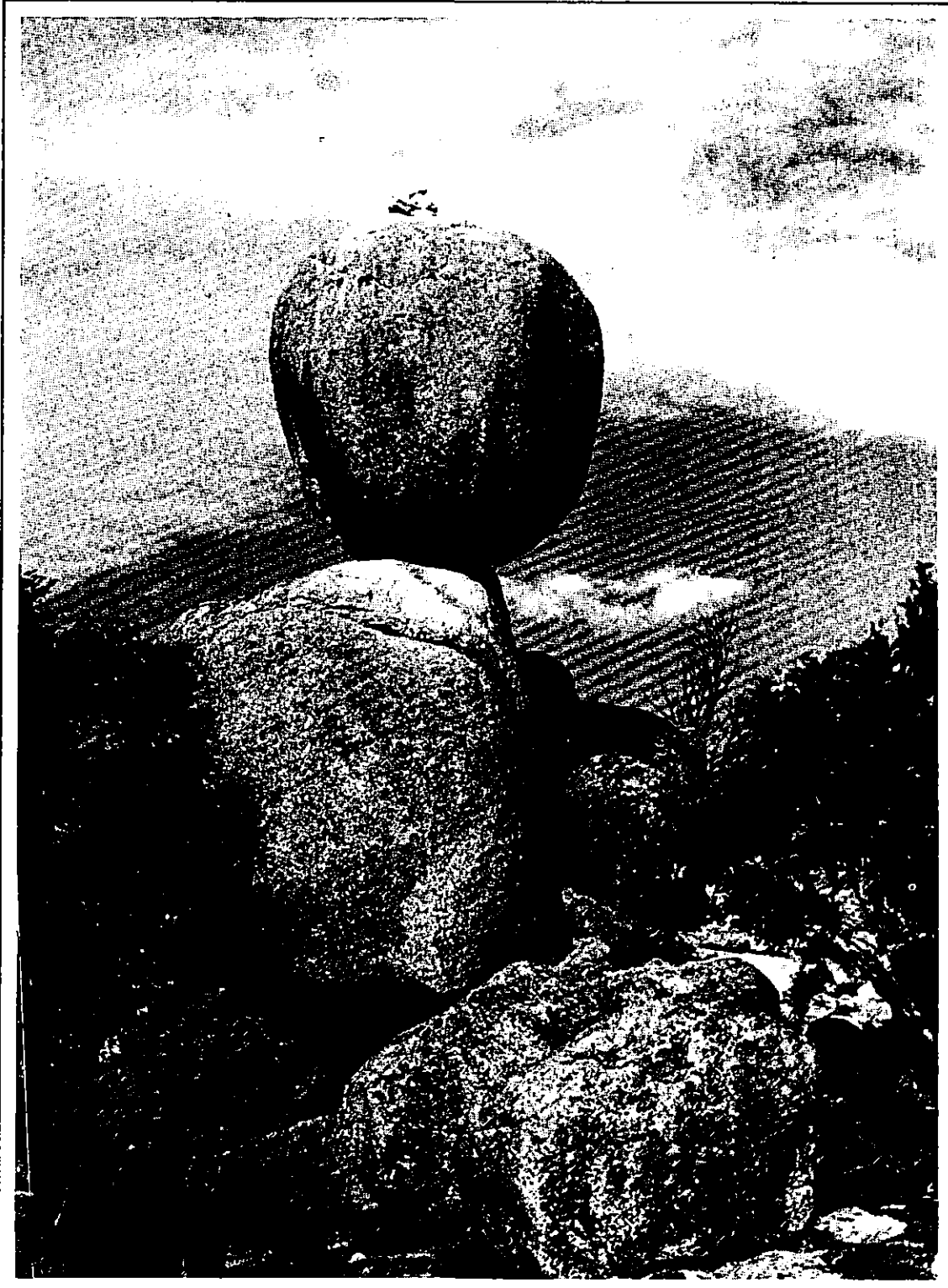


NPA Bulletin



National Parks Association of the A.C.T. Vol. 23 No. 2 December 1985



National Parks Association (ACT) Silver Jubilee Conference

Australia's Alpine Areas: Management for Conservation

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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15 October, 15 December, 15 April, 15 July

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

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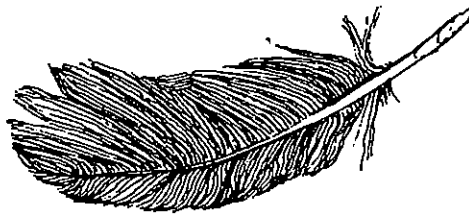
PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD

One of the greatest attractions of our Association is its outings program. Last year we ran a total of 125 outings, ranging from family strolls through car camps to rough pack walks. This active and attractive program has been partly the cause of and partly a response to our increasing membership. However, success often brings its own problems and the present case is no exception. An increased number of outings requires an increased number of leaders while at the same time, greater numbers of people make the leader's job more difficult. If we are to continue to improve or even maintain our performance, we need more leaders. If you are an experienced walker you have benefitted from years of effort by others prepared to accept responsibility and happy to share their knowledge with you. Perhaps it is your turn to pass on the benefit of your experience. Maybe you would like to start as an assistant leader or leader-in-training. Talk to Ian Haynes or any other committee member about it.

In addition to responsible leaders we need responsible walkers. This Association has a proud record of bushwalking safety which can only be maintained by leaders leading and followers following in accordance with sound bushwalking practice. Although the bush may look benign enough there are dangers which should not be underestimated. If you are a new walker don't assume you know it all. If in doubt ask, and be prepared to be told. If we are going to recruit and keep leaders and demand responsibility of them we must accord them respect and be prepared to obey instructions. There is also such a thing as bush etiquette, which is really no more than common courtesy, but still needs to be respected. The leader too must be able to enjoy the outing.

Nobody wants to reduce bushwalking to just a set of rules. It is an enjoyable group experience: an opportunity for sharing with other people and for interaction with the bush. But as in any social activity there are rules which we flout at our peril: the peril of accident and the peril of losing our leaders, on whom the whole structure depends. All members should have a copy of the pamphlet *Enjoy the Bush*. It is worth digging out of the drawer and re-reading.

I look forward to enjoying the bush with you all.



COMMITTEE NEWS

Your new committee has decided to continue last year's pattern of operating through subcommittees each convened by a committee member but drawing membership from throughout the Association. The list runs: Namadgi (Fiona Brand), Environment (Kevin Frawley), Field Guide (Kevin Totterdell), Finance and Merchandising (Neville Esau), Bulletin (Margus Karilaid), Publicity and Education (vacant), Outings (Ian Haynes). Phil Gatenby was welcomed to the October meeting on his taking up a position on the committee left vacant at the Annual General Meeting while Charles Hill has accepted the position of Public Officer.

Major items for committee consideration have been the Alpine Conference, the Draft Management Plan for Namadgi National Park, the Bulletin, and the 1985 - 86 budget which should be finalised well before this Bulletin is printed.

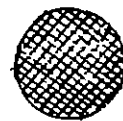
The annual conference of the National Parks Associations' 'peak' body, the Australian National Parks Council (ANPC) is set down for 12-

13 October in Melbourne, Neville Esau and Reg Alder being the ACT representatives. They will move for ANPC to write to the Minister for Territories to point out the lack of adequate legislative protection for Namadgi National Park and to ask for appropriate amendment to the *Nature Conservation Ordinance*. They will also move for ANPC to respond to the Namadgi National Park Plan of Management emphasising the need for a Commonwealth lead in the integrated management of Australian alpine areas and the provision of funds for this.

THOSE GENEROUS PEOPLE

At the time of writing, \$612 had been received by the Association as donations over the subscription 'season'. This generous response is most encouraging to everyone involved in the Association's many activities and indicates a growing depth of support.

Would you, donors all, please accept this as the Association's expression of appreciation of your generosity?



RED SPOT SPECIAL

If there is a coloured spot on your address label, the Association's records show you as *unfinancial for 1985-86*.

Subscriptions fell due on 1 July and members who have not renewed membership will be taken off the mailing list before the next Bulletin.

Subscription rates are shown inside the front cover and payment should be made at the NPA office or to Box 457 GPO Canberra 2601.

Office Secretary, Kay Duggan, has checked (and rechecked) the membership records but if you consider that a mistake has been made she would be grateful if you could phone her on 57 1063.

Australia's Alpine Areas: Management for Conservation

NPA's Silver Jubilee Conference, to be held at the Huxley Lecture Theatre, ANU on 30 November – 1 December, will focus on fostering a co-operative approach to the management of the alpine zone of south-eastern Australia. The first session of the conference (Saturday morning) will outline some of the natural and cultural values of the high country. Session 2 (Saturday afternoon) will look at the competing usage pressures and define management problems. Session 3 (Sunday morning) will examine management responses to these problems.

On the Saturday night there will be a conference dinner at Bruce Hall, ANU for which the Hon. Hal Wootten (President, Australian Conservation Foundation) will be guest speaker.

Conference registration is \$20 which includes morning and afternoon teas and lunches both days. The cost of the dinner is \$15. Later, it is hoped that papers and resolutions from the conference will be published.

Notes on Speakers and Chairpersons

(in order of appearance in the programme)

Session 1

- (1) **Mr Andy Spate:** Last 4 years Scientific Officer with NPWS(NSW), previously with CSIRO. Wide practical experience in land management.
- (2) **Mr Dane Wimbush:** CSIRO Division of Plant Industry. Ecological research in Kosciusko National Park since 1957. Current research on fire and grazing at Kiandra.
- (3) **Mr Harry Nankin:** Town and regional planner, Melbourne. Author and co-photographer of *Victoria's Alps* (published by ACF in 1982). Photographer and publisher of *Alpine Australia Calendar*.
- (4) **Dr Josephine Flood:** Archaeologist. Assistant Director of the Australian Heritage Commission. Author of *The Moth Hunters: Aboriginal Prehistory of the Australian Alps*.
- (5) **Mr Peter Prineas:** Solicitor. Former Director National Parks Association (NSW) and Editor *National Parks Journal*. Extensive involvement in campaigns to protect wilderness in NSW especially from forestry and mining threats. Author of *Wild Places* (1983).
- (6) **Mr Allan Fox:** Environmental consultant (planning environmental education). Wide experience in education and interpretation with NPWS(NSW) and ANPWS. Author of *Australia's Wilderness Experience* (1984).

Session 2

- (1) **Dr Kevin Frawley:** Geography lecturer, (Australian Defence Force Academy, Canberra). NPA(ACT) Committee member.
- (2) **Mr Dick Johnson:** Long standing campaigner for a Victorian Alpine National Park through executive positions in VNPA. Author of *Lake Pedder* (1973) and *The Alps at the Crossroads* (1973).
- (3) **Mr Roger Lembit:** Environmental consultant. Qualifications in Agricultural Science (Sydney Univ.) 1981-4 Project Officer, Nature Conservation Council (NSW).
- (4) **Mr Adrian Davey:** Environment and planning consultant. Consultant *Plan of Management Kosciusko National Park*. Consultant *Draft Plan of Management Namadgi National Park* (ACT).

- (5) **Mr Roger Good:** Senior Project Officer NPWS(NSW). Co-ordinates preparation of fire management plans and 'Preplan' group. 1967-74 soil conservationist for alpine revegetation project in Kosciusko National Park.
- (6) **Ms Jeannie Douglas:** Vice President Conservation Council South-East Region and Canberra. Recreation Planning qualifications and experience (Australia, New Zealand, USA).

Dinner:

Hon. Hal Wootten: President, Australian Conservation Foundation. Ten years judge of Supreme Court of NSW. Founder of Law School (Univ of NSW) 1969. Many public offices (including ANZAAS President 1974-5, Chairman NSW Law Reform Commission 1976-80, President Aboriginal Legal Service 1970-3, Councillor National Trust 1976-8). Discussion of environmental law, conservation issues and philosophy in *Habitat* magazine.

Session 3

- (1) **Ms Denise Robin:** Assistant Director Information/Education, Australian Heritage Commission, Canberra. Former Vice-President NPA(ACT). NPA representative on Consultative Committee for Namadgi National Park.
- (2) **Mr Ian Weir:** Manager Planning and Programmes, National Park Service, Victoria. Currently coordinator of park planning in the Alpine area. With Park Service for last 10 years, previous planning and resource investigation work with Forestry Commission of Victoria.
- (3) **Mr Bruce Leaver:** Regional Director South-East Region NPWS(NSW). 1978-9 park management co-ordinator ANPWS. 1970-8 District Forester, Forestry Commission NSW.
- (4) **Dr David Shorthouse:** Biologist ACT Parks and Conservation Service. Author of *The Ecological Resources of the ACT* (1984). Project manager during preparation of *Draft Plan of Management Namadgi National Park*.
- (5) **Mr Neville Gare:** Deputy Director, Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service. Superintendent, Kosciusko National Park 1959-71.

Proposal for a National Alpine Conservation Group

Roger Green^o

Alpine politics have reached a critical stage.

