



# NPA Bulletin

National Parks Association of the A.C.T.

Vol. 23 No. 4

June 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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## Annual Subscription Rates (1 July - 30 June)

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months membership benefit)

## LOST

Three maps — Yaouk, Rendezvous Creek  
1:25,000 and Canberra 1:100,000. Left in  
kitchen of Huxley Lecture Theatre, ANU during  
the Alpine Conference on December 1, 1985.  
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Membership Enquiries welcome, please phone Laraine  
Frawley at the NPA office on 57 1063

## COVER

Looking across Swampy Plains from Sturgiss Mountain in  
the Budawangs.

Photo by Russ Kefford



DEADLINE DATES for NPA BULLETIN contributions:

15 October, 15 December, 15 April, 15 July

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

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# PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD

The final Plan of Management for Namadgi National Park will shortly be released and once again we can take pleasure in welcoming a document which incorporates a number of the points sought by this Association in its submission on the Draft Plan. Much of the credit for this belongs to Den Robin, our hard working nominee on the Consultative Committee. Thanks Den. It is encouraging to see that the Consultative Committee, which is something this Association fought for, is really working.

It is that time of the year again when we will be electing new committee members. The Association has a committee of up to 12 members which is assisted by seven permanent sub-committees each of which handles one aspect of our varied activities. The sub-committees are concerned with Namadgi National Park, Environmental issues outside Namadgi, Publicity and Education, Outings, Finance and Marketing, Bulletin production and our publication on Native Trees in the ACT. There is therefore plenty of scope for becoming involved in whichever aspect of our activities excites your interest. Think about where your interests and abilities lie, talk to present committee or sub-committee members about what is involved and then volunteer. Don't wait to be asked. You will find increased involvement in Association activities a rewarding experience.



## ENVIRONMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

*Kevin Frawley*

Almost all the papers from the **Alpine Conference** held late in 1985 have been received and are now being edited for publication. Is the tri-State Alpine Park any closer to reality? At the political level, the Victorian Alpine Park still remains in limbo with the legislation having passed the Lower House but remaining blocked by the Upper House. Co-operative management of a tri-State Alpine Park can only eventuate when there is tri-State reservation! At the departmental level meetings between the respective authorities continue, and we are informed that it is hoped to get the respective Ministers to sign a Memorandum of Understanding on co-operative management. This is the first substantial follow up to the commitment to co-operative management announced to coincide with the Alpine Conference.

**Jervis Bay** has become a focus of attention for the Environment Committee and a visit to the area was made recently. There are a range of issues in the area - most prominent being the proposed naval move to the southern shores of the Bay and the establishment of the Armaments Depot north of the

Bay. Both will involve substantial changes to Jervis Bay (breakwaters, jetties etc) and surrounding lands (urban development). The Nature Reserve does not include all of the Territory and visitors are often surprised to find that the popular Green Patch and nearby areas are only 'managed in sympathy' with the Reserve. Bowen Island has proved to be a continuing problem with lessees refusing to move and the Parks and Conservation Service having to take legal action to enforce their removal (the lease expired 31 December 1985 and the area has been declared part of the Reserve under the Nature Conservation Ordinance). Should NPA develop a policy on Jervis Bay rather than simply responding to development proposals? We would welcome members' views and involvement.

### Eden Woodchipping — A Review

Report by Debbie Quarmby —  
published by the National  
Parks Association, 1986.

This widely acclaimed report  
available for \$4.90 at the  
Association Office or \$6.00  
posted. Send your cheque  
now while stocks last.

## COMMITTEE NEWS

At each committee meeting Phil Gatenby provides a summary of publications received by the Association during the month and an interesting list it is. These publications are, of course, available to members from the Association office.

The Committee has accepted with regret the resignation of Mrs Kay Duggan as Office Secretary. Kay, as first occupant of the position made a substantial contribution to the NPA and takes our thanks and best wishes with her. We extend a warm welcome to the new Office Secretary, Mrs Laraine Frawley.

A good deal of committee time goes into consideration of the sub-committee reports which reflect much detailed study of issues and the broader base which the sub-committees cover. Other important matters considered recently include the placement of Association funds in suitable investments and the preparation of submissions for grants, a time consuming but important task. The ACT Community Development Fund through its Heritage Grants has assisted the operation of the Association for the past two years and the Committee looks for a continuation of this support.



## Bouquets

Dear Ross,

I would like to congratulate the NPA on the production of "Eden Woodchipping - A Review" by Debbie Quarmby.

The publication is most timely and will be key reference material for workers on the Eden issue. Already the staff of the NSW Minister for Natural Resources and the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment have requested copies and I anticipate the appropriate State and Commonwealth Departments will soon follow suit.

Hopefully access to such a wide range of material on the Eden issue may stimulate a more informed debate on the topic.

Thank you for initiating the publication. It will be widely used and appreciated.

*Joan Staples  
National Liaison Officer  
Australian Conservation Foundation*

Dear Dr Frawley,

Thank you for the copy of resolutions from the Conference of Australia's Alpine Areas: Management for Conservation held late last year.

I understand that this was a very successful conference and I note the resolutions arising from it.

The support shown for the proposed Australian Alps National Parks Agreement is appreciated and I assure you that this matter will be pursued in conjunction with the other parties to the proposed Agreement.

It is the intention of my Government to achieve the passage through Parliament of the legislation necessary to establish the Alpine National Park in Victoria.

In regard to the third resolution of your conference, I am pleased to say that planning for the existing alpine parks and adjacent areas has commenced with the planning team for this project being recruited at the present time. Also, steps are being taken to appoint up to six additional rangers for the alpine area.

# letters



I congratulate your association on holding such a valuable conference.

*Joan E. Kirner  
Victorian Minister for Conservation,  
Forests and Lands*

## Be Prepared . . .

Sir,

Following the excellent talk on 'Wellness while bushwalking' by Dr Bryan Furnass at the October meeting (printed in the March Bulletin) plus our surge in membership, perhaps it is time we re-printed an article on FIRST AID IN THE BUSH.

From experience, it is preferable that all individual members intending to join a day (or backpack) walk, should carry their OWN, small, basic first aid kit. I strongly advise against 'ready made up' kits, which are not really suitable. Better to make up your own from home, or easily purchased items from any chemist. These should be carried in a watertight container (tin or strong plastic), and should contain:

1. Small supply Band-aids (or strip dressing and small scissors).
2. Crepe bandage (and pin) approx 8cm (3ins) wide.
3. 'Kling' (cotton stretch) bandage 5 or 8cm (2/3ins) wide.
4. Triangular bandage (or clean, white cotton approx 127cm x 91 x 91cm)
5. Small and/or large antiseptic Sterilized dressing. (Melolin)
6. Small tube antiseptic cream (Savlon or similar).
7. Small quantity pain killer of preference (Aspirin or similar).

If desired, optional extras can be added, such as: Splinter tweezers, anti-histamine cream if allergic to

ant and other bites (Calistaflex). Caladryl (for sunburn) and any personal cream/tablets as necessary.

The above items are adequate for dealing with the 'small' injuries of cuts, bruises, grazes, sprains, blisters and so on. REMEMBER . . . apply a bandaid at the FIRST feeling of a sock or boot rubbing . . . do NOT DELAY!. For any 'major' injury, the best available items of more than one member may need to be called upon.



While most of the above are obvious in their use, I would like to stress the MANY uses of a triangular bandage.

