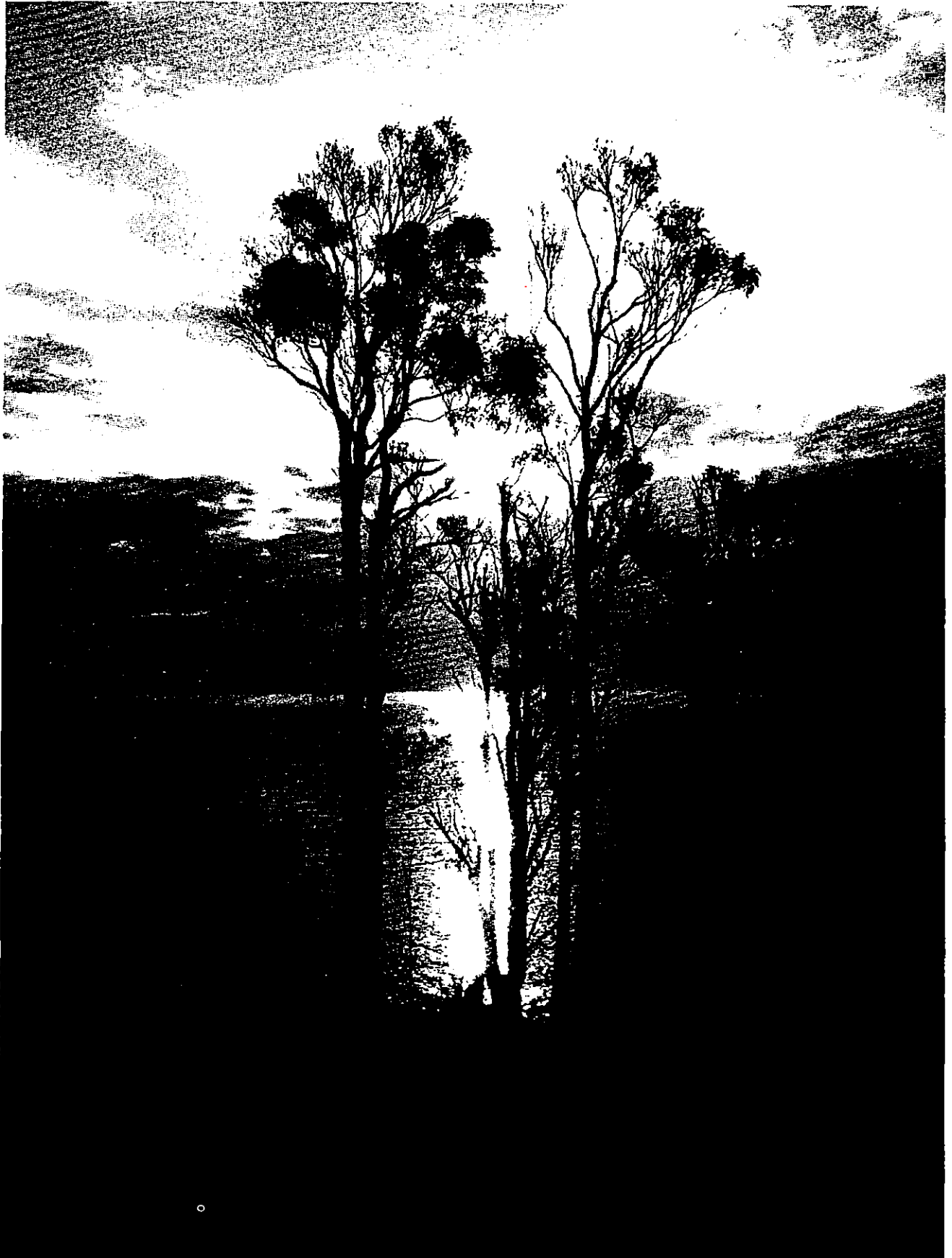




# NPA Bulletin

National Parks Association of the A.C.T. Vol. 23 No. 3 March 1986



# 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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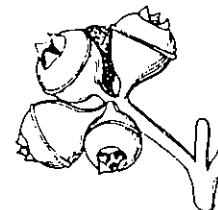
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*Articles by contributors may not necessarily reflect  
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## COVER

*View from Edrom Lodge across Twofold Bay.  
Photo by Babette Scougall.*

## PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD

Have you noticed that the average age of our Association appears to be dropping a little? Attendance at meetings and outings and participation in the various other activities now includes more younger people than was the case a few years ago. I find this very encouraging. I know that previously some young (and even some middle-aged) people were put off by the somewhat elderly image of the Association. Those who joined in spite of this image learned to have a great respect for the knowledge, experience and dedication of the 'oldies' as well as being frequently humbled by their prodigious walking ability. Every organisation needs new, younger blood to ensure its survival. This we are now getting and the effects are being felt. But no-one should feel displaced: the Association is big enough and active enough to be able to use all the talent it can get. Long-time members should be prepared to give new ideas a trial and newer members should be prepared to listen. If experience guides imagination we will move forward without too much re-invention of the wheel.



### Comment on the Namadgi Draft Management Plan

*Fiona Brand*

In our submission to the Department of Territories, we have congratulated the Department on the reasonable balance made between the often conflicting needs of conservation and various park uses in its Draft Management Plan for Namadgi National Park, which provides clear and helpful guidance for the resolution of these conflicts but will need to be skilfully applied.

In general we agree with the primary aims of the Plan and their proposed administration. Some matters, e.g. the statutory basis of the Park, fire hazard assessment, fire control, and the naming of various peaks within the Park have been discussed in the *NPA Bulletin* for December 1985. Some other matters from our submission are listed below:

#### Gudgenby Station

The future of Gudgenby Station is of critical importance to Park policy and management. We endorse the proposal to review the scenic value of the Station and its environs, the way it may be managed, and the costs involved, but emphasise that before the end of 1987 the studies must be finished, decisions made on them, a management plan drawn up, and money made available. We are concerned at the possible effect on the Park if the Station is allowed to deteriorate. We would not object to an extension of the lease if this should be necessary before informed decisions could be

made. Any such extension should be long enough to make it worth while for the lessee to act in the interests of Park policy.

#### Mt Franklin Chalet

We do not object in principle to the chalet's being either

- locked and available for use under a permit system administered by the Department, or
- open for walk-in use on a first come first served basis, although we would prefer the former.

The choice depends on the vandalism likely with each, and may need reviewing.

#### 4WD Touring

Vehicular touring should be permitted only on formed and hardened roads where it will not conflict with measures to protect the environment.

#### Horse Riding

Horse riding is acceptable along the Old Boboyan Road and east of the New Boboyan Road except in areas especially susceptible to damage.

#### Old Boboyan Road

While we do not object to the progressive re-opening of the Old Boboyan Road, there is some concern that there could be intrusions into the wilderness area of the Park by horses, 4WD vehicles and trail bikes. If the through route is established, the effects will need to be monitored and speed limits enforced.

#### Cotter Hut Camping Facility and Permits

A walk-in camping facility in the Upper Cotter area would concen-

trate activity, and we would prefer dispersed bush camping. This would enable the area to be included in the wilderness zone, with the added protection that such a category affords. Until there is a need to control the number of walkers a permit system would be an unnecessary administrative burden.

#### Boboyan Pine Forest

Boboyan pine forest is still an eyesore and there has been little cleaning up after the 1983 fires. Members would like to see the dead pines removed, the area re-established with native growth where soil conditions are suitable, and research undertaken to determine whether the remaining pines will ever reach economic maturity. A pine forest has no place in a national park, especially adjacent to a wilderness area.

#### Feral Pigs

Although the best method of controlling pigs is still in doubt, stop-gap action is urgently necessary if the valuable moist areas in valleys and on mountain tops are not to be completely devastated.

#### Other General Comments

The Plan continues to use the word "trails", which should be used only for fire trails; otherwise the word should be route, road, track or path. It is essential that adequate funding should be made available without loss of time to enable at least the high and medium priorities of the Plan to be put in hand as soon as the Plan is accepted.



# Australia's Alpine Areas: Management for Conservation

Kevin Frawley

The Association's Silver Jubilee Conference held at the Huxley Lecture Theatre, ANU on 30 November-1 December 1985 was a successful meeting from a number of points of view. To coincide with the conference, the Victorian, New South Wales and Federal Environment Ministers as well as the Minister for Territories issued a press release indicating agreement on the idea of cooperative management of the tri-State alpine zone.

For the Victorian participants, the conference provided a boost to their campaign to achieve the Alpine National Park – dependent upon the passage in the Victorian Upper House of the *Alpine National Park Bill, 1985*. In New South Wales it was suggested the government be urged to speed up the reservation of the proposed Brindabella Range National Park before its natural features were further affected by development. In the ACT the unsatisfactory status accorded reservations in the Nature Conservation Ordinance and its lack of planning provisions received attention as well as the role of the National Capital Development Commission in planning for Namadgi National Park.

The conference was well attended with 108 registrants plus speakers. Of these, 73 attended the very successful dinner at Bruce Hall. After the dinner the Hon. Hal Wooten (President, Australian Conservation Foundation) spoke of his earlier walking experiences in the mountains. Following the formal papers of the day his warm personal account of the inspiration provided to him by the mountains was well received.

A crew of NPA 'volunteers' (The A Team) kept the conference going with their catering. The standard was excellent, and the arrangement very economical.

Below are listed resolutions passed by the conference. Special thanks to all those who helped make it a success.

## Resolutions from Conference 'Australia's Alpine Areas: Management for Conservation'

Silver Jubilee Conference, National Parks Association (ACT), Huxley Lecture Theatre, Australian National University, 30 November, 1 December 1985.

1. This Conference, recognizing the cultural and environmental significance of the Australian Alps

– welcomes the proposed Australian Alps National Parks Agreement

– requests the Commonwealth and relevant State Governments to ratify and implement the Agreement at the earliest possible date.

Sponsors of motion: VNPA, NPA (ACT), NPA (NSW), ACF

**Moved:** G. Wells (NPA NSW)

**Seconded:** G. Wills-Johnson (VNPA)

2. This Conference draws the attention of the Victorian Parliament to the significance of the historic Australian Alps National Parks Agreement and urges its co-operation with this important initiative by ensuring passage of the *Alpine National Park Bill, 1985*.

**Moved:** G. Wills-Johnson (VNPA)

**Seconded:** G. Wells (NPA NSW)

3. This Conference, recognizing the very important national values of the Victorian Alpine area urges that the planning and provision of adequate staffing should proceed immediately for the area designated in the current Alpine National Park legislation.

**Moved:** D. Johnson (VNPA)

**Seconded:** G. Wills-Johnson (VNPA)

4. This Conference resolves that in the spirit of a Tri-State Alpine Park system, the New South Wales government be urged to speed up reservation of the proposed Brindabella Range National Park and that the Commonwealth government complement this by the expansion of Namadgi National Park northwards to include more of the Brindabella Range and the hardwood forests of the Cotter valley.

**Moved:** I. Currie

**Seconded:** G. Wells

5. This Conference resolves that the Inter-government Working Group (on co-operative management of the alpine area) should give consideration to the nomination of the mainland Australian alpine region to the World Heritage List.

**Moved:** K. McCluskey

**Seconded:** N. Esau

6. This Conference urges that the Victorian government stop grazing forthwith within the proposed Alpine National Park.

**Moved:** J. Davies

**Seconded:** C. Helman

7. This Conference recommends that the National Capital Development Commission proposal to have a camping ground at Cotter Flats be withdrawn and the Bimberri Wilderness reservation be given due statutory recognition by the extension of the wilderness zone in Namadgi National Park to cover the whole of the upper Cotter catchment.

Secondly, that the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service move swiftly to gazette the Bimberri Wilderness Area that is contained in parts of Kosciusko National Park and the Scabby Range and Bimberri Nature Reserves.

**Moved:** J. Douglas

**Seconded:** C. Lawrence

8. This Conference recommends that across the Alps as a whole, there should be no new or expanded alpine skiing facilities.

**Moved:** L. Hodges

**Seconded:** J. Mowatt

9. This Conference endorses movement towards the amendment of the ACT Nature Conservation Ordinance to give permanent and adequate protection to Namadgi National Park as a national park by IUCN definition and to give a formal legal base to the Park's Plan of Management.

Amendments should provide that:

(i) the Plan of Management, once adopted, be amended only after public consultation;

(ii) the Plan of Management be binding on the Crown in all its capacities.

**Moved:** N. Esau

**Seconded:** D. Robin

# After the Jubilee

Alastair Morrison

My wife and I joined the National Parks Association of the ACT early in 1969, two years after we came to live in Canberra. I cannot therefore lay claim to being a founder member and we have not taken part in many of the Association's outings. Nevertheless a span of sixteen years does perhaps provide a reasonable basis for offering some comments on the performance and prospects of the Association.

During these years I have been greatly impressed by the performance of our NPA and especially of the dedicated core of enthusiasts who have managed and guided the Association. This must have been easier when the Association was small and nearly every member knew every other member but all along the standards of the President and Committee have been remarkably high. And it should be recognised that it is by no means easy to achieve cohesion in such a body as ours because of the wide range of views held. The views of environmentalists have nearly always developed on a strongly individual basis and the environmental movement is far from monolithic.

While its most conspicuous activity is its extensive and well organised programme of walks, the Association's most valuable asset is the large body of expert opinion that it now commands through its membership. This expertise is based on detailed knowledge of the ACT and nearby areas gained in the only way that really counts, through personal contact with the land and on foot. Members come from a wide variety of backgrounds with many possessing high academic or technical qualifications. Our NPA is now one of the leading environmental bodies in the ACT though sad to say it has not always played as full a part as it could in the many environmental problems of our area.

At the same time its membership has grown rapidly. I am not sure that this by itself is necessarily a good thing. I have the uneasy feeling that for some members the main attraction of the Association is its provision of safe, well organised social walking on the cheap. If this

is unfair I hope that members who disagree will write to the Bulletin and say so.

We certainly need the largest possible *active membership* because the *environmental problems* of the ACT and adjoining areas of NSW not only continue to grow but are becoming more complex. Public pressures on our forests and coastlands and mountains are growing too and often in undesirable ways. We are becoming all too familiar with such pressures exemplified by the greed of woodchippers and the unthinking machismo of some 4WD enthusiasts and the belief of winter "sportsmen" who consider that the only proper use for our limited areas of high country is to provide downhill ski runs. There are other more benign but still problem pressures from the increasing numbers of visitors who simply want to visit and walk over the areas we hold precious but do not always treat the countryside with the respect that it deserves or take their rubbish with them when they leave. In the ACT a large degree of self government is almost upon us, unsought by any save a few ideologically motivated would-be politicians but being thrust upon us by Federal governments anxious to be rid of as much as possible of their present costly commitments to the Capital Territory. With effect from 1 January 1987 an elected 13 member ACT Council will, amongst its many other functions, become responsible for forestry operations, bush fire protection and management of open spaces, parks and environmental conservation services. The Council will also acquire a larger voice in the activities of the NCDC though the Commission will remain under Federal control.

Self government is bound to have a profound effect on the interests of our Association. We may have had our differences with the NCDC and the Department of Territories and the occasional, and sometimes costly, mistakes of some of their staff members but by and large these have been sympathetic bodies. With local politicians in charge the situation will be much more difficult. Some politicians may gen-

uinely love the bush but I venture to say that many will know very little about the ACT countryside. In general, politics being what it is, they are likely to be swayed by the public interest group that makes the most noise. We may, for example, see a sensible Management Plan introduced for Namadgi which restricts certain activities in the National Park but still see important aspects of the plan over-ruled in the future to please a vocal minority which has no environmental interests or understanding.

Furthermore it seems likely that reserves and our National Park will rate a low priority in political esteem. There is going to be less public money available for a variety of activities (and these may well include conservation) unless local taxes are raised which will be politically unwelcome. The politicians can be expected to look for fields on which to economise and may easily decide that such activities as running Namadgi properly do not call for extra staff and that the mountains can be left to look after themselves.

