other species. The main factor causing this is excessive ground water in the unusually wet conditions from mid 1983 to late 1984. *E. stellulata* likes to be near

## Assessment

I consider the results shown are good and, apart from some minor gaps in the northern screen due to soaks and channels, the concepts of the planting out design are all intact with retaining density of trees being well over the minimum needed. I am sure that the losses would have been much higher but for members' efforts to reduce excessive competition from weeds, provide mulch and keep soil saucers around the trees in water-retaining condition.



Tree totals and losses excluding natural regeneration

Species	Date	Tree Totals	Annual Loss		Cumulative Loss	
			No.	%	No.	%
<i>E. bridgesiana</i> (Apple Box)	4.6.83	213 <sup>(7)</sup>				
	22.3.84	193	20	9		
	24.4.85	187 <sup>(6)</sup>	6	3	26	12
<i>E. pauciflora</i> (Snow Gum)	4.6.83	25				
	22.3.84	23	2	8		
	24.4.85	21	2	9	4	16
<i>E. rubida</i> (Candlebark)	4.6.83	137 <sup>(7)</sup>				
	22.3.84	125	12	9		
	24.4.85	123 <sup>(6)</sup>	2	2	14	10
<i>E. stellulata</i> (Black Sally)	4.6.83	90				
	22.3.84	61	29 <sup>(7)</sup>	32		
	24.4.85	47 <sup>(6)</sup>	14 <sup>(6)</sup>	23	43	48
Total	4.6.83	465 <sup>(7)</sup>				
	22.3.84	402	63	14		
	24.4.85	378 <sup>(6, 9)</sup>	24	6	87	19

Notes

- Includes 5 *E. pauciflora* which have regenerated naturally.
- Includes 1 each of *E. bridgesiana*, *pauciflora* or *rubida* which have regenerated naturally.
- Includes the 8 trees listed in Notes 1 and 2 located on the site as follows:
  - 6 *E. pauciflora* at the southern end alongside adult trees on the high bank of river;
  - 1 *E. bridgesiana* on the lower bank of the river about 100 metres from the southern end of site.
  - 1 *E. rubida*
- Total regeneration
- Several of these trees are about 1.8 metres high.
- The original tally at planting has been adjusted by subtracting 17 *E. bridgesiana*

- and adding 17 *E. rubida*. It appears that misidentification occurred, but it is still most difficult to differentiate between these two species at this stage of growth.
- These totals include the following 5 trees which look in poor condition and may not survive:
  - E. bridgesiana* - 2, *E. rubida* - 2, and *E. stellulata* - 1.
- The original total included 3 *Brachychiton populneus* (Kurrajong) but these failed to survive the first winter and have now been excluded to simplify the table.
- The heavy losses of *E. stellulata* have been mainly due to planting in what subsequently developed into very wet soils. This species planted in other areas of the site has grown well.
- The totals exclude 8 trees which have regenerated naturally on the site.

AUSTRALIAN MARINE AND ESTUARINE PROTECTED AREAS

*Reg Alder*

The Australian coastline is approximately 36,800 kilometres long. The coastal and offshore areas encompass a diversity of marine and estuarine habitats which require protection and conservation. The first marine protected area in Australia was declared in 1938, at Green Island off the Queensland coast. Since then, nearly 37 million hectares have been afforded protection under various marine and estuarine protected area categories. This represents less than 0.06% of the total marine area for which Australia is responsible.

The Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service has produced a two-volume inventory of all the declared marine and estuarine protected areas in Australian waters. It provides a comprehensive reference to assist all who have an interest in marine conservation. There are maps of each area, together with a wide range of pertinent data.

It is significant that the only area in southern New South Wales is the ACT-enclosed waters of Jervis Bay from Captains Point at the RAN College to Bowen Island. Diving, underwater photography and recreational fishing are permitted. Spear fishing is prohibited. The final management plan for the Jervis Bay Nature Reserve is nearing completion.

Copies of the inventory are available free from the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service on the 3rd Floor of Construction House, 217 Northbourne Avenue, Turner. A copy for perusal or loan, is also available from our NPA library in Kingsley Street.

The President and Committee  
wish all members

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

and invite all to the

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Orroral Valley Picnic Ground at 3p.m.

on DECEMBER 15 SUNDAY

WINE, CHEESE, BISCUITS PROVIDED - MAY EVEN BE A CHRISTMAS CAKE

BRING AN EVENING MEAL



# COOLAMINE

Craig Allen

The Coolamine Homestead complex is to be found in the northern part of the Kosciusko National Park (Tantangara 1:100 000 map reference 507580) and is listed in its own right on the Register of the National Estate. It is managed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

The history of the site is complex and some 'facts' are doubtful. Its history would merit a book on its own and is beyond the scope of this article.

A brief, non-comprehensive, chronology follows:

1822 The first European visitors came to the Coolamine Plains.

1834 George Palmer reputedly constructed a stockyard between the present homestead and Cave Creek.

1839 T.A. Murray moved cattle into the area and onto the Coolamine run. A slab and bark hut was constructed in the area by Stewart Mowle (location unknown).

1875 John Gale visited Coolamine and W.F. De Salis's camp on 'his station' and described it as follows: 'In a camp of sallies a tarpaulin formed a temporary homestead; a large fire burned at a fallen log; saddles, bridles, horse shoes and sundry other useful nicknacks hung in the trees around; a wild horse hide was pegged out on the ground ... Coolamine station was the place of general rendezvous'. De Salis bought the lease in 1873 and sold it to Frederick Campbell in 1881. A drop slab hut was built by De Salis near the cheese house site.



1882 George E. Southwell went to Coolamine as Campbell's manager and constructed the first two rooms of the Southwell building (the easternmost house). This replaced the De Salis hut.

1884 Campbell building at Coolamine. Drop slab, insulation under iron roof, ceilings etc. — all timbers numbered. Believed to have been moved from somewhere else, perhaps Peppercorn Hill or the boundary of the four blocks on the plains. (Note: This move is also claimed to have occurred in 1892 and near the turn of the century.)

1889 Cheese hut reputedly built by a local grazier named Franklin. (Interlocking horizontal logs, grass moisture-absorbing layer under the iron roof.)

1890s Southwell building was expanded with the addition of another room, a sleepout, two verandahs, a drop slab kitchen, pigsties, fowl house, water race, gardens and cisterns. (Note: At this

stage the toilet was some 70 metres further down the hill from its present site and was of single-seat construction.)

1890s (late)

North-west extension added to the Campbell building. Removed in the 1970s by NPWS. (Possibly built by Harry Ginn.)

1900 (approx.)

Small (?) slab stable constructed.

1905 Barn constructed (horizontal slab construction).

By this time the complex included yards (several different ones at different sites), a small dam, gardens, fences, a washhouse etc.