- a) It can be folded into a narrow, medium or wide bandage for holding on a dressing.
- b) Can cover a WHOLE foot, hand or head.
- c) For broken limbs use as 'padding' on a bush splint (wide bark folded is excellent).
- d) Of course, a sling for any arm injury.
- e) Covering of a large area getting sunburnt . . . or already burnt.
- f) Alternatively, covering for lower face, head or neck in extreme cold . . . 80% of body heat is lost in these areas, causing hypothermia.
- g) Even wave it around on a stick if lost!



The only broken limb we have had in 25 years as an organisation, was a wrist - some 150 miles from Canberra. Even from a group of seven, we did NOT have enough crepe/triangular bandages to properly (and comfortably) pad a splint . . . which proved the need (a) for each person to carry the 'basic' and (b) how all supplies can be combined.

Many members are trained in First Aid, and carry a more comprehensive kit than above . . . don't hesitate to ask for help.

Report any serious injury to the Leader (if not there at the time) . . . so that decisions regarding the patient (and the group) can be decided upon, and carried out as quickly and efficiently as possible.

**SNAKE BITES**... are rare indeed, and treatment has altered **RAPIDLY** over the last few years. **DO NOT:** Suck, wash, cut, or apply narrow tourniquet. **DO ...** Keep calm and reassure patient, and immediately apply pressure just above the bite, then a firm, wide, bandage (as tight as for a sprain) from **ABOVE** the bite to well below, and back up again to above. (This would need at least two 4ins or 3ins crepe bandages depending on limb!) Immobilise the limb (if leg, tie to other) – or splint – and sling, improvise transport to keep patient as immobilised as practicable, and get to hospital as quickly as possible.

**NOTE:** ... none of the above (for snake bites) has been required over the 25 years that National Parkers of the ACT have roamed far and wide!

*Olive Buckman*

## Watery Wadbilliga



*Photo by Tim Coffey*

Dear Sir,

The sketch in Charles Hill's article 'Watery Wadbilliga' (NPA Bulletin March 1986) although representative of the problem of testing the depth of the swollen Tuross River, had some of the bare details missing. Three days later Charles' camper van, after swallowing a mouthful of the turbid waters in the deepest section managed to come up smiling.

*Reg Alder*

## Early Birds!

Sir,

Noted in the Perth-based Western Walking Clubs' journal: starting times for some of the summer day walks –

6am, 5.45am, 4.30am

If NPA ACT ever adopts such starting times, I know one leader whose services would not be available, daylight saving or no daylight saving, at these times!

*Frank Clements*

## Co-driver Wanted

Dear Sir,

Like to get away from it all? Queanbeyan photographer-writer Edward Stokes, 37, is looking for a co-driver, to help him retrace the transcontinental expeditions of John McDouall Stuart, for a book. Ed knows outback conditions well. He lived at Broken Hill for five years, and in 1984 spent three months retracing Sturt's expedition from the Darling River to the Simpson Desert. In 1985 he retraced Lasseter's expedition onto the edge of the Gibson Desert, for Dick Smith's *Australian Geographic*. If you are interested in coming as co-driver, between about late July to October 1986 on the Stuart trip, write with brief personal background and interests to: Ed Stokes, Box 1104, Queanbeyan, NSW 2620.

*Edward Stokes*



*Photo by Tim Coffey*

## Vehicles on Beaches: The Minister Replies

*Kevin Frawley*

Bob Carr (NSW Minister for Planning and Environment) has replied to NPA's representations regarding the use of vehicles on beaches. The following is an extract from that reply:

" During investigations leading to the development of the Recreation Vehicles Act, 1983, consideration was given to banning motor vehicles from beaches. However, since motor vehicles are used in these areas for a variety of legitimate purposes including rescue and boat launching the Government sought a more workable alternative. It was ultimately decided that local councils and other authorities which are responsible for the care, control and management of beaches should have the power to determine what use is made of the areas.

The Government is confident that the provisions of the Recreation Vehicles Act, which commenced on 1st October, 1985, will assist local authorities to overcome many of the problems presently caused by motor vehicles on beaches."

The new law declares *all private property and public land* not intended for motor vehicle use to be 'restricted land'. Restricted land, therefore, is any land except a public road or a declared Recreational Vehicle Area (RVA). If the occupier of restricted land or an authorized officer gives a direction not to drive on that land, it is an offence not to comply with that direction. The direction may be given verbally or in the form of a permanent notice. Penalties up to \$500 apply for breaches of the Act.

Further information on the Act may be obtained from the State Pollution Control Commission, 157 Liverpool Street, Sydney, 2000.



# Further Thoughts from an Over 25 Year Old

Syd Comfort

Readers will have found Alastair Morrison's article on the National Parks Association in the March Bulletin very stimulating, containing as it did both generous accolades and provoking proposals for the future of the Association. This response to the article is a personal one but reflects nearly two years' membership of the Association committee during which time many of the issues at question have been explored in one context or another.

I have identified three major proposals in the article which I take the liberty to summarise as:

- the Association should take a more active and vocal role in Territory matters and the Conservation Council particularly in the wake of 'self government';
- the Association should place greater emphasis on the protection of urban open spaces; and
- there is a need for the Association to increase its fees and to build up its funds.

The proposal for a more active and vocal role in Territory issues and common interest bodies contains, to my mind, two elements – what we do and how we do it. It involves greater concentration on local issues and doing our business in a more outspoken way through which the Association gains greater visibility. In the recent past the Association has directed a good deal of energy into Territory issues such as Namadgi, the Murrumbidgee Corridor, Ororral and the Cotter catchment. There may be the opportunity to direct more effort into these and kindred issues but where is this effort to come from? The Association may claim a membership of some 700 but only a small proportion of these are directly involved in preparing and projecting the Association's viewpoint on environmental matters. The establishment of a sub-committee system was an attempt to spread the net of involvement.

Perhaps there are many more members willing to become involved whom the committee has not yet reached, in which case the committee should look again at how it approaches members for this work.

I hope that this is the situation but responses to date tend to indicate that the number of members willing to work on environmental issues is quite limited and this in turn limits the areas that the Association can effectively address.

Another approach to achieving greater attention to local issues would be to re-direct some of the effort now devoted to broader issues: in the past few months, for example, the Association has made significant contributions in the areas of woodchipping and the management of Australia's alpine areas. The Association's objectives are broad and activities such as these fall within them. Furthermore, some members have particular interest in these matters and the Association provides an opportunity to bring those interested together in a productive way. With only limited resources available to the Association, there is a need to strike a balance between the demands of broad issues and local matters and amongst the various interests of members. In the future there may be a need to shift this balance and the Association should be responsive to any such need.

The proposal that the NPA be more vocal in its involvement in local issues brings into consideration the way in which the Associ-

ation operates, its style, as it were. I think that it is fair to say that the Association generally approaches issues by dealing with the authorities and organisations concerned rather than by pressing matters through public statements amplified by the media. I don't know that this style has been deliberately cultivated, rather, it has emerged as the way members normally go about things. Whether by adopting a higher profile the Association would be more successful is open to debate. However, I think that the point is well made that in the future, after "self-government", we may be operating in a different context in which a higher profile may be more appropriate. The Association should be alert to any such change and be prepared to respond so as to continue to be effective.