It is clear, I think, that if members of our Association want to continue to protect the features of the ACT that they cherish they must be prepared to play a more active and vocal role in the Territory and in common interest bodies such as the Conservation Council. The latter is a valuable advocate body on which our Association is entitled to have three representatives. Despite this and our relatively large size I have noticed, when attending Council meetings on behalf of the Canberra Ornithologists Group, our NPA seems to find it hard to provide regular representation.

The nature and interests of our Association mean that it has an important role to play not only in the protection of the bushland but of urban open spaces as well. This is a field where the Association has not been altogether effective. Many of us are unhappy about the southward extension of the 'Y' Plan which is taking urban development almost to Tharwa, poses a continuing threat to the integrity of the Murrumbidgee corridor and west Murrumbidgee and is destined to cause insoluble public transport problems. Unfortunately few, if any, of us foresaw the dangers of the 'Y' Plan at a time when resolute opposition might have brought about changes to the

Plan. In the meantime a massive and costly infrastructure has been developed to cater for the Plan and the whole wretched, ill conceived project has acquired a juggernaut momentum of its own.

Our Association should, I suggest, seek to be a vigilant watchdog in relation to urban open space planning in the ACT. This does not mean, however, that the Association should automatically and uncritically endorse every special interest voiced by members of the public in regard to perceived threats to open spaces. We have to live with the fact that Canberra will continue to grow and that all urban development must involve change to the environment. The whole process of developing Canberra has involved the disappearance of bushland or other open space. All our house lots have been provided in this way. Short of freezing Canberra in its present limits there is no way of stopping the process.

But what continually happens in Canberra is that individuals who have been quite happy that open space or bush should have been used to provide sites for their own commodious residences then demand that all further development in their neighbourhood should be frozen regardless of any larger community interest. The case for stopping any such further development is usually presented as protection for the environment though the

protagonists do not necessarily take an active interest in other environmental problems in the ACT or out of it.

Especially important issues will be coming up for consideration early in 1986 when the NCDC is due to release its proposals for the development of Gungahlin to cater for a population of 80,000 and for its main access roads – the Eastern and Western Parkways, Monash Drive and, perhaps, Majura Lane. The NPA will need to look at these proposals very carefully and, I hope, from a Canberra wide viewpoint. It will not enhance its own standing if it does otherwise.

Underlying these matters there is the sordid, but unfortunately vital, question of money. Our subscription rates have always been modest. Many members could readily afford to pay more. We do not, like other National Park Associations, collect capitation charges from members taking part in organised outings. We have been fortunate to receive some generous grants from Federal Governments. But we cannot count on always getting such grants. Governments change and conservative opinion, largely due to the hostility of the timber industry, is tending to turn against National Park movements, a trend that is particularly noticeable in NSW.

But the cost of running our Association is bound to increase. The growth of our NPA – and it is

likely to continue to grow – has already reached the stage where some regular, paid secretarial and executive assistance is essential. Production of the Bulletin with its rising technical standards and the ever increasing costs of printing will also require higher expenditure. We need to have ample funds for the occasional special publication or such items as advertisements, support for other bodies involved in campaigns which we endorse and the cost of special meetings and seminars. I forget who it was in Shakespeare who said "put money in thy purse" but it is advice that our Association would do well to heed.

I hope that in the next 25 years our Association will become a still stronger and more effective body which can play an even larger part in local affairs than it does at present. The days of being a modest and genteel and largely social organisation for those with a common interest in the ACT and neighbouring countryside are really behind us. If the Association is to play a significant role in the future in protecting the environment and the national parks which we especially value we need to grow stronger and more effective. Our Association has done well during its first 25 years. I would suggest that complacency is the greatest danger to guard against during the next quarter century.



## College Students Maintain Trees

*Charles Hill*

Tree maintenance at Glendale was given a boost on Saturday 16 November when some students from Narrabunda College found time, in a busy end of year schedule, to do some work there. College teacher and NPA member Lois Perry was the initiator. John Perry, Audrey Hill and myself also attended.

The weather was very pleasant, a respite from a cool damp spell. Eighty percent of trees were examined and weeded where necessary and water retaining mounds were reformed. Some insects and scale were removed by hand. A few more trees had grown to the stage when

it was advisable to remove tree-guards and tyres.

In one patch all trees which seemed dead were flagged and then surveyed from a nearby slight rise. Most of the flagged trees were in two or three lines of drainage which suggested the die-back fungus may be responsible; however we noticed later with close inspection after removal of weeds around the stem that some new growth was starting. The fungus may have some influence, but it was decided to wait and see how the new growth fared. The frost bowl effect of the site may be greater than expected.

We wish to record our appreciation of the efforts and interest of the College party which significantly helped the maintenance task.



### Are you where we think you are?

Readers are asked to check the address label on this Bulletin and notify the NPA office if it is incorrect.

Surprisingly, some members have been receiving their Bulletins despite incorrect labels but unless you really enjoy a gamble, having the right address on the label has quite a lot in its favour.

## JUST BRIEFLY-



In a way, the NPA Christmas party at the Orroral Valley Picnic Ground was reminiscent of a "do" on the lawns of Yarralumla. The many dresses and a few long gowns, complimented by "picture hats", were a refreshing change from the usual walking gear of jeans, shorts, boots, etc.

\* \* \* \* \*

As a prelude to the Christmas party a few members took a leisurely walk a little way along the valley where two of our "resident naturalists", Laurie and Peter, introduced the group to some smaller members of the plant world. They were joined in this by Bob Story who identified some of the native grasses and who exhibited considerable skill in plaiting and weaving with these. While we lunched, entertainment was provided by the aerobatics of two grey fantails, the appearance of four different species of honey-eater, and the brilliant outpourings of rufous whistlers. During a stop on the return walk, the Orroral bullants struck, and proved to be in good biting form. Legs and fingers were nipped, and one walker had to act with lightning speed when he, literally, got "ants in his pants".

\* \* \* \* \*

Absent from this year's party due to a prior engagement was Reg Alder, who last year brought great excitement to the day with his flying horse-shoes. Present though, were some new faces, and the return of a few members who have been away for some time, was noted. Amongst these was Garth Abercromby, who is back in town after some years in exotic Manila.

\* \* \* \* \*

Finally, the last comment on the Christmas party needs to be in the form of thanks to Fiona and her band for constantly cutting and keeping cake coming and cheerfully chopping chunks of cheese. Thanks also to the providers of the lovely fruit cakes.

\* \* \* \* \*

And now for a reminder. Would anyone with suggestions regarding the next edition of the "Field Guide to the Native Trees of the ACT", please contact Sheila Kruse on 48 6104, or write c/- the NPA office, before mid-March. Any comments are welcome, e.g., where the text may differ slightly from the illustrations.

\* \* \* \* \*

An educationist's dream — a teacher/pupil ratio of 1-2, occurred on November 17th last, when due to early rain, a total of only nine people met for the Field Guide Walk, three of whom were the co-authors, our teachers for the day. As an extension to the Field Guide Walk last March, when eucalypts of the drier rocky hillsides were identified, the November walk included a higher altitude forest which contained five different eucalypt species. These were: *E. delegatensis* (Alpine Ash), *E. dalrympleana* (Mountain Gum), *E. stellulata* (Black Sallee), *E. pauciflora* (Snow Gum or White Sallee), *E. radiata* (Narrow-leaved Peppermint), and interestingly a hybrid of the two last species.

\* \* \* \* \*

No more does one discretely wear that prestige label *inside* the garment. It must be outwardly visible, i.e., LEVI, ADIDAS, CARDIN, GUCCI, etc., and now — hat sizes! Yes, along with 'made in Winnipeg', worn on the outside peak of an already notorious piece of white-spotted head-gear! I mean to say — who wants to know that you take a size 7½? This kind of one-upwoman-ship doesn't stop there. A volunteer worker on the last tree maintenance outing felt it necessary to wear her pearl necklace. However, it was found not to be an essential prerequisite, as most workers managed quite well without.

\* \* \* \* \*

Why must some extroverts continually emphasize their ancestry? McCurrie, for instance, setting out on a walk with a large tartan umbrella. Is one to believe that he progresses along the fairway beneath this conspicuous canopy looking like some tartanized Mary MacPoppins?

\* \* \* \* \*

Do you tire of seeing the same old names appearing in this column? Would you like to become as notorious as these characters? Would you like to give your friends some notoriety? Then please 'phone 88 1889 with your little anecdotes (and antidotes as well, if necessary).

*Meliodora*



For those of you who will be staying at Edrom Lodge over the Canberra Day long weekend in March, the following information on nearby Ben Boyd National Park may be of some interest:

### **Ben Boyd National Park (9,437 ha)**

This park has two sections on either side of Calle Calle Bay which used to be the centre of a thriving whaling industry.

The northern section is characterised by its rugged coastline with cliff caves, jagged rocks and sweeping beaches.

In the southern section, a large expanse of heath stretches back from the rocky headland below Green Cape Lighthouse, gradually giving way to tall eucalypt woodland.

The area is richly varied in its flora — especially in the heathlands. Perhaps the most spectacular of the heath flowers are the bright pink bells of the coral heath. Boronias, low-growing wattles, the red belled native fuchsia, and woody hakeas are supported by the organic sandy soils fringing the coastline.

Visitors to the park can enjoy bushwalking, fishing, swimming, canoeing or boating. In the southern section of the park, a visit to see the magnificent coastal views is well worthwhile, and basic camping facilities are available at Saltwater Creek and Bitangabee Bay.

Eden District (0649) 61434.

# The Jerrabomberra Wetlands

Douglas Ross

The name *Jerrabomberra Wetlands* has a fine ring to it but a person visiting the site for the first time might well wonder what all the fuss was about. As we shall see, there has been, and continues to be, fuss over the future of the Wetlands. All the casual visitor to the area finds is (see map).

- two runs of willow-lined creek, the Molonglo and the Jerrabomberra, the latter coming close to drying up at times;

- a lake shore-line, backed by a swampy drainage cut;

- a large reedy pond that dries up at times (when the lake-level falls especially); and

- several hectares of very rough grazing (compare the irrigated pasture on the other side of Dairy Road), shot through with water channels.

Across the road is a seven pond sewage farm. The area in total covers something less than two square kilometres.

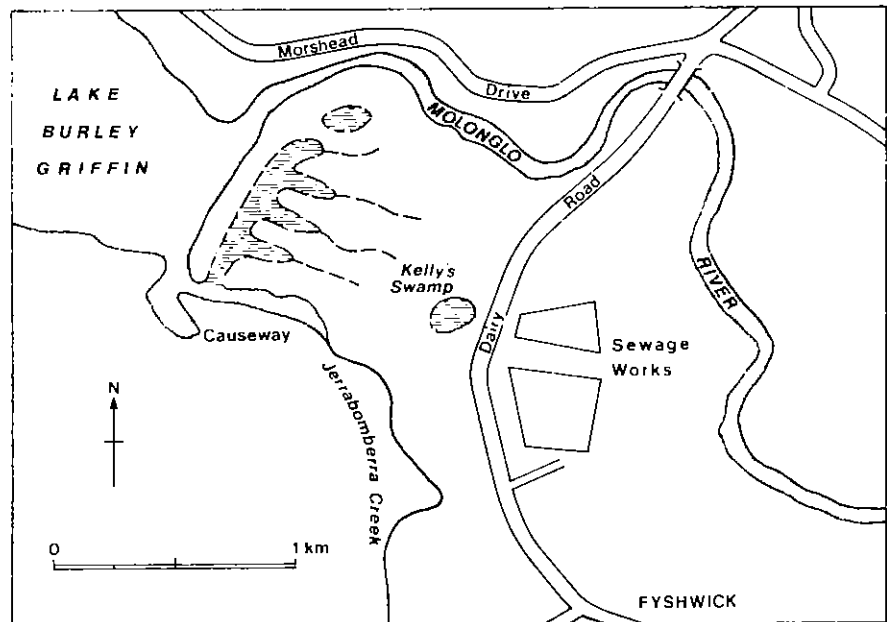
On the surface, it is not an impressive area but some have seen it as a prime site for development (once the problems associated with the area's being a flood plain and having a high water table were overcome). Development would be all the more attractive for them because the area lies within two kilometres of Civic as the crow flies while Fyshwick is just over the hill.

The latest development initiative, made known in November 1985, would have the Wetlands play the role of 'nature park' within a national culture centre complex based on extensive land said to be to the west of Dairy Road in an 'underwood' state. Such a proposal must raise even more eyebrows than an earlier suggestion that a cycleway be carried across some of the more sensitive parts of the Wetlands area. There was a good deal of debate over the cycleway and eventually a compromise route was devised, protective of the Wetlands' core areas.

No such compromise appears possible over the nature park concept. Turning the Wetlands into a nature park would mean their destruction as a functional bird-orientated wetlands area. This is because

the area is so small (see map again). We are not dealing with a Serengeti or a Kruger Park where people can be deposited by the dozen, cars and all, and be swallowed up. A single person, let alone a succession of persons, out looking at the birds (as persons tend to 'look at' things in nature parks) must inevitably disturb the birds for metres around in so confined an area as Jerrabomberra. The area would quickly lose its important status as a place of refuge.

People might ask whether it really matters that a patch of wetland drops out of effective operation. It does matter.



Australia has already lost far too much of its wetlands; loss of another wetland is something to be resisted. More than that, however, the Jerrabomberra Wetlands are the ACT's only significantly large *natural* wetland area (they differ radically in nature from the water bird *enclosures* at Tidbinbilla), and serve as a final fall-back refuge when other wetlands in the general Canberra area come under stress or pressure. It comes as a bonus that, as noted above, the Wetlands are so close to the heart of the city. There can be few other cities when, on a good day, one can see three species of Ibis and two of Spoonbill altogether (outside a zoo) or four species of Crane, two of Rails and one of Avocet feeding on the same small

patch of mud, all within easy cannon shot of their GPO. Not every day is a 'good' day, of course, as is noted below.

There is at least one other reason for protecting and preserving the Jerrabomberra Wetlands. It is that they afford habitat to Lathan's Snipe, a survivor migrant from Japan, which is one of the species covered by the treaty between Australia and Japan on migratory birds.

While the predominant role of the Wetlands in relation to birds is that of shelter - which means that the Wetlands themselves need shelter if their sheltering role is not to be impeded or degraded - it does not follow that the area is wholly off limits. On the contrary, it is recognised that the more the resources which the Wetlands have to offer are understood and appreciated,

the more clearly the case stands out for their preservation as Wetlands, rough, and minimally touched by human activity.

There are several points from which a fair view of the Wetlands may be had with the minimum of trouble. First, Kelly's Swamp on Dairy Road is served by a small car park from which there is easy access to the hides which serve also to mark how far into the area visitors should go. At its best, with the water level falling so that there is ample exposed mud, the Swamp is highly productive. Then there is the point on the right bank of the Molonglo just where the river enters the Lake. From the point, there is an extensive view of the Lake shoreline, the drainage cut and associated pools



that lie beyond that, and the pools tucked into the angle between the left bank and the shoreline. The grazing area as a whole can be taken in from the rise on Morshead Drive just to the west of the memorial entrance to Duntroon.

The sewage farm is also well worth a visit but, since it is closed to unauthorised persons, intending visitors should first check with the office which is on a well signposted drive to the south of the ponds.

Viewing the area from the water can also be profitable but, as the watercourses border, and indeed form part of, the Wetlands' core areas, a cautious approach is necessary. Whether visitors come by land or by water, their primary role should be to leave the core areas inviolate.

As to what the visitor might see, the Wetlands carry playtpus and swamp rats, tortoises and brown snakes to my knowledge. Other reptiles and amphibians are also well represented, one suspects.

For most visitors, however, the real wealth of the Wetlands lies in its airfauna. My own count, based on weekly traverses over a period of ten years or so, is 130 species in round numbers. Other observers have seen species that I have not so the total count is probably towards 150. A definite list is needed and is being worked up.

The 130-150 species range from the common and ever present species (Eurasian Coot, Common Starling) through the seasonals (Lathan's Snipe, Sacred Kingfisher) and sporadics (Freckled Duck, Glossy Ibis) to what are by ACT standards at least, rarities (Black-necked Stork, Eastern Curlew, Red-necked Avocet). Even on those days, generally dark, windy and cold, when there is little about 'in the bird line', the Wetlands continue to have their attraction: the act of entering species seen in one's notebook is replaced by contemplation of why there are no, or so few, species to be seen.