1909 and 1916

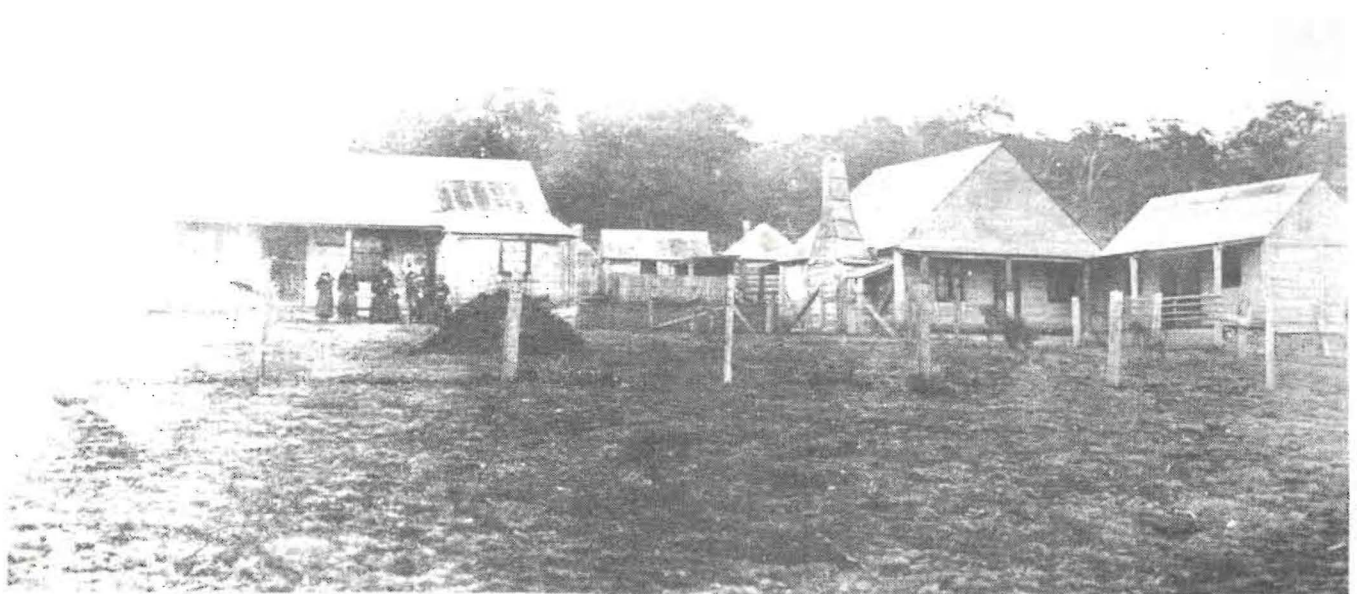
Kitchen extended.

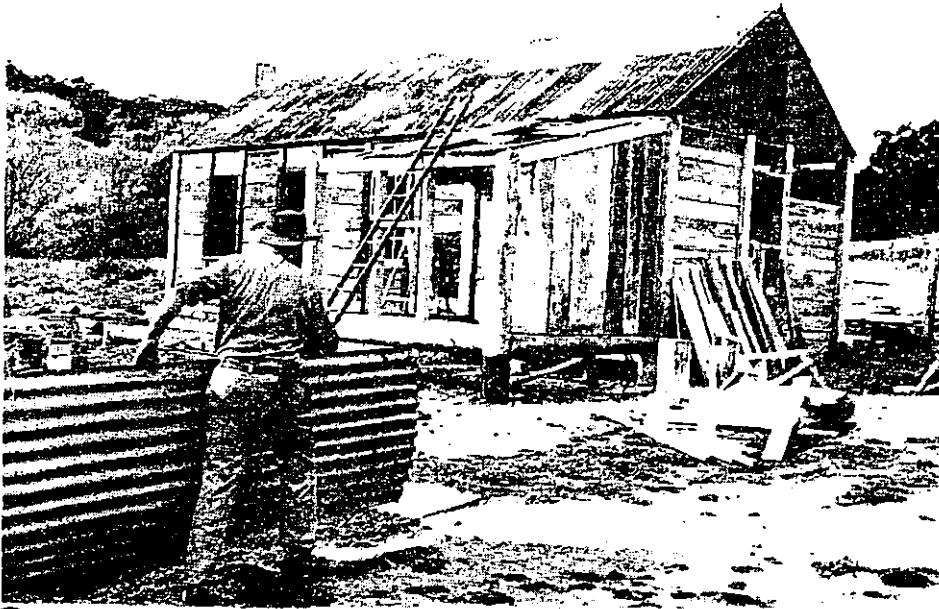
1919-21

Kitchen damaged by fire. Rebuilt clad in iron. Some original timbers remain in this structure today.

1920 (before)

Connected by telephone to Yarrangobilly Post Office.





*Opposite page above*

*The dilapidated state of the Coolamine complex in November 1982. The north-west extension of the Campbell building was removed during the 1970s.*

*Opposite page below*

*The Taylor family in front of the manager's residence (Southwell building) Easter 1909. — Photo taken by P. Dowling*

*Left*

*Restoration of the Southwell building. Photograph was taken in April 1984 while the sleepout was being reconstructed.*

*Below*

*The restored Campbell building, showing the western wall. The chimney is made of wooden slabs lined with rocks and galvanised iron. Photograph taken May 1985.*

The peak activity on the site would probably have been in the early part of this century. This is supported by photographic evidence.

The site was managed from about December 1908 by W. Taylor and, after the sale in 1934 to Naughton, by Tom and Molly Taylor. Others who lived there included Fred Bridle (1942-46) and possibly some of the Harrises.

The complex has had several minor reconstructions and modifications carried out, mainly in the 1930s but at other times too, to allow buildings to serve other purposes. For example, Bung Harris is said to have modified the cheese house so that he could garage his motor car.

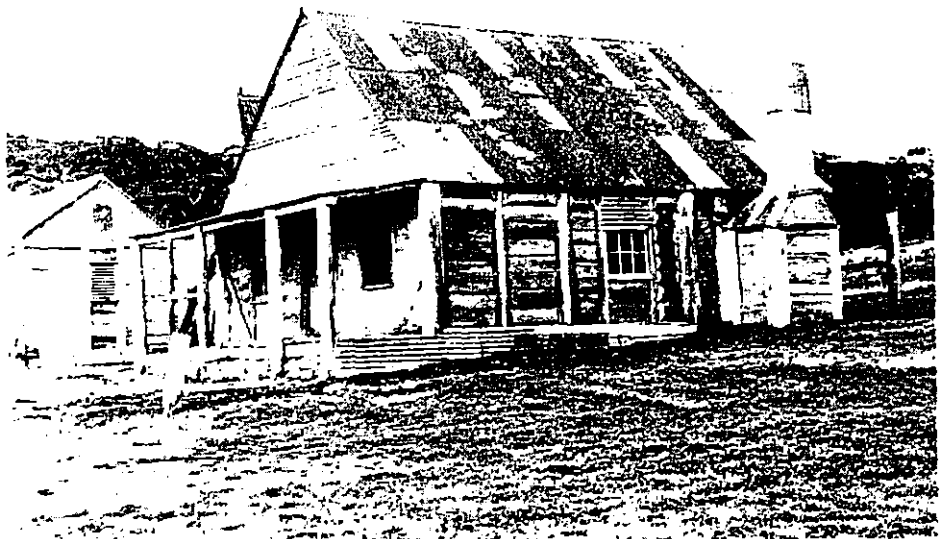
The complex was acquired by the NPWS from the Naughton Brothers in 1975.

By the 1970s the complex was showing signs of time and this was not helped by people burning posts and slabs, and the large scale removal of slabs from the Southwell building northwards out of the park.

After 1975 some work was done on the Campbell building but this was only of a holding nature and some of it has contributed to recent problems.

In May 1983 the NPWS organised a seminar at Yarrangobilly Caves to work out a program of preservation and guidelines for this work. Participants included the Heritage Commission, National Trust, NPWS, academics, the NPA of the ACT, and other interested people.

As a consequence of this seminar, over several periods from November 1983 to 1985, NPWS staff have carefully restored the Southwell building (three rooms, sleepout, north verandah) and the Campbell building (currently all except the north-west section and the largest chimney).



Future work (1985) will include completing the large Campbell chimney and the cheese house and, awaiting in the wings, the yards and water race.

The costs to date, mainly NPWS funds, for this restoration work have been in the order of \$28 000 for staff and materials etc. When compared to the proposed budget of \$750 000 for Dalwood in the Hunter Valley or the hoped for restoration of Mawsons Hut in the Antarctic it has been excellent value.