At the time of writing the Victorian Alpine National Park Bill was being debated in the Victorian Parliament. Since the Cain Government lost the by-election for the Upper House seat of Nunawading there has been little chance of the alpine park, limited first step though it is, being gazetted.

In NSW the interminable debate about the degree of commercial development that should be allowed in Kosciusko National Park has been given a boost with the construction of the Skitube from Little Thredbo to Perisher Valley. With a NSW Opposition Leader who promises to sell off alpine resorts, the Skitube could be the instrument of even larger scale resort development in Kosciusko National Park.

In the ACT a Draft Management Plan that includes a proposal for the protection of wilderness in Namadgi National Park is under discussion. Only in the ACT does the conservation of the alps seem relatively secure. In the two States the maintenance of what remains of Australia's alpine heritage is dependent on delicate political balances.

The achievement of further conservation measures — the extension of national parks, the elimination of such destructive activities as grazing, logging, mining and new resort development — seems to be further off than ever. How exciting it would be if the Cain Government could only deliver the little it had promised by 1991!

To the mind of at least this alps-lover, the time has come for a new national conservation group dedicated to the preservation, as a whole, of Australia's alps. Groups including national parks associations have put up valuable proposals for a truly national alpine park. But there needs to be a national group or coalition of groups to unite the efforts and overcome State and Territory boundaries. The conference on Australia's Alpine Areas is a vital step on the way to such a union.

I propose the formation of the Australian Alps Action Association.

This idea has already been floated with people from the Australian Conservation Foundation, the NPA (ACT) and the Kosciusko Committee and received favourable responses. At the Alpine Areas Conference, which shares the premise of an Australian alpine park not divided by State boundaries, the idea may be discussed and developed further.

The present conservation status of the three political divisions of the alps varies widely. In Victoria the 'mountain cattlemen' are fighting and often winning a propaganda war by playing on rural nostalgia and false claims that grazing does not damage the alps. Logging continues, mining companies are exploring and new resorts are being built while the old resorts turn high-rise.

In NSW the Kosciusko National Park Management Plan is holding back the tide of businesses, large and small, that would seek to profit from what is now a successful tourist park. The NSW Environment Minister, Mr Bob Carr, seems very sympathetic to conservation and should be supported. He should also be lobbied for the rationalisation of Kosciusko boundaries and some changes to the management plan.

The ACT leads the way with alpine conservation largely because of a lack of competing users. The Namadgi National Park Draft Plan of Management is a step forward, in spite of some defects.

The national society could tie together some of the threads and try to exert some leverage in the most needed or promising areas. The Victorian Government could be encouraged to adopt the large ACF boundaries for its alpine national park. Victorian conservation attempts could be compared with NSW. The cattlemen's fallacies could be exposed.

In NSW, Carr and the NPWS need some help in the fight against detractors, such as the NSW Ski Federation. NSW could be encouraged to take the lead in a national alpine conservation effort, as it has done with rainforest.

In Canberra there is the potential to encourage the bureaucratic links that are developing between the three administrations on the subject of an Australian alpine park. Federal Ministers could take a lead as successive Ministers for the ACT, Tom Uren and Gordon Scholes, have already done. Proposals for a World Heritage nomination could be examined.

All of these activities could be used in a publicity campaign that drew attention to the threats facing the alps and to the need for an Australian alpine park to save this popular and precious part of our heritage.

Many of the things listed are already being done by existing groups, or have been tried and failed. I would hope that existing efforts will continue. But the Australian Alps Action Association could help share the experience and unify the efforts and perhaps add to the clamour for an Australian alpine park.

^oRoger Green is writing a book (to go with photographs by Harry Nankin) on the beauty and conservation issues of Australia's alps.



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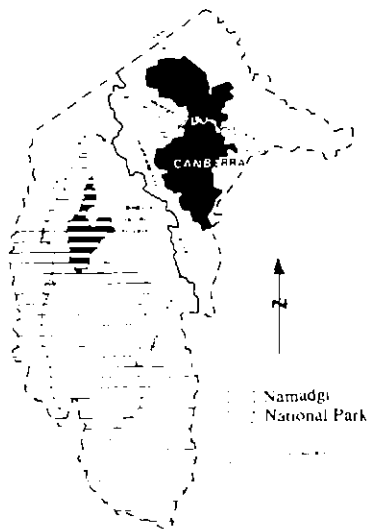
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Namadgi National Park



The Namadgi Draft Plan

Den Robin

The development of the plan of management for Namadgi has entered its most interesting, and crucial, phase.

Now is the time for public input. It is the opportunity for us, as an association and as individuals, to respond to the invitation to comment on the management options presented in the draft plan. It's our park and our opportunity to help determine its future.

How do you feel, for example, about:

- the NCDC's future role?
- the effectiveness of existing legislation to offer the park and the finished plan adequate protection?
- the progressive up-grading of the (new) Boboyan Road?
- the progressive re-opening of the old Boboyan Road for 'car touring'?
- the periodic opening of selected management tracks to private vehicles, including four-wheel drives?
- increasing the area where horse-riding is permitted from east of the Boboyan Road westwards to the Old Boboyan Road to provide a circuit route for horse riders?
- the point at which we go along with proposals for prescribed burning?

- more car-based picnic areas?
- more car-camping sites?
- the use of the Gudgenby Homestead buildings for concession-run day-use facilities offering refreshments? Or perhaps for over-night accommodation?

The management of wilderness values, water catchment values and Aboriginal and historical resources are major sections in the draft plan. These are very comprehensively covered and require close scrutiny.

If you have a strong view of any, or all, of these matters, study the detail of the draft plan (there are copies in the NPA library) and let the Namadgi sub-committee have your opinion, preferably on one of the questionnaires recently distributed. The sub-committee, convened by Fiona Brand, is meeting regularly to prepare the association's response. If you are putting in an individual submission — and you certainly are encouraged to do so — Fiona would welcome a drop-copy for information.

The sub-committee supported the Parks and Conservation Service in the holding of a public open day at Orroral Picnic Grounds on 27 October designed to acquaint members of the community at first hand with some of the major management considerations.

Public interest in the area nowadays can be gauged by the fact that nearly all 500 copies printed of the draft plan of management were distributed within a week of the draft being launched. The demand far exceeded the Service's expectations and a re-print of 750 copies had to be arranged.

NPA has campaigned for a long time and often as a lone voice for the preservation of Namadgi. Now is our chance to influence the final shape of its vision of 'a national park for the National Capital'. Informed opinion is what is wanted. Speak up, encourage participation, rally your friends and also bring them along to the Alpine Conference!

The Namadgi Consultative Committee will be meeting early in the new year to begin considering responses. It's anticipated that the final plan will be endorsed by the Minister for Territories and in place by the middle of next year.

Legal Issues in the Management of Namadgi National Park

Michael Barker

The draft management plan for the Namadgi National Park has been made in the legal context of the Nature Conservation Ordinance 1980 (ACT). There is, however, some suggestion that the National Capital Development Commission Act 1957 (Cth) also adds to the context. It is my belief that, in most cases, the NCDC is limited to dealing with planning, development and construction issues within the physical area of the City of Canberra. Outside this area the NCDC can only deal with land-use matters relating somehow to the planning of Canberra, and only then if the Minister agrees to such an extension of NCDC control. Accordingly, the Namadgi area is not legally within NCDC control.

It is incorrect, therefore, to state — as the draft management plan does at paras 3.1, 4.1 and 4.4 — that the NCDC is responsible for planning land-uses throughout the ACT. The primary responsibility for Namadgi management lies with the Commonwealth Minister responsible for the ACT (the Minister for Territories) subject to the requirements of the Nature Conservation Ordinance.

This brings me to the relationship of the draft management plan to the Ordinance. Whereas in many other jurisdictions, e.g. New South Wales, an Act of Parliament comprehensively lays down rules for plan preparation and sets out objects for park management, the ACT Ordinance is astonishingly flimsy. In practice, things may work out alright, but legally speaking they are grossly deficient. I will briefly note the main deficiencies.

First, the permanency of a park in the ACT is not secure, for revocation of park status may occur by the decision of the Minister. In NSW by contrast, an Act of Parliament is needed to revoke a national park.

Secondly, the Ordinance provides no real guidance for those who are to administer parks. There is no obligation to prepare a plan of management and there are no objects set out for plans if they are prepared. A management program is therefore very much left to the discretion of

the body responsible for management. All the Ordinance provides for is the reservation of areas and declaration of wilderness zones therein. It also prohibits certain instances of disruptive conduct.

Thirdly, the Ordinance does not provide legal requirements for either general public involvement or specialist scientific involvement in plan preparation or park management. There really is a great need for a re-thinking of the fundamental design of the Ordinance in relation to park management.

Finally, to clear up a minor point of confusion: the description of Namadgi as a 'National Park' has no legal meaning - there is nothing in the name. The Ordinance does not provide for the creation of national parks. It only refers to 'reserved areas' and 'wilderness zones' - and neither of these is further defined. Accordingly, a 'National Park' description has absolutely no legal implications. The area could equally well have been called 'Namadgi Reserve'. By the same token, nothing in the Ordinance forbids the use of the national park label. All that one can say is that by describing the area as a national park, the Minister has confirmed the outstanding ecological value of the area.

◦ *Michael Barker is a Lecturer in Law at the Australian National University and author of Conservation Law in the ACT (1984), available from the Environment Centre Bookshop.*

Draft Plan of Management

Reg Alder

The draft plan of management for Namadgi National Park was issued on schedule and immediately created considerable public interest. Over 500 copies of the draft were issued in the first week.

The draft plan has been generally well considered. Some of the issues addressed by the plan are:

* The uses of the vacated Orroral Valley and Honeysuckle Creek Tracking Stations and, after 1987, Gudgenby Station.

* Heritage structures such as the Orroral homestead, Brayshaw's cottage, Westerman's hut, Mt Franklin chalet etc.

* Access will remain substantially as it is at present with the addition of the old Boboyan Road being regraded for public access. The Naas Valley-Mt Clear fire trails will be opened up on special occasions for the controlled use of 4WD vehicles. No more fire trails will be built; some may be closed.

* Recognition is made of the dangers of prescription burning and no valuable natural or cultural features will be compromised. It is assumed that this means all the wilderness areas.

* Pest plants and feral animals will be controlled, but it is with some regret that the devastation currently being carried out by pigs is given only medium priority.

* Horse riding will be permitted east of the Old Boboyan Road and on the Naas-Mt Clear fire trail system. Control of the introduction of weeds by horses will be by restriction on the types of feed brought into the park.

* Camping areas will be at Orroral, Mt Clear, Naas Creek above the old Boboyan homestead and Honeysuckle Creek. In addition, another is proposed at Riverview outside the park near Tharwa.

* Controlled pack camping may be permitted in parts of the Cotter catchment.

* The Cotter Catchment is designated as a special scientific area with a wilderness area extending from above the stored waters of the Corin Dam into the Naas-Gudgenby catchment west of the foothills of the Gudgenby and Orroral Rivers.

* Any commercial ventures will have to be licensed.

Although it has been designed to provide a little of everything that particular interest groups may find desirable in the protection and access to the park, there are some quite serious omissions in the draft plan of management.

First, no recognition in the text or maps is made of Namadgi, one of the few named peaks in the park. Namadgi, besides having the same name as the park, is also the highest peak wholly within the boundaries of the park. Other higher peaks are on the NSW-ACT boundaries, so Namadgi has some significance in being the ACT's highest peak. It is readily observable to the general public at the head of Middle Creek from the old Boboyan Road

as it passes through the Gudgenby property. In addition, it has considerable cultural significance. There is a need for more of the prominent peaks and features in the park to be named.

Secondly, the draft management plan has given only token recognition to the National Parks Association of the ACT, which proposed and worked since its inception in 1960 towards the establishment of the Park. The plan glosses over the Association's role in a blanket phrase of 'community concern'. As the only community concern was initiated and sustained by the Association, this historical fact should be recorded in the final plan. In the initial proposal considerable research was documented as to the desirability of the proposed area of wilderness to be perpetuated in a national park. The scientific justification of the proposal in tables of plants and birds was prepared by teams led by Drs Burbidge and Schodde. Its omission from the references in the draft is serious, when source material of the first listings in the area is to be considered.

A questionnaire on the draft plan has been compiled and is available from the NPA Office. Interested members should contact the Office on 57 1063 and a copy will be sent to them.

Comment on the draft plan will be received until December 11th. Members should study the plan in detail and make comments even if only confirmatory remarks, direct to the Department. A copy of any correspondence should also be forwarded to the Association, so that a comprehensive appraisal of members' opinions may be included in the Association's submission.



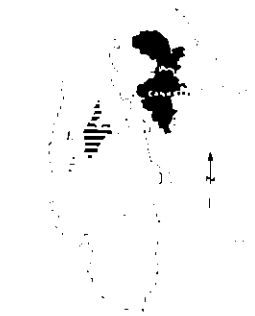
Namadgi – How about a few extra names?