The extent to which the Association should be involved in urban planning matters is an issue not infrequently raised amongst members. Our charter commits the Association to the promotion of measures to protect the flora, fauna, scenery and natural features of the ACT and there is no doubt that some urban planning decisions impact on these. Members of longer standing will remember that the Association was very active at the time that the construction of the



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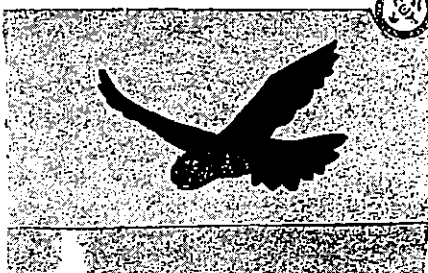
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Black Mountain Tower was being debated. But the Association is also committed to the promotion of national parks and the reservation of specific natural areas. So our involvement covers quite a wide range and the question again arises of how to allocate our limited resources. The practice of the Association has been to direct most of its attention to natural areas and generally to limit concern for urban areas to those situations where urban developments impinge directly on the preservation of natural areas. It may be argued that a large proportion of urban issues have some effect on natural features but the Association has generally directed attention to those which have a significant impact on natural features.

In the matter of subscription rates, it should be noted that the March General Meeting agreed to an increase in rates and this, together with the increases of two years ago, means that Association subscription rates have increased by nearly sixty per cent in three years. As suggested, many members could and would be willing to pay higher rates but there is a need to strike a level that is acceptable to the majority of members. To date, the Association's activities have not been seriously curtailed by lack of funds but if further needs are identified the raising of additional funds may be necessary. Generally, activities undertaken by the Association require inputs of both labour and finance and to the extent that our volunteer labour resources remain limited, so does the need for and ability to spend funds. Whilst always seeking to maintain a healthy financial position, it would be undesirable for our fund generation to run far ahead of our capacity to spend wisely.

It is certain that the NPA's second 25 years will be very different from its first. Debate of issues such as that initiated in 'After the Jubilee' is essential if the next 25 years is to be as successful as the last.



# ACT Heritage Week

Anne Robertson

Heritage Week is a community based festival held annually to promote an awareness of Australia's cultural and natural heritage and to encourage public participation in its conservation.

This year Heritage Week was celebrated from 12-20 April and in the ACT more than 60 events involving some 30 local community groups, educational institutions and government bodies were staged. It was the fifth time that Heritage Week had been observed in Canberra and organisers consider that this year's festival was the most successful to date. Much of the credit for the increased level of public interest and participation in the festival must be attributed to the generous support shown by the media, especially the *Canberra Times*, *Capital 7* and *Radio 2CN*. The involvement of these organisations ensured that the week maintained a high profile before the public eye.

This year, for the first time, the NPA teamed up with the National Trust and the Canberra Archaeological Society to present several joint activities during Heritage Week. The Student Poster Competition, conducted in conjunction with the National Trust, attracted a pleasing number of entries from both primary and secondary school students. The four selected winners Sean Davidson, Rochelle Hanson, Neil Flinn and Scott Sieverts received prizes donated by joint sponsors Swains and Daltons and a year's subscription to the National Trust and NPA.

During April, John Feint, Secretary of the Canberra Archaeological Society spoke to the Association

about the aboriginal occupation of Canberra and the south-east region. His talk was a prelude to two Heritage Week walks to local sites of Aboriginal significance. Both walks were co-hosted by members of the Archaeological Society who provided participants with informed

commentary about the localities visited. The outings were well attended with 52 participants on Saturday's walk to Yankee Hat and a staggering 92 enthusiasts on the trek to Nursery Creek. Fortunately the leaders withstood the strain of responsibility and declared both outings a success.

As in past years, the NPA staged a display at the Albert Hall exhibition. The display presented different facets of the Association to the community, illustrating its role as a lobby group, volunteer conservation corps and bushwalking club. The display also promoted the natural, pastoral and aboriginal heritage of Namadgi National Park, the recreational value of neighbouring national parks in southern NSW, and the proposed tri-state Alpine National Park system. After the Albert Hall exhibition, the Association's display was transferred to Belconnen Mall for the remainder of the week.

The publicity and education sub-committee would like to thank all members who assisted with the Association's Heritage Week activities. In particular, our thanks go to Sheila Kruse for judging the student poster competition, and to those intrepid leaders Charles Hill, Reg Alder, Dianne Thompson, Kevin Totterdell and Ian Haynes for bravely showing the way.

# Namadgi Management Plan to Provide for Bimberi Wilderness

Denise Robin

The Bimberi Wilderness area soon is to be a reality.

The Management Plan for Namadgi National Park to be launched in early June, subject to the approval of the Minister, will provide a wilderness area covering most of the Cotter, Gudgenby and Naas catchments.

It will be gazetted as a wilderness zone under the provisions of the ACT Nature Conservation Ordinance. Co-operative arrangements for management will be developed with the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service for adjoining lands of wilderness character. These adjoining lands include most of the Scabby Range Nature Reserve, part of Kosciusko National Park east and north of Cooleman Plain and the southern part of the recently dedicated Bimberi Nature Reserve.

The area will be known as the Bimberi Wilderness.

This news comes from a meeting of the Namadgi National Park Consultative Committee held in early April when the committee endorsed the necessary amendments to the Management Plan.

The draft plan had provided for a wilderness area only in the western part of what we knew as Gudgenby Nature Reserve and for the Upper Cotter Catchment area to be a 'wilderness management zone.'

The amendments were made after taking account of public comment on the issue and after consultation with the National Capital Development Commission. The reason the area had not been proposed for wilderness before was that the NCDC had plans to develop camping facilities at Cotter Hut and these plans precluded a notion of wilderness.

## Wilderness Value

The Bimberi Wilderness, proposed by Helman *et al* in their 1976 study *Wilderness in Australia - Eastern New South Wales and Southeastern Queensland*, will cover approximately 25,000 hectares. The Helman description of the Bimberi Wilderness highlights the rugged mountains, the granite peaks, the highest ones snow covered for several months each

year. It continues:

'Vegetation shows marked altitudinal and topographical changes, from small alpine areas on the mountain tops, through sub-alpine forest, and mostly dry sclerophyll forest on the eastern side of the range. There are also grassy plains in the valleys, due to frost. Creeks in the west flow into the Goodradigbee River, while those on the east flow into the Gudgenby River. The central valley contains the headwaters of the Cotter River. Corin Dam on this river is used as part of the water supply system for Canberra. Some of the valley areas have been grazed, but as most are now in the same catchment or the adjacent Kosciusko National Park, this is not continuing. Several fire roads cross the area, but access to these is generally controlled and they receive little use.'

While the Management Plan includes a section on definitions, it has been decided not to include a formal definition of wilderness because there is still so much unresolved debate about an adequate definition to encompass the concept. Instead, a more philosophical statement will be included in the section of the plan dealing with wilderness.

The Helman study makes the following statement about the value of wilderness:

'The greatest single benefit of retaining large natural areas is not the immediate value placed on these areas by contemporary society but their worth to future generations. These areas are certainly valuable at present for recreation and scientific study but their values, as they become fewer, will increase ... Wilderness areas and the species they contain form an important part of the heritage to which future generations are entitled.'

## Public Participation

A major significance of the Bimberi Wilderness is that it will come into existence as a result of the public participation process. Without the numerous demands for it in the responses to the draft management plan, it is unlikely that the

Parks and Conservation Service would have been able to press for it. So the strength of public opinion can sway a bureaucracy even as powerful in the ACT as the NCDC!

The wilderness is one of several major developments over the last couple of years relating to Namadgi National Park, the others being the creation of the park, the establishment of the consultative committee and the development of the Management Plan.