The restoration work raised a number of problems for which solutions were found from old photographs or from local identities. During the course of the work much was learned about the nature of the foundations, and about the modifications made in recent years. It has served to educate many visitors in the techniques used in building this type of structure, enabled a film to be made (*Artisans of Australia*), passed on some of the building skills and techniques to others,

and provided a vast collection of documentary photographs and information.

It has also raised questions for which we are unlikely now to get answers, and has cast doubts on the age of some parts of Coolamine, e.g. the Campbell buildings age is pre-1885.

Coolamine has much architecture and materials that are unique in Kosciusko National Park — it does not have shingle roofs, wooden gutters, and other rare building features which exist or have existed recently in the Park, but it does provide the opportunity to educate and demonstrate what an alpine homestead complex looked like at the turn of the century.

It is to be hoped that more money will be forthcoming from the Heritage Commission and the NPWS to allow for the completion of restoration, further research into the area, and a sound practical long-term interpretive program based on the complex.

## THE WALK TO MOUNT CLEAR

Bryan Webb, a prospective NPA member aged 12 years, wrote an account for his teacher of his first bush walk, with sketches of some of the things that most impressed him. We haven't room for the whole article but have asked him if we may print some of the things that most impressed us, and here they are —

On the first day I woke up very early, at five o'clock a.m. I couldn't get out of the bed because I was still sleepy. I went to get breakfast, then cleaned my teeth and after that I went to get changed. I was wearing jeans, shirt, jumper, long socks and shoes. Then we tried my backpack to see if it fitted me. Then I went out with my parents to wait for my friend and his name was David Schneider. Then they turned up . . . First we drove for one and a half hours until we got to the spot where we were starting the walk. First I went to the toilet and then I had food and drink. The Ranger\* who was taking us checked the packs to see how heavy they were. The weight of my pack was 22 pounds and my friend's pack was 17 pounds, also his dad's pack was 45 pounds. We put on our packs and walked to the spot where we were going to walk from.

Off we go! There was fourteen of us in a single line marching behind each other. As we walked over dead leaves, bark, grass and logs, they were crackling like thunder. Then we came up to this flat plain with long grass that sticks into the skin, but the plain was not very long. The Ranger told us that just here when he was walking two weeks ago he saw a Red-bellied Black Snake sliding the opposite way . . . You have to be careful where you tread in the long grass because there are deep holes, or there might be snakes . . . Up ahead David and I could see a hut, that's where we were going to have lunch . . . For lunch I had a boiled egg, sandwiches, water to drink and some dried fruit . . . We were walking over little hills, rocks, bark, dried logs, leaves and long grass . . . As we came down the last hill we found a little flat area and I told the Ranger that this would be a good spot to camp for the night so we stopped there . . . When it started to get dark we had dinner. Our dinner was steak, onions and a drink of water. Later on I had a cup of tea and as I was going to get the boiler out of the fire somehow the thing dropped and hit the rock like a big explosion. The hot water splashed up and hit me on the leg. I screamed in pain and rushed to the creek to put cold water on it. A couple of minutes later I went to bed but first I put some butter on the leg where I got splashed. Then



I went to bed.

Second day — today we woke up at five o'clock in the morning. Then I hopped out of my sleeping bag and then I checked my leg, and I saw the blisters where I had got burnt. I went down to join David for breakfast. After breakfast we cleaned our teeth. After that we went to the tent to pull it down. We packed our things up and put the packs on. The Ranger came and we were on our way to Mount Clear. Up we went and every time it would get steeper. The temperature was hot and it felt like thirty degrees. I kept stopping to have a rest. David and the Ranger went up ahead of us. I was nearly at the top but I only needed five more metres to get there. I just made it there, and had a big rest. The wind was very cold but nice. After the rest David and I went to the big rock where there was this pole that stood up and at the top it was painted black. Every where you looked you could see about a hundred lizards on each rock. In the distance we could see a mountain with snow and it was called Mount Selwyn. You could see lots of things like valleys, ridges and mountains. Then we started walking down the mountain. As I was coming down I tripped over a log and fell on the ground flat. It was hard to try and get up because the back pack weight was something like an elephant . . . We came to the woods but we stopped to have a rest. We were there for thirty seconds and then there was these big mossies. David's dad had a mossie on his arm and when I hit it all this blood poured out. They were so bad that I killed ten . . . We came out of the woods onto another fire-trail. We followed the track until we

got to this hill. Then we went down the hill and walked through the long grass. Then we went climbing over logs and treading on dead bark or leaves that crackled. I was happy when we were back at the car so I could take off my back pack. When I get home I'm going to tell them that I walked 14km on first day and 24km second day that altogether adds to 38km. Mount Clear was five thousand three hundred and sixty five feet high. I won't forget the walk too.

\* Editor's note — this was NPA member and leader of the walk, Reg Alder.

MOUNT CLEAR  
5365 feet high



## ALASKA — TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST

*This is the last of a series of articles about National Parks and Reserves of Alaska visited by NPA members Charles and Audrey Hill in 1983. Written by Charles Hill.*

Tongass National Forest is a large part of the south-east 'Panhandle' of Alaska. It was created in 1907 and spreads over most of the land masses in an area 800 km long and up to 160 km wide. Within the Forest are five Wilderness Study Areas. Four towns and the Capital, Juneau, are in enclaves surrounded by water and the Forest. Thousands of kilometres of waterways dissect the area and the main sea routes are collectively called the Inside Passage. There are few roads and none which climb or pierce the rugged, glaciated and spectacular Coastal Range which forms the border between this part of Alaska and Canada.

The Forest Service maintains more than 130 public recreation cabins and these are accessible by small float plane, boat or kayak; a few are also accessible by trail. The main activities in the area are logging and fishing, but hunting and trapping have many devotees.

We found familiar conflicts between loggers and conservationists, with the hunters and trappers supporting the conservation of animal habitats. Clear felling was practised and mistakes had been made in clearing too large an area too often and going down steeply to creeks and waterways with the clearing. The current technique, we were told, is to clear fell in small patches to a plan which leaves sections adjacent to clear felling untouched for some years to allow adequate regeneration stock and to avoid major erosion. Logging roads are usually not necessary as the logs are rolled or slid down to the nearest waterway and made up into rafts for towing to sawmills in the towns.

The number of cloudy days is very high; average rainfall in the towns ranges from 3900 mm to 660 mm per annum. 'Sun holidays' used to be declared in winter when the sun shone so that inhabitants could take advantage of the rare occasions to get solar warmth! In seven days we had one good clear day and a burst of sun another day, but we were never confined inside because of the weather.

Juneau we found to be a pleasant, attractive city nestling under steep mountains. Waterfalls and avalanche scars are numerous, and rushing mountain streams are guided through and under the city. Arising behind and above Juneau is a large icefield and many mountain peaks. Mendenhall, one of many glaciers spawned by this icefield, has its terminus close to

the city almost at sea level. Rain and low cloud prevented us climbing in the mountains to look at the scenery, so we caught a city bus and then walked the short distance to the glacier. It is in retreat and so has some moraine debris on the terminus but it is an impressive sight. Various trails allow a close view, including salmon spawning.

Like the other towns in the Forest, Juneau can be reached only by sea or air. Attempts have been made to survey a road into Canada from Juneau; scenic Taku Inlet looks the most practical route but so far no solution has been found to the problem of crossing two large active glaciers which bar the way.

The chartered launch we had used in Glacier Bay took us from Juneau south along Stephens Passage where we saw Dall porpoises, a sea lion, seals, humpback whales and many sea birds. The skipper cut engines and let us glide quietly up to a small group of whales feeding by using a circular bubble screen to concentrate the krill. We were most fortunate to be able to see these huge mammals diving and deep sounding only a few metres from our suddenly tiny-seeming launch.