Canberra is fortunate in having a largely untouched, working wetland area so close to its centre. Other cities have to make do with duckponds, artificial lakes and such, largely populated by captive birds. It would be a pity if Canberra were taken down that road in the interests of 'development'.



## BOOLIGAL

*There's a land that I have seen  
That I know will call me back  
Though it isn't very green  
And there's dust along the track.  
It's a land of firm horizons  
In the early morning light  
And of shimmering mirage  
When the midday haze is bright.  
It's a land of endless challenge  
For the squatter and his wife  
But they're champs and they are thriving  
On the lonely station life.  
There is mustering and shearing  
And the marking of the lambs  
And checking all the bores  
And clearing tanks and dams.  
When there's water in the creek  
They will pump it o'er the plain  
And when the creek is dry  
They will watch the sky for rain.  
Though there's bogongs in the house  
And a tiger in the yard  
And the tractor's getting bogged  
They don't think the life is hard.  
For they like the compensations  
Of the freedom and the space  
And the flashing of a falcon  
In an arc of speed and grace.  
To everyone who visits  
There is something to behold  
And the magnet will be different  
For the young and for the old.  
For Kristen it is Lambie  
And for Sonia it is wrens  
For some the ibis nesting  
And for some the native hens.  
But whatever the attraction  
The plains will call us back  
Till we're heading once again  
Along that dusty track.*

## Birds of the ACT Area

NPA members who are interested in birds and are not members of the Canberra Ornithologists Group (COG) may care to know that a new, 3rd Edition of the COG Field List has recently been published.

It is a useful introduction to the birds of our area setting out in tabular form much detail that is not to be found elsewhere. It is best used in conjunction with the revised edition of Frith's *Birds in the Australian High Country (1976)*. The Field Guide contains sketch maps, notes on habitats and historical records, hints for bird watchers and a list of good bird watching localities. It costs \$2.50 and is obtainable from local booksellers or The Publications Officer, Canberra Ornithologists Group, P.O. Box 301, Civic Square, ACT 2608.

COG is an active organisation that conducts monthly meetings and outings, surveys and weekend camps and produces a quarterly magazine and monthly newsletter. All those interested in birds are welcome to join the group.

## CYCLISTS

### Join Pedal Power

#### Canberra's Own Bicycle Association

##### AIMS:

- To represent and further the interests of cyclists.
- To increase public awareness of the advantage of cycling.
- To encourage bikeway development.
- To disseminate information on bicycle safety, skills, maintenance and repair.
- To provide advice on legal and insurance aspects of bicycle ownership and use.

##### MAGAZINE:

Free to members and produced every two months. Contains news of cycling in the ACT as well as general articles on cycling.

##### BICYCLE RIDES:

Cycle tours into the countryside around Canberra are a regular feature.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

PHONE  
(home) ..... (work) .....

Annual Membership costs \$18  
Send to: Pedal Power  
GPO Box 581,  
Canberra ACT 2601  
(Phone No: 487995)

# Wellness while Bushwalking

Bryan Furnass

I have two physicians — my right leg and my left leg

*Chinese Proverb*

Most of us in Canberra follow a box-like existence — living in little boxes, commuting in little boxes, watching little boxes for our entertainment and often finishing up prematurely in horizontal boxes. The experience of bushwalking allows members of the sub-species *Homo sedentarius* to enjoy the human condition in another dimension.

Wellness in a positive sense can be achieved by exploring park and wilderness areas. It requires a modest degree of physical fitness, an awareness of some of the potential hazards involved in exposure to the natural environment and a readiness to improvise when medical help is not at hand. The whole emphasis here is on prevention, to ensure that bushwalking and its sequelae are uneventful from the medical point of view.

## Physical Training

Physical exercise requires energy which is derived from the oxidation of foodstuffs in the bloodstream. We are all familiar with the physiological changes which accompany the increased oxygen demands of muscular exertion, namely a rise in breathing and heart rate and the eventual conversion of muscle energy into heat. These adaptive changes are more efficiently and comfortably carried out by practice over a number of weeks — a process which is known as training.

For non-strenuous bushwalking an adequate training effect can be achieved by exercising to the point of mild breathlessness for at least half an hour on alternate days, preferably to include some hill climbing while wearing boots and a pack. Weekend bushwalks over rough country require more training than this and should not be attempted until one has several half-day or full-day walks to one's credit, preferably carrying a back pack.

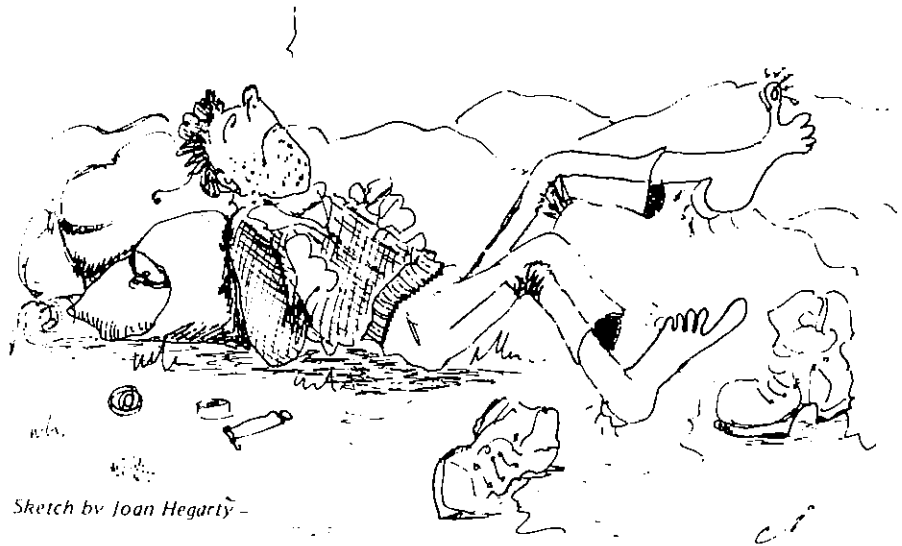
Those of us who are beyond the first flush of adolescence are well advised to undertake stretching exercises before and after a bushwalk. Around Canberra it is common

to see apparently sane people of all ages trying to push over buildings or gum trees. This has the salutary effect of stretching and loosening up the hamstring and calf muscles and Achilles tendons before a run, and is no less applicable before a bushwalk, particularly in cold weather. People with back problems

from the skin, particularly on a hot day. Under these circumstances one should allow for a daily ration of at least two litres of water (2 kg) per person. This can conveniently be carried in the foil lining of a wine cask, which can also be used as a comfortable pillow for a siesta. Unfortunately clear looking stream or lake water is often contaminated and it is wise to treat it before drinking by boiling or by the addition of a water purifying tablet (1 Puritab per litre).

## Care of the Feet

Leather boots have become part of bushwalking folklore, since they defend against weak ankles and



should not necessarily be deterred from bushwalking, since contrary to popular opinion this type of exercise can improve backache, although care has to be taken when bending and lifting backpacks. Recurrent pain and swelling of the knees can be more of a problem, the owners of such joints being well advised to avoid hill climbs or long walks over rugged terrain.

On the intake side of the energy equation, the best fuel for bushwalking is carbohydrate. A substantial breakfast of whole grain cereals makes a good start to the day. Blood sugar may be sustained during a walk by pieces of fruit or by that delicious concoction of Scottish ancestry comprising dried fruit, nuts and chocolate known as scroggin. One soon learns to avoid sharing one's scroggin with those members of the party who selectively pick out the chocolate!

Physical exertion requires heat to be lost by evaporation of water

angry serpents (although serpents are by and large timid retiring creatures). A reliable way to ensure blistered feet is to embark on a long bushwalk with a brand new pair of walking boots and cotton socks. To avoid this disaster, boots should be broken in gradually beforehand over short training walks until the leather gets to know the shape of one's feet. Sometimes the judicious use of small pieces of sorbo rubber or cotton wool over friction points can be helpful. As an occasional rather than a regular bushwalker my own prejudice is for broad soled well cushioned jogging shoes for bushwalking. They are light on the feet and when wet are more easily dried out than leather boots.

Wool or wool-nylon mix socks are preferable to cotton, and at least one spare pair should be carried on every bushwalk. If blisters develop, the fluid makes an excellent sterile dressing for the new skin underneath. The temptation to

burst them should be resisted and a Bandaid or sterile gauze dressing and adhesive tape applied to avoid further damage.

### Some Environmental Hazards

The high country of the A.C.T. can offer four seasons of weather in a weekend. A combination of sun and wind can produce quite severe sunburn of exposed parts in a couple of hours. The risk is less when wearing long sleeves, loose trousers and a broad brimmed hat or sun visor. Lips and ear tips are particularly vulnerable to burning and can be protected by lip salve, while zinc cream or other ultra violet skin blockers should be applied to other exposed parts.

Hyperthermia or heatstroke is a rare but potentially fatal complication of bushwalking across open country in hot weather, particularly in those whose skin is insulated by an excessive layer of fat. Anyone showing signs of distress, mental confusion or difficulty in walking should be moved to the shade and given adequate fluids. If they have stopped sweating and body temperature climbs above 38° Celsius the body surface should be doused with water and fanned to induce evaporative cooling. (A digital thermometer, costing about \$15 makes a useful addition to the first aid kit.)

At the other end of the temperature scale excessive chilling or hypothermia can afflict bushwalkers exposed to wind and rain or snow without adequate protective clothing. The treatment by drying, rugging up and wearing a waterproof/wind-proof jacket or cape and woollen headgear is clearly better applied in a preventive rather than in a remedial way.

### First Aid

Ideally, every bushwalking party should include someone with an up to date first aid certificate (with knowledge of cardio-pulmonary resuscitation). Apart from blisters and sunburn the most likely problems to be encountered are stings, burns and sprains, which should be treated immediately with a cold compress. Gaping cuts can usually be closed by drawing the edges together with Steristrips, just as effectively as suturing. After the application of cold water (or ice if available) for at least 10 minutes sprained ankles may be helped by applying a firm bandage, or in the case of severe sprains by the careful application of strips of broad adhesive tape along the sides of the leg to provide some lateral stability.

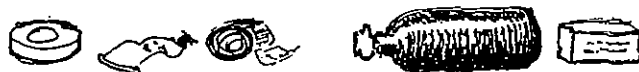
Most attempted snakebites do not penetrate the skin. Calm is the

essence of management. The snake should be identified if possible, but no attempt should be made to kill it. The victim should be kept quite still and a careful search made for puncture marks. If they are found a pad should be placed over the wound and a bandage firmly applied from above downwards, *not* so tightly as to obstruct the arterial blood supply. This type of bandage prevents the spread of venom into the circulation and can be safely kept in place for several hours. No attempt should be made to remove the bandage until the patient is in hospital with antivenene to hand. This is one occasion when the victim should be carried out, preferably with the limb splinted.

### Summary

Although discomforts on bushwalks are fairly common, disasters are rare and can usually be prevented by adequate forethought and common sense. On the positive side, there is no doubt that attention to wellness can contribute to the enjoyment of bushwalking, just as bushwalking contributes to wellness in everyday life.

° Bryan Furnass is Physician to the ANU Health Service, Canberra. The above article is a precis of the talk he presented at the General Meeting on 17 October, 1985.



## Four Wheel Drives and Beaches

Kevin Frawley

Should our beaches remain places of quiet pedestrian use or be allowed to become off-road highways? The current situation on New South Wales beaches, especially on the north coast, has led to the NSW National Parks Association's launching a campaign to keep the beaches clear of all vehicles. The Association recognizes that many beach drivers are sensible fisherpersons, however, many drivers are less sensible - driving over foredunes and along partly vegetated back beach areas as well as travelling at excessive

speed. Speeding motorbike riders pose a particular threat to children digging in the sand or partly hidden from view in beach cusps. Beer bottles and stubbies dropped from one vehicle are crushed by subsequent ones. Even careful drivers may be unaware of the damage they are doing - beaches are the home of some crustaceans and nesting sites for seabirds.

Some examples of 4WD activity recently observed include (1) Bundjalung National Park near Ballina where vehicles have turned a sandspit into something resembling the battlefield of the Somme, barriers have been broken down and a swathe cut through trees; (2) Myall Lakes National Park where

vehicles are driven up the foredune which is mobile in places and constantly roar up and down the beach much of which can be easily reached by walking tracks from the road. It is often the case, that use of a vehicle saves a walk of only a few hundred metres.

As use increases and people forget why they were born with legs, political pressure will increase to retain access. NPA (NSW) has urged its members to contact the Minister for Planning and Environment, Hon. R.J. Carr MP, 139 Macquarie Street, Sydney and ask that action be taken now to prohibit vehicles from beaches. NPA (ACT) members are encouraged to do the same.

# LOVE AT FIRST BITE

Apart from their distinctive inch-worm locomotion, there's not much that could be called endearing about leeches. It can be fascinating – as a snake's preparation to strike can be – to watch a leech approach, heel-and-toeing toward your feet, perching on its posterior sucker to wave its head about; literally sniffing out its meal.

But leeches test the quality of your perception of the natural world. If you can look at a leech with genuine interest and detachment, without shuddering, then you've arrived.

I thought I'd arrived at that Olympian plane one day in the Barrington Tops, after hours of walking through damp, misty beech forest: I felt no horror when I removed my boots and socks, to discover eleven leeches on one foot and four on the other.

Instead (perhaps it was shock; perhaps that I couldn't deny they were there) I watched them, intrigued by their steady, rhythmic drinking and admiring their bright orange stripes.

A couple detached themselves, bloated to the size of eggs, but I hadn't quite arrived: the others were despatched with a lighted cigarette, and inchwormed away as I watched the streams of blood, still flowing freely from their injection of anti-coagulant hirudin, pooling between my toes.

In the love-hate relationship that exists between humans and some leeches, the leeches may do all the loving – but other species possess characteristics that humans admire. Meet the right kind of leech, and you will find both a devoted mother and an attentive father: leeches are hermaphrodites, with both ovaries and testes.

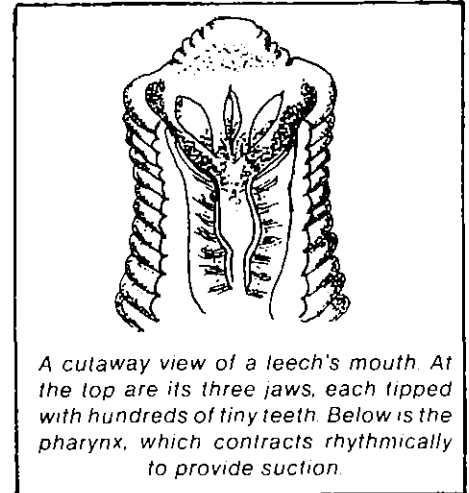
Members of the large family of Glossophoniidae (the freshwater leeches) produce egg-filled cocoons, which in some species, are attached to the underside of the body and are actively protected by the parent. One South African species has even developed a brood pouch. Perhaps the most shining example of parental care in leeches is the genus *Clepsine*, which has been observed to provide its young with half-sucked food and even nurse them. The sight of one specimen, with 30 young clinging to its ventral side and straining towards the piece of meat it was feeding on, was reported to be "startling" by a researcher.

Since they are hermaphroditic, and at least theoretically capable of inseminating themselves, leeches avoid inbreeding by finding sex partners. The gnathobdellid leeches, which include medicinal leeches and the common Australian jawed scrub leech, *Limnobdella australis*, lie head to head with their ventral sides facing each other. Each then extrudes a copulatory organ and injects sperm into the other's vagina – leaving both pregnant and, presumably, mutually satisfied. Most other leeches inseminate one another by an astonishing method called "hypodermic impregnation", where sperm-filled capsules known as spermatophores are deposited anywhere on the partners' bodies. The spermatophores secrete a granular substance containing violently destructive enzymes that literally eat away the leech's flesh, enabling the sperm cells to enter the body cavity.

Those sperm cells not destroyed by special defensive cells are suspended in the blood and pumped, by the four veins that serve leeches

for a heart, to the ovaries, where they fertilise the eggs. It takes about three days for the holes burned in the leech's body to heal.