Members will recall how three to four years ago the NPA committee was campaigning (with letters, deputations and lots of words) for these three things and how we put the case face-to-face to the Minister one cold Spring day in 1983 in a tour around the nature reserve.

The procedure for the development of the Management Plan has provided a further lesson in how public pressure and participation can work. It also has shown how bureaucrats can be bolder in their decision-making when they know community support is behind them.

Public comment on draft management plans is now standard practice. It is a legal requirement in some national park legislation although not (yet) in the ACT. Not only does it help the managers identify all present and potential issues and see that all points of view are taken aboard, it ensures support for the plan once adopted.

## Assessing Comments

So what has been different about the development of the Namadgi Plan? A lot really. It has involved a much larger than usual number of government agencies - Commonwealth ones like Housing and Construction, NCDC, the Australian Heritage Commission, the ACT Bushfire Council, and State ones like the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands in Victoria. This is a combined weight heavier than anything that would normally be found in the States. A large number of formal submissions have been received. Seventy-five in all - obviously a reflection of the high degree of local interest in the park. This com-



parens with the 39 received in the drawing up of the first plan of management for Kakadu National Park which was a much more controversial event and the 13 received in the more recent preparation of a management plan for Uluru National Park.

The park's place in the Australian alpine parks system has involved additional consultation with officials from the Victorian and New South Wales Governments.

Another feature of the Namadgi exercise has been the concerted effort to stimulate public comment – ranging from the information sheet in *The Canberra Times* when the park was gazetted, the advertisements, exhibitions and open days in the park to the free distribution of more than 500 copies of the draft plan.

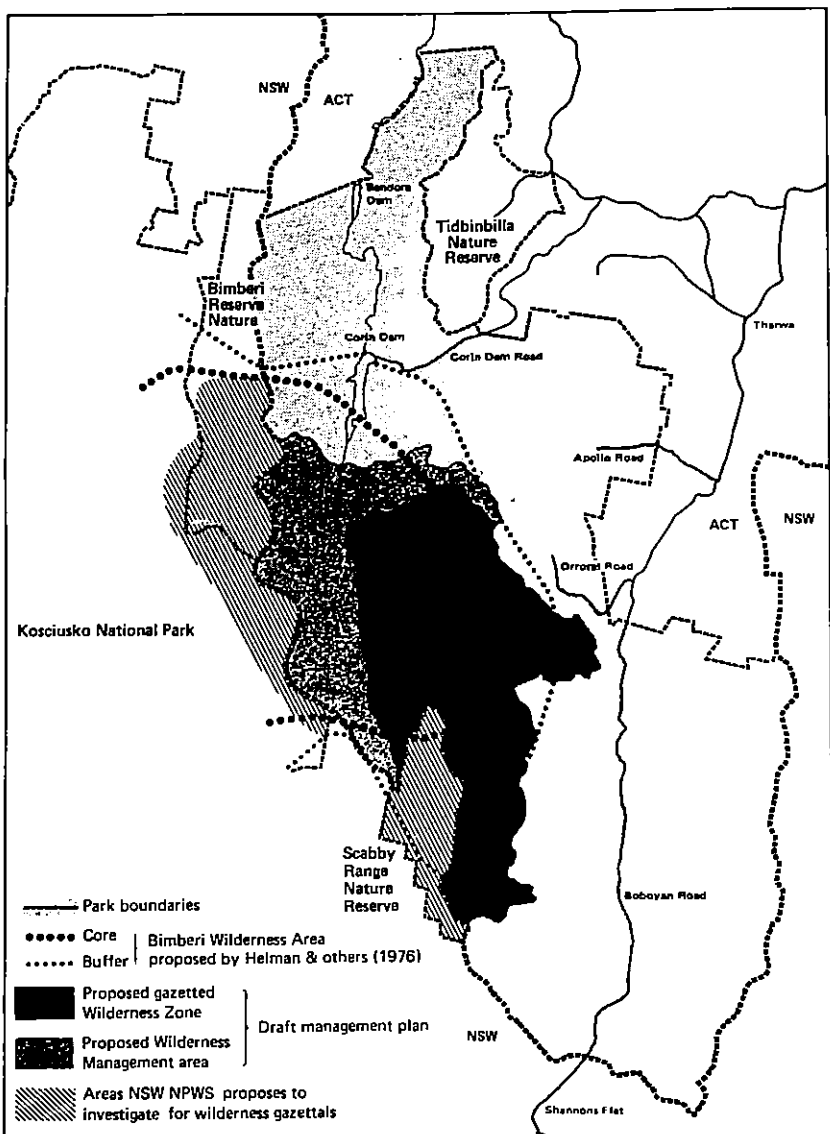
The process for handling comments was interesting. All were recorded in a summary under issue-by-issue categories to assist consideration and to help quantify the strength of public opinion in the ramifications of each issue.

The consultative committee has played an active advisory role at every stage. Grappling with some of the issues has involved a fair bit of work for members and some of the more complex issues have been examined first hand in Namadgi.

### Parliamentary Inquiry

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Environment and Conservation currently is looking at future administrative arrangements for the management of Namadgi in view of ACT self-government. In particular, it is considering the possible role of the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service in either providing funds and assisting in the provision of services or assuming primary management responsibility.

The first hearings were held on 10 and 11 April and another hearing was held on 28 April. Copies of all the submissions will be publicly available by the time this article is printed, and also the Parliamentary Hansard. Interested members are urged to study these documents to familiarise themselves with all the different facets of the debate. It might be the last quarter of the year before the standing committee's report is tabled.



Proposals for the Bimberri Wilderness Area as depicted in the draft plan of management for Namadgi National Park (p.68)

### Future Concerns

The Management Plan will be fully operational by then. However, putting in place the Management Plan is but another beginning.

Identified management priorities have to be initiated and given adequate funding.

Much more research is required on park problems like fire prevention and control, rehabilitation of man-modified areas, pig damage. More 'policing' is needed to prevent the incursions of trail bikes, four-wheel drives and other activities contrary to the objectives of the management plan.

Inventories need to be developed on the park's natural and cultural resources. Some active 'Friends' groups need to be set up.

An education program needs to be developed, both for in the city and in the park to make the Canberra

community more aware of the value of the park occupying some 40% of its territory.

More important than anything else, we have to keep pressing for a stronger legislative base to give permanent protection to the park boundaries, a legal base to the Management Plan and to formally provide for public participation processes. Upgrading the existing ordinance is number one priority.

The growth of the city, and especially the pending urbanisation southwards, inevitably will put more recreational and development pressures on Namadgi.

As Alastair Morrison indicates in his article 'After the Jubilee' (NPA Bulletin Vol 23, No 3) there is no room for complacency and with self-government approaching the ball game will be different. There is still a lot to do ...