Then we entered Endicott Arm marked by Mt Sumdum and its handsome glacier. This Arm is noted for its blue icebergs and this beautiful colour was intensified by the overcast skies. The weather worsened as we diverged into Fords Terror (a Wilderness Study Area) past the narrows which can only be negotiated at slack full tide. This is an impressive fiord with the initial walls rising almost sheer for 400 metres then going up further to peaks over 1400 metres high. At the end, it was mirror calm in places and swollen water falls tumbled down in diverse ways with tremendous force.

We had intended to camp in this fiord but the weather and the flood height of the rivers caused us to decide to return and slide through the narrows as the ebbing tide started to gain its dangerous pace. Upstream in the Arm we anchored in front of a spectacular river whose flow kept icebergs away from us and we all slept on board, soundly if at rather close quarters.

Next morning we cruised up the Arm, dodging blue icebergs, to look at Dawes Glacier at its head. Then back again to rendezvous with float planes in a sheltered spot, with landing lights

and search lights establishing contact in the murk. The below-ceiling flight back to Juneau was uneventful despite the weather but we were conscious of the beautiful scenery being missed behind those clouds.

Arising at 4.15 a.m. gave us time to catch a taxi to Juneau's ferry terminal at Auke Bay and board *MV Malaspina* for the trip south to Canada's Prince Rupert via the Inside Passage. This Alaskan Marine Highway ferry and her sisterships are most comfortable; we had several lounges, a solarium, plenty of deck space, a good inexpensive restaurant and well fitted interior cabins; below decks is a huge drive-in vehicle and freight space.

The scenery from the deck as we boarded in the early dawn was breathtaking. It was a pastel monotone in all shades of grey from the bay mistily mirroring the mountains to the clouds rising off the peaks. In between was the ethereal silver of Mendenhall Glacier drawing the eye to the mysterious icefield and the peaks beyond.

The weather cleared and brightened to a very good day, most of which was spent on the outside decks with binoculars and camera. The mountains on the Alaska-Canada border here rise up to 3000 metres and many of them are ice-sculpted to sheer rock monoliths, too steep to hold snow; names such as Devils Thumb, Kates Needle and the Castle give a valid picture of challenges to rock climbers. Other groups of peaks have icefields and glaciers running down to fiords and inlets. The numerous large islands have impressive mountain systems and some have their own icefields. Countless small islands dot the straits and passages, most crowned with spruce trees.

Add to this scenery the marine life and seabirds and there is never a dull moment. South of Petersburg our ferry passed through the Wrangell Narrows where the channel in many places is no more than 60 metres wide. Many bald eagles could be seen on the tops of trees here and we even saw one young eagle flexing its wings in preparation for flight.

A short walk was enjoyed in the towns of Petersburg and Wrangell, but we stayed in bed for the midnight call at Ketchikan. Up again for an early breakfast at dawn to see Chatham Sound and the winding entrance to Prince Rupert. It was with regret that we turned our backs on Alaska, but with fickle anticipation, looked forward to the attractions of Canada.



## NATURE CONSERVATION IN THE A.C.T.

*At our April General Meeting Les Mitchell, consultant ecologist with the National Parks and Wildlife Service, spoke on nature conservation in the A.C.T. From notes used by Les, Bob Story summarises Les's talk. The numbers used in this article are in places out of kilter with those in the Report.*

Early in 1982 the Conservation Council of the South-east Region and Canberra, concerned at the proposed logging of communities of brown barrel in the A.C.T., commissioned an investigation into all aspects of nature conservation in the Territory. It was felt that guide-lines were needed to ensure the protection of the resources listed in a report by Dr David Shorthouse, some of which have not been gazetted and are therefore subject to the policies of the N.C.D.C. The commissioned report calls for improved legislation, public involvement, and maintaining something of a natural environment in Canberra. It acknowledges the part played by outdoor organisations like the N.P.A. It comprises a catalogue of areas worthy of conservation (and special features inside them), investigates management needs in and around Canberra, reviews the legislation, and makes recommendations.

The contents may be summarised as follows:

- 2.1 and 2.2 Remnant communities in the north and east of the A.C.T. should be protected. Namadgi and Tidbinbilla are now provided for, and a list of their significant features is given in the report (size, communities etc.).
- 2.3 Features of the Murrumbidgee Corridor are catalogued, plus notes on the proposed gazettal of a river reserve and, one hopes, legislative protection. The Policy and Developmental Plan of the N.C.D.C. failed to recognise some of the conflicts.
- 2.4 Catalogue of the Molonglo Corridor.
- 2.5 Canberra Nature Park. This comprises Black Mountain, Ainslie-Majura, Taylor, Wanniasa, and other hills. They have no formal protection except Black Mountain and are susceptible to encroachment.
- 2.6 A list of the sites listed by the N.C.D.C. as of ecological significance, together with others omitted from the N.C.D.C. list.
- 2.7 A list of sites that are likely to be of value for nature conservation in the future.
- 2.8 Plants and seven communities in need of protection.
- 3 A proposed classification of nature conservation units (nature park, rural conservation area etc.). These are necessary for legislative purposes.
- 4 The management of Nature Conservation areas. It should include public involvement and will vary (e.g. grazing may be allowed in some). Some may be artificial (e.g. the Glendale trees) and all need more attention.
- 4.2 Savannah woodlands.
  - 4.2.3 Management of savannah woodlands.
  - 4.3 Grasslands, with notes. The grasslands are fragmented; forty sites are listed by the N.C.D.C. Their management is dealt with.
  - 4.4 This deals with simulated natural landscapes in and around Canberra. The desirability of having such areas is dealt with, and some specific ones are named. They are subdivided into parks, miscellaneous open spaces, roads, uncommitted lands, lakes and ponds, streams and drains, pines, and streets and gardens.
- 5 This section deals with various aspects of administration, legislation and planning.
  - 5.1 Legislation for public parks and nature conservation needs to be amended. The N.S.W. Wildlife Refuge system might be applied in the A.C.T., and there is a short note on what this would entail. The Nature Conservation ordinance lacks a requirement for management plans and does not provide for public consultation, and it and the Public Parks Ordinances allow Ministerial revocation of a park or reserve. Amendments are suggested.
    - 5.1.2 There is no A.C.T. legislation to provide for environmental planning and assessment, but there is an Environmental Protection Act. It is not adequate as it stands.
    - 5.1.3 There are ordinances dealing with water and air pollution, but they are not discussed in the manuscript.
  - 5.2.1 Public participation should be part of any planning, and some recommendations to this effect have been made by the Public Land Association and the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the A.C.T. The manuscript lists five ways in which public participation should be implemented, including a data bank for public use. The manuscript also lists the functions of an Environmental Advisory Council, which presumably is not yet in existence.
  - 5.2.2 The regional context. The A.C.T. is really part of N.S.W., and joint planning should be formalised, with a Regional Advisory Body for the South-east Region and Canberra. The administration of nature conservation areas also needs regional consideration (Namadgi, Kosciusko National Park, Victorian Alps).
  - 5.2.3 Other planning matters include Tuggeranong, Gungahlin, pine plantations, proposed parkways, power lines. They should all be considered in the context of an overall land use plan.
- 5.3 This section asks (but does not answer) the question – who should be managing our natural resources? It advocates a *consistent approach*.

The book *Nature Conservation in the A.C.T.* written by Suzanne Barrett and Les Mitchell and published by the Conservation Council of the South-east Region and Canberra is available from the Environment Centre.