Reg Alder

Most of the prominent watershed boundary mountains of the ACT are named in the 1:100 000 and 1:25 000 series of maps. There are still some un-named boundary features but most of the high features within the boundary of Namadgi National Park do not have any names. Besides making it specific to describe where you are, want to go or recently have been, the naming of the principal peaks or other features would make the park a more interesting place to be in. There is also the practical aspect of ease of description should an emergency situation arise.

I would like to suggest that thought be given to the naming of the remaining peaks and features and would propose that with one exception, appropriate easy sounding names of aboriginal origin be selected.

Dr Nancy Burbidge was one of our early presidents, a highly recognised authority in her own professional field of botany and one of the early proponents for a national park centred around Mount Kelly. In the south-west corner of the ACT there is Mount Kelly 1820m, Namadgi 1780m and an un-named peak of



1720m forming a triangle around the headwaters of Licking Hole Creek. This un-named peak is observable with Kelly and Namadgi up Middle Creek from the Gudgenby Valley near the pine forest. It would be a fitting tribute if this peak, coupled with the connotations of the other two, was named Mount Burbidge.

There are two Yankee Hats on the 1:25 000 series of maps. Which of the two, the higher or lower, is considered to be the most appropriately named?

The nearest tribe to the area was the Ngunawal and from a vocabulary of this tribe I have selected a number of easy sounding and pronounced words which may have something in common with the spirit of names

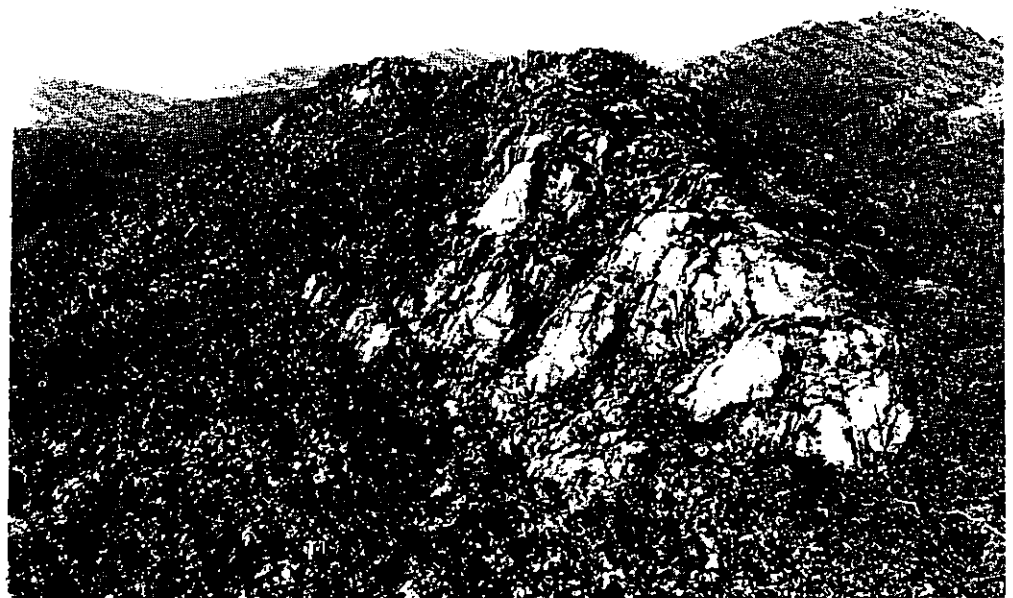
appropriate to a national park. These are:

down	dhugga
crow	wagulan
gum tree	burrung
izzard	murrung
kangaroo rat	balbo
boomerang	berra
boy	bubal
man	murrin
clouds	gurrang
smoke	muril
thunder	murungal
on top	gunna
dog	mirri
mopoke	yuyu
snake	mugga
coolamon	gungun
brother	gugan
woman	bullan
fire	kambi
stars	dyurra
walk	yerrabi
birds	budyen
eagle hawk	mulleun
kangaroo	buru
opossum	willie
rock wallaby	burrai
shield	munga
girl	mullangan
camp	nguru
rain	garrit
sun	winyu
swim	yarra

Please send your suggestions to the Association so that a proposal to name the many features in our park may be made to the park authorities.

This is a view from Namadgi of a peak known for years to our backpacking members as Mount X, possibly because initially someone put a X on a map to locate it. There is a need now Namadgi has been declared for a number of presently un-named conspicuous peaks in the park to be named (preferably of Aboriginal origin).

Photo – Reg Alder



To Burn or not to Burn — Is that the Question?

Syd Comfort

Few issues addressed in the Draft Management Plan for Namadgi National Park (DMP) are likely to be more controversial than that of the fire protection practices to be adopted and, in particular, the place of prescription or controlled burning. Illustrative of the diversity of opinion on this latter practice is Reg Alder's conclusion in the September Bulletin that 'hazard reduction burning has no place in a national park'¹ and the DMP's proposed adoption of prescription burning for fire protection within Namadgi.

The approach to fire protection developed in the DMP comprises the following main elements:

(a) a statement of fundamental factors upon which fire protection will be based such as objectives and management practices applying to different parts of the park, assessment of fuel accumulation and analysis of likely fire behaviour in relation to terrain, natural and cultural features in the park and improvements adjacent to the park.

(b) the development of a fire hazard prediction program integrated with a data base to be developed for the park generally and the maintenance of detailed records of fire behaviour in the park.

(c) the preparation of a detailed fire management plan which will be circulated for public comment. This fire management plan will incorporate, inter alia, an analysis of strategic fuel reduction by mechanical methods or prescription burning.

(d) continuation of existing fire protection practices until the fire management plan is put into effect.

The DMP does not indicate how long the fire management plan will take to develop but it seems likely to be some time so that the interim arrangements may apply for some years. Thus it would be appropriate for the DMP to devote some attention to current practices to determine if they need review before adoption as interim provisions.

Notwithstanding this reservation on interim procedures, the plan thus far may be seen to provide a logical progression which recognises the

importance of the collection of relevant data, its rational analysis and the study of the effects of fire and various fire protection practices. Such an approach is particularly necessary in relation to prescription burning where the appropriateness of this practice in conservation areas has been seriously challenged.

The puzzling part of the fire management plan then follows: it outlines provisions which the ACT Parks and Conservation Service proposes to adopt for operations within the park. The first of these is prescription burning and reads (in part): 'Wherever assessed fire hazards indicate that a reduction in fuels is desirable and likely to be attainable by prescription burning, selective burning will continue to be undertaken . . . Ignition will be effected on foot, from existing fire trails or from the air. Prescriptions will include detailed provision to ensure that valuable natural or cultural features are not compromised.'²

Is this a statement of present practice to be used in the interim period or is it a long term provision? The DMP is not clear. If it refers to the long term, it anticipates the development of the fire management plan outlined in an earlier paragraph and thus has no standing until seen in the context of that plan and should be deleted from the DMP.

If the statement refers to interim practice it has a number of deficiencies. It makes prescription burning readily available without adequate restrictions or safeguards. Note the wording: 'Wherever fire hazards indicate a reduction in fuels is desirable and likely to be attainable by prescription burning, selective burning will continue to be undertaken'. The statement leaves the way open for extensive use of prescribed burning.

The inclusion of aerial ignition in the provisions is of questionable value. The Standing Committee on Environment and Conservation concludes that 'control burning is a crude technique, particularly where broad scale aerial ignition is used

and therefore it may be difficult to predict the environmental consequences of a particular burn'³

Although the statement contains provision to ensure that valuable natural or cultural features are not compromised, it is not clear what protection is intended. Greater specification is required if these provisions are to have meaning.

In summary, merit is seen in the broad approach to developing a detailed fire management plan as outlined in the DMP but because this may take some time to accomplish further explanation and review of the practices to be adopted in the interim are needed. Elucidation of the more specific proposals for fire protection operations by the ACT Parks and Conservation Service is also necessary because as they now stand they have serious deficiencies whether interpreted as interim or long term proposals.

References

1. Alder R., in *NPA Bulletin*, September 1985, p.6.
2. ACT Parks and Conservation Service, Department of Territories, *Draft Management Plan For Namadgi National Park, ACT*, Canberra 1985, p79.
3. The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia, *Report by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Environment and Conservation: Bushfires and the Australian Environment*. Canberra, 1984, p.12.

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WOG WOG ACCESS

Craig Allen

Over the last ten to fifteen years access into the Budawangs from the west has been a matter of chance with access via the Wog Wog property being on and off.

Alternate reliable access has recently been marked by voluntary labour on behalf of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), from the Mongarlowe road to near Korra Hill and onto Cockpit Swamp on the old Wog Wog track. As well the old trail via Goodsell Creek to the lagoon on the Corang River has been marked again.

The tracks are basic, with small white markers being placed on trees; tomato stakes with markers in more open areas; and in dense scrub the track has been cut some 2 to 3 feet wide. The tracks are gentle in grade but are not improved by disturbing the ground surface with tools. The approximate position of both tracks is marked on the attached map.

The time from the road to the Corang River is an easy 2 to 2½ hours ONE WAY and some 1½ to 2 hours to Korra Hill.

The opportunity is now there for a return round trip in the area instead of coming and going via the same route, but remember "CARE IS STILL REQUIRED" not to lose the track.

Stage two which should occur later this year includes a parking area near the Mongarlowe Road; a simple small bridge across Wog Wog Creek to ensure access and escape after heavy rain; and some protection measures where the track crosses fragile swamp areas.

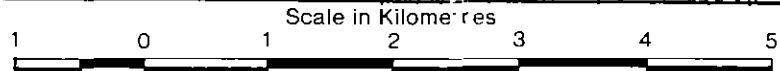
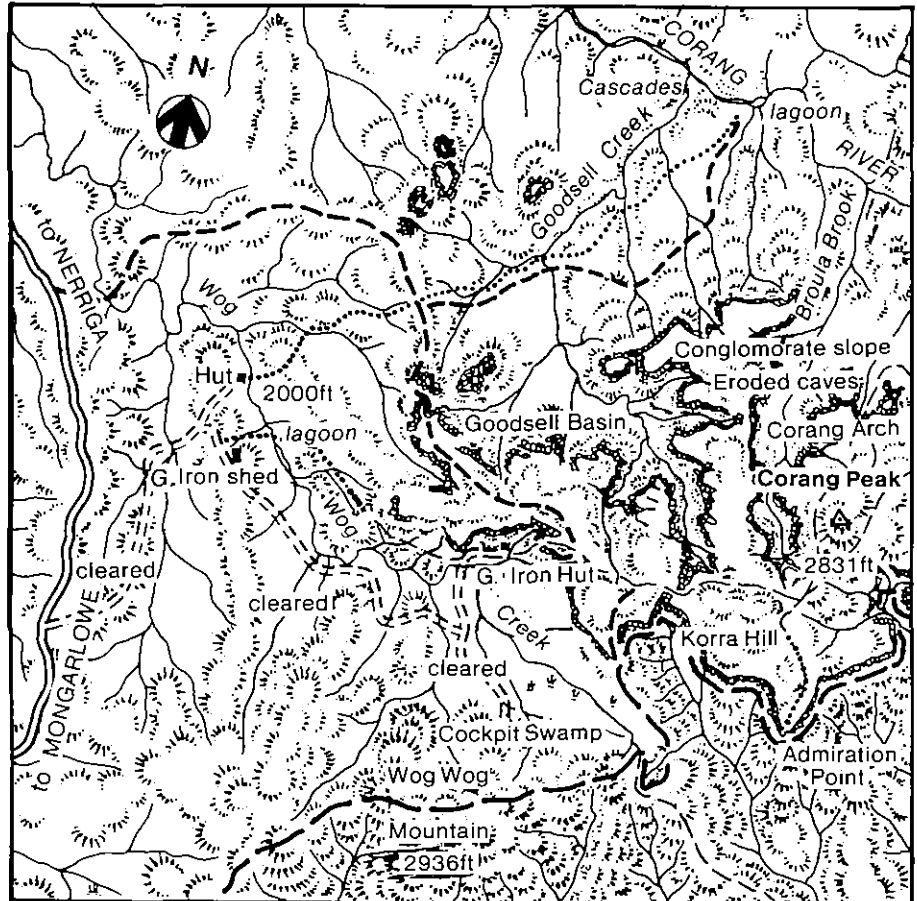
This work is being paid for by private funds with the blessing of the NPWS.

Ideally stage three would include the reopening of the PUBLIC right of way across Wog Wog station but don't hold your breath waiting for that to happen.

Currently the area and track is clean with no rubbish along the track. Please care for the area — remove all rubbish and bury your excreta well away from campsites and water supplies.



Extract from C.M.W. BUDAWANG RANGE



New Route	-----
Morton National Park Boundary	=====
Negotiable routes
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Road, track	=====

Access to Wadbilliga National Park

Jeff Bennett

Entry to the western side of Wadbilliga National Park (Wadbilliga Trig, Upper Brogo River, Wadbilliga River, Queens Pound River and Southern Kybean Range) is reached through Twin Rivers property via the Razorback Fire Trail. Although this trail is a public right-of-way, the owner has asked that walkers let her know if they will be in the area so that shooters will be directed elsewhere. There was apparently a near accident recently when shooters nearly hit someone walking on the property. The owner is Inga Fritsche, "Twin Rivers", Kybean via Nimmitabel (0648 - 55 751). She is quite friendly and does not wish to restrict access.