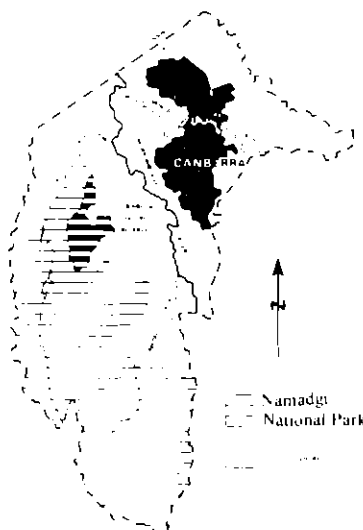
# Administrative Arrangements for Namadgi

Ross Carlton

The question of which organisation should manage Namadgi National Park, the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service (ANPWS) or the Department of Territories' Parks and Conservation Service, has been around for a long time. With the reorganisation of the Parks and Conservation Service and the preparation of the Draft Plan of Management most people thought the issue had been permanently resolved in favour of the Department of Territories. However, early this year it was raised again publicly, most notably by Sue Craven of the House of Assembly. The result of this was that the matter was referred to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Environment and Conservation. The Chairman of this committee stated 'The Committee is concerned that in the light of self-government proposals for the ACT proper resources may not be allocated to the Park's management ... The inquiry will focus on the role of the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service in the Park's management following self-government in the ACT.'<sup>1</sup>

This question had previously been considered by the Standing Committee, one of its conclusions in its 1981 report<sup>2</sup> being that within a Department as large as the Department of Territories with such a wide variety of activities, there will be a danger that town management considerations could take precedence over non-urban nature conservation priorities. It is partly this same fear, reinforced by concern over approaching self government which has led to the issue's resurrection.

Because of the importance of Namadgi National Park to this Association and the recognition that the matter under consideration could vitally affect the park's future it was considered essential that we make a submission to the Standing Committee. Accordingly the task was delegated to our Namadgi Sub-committee. However, from the beginning of this committee's deliberations it was evident that the task would not be easy. There were so many uncertainties that it was not possible to assert with any confidence which administrative



arrangement would be best for the park. The main issues related to security of tenure for the park, the provision of adequate funding, park management and public participation in the planning process. Other issues included the integration of Namadgi with the ACT open space system and the future of the agreement on tri-state cooperation in the management of the alpine areas.

Would the National Parks and Conservation Act under which the ANPWS operates provide better security for the park than the ACT Nature Conservation Ordinance which is known to be defective and which has been criticised previously by the Association? (See Bulletin of December 1985)

Would funding be easier to obtain through ANPWS than through the Department of Territories or its successor after self government?

Would park policy and management be better if conducted by ANPWS, an organisation which exists specifically to run national parks, rather than by a branch of the Department of Territories which will always be dominated by city issues? Or is it better that the park be under the control of local politicians and managers?

Would participation by the public in policy formulation be more assured if guaranteed by the National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act? While the ACT Nature Conservation Ordinance does not require public participation or the

production of a Plan of Management the record of the Department of Territories in this regard in relation to Namadgi is impeccable.

The sub-committee therefore found itself faced with the task of choosing between the ANPWS, which appears on paper to have a good case, and the Department of Territories which, although it had some legal deficiencies could boast a proven track record. The Association, in its submission, did not come firmly down in favour of either camp but made a strong statement of the factors believed to be important for the future of Namadgi. It is acknowledged that this is in some respects an unsatisfactory result but the uncertainties involved made it impossible to do otherwise.

## References

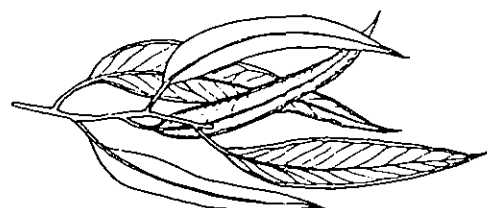
1. Peter Milton, *Press Release*, 13 February, 1986.
2. House of Representatives Standing Committee on Environment and Conservation, *Environmental Protection*, September, 1981.



[Since this report was written the Standing Committee has held its public hearings. This Association was very ably represented by Kevin Frawley who put strongly our view that whatever the administrative arrangements for Namadgi, the important issue is security of tenure for the park.

It is understood that 27 written submissions covering a wide range of topics were received by the Standing Committee.

Ed.]



**14 September — Sunday Walk (A/B)**  
**Nursery Swamp Ref: Rendezvous Creek 1:25 000**  
**Leader: Shirley Lewis 95 2720**  
 Meet: Kambah Village shops 0830. An 8 km walk mostly on bush tracks to the swamp. A total rise of 200m. Approx 100 km drive.

**18 September — Thursday Week-Day Walk (A/B)**  
**Booroomba Rocks Ref: ACT 1:100 000**  
**Leader: Robert Bird 31 8024**  
 Meet: Kambah Village Shops 0930. A 9km walk along fire trail, track and some scrub to a high point with extensive 360° views from area of granite outcrop. A total rise of 300m. 64 km drive.

**20/21 September — Car Camp**  
**Kangaroo Valley Ref: Klama 1:100 000**  
**Leader: Russ Kefford 26 2631**  
 Contact leader for details of this car camp and walks in the Kangaroo Valley for views and flowers. A 400 km drive.

**20 September — Saturday Nature Ramble (A)**  
**Black Mountain Ref: Canberra UBD**  
**Leader: George Chippendale 81 2454**  
 Meet: Belconnen Way Entrance 0930. Morning ramble to see flowers for those aged 4 to 80. Bring morning tea. Finishes midday.

**21 September — Sunday Walk (A/B)**  
**Boboyan Hill Ref: Yaouk 1:25 000**  
**Leader: Beverly Hammond 88 6577**  
 Meet: Kambah Village shops 0900. A pleasant 12 km walk beginning with a gradual climb of 200m through open bushland to Boboyan Hill, descend to Bulls Flat Creek then join the Old Boboyan Road passing the ruined homestead. A 120 km drive.

**20/21 September — Ski Weekend**  
**Venue depending on snow.**  
**Leader: Craig Allen 52 5746 (W)**  
 Beginners snow camp. Contact leader early for details of this trip. Numbers limited. NPA members only.

**27 September — Saturday Map and Compass Instruction**  
**Black Mountain Ref: ACT 1:100 000**  
**Leader: Margus Karlilaid 48 6149**  
 Numbers limited. Please contact leader early for details of this much awaited tuition on map and compass use. This will include a morning of instruction followed by an afternoon of field experience on Black Mountain and further field experience on Sunday.

**28 September — Sunday Walk (B/C)**  
**Mt Domain Saddle Ref: Tidbinbilla 1:25 000**  
**Leader: Margus Karlilaid 48 6149**  
 Meet: Kambah Village shops 0800. This walk is an extension of Saturday's map and compass instruction. A 12 km round trip up the Fishing Gap fire trail then on bush tracks to climb Mt Domain. A climb of 300m returning along saddle with view of Cotter and Tidbinbilla down Lyre Bird Spur. Short car shuffle. A 60 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

## July — September 1986



## OUTINGS GUIDE

**Day Walks** — Carry lunch, drinks & protective clothing  
**Pack Walks** — Two or more days, carry all food and camping requirements. CONTACT LEADER BEFORE WEDNESDAY.