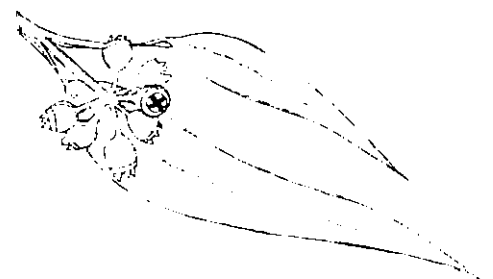
## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

About three-quarters of our stock of Field Guide to the Native Trees of the ACT has been sold and we are considering plans for a reprint. Such a reprint could be an opportunity to make improvements to the book, e.g. the title could be amended to show that it applies to most of the Southern Tablelands as well as to the ACT.

Users of the Field Guide may have come across points where even some relatively minor change could bring benefits. We therefore wish to invite members and all readers to let us know any ideas which experience of the book has suggested, or other constructive comments generally.

Advice could be telephoned to Sheila Kruse on 48 6104 or Charles Hill on 95 8924 or put on paper and addressed to Convener, Field Guide Sub-committee, National Parks Association of ACT, GPO Box 457, Canberra, ACT, 2601.

Charles Hill  
Convener



*Fiona Brand*

*As the Draft Plan of Management for Namadgi National Park is about to appear, it seems appropriate that a story about Julie Henry, one of the principal architects of a 'National Park for the National Capital', should be written.*

To follow Julie Henry's long career in conservation and environmental groups is to experience wonderment at her energy, that is, until you remember her great love for the bush and her determination to inspire others so that they would 'cherish it and protect it fiercely'.

Julie's outdoor career took off when, with the help of a Melbourne Walking and Touring Club member, she organised a walking club within the Social Club of the Department of Supply in Melbourne in 1943. Then in 1947 she became staff welfare officer in the Brisbane Postmaster General's Department and joined the Queensland National Parks Association. Julie became a councillor of that association, and says, 'As a councillor I came under the influence of Romeo Lahey, long time President of the Queensland NPA who had succeeded in having Lamington National Park declared and has been fighting for National Parks in Queensland ever since'. Within weeks of her arrival in Brisbane a public meeting was called to establish the first bushwalking club in the State. About six months after the inception of the Brisbane Bushwalking Club, Julie took on the position of secretary followed by a term as president, serving seven years in these positions. These two organisations were to absorb most of her spare time for the next twelve years until leaving Brisbane in 1960.

The early years of the Brisbane Bushwalking Club were frenetic and exciting. The first necessity was to find suitable walking areas, and one of her greatest pleasures was the exploration of new areas and then to introduce walkers to them. There were so many areas in south-east Queensland that were unfamiliar to walkers, even though many were declared national parks, such as Mt Barney, Mt Ballow and the main range from Mt Mistake to the NSW border. The last named quickly became her favourite. In 1949 the Club's Outings Committee organised their first extended trip to Fraser Island, followed by visits to Carnarvon National Park (Central Queensland) and Hinchinbrook Island National Park (North Queensland). In the early 1950s the Queensland National Parks Association began their program of annual extended trips.

Since that time nearly all her holidays have been camping/walking holidays, mostly in national parks, with either the Bushwalkers or the Association. In later years the Queensland NPA branched outside Australia and she went to New Zealand, Hawaiian Islands, Nepal and Patagonia/Galapagos Islands with them.

Another activity with which she was actively associated for ten years was the setting up of the Club's Safety and Training Committee and the organisation of its programs.

Julie feels that complete enjoyment of the natural environment and particularly of wilderness areas comes only when one is able to relate to it confidently and happily. The Committee developed techniques and planned search and rescue practices drawing on the experience of southern States and New Zealand as there were no other models. The development of a formalised State search and rescue organisation was still years away.

The need for development of more sophisticated safety techniques was brought home when a member of the Club died in 1954 as the result of a climbing accident. Formal climbing groups had not yet developed in Australia and there were no local sources of information. South-east Queensland offered good areas for rock climbing and up to that time free climbing had been followed. Fortunately Bill Peacock, a noted English climber, was then a lecturer in the Wollongong School of Mines and accepted an invitation to assist the Club. This was a very happy association as Bill visited Queensland two or three times a year after that. Those privileged to climb with him had the responsibility of passing on the techniques learnt and adapting them for general safety. This was a new and exhilarating outdoor experience for Julie and it was her one regret that she had not been introduced to it earlier.

In 1960 Julie completed a Diploma in Public Administration and joined the staff of the Public Service Board in Canberra. She was immediately caught up in the activities of the recently formed National Parks Association and so began a long and happy association.

In the early 1960s major conservation issues were beginning to emerge and were to mushroom in the years ahead. Fortunately the conscience of the general public was starting to stir with the growing awareness of the problems. New organisations were set up to fight environmental issues and already established groups had a greater involvement.

Julie joined the Committee of the Association in 1961 and altogether had nine years, including a term as President, working on the Committee. Her main work was however accomplished on special issues and working committees. She had the pleasure of exploring and opening up new areas for walking and was involved with the outings program until retirement. In 1961 the Canberra Walking and Touring Club was revived and Julie became a member of their Safety and Training Committee and was later to join their Conservation Committee. Except for some time taken out to complete a part-time Bachelor of Economics degree at the ANU, which she completed in 1968, her spare time was again absorbed in the activities of a national parks association and a walking club.

Dr Nancy Burbidge, the first Secretary of the NPA of the ACT set the objectives for the Association. This brilliant woman, botanist/conservationist, was to have a strong influence on Julie's approach to conservation and was to provide a driving force within the Association until her death in 1977. The first objective was the exploration of the ACT for suitable areas for declaration as reserves and the preparation of a case for a national park in the southern area. The second was to have the outdated legislation that applied to parks/reserves, flora, fauna, land use etc. in the ACT brought up to date.

The huge task of preparing a proposal for a reserve of land of national park status in the ACT was undertaken by a sub-committee of which Julie was Convenor. A year was spent in exploring for and compiling a proposal, three copies being carefully stapled and covered in Julie's little room in Havelock House. The proposal for a national park in the Gudgenby-Mt Kelly region was thus submitted in 1963 and is a constant reminder of Julie's worthwhile organising ability. However, it was not until Environment Day 1984 that the Minister, Tom Uren, declared the Namadgi National Park — a much larger park area than the original proposal of the committee of 1963. During the years of Julie's time on the Committee of the ACT NPA and as President, the areas of concern were Black Mountain, Mount Ainslie, Jervis Bay, the National Park proposal, Googong Dam, control burning and the development of a Conservation Ordinance for the ACT. Julie was also very involved in the Black Mountain Reserve issue.

Black Mountain's status was changed to that of a Nature Reserve in July 1970. This was just ahead of the announcement by the Postmaster General's Department that the two towers then existing on the mountain were to be replaced by a single massive

TV/radio tower. Unfortunately the first battle for Black Mountain was lost when approval was given for the erection of the original towers and the building of a road to service them. In the early 1960s the conservation ethic was only in its infancy and there was no great public outcry, the Association and two or three other interested bodies alone protested. Ten years later when the second battle against the tower on the mountain was launched it was a different matter.

In 1971 Julie appeared in support of Dr Burbidge in the presentation of the Association's submission before the House of Representatives Select Committee on Wildlife Conservation. In June 1972 it was her turn after helping to prepare the Association's case on the Black Mountain tower and to present it. Supported by Dr Chris Watson it was given at a public hearing of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works. In spite of the tremendous public interest, the strongly expressed opposition and the number of cases presented, the battle was lost and the tower subsequently built. The Association has been left with the responsibility to see that no further infringements are made on the reserve status of Black Mountain.