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LIFE MEMBERSHIP: IAN CURRIE

Sheila Kruse

At our annual meeting in August, and coinciding with his retirement from the NPA Committee, Ian Currie was proposed for Life Membership of the National Parks Association. His election with applause and acclamation was a demonstration of our appreciation of his fourteen years of official and unofficial service in his fifteen years of Association membership. Just listen to this official record:

After twelve months of fairly peaceful membership Ian was elected a Committee member at the 1971 annual meeting. At the 1972 meeting he became Vice-President under Bill Watson's Presidency and after serving a two-year apprentice-

ship he moved on to become President. At the end of two years in that job we persuaded him to stay on as President for just one more year, and then just one more. In 1978 he cried Enough and we let him go, almost. Of course, he was still expected to sit on sub-committees and attend all Committee meetings as Immediate Past President, and a year later we again elected him to full Committee status, not wishing to deprive ourselves of those sensible and irreverent comments we had come to value when Committee discussion threatened to become bogged down or flighty. In 1983/84 he came to the

aid of the party again as President for (just) one year. He is now a well-known, well-loved private member.

Unless of course you consider that being retained on various standing and ad hoc sub-committees, walks leader and Camp Father isn't being all that private. But when you've shown your willingness to be ready and able over a period of fourteen years NPA doesn't let you go too easily. So in congratulating Ian on this well-deserved honour we add that we hope our pipe-smoking, chocolate-eating, bird-watching, person-baiting Life Member will not become too private too soon.

Regeneration — Yankee Hat Revisited

Charles Hill

I walked with the NPA up and along the higher Yankee Hat ridge in what is now Namadgi National Park in October 1983 some 9 months after the very hot fires in that area. In the valleys were large outwashes of eroded gravels, sand and ash. Soil had virtually disappeared from the higher slopes and what was left was loose gravel and ash. All humus and vegetable matter appeared to have been completely consumed. There were one or two plants here and there struggling up.

We walked virtually the same route in September 1985. The outwashes of eroded material in the valleys were much the same but some slow colonisation had occurred. The trees still standing on the slopes had plenty of regrowth, but there was evidence of fire weakened but living trees still falling here and there. Incidentally while we were having lunch in calm sunshine on the top of Yankee Hat, we heard the noise of a tree falling and disturbing rocks on the steep slope of Mt Gudgenby some 3km across the valley.

What was most impressive were the thousands of young trees growing everywhere on the slopes and ridge. Most are eucalypts with snowgum dominant in many parts but also some other species. In some quite large areas there seemed to be a density of about 80



trees per square metre with an average height approaching 50cm. My feet are not noted for their daftiness, but I could not see them nor sticks and stones as we walked through this growth. Erosion is certainly no longer a problem there!

The stronger trees will eventually take light and nourishment from weaker neighbours and the density of growth will thin out. Until this happens walkers in the near future may need to allow more time and energy for scrubpushing in this area, politely manoeuvring their friends to go first!

Nature Ramble

George Chippendale

I had the pleasure, on Saturday 14 September of taking twenty enthusiastic NPA members on a leisurely ramble on Black Mountain. Most of those present seemed to enjoy the walk and would apparently like to go on other similar short walks.

The season appeared to have been poor on Black Mountain, with very little in flower, or else we were somewhat early, considering our delayed spring in the ACT. However, we found interest in many general things, with some ideas on how to identify the main trees, Red Stringybark (*Eucalyptus macro-rhyncha*), Brittle Gum (*E. mannifera* subspecies *maculosa*) and Scribbly Gum (*E. rossii*), with some isolated specimens of Red Box (*E. polyanthemos*) and Yellow Box (*E. melliodora*). There was also some interest in the Native Cherry (*Exocarpos cupressiformis*). There were some small areas of small *Caladenia* orchids, a few Yam Daisies (*Microseris scapigera*), some groups of several *Pimelea* species, some low shrubs of *Hakea sericea*, a few flowering *Leucopogon* shrubs, and some Nodding Blue Lily (*Stypanandra glauca*) almost in flower, and some Flax Lily (*Dianella revoluta*) not in flower. Some areas of lichens were also seen, both on the ground and on fallen timber.

At the morning tea pause, I explained the use of botanical keys, using one which dealt with trees and shrubs on Black Mountain.

Some parrots, choughs and other birds were seen, and also there were a few kangaroos in several areas.

It is important to remember this shorter walk on Black Mountain when NPA shows its interest in this Reserve, and members can enjoy the nearness and ease of access to such a place in our city.

Kosciusko – Draft Regional Environmental Plan No. 1 (Snowy River)

Theo Hooy

Photos by Neada Morrison

The NSW Department of Environment and Planning has once again raised the possibility, in the Kosciusko (Snowy River) Draft Regional Environmental Plan (REP), of the construction of a new accommodation resort in Kosciusko National Park.

The recently released Draft REP deals with major planning issues for lands in the Snowy River Shire, which includes the south easterly part of Kosciusko National Park.

REPs are the second 'tier' in the three tiered NSW land use planning system. Unlike Local Environmental Plans which are produced by local councils, REPs, which are prepared by the Department of Environment and Planning, consist of statements of policy and strategy affecting significant issues in the future of the region rather than detailed land use zoning plans.

Five major issues are addressed in the Draft REP Document:

- . Physical Environment
- . Rural Areas
- . Economic Activity
- . Access
- . Settlement Pattern

Access and settlement strategies are important components of the Draft REP. These in fact are the issues that prompted the preparation of the plan back in 1979! The Draft REP aims to enable the region to develop as a regional tourist area while protecting the natural environment, the rural economy, and the cultural heritage and scenic character of the Region. These aims and many of the provisions of the Draft REP should be applauded, but the Plan fails to address several important issues.

For example the Draft REP fails to seriously consider the development of a mass transit system to link Jindabyne to the Skitube terminal at Bullocks Flat. On the other hand the Draft REP has proposed upgrading road access between Jindabyne and Bullocks Flat and upgrading of the Kosciusko road from Jindabyne to Perisher.

The justifications for upgrading the Kosciusko Road are obscure

and ignore one of the primary reasons for the creation of Skitube i.e. that development of Skitube would remove the need for upgrading the Kosciusko Road. The economic ramifications of upgrading this road on the profitability of Skitube are also not addressed.

The Draft REP fails to address the issue of a new ski village at Bullocks Flat (the Perisher Skitube terminal). The 1982 Plan of Management for Kosciusko National Park stated: 'It is still proposed that future major developments of tourist overnight facilities particularly of the hotel/motel/lodge type will be encouraged outside the Park to minimise the impact on the Park environment'.¹

The Draft Environmental Plan leaves the way open for a new accommodation resort at Bullocks Flat, based on the premise that 'accommodation limits set in the 1982 Plan of Management are not likely to be exceeded'.² Unfortunately the Perisher Skitube EIS proposed a figure of 5,000 beds at the new resort, 200 more than the limit set for Thredbo Village in the 1982 Plan!

The justification for providing a new accommodation resort in the Park, against the clear directive in the 1982 Plan and despite the large number of objections to this proposal lodged during the Skitube EIS process is hard to understand, particularly as the EIS stated that the Skitube proposal was 'not dependent on it [the accommodation component] either functionally or economically'.³

Aspects of the physical environment considered in the document are scenic quality, water quality, flora and fauna protection, the historical environment and land use on the border of Kosciusko National Park.

Lands identified as significant for flora and fauna protection are generally forested areas adjoining the National Park, the Snowy and Murrumbidgee Rivers and higher country occurring throughout the region.

However, protection of naturally occurring grasslands, which give the Shire much of its character, has not been considered although this ecosystem type is poorly represented in conservation reserves in the region.



Some of the wetlands in the Shire, including those on rural land, will be well protected if the Draft REP is adopted. Others, particularly the Monaro lakes, appear to have been ignored.

The region has been zoned into areas of high, moderate and low archeological sensitivity. Whilst Part 1 of the document states that archeological surveys should be carried out when developments are proposed in areas of high archeological sensitivity this recommendation is not addressed in the prescriptive part of the Draft REP.

Areas of special visual importance in the region, including the foreshore areas of Lakes Jindabyne and Eucumbene and the areas adjoining the Alpine Way, have been made the subject of special development controls. With respect to developments along the major visual approaches to Kosciusko National Park the concurrence of the Director DEP will be required before the Snowy River Shire can give consent to any development proposal. This is a highly commendable move; however, as pointed out previously, the lands identified as having high scenic quality do not cover natural treeless areas of high scenic value.

The Draft Plan requires that the Council consult with the NPWS before consenting to development of land immediately adjoining the Park. It is further proposed that in the future management plans for these perimeter areas are to be developed by the Shire after consultation with landholders and the NPWS.

Controls on subdivision of rural land, particularly of large holdings in excess of 400ha and high quality rural land, will be introduced. This provision is welcomed; however, as mentioned earlier, a broader definition of environmental significance and an evaluation of the conservation status of natural treeless areas in the Shire is required.

It is high time that the NSW government acted to give much better protection to the Gungahlin area, the only remaining subalpine area of the Snowy Mountains not within Kosciusko National Park. Some of the land is leasehold, under crown ownership, and should be incorporated in the Park immediately. The Draft REP should identify lands proposed for addition to the



Park to ensure they receive interim protection from clearing and development and so that landowners and lessees are in a better position to plan their future. Unfortunately the Draft REP avoids this issue.

The proposals relating to development of economic activity are welcome, particularly the controls on tourist development on high quality agricultural land,

The Kosciusko Draft Regional Environmental Plan No 1 (Snowy River) is a thorough and generally comprehensive plan and deserves widespread support. In particular its recognition that National Park and conservation values must be considered in the regional context is a major breakthrough. The provision that the Director NSW NPWS must be consulted on decisions on land use on the boundaries of the Park and the requirement that management plans must be prepared for lands adjoining the Park are particularly welcomed. However, there are oversights in the plan and specific proposals that should be challenged. In particular, the access and accommodation proposals where they directly relate to the Park are cause for concern. The logic and objectives of the Draft REP strongly suggest that development of the proposed village in the Park should be ruled out once and for all and a feasibility study of extending Skitube to Jindabyne should be carried out.

The Draft Plan is currently on exhibition; submissions on the plan will be received until 10 January 1986. Copies of the plan are available for purchase, for \$5.00, or inspection at the Department of Environment and Planning Offices in Queanbeyan and Sydney and at the Snowy River Shire Offices in Berridale or at the NSW NPWS visitor centre at Sawpit Creek in Kosciusko National Park.

References:

1. *Plan of Management, Kosciusko National Park*, 1982, NPWS, Sydney.
2. *Kosciusko — Draft Regional Environmental Plan No 1 (Snowy River)*. Department of Environment and Planning, 1985.
3. *Perisher Ski Tube Skifields Access System EIS*, David Hogg Pty Ltd, Canberra, 1983.



On the History of the Kosciusko Huts Association

Pieter Arriens

The Kosciusko National Park was formed in 1944, not only for recreation and nature conservation, but also to protect water catchments for the Snowy Mountains hydro-electric power scheme. Most of the huts and homesteads in the mountains became public property when the stockmen and miners left, and although gradually falling into disrepair continued to be used for *refuge and recreation*. Indeed there had been a long history of hospitality for visitors in the mountains, which began when the stockmen built their first huts.

By 1970 a few huts had come under regular care by ski-tourers and fishermen. Mawson's Hut for example was maintained by "The Exclusive Squirrel Club" of Sydney, for the free use of all visitors, and the YMCA Ski Club likewise maintained *Tin Hut and Grey Mare Hut*. The Canberra Alpine Club took on the care of O'Keefe's Hut.

This voluntary work set a good precedent, but the care of most other huts was still neglected. There was concern too that the huts should retain their existing character, and not evolve into quasi-private lodges. Against this background, the Superintendent of the KNP, Mr Neville Gare circulated a questionnaire to park users. He emphasised that many huts were in poor condition and that the park service by itself lacked resources for their maintenance.

Well over one hundred replies were received, with nearly all favouring retention of the huts for public use, and many volunteering to work on the huts. Mr Gare convened a well attended public meeting at Sawpit Creek. The idealism implicit in many of the submissions clearly had made a deep impression on the park managers, and the meeting resolved to form an organisation to work in co-operation with the park service. A steering committee was elected to prepare a draft constitution, and the Kosciusko Huts Association had its inaugural general meeting in 1971 at Sawpit Creek.

The objects of the Association are:

- . To foster enjoyment of the national parks, nature reserves and natural bushland of the Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, and Victoria, by walkers, skiers, fishermen and others.

- . To advise the National Parks and Wildlife Service on the use, maintenance and development of huts in the Kosciusko National Park.

- . To assist the National Parks and Wildlife Service in the management and maintenance of huts in the Kosciusko National Park.

- . To encourage safety in the mountains, and co-operate with organisations responsible for search and rescue operations.