The vast majority of leeches don't live on mammal blood at all, which is a relief when you see the bright acid-yellow elephantine leech of South America – all 50 centimetres of it. It is one of the large Erpobdellid



A cutaway view of a leech's mouth. At the top are its three jaws, each tipped with hundreds of tiny teeth. Below is the pharynx, which contracts rhythmically to provide suction.

group of 'worm leeches', which are amphibious or live in fresh water. They eat worms and insect larvae by swallowing them whole; there is a 19th Century record of a small "common rivulet leech" being swallowed by a much larger freshwater leech and, after three days, being regurgitated in a living and active state.

The third major group is the 'jawless leeches', which use their long flexible probosces to literally suck the juices out of their prey. Of this group, one family lives in fresh water and feeds on such hosts as snails and mussels, and the other is marine, feeding on fish and, in one distinctive Australian species (*Pontobdella rayneri*), on the blood of sharks.

Of those leeches that do suck mammal blood, few depend on it for survival. The American medicinal leech, *Macrobdella decora*, is sustained largely by the blood of frogs, tortoises and fish. Some feed on aquatic worms, carrion – even organic mud.



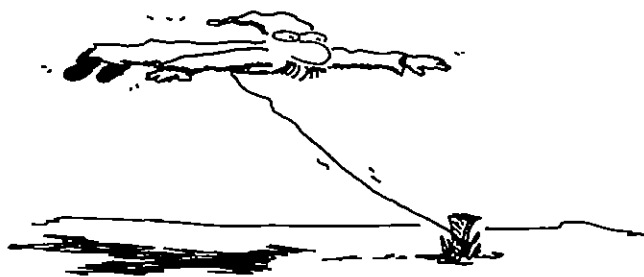
How the jawed scrub leech, *Limnobdella australis*, moves. From left to right: with its posterior sucker attached, it reaches forward and seeks a hold for its anterior sucker. The posterior sucker is then released and the body contracted. Next, with its posterior sucker firmly attached, the body is elongated again and the leech seeks a new hold for its anterior sucker.

# Wild Country

NEWSLETTER ISSUE 2 DECEMBER 1985

## GOING O.S.!! (sagaciously)\*

TRAVELLING overseas has numerous pitfalls, but Wildcountry, with its globe-trotting and worldly-experienced staff have decided to help you on the way to a happy holiday with a few helpful hints.....



RULE 1: Travel light



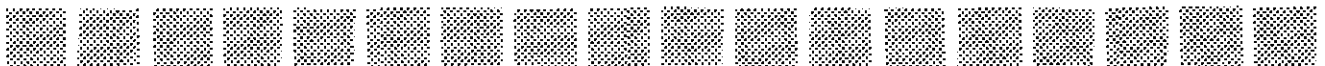
RULE 2: Be versatile with what you take (remember rule 1)



RULE 3: Enjoy yourself (regardless)

AND OVER THE PAGE ARE FURTHER DETAILS OF HOW TO SATISFY RULE 3 BY FOLLOWING RULES 1 AND 2 

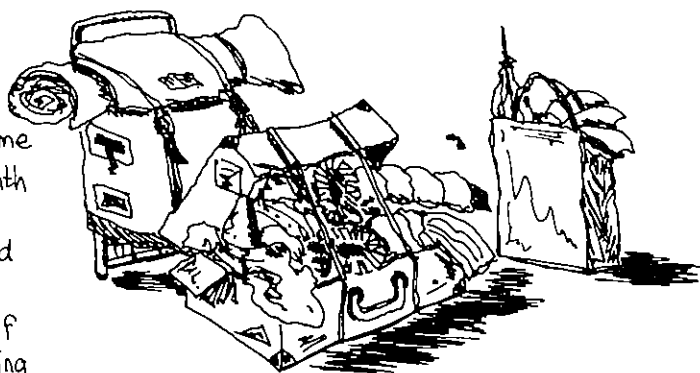
\* having or showing insight and practical wisdom



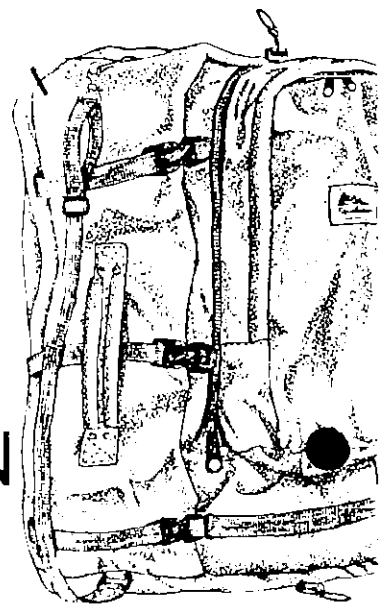
# M

y first trip overseas saw me climbing onto the plane with a pack full of goodies - cozzies for swimming and sunbathing on Skiathos, clothes for sauntering down the streets of Siglufjörður that would have to do for skiing the slopes of St. Moritz, and perhaps for scaling up Saipal. Then there was the suitcase for Singapore (in case the unfriendly customs officers disliked my backpack) packed with the extra warm sleeping bag for Scandinavia (a mistake - you don't need sleeping bags anywhere in Scandinavia!) and the SWISS ARMY KNIFE to keep my fingernails immaculate enough to avoid hassles with inquisitorial border officials wanting to know why I had long hair in my passport photo but miraculously much shorter right now.

Well, the swiss army knife is probably the only item that would have survived, if I hadn't dropped it between a gap in the floorboards at Cabane des Vignettes by the side of the Haute Route - at least it made it to Switzerland! If I'd listened to the experts before I went, and not packed all of my belongings into the ubiquitous and ungainly \$45 frame pack that didn't fit through any known train door in Asia or Europe and succeeded in demolishing itself (and half of India's airport baggage sorters) when it was sent to New Delhi, India, instead



I went to great lengths in an attempt to find accommodation in Paris - even went as far as hacksawing off the frame (the metal detectors at airports were always a nuisance, anyway) and sewing a briefcase-handle onto the side. Only one pension concierge noticed that my new "suitcase" was really a heavily modified rucksack, but rather than throwing me out in the normal manner, she merely became Erès concis (more so than before!). If I'd known about the GREAT ESCAPE RUCKSACK with its sturdy cordura construction, its built-to-last leather carry handle and carry strap, and cleverly disguised shoulder straps+hip belt, its useful pocket and easy-to-get-into main compartment, then I could have avoided the stigma that seems to follow those people who travel with rucksacks - and I probably would've got a six-month visa instead of a week-long permit in Thailand.



## GOING O.S.....GOING O.S..... GOIN

of Delhi, New York. And because I didn't have room to put my walking boots in (the Aussie dollar was also a LOT stronger then!), I went to the best boot-making country in the world - West Germany - to get a good pair to walk in. What I didn't know was that European feet are shaped differently to ours, and my feet didn't quite fit - resulting in the dreaded "museum foot" coming on about three times faster than my old Dunlop Volleys, when circumnavigating the Taj Mahal. But then we live and learn, and the NEXT time I head O.S. I'll be much better prepared - my new Swiss Army knife is on a long length of cord!...

The old leather sandals took quite a beating during that one week in Thailand - if I'd listened to Peter, I would have avoided the fungus that dissolved the leather if I had taken his synthetic river-running sandals - and maybe some water-purifying tablets to allow my stomach and I to travel together...

The ol' sleeping bag was a bit of a mistake there, too - I thought I'd play on the safe side and get something warm enough to keep a fried-egg sizzling in an Antarctic blizzard-

**7/8/9 June — Queens Birthday Weekend Car Camp**  
 Durras South Ref: Batemans Bay 1:100 000  
**Leader: Ian Currie 95 8112**  
 A relaxing family car camp at Durras South for fishing, bird watching and walking. Contact leader for details before Wednesday.

**7/8/9 June — Queens Birthday Weekend Pack Walk (5)**  
 Tonalli Range  
 Ref: Yerranderie/Burraborang 1:25 000  
**Leader: Philip Gatenby 41 6284**  
 The walk will commence at Yerranderie and will explore some of the mountains and plateaux in this area of Kanangra Boyd National Park. Plenty of scrub and possibly some rock scrambling. Approximately 420 km drive.

**15 June — Sunday Walk (A/B)**  
 Gibraltar Falls Area  
 Ref: Corin Dam/Tidbinbilla 1:25 000  
**Leader: Lyn Richardson**  
 Meet: Kambah Village Shops 0900. Easy walk of approximately 8 kms from above Gibraltar Falls on fire trails and tracks. Approximately 200m climb. 80 km drive.

**18 June — Wednesday Midweek Walk (A)**  
 Molonglo Gorge Ref: Canberra 1:100 000  
**Leader: Olive Buckman 48 8774**  
 Meet: Car park opposite Canberra Airport at 1030. Pleasant 6 km walk up the gorge on a clearly defined, well graded track. Mossy rocks, small waterfalls, forest and grassland birds and a variety of trees and shrubs. Picnic lunch. 18 km drive.

**21 June — Saturday Walk (C)**  
 Tidbinbilla Peak/Camel Ridge  
 Ref: Tidbinbilla 1:25 000  
**Leader: Olive Buckman 48 8774**  
 Meet: Eucumbene Drive/Cotter Road 0830. 14 km walk along fire trail and through bush scrub and along rocky ridges with total vertical climb of approximately 680m. 70 km drive.

**22 June — Sunday Walk (A/B)**  
 Horse Gully Hut Ref: Colington 1:25 000  
**Leader: Dianne Thompson 88 6084**  
 Meet: Kambah Village Shops 0800. Easy 18 km walk from Mt Clear camping area through relatively flat terrain along fire trail. 120 km drive.

**28/29 June — Weekend Pack Walk (3)**  
 Northern Budawang  
 Ref: Endrick/Nerriga 1:25 000  
**Leader: Philip Gatenby 41 6284**  
 Walks in the Bulea Brook and Sassafras Trig area. No tracks and some rock scrambling may be involved. Approximately 340 km drive. Contact leader by Wednesday.

**29 June — Sunday Walk (C)**  
 Bogong Creek Valley  
 Ref: Yaouk/Rendezvous Creek 1:25 000  
**Leader: Frank Clements 31 7005**  
 Meet: Kambah Village Shops 0730. A 20 km walk, more than half through rough bush, with a steep 200m climb to a waterfall high up in the Bogong Creek Valley. 100 km drive.

## POINTS TO NOTE

New faces to lead, new places to go!  
 Please help to keep our Outings Program alive by volunteering to lead a walk occasionally.  
 Contact Walks Convenor Ian Haynes on 51 4762 (h).

\* \* \* \* \*

All persons joining an outing of the National Parks Association of the A.C.T. do so as volunteers in all respects and as such accept sole responsibility for any injury howsoever incurred and the National Parks Association of the A.C.T., its office bearers and appointed leaders are absolved from any liability in respect of any injury or damage suffered whilst engaged in any such outing.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Committee suggests a donation of FIVE cents per kilometre (calculation to nearest dollar) be offered to the driver by each passenger accepting transport. Drive and walk distances quoted in the Program are for approximate return journeys.

\* \* \* \* \*

## 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

## April — June 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

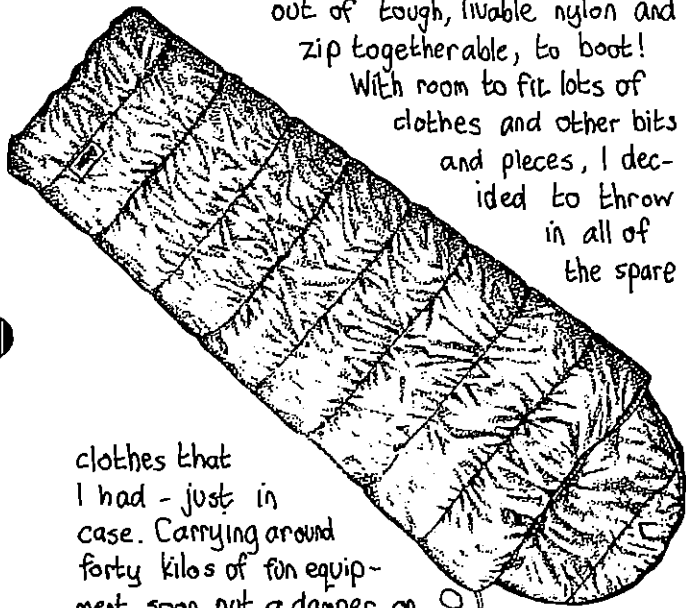
- 1 Up to 14 km a day over relatively easy terrain.
  - 2 Up to 20 km a day, may involve long ascents.
  - 3 As for '2' may include rougher terrain, i.e. heavy scrub, rock hopping or scrambling.
  - 4 Strenuous long distance or much steep climbing or very difficult terrain.
  - 5 Exploratory in an area unfamiliar to the leader.
- Additional information will be contained in the actual walks programme. If necessary contact leader.

- 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: Philip 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.
- 6 April — Sunday Walk (A)**  
**Naas Valley** Ref: ACT 1:100 000  
**Leader: Les Pyke 81 2982**  
 Meet: Kambah Village Shops 0830. 10 - 15 km level walking in open country up the Naas Valley past Sentry Box and return. 110 km drive.
- 13 April — Sunday, Heritage Walk (B)**  
**Corin Dam Lookout** Ref: Tidbinbilla/Corin Dam 1:25 000  
**Leader: Charles Hill 95 8924**  
 Meet: Kambah Village Shops 0900. Walk from Tidbinbilla up Fishing Gap Fire Trail then south along ridge for excellent viewpoint. 12 km walk with steep climb at times. Vertical rise 530m, 70 km drive.
- 16 April — Wednesday Midweek Walk (A)**  
**Honeysuckle/Orroral Ridge** Ref: Corin Dam 1:25 000  
**Leader: Reg Alder 54 2240**  
 Meet: Kambah Village Shops 0930. 8 km walk from Honeysuckle Creek Tracking Station on fire trail to Orroral Ridge for rock formations and extensive views over Orroral Valley. 265m climb, 100 km drive
- 19 April — Saturday, Heritage Week Walk (A)**  
**Yankee Hat Paintings** Ref: Yaouk 1:25 000  
**Leaders: Charles Hill, Ian Haynes, Dianne Thompson**  
 Meet: Kambah Village Shops 1030. 8 km walk through pine forest and return across swarnp, mostly on trails. NPA members will comment on points of interest. 90 km drive.
- 20 April — Sunday, Heritage Week Walk (A)**  
**Nursery Creek Paintings/Orroral Homestead** Ref: Corin Dam/Rendezvous Creek 1:25 000  
**Leaders: Ian Haynes, Neville Esau, Kevin Totterdell**  
 Meet: Kambah Village Shops 1030. Easy 10 km (return) walk from Orroral Valley to inspect aboriginal paintings on Nursery Creek. A representative of the Canberra Archaeological Society will accompany the party to explain the paintings. A visit to Orroral Homestead will follow, if time permits, to inspect this example of European occupation of the area. 112 km drive.
- 25/26/27 April — Anzac Car Camp**  
**Araluen** Ref: Araluen 1:100 000  
**Leader: Ian Currie 95 8112**  
 A long awaited relaxing family car camp in the picturesque Araluen Valley, gold panning, fishing, photography or even walking. 250 km drive.
- 25/26/27 April — Anzac Pack Walk (1/3)**  
**Mts Morgan and Murray** Ref: Yaouk/Rendezvous Creek 1:25 000  
**Leader: Reg Alder 54 2240**  
 35 km pack walk on fire trails and through open forest. 1300m climb in stages. 230 km drive.
- 4 May — Sunday Walk (C)**  
**Mt Orroral** Ref: Corin Dam 1:25 000  
**Leader: Lyn Richardson**  
 Meet: Kambah Village Shops 0830. Medium hard walk of approximately 10 kms starting from Orroral Tracking Station site, mainly through open scrub. 600m climb. Some tracks. 90 km drive.
- 11 May — Sunday Walk (C)**  
**Mt Clear** Ref: ACT 1:100 000  
**Leader: Neville Esau 86 4176**  
 Meet: Kambah Village Shops 0830. Approximately 12 km walk partly on tracks, mainly open scrub with 600m climb. 140 km drive.
- 15 May — Thursday Mid Week Walk (A)**  
**Googong Foreshores** Ref: Territories Pamphlet Canberra 1:100 000  
**Leader: Charles Hill 95 8924**  
 Meet: Canberra Railway Station 0930. London Bridge. Curleys Falls, Queanbeyan Arm. 10 km walk mainly on fire trails and tracks, some trackless bush; short steepish climbs. 44 km return drive.
- 18 May — Sunday Walk (A/B)**  
**Namadgi - South East Corner** Ref: Colinton/Bredbo 1:25 000  
**Leader: Reg Alder 54 2240**  
 Meet: Kambah Village Shops 0800. 18 km walk up Grassy Creek from Mt Clear camping ground to fire trail along the southern border to the S.E. corner and then via fire trail through The Long Flat. Make this the start of a project to walk the boundaries of Namadgi National Park. 120 km drive.
- 18 May — Sunday Walk (B)**  
**Booroomba Rocks** Ref: ACT 1:100 000  
**Leader: Olive Buckman 48 8774**  
 Meet: Kambah Village Shops 0900. Walk of 9 km along fire trail, track and some scrub, to high point with extensive 360° views from area of granite outcrops. Climb of 300m. 65 km drive.
- 24 May — Saturday Tree Maintenance**  
**Glendale Crossing** Ref: ACT 1:100 000  
**Leader: Charles Hill 95 8924**  
 Come after 0930 with assorted tools and gloves.
- 24/25 May — Pack Walk (1/2)**  
**Folly Point** Ref: Endrick 1:25 000  
**Leader: Les Pyke 81 2982**  
 A relatively easy pack walk to Folly Point in the Budawang area, which affords excellent views over the region and a pleasant camp site. 300 km drive.
- 25 May — Sunday Walk (C)**  
**Mt Coree** Ref: ACT 1:100 000  
**Leaders: Sophie Caton 48 7701, Arno Wynd 47 8542**  
 Meet: Eucumbene Drive/Cotter Road 0900. 10 km walk on fire trail from Blundells Flat to top of Mt Coree for magnificent views of surrounding district. 600m vertical rise. 60 km drive.
- 31 May — Sunday Walk (B)**  
**Black Springs** Ref: Tidbinbilla 1:25 000  
**Leader: Lyle Mark 86 2801**  
 Meet: Eucumbene Drive/Cotter Road 0830. 14 km walk from Tidbinbilla to Fishing Gap and onto the Cotter River, partially along historic bridle path. A long gradual climb back to the Gap. 70 km drive.
- 1 June — Sunday Walk (A)**  
**Murrumbidgee River** Ref: ACT 1:100 000  
**Leader: Margaret Aston 88 7563**  
 Meet: Eucumbene Drive/Cotter Road 0930. 6 km easy walking through lightly timbered private property following Bulgar Creek. Lunch at Murrumbidgee River. Lots of horses and we may see a wallaby or two. Drive 16 km.