After 1973 Julie found that she was unable to continue as a committee

member of the NPA but continued to help the Outings Committee and to lead walks – particularly in the alpine areas in summertime. Summing up her own thoughts about her contribution to the conservation cause, Julie says 'Looking back perhaps my best contribution to outdoor groups and the conservation movement has been in the administration-formal club organisation, committees, constitutions, preparation of manuals and brochures and particularly the establishment and overseeing of safety and training practices. In later years it has been in the preparation and presentation of case papers and a willingness to battle for environmental principles. What I have put into my outdoor activities has been more than repaid by what I have got back in return over forty years – the good and bad experiences, the successful and unsuccessful forays against government, the pleasure of countless walking trips, but above all the friendships made with the "outdoor people" – they are a very special breed.'

'On my second visit to New Zealand recently I found the following words of John Muir on a display panel at the Mt Cook Visitor Centre and I copied them down. They so aptly express what I have personally experienced.



## JUST BRIEFLY

Mid-week walkers along the Molonglo were a little shaken to find a huge tree uprooted and lying across their path, only an hour after passing the spot earlier. So near and yet so far!

\*\*\*\*\*

Di Thompson was driven to despair trying to keep a head count one day walk. First, a large friendly dog decided to join us, a late member caught up at the half-way mark; two non-members (but friends of one) were heading the same way back and forth; and, finally, a lone member passed through the group! Reg Alder delivered the dog to the Ranger's office, which only added to the Ranger's problems – a party had separated and one group was missing. Later we heard that the dog was claimed by his owners, who were duly admonished for not only having a dog in a national park but also for losing him. The 'mislead' party turned up, safe but late.

\*\*\*\*\*

After experiencing dozens of leeches on her first walk, a new member on reaching the rocky top asked, 'Is this where we strip?'

\*\*\*\*\*

Foot problems? German soldiers in Russia found poor quality socks useless. Their answer was to break an egg into each boot – the heat of their bare feet acting on them to give a cushioning effect. They had NO blisters, corns or other problems, but one wonders about the accumulative effect?

\*\*\*\*\*

Mary MacDonnell and Gladys Joyce have returned from a European Art tour; Fiona Brand, Bev Hammond and Bonnie Fox from Kashmir; Timothy Walsh from trekking round Europe; Gillian O'Loughlin from a language course and conference in France, and many others who headed to 'Job's sunshine'. The Richardsons are preparing for yet another Nepal trek. All give us lots to talk about on our spring walks.

\*\*\*\*\*

Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their freshness into you and the storms their energy. While cares will drop off like autumn leaves.

'I have been rewarded if I have been able to introduce at least a few people to the wonderful therapeutic powers and the enjoyment of our natural environment, and through that experience been able to inspire them to cherish and protect it fiercely.'

As a fellow NPA committee member, as a walking companion and as a friend, I can assure Julie that her energy, her organising ability, her strength, her love of the natural environment have influenced the development of the ACT NPA greatly and we welcome her continued interest and visits when she returns to us from Sydney from time to time. Julie Henry along with Nancy Burbidge, both Life Members of NPA, have left their mark as great spokeswomen and campaigners for the conservation causes of Australia.



I reported in September 1984 of the many ways members rid their socks of seeds and burrs. I now report the 'ultimate'. One member lies soaking in a hot bath, ice-cream container floating around, into which she very leisurely de-seeds her socks. Most relaxing!

\*\*\*\*\*

An item from the VNPA Newsletter of December 1984: 'The VNPA has been allocated \$1400 by the Commonwealth Government (an increase of \$2000) and \$6000 by the State Government.'

\*\*\*\*\*

The NPA of NSW also received two grants for 1984-85 – \$14 000 from the Federal Government and \$8000 from the State Government.

\*\*\*\*\*

Items welcome for this column. Phone 881889.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Scribbly Gum**



## GRANT REDUCED: OFFICE HOURS CURTAILED

The operation of the Association's office in Kingsley Street is dependent on the availability of grant money from the Community Development Fund. Unfortunately, our grant for 1985-86 has been reduced from last year's figure by 65% and it has consequently been necessary to curtail the times during which the office is open each week.

Current office hours are —

Monday 9.30-12.00  
Wednesday 9.30- 3.00  
Thursday 9.30- 3.00

## TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE

The Department of Territories intends to close the Murrumbidgee River bridge at the Cotter Pumping Station on the Cotter Road from 8a.m. 16 September to 22 November to carry out repairs.

This may affect some Sunday outings but meeting places and times remain unchanged.

## SPRING MARKET

organised by  
Environment Centre and  
Conservation Council  
Sunday 1 September 10am-1pm  
Environment Centre Carpark  
Kingsley Street, Acton

*Local hand made crafts, home-grown  
produce and used items*

Environment Centre is open for  
bookshop sales and for  
home-made morning teas.

## NEEDED

New faces to lead, new places to go! As you will see by this program, there are fewer day walks being offered on Sundays. Please help to keep our Outings Program alive by volunteering to lead a walk occasionally. Contact Walks Convenor Ian Haynes on 514762 (h), or any Committee Member (names and numbers inside front cover).

## 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 FIVE 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.

There is no need to phone leaders about day walks, unless more information is required.

### SEPTEMBER 1 SUNDAY WALK

Mt Gudgenby

Ref: Yaouk 1:25 000

Leader: Neville Esau 864176

Meet: Gudgenby Bridge (beyond Glendale) at 8.30am. 20km walk, 600m climb. No tracks. Superb views over Gudgenby and Naas Valleys. 55km drive.

### SEPTEMBER 8 SUNDAY WALK

New Yankee Hat

Ref: Rendezvous Creek 1:25 000

Leader: Charles Hill 958924

Meet: Kambah Village Shops 8.30am. 12km walk, mostly without tracks. Vertical component of climb up ridge is 550m. Very good view points. Return via Bogong Creek. 55km drive.

### SEPTEMBER 8 SUNDAY: SPRINGTIME WATTLE WALK

Tidbinbilla via Mt Stromlo and Murrays Corner

Ref: ACT 1:100 000 Brindabella 1:100 000

Leader: Peter Ormay 512428

Meet: Corner Eucumbene Drive and Cotter Road 9a.m. Easy walking, short distances to observe and identify several of the local acacias, assisted by one of the authors of the *Field Guide*. Barbecue lunch approximately 12.30p.m. at Tidbinbilla. 30 km drive.

### SEPTEMBER 14 SATURDAY NATURE RAMBLE

Black Mountain

Ref: Canberra UBD

George Chippendale 812454

Meet: Belconnen Way Entrance 9.30am. Morning ramble to see flowers for those aged 4 to 80. Bring morning tea. Finishes midday.

### SEPTEMBER 15 SUNDAY WALK

Mt Coree

Ref: ACT 1:100 000

Leader: Sophie Caton 472469(w) 487701(h)

Meet: Eucumbene Drive/Cotter Road 9.00am. Walk about 10km on fire trail from Blundells Flat to top of Mt Coree (about 600m rise) and return by same route. 30km drive.

### SEPTEMBER 15 SUNDAY WALK

Stockyard Spur

Ref: Corin Dam 1:25 000

Leader: Ian Haynes 514762

Meet: Kambah Village Shops 8.00am. 18km walk mostly along track from Corin Dam wall with a steep 500m climb. 45km drive.

**SEPTEMBER 18 WEDNESDAY MID-WEEK WALK**

**Bullen Range** Ref: Cotter Dam 1:25 000 Leader: Reg Alder 542240  
 Meet: Eucumbene Drive Cotter Road 10.00am. 5km walk, gentle climb. 18km drive.

**SEPTEMBER 21/22 PACK WALK**

**Pigeon Box Mountain** Ref: Yankees Gap 1:25 000 Leader: Phil Gatenby 416284(h) 526304(w)  
 Walk partly on tracks in southern part of Wadbilliga National Park. Contact leader for details before Wednesday. 220km drive.