- . To promote conservation of the natural environment of the Kosciusko National Park.

- . To undertake historical research and promote conservation of the cultural heritage of the mountains.

- . To co-operate with persons or organisations whose interests, activities, or objects are similar to those of the Association.

The constitution made provision for the Superintendent of the Kosciusko National Park to appoint a representative to full membership of the Committee.

Among those present at these early meetings, Paddy Pallin made valuable suggestions on the role and objects of the Association. Although declining to take office in the committee, he was elected Patron.

The committee with Mr Robin Miller as first president prepared a draft code for management of the huts as simple structures, easily maintained and equipped with only basic facilities. There was extraordinary goodwill between the park managers and the committee, and most of the early meetings were attended by Neville Gare as the park representative, or in his absence, by the Chief Ranger.

As huts maintenance officer, my

task was to co-ordinate work on the huts, and this was largely done by delegating the responsibility for individual huts to specific caretaker groups. Such groups typically were drawn from bushwalking and ski clubs, school or scout groups and fishermen. They were asked to clear proposals for major restoration with the park service, through the Huts Maintenance Officer.

Much of the early work involved clearing out accumulated litter and making minor repairs. Restoration of slab huts began after various individuals had collected an assortment of adzes, froes, cross-cut saws, mortising axes, draw knives, augers, wedges, mauls and broad axes. At first little was known on the use of this equipment, and early attempts to gain practical advice from old timers failed. Proficiency was gained by trial-and-error, and by consulting literature on bush carpentry. The wonder is that injuries were so rare — not even one KHA foot has been severed at the ankle by a misdirected adze!

After three years Bob Story succeeded Robin Miller as president, and John Paynter became huts maintenance officer. There were also major changes of management at Sawpit Creek, for the Superintendent, Chief Ranger and most of the senior rangers moved elsewhere. A new generation of park managers took over, some bringing a zeal for wilderness management which was antipathetic to huts.

The spirit of consultation between the NPWS and the KHA declined, and confrontation loomed. Relationships fell to an all time low when a ranger deliberately burned down two huts, one of which was actively maintained by a caretaker group. Bob Story, Reet Vallak and John Paynter successively held office as KHA president during these dispiriting times; their persistent and courteous attempts to maintain dialogue with the service were not always met with due reciprocity.

The KHA re-affirmed that preservation of the cultural heritage and recreational use of huts were not inherently repugnant to the natural heritage, and held that in many instances landscape quality was enhanced by the presence of huts. The preference of some park visitors for wilderness recreation was recognised, and KHA agreed that no development of huts should

proceed in core areas of the Bogong Peaks, Pilot and Byadbo wildernesses. the KHA likewise argued that many park visitors *did* have a preference for huts, which could be managed outside these core wildernesses.

Meanwhile, a new plan of management was in preparation for the KNP, and rumours abounded of moves in the service to eliminate forty or fifty huts. These rumours were well founded, and in 1980 when a planning issue statement on huts was released by the service for public comment, reasons were asserted for the removal of at least eighteen huts, supported by statements of logic such as:

"Because no hut can ensure the safety of every party, however well or poorly equipped, the existence of a hut can never be essential for visitor safety."

Fearing the worse, the KHA took the case for the huts to the public. A colour film was released which showed something of the history and variety of construction of the huts in the KNP, and what was done on KHA work parties. The film was widely circulated, and coincidentally that winter, two girls almost certainly saved their lives through finding Four Mile Hut late at night, after becoming separated from a day ski-touring party. There were press and TV reports of this incident and on wider questions of huts management, and public opinion ran strongly in favour of the huts. This was heeded by the service, and the 1982 plan of management for the KNP is altogether free of the fundamentalist wilderness bias shown by the Huts Issue Statement.

Perhaps there had to be some even-handedness. On the one hand Albina Lodge is gone, deeply lamented by those who knew it as of old, and the gaunt stone foundations with the incongruous dog box nearby remain as an affront to hut lovers and wilderness purists alike.

On the other hand, as also provided in the 1982 plan of management, excellent work has been done on huts, with full co-operation between NPWS staff and KHA volunteers. The results are exemplified at Pockets, Patons, Davies and Delaneys Hut. At Coolamine too, the service is using the talents of our outstanding axemen for major restoration of this historic home-

stead complex of buildings. Ranger Margaret Collins has played an outstanding role in co-ordinating most of this work, with admirable support from the regional superintendent, Bruce Leaver.

Those involved in work parties share a fellowship, in which a tangible feeling grows for the fabric of these buildings and what they represent in the cultural heritage. and nothing so quickly enhances respect for the pioneers, than working for hours with an adze or broad axe!

Many people are members both of the NPA and the KHA, and believe that the objectives of the two organisations are entirely convergent. The emphasis of activities naturally differs, with a wider charter for the NPA than for the KHA, but the common purpose is a shared concern to preserve the diversity of heritage which is enshrined in National Parks.

If this is false, and the role of the KHA is wrong, then I would ask — given the known instability of monocultures in natural systems — how would the Kosciusko National Park itself survive in human society, if all the backcountry areas were managed as if they were core wildernesses, that is, as a social monoculture?



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Useful Wilderness Proposals from CONCOM

Roger Green

The Council of Nature Conservation Ministers from the Commonwealth and States (CONCOM) has issued a discussion paper on wilderness which, among other things, calls for a consistent approach to wilderness conservation around Australia. Considering the composition of the council this is a fairly strong statement.

The paper is generally most agreeable, putting a line on wilderness identification, reservation and management that is very similar to that being pursued by The Wilderness Society's national wilderness program. This includes the identification of Australia's wilderness and enactment of appropriate legislation in time for the bicentenary in 1988.

Translating the report's propositions into action will, of course, be more difficult but the first stage would be to demonstrate public support for the idea of wilderness conservation. To this end wilderness-lovers are encouraged to write responses to the council, even if these responses consist of short letters in support of the principle of wilderness conservation and urging the council members to get on with the job.

Except in unusual political circumstances, such as the Franklin River in South West Tasmania, the implementation of programs is the responsibility of State governments. This is all very well in States such as NSW which is considering a Wilderness Act and has made a number of specific wilderness reservations. It is a different matter in Queensland or Tasmania where Federal Government encouragement or intervention is apparently the only way that large areas of wilderness will be protected.

Other than recommending that all agencies consider an active program of wilderness reservation the report does not address the political problems in some States. It recognises that individual States and Territories 'need to progress at their own rates'. The members of CONCOM perhaps need to be reminded of the contribution that they could make to celebrations in 1988.

In other areas the report is a valuable summary of wilderness ideas and management practices. The first part describes the origins of wilderness philosophy and the reason for increasing pressure to save wilderness — national park developments that compromise the naturalness that led to reservation, and increasing scarcity of the world's wilderness. The example of New Zealand, which has a 1952 National Parks Act that provides for wilderness and has established seven wilderness areas, is cited.

In the somewhat controversial area of definition, the report accepts remoteness and primitiveness as the major attributes of wilderness. It defines a wilderness area as 'a large natural area designated as Wilderness Area under legislation and managed to maintain or restore its qualities of remoteness from roads and facilities, and lack of evidence of alteration by people'. Many would doubt whether wilderness could be restored, except over very long periods. However, depending on the ecosystem, many natural qualities could return after a few decades, a hope that many still harbour for Lake Pedder.

The paper discusses whether arid and semi-arid areas should have special criteria because of easy access for four-wheel-drives, mineral exploration or aboriginal ownership of land and concludes that wilderness requirements should be no different to those in other regions. Four-wheel-drives and mineral exploration are seen as incompatible with wilderness. Aboriginal owners may have different ideas on wilderness and may not agree to the declaration of wilderness areas.

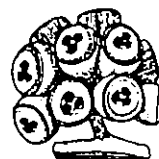
The report lists a number of management principles. These include:

- recreation should be dispersed to minimise impact on the wilderness; ecological processes should be monitored to measure this impact;
- only non-mechanised methods of recreational access should be permitted; managers could use mechanical means if there was no alternative;

- structures with no historical or archaeological value should be removed;
- research should be restricted to that which cannot be done elsewhere;
- visitors should be encouraged to understand the value of wilderness, human impact on it and the need for safety;
- fire management policies should take into account the ecology, fire history, recreational use and neighbours of the wilderness.

The CONCOM discussion paper is a useful step on the way to the consistent and widespread reservation of wilderness in Australia. Wilderness advocates can only hope that all States take the report seriously.

Comments on the wilderness discussion paper should be sent by 31 December to the CONCOM Secretariat, Department of Arts, Heritage and Environment, GPO Box 1252, Canberra City, 2601. Inquiries should be directed to Ms Kay Bailey on (062) 46 7435.



NEW MEMBERS

The following new members are welcomed to the Association:

Antonio and Helen AGOSTINO, O'Connor; Cathy AHERN, Yarralumla; Clare ATTRIDGE, Griffith; Ian BAYLY, Queanbeyan; Gerald E. BENNETT, Queanbeyan; Tricia BRADFORD, Canberra City; Ailsa BROWN, Queanbeyan; John and Mandy CARTER, Kaleen; Heather CLIFF, Red Hill; J.R. CLYDE, Campbell; Bill and Eunice COFFEY, Hughes; Tony and Barbara COOK, Kambah; Nickie DUGGAN, Hackett; G. GUTTRIDGE, Wanniasa; David HALL, Kaleen; Wendy and Stephen HODGMAN, Braddon; Phillip HUNT, Woden, Margaret JONES, Griffith; Mark and Anita LUTZE, Duffy; Helen MADDEN, Macgregor; Patricia MARSHALL, Melba; N.R. MITCHELL, Woden; Nicholas and Patricia MOLAN, Rivett; Jean PEARSON, Belconnen; Katherine PICKERD, Pearce; Mr and Mrs PIERSON, Ainslie; Anne PHILLIPS, Kambah; Judith PRICE, Spence; Harold PRITCHARD, Fisher; David and Julie PRYCE, Kambah; Muriel and Ronald SOTHERON, Belconnen; V. THAMSON-GSANA and family, Duffy; Babs THOMPSON, Garran; David TURBAYNE, Canberra City; Richard UMPHELBY, Mawson; Kim and Verner VERASS, Curtin; Ken and Dianne WATT, Kambah; Sharon WEST, Holder; Stephen and Ellen WOOD, Kambah.

JUST BRIEFLY-

The ludicrous sight of a clumsy currawong atop a blossoming cherry tree may not be evidence enough for some that spring has sprung. So why not take a drive to Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve and avail yourself of some interesting developments there. Peter Ormay tells us that a recently completed walking trail skirting a new pond affords close-up observation of blue-billed and white-eyed or hard head ducks.



Ranger Peter Ormay with small friend at Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve.

Photo by Hedda Morrison

The black swan cygnets, by now, will be quite large having been hatched during June and July, and those once-threatened, but fiercely aggressive grey geese, the Cape Barrens, are showing off three fine goslings. Also, at the time of writing this, another pair of Cape Barren geese were watching over a batch of eggs, and many ducks have made use of several new nesting boxes. However, the original seventy or more eggs have been depleted somewhat by foxes and water rats.

The pied, or 'maggie-geese', requires a minimum sized colony to breed. Though Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve apparently has the numbers, another important requirement is torrential rain. For those who have anticipated little jabiru 'storking' around, the sad news is that both birds at Tidbinbilla are male, the female having died some time ago. Finally, news of everyone's favourite chicks, the emus. A few broods appeared about mid September, which is about a month later than usual.

Yet still more on birds — apparently some lucky members of the NPA, just back from Booligal recorded ninety species for the week.

The fierce reputation of an (apparently) relentless walks leader has been damaged, as — it has been reported — some apprehensive members joining his pack walk in the Tantangara area easily managed, and in fact enjoyed the 24km. two day walk. Nice work, Dudley.

The diversity of styles in head-gear observed at the President's BBQ included:

The McCurrie deerstalker, unfortunately not in the appropriate tartan.

The Moscow models of the Hegatskys — his in luxurious

(teddy) bear fur, and hers in fair dinkum Aussie sheep.

Betty Campbell's spotted number-made her feel quite chic, 'til Ian said 'They're seagull spots, and *not* made with their *beak!*'

The modern Haynes version of the old 'cloth cap' is a jaunty model in vibrant red, which Ian says makes it easier to find him in the snow. Watch out for the aggressive territorial scarlet robins, Ian!

In spite of 6" - 10" of rain over recent weeks, the climb to the bottom of Currawan Falls in late September had not remained wet, and the thirty-five members who ventured down with leader Ian Haynes, were rewarded by glimpses of mosses, ferns and orchids. However Babette, perhaps deciding that she needed more vitamin C in her diet, suddenly dived mouth first toward a stinging nettle. Seriously though, we hope it cured the hurt ankle. Apparently there were no other accidents, and surprisingly the only leech in reach was pick-a-back on Pat Pickering's pack.

Please help make this a well-balanced column and phone your contributions, no matter how small, to me at 88 1889.