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

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

### DAY WALKS — GRADING

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

### PACK WALKS — GRADING

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

- 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 Budawangs** 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.
- 6 July — Sunday Walk (A/B)**  
**Orroral Rocks** Ref: ACT 1:100 000  
**Leader: Shirley Lewis 95 2720**  
 Meet: Kambah Village shops 0830. A 10 km walk to explore some of the granite boulders above Orroral Tracking Station. Approx 100 km drive.
- 13 July — Sunday Walk (B)**  
**Kambah Pool to Pine Island** Ref: ACT 1:100 000  
**Leader: David Eastman 47 4846**  
 Meet: Kambah Village shops 0830. A pleasant 14 km walk along a formed track via Red Rocks Gorge. Good views of the Murrumbidgee Corridor.
- 15 July — Tuesday Week Day Walk (A/B)**  
**Nursery Swamp** Ref: Rendezvous Creek 1:25 000  
**Leader: Shirley Lewis 95 2720**  
 Meet: Kambah Village shops 0930. An 8 km walk mostly on bush tracks to the Swamp. A total rise of 200m. Approx. 100 km drive.
- 19 July — Saturday Walk (A/B)**  
**Nursery Creek Falls** Ref: Rendezvous Creek 1:25 000  
**Leader: Lyle Mark 86 2801**  
 Meet: Kambah Village shops 0830. Walk of approx. 12 km on bush tracks to rock paintings and the falls in the Nursery Creek headwater area. Approx. 100 km drive.
- 19 July — Saturday Tree Maintenance**  
**Glendale** Ref: ACT 1:100 000  
**Leader: Charles Hill 95 8929**  
 Arrive 0930 or after with spade, mattock or chipping hoe heavy mallet or hammer, pliers, gloves. Locating stakes to be driven in.
- 20 July — Sunday Walk (B)**  
**Tidbinbilla Peak** Ref: Corin Dam 1:25 000  
**Leader: Syd Comfort 86 2578**  
 Meet: Cotter Road/Eucumbene Drive 0830. 14 km walk following fire trail from beyond the koala enclosure, then scramble through scrub to the peak for views across the Cotter Valley to Brindabellas. 70 km drive.

- July — Sunday Walk (B)**  
**Caloola Farm to Brandy Flat** Ref: ACT 1:100 000  
**Leader: Dianne Thompson 88 6084**  
 Meet: Kambah Village shops 0900. 16 km walk on track from Caloola Farm following the creek to Brandy Flat Hut. 80 km drive.
- 26/27 July — Ski Weekend**  
**Venue depending on snow.**  
**Leader: Craig Allen 52 5746 (W)**  
 Beginners snow trip. Contact leader early for details of this trip. Number limited. NPA members only.
- 3 August — Sunday Walk (B/C)**  
**Namadgi National Park** Ref: Yaouk 1:25 000  
**Leader: Frank Clements 31 7005**  
 Meet: Kambah Village shops 0830. A 16 km walk to the 5 (or so) peaks south east of Mt Gudgenby with a 400m climb. 100 km drive.
- 8/9/10 August — Flexi Car Camp**  
**Moruya Heads** Ref: Bateman's Bay 1:100 000  
**Leader: Charles Hill 95 8924**  
 Headland, beach and forest walks, birds and dolphins. Camp South Beach caravan park undeveloped corner for camps, sites with power or on-site vans. Come Friday if you can! Bookings fees and deposits required so contact leader by 30 July.
- 10 August — Sunday Walk (C)**  
**Cotter Rocks** Ref: Tantangara, Yarrangobilly 1:100 000  
**Leader: Stephen Forst 51 1493**  
 Meet: Kambah Village shops 0800. 20 km walk partly on fire trails and partly on tracks with final 250m climb from Cotter Gap to granite boulders at Cotter Rocks. Total climb of 550m. 100 km drive.
- 9/10 August — Ski Weekend**  
**Kiandra** Ref: Tantangara, Yarrangobilly 1:100 000  
**Leader: Nick Gascoigne 51 5550**  
 Contact leader by Wednesday for details of this beginners ski weekend in Kiandra area. camping at Alpine Creek.
- 13 August — Wednesday Mid Week Walk (A)**  
**Barton** Ref: Current UBD Map of Canberra  
**Leader: Allan Mortlock 81 2335**  
 Meet: Greek Orthodox Church of St Nicholas, 1 Gosse Street Kingston 1100 for 5 km walk through Barton with stops at points of special interest along the way. This includes little known group statue in foyer of John Curtin House and Christian Science reading room. Bring food for BBQ lunch in Telopea Park at the conclusion of the walk.
- 17 August — Sunday Walk (B/C)**  
**Emu Flat** Ref: Corin Dam 1:25 000  
**Leader: Graham Guttridge**  
 Meet: Kambah Village shops. A 16 km walk from Gibraltar Creek Forest on Corin Dam road with views of the peaks of the southern ACT weather permitting. A total of 400m climb in stages. A 70 km drive.

- 16/17 August — Pack Walk (3/5)**  
**Buckanbowra River Murrengebung Mtn** Ref: Araluen 1:100 000  
**Leader: Philip Gatenby 41 6284**  
 Contact leader by Wednesday for details of this exploratory walk. Approximately 200 km drive.
- 16/17 August — Ski Weekend**  
**Jagungal** Ref: Kosciusko, Khancoban 1:25 000  
**Leader: Garth Abercrombie 81 4907**  
 Contact leader by Wednesday for details of this ski trip into the Jagungal Wilderness area. Experienced skiers. Numbers limited. NPA members only. Approximately 520 km drive.
- 24 August — Sunday, President's BBQ**  
**Pierces Creek** Ref: ACT 1:100 000  
**Leader: President**  
 Come to Pierces Creek beyond the Cotter and bring BBQ lunch. Short walks. Watch for the NPA signs.
- 30 August — Saturday Skiing (A)**  
**Kiandra** Ref: Tantangara  
**Yarrangobilly 1:100 000**  
**Leader Stephen Forst 51 1493**  
 Contact leader by Wednesday for details of this day ski trip from Selwyn to Four Mile Hut. Approximately 400km drive.
- 31 August — Sunday Walk (A)**  
**Smokers Flat** Ref: Corin Dam 1:25 000  
**Leader: Sophie Caton 48 7701**  
 Meet: Kambah Village shops 0830. A 10 km walk in the Smokers Flat area, bring the children to see the brumbies. 70 km drive.
- 6/7 September — Pack Walk (3/5)**  
**Jillicambra Mountain** Ref: Cobargo 1:100 000  
**Leader: Philip Gatenby 41 6284**  
 Contact leader by Wednesday for details of this exploratory walk in Wadbilliga National Park. Approximately 320 km drive.
- 7 September — Sunday Walk (A)**  
**Brandy Flat** Ref: ACT 1:100 000  
**Leader: Shirley Lewis 95 2720**  
 Meet: Kambah Village shops 0830. A pleasant 9 km walk to Brandy Flat overlooking Glendale. 100 km drive.
- 13/14 September — Pack Walk (1)**  
**Hidden Valley** Ref: Corang 1:50 000  
**Leader: Lyle Mark 86 2801**  
 A beginners pack walk in the Budawangs, along fire trail and rain forest tracks. Afternoon and morning walks without packs. Contact leader by Wednesday for details. 300 km drive.
- 14 September — Springtime Wattle Walk (A)**  
**Tidbinbilla via Mt Jerrabomberra** Ref: ACT 1:100 000  
**Leaders: Laurie Adams 58 1048, Peter Ormay 51 2428, John Hooke 95 9666**  
 Meet: Canberra Railway Station 0900. Drive to Mt Jerrabomberra to look at "Acacia Pycnantha" then to Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve. Bring lunch, hand lens and Field Guide to the Native Trees of the ACT. If you have not yet acquired one now is the time. 70 km drive.

# X-C

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## **THE LEADERS IN ADVENTURE**

PAL/208

## **Easter at Orroral**

*Gabi Robin  
(Junior Member)*

As bushwalkers, used to enjoying the peacefulness of Namadgi, it was interesting at Easter to see how other people experienced the park.

When I arrived at Orroral camp ground in the afternoon, the first party in our group had already set up the tents. There were many other tents around. One group was playing 'country music' and some people were playing cricket.

It was interesting to note that next to one tent was a table with a vase of flowers on it. This puzzled us a bit.