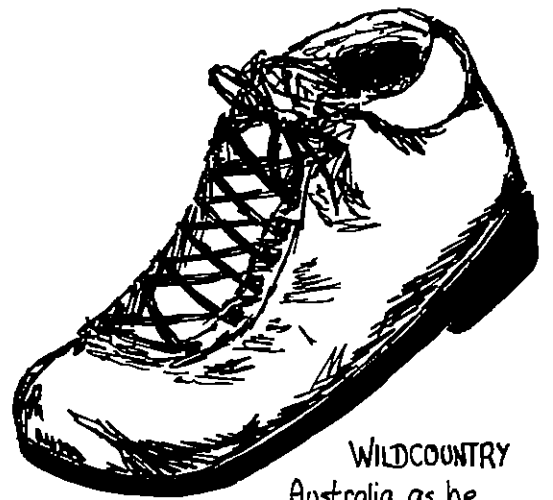
it was rated to  $-40^{\circ}\text{C}$  and fitted snugly into a large rucksac - the rest of my gear had to go into another - but nobody told me about the WILDCOUNTRY TRAVEL BAG - a light, rectangular, box-walled sleeping bag that fits comfortably into the side pocket of some rucksacs that you can buy today. The bag is made to withstand rugged use, built for us by a famous manufacturer out of tough, livable nylon and zip togetherable, to boot!

With room to fit lots of clothes and other bits and pieces, I decided to throw in all of the spare



clothes that I had - just in case. Carrying around forty kilos of fun equipment soon put a damper on my holiday - and it took nearly a week to wash and dry it all.

LIFA underwear wasn't well known then - and I always thought only mountain climbers and Antarctic explorers used it. However, I have since learned that it's the best thing when travelling - it is warm, it is light, it dries faster than the



at back in Australia, as he has shoes and boots to fit our peculiar Australian foot (everyone in Europe has peculiar feet, in my opinion): I couldn't find a comfortable pair. The first thing I'll do before I wander off next time is get a pair of decent boots from Peter - something suitable for the long, strenuous walks around museums and galleries that also stand up to a bit of rough treatment and abuse that occurs walking up and down those endless steps in Venice, without looking like (or weighing as much as) a pair of diving boots.

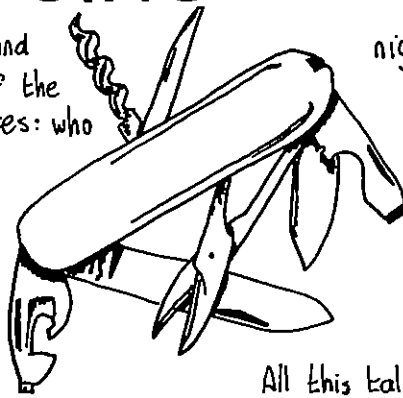
With all this space that I'm going to save in my rucksac, and because it will all weigh next to nothing, I'm sorely tempted to throw in a lightweight tent for when I get sick of all the stereotypical Youth-Hostellers that I bumped into last time. The choice of tents is pretty incredible these days, and I'm not even sure if I'd get much use out of it - but if it's light, and functional, it could be just the thing on Skiathos to keep the sun off during the day and sleep in at

## GOING O.S..... GOING O.S..... GOING O.S.....

space shuttle making a re-entry, and allows you to cut out half of the bulky clothing for colder climates: who wants to look like a Michelin man all the time, anyway?

I prefer to blend in just a little - or at least not stand out - and some of the GORETEX and Z-KOTE rainwear that's available today looks pretty spiffy (+ dry).

MEINDL - have a reputation of making some of the world's finest footwear - so I zoomed out to their factory to get a pair. Upon my arrival, Heidi told me to go and speak to Peter Marshall -



night. One tent that's really great for on-the-go travellers is the Eureka BACKCOUNTRY - a 1.8 kilo beauty that sleeps two (very useful), made of breathable nylon and completely bug-proof (except to Italian men on Mediterranean beaches)....

All this talk about going O.S. is getting to me. I think it's time to count the pennies and see what I need by having a chat with the friendly and world-wizened staff down at Wildcountry.





# THE BACK PAGE SPECIAL!

JUST to show you how much we think of you - here's a package almost too good to refuse. Even if your O.S. trip is only to Queensland - ask about our super amazing deal on our Great Escape rucksac combined with our special WILDCOUNTRY Travelbag. AND IF THATS NOT ENOUGH to make you rush out and spend your hard-earned dollars (and cents) on that Trip of a Lifetime, how about this(!):

Splash out and purchase more than \$150 worth of goods in our enterprising entrepôt, and we will splash out even further - by presenting you with a small, but special token of our appreciation - something by which (hopefully) you will always remember us by on your travels around the globe --- a magnificent (as used by the authentic Swiss Army) WILDCOUNTRY SWISS ARMY KNIFE !!!

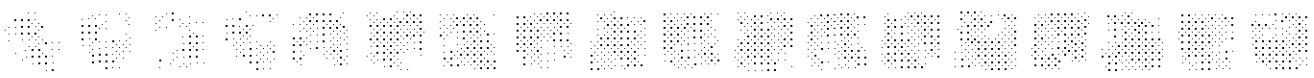
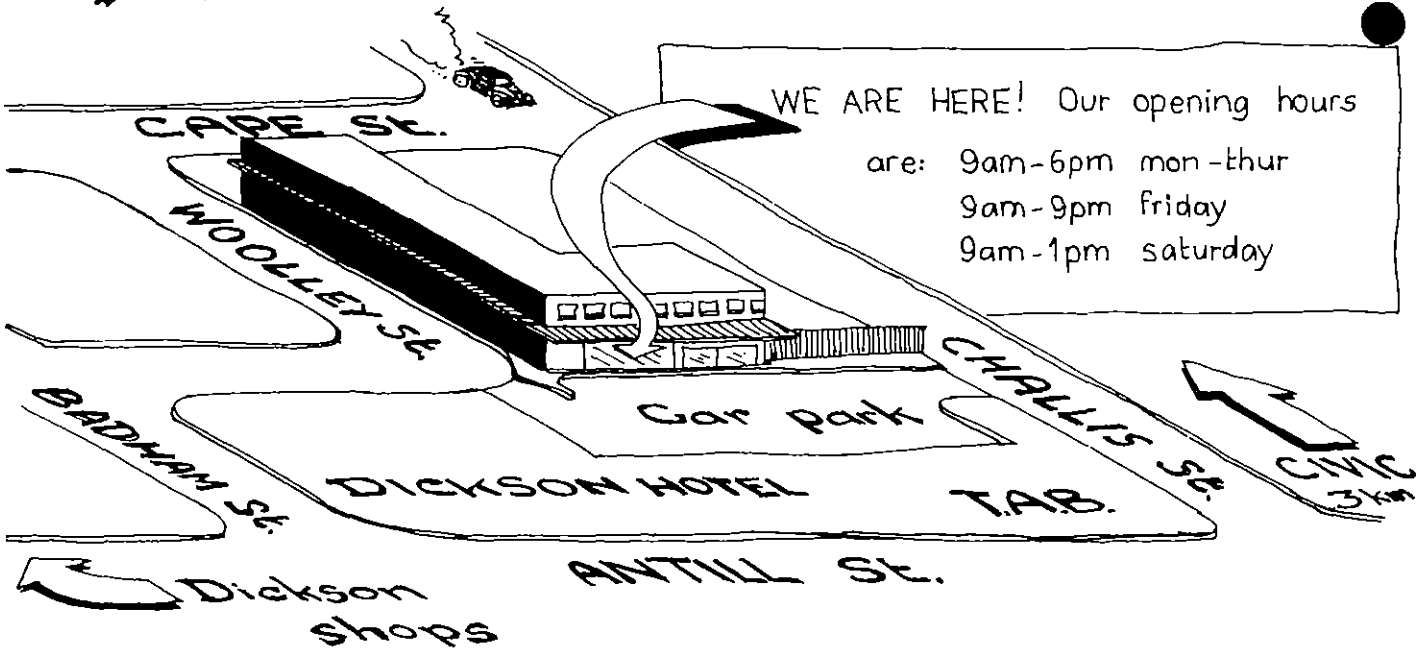


For



59 Woolley St, Dickson ACT 2602  
 Telex AA 62614  
 Telephone (062) 47 4899

.....and we'd be VERY UPSET if you didn't drop in to show us the photos of your trip when you return home!!



If the thought of being attacked by something that has recently been living on organic mud doesn't appeal, be glad you're not a duck. Many ducks, geese and other water birds are parasitised by leeches which infest their nostrils, eyes, or even enter the brain. Such aquatic leeches caused grievous suffering among Napoleon's army in Egypt. Leeches would lodge in soldiers' throats and nasal passages, causing coughing, bleeding, chest pains, loss of appetite and difficulty in swallowing and breathing. More obvious leeches were removed with forceps; others were dislodged by gargling a mixture of vinegar and salt water.

Gargling and forceps aside, leeches are pretty hard to kill. Some specimens have lived in captivity for 20 years, and modern leeches are able to dehydrochlorinate DDT to the metabolite DDE. Many thrive on organic pollution.

Nor is it easy to starve a leech, especially those of the blood-sucking variety—some can live for a year on one square meal. They do it by eliminating water from the blood they ingest, then storing it in intestinal sacs where hirudin prevents clotting and symbiotic bacteria prevent decay. (These symbiotic bacteria have given rise to the inaccurate notion that, like the termite, the leech lives on its intestinal flora rather than blood. While the bacteria *do* assist in breaking down the leech's food, blood is still its main meal.) The sacs are emptied, until the leech needs to feed again.

Naturally, this caused problems whenever a doctor wanted to use one of his leeches again— which, bearing in mind the high cost of leeches, was always—so a number of cruel and unusual methods were evolved to rid leeches of recent meals. One was to amputate the leech's rear end: blood would then flow out as quickly as it entered. Or you could squeeze the leech between finger and thumb until it disgorged its meal. The most humane method seems to have

Century leech-lover asked those who hacked or squeezed their charges how *they* would feel if given a violent emetic immediately after completing a hearty dinner.

For hundreds of years, leeches were reserved for wealthy patients—those who could pay to avoid rusty scalpels and primitive hygiene (leeches aren't noted as transmitters of disease, which is one point in their favour). But they became so popular a remedy that the public came to refer to doctors as leeches, and leeches were used for any and all ailments: behind the ears for teething pain, half a dozen on each temple for a cold, a band of leeches around the head for gout, or 20 to 30 on the pit of the stomach for indigestion.

In France, centre of the European leech trade, the price of leeches increased sixteenfold—by 1500 per cent—in the first half of the 19th Century. In Russia, over-harvesting became so severe that game laws were introduced in 1848: a closed season and a size limit for export-quality leeches. In England, Spain, Portugal, Italy and Bohemia, the medicinal leech *Hirudo medicinalis* became an endangered species: it was about this time Wordsworth met an old, crippled leech gatherer who complained to him that leeching wasn't what it used to be, and inspired the poem "Resolution and Independence."

Today, few doctors use medicinal leeches in everyday practice. Scientific institutions are occasionally asked where leeches can be obtained for curing black eyes and (now rarely) from those who cling to the belief that leeches can help treat epilepsy. Still, the little suckers haven't disappeared from medicine entirely. They are being used in Europe and America as adjuncts to microsurgery. When surgeons cannot re-connect some of the delicate veins in a severed fingertip, blood can accumulate beneath the nail and cut off circulation, with the risk of gangrene. Microsurgery patients are now offered leeches to

also sometimes used by plastic surgeons, where clotting or congestion jeopardise the success of an operation.

So, the next time you discover an unwelcome visitor in your shoe reflect, before you tear it off, on its sterling qualities: its benefit to humanity, its parental devotion—even the sheer artistry of its feeding. You didn't feel it bite because its three, Y-shaped sets of 'teeth', acting like a tiny circular saw, cut your skin so cleanly. You didn't feel it feeding because it secretes a mild anaesthetic as it cuts, and its anti-coagulant stops the loss of blood from being detected. After all, it doesn't drink much blood; it drinks less, in fact, than your body replaces each day.

Perhaps it's a forlorn hope that Australia will soon be filled with eager hirudophiles, patiently wading streams and smiling as their blood is drained. Many people are unconvinced, and for them we offer some anti-leech treatments. Bushmen use ordinary laundry soap (lathered thickly on likely spots and allowed to dry), mild carbolic or eucalyptus oil. The United States Army advises a mixture of three parts of N-butylacetanilide, three parts of 2 butyl-2 ethyl-1,3 propanedial, three parts of benzyl benzoate and one part of emulsifier, in which clothing is soaked. Apart from the difficulty in getting your tongue around its name, the mixture is ineffective after three or four washes, so eucalyptus oil may be a better bet.