Melliodora

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Lord Howe Island – World Heritage Area without Rangers

Ian Hutton

Much has been written about Lord Howe Island. The island fascinates all who visit and it has been called the world's most beautiful island, and the Madeira of the Pacific. To see the island for the first time is to believe these comments. Tall basalt mountains tower over the gentle rolling hills of the lowlands, all covered in green subtropical rainforest; a shallow lagoon fringed with white sandy beaches and a six kilometre coral reef complete the picture.

To the men and women who first settled here it must have been like paradise, not only for its visual splendour but for its benevolent living. The climate must be one of the best in the world, with daily summer temperatures seldom above 24°C and winter night temperatures seldom below 12°C. This places very little stress on human requirements and the first dwellings on the island were made of palm logs with thatched palm fronds for walls and roofs. Rich volcanic soil and adequate rainfall all year allow virtually any plants to grow most of the year and the list of fruit and vegetable crops that have been grown here is quite long. The surrounding waters abound with fish and provide good food for little effort. There are no snakes or poisonous spiders on the island and no hordes of biting insects found on more tropical islands.

The main hardship for the early settlers (1834) would have been the isolation; relying on passing ships for provisions meant that the islanders had to be resourceful and make do with what they had. There was one period when no ship called for three years. The early settlers lived by trading vegetables and meat with visiting whaling ships. When whaling ceased in that part of the world in the 1870s times were hard, but soon there developed a trade in palm seeds to provide plants for the indoor potted plant market of Europe, and this sustained the island economy for many years until the first tourists began to visit.

Lord Howe has also been called a naturalist's paradise and the riddle of the Pacific. These names refer to the abundant endemic life forms

found on this remote island only 11 km long and 2 km wide, separated from Australia by some 600 km of ocean and from New Zealand and New Caledonia by over 1200 km. The island has 220 species of vascular plants, of which 74 are endemic (unique). Seabirds nest on the islands in numbers of hundreds of thousands; when man first arrived there were 15 endemic forms of landbirds.

Unfortunately, as with most places European man has visited, introduced animals and plants have altered the natural environment.

Many seabirds used to nest on the main island but now do so only on the offshore islands, possibly because of man's activities and his introduced cats and dogs. Man wanted to grow crops, and one bird species is believed to have been exterminated because it was a pest in the gardens.

Pigs and goats were let loose on the island in the early 1800s to provide food for passing whaling ships.

The early visiting seamen found easy food in the many tame landbirds and ate two species into extinction (the Lord Howe pigeon and the White gallinule). The disappearance of these landbirds may not just be an aesthetic loss.

Brown noddy and chick
Photo by Ian Hutton



Probably the biggest disaster to the island was when the ship S.S. Makambo ran aground near Neds Beach in 1918 and rats got ashore. Soon after this many changes to the wildlife occurred. Many of the indigenous land birds became scarce and then extinct (five forms); an endemic phasmid (stick insect) became rare and is now extinct; the large land snails, once abundant are now rare, as are the two lizards, a gecko and a skink. The harvest of palm seeds noticeably fell and the rats were blamed for eating the seeds. The disappearance of the landbirds may have led to an increase in numbers of weevils which attack the palm flowers and hence reduce the yield.

Some 160 species of plants have been introduced to the island either accidentally or intentionally as food crops or ornamentals. Some have altered the environment to varying degrees, e.g. kikuyu grass has been planted as pasture grass. Some garden ornamentals have escaped, e.g. Asparagus fern, Bitou bush and Tiger lily.

Although these changes have altered the environment, Lord Howe is still largely in a natural state. This is due to three factors — its isolation, the rugged terrain of the island and the early recognition by the NSW government of its uniqueness so keeping all land as crown land, not freehold.

Tourism increased with the building of the airstrip in 1974. This brought unprecedented prosperity to the island people but also the dangers of over-exploitation of finite resources. Pressure from leading conservationists in the late 1960s led to awareness of the potential problems and a major environmental survey by staff of the Australian Museum and Sydney Botanic Gardens in 1974. This in turn led to nomination and acceptance of the island on the World Heritage List in 1982. Unfortunately for conservationists the unsettled reserve areas of the island were not made National Parks as hoped for, instead, islander pressure to retain control of 'their island' made the reserve areas a Permanent Park Preserve — under control of the Lord Howe Island Board (the local government body).

In 1985 two important draft plans of management are to be drawn up by state government bodies — one

for the settled area and one for the Permanent Park Preserve. The first has been released and has all good intentions of ensuring that the environment comes first in any development decisions. However, nowhere in this report is there mention of having professional staff on the island to carry out and advise on environment policy. The Lord Howe Island Board is responsible for the administration of the whole island but does not employ a full time officer trained in environmental matters. The current practice of employing a NPWS ranger on secondment for six months of the year is not adequate — he or she does not have time to become acquainted with all but a very basic understanding of this complex environment and its people. The solutions to many of the island's problems are long term and need continuing supervision. Scientists have visited the island and recognised the problems, written reports on appropriate action but little has been done because of lack of suitable staff. In the late 1970s the Board employed two rangers and there was plenty to keep them occupied on environmental matters. For various reasons they left employment with the board in 1981.

The island is a whole and cannot be separated for management purposes into settled and reserve areas. Problem areas needing qualified staff include the following: **Weeds**, there is a noxious weeds list for the island but no one to enforce it and many weeds are serious or will become serious, e.g. Asparagus fern, Bitou bush, Cherry guava and minor problems with Silky oak, Scotch thistle and Crofton weed. All of these weeds have spread from the settled area into the reserve area. **Wildlife monitoring**, e.g. the choking of burrows of the Wedge-tailed shearwater by Kikuyu grass on Mutton Bird Point. **Feral animals**, notably goats browsing on vegetation of the southern mountains and rats eating seeds and stems of plants e.g. Little mountain palm and the Wedding lily. Assisting visiting scientific parties, e.g. staff from Kew Gardens, England, who visited the island in 1985 in connection with writing the 'Flora of Lord Howe Island' for the Australian Government only had a ranger available for one day to walk to the summit of Mt Gower. Other problems are control of stock

fences, garbage disposal and wildlife protection (Sooty tern eggs). These are things needing attention now; when the plans of management are finalised they will have to be implemented. By whom?

One of the main functions of ranger staff on the island should be promotion of the natural assets of the island. This should be through guided interpretive walks to bird colonies, seashores and forests; as well as development of a natural history museum and education centre, aided by lectures and audio visuals.

Lord Howe Island provides a unique opportunity for visitors to see an unspoilt environment with birds, plants and marine life all within 10 minutes' cycling time of accommodation. Providing staff and facilities for visitors to appreciate these wonders is not just for them to enjoy a week long holiday on Lord Howe, but will hopefully open their eyes to nature and stimulate them to become more aware of environmental and conservation issues at home in all areas of Australia.

So for the interested persons, any submissions on the draft plans of management should stress that to ensure protection and correct utilisation of the environment of Lord Howe Island, qualified staff are needed on the island. Lord Howe Island is not just for the islanders, or NSW, but for all of the people of Australia and the world to preserve and enjoy.

◦ *Ian Hutton lived on Lord Howe Island from 1980-1984 and took an active interest in the environment. Ian presented an informative talk with marvellous slides at the General Meeting on 19 September 1985.*

NEXT ISSUE'S DEADLINE
IS 15 DECEMBER.
DON'T BE
LATE!!



EDITOR.

The Community Asserts its Rights to the Mountains

Richard Miller

The community action against the Monash Drive proposal personified in the Mount Ainslie – Mount Majura Protection Association (MAMPA), is not a matter of 'greenies' versus rational planning, regardless of whether the planning is that of the early 1960s or the late 1980s. Rather, in the context of Canberra it is the case of the community's right to the retention of the status quo and the recognition by the planners of that right, and only with that recognition in mind, to conduct their affairs accordingly.

The role of the National Capital Development Commission (NCDC) as the body which brought forth a planned city 'out of the wilderness' without the 'need' for the involvement of the 'community at large' was acknowledged by the Committee of Review of the NCDC (the White Committee) in its report of July 1983.

As if denying history the committee also remarked that:

Now twenty-five years later, the mature and expanding community must become involved in the decisions that determine its built environment and indeed, its members have an obligation to bring these thoughts and operations into the process. Such involvement — will enable the planners and developers to gain the advantages of advice from the user.

Many would argue that such 'need' always existed but was consciously ignored by the NCDC and that issues such as the NCDC infill proposal in 1976, Glebe Park proposal in 1983 and today's Duffy Mobile Home proposal were upshots of this denial by the Commission of the users' rights until the users exercised it in public statements and acts of opposition.

If planners are to be enjoined to find out what the community wants in the planning of its environment, many believe there is a strong case for saying that this injunction also requires the plans to be brought to fruition within that period which allows the community to 'fit into' the planners' product and to shape its behaviour accordingly and that the plan should lapse where this does

not happen within a relevant period.

Just as the planner leaves room for the community to shape itself around those things which the plan provides in a positive sense, so too does that shaping process involve elements beyond the planners' reach. Rivers and beaches, valleys and hills are frequently absorbed into community use so that where the planner later intends events which will deny the community full resort to such places the issue arises whether the community's protection of such places against latter day development is justified in the face of plans whose purpose is lost in antiquity.

Monash Drive appeared as a proposed roadway in the Plan of Canberra in 1959. Although ostensibly a 'by-pass' connecting the Federal Highway to the Russell precinct, its rationale did not survive into 1985. Unable to explain its rationale to a recent public meeting the NCDC, nevertheless, conceded that rather than remove it from the City Plan Monash Drive as a concept had been retained on the plan until a need arose; hoping thereby to minimise opposition of a major found use. In 1985 terms that reason is the provision of a major transport corridor to connect the proposed northern ACT town of Gungahlin with the Civic and southern regions. Opposition to this use is simply that the community has found a higher priority for the region than a road.

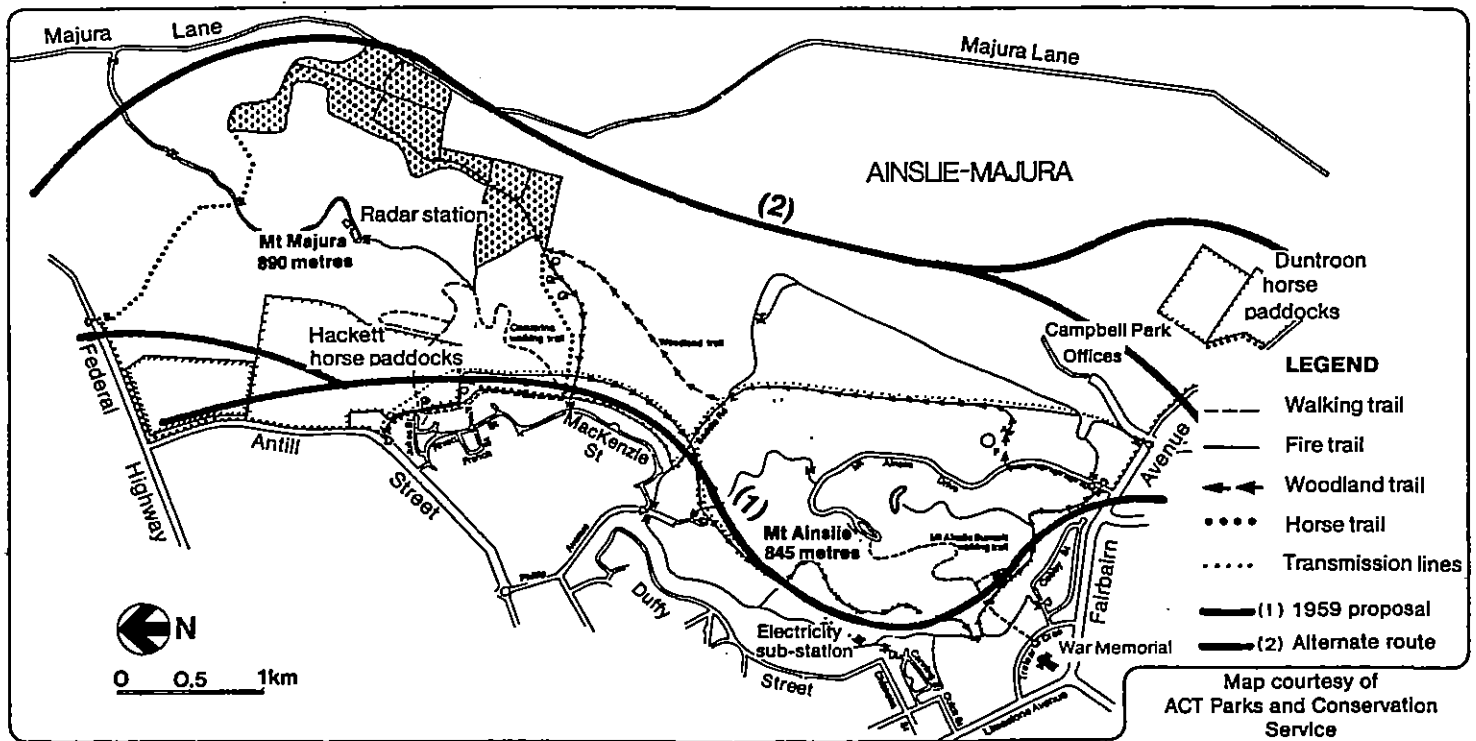
Contemporaneously with the inclusion in 1959 of Monash Drive in the City Plan were the plans for the north eastern suburbs of Hackett, Watson and Downer and Campbell to the east, with Monash Drive shown to adjoin Watson, Hackett and Downer and to pass through a corridor provided within Campbell. The likelihood of traffic intrusion was then real. The duplication of Phillip Avenue through Downer and Watson at the outset and the preparation of site works for the future duplication of that road where it passed between Ainslie and Hackett gave substance to the prospect that a major road system was to be part of these new suburbs' make-up.