We were on a campsite next to the river, but the main squash of people and tents was next to the road and facilities. The camping ground was extremely crowded and the carpark nearly full.

The river was low and the ground very dry.

At dusk kangaroos appeared, and everybody quietened down to watch their brief visit.

As it became dark, it was obvious how well equipped everybody was, and quite a few people had flood lights and lanterns. It was a beautiful night, not a cloud in the sky, and many more stars seemed to appear than in Canberra.

One large group entertained everybody by singing old English pub songs accompanied by a guitar for about three hours on end!

The mystery of the vase of flowers was soon solved. Next to the river, a lady dressed in a white dress, accompanied by someone who looked like her father and some very distinguished looking couples in black walked up an aisle with onlookers humming 'here comes the bride' and little kids running up and down. The bride and groom were married; and after a short reception and a few dances, the group disappeared into their tents.

Some people went star-gazing and looking unsuccessfully for Halley's comet.

On the Monday morning, all the people packed up and went their separate ways. It was a good holiday, enjoyed by all, and there was hardly any litter or mess left behind.



## Just Briefly—



The beautiful Brindabella valley was the setting for a long weekend, 7-9 March. Arranged by Olive, the accommodation was in cabins at Koorabri near the Goodradigbee. According to one participant, it was a most relaxing and refreshing weekend. Particularly refreshing for someone who couldn't resist the most succulent-looking blackberries which happened to be hanging out over a pool. A long reach—a slip—a splash—and Sheila was in two feet of greenish-black slimy water. What a good sport though; for the benefit of a photographer, she obliged by sliding in again!

Refreshing too, for one of the vehicles when it got stuck in mid-stream on a creek crossing. All hands to the rescue, and it was soon pushed onto dry land. However, the battery was flat, and the property owner helped this time by charging it overnight.

During the night, two occupants of one Koorabri cabin heard strange flapping noises, which proved to be a pair of sweet little bats flying back and forth, whilst a friendly 'hunter-man' spider stalked lesser creatures. The two junior occupants (of the human kind) slept through all these nocturnal activities. An interesting weekend!

★ ★ ★

A spine-chilling tale was heard around the campfire on Anzac Day weekend. It happened one night in a cave in which the participants of the Budawangs Easter pack walk had settled down to sleep. Fiona was only mildly disconcerted by the feather-light footsteps of a dainty

mouse across her arm, and so merely snuggled further into her sleeping bag. However, a more memorable encounter was yet to be had by another member of the group. When all was quiet, out of the darkness came a loud exclamation from the direction of the walk's leader. He'd found the cause of his sudden awakening to be "of stuff from which nightmares are made", for there, attached to his lip, was a most undreamlike rat!

★ ★ ★

Bats, rats and black-green slime!! All we need now is a couple of cane toads and a hairy bird-eating spider and there'll be enough ingredients for a Hitchcock movie. Any more eerie tales for the Edgar Allan Poe section of the Bulletin will be welcome.

★ ★ ★

An NPA outing or camp doesn't need the extraordinary or sensational occurrence to make it totally enjoyable for those who attend. In fact, small is beautiful, they say. Hence, the pleasure afforded by two tiny robins to a small group of NPA members during the Araluen Anzac Day weekend. At first, a member of the group, whilst alone, caught a glimpse of what he thought to be a male rose robin. Two days later, his sighting was confirmed by another of the group, when the male bird reappeared with the female, this time in view of a few more lucky campers.

Another valued moment for one of these members, who is an artist, was when she came across a small girl, using a stone on rock, to execute a remarkably detailed likeness of a banksia inflorescence.

★ ★ ★

Shocked to read in 'By the Way', that a swamp mahogany may force the transfer of an airport to a site 200 metres south of the original site. Good heavens! What next? It's a tree, it's in Queensland, and it's in the way, and yet, apparently, they haven't just cut it down. A glimmer of hope?

★ ★ ★

A justifiable 'slip of the tongue' by an ABC newsreader, heard about the time of the Canberra Agricultural Show—"...and this afternoon, three typical Australian activities will take place at the Show, they are sheep-dog trials, sheep shearing and woodchipping."

★ ★ ★

And So! Is Victoria to miss out on the wonderful concept of an Alpine National Park for the sake of *one* vote in their upper house? The fight must surely continue.

★ ★ ★

An item appearing in the May Newsletter of the Australian Conservation Foundation could be of interest to NPA members. It states that the historic village of Ravine and its cemetery have been added to the Kosciusko National Park. The village of about 25 hectares, was first reserved in 1944. Totally surrounded by the National Park, its inclusion will assist the NPWS in its management. All the lands within the village are now classified as Crown Land.

★ ★ ★

It is disconcerting to see, at Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve, family groups feeding junk food to the kangaroos. Such items as salted potato chips and iced buns can hardly be beneficial, and could even be damaging in the long term. In fact, management at the Nature Reserve prefers that visitors do not offer any type of food to the animals. Pellets fed to the kangaroos between 3.30 and 4 pm are specially formulated to provide their essential diet. Therefore, feeding time, when numbers of kangaroos gather, would be an opportunity for close-up viewing of large groups.

★ ★ ★

Adolescent wombat, refugee from urban Canberra, lumbering head down along the floor of Tidbinbilla Visitors' Centre. Stopping only for a friendly pat from curious humans, it ambles further, turns sharp right, opening the toilet door with a powerful shoulder action, and wanders

in purposefully. That these lovable animals are short-sighted is made clear to us by the ranger upon recovery of the wombat. This individual, we are told, is a young female, and the door is marked 'Gentlemen'.

★ ★ ★

Intrepid skier and bushwalker, Ian Beveridge has left Canberra to live at Wentworth Falls in the Blue Mountains.

★ ★ ★

Due to the keen eyesight of young

## Musk, (a Duck) about Mousing

Val Honey

... ironman wrestles with an alligator in the Florida everglades—a fearless circus trainer puts his arm into the lion's mouth . . .

For sheer courage these acts were surpassed by the staff member at Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve on New Year's Day, who, unarmed except for buckets of food, entered the waterbird enclosure at feeding time. His arrival had been watched from water-level, by two dark beady eyes, which apparently view the human world as a collection of boots, food buckets, a couple of inches of jeans, and, on a lucky day, a bare ankle or two. Forward of the beady eyes was a powerful triangular bill beneath which hung a large black pouch or lobe (from this strange appendage comes the scientific name of the musk duck, i.e. *Biziura lobata*). Leaving the water with amazing agility and moving with surprising speed, this waddling, web-footed warship homed-in to fasten its aggressive bill onto the edge of the jeans with clam-like

entomologist Andrew Morrison, Booroomba Rocks walkers were afforded close up study of several large orange-brown stick insects with purple 'accordion-pleated' wings. Guest walker Jan from Sweden gained some insight into, as he put it . . . what is behind *all those trees*.