I don't know, yet, if I've arrived: if I can genuinely look on a leech as a brother. But I'll know the feeling. It will be along the lines of Wordsworth's ancient leech-gatherer:

*He with a smile did then his words repeat;*

*And said that, gathering leeches far and wide*

*He travelled; stirring thus about his feet*

*The waters of the pools where they abide.*

*"Once I could meet with them on every side;*

*But they have dwindled long with slow decay;*

*Yet still I persevere, and find them where I may."*

° Reprinted by permission of *OUTDOORS* magazine, Winter 1983, pp 80-85.



been the simplest: a dab of vinegar on the head before the leech became too full. Such cruelty did not go unnoticed; one early 19th

keep minute blood vessels flowing: if they don't like the idea, they're told, "It's your finger—maybe leeches will save it." Leeches are

# Australian Heritage Commission under Review

30/11/1986

Today, the terms, 'National Estate', 'Heritage Commission' and 'Register of the National Estate' are household words in Australia but it is only in the last decade that this has come about. The Australian Heritage Commission (AHC) was established as a statutory body by the Australian Heritage Commission Act of 1975 following an enquiry into the National Estate conducted by Mr Justice Hope. Now, ten years on, the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Environment the Hon. Barry Cohen, MP, has set up a review to examine the operation of the AHC Act and administrative arrangements for the conservation of the National Estate. The National Parks Association of the ACT responded to the invitation for public submissions and following on from this was invited to send a representative to a seminar in November 1985 where an opportunity was provided for a wide range of views to be aired. The purpose of the seminar was to exchange and clarify ideas on the AHC rather than to achieve resolution of the issues involved. The results of the seminar will assist in the writing of a report which should be available for public comment between January and March 1986. Government consideration of the AHC Act will follow.

The major functions of the AHC are to advise the government on all matters related to the National Estate, the preparation of a Register of National Estate places and the development of policies and programs related to the National Estate in the areas of research, professional training, public interest and understanding and education. At the outset of the seminar the Minister gave the assurance that there will continue to be an Australian Heritage Commission, a position that was generally agreed upon, but apart from this and agreement on the need for additional funding for the Commission there were few areas where diverse viewpoints were not voiced. The main area of contention was centred on the Register of the National Estate with conservation interests generally arguing for the maintenance of the

status quo and development interests proposing a range of changes to the procedures involved in the Register.

The Commission itself set out to correct some common misunderstandings about the operation of the National Register. The Register is an inventory of places identified as having National Estate significance - a data base - and does not of itself prevent development of listed places. It does require *Commonwealth* ministers and agencies to ensure that places on the Register are not unnecessarily damaged and gives the Commission an opportunity to comment on proposed actions but these processes do not apply to state or local authorities. The act of listing a place on the Register does not determine its future use, rather, by providing advice on protection allows heritage values to be taken into account in parallel with other value inputs in decisions on use and development. These decisions continue to be made by the relevant authority. The Commission sees itself as an objective body, not the tool of any group; the present processes for listing on the Register allow it to decide listings on a detached and scientific basis related to heritage value and not on the use options. Many of the proposals to change procedures would, the Commission claims, detract from this position or make the processes less workable or more expensive.

During the seminar it was claimed that Register listing although not giving protection explicitly does give public support to protection and thus has a negative effect on development. The mining and forest interests challenged the criteria for inclusion in the Register and claimed that because of the breadth of inclusion many insignificant places are registered and in respect of natural resources the listing amounts to an ambit claim. Instead, it was argued, areas of special interest should be identified so as to improve the prospects of their being protected: the currency has been devalued by making ambit

claims. This situation was illustrated by reference to logging in Tasmania where natural areas listed by the AHC Act cover 51% of the state.

It was also argued that as determination of land use is primarily a matter for state and local authorities, listings should be subject to state or local authority concurrence. The Commission's response was that provision exists for state and regional comment on nominations and that giving states the power of veto would invite its use whenever there was a conflict between development and heritage significance. It would thus undermine the establishment of a comprehensive and objective register.

The listing procedure, it was claimed, provides insufficient protection for owners of listed properties, for example, individual notification of interested parties is not required, there is no provision for public enquiry into objections and there is no right of appeal to a minister. The Commission considers that the interim listing and other procedures provide, within the bounds of practicability, adequate notification of listing.

The proposal to refer listings for ministerial decision fails to recognise the separate roles of the AHC and ministers in conserving the National Estate. The Commission's role is to produce an inventory of places of heritage significance, not to consider those problems which may be involved in their conservation. Ministerial responsibility involves deciding whether or not places on the Register can be protected. To have ministerial decision on inclusion in the Register would interfere with the production of an objective inventory by injecting practical or political considerations into the selection process.

An important issue raised by the Minister and commented on by many speakers was whether or not entries on the Register should be graded. At present places are listed without grading, that is, there is no ordering by the degree of significance. The introduction of a graded system was advocated as providing

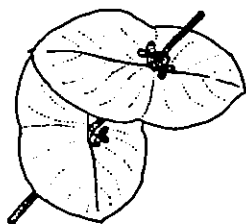
guidance and a greater degree of certainty for those considering development of a listed place. Grading at the time of registration would allow decisions to be made more objectively than under current arrangements whereby these issues frequently have to be decided at the time a development proposal is being considered and the whole matter is highly charged emotionally and politically. The Commission and speakers from conservation organisations opposed the introduction of a grading scheme drawing support from overseas experience and perceived problems. While accepting that all places in the Register are not of equal significance the Commission considered that these differences are best contained within the statement of significance for each place. Difficulties in formulating a grading system to cover the disparate members of the Register are foreseen and work on listings could be clogged by attempting to make decisions on grading.

There is a very grave risk that in a graded scheme only those listings of high ranking will be considered significant and those places with low ratings may be considered unimportant despite the fact that all listings reach or exceed the Commission's threshold for inclusion in the Register.

The seminar opened up many areas of contention concerning the AHC, only a few of them being discussed here but it is clear that many important issues will come up for resolution in early 1986. These matters are very significant for the continued effectiveness of the AHC and for the maintenance of heritage values in Australia. Those who appreciate the importance of conservation and the protection of heritage should take the opportunity for public comment on the review proposals to press for strengthening rather than diluting the existing Australian Heritage Commission Act.

° Seminar: Review of the Commonwealth Government's Role in the Conservation of the National Estate. Conducted by the Department of Arts, Heritage and Environment, Canberra 15-16 November 1985.

A number of seminar papers have been placed in NPA library.



### Pickings in the Park—Anon 1968°

*There is snowgrass in the Ranges  
There are pickings in the Park  
If you care to scorn the Rangers  
And go droving in the Park*

*For the feed is flush and fancy  
And the stock browse where they may  
On the clover and the rye grass  
Of the good old SMA.*

*Said a youthful press reporter  
To an old bloke on a horse  
"Would you like to make a comment?—  
There will be no names of course—*

*Is there much illegal grazing  
In the mountains here and such?"*

*"Well, I know the mountain country  
But I don't be up there much".*

*"Someone said you had some livestock  
Which were cut off by the snow  
On the slopes of Mt Jagungal  
Just a day or two ago."*

*"No, by cripes they weren't my bullocks  
That got covered in the snow  
And the cow who said they might be  
Is a scarlet So! and So!*

*"You don't want to take much notice  
Of these press reports and such  
I might know that bit of country  
But I don't be up there much.*

*It's reserved for native fauna  
And my bullocks all know that;  
They are law abiding cattle  
And they never leave the flat."*

*"But the rangers saw your cattle  
Not so far from Smiggins Holes."*

*"They weren't cattle that they saw  
They were brumby mares and foals.*

*Well now, lad, I'll have to leave you,  
I've some sheep to wig and crutch.  
Yes, I know that bit of country  
But I don't go up there much."*

*There is snow grass on the Ranges  
There are pickings in the Park  
If you care to scorn the rangers  
And go droving in the park*

*For the Minister is busy  
Sorting out affairs of State  
Such as making sure the Toll-charge  
Is collected at the gate.*

*And with closing mountain highways  
And with cats and dogs and such.  
He don't know that bit of country  
And he don't go up there much!!*

° Found by Ed Slater, CSIRO Wildlife Research Photographer 1981 in a clean-up. Published in NP&WS in-service journal about Oct 81.

## Another Successful Field Guide Walk

Joan Hegarty

It wasn't an auspicious beginning. We had stood around in the rain for an hour or so trying to arrange a future meeting to replace the one we had just about decided to cancel. Not quite though, we were still unwilling to leave. After all, we'd messed up the day anyway, hadn't we? The rain eased a little ... our eyes searched the skies and yes, there was a patch of blue sky.

Hours, and many identifications later, a drowsy, sun-soaked group of nine including the three authors of the Field Guide, sprawled upon a grassy bank, communing. During this interlude one of the authors was asked the name of a nearby steep, shapely, tree-covered feature. He called it 'Mt Sieberi', he said, after the stand of *Eucalyptus sieberi* with which it was crowned, but really it was unnamed. Maybe we'd have named other features but it was pretty hot ... and hard work trying not to see the male satin bowerbird busy in the trees close by. The bird didn't know that we were on a plant walk and eventually botanist Laurie relented and allowed us to watch it for a little while ...

Later at a pleasant spot near Smokers Gap, we saw, identified and discussed more eucalypts including a hybrid. A bit disconcerting, this, just when one seemed at last to be coming to grips with the key. It was also disconcerting to find numerous saplings of *E. stellulata* of various sizes, but no mature trees. H'mm.

We hadn't stuck to eucalypts of course and acacias, banksias, pomaderris and other trees, shrubs and vines were keyed out with equal enthusiasm, and while exploring a lovely little stream we discovered some diving beetles. They fascinated but eluded us until the Ormay hat was 'sacrificed' to be used as a scoop. It was appreciated by the rest of us as we examined the little, flat paddle-like legs of the water beetles through our hand lenses.

Altogether a very happy and relaxed, as well as informative outing. And it so very nearly didn't happen!



## WATERY WADBILLIGA

Charles Hill

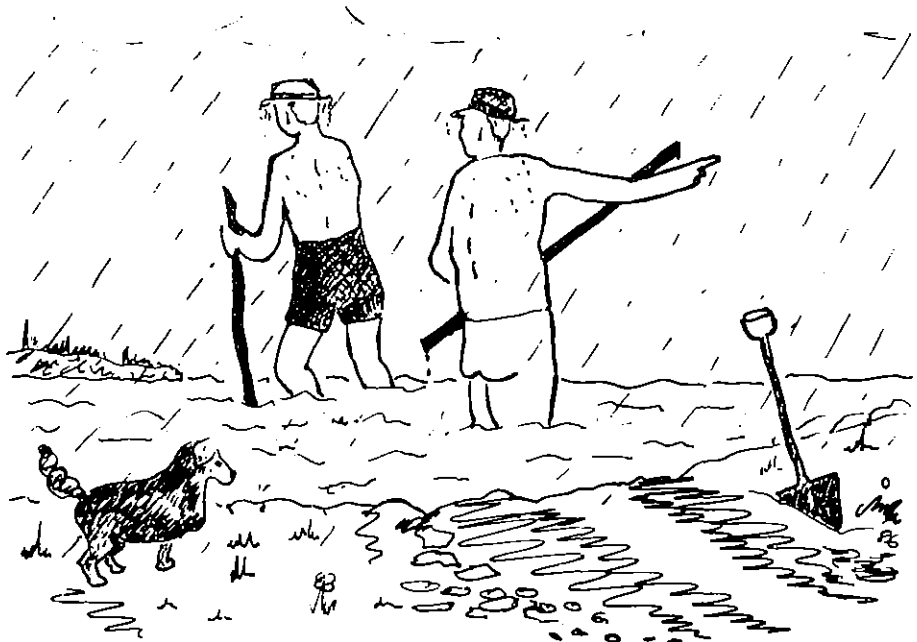
Our walking party in mid October was small – Reg Alder (leader), three visitors from Sydney Bushwalking Club and myself. We intended to backpack for two days around the headwaters of the Tuross River, then walk for a day in Big Badja area (Deua NP) and finally show the visitors the Big Hole near the Shoalhaven. Luckily we used two camper vans for transport. The vans crossed the Tuross River easily on Monday afternoon. As we headed east to our base campsite where the Razorback firetrail crosses Back River, it started to rain.

It rained all night and three of us were happy to cook and sleep in the campervans. Next morning it dawned wet and dismal with a changed weather forecast to match. We set off early to see what the ridge was like. After several kilometres we found out – driving heavier rain, cloud down and casuarina heath very wet. We continued on the fire trail for a few kilometres to see if we could get under and out of the weather but to no avail.

We therefore returned to camp and the pleasure of a cuppa and yarn in Reg's van which could comfortably seat us all. We should have departed at that stage. Down came the rain even heavier and Back River started to rise. By evening it was roaring. Next morning heavy rain still and, high over all the rocks, the River ran sullen, fast and ominously quiet.

In the afternoon the weather improved and we tried walking on the Kydra fire trail. Several flooded creeks were crossed and then we came to the Tuross several kilometres upstream from our original crossing. It was dangerously high as expected and we turned back. The following morning we returned in the vans along Razorback fire trail, crossing several flooded creeks rather gingerly. We approached the original Tuross crossing with keen interest. It had dropped from its peak of about 100m wide, but was still almost 1m deep and flowing very fast with breakers and troughs.

A small painted house not far away looked occupied and we walked/waded there and obtained permission to camp on some high ground alongside the fire trail. I



'We passed the time monitoring the River height ...'

counted six separate thunderstorms circling us that afternoon and some of them were depressingly thorough with light hail, heavy rain and wind.

We were there from Thursday morning until 11am Sunday. We were reminded of the risqué song about the old ladies locked in the lavatory except that in our case the water was definitely, if slowly, getting lower and lower!

Our hostess on the farm is a kind-hearted animal lover. She and her husband had bought the block when she had retired. He was working in Cooma/Sydney. Her companions in the house were eight dogs and two birds, all of which had some disability (blind, deaf, three legged, etc), and had been poorly treated or not wanted. She had worked for a vet and *Animal Welfare* in Sydney and would sometimes accept the challenge of caring for an unfortunate animal which appealed. You can imagine the uproarious welcome we got from this team whenever we visited!

As the river dropped we could see several 'drifts' of soft sand deposited across the crossing. It was also possible that the rocky bottom in the fastest current had been gouged out. So we borrowed shovels from the farm together with our own small ones, and set about making the crossing negotiable again. This was cold and uncomfortable work; it was not possible for the first couple of days to stand in the main current without some prop.

Luckily both Reg and myself had some additional food in our vans and also had bought medicants like muscat, fruit cake, nuts and sweet biscuits. However, as the fall rate of the River slowed we rationed ourselves. Our farm friend had little extra stock and like us had to cross the River to replenish. After working our way to the far bank on Saturday, we attempted to find a farm house and purchase some eggs from the civilised side. Not far from the river we saw a car approaching and welcomed it as an indicator of food. It stopped, a man got out, opened a satchel and offered Reg, the nearest, a copy of the *Watchtower*. It was refused more emphatically than politely. He enquired about the crossing and again received an emphatic answer. After a quick look at the rest of us, disguised as wet, partly clad ruffians, he quickly re-entered the car which retraced its rough and muddy way.

We did not find an occupied farmhouse and with a keen wind and dropping temperature, eventually returned to camp. Prospects of getting the vans through the River the next day looked good. Morale was further lifted by a slap-up meal that night as our hostess let us buy some eggs and tinned ham. Three cooks contributed to the repast.

There was not much scope for walking while we waited, as in every direction there were flooded creeks and rivers and every fold in the undulations produced a wading problem. We passed the time mon-

itoring the River height and rate of fall, grooming the crossing and rambling here and there. One morning we worked on the farm, mainly cutting away a large tree which had fallen on a fence and repairing the damage; I drew the job of cleaning up the cow shed and yards and replenishing the compost heap! We had regular cuppas and yarned at length about walking over the years and every other subject under the sun.

We carefully calculated the highest safe water level for the vans. On Sunday morning it was obvious that the river would not fall that far for another day or two. We cut a stick to the actual highest level of the water and used it to survey our vans for possible dangers. Reg's van had a front cross member well placed to throw water on to the fan. My van's fan was reasonably enclosed except for water coming through the radiator. Although some flotation force would be exerted by our partially empty water and petrol tanks, the water should do no

more than splash the underneath of the high floors. The current was still quite fast and the water would be above the doors' bottoms but there would be no real danger, we judged, of being pushed sideways. Reg took off his fan belt. I had some heavy plastic and jammed it over the lower part of the radiator with a green branchlet whittled to size. Reg fashioned a cavitation inducer out of a food tin and fixed it to his exhaust. Each of us attached two ropes and coiled them out of the way to avoid having to do this under water if our precautions failed. Down to the river again to chart the optimum route across.