Long the scene of heavy grazing, timber extraction, pine plantations, quarrying, rubbish tips, water storage, pipe lines, power lines, rifle ranges and the occasional hermit, the region probably offered little attraction for the burgeoning suburbs at its boundary. The construction of Monash Drive would not then have appeared to be destroying the area's role. But Monash Drive did not eventuate in the fulness of the carrying out of those plans for the suburbs. Probably some would say, owing to the ineptness of the concept at its outset.

Those who today defend the Mount Ainslie and Mount Majura region say that these plans having served their purpose of creating home to the young population of that time are spent and their relevance to the future of the Mountain region has passed with the growth surge of the region they might have served.

The attractiveness of the Mountain was officially recognised if belatedly, when the Department of the Capital Territory closed off the various road and tracks created over the years of wanton misuse of the area and carried out the preparation of the pathway system shown on the map below. The grazing of sheep and cattle was also ended. Those initiatives have been followed by a re-emergence of a whole variety of fauna and the recovery of the flora. To the maturing community of the City the region quickly became recognised as a retreat from suburbia. While many regretted the intrusion of the Mount Ainslie lookout road the ferocity of the community's defence of the region from the infill proposal in 1976 marked the community's recognition of the region as an irreplaceable community asset.

The announcement that Monash Drive would be brought to fruition with the development of Gungahlin raises the question whether the plans of 1959 retain any credibility or whether through its use of the region and its de facto incorporation into its substance, the community is entitled to deny the region to the planners i.e. on what basis of relevant planning can it be denied to



the community.

To return to the White Committee's aforementioned remark, it can be said that today it is the Commission's obligation to become involved in the decisions of the community and to ensure that in planning for the new regions it does so only with proper regard to the community that has brought to fruition the plans of yesterday.

The Mount Ainslie and Mount Majura region is uniquely a resort linked directly to the City. MAMPA's interest in its preservation has

focused attention on the broader issues of community entitlement to determine planning priorities. Even if, as we hope, Monash Drive is resolved by its location elsewhere the issue of community input can be expected to remain as part of the planning process for Canberra.

MAMPA is committed to asserting the communities' rights to the Mount Ainslie and Mount Majura region. It will take all necessary steps in presenting its case professionally and authoritatively. It will heighten community awareness

of the importance of preserving these precious bushlands for future generations and it will focus attention on the desecration and pollution that would result from the construction of a six lane highway. The community has already demonstrated its seriousness in opposing such a development.

NCDC must realise that Canberra is now a strong community of people who are fiercely interested in the planning of the city.

Sunday Drive

Val Honey

A blistering January afternoon, a sunbaked dirt road in a treeless expanse. Two people leap from their vehicle to observe a beautiful lizard. Suddenly, with the speed of an eye-blink, this canny creature is beneath the vehicle, and has scuttled upwards, wedging itself between wheel and brake-drum. Dilemma, cries the man, whose attempts to dislodge the offending creature are fruitless, as spikes along its back are raised forming a 'fish-hook' effect. Alas, the ultimate solution is not to be avoided. In 40 degree heat, the vehicle is jacked up so as to remove the wheel, which is a hefty forty kilograms — the vehicle

being a Toyota Landcruiser. After this has been effected, and the lizard retrieved from its self-imprisonment, the man proceeds to replace large wheel.

Meanwhile, the woman walks 200 metres along road to deposit small terrorist at a safe (she thinks) distance from the Landcruiser. On immediate contact with Mother Earth, this reptilean speedster 'takes off' at 90 kph, hell-bent on reaching the Landcruiser again. In hot pursuit is the woman calling to the man, sweating over replacement of wheel, 'Look out! He's coming again.' She makes the arrest, with not a second to spare, at the base of the other rear wheel, and once again walks with the offender back along the road.

When the ridiculous spectacle threatens to repeat itself yet again, she pounces upon and captures the now weary lizard. Determined to find peace and solace for all concerned, she stumbles across large tussocks of sun-bleached grass toward the only feature on the immediate landscape — a cluster of large boulders, and thereupon places God's precious little creature. After a very deliberate turn of its head, and an insolent stare, the grey-green merges with green-grey granite, and the woman returns to the man. They continue their drive along the sun-baked dirt road, through the treeless expanse on the blistering January afternoon

...



**NSW first
with Wilderness Act**

Guy Chester and Judy Lambert^o

Since the arrival of Europeans in Australia in 1788, most of our continent's wilderness has vanished. In NSW less than 5 per cent of the original wilderness remains, the rest having been destroyed for grazing, agriculture, urbanisation, mining and forestry.

A survey on wilderness in south eastern Australia, published in 1976 showed some 20 areas, of varying size, which remain as wilderness in eastern NSW. Little is known of the extent of wilderness in the arid and semi-arid regions in the west of the State.

Many wilderness areas in NSW fall wholly or partly within existing National Parks. Some have already been declared as wilderness under section 59 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act (see map). Others are within National Parks but are not yet declared wilderness areas, and other valuable wilderness areas, such as the MacDonald region near Sydney and Binghi in the north of the State, remain without even the protection of National Park status. To protect wilderness also implies sympathetic use of surrounding land, to ensure the remoteness of an area and help it keep its ecological integrity. Clearly, if the small amount of wilderness remaining in NSW is to be preserved in its

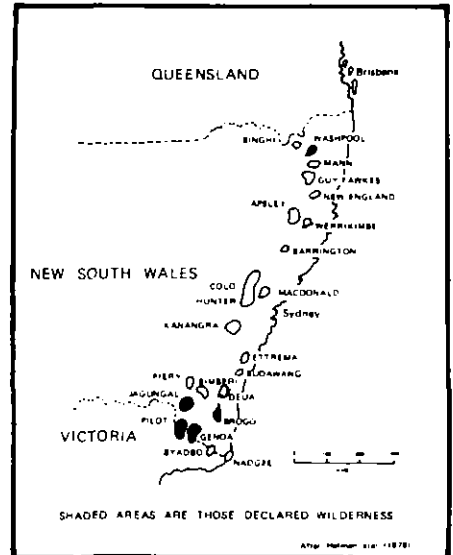
present condition, it must ALL be protected and managed as wilderness.

Both the present Minister for Planning and Environment, Mr Bob Carr and the Director of the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Mr John Whitehouse are aware of the need to preserve our remaining wilderness. Already they have declared Washpool Wilderness National Park and have initiated proposals to acquire the land needed to protect the spectacular gorges of the Macleay and Apsley Rivers, south east of Armidale. However, the State Government's funding for the National Parks Service is inadequate to maintain present services, let alone increase them further. Mr Carr has set up a Working Party to consult with environment groups on wilderness management and legislation. We should all take advantage of the present sympathetic attitude to urge our State Government to act quickly to ensure adequate protection and management of the remaining wilderness in NSW. Such action could then be used as a precedent for the preservation of wilderness in other states, so that by our bicentennial year, 1988, wilderness areas around Australia might be preserved as a part of our celebrations.

It is important to recognise the significance of these initiatives by the NSW Government as being the first in Australia. Battles like the Franklin and the Daintree have come about through a lack of

understanding of wilderness values, the present NSW Government recognises the values of our wild places and is the first to set aside specific Wilderness Areas in which there is controlled use and management.

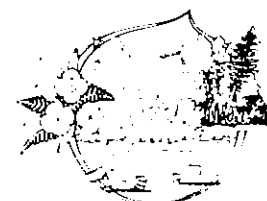
WILDERNESS IN EASTERN
NEW SOUTH WALES



You Can Help by:

- * Writing to the Premier, Mr Neville Wran and the Minister for Planning and Environment, Mr Bob Carr, urging proper protection and management of ALL wilderness areas in NSW. Mr Carr and The Wilderness Society need to be able to convince the NSW Government that preserving wilderness is a good thing. Your letter will help.
- * Assisting The Wilderness Society in its National Campaign for Wilderness.
- * Making donations, earmarked for this campaign, to The Wilderness Society at its Sydney office at 362 Pitt St, Sydney, NSW, 2000.

^o Reprinted by permission from Wilderness News, August 1985, page 8.



DOWN MARKET

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What do Questers do?

Questers like having a good time. They often go walking, bug spotting, or playing environmental games. They get together to hold a club barbeque, or to go on a bushwalk or camp. They also work to make their community a better place to live, by planting trees and removing rubbish.

So far Questers in Canberra have had two outings.

Canberra Questers go bird banding.

A wonderful day was had by all Questers and their families who attended our first activity day at Birrigai Recreation Centre near Tharwa.

A possum prowl.

The other activity was a spotlight ramble with a ranger on Black Mountain. The highlight was close-up views of ringtail and brushtail possums.

Quest Surveys

An important activity of Questers is the Quest Survey. These are an investigation of your local environment. You receive instructions and special materials. You watch your environment and tell us what you can see. The information you send will be used by museums, hospitals and researchers to help us learn more about wildlife and the environment. Here is a list of some surveys which have been carried out by Questers:

- quantity and type of traffic
- plague locust survey
- water quality
- junk mail survey
- how much water is used in your house for baths and showers
- pet fish survey
- air quality

Quest is

- a club for young conservationists
- searching for better ways of living
- watching, learning and helping
- having fun in the bush
- protecting Australia's animals and plants
- doing something worthwhile

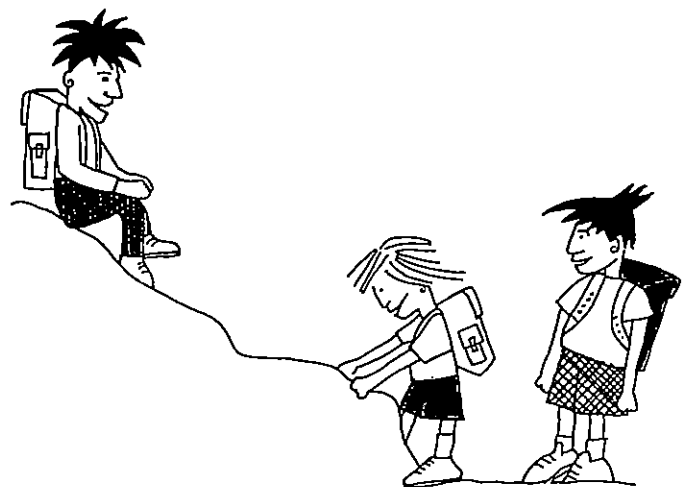
WHY NOT FORM A GROUP

As a member of Quest, you may prefer to work on your own or with a group of fellow Questers.

A group of Questers could be made up by

- you and a few friends
- your school's Questers
- Questers from your local area (several schools)
- sports clubs
- scout or guide groups
- 'School of the Air' or correspondence school students

Thus a group could be formed in many ways and be of different sizes. (What is important is that members of your group share the common ambition of wanting to be interested and active Questers.)



Quest is a youth club sponsored by the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF).

To join the ACF Quest club, write to:

ACF QUEST CLUB,
672B Glenferrie Road,
Hawthorn, Vic. 3122

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wish all members*

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NPA Bulletin

National Parks Association of the A.C.T.
P.O. Box 457, Canberra City 2601.

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GENERAL MEETINGS

Held at 8 pm, Room 1, Griffin Centre, Bunda Street, Civic

DECEMBER — No meeting.

JANUARY — No meeting.

FEBRUARY — Thursday 20 **Film Screening: *A Singular Woman***

A 48 min. documentary by Sydney film-maker Gillian Coote on the life of Marie Byles.

Marie Byles (1900-1979) was, by profession, a solicitor. She graduated from Sydney University in 1924 and became the first woman to practice law in NSW. By nature she was a dedicated conservationist, bushwalker and pacifist. This film celebrates her remarkable life through interviews with her contemporaries and dramatised excerpts from her life including her camping trips to the Central NSW coast, graduation, ascent of Crater Bluff in the Warrumbungles, and mountaineering expedition to Western China in 1937. It features spectacular footage of Bouddi National Park, an area she fought to preserve for posterity at a time when most Australian perceived 'the bush' as a potential source of timber, minerals or pasture land. The documentary was released in early 1985 to commemorate Bouddi's 50th anniversary as a park. It not only fulfils this aim but, in the words of film-maker Gillian Coote, 'bears testimony to Marie Byles and that spirit of determination that made her dare to be different.'

A short biography of Marie Byles appeared in the June 1983 issue of the Bulletin.