**SEPTEMBER 22 SUNDAY CAR DRIVE AND WALK**

**Bundanoon** Ref: Moss Vale 1:100 000 Leader: Ian Currie 958112  
 Please contact leader if you plan to undertake the 160km drive to see the wild flowers - boronia especially.

**SEPTEMBER 28/29 PACK WALK**

**Yaouk/Tantangara** Ref: Tantangara 1:100 000 Leader: Dudley Nicol 824371  
 A pack walk in the Yaouk, Tantangara area. Please contact leader before Wednesday for details.

**SEPTEMBER 29 SUNDAY WALK**

**Currowan Falls** Ref: Braidwood 1:100 000 Leader: Ian Haynes 514762  
 Meet: Braidwood swimming pool 8.30am. A 30 km drive from Braidwood to falls with a one hour medium walk to the top of the falls. A little longer for those who wish to go to the bottom.

**OCTOBER 5/6/7 LONG WEEKEND CAR CAMP**

**Jervis Bay Territory Heritage Tour** Ref: Jervis Bay 1:100 000 Leader: Denise Robin 814837  
 Camping at Cave Beach (site approx 1/2 km from car park). Visits to sites of natural and cultural heritage value, including Cape St George Lighthouse ruins, HMAS Creswell, the National Botanic Gardens annex, heath and rainforest areas. Possible slide night beforehand. Numbers limited, please contact leader early.

**OCTOBER 5/6/7 OCTOBER LONG WEEKEND PACK WALK**

**Namadgi and Kelly Mountains** Ref: Rendezvous Creek 1:25 000 Leader: Neville Esau 864176  
 A pack walk to Mt Namadgi to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the ACT NPA. Please contact leader before Wednesday for details of this medium walk.

**OCTOBER 5/6/7 LONG WEEKEND SNOW CRAFTS**

**Kosciusko National Park** Ref: Kosciusko 1:100 000 Leader: Pieter Arriens 887977  
 Please contact leader for details of this weekend in the snow. Build igloos and cross-country ski on some accessible peak.

**OCTOBER 12/13 PACK WALK**

**Rendezvous Creek/Cotter Gap** Ref: Tantangara 1:100 000 Leader: Dianne Thompson 886084  
 An easy pack walk from Ororal to Cotter Gap. Please contact leader before Wednesday for details.

**OCTOBER 13 SUNDAY WALK**

**Hospital Hill/Mt Boboyan** Ref: Yaouk 1:25 000 Leader: Frank Clements 317005  
 Meet: Kambah Village Shops 8.30am. 16 km walk, half on fire trail. 350 metre climb. Steep descent off Mt Boboyan to Hospital Creek. 50 km drive.

**OCTOBER 16 WEDNESDAY MID-WEEK WALK**

**Gibraltar Rocks** Ref: Tidbinhilla 1:25 000 Leader: Trevor Plumb 813258  
 Meet: Eucumbene Drive and Cotter Road 10am. 6 km return walk with slow climb up fire trail to large group of boulders for good views. 30 km drive (if bridge open).

**OCTOBER 18/19/20 PACK WALK**

**Kiandra/Table Top/Arsenic Ridge** Ref: Cabramurra/Denison 1:25 000  
 Eucumbene 1:50 000 Leader: Ian Haynes 514762  
 A medium pack walk in the Table Top Mountains area covering Brooks and Happy's huts. Please contact leader before Wednesday for details.

**OCTOBER 20 SUNDAY WALK**

**Devils Peak** Ref: Tidbinhilla 1:25 000 Leader: Les Pyke 812982  
 Meet: Eucumbene Drive and Cotter Road 8.30am. 10 km walk up the fire trail from Blundell's Flat, with a steep 300 metre climb to the peak. Views of Canberra and surrounds. 30 km drive.

**OCTOBER 19 SATURDAY TREE MAINTENANCE**

**Glendale Crossing** Ref: ACT 1:100 000 Leader: Charles Hill 958924  
 Ring leader for details, or arrive any time from 9.30am, with gloves, mattock, cutting pliers or similar tools.

**OCTOBER 25, 26-27 CAR CAMP**

**Bundanoon** Ref: Moss Vale 1:100 000 Leader: Russ Kefford 262631  
 Day or part-day walks and drives to see wild flowers and scenic views from around the area. Night out on Saturday. 160 km drive. Please contact leader before Sunday 20th for details.

**OCTOBER 27 SUNDAY WALK**

**Mt Palerang (The Peak)** Ref: Braidwood 1:100 000 Leader: Reg Alder 542240  
 Meet: Canberra Railway Station 8.30am. Walk along forest roads and back over prominent rocky ridge. Good views over Clyde Mountains, Braidwood area and Canberra's fountain. 6 km walk with vertical rise of 240 metres. 50 km drive, last section rough but negotiable.

**NOVEMBER 2/3 CAR CAMP**

**Conimbla NP and Mt Nangar NP** Ref: Cowra and Molong 1:100 000 Leader: Reg Alder 542240  
 3 km on Saturday in Conimbla NP. Camp in Nangar State Forest with walk on Sunday to Mt Nangar (10 km). These two recently declared national parks offer pleasant walks in open cypress forests with a particularly extensive view from Mt Nangar of the mid-western plains and slopes. 270 km drive. Please contact leader before Wednesday for details.

**NOVEMBER 2/3 PACK WALK**

**Beamer Creek** Ref: Araluen 1:100 000 Leader: Robert Story 812174  
 Short walk to sheltered base camp on tributary of the Deua River. 400 metre climb to the top of Beamer Mountain returning to camp with swimming in the Deua. Meet: Braidwood 8am. 3 hour drive. Please contact leader before Wednesday for details.

**NOVEMBER 3 SUNDAY WALK**

Ginini Falls

Ref: Tidbinbilla 1:25 000

Leader: Lyall Mark 862801

Meet: Eucumbene Drive and Cotter Road 7.30a.m. 8 km walk from Mt Franklin to Ginini Falls and return. A demanding 550 metre climb through fallen timber. Worth it for the hardy ones who want to see this 180 metre cascade. A medium/hard walk. 55 km drive.

**NOVEMBER 3 SUNDAY WALK**

Blue Bell Swamp

Ref: Michelago 1:100 000

Leader: Ian Currie 958112

Meet: Canberra Railway Station 8.30a.m. Drive via Burra and Tinderry Stations to see spring, swamp flowers. Walk along track with short climbs, some vantage points for views. 50 km drive.

**NOVEMBER 8/9/10 SKI LODGE WEEKEND**

Charlotte Pass Ski Lodge

Ref: Kosciusko 1:100 000

Leader: Ian Haynes 514762

\$9.00/person/night. Arrive Friday night or Saturday morning by 9a.m. Numbers limited NPA members only. Walks and wild flowers (*Caltha Introloba* develops under winter snow and is often covered by snowmelt water). Please contact leader before 3 November. Bring sheets, pillow slips (or sleeping bags) and food. 230 km drive.

**NOVEMBER 10 SUNDAY WALK**

Pierces Creek Area

Ref: ACT 1:100 000

Leader: Charles Hill 958924

Meet: Eucumbene Drive and Cotter Road 8.30a.m. 11 km walk mainly along forest road with some ups and downs, as well as off-track climbs to look at wild flowers and views. 16 km drive (if bridge open).

**NOVEMBER 15/16/17 PACK WALK**

Hannels Spur

Ref: Kosciusko 1: 100 000

Leader: Ian Haynes 514762

This is a hard pack walk, up the historic Hannels Spur route from Swampy Plains via Hannels Spur, Moiras Flat and Byatts Camp to the Kosciusko summit and Charlotte Pass. The walk commences at 460 metres and rises to 2228 metres, a climb of 1768 metres in 16.5 km. Please contact leader before Wednesday for details.