There were a few minutes of anticlimax as we started the motors and attempted to move off. The brake linings, saturated from creek crossings on Thursday had frozen to the drums in the very low temperature overnight. However we were able to free them after several jerks. We drove back to the top of the low ridge to thoroughly warm the engines (Reg's nearly boiled

without a fan belt). Then we said goodbye to our farm hostess who had come to see us off and crossed without incident to the cheers of our passengers waiting on the far side.

Reg and I suggest that walkers and travellers who cross fords in their wanderings should work out a safe water height for their car, bearing in mind fan splash on the ignition system, flotation danger, damage by leakage through door seals and back pressure in the exhaust system. Cut a stick to show this height and keep it in the car. If you can't see the bottom of a crossing, wade through and test depth with the stick. A slow, steady pace in lowest gear is needed to reduce bowwave buildup but at the same time keep engine RPM high enough to blow water out of exhaust. And remember of course, that drum brakes will need drying out by cautious and prolonged light pressure before they become efficient again.



## BILLY BILLY ROCKS

*Robert Story*

It was drizzling from a lowering sky and the forecast was for continuing rain - accurate, as it happened. Graham Guttridge and Dianne Thompson were the only two with me who ventured out. We parked at the usual place at Smokers Gap but avoided the route given in the Canberra Bushwalking Club *Bushwalking Near Canberra*, which is beset with a criss-cross of fallen trees. Instead we went north by a little east along a swampy valley which gave pleasant walking in spite of being awash on the way out and in rivers on our return. The open leads were bright with flowers, freshly washed and looking welcoming against the green - that is, where the pigs had left any. A mob of our more prestigious vermin that took off in a shower of spray has obviously been raising the fertility of those soils. Although this route involves several changes of direction and goes through fairly dense forest, it can be done from natural features in clear weather; as it was, the mist and rain cut visibility to a little over a hundred yards and it

was compass all the way, and knee-high scrub and windfalls made it one of those outings that are nicer to have done than to do. Navigation is a little tricky, for you have to know where to change direction. On the map it looks easy - the changes are marked by prominent hillocks which are in turn marked by outcrops of immense granite boulders. The trouble is that there are other slightly lower outcrops which don't show on the map or on the aerial photos from which the maps are made, because they are below the forest canopy. Cartographers know this as 'soft ground'. It can hide a variety of nasties which are to be found only through field checks. I was looking for a particular outcrop, but one outcrop is very like another at the best of times and in drenching mist they are identical. It was a case of hunt and peck until we found it. I would not have been game to do the last kilometre without that marker.

Billy Billy loomed up at close range. In several places we swarmed half way up, only to retire baffled. I was pointing out that I had contracted to lead them to Billy Billy and not *on* to Billy Billy when Dianne told me that the negotiable route

was on the other side... It was, and it also gave us our one-and-only view, a glimpse of the open flats of Tidbinbilla through a rift in the mists, then they came down again and hard upon that so did the rain, in buckets, changing things from tricky to dangerous. We lowered ourselves into the shelter of a jumbled recess among the boulders, the rain kept on until our sandwiches were done and then eased a little for the return journey along the way we had come. Or nearly along the way we had come - I overshot the last directional change and gave my sodden party ten quite unnecessary minutes of discomfort before landing them on the banks of a creek which was flowing north instead of south and towards the car. So, get the bearing of the flow, reconcile it with the map, establish our position, establish the bearing we need, and five minutes' bee-line brought us to the valley with the car at the end of it. By four we were home and thoroughly hosed.

This is an enjoyable day walk in good weather, with an optional destination short of the rocks themselves and with the perennial Billy Billy Creek five minutes away. In places the route is scrubby and a

little rough, but even, so, two hours' leisurely walking would do the trick. It would be an easy pack walk with overnight accommodation at either destination. Careful navigation is needed to keep it easy, not that there is any danger of failing to get out, because you have only to continue south to strike the Smokers Gap road, but that way is unpleasantly rough and in rain the logs are slippery. It would be easy to break a leg and difficult to find you.

A word about Goretex wet-weather gear. The parka is tops. It 'breathes' yet is completely waterproof - to the extent of allowing you to carry out nearly two pints of water in the pockets if you neglect to close the flaps properly. The overpants (mine anyway) were another matter. Perhaps to cope with streaming knee-high scrub is a bit much for any material, but I suspect it was the full-length zips down each leg that let the water in. They can be sealed over with strips of Goretex and Velcro, but before going to that expense I will make sure that it is the zips that are at fault.

I will lead that trip again some time, come then and see that area for yourself.

## WHERE ARE BLACK SPRINGS?

Vern Routley

Maps are usually right but not always.

The Tidbinbilla 1:25,000 map shows Black Springs on the Cotter River just below Fishing Gap.

A couple of years ago I was in a party, led by Eric Pickering, which went down to the area and unsuccessfully searched for them. About a year later on a walk to Mount Domain I happened to mention the unsuccessful search to Lyall Mark, who admitted that he too had sought and not found Black Springs. He also said that he had been told by an old identity that the map was wrong and that Black Springs were in fact a kilometre further downstream.

On the basis of this information I agreed to lead an exploratory walk in search of them for the Family Bushwalkers. I had suggested summer or autumn as the most suitable time as either the stream flow would be low or, if not, the weather would be hot enough for walking in water to be reasonably pleasant. In the event the trip was scheduled for Sunday, 13 October

last year and, given the coolness of the weather, a fair amount of scrub bashing was called for to avoid wet feet.

In any case about three quarters of a kilometre downstream from where Black Springs appears on the map the Cotter turns sharply west. At this point there is a substantial rock face from which water was seeping giving both the rock itself and the stream below a markedly black appearance. Both the appearance of the rockface and the direction of the river flow are quite similar to that on the upstream side of the promontory on which the words Black Springs presently appear on the map.

At this putative site of Black Springs there are two other features of interest. First at the upstream end of the rockface there is an opening which extends inwards for about two metres and from the ceiling of which water could be observed to be dripping. Second about a hundred metres upstream there is a smaller sloping rockface from which water was also seeping in half a dozen places, at heights varying from a metre to a quarter of a metre above the stream level, and which also had the effect of colouring the rockface black.

A further trip to the area in late autumn, or whenever the river level was at its seasonal low, would probably be necessary to confirm these observations. Incidentally Ray Franzi who scouted ahead for a further kilometre and a half downstream found no other feature which would even remotely justify the appellation of Black Springs.

**SCOUT  
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# MAPS

Canberra's largest range of maps are available at the Scout Outdoor Centre including TOURIST MAPS covering the North-East and South-East areas of NSW. If you are a traveller and enjoy the odd spot of fishing and sight-seeing, these maps are ideal for you. They contain information on accommodation, main highways, minor roads, fishing areas (fresh and seal) and historical points of interest.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS show the natural features of the earth's surface such as the rivers, rapids, vegetation and forests. They also include buildings, roads and tracks and shire and park boundaries. For outdoor enthusiasts who like bushwalking, canoeing or rock climbing, maps such as these are available.

## SPECIAL OFFER FOR NPA MEMBERS

When you produce this advertisement at the Scout Outdoor Centre you will receive a

**10% DISCOUNT**  
on all camping goods including our large range of maps.

# CAMPING SPECIALISTS

## NEW MEMBERS

The following new members are welcomed to the Association:

Kay BAILEY, Queanbeyan; Ursula CALLUS, Higgins; Jack and Jan DOYLE, Weetangera; Barry and Kay DWYER, Holt; Mary HOFFMAN, Woden; Ian and Anne HUTTON, Kambah; B. M. LAYTON, Lyons; M. LYNCH, Hughes; Nicholas and Pat MILAN, Rivett; Janice PFISTER, Towradgi; F. SOUTBERG, Burra; W. STEELE, Watson.



## Community Activities

In the coming months the NPA will participate in two annual community events — the **Environment Fair** on 2 March and **Heritage Week** from 12 to 20 April.

The **Environment Fair** is being jointly organized by the Conservation Council of the South-East Region and Canberra and the Environment Centre and will be held at Weston Park, Yarralumla from 12 – 5 pm. It will allow environmentally conscious groups and individuals to publicize their concerns and raise funds in a harmonious lakeside setting.

Among the organisations participating this year are the Wilderness Society, Australian Conservation Foundation (Molonglo Chapter) Canberra Bushwalkers, Pedal Power, Canberra Program for Peace and Greening Australia. A number of commercial bushgear outlets including Wild Country and Paddy Pallin will give demonstrations of equipment and offer merchandise for sale. Food stalls will be provided and an entertainment program featuring buskers, children's games and live music has been arranged. The Publicity and Education sub-committee is currently preparing a small display to promote the NPA and its activities at the Fair. Hope to see you there!

**Heritage Week** is another community event which the NPA strongly supports. In the ACT, Heritage Week is co-ordinated by a steering committee which comprises representatives from the Canberra and South-East Region Environment Centre, Canberra and District Historical Society, National Parks Association of the ACT, Canberra Archaeological Society, National Trust, Canberra Railway Historical Society and the Department of Territories. Funding is provided by the Department of Territories through its Heritage Grants program. The steering committee has been meeting regularly since August last year to develop an informative and entertaining program of events in conjunction with local community groups, educational institutions and government bodies. As in past years a wide range of activities including guided bus tours, bushwalks, lectures, photographic displays, art competitions, colonial balls, marches, craft demonstrations, auctions, concerts, film screenings and open days are planned. A detailed program will be available in late March.

As part of its contribution to Heritage Week the NPA has joined forces with the Canberra Archaeological Society to promote the prehistory and early pastoral heritage of the local region. The NPA

has scheduled several outings to local aboriginal sites during the week and members of the Archaeological Society will accompany walkers and explain the significance of the sites to them. In addition, a representative of the Archaeological Society will give an illustrated talk about the conservation and management of cultural sites at the April General Meeting of the Association.

Another joint venture planned in conjunction with the National Trust of the ACT is a Heritage Week poster competition. The competition is designed to promote environmental awareness among school children and is open to both primary and secondary school students. Further details about the competition are available from your nearest school or any member of the committee.

In addition to these activities the NPA will provide guest speakers to service clubs and school groups as part of Heritage Week's education program, and participate in the annual exhibition at Albert Hall.

If you would like more information about the Environment Fair and Heritage Week or would like to become involved in the Association's promotional activities please contact the Secretary, Anne Robertson, on 82 1141 (h) or 72 4534 (w).

## HABITAT RESEARCH

*Charles Hill*

Whilst on a walk in Wadbilliga National Park, we camped near two researchers from CSIRO. They were working on a project concerned with animal and bird populations which dwell in trees. This was requested by the Forestry Commission which wanted to ascertain which forest areas supported a large population of birds and animals, which did not and why the difference. Logging programs hopefully could then avoid the rich habitat areas.

The area was marked with colour coded, numbered iron stakes so that individual trees could be located again for identification and analysis. Birds were identified mainly by calls in the early morning and late afternoon; possums and

gliders were spotlighted at night. One of the researchers offered to take us spotlighting that night and two of us braved the rain with him.



*Feathertail glider.*

We saw three great gliders, one of them close up.

A wet night is poor for spotlighting quite apart from personal comfort. One disability is that some of the wet leaves reflect the spotlight and it is difficult to detect a reflection from animal eyes in the midst of many leaf reflections. Another is that gliders and possums like foraging in the rain as little as we do; further, wet heavy fur affects aerodynamic qualities and is not the best for gliding!

We were told that results had shown that the population in the trees is largely influenced by the availability of nutrients in the soil which are taken up by the trees and passed on to the benefit of inhabitants either directly or indirectly. Where we were camped has a good supply of nutrients and life in the trees is relatively numerous.

# Eden Woodchipping – A Review

Debbie Quarmby

The forests of south-eastern NSW have been exported as woodchips from Twofold Bay, near Eden, since 1969. With the current export licence expiring in 1989, the industry is undergoing a review as it seeks to extend its export licence.

In February 1985, members of a number of NSW conservation groups met to discuss the issue of Eden's export woodchip operation.

It became apparent at that meeting that information relevant to the issue was widely scattered in the form of papers and reports. There has been no comprehensive critique of Eden woodchipping since the Routleys' *Fight for the Forests*, written in the early 1970s.

Kevin Frawley, NPA's representative at the meeting, consequently applied to the Department of Arts, Heritage and Environment to fund a compilation of existing knowledge on environmental, economic and social aspects of the Eden woodchip operation.

The Department, by granting \$4,000 for the project, consequently funded the report *Eden Woodchipping – A Review*.

In compiling the report I looked into aspects of Eden woodchipping such as the industry's history, environmental effects, economic and social implications, as well as its legislative and political context. The short duration of the project did, however, impose limitations on the amount of detail covered in the report.

The export woodchip operation based at Eden was set up under the Askin Government in the late 1960s. There was no formal avenue for public involvement in the decision which was, basically, a business negotiation between Japanese paper manufacturing interests and NSW Government representatives. It was a business negotiation that implicated the use of over 2,000 sq. km. of public forested land.

Initially, the company conducting the operation was partly Australian owned. Harris Holdings (Aust) owned 51% of shares; Daishowa Paper Manufacturers (Japan) owning the remaining 49%. In 1971,

Harris Holdings sold its equity. Since then the company has been 100% Japanese owned; 62.5% by Daishowa Paper Manufacturers and 37.5% by the Japanese trading giant, C. Itoh.

Business interests are seldom synonymous with those of the environment. In doing its best for its shareholders, Daishowa does not necessarily have Australia's interests high on its list of priorities.

The pulp and paper manufacturing facilities talked of at the time of the woodchip industry's inception have not been established in south-eastern Australia. From the perspective of the Japanese, they are better off where they have already been built: in Japan. It is the pulp and paper manufacturing end of the process where the greatest profits are gained and employment provided.

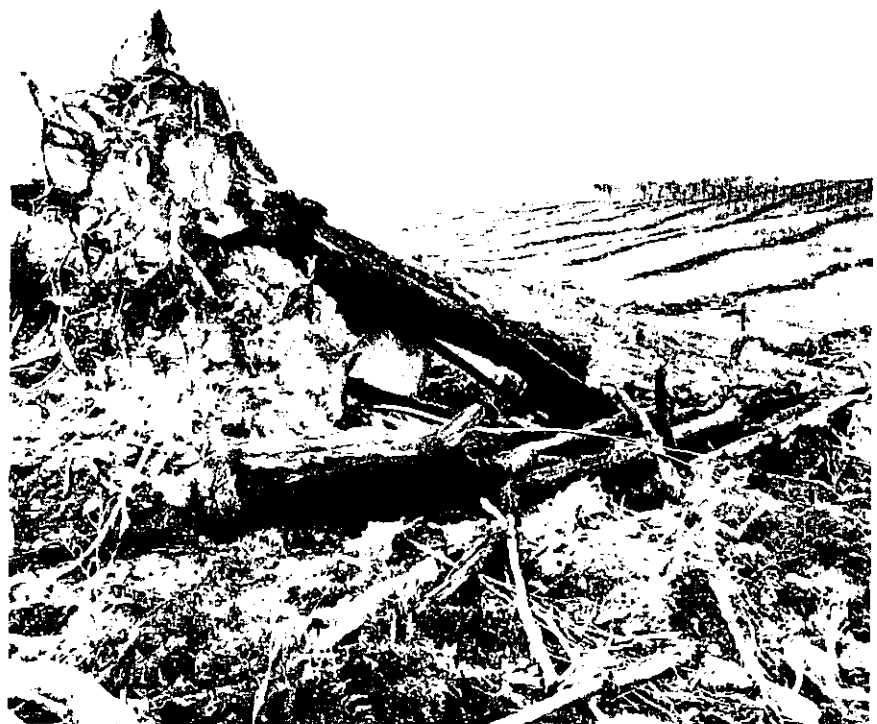
A host of environmental problems is associated with woodchipping operations, and Eden is no exception. The basis for many of the prob-

lems is explained by the low value of woodchips:

The relatively low value wood from pulpwood logging cannot stand the same level of costs associated with applying environmental constraints as can sawlogs. For export woodchips, with a low level of domestic processing, the exported cost is particularly sensitive to logging costs. If pulpwood or export chipwood logging operations are to continue, some lowering of environmental standards must be accepted.<sup>1</sup>

Concern about the environmental effects of woodchipping can, to a large extent, be interpreted as concern about effects of clearfelling; the logging regime involved in a woodchip operation. Clearfelling involves the removal of most trees and other vegetation, leaving the ground vulnerable to the problem of erosion. Animal habitat is destroyed, threatening the viability of many bird and mammal populations. Species dependent on tree hollows are particularly at risk.