12 March — Mid-Week Walk (A)

Tiddinbilla Nature Reserve Ref: ACT 1:100 000

Leader: Charles Hill 95 8924

Meet: Eucumbene Drive/Cotter Road 0930. Ramble on Reserve tracks including Red Hill and water bird ponds if weather suitable. Bring lunch and binoculars. 150m climb. 70 km drive.

15/16/17 March — Canberra Day House Party

Twofold Bay Edrom Lodge Ref: Eden 1:100 000

Leaders: Ray and Joan Hegarty 81 3973

The Lodge built in 1913, now operated by the Forestry Commission. Facilities: all kitchenware, fridges, stoves. Bring: food, sheets, blankets or sleeping bags. Dormitory type accommodation. Walk, swim, fish, visit Boydtown. Members only. You are asked to pay prior to trip. Contact leader early.

15/16/17 March — Pack walk (3/5)

Deua Ref: Araluen 1:100 000

Leader: Frank Clements 31 7005

Explore the upper reaches of the Deua River. 500m ascent. 300 km drive.

22 March — Saturday Tree Maintenance

Glendale Ref: ACT 1:100 000

Leader: Charles Hill 95 8924

Please contact leader for details of tasks and tools required.

23 March — Sunday Walk (B)

Orroral Valley Ref: Corin Dam 1:25 000

Leader: Beverly Hammond 88 6577

Meet: Kambah Village Shops 0830. Walk with overall climb of 200m leaving Orroral Tracking Station going up open river valley to Smokers Trail, continuing to junction with Cotter Hut Road and returning along track to start. 100m km drive.

23 March — Sunday Canoeing

Pine Island Ref: ACT 1:100 000

Leader: Peter Marshall 47 4539

Stage 2 canoeing from Pine Island to Kambah Pool. Previous participants and others with some experience. Should be good swimmers. All equipment and instructors provided. Limit 8. Cost \$30 each. Car shuffle at finish. Contact leader before Wednesday.

28/29/30/31 March — Easter Car Camp

Ravine Ref: Ravine/Cabramurra 1:25 000

Leader: Ian Currie 95 8112

Meet: Kiandra 1000. Please contact leader for details of this weekend on the Yarrangobilly River just above the confluence with backed up waters of Talbingo Dam.

28/29/30/31 March — Easter Pack Walk (3/5)

Bogong Peaks Ref: Talbingo 1:25 000

Leader: Phillip Gatenby 41 6284

Central camp with day walks depending on participants. May visit Aboriginal ceremonial site. Climb several peaks in the area. Approx 480 km drive. Contact leader before Wednesday.

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.

ON THE TRACK

Be punctual at meeting places.

Listen to advice from the leader; don't leave the party without informing the leader.

EQUIPMENT

Wear proper walking boots or shoes with rubber soles and thick socks. Take windproof and waterproof clothing and a hat.

Take plenty of food and water.

Take a map and compass, a torch and matches.

Carry basic First Aid equipment. Walkers are responsible for their own injuries.

WALKING

Get through rather than over fences; but if climbing do so at a post.

Leave gates as you find them; make sure the last person knows whether to close the gate or leave it open.

In scrub, walk a few paces behind the person in front. It is the responsibility of the follower to avoid the springing twigs, not the one in front to hold them back.

CONSERVATION

Do not litter. Carry out what you carry in.

Do not pick wildflowers, or disturb animals or birds.

Remind your children about conservation of the bush.

Do not allow stones to be thrown, bushes broken, rocks dislodged, or wildlife habitats disturbed.

Replace aboriginal artifacts, and do not deface aboriginal art.

Leave dogs and other pets at home.

OUTINGS PROGRAM

January — March 1986



OUTINGS GUIDE

Day Walks — Carry lunch, drinks & protective clothing.

Pack Walks — Two or more days, carry all food and camping requirements. CONTACT LEADER BEFORE WEDNESDAY.

Car Camps — Often limited or no facilities. Vehicles taken to site can be used for camping. BOOK WITH LEADER EARLY.

Other activities include Nature Rambles, Field Guide Studies, Ski Tours, Snow Crafts, Tree Maintenance and other projects.

DAY WALKS — GRADING

- A Up to 15 km, mainly on tracks or forest roads, relatively flat terrain or shorter distances through trackless open bushland.
- B Up to 20 km, mainly on tracks or shorter walks through trackless open bush.
- C As for 'B' may include rougher terrain, i.e. heavy scrub, rock hopping or scrambling or steep terrain.
- D Up to 30 km, relatively easy terrain or less over trackless or steep terrain.

PACK WALKS — GRADING

- 1 Up to 14 km a day over relatively easy terrain.
- 2 Up to 20 km a day, may involve long ascents.
- 3 As for '2' may include rougher terrain, ie, heavy scrub, rock hopping or scrambling.
- 4 Strenuous long distance or much steep climbing or very difficult terrain.
- 5 Exploratory in an area unfamiliar to the leader.

Additional information will be contained in the actual walks programme. If necessary contact leader.

12 January — Sunday Canoeing**Casuarina Sands Ref: ACT 1:100 000****Leader: Peter Marshall 47 4539 (W)**

Canoeing for beginners down river to Uriarra Crossing. Canoes, life jackets, helmets, instructors provided. Limit 8. Cost \$30 each. Car shuffle at finish. Contact leader for details before Wednesday.

25/26/27 January — Long Weekend Car Camp**Lake Wapengo (Mimosa Rocks N.P.)****Ref: Eden State Forests Map****Leader: Frank Clements 31 7005**

Coastal camp north of Tathra. Walks in Mimosa NP, swimming, fishing and bird watching.

25/26/27 January — Long Weekend Pack Walk (3)**The Kerries Ref: Mt Kosciusko, Khancoban 1:50 000****Leader: Philip Gatenby 41 6284 (H)**

Commencing junction Snowy/Finns Rivers, The Kerries, Burrungbugge River with a number of river crossings and several peaks depending on weather. Car shuffle at finish near Snowy Adit below Island Bend.

26 January — Sunday Canoeing**Casuarina Sands Ref: ACT 1:100 000****Leader: Peter Marshall 47 4539 (W)**

Canoeing for beginners down river to Uriarra Crossing. Canoes, life jackets, helmets, instructors provided. Limit 8. Cost \$30 each. Car shuffle at finish. Contact leader for details before Wednesday.

1/2 February — Car Camp**Burrinjuck State Recreation Reserve****Ref: Yass, Brindabella 1:100 000****Leader: Gary Schneider. Contact Ian Haynes 51 4762**

Camping area Saturday 1000. Activities — relaxing, swimming, fishing, boathire. (Cottages, flats, Overnight Vans for rent. For bookings contact the Manager (062) 27 8114. Approx. 220 km via Yass, Hume Highway to Burrinjuck turn off.)

2 February — Sunday Walk (A)**Half Moon Creek Ref: Michelago 1:25 000****Leader: Reg Alder 54 2240**

Kambah Village Shops 0830. A 9km walk from Glendale Crossing with a 300m climb through open bush to follow its source to stockyards near Fitzs Hill. 80km drive.

8 February — Saturday Tree Maintenance**Glendale Crossing Ref: ACT 1:100 000****Leader: Charles Hill 95 8924**

Arrive anytime from 0900 with gloves, mattock, cutting pliers or similar tools.

8/9 February — Pack Walk (1)**Micalong Creek Ref: ACT 1:100 000****Leader: Fiona Brand 47 9538**

Easy pack walk 2km up creek by Goodradigbee. Great for children. 160 km drive.

9 February — Sunday Walk (A)**Oallen Crossing Ref: Braidwood 1:100 000****Leader: Neville Esau 86 4176**

Canberra Railway Station 0830. A swimming/gold panning day on a quiet section of the Shoalhaven River. 240 km drive via Tarago.

9 February — Sunday Canoeing**Casuarina Sands Ref: ACT 1:100 000****Leader: Peter Marshall 47 4539**

Canoeing for beginners down river to Uriarra Crossing. Canoes, life jackets, helmets, instructors provided. Limit 8. Cost \$30 each. Car shuffle at finish. Contact leader for details before Wednesday.

12 February — Wednesday Mid-Week Walk (A)**Ginninderra Falls Ref: ACT 1:100 000****Leader: Gladys Joyce 95 6959**

Meet: Car park at entrance to Ginninderra Reserve 1000. Walks on tracks to view falls then down to Murrumbidgee. Bring lunch and swim gear. 4 to 5 km, 100m climb. Entrance charge, pensioners free.

15/16 February — Car Camp**Lower Snowy Ref: Suggan Buggan 1:50 000****Leader: Nick Gascoigne 51 5550**

Camp on the Pinch River for li-loing, swimming, fishing, canoeing and for the more energetic a walk to a suitable vantage point overlooking the Snowy Valley.

15/16 February — Pack Walk (C)**Mt Scabby Ref: Rendezvous Ck, Yaouk 1:25 000****Leader: Frank Clements 31 7005**

An interesting climb to the numerous peaks which form Mt Scabby with two steep climbs of 300m and 400m with steep descent, bush, rock and fire trail. 100 km drive. Contact leader before Wednesday.

16 February — Sunday Walk (A)**Tallaganda (Lowden Forest) Ref: Bendoura 1:25 000****Leader: Kevin Frawley 82 3080**

Meet: Canberra Railway Station 0830. Walks to suit families. Do your own BBQ on return to picnic area providing no fire bans. Visit reconstructed water wheel from old timber mill.

23 February — Sunday Walk (A)**Shoalhaven River Ref: Braidwood 1:100 000****Leader: Dianne Thompson 88 6084**

Short walk and rock scramble from Warri Bridge to deep swimming hole and sandy beach. Suit junior walkers and swimmers. Meet Canberra Railway Station 0900. Return drive 160 km.

23 February — Sunday Walk (B)**Upper Orroral Valley Ref: Corin Dam 1:25 000****Leader: Kevin Totterdell 81 4410**

Kambah Village Shops 0800. Walk from Orroral car park up the length of the valley to headwaters of the Orroral River. 100 km drive.

23 February — Sunday Canoeing**Pine Island Ref: ACT 1:100 000****Leader: Peter Marshall 47 4539**

Stage 2 canoeing from Pine Island to Kambah Pool. Previous participants and others with some experience. Should be good swimmers. All equipment and instructors provided. Limit 8. Cost \$30 each. Car shuffle at finish. Contact leader before Wednesday.

25/26/27 February — Mid-Week Camp**Goodradigbee River Ref: ACT 1:100 000****Leader: Olive Buckman 48 8774 (not 1-3 p.m.)**

Only 2km walk/carry in, by rucksack, suitcase, plastic bags — or make two trips. Swimming, fishing, birdwatching, walks, lazing in peace and beauty. Contact leader before Wednesday. 80 km drive.

1/2 March — Car Camp**Bungonia Gorge Ref: Caoura 1:31 680****Leader: Ian Currie 95 8112**

Meet: Bungonia Camping Area 1030. Short walks exploring Bungonia Gorge and surrounding area. Facilities include cooking, shower and toilet. 300 km drive. Contact leader before Wednesday.

1/2 March — Pack Walk (2/5)**Bungonia Ref: Caoura 1:31 680****Leader: Neville Esau 86 4176**

Meet: Bungonia turn off at Bungonia Village at 0900. A walk/swim weekend on Shoalhaven River and Bungonia Creek. 15 km walk, 430m ascent (Ayres Rock). 300 km drive.

2 March — Sunday Walk (B)**Blue Gum Creek Ref: Corin Dam 1:25 000****Leader: Margus Karilaid 48 6149**

Kambah Village Shops 0830. A 10 km walk with a 150m descent through bush, no tracks to the sparkling waters of Blue Gum Creek. A return ascent of 150m via open country with views. 70 km drive.

2 March — Sunday Walk (B)**Stockyard Creek Ref: Corin Dam 1:25 000****Leader: Kevin Frawley 82 3080**

Meet: Cotter Road/Eucumbene Drive 0830. Visit arboretum which is the highest remaining in the ACT. Leaving vehicles on the top of Mt Ginini. Suitable for families. 120 km drive.

7/8/9 March — Cabin Weekend**Ref: Brindabella 1:100 000****Leader: Olive Buckman 48 8774 (not 1-3 pm)**

'Koorabri' by the Goodradigbee in the Brindabella Valley. Swimming, fishing, bird watching, walks, lazing in peace and beauty. Contact leader. Cost \$8 per head, only 12 places. Early booking advisable. 75 km drive.

9 March — Sunday Canoeing**Casuarina Sands Ref: ACT 1:100 000****Leader: Peter Marshall 47 4539**

Canoeing for beginners down river to Uriarra Crossing. Canoes, life jackets, helmets, instructors provided. Limit 8. Cost \$30 each. Car shuffle at finish. Contact leader for details before Wednesday.

9 March — Sunday Walk (A)**Swamp Creek Ref: ACT 1:100 000****Leader: Ross Carlton 86 3892**

Cotter Road/Eucumbene Drive 0930. Easy walk from Uriarra Crossing to waterfall with swims along the way. 40 km drive.