**NOVEMBER 17 SUNDAY FIELD GUIDE WALK**

Tidbinbilla

Ref: ACT 1:100 000

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

Meet: Corner Eucumbene Drive and Cotter Road 9a.m. Those interested in learning about trees of the area will be coached by the authors of the *Field Guide*. Walks, easy short distances.

**NOVEMBER 20 WEDNESDAY MID-WEEK WALK**

Nursery Swamp

Ref: ACT 1:100 000

Leader: Sybil Story 812174

Meet: Kambah Shops 9a.m. 10 km walk up fire trail from Orroral Road to Nursery Swamp. Bring lunch. 50 km drive.

**NOVEMBER 23/24 PACK WALK**

Ettrema

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

Leader: Phillip Gatenby 416284

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

**NOVEMBER 23 SATURDAY TREE MAINTENANCE**

Glendale Crossing

Ref: ACT 1:100 000

Leader: Charles Hill 958924

Ring leader for details, or arrive any time after 9a.m. with gloves, mattock, cutting pliers or similar tools.

**NOVEMBER 24 SUNDAY WALK**

Boboyan and Pheasant Hills

Ref: Yaouk 1:25 000

Leader: Beverly Hammond 886577

Meet: Kambah Village Shops 8.30a.m. Walking from old Boboyan Road locked gate, climb Pheasant then Boboyan Hills (300 metre rise), drop down to follow Grassy Creek up to the fire trail and follow this back via the ruined homestead. Approximately 16 km walk. 60 km drive.

**NOVEMBER 27 WEDNESDAY MID-WEEK WALK**

Billy Billy Area

Ref: Corin Dam 1: 25 000

Leader: Robert Story 812174

Meet: Corner Eucumbene Drive and Cotter Road 8.30a.m. 45 km drive to Smokers Gap. Forest walk with 200 metre climb to granite tors in the Billy Billy area near the Corin Forest ski facility. Contact leader for details.

**NOVEMBER 30-DECEMBER 1**

NPA Alpine Conference in the Huxley Theatre, ANU.

**DECEMBER 4/5 MID-WEEK CAR CAMP**

Mollymook

Ref: Ulladulla 1:100 000

Leader: Gladys Joyce 956959

Car camp at Gladys Joyce's holiday cottage. Accommodation for few in house. Space for three tents or camper vans in garden. Shower and toilet downstairs for campers. Extra campers in camping ground nearby. Coastal walks and swimming. Contact leader for details.

**DECEMBER 7/8 PACK WALK**

Mt Terrible

Ref: Thredbo 1:50 000

Leader: Dudley Nicol 824371

A pack walk in the Chimneys Ridge area south-east of Thredbo to Mt Terrible. Please contact leader before Wednesday for details.

**DECEMBER 8 SUNDAY WALK**

Mt Budawang

Ref: Braidwood 1:25 000

Leader: Les Pyke 812982

Meet: Canberra Railway Station 8.30a.m. 90 km drive to Mongarlowe side of Mt Budawang for walk to top with extensive 360° views.

**DECEMBER 15 SUNDAY**

National Parks Association Christmas Party

Ref: Rendezvous Creek 1:25 000  
ACT 1:100 000

Leader: President

**DECEMBER 15 CHRISTMAS WALKS**

The Alpine Track

Leader: Ian Haynes 514762

Walhalla to Tom Groggin and Charlotte Pass or various sections inbetween. Anyone interested in this walk or any section of the walk please contact leader early.

# National Parks Association A.C.T.

## OUTINGS SUMMARY

SEPTEMBER	1	Sunday	Mt Gudgenby	Walk
	8	Sunday	New Yankee Hat	Walk
	8	Sunday	Spring Wattle walk	Walk
	14	Saturday	Black Mountain	Nature ramble
	15	Sunday	Mt Coree	Walk
	15	Sunday	Stockyard Spur	Walk
	18	Wednesday	Bullen Range	Mid-week walk
	21/22	Weekend	Pigeon Box Mountain	Pack walk
	22	Sunday	Bundanoon	Car drive and walk
	28/29	Weekend	Yaouk/Tantangara	Pack walk
	29	Sunday	Currowan Falls	Walk
	OCTOBER	5/6/7	Weekend	Jervis Bay
5/6/7		Weekend	Mt Namadgi/Kelly	Pack walk
5/6/7		Weekend	Snow craft/skiing	Pack/ski
12/13		Weekend	Rendezvous Creek	Pack walk
13		Sunday	Hospital Hill/Mt Boboyan	Walk
16		Wednesday	Gibraltar Rocks	Walk
18/19/20		Weekend	Kiandra/Table Top/Arsenic Ridge	Pack walk
19		Saturday	Glendale Crossing	Tree maintenance
20		Sunday	Devils Peak	Walk
25/26/27		Weekend	Bundanoon	Car camp
27		Sunday	Mt Palerang (The Peak)	Walk
NOVEMBER		2/3	Weekend	Conimbla/Mt Nangar
	2/3	Weekend	Beamer Creek	Pack walk
	3	Sunday	Ginini Falls	Walk
	3	Sunday	Blue Bell Swamp	Walk
	8/9/10	Weekend	Charlotte Pass	Ski lodge
	10	Sunday	Pierces Creek	Walk
	15/16/17	Weekend	Hannels Spur	Pack walk
	17	Sunday	Tidbinbilla	Field Guide walk
	20	Wednesday	Nursery Swamp	Walk
	23	Saturday	Glendale Crossing	Tree maintenance
	23/24	Weekend	Ettrema	Pack walk
	24	Sunday	Boboyan/Pheasant Hill	Walk
	27	Wednesday	Billy Billy	Walk
30	Saturday	Canberra	Alpine Conference	
DECEMBER	1	Sunday	Canberra	Alpine Conference
	4/5	Wednesday/Thursday		
	7/8	Weekend	Mollymook	Car camp
	8	Sunday	Mt Terrible	Pack walk
	15	Week	Mt Budawang	Walk
	15	Sunday	The Alpine Track Orroral Picnic Area	Pack walk Christmas party

## GENERAL MEETINGS

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

- SEPTEMBER** – Thursday 19  
Keen bushwalker and nature photographer *Mr Ian Hutton* will present an illustrated talk on Lord Howe Island. Ian is a weather observer with the Commonwealth Bureau of Meteorology and has recently returned to Canberra after spending four years based on the island. During that time he explored most of the island on foot and captured its scenic beauty and distinctive flora and fauna on film. The Lord Howe Island group is one of five places in Australia entered on the World Heritage list in recognition of its outstanding universal value. Its significance derives from its volcanic origins, the integrity and diversity of its ecosystems, and its exceptional natural beauty.
- OCTOBER** – Thursday 17  
What regular daily activities will enhance your fitness for bushwalking? What types of food will sustain you on an extended hike? What are the symptoms of exposure, exhaustion and dehydration? What first-aid knowledge should you have before setting off into the bush? *Dr Bryan Furnass*, Director of Student Health Services at ANU, will address these and other questions of interest to health and safety-conscious bushwalkers at the October meeting.
- NOVEMBER** – Thursday 21  
NPA member *John Baker* will provide an illustrated talk on Tasmania's National Parks at the final meeting of the Association for 1985. John has visited several parks over the past two years including Cradle Mountain – Lake St Clair, Freycinet, Rocky Cape and Mt Field and has had the opportunity to compare their natural attributes, tourist appeal and management problems. Tasmania's rich natural legacy isn't confined to the south-west – come and see what the rest of the State has to offer!