★ ★ ★

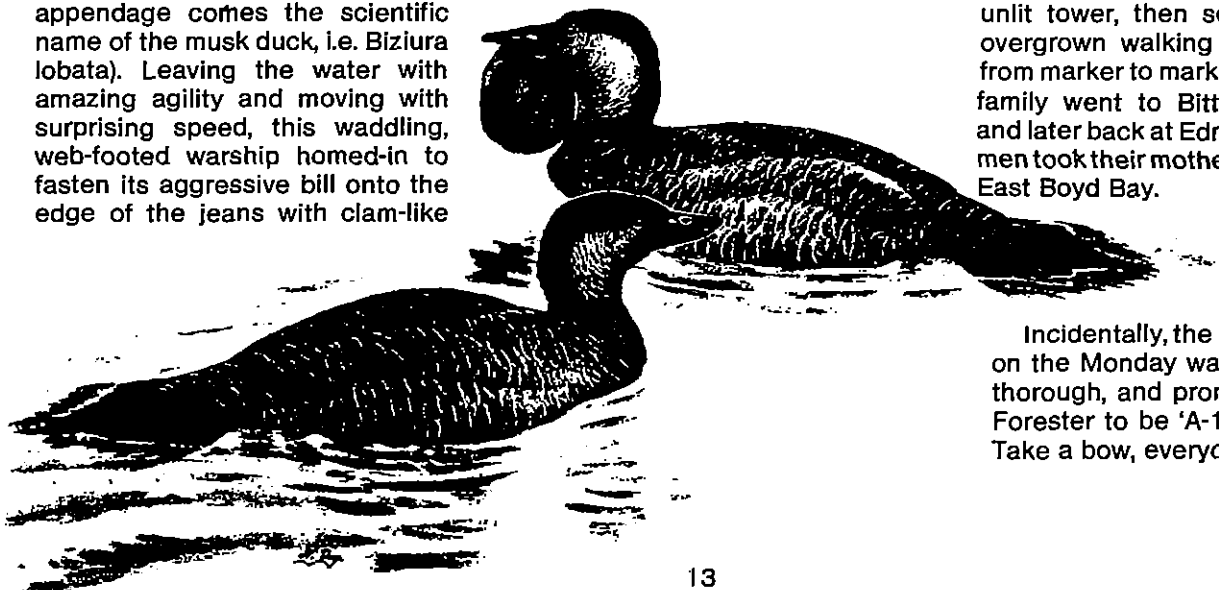
Please keep the Just Briefly column afloat and 'phone any contributions to 88 1889.

*Meliiodora*



security, all the time emitting a sound resembling porcine squealing. Suddenly the drama ceased as this theatrical character remembered that he was, after all, just a large duck, and that he'd best get back into his small pond where those meaty morsels of mouse were quickly descending through the water. This, however, would present no problem as the musk duck is an expert diver, reaching depths of 20 feet, and is able to remain submerged up to 55 seconds. A great under-water aid is the bird's wedge-shaped tail of large stiff feathers which can 'fan' out. The musk duck is not often seen in flight, and can swim partially submerged.

Altogether, a fascinating (split) personality of the duck-world, which goes to show that it cannot be said "Seen one duck and you've seen 'em all".



## Twenty-Nine — A Prime Number

Joan Hegarty

Twenty-nine has always been considered by the Hegartys to be their lucky number. So, when twenty-nine people gathered at Edrom Lodge for the Canberra Day weekend, the leaders naturally expected that the holiday would be enjoyed by all. And so it was.

The weather was perfect for a wide variety of activities . . . and non-activities. Some walked, some beachcombed, most swam, two or three went fishing (successfully), while others played carpet bowls and table tennis as usual. Many were on Edrom's wide verandah for the various dolphin shows.

Ghostly figures glided through the halls of the old house when pretty well everyone got up in the middle of the night to ogle Halley's Comet.

On Sunday, a group went to Green Cape where they watched the seals, and visited the cemetery where bodies of passengers from the shipwrecked Ly-ee-Moon lie. The Ly-ee-Moon, a popular passenger ship, crashed on the rocks on a balmy May night, only three years after the Green Cape light was completed in 1883. Although up to seventy-six people lost their lives, partly because of a sudden weather change, only twenty-four bodies were recovered and buried in the little cemetery at the Cape. There were fifteen survivors of the wreck. The total life loss and number of survivors vary from source to source.

Another group of the Canberra Day weekenders walked to Boyd's unlit tower, then south along an overgrown walking track, literally from marker to marker. At least one family went to Bittangabee Bay, and later back at Edrom, two young men took their mothers canoeing in East Boyd Bay.

Incidentally, the Edrom clean-up on the Monday was both fast and thorough, and pronounced by the Forester to be 'A-1'. Nice to hear. Take a bow, everyone.



# The Bittangabee Bay Ruins

Reg Alder

Members who have enjoyed the luxury of the hostel-style accommodation at Edrom Lodge on Twofold Bay or who have camped guy-rope-to-guy-rope at Bittangabee in the Ben Boyd National Park may have visited the ruins at Bittangabee Bay. The ruins are located a short distance inland from the Bittangabee-Salt Pan Creek walking track shortly past the first inlet from the camping ground. They have historic site protection.

There has been considerable conjecture over the past years, without any confirmed historical basis, that the building of the ruins commenced before Captain Cook sailed up the east coast of Australia in 1770.

Examination of the ruins, which do not rise above floor level, reveals that the building had been constructed from random rubble, with either a natural or dressed flat surface on the outer face. The joints were filled with shell-lime mortar and, apparently to facilitate erection of the walls, they were brought up to courses at regular intervals. The building was U-shaped with the legs of the U facing towards the bay. The approximate dimensions are 68 feet by 33 feet. Heaps of rubble of varying heights surround the outer wall. It has been suggested that this rubble formed an outer fortification. However, knowing the way random rubble walls are built, I believe this rubble could have been a stockpile for the masons to select just the right size of stone to fit neatly into a vacant space. K.G. McIntyre claims in his book<sup>1</sup> to have deciphered the date 15?4 in a series of pick marks, but this date has not been seen by anyone else and may have been just random pick marks made when the stone was surfaced.

In 1836, three sealers were wrecked off Warrnambool on the south coast of Victoria. While walking west along the coast to Port Fairy they chanced upon the remains of an ancient ship, which was to become known as the 'Mahogany Ship'. There are many records of people having sighted this ship before it disappeared about 1880, and there have been many attempts since then to locate the wreck with the aid of modern instruments, with-



*The western wall of the Bittangabee Bay ruins. The rough dressing of the stone in comparison to the fine stonework of the Boyd buildings is very evident. This section is the highest point the walls reached before construction was abandoned.*

*Photo by Reg Alder.*

out success. Also, a set of keys was found in 1847 while excavating for shells in a sand dune at Corio Bay, Geelong. Governor La Trobe, who visited the Bay shortly after the keys' discovery, was one of many who speculated on how the keys were down fifteen feet below the surface.

It is because of these discoveries, as well as interpretations of the projections of ancient maps, that theories have been advanced that the building pre-dates Cook and was erected by the crews of either Spanish or Portuguese ships. As early as 1909 Lawrence Hargrave<sup>2</sup> in collaboration with Norman Lindsay propounded an elaborate theory that Lope De Vega discovered the east coast of Australia in the 1590s. This theory is disputed by McIntyre who claims De Vega's ship was never anywhere near Australia. Roger Nerve<sup>3</sup>, on the other hand, suggests that the 'Mahogany Ship' is the Spanish *San Lesmes* captained by Alonso de Solis, and that the crew of this ship set off to explore the land, either inland or by longboat, and that it is their keys at Geelong and their building at Bittangabee. McIntyre, however, suggests that the Portuguese explorer Mondonca wintered (an unlikely event) at Bittangabee, lost some keys at Geelong, wrecked one of his ships at Port

Fairy and, on sailing along the coast, drew a chart that, with correction, is recognisable today as the southern coast of Victoria as far as Warrnambool.

Lawrence Fitzgerald in his book<sup>4</sup> refutes any suggestion that the structure was built by either the Spaniards