The intensive regime of clearfelling, burning and thick, 'wheatfield', regeneration, results in problems, in the Eden area, of water catchment degradation and increased



Coolangubra State Forest (1974). Clearing a native forest.

Photo by Colin Totterdell.

fire risk. These problems are serious in an area that has unreliable rainfall and inherently high fire danger.

National parks and reserves in south-eastern NSW are inadequate to serve a conservation function. This applies particularly to the rich tableland forests, where the few small reserves there are represent isolated rocky outcrops the woodchip industry didn't want when 'negotiating' its concession in the late 1960s. The tableland forests so poorly represented in reserves are particularly valuable sources of wildlife habitat.

Documents such as this, prepared by the proponents, serve little more than a public relations or lobbying function.

Nevertheless, the EIS process is insitutionalised, and the conservation movement has little choice but to respond to the documents.

*Eden Woodchipping - A Review* will help identify some of the information needed to participate in the review of Daishowa's export licence. The process of compiling the report also served to identify some of the areas where more information, and original research, is needed.

The report, which takes the form of an annotated bibliography, reflects, principally, an environmental viewpoint. One reason for this was the difficulty I faced gaining the co-operation of the Forestry Commission. I did not attempt to represent Daishowa's arguments, since these will be circulated, with the backing of far greater financial resources than the conservation movement would ever hope to have at its disposal, through the EIS process and other publicity.

As explained in the author's preface:

The relatively low value wood from pulpwood logging cannot stand the same level of costs associated with applying environmental constraints as can sawlogs. For export woodchips, with a low level of domestic processing, the exported cost is particularly sensitive to logging costs. If pulpwood or export chipwood logging operations are to continue, some lowering of environmental standards must be accepted<sup>1</sup>.

I do not claim the emphasis on arguments presented in this report to be completely objective.

Any work is influenced by the value system of its author. Complete objectivity cannot be achieved through one source, but only through the expression of differing views. This report on Eden woodchipping is a compilation of some of the views within the field of debate.

The report is influenced, to some extent, by the author's belief that ecological considerations should weigh heavily in land-use determination and in the role of community involvement in decision making involving public land. It also reflects a belief that public land use decisions such as that involving the Eden woodchip operation are ultimately social and political decisions.

#### Footnote:

1. WELLS, G.C. (1984). *Hardwood logging in Australia - Problems and Promises* (p.103). Reprint of papers from 10th Triennial Conference of the Institute of Foresters; O'Shaughnessy, P.J. et al (ed).



## WHO ARE GREENING AUSTRALIA

Wendy Cormack<sup>o</sup>

Greening Australia ACT Incorporated is a community organisation working to increase awareness of the importance of trees to Australia in the prevention of soil erosion and salination, protection of water catchments, provision of shade and windbreaks for human amenity and protection of stock, provision of wildlife habitat, amelioration of the climate, purification of the air, beautification of the visual environment and the sustainment of a high productive capacity in our primary industries.

Affiliated bodies exist in each of the states and the Northern Territory. Membership in the ACT

presently stands at around two hundred individuals, families and groups. Greening Australia welcomes community participation in its efforts to preserve and extend Australia's tree resources.

Our national objectives are to:

- Promote rural and urban re-forestation programs. To encourage, promote and undertake tree-planting projects and develop projects for sponsorship.
- Create an improved urban environment in cities and towns throughout Australia by planting more trees and plants.
- Support tree planting in rural Australia to decrease desertification, improve soil quality, decrease soil erosion, provide more productive and economic primary industries, decrease salination, promote improved natural resource management, and water resources through tree planting.
- Promote the link between conservation and development especially in rural Australia.
- Promote a better understanding

- Promote the improvement of Australia's productivity through better land use management techniques involving trees.
- Increase support for interconnected conservation of our soil of trees as a renewable natural resource.
- Promote an increased awareness and participation by schools and other groups in the community in practical environmental education.
- Increase business and industry awareness of, support of and participation in tree projects.
- Undertake and encourage further research on technical matters. To publish and distribute technical information as widely as possible and encourage others to do so.

Greening Australia ACT will be pursuing the following projects in 1986:

**Rural Roadside Planting Project**  
This project is aimed specifically at reversing the decline of trees in the rural environment. Large clumps of native trees and shrubs are being

planted in road reserves at strategic locations within the ACT. Besides helping to restore locally depleted tree cover, with all the associated environmental and economic benefits, these plantings will provide a source of seed for future natural regeneration. Priority is given to sites already degraded through soil loss.

During 1984, nearly 2000 trees were planted along Paddys River Road. The results to date are encouraging with high survival rates.

Plantings in 1985 were concentrated on Uriarra Road. Presently there are even fewer existing trees along this road than in the Paddys River Valley. If you would like to make a positive contribution towards correcting rural tree decline, please let us know and join in.

#### Schools Nursery Scheme

Sixty schools in the ACT are presently participating in Greening Australia's Schools Nursery Scheme. The scheme aims to involve students in the growing of native trees and shrubs, which can then be planted out in the local area or made available for worthwhile community projects. In this way, children learn to appreciate trees, and develop a sense of community responsibility.

#### Models for 2088

With the Bicentennial approaching in 1988, Greening Australia is looking to identify now those rural properties, or portions of properties, which are good models for the third century of intensive land use in Australia. We believe that land management for permanent and increasing productivity will entail the establishment and regeneration of many more trees in farming areas. Planning of our 'Models for 2088' project is still in the early stages, but we have in mind assistance to landholders with design, as well as regional competitions offering prizes, documentation and publicity for the winning farms. The Committee welcomes nomination of participating farms and comments on the project.

Wendy Cormack is the Co-Ordinator of Greening Australia ACT and can be contacted on 46 2509, or write to PO Box 650, Civic Square, 2608, if you would like to know more about this organisation. Inquiries and new members are always welcome.

### Pine Plantations — An Ecologically Unstable Enterprise

Chris Watson

In the ACT there are some 15,000 ha of conifer plantations, all publicly owned. Almost all of the plantings (92%) comprise one species, *Pinus radiata*.<sup>1</sup> Thus, we have a virtual monoculture which makes the plantations highly vulnerable to pests and diseases. Although the ACT acreage is only small when compared to the combined plantings of the States — totalling more than half a million hectares — the fact that plantings of the same species are widespread over much of south-eastern Australia makes the whole operation very susceptible to the inevitable infections. Biological diversity is a key conservation principle that is only ignored at our peril.

*Pinus* also suffers from other disadvantages; unlike many native species, pines do not regenerate after fire. Also, there is the likelihood that the whole operation is degrading the soil resource.

The plantations on the steeper slopes of the Brindabellas are of particular concern. One shudders to think of the probable soil degradation that occurred following the initial clearing of the native forests on these slopes. Today, the biggest soil loss is likely to come in the early stages of the second planting when vegetational cover is poor and from badly maintained logging tracks. General changes in the soil profile could be insidious in the longer term. Fertiliser application is now becoming the rule and this could result in groundwater and stream pollution. In fact the whole basis of plantation management is very dependent on fossil energy and fertiliser. The operation is increasingly mechanised and the harvesting process uses large quantities of fuel. This reliance on non renewable inputs makes a mockery of the concept of sustained yield!

So we can see that the pine plantation enterprise is ecologically unsound, and unsustainable in the long term. This fact is recognised by the Australian Conservation Foundation's Forest Policy,<sup>2</sup> which says that 'monocultural forest and plantation management practices increase the rise of biological instability'. It calls for the regeneration

and retention of ecologically sustainable forest and mixed tree systems and says that 'existing monocultural plantations should, on maturity, be replaced with more ecologically sound mixed systems'.

Well, what are the implications for the ACT? As the plantations are under the control of the Department of Territories, we should make our views known to the local politicians and the Minister for Territories. Foresters in the Department as well as in CSIRO and ANU should also be contacted. I feel that the plantations on the higher slopes, where erosion hazard is greater and also in view of Canberra, should be replanted with appropriate native species and allowed to revert to catchment protection forest in perpetuity. On the lower slopes, a range of mixed species, preferably native, should be planted for various uses such as timber for houses, furniture, heating, etc. There is already available much information on various species. Ken Eldridge<sup>3</sup> points out that some 30 arboreta have been established in the ACT over the last 70 years. Currently the Department is beginning to experiment with mixed plantings — so hopefully a mixed plantation policy can be implemented as soon as possible.

The existing Departmental forestry philosophy, as depicted in a recent review of forestry operations,<sup>1</sup> is bankrupt in ecological terms. It is high time that more enlightened policies prevail.

1. *Forestry Operations in the ACT. A Review of the Technical and Economic Aspects of the Government Forestry Undertaking (1983)*, J.G. Groome and Associates for Department of Territories, ACT
2. *Forestry in Australia (1983)*, Australian Conservation Foundation Policy Statement No. 36
3. *Arboreta in the Brindabellas (1985)*, Ken Eldridge, *NPA Bulletin*, September 1985, p.7



## Constitutional Amendments

The Committee recently completed a review of the NPA Constitution. The review recommends a number of amendments to correct anomalies and improve the operation and administration of the Association. The Committee endorses the amendments and asks members to support the motions to bring these changes into effect. The motions will be put to the April general meeting. Members can obtain copies of the Constitution from the NPA office.

The recommended changes are that:

- 1 Clause 3 para. 1 be amended by:  
(a) deleting Student Members from the list of membership categories.  
(b) changing 'Family Members' to 'Household Members' in the list of membership categories.
- 2 Clause 3 para.2 be deleted and replaced by:  
'Ordinary Members shall be individual members not included in one of the following categories.'
- 3 Clause 3 para.3 be deleted and replaced by:  
'Household membership shall cover not more than two adults living at the same address, and any dependent children, who shall be called Junior Members.'
- 4 Clause 3 para. 4 be deleted.
- 5 Clause 3 para.7 be deleted and replaced by:  
'Members are entitled to participate in all activities of the Association except that Junior Members shall not vote. Each adult Household Member shall have one vote.'
- 6 Clause 3 para. 8 be deleted and replaced by:  
'Members are entitled to receive one copy of each Bulletin, notice or report, except that Household Members shall receive only one copy of each Bulletin, notice or report per Household.'
- 7 Clause 4 para. 3 be deleted and replaced by:  
'The Committee may apply a concessional rate where special consideration is warranted.'
- 8 Clause 4 para. 4 be deleted and replaced by:  
'The annual subscription shall be due and payable on the 1st

July each year. Members joining between 1st January and 31st March shall pay half the subscription for the current year. Members joining between 1st April and 30th June shall pay the annual subscription which shall cover the period up to the end of the succeeding financial year.'

- 9 Clause 5 para. 2 be deleted and replaced by:  
'The Committee shall consist of: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, up to eight Committee members, and, if not elected to one of these positions the immediate Past President, ex-officio.'
- 10 Clause 5 para. 5 be deleted and replaced by:  
'A quorum for a Committee meeting shall be six members.'
- 11 Clause 7 introduction be amended to read:  
7. Voting (see also Clause 3. voting eligibility)
- 12 Clause 8 para. 1 be deleted and replaced by:  
'All money received for and on behalf of the Association shall be paid to the Association's accounts in such banks or other financial institutions approved by the Trustee Ordinance of the ACT as determined by the Committee.'



### Explanation for the proposed amendments

- 1 Student member is not really a membership category; students are one of a number of groups accorded Ordinary Membership at reduced rates (see Clause 4.3).  
The change from Family to Household Membership reflects the broader range of household arrangements found in the community and enables household groups other than families to take advantage of joint membership.
- 2 This change is consequent on 1. and ensures that any members accorded a concessional rate are

still Ordinary members.

- 3 This change is consequent on 1.; the definition of Household Membership is consistent with the former Family Membership as far as NPA costs and services are concerned.
- 4 This change is consequent on the deletion of Student Membership in 1.
- 5 This change is also consequent on the deletion of Student Membership in 1. and clarifies the meaning of Household Membership for voting purposes.
- 6 This change more clearly defines the entitlements to distribution of Bulletins etc.
- 7 This change allows the Committee more flexibility to set concessional rates where it is felt to be appropriate, whether for financial or any other reason.
- 8 The practice defined in 8. is already applied in an informal manner. The change will formalise this and provide a clearer description of members' financial obligations.
- 9 This change corrects an ambiguity in the former clause and proposes a number of changes to make the composition and operation of the Committee more flexible and effective. The definition of posts other than those proposed (ie the Executive) is not felt to provide the most effective method to fill any duties required. Internal appointments, where appropriate, are more flexible and enable changing needs and circumstances to be met more effectively.
- 10 When the Committee is operating with fewer than 12 members, as has been the case in some recent years, the requirement for a quorum of 7 often makes the regular Committee meetings difficult or impossible to organise and thus reduces the effectiveness of NPA's conservation activities.
- 11 Voting eligibility is defined in Clause 3 which should be read in conjunction with Clause 7.
- 12 This change widens the definition of financial organisations allowed for investment purposes while still providing adequate safeguards. This will allow the Treasurer to select the most appropriate form of investment to meet the current and future needs of the Association.



ACT Floral Emblem  
Royal Bluebell  
*Wahlenbergia gloriosa*

On 26 May, 1982, it was announced that the floral emblem for the ACT will be the Royal Bluebell, *Wahlenbergia gloriosa*.

The genus *Wahlenbergia*, which belongs to the family Campanulaceae, was named in honour of G.G. Wahlenberg (1780-1851), a Professor of Botany at Uppsala, Sweden, and the species name *gloriosa* is Latin meaning 'superb' or 'glorious'.

*Wahlenbergia gloriosa* is restricted in distribution to the high mountain areas of the ACT, south eastern NSW and eastern Victoria.

In cultivation it is a frost-hardy ground cover, flowering in Canberra from late October till February. It does best in light soil enriched by organic material, in a sunny or semi-shaded situation. The soil should be kept moist but not waterlogged.

It should be remembered that the Royal Bluebell is protected in the wild and should not be picked or collected.

## NPA Bulletin

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## GENERAL MEETINGS

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

### **MARCH — Thursday 20**

Halley's Comet is coming! Don't be left in the dark pondering the difference between conservatories and observatories, thermometers and chronometers, coronas and Corollas, supernovas and pavlovas. . . . come, be enlightened by *Mr Vince Ford*, a research officer at the Mt Stromlo and Siding Springs Observatory, as he takes us on a bushwalker's guide to the galaxy! Learn how to recognise the principal constellations and their changing position in the night sky, use star charts and navigate by the stars at this evening's illustrated talk.

### **APRIL — Thursday 17**

To mark Heritage Week 1986 the National Parks Association and the Canberra Archaeological Society have joined forces to promote the prehistory and early pastoral heritage of the ACT. At this evening's meeting a representative from the Archaeological Society will give an illustrated talk about the conservation and management of various significant sites in the local region. (Further information will be available in the official Heritage Week program published in late March).

### **MAY — Thursday 15**

One of the problematical management issues facing Namadgi National Park is the control of introduced animals and exotic plants. The ACT Parks and Conservation Service considers its highest priority in this regard is the effective control of feral pigs. Not only do these animals cause extensive ground and vegetation disturbance but they also pose a significant risk in the spread of exotic diseases. *Mr Jim Hone*, a Lecturer in Wildlife Management at the Canberra College of Advanced Education, has been monitoring the effectiveness of current control practices in Namadgi National Park for the ACT Parks and Conservation Service. At this evening's meeting he will discuss the scope of the feral pig problem and report on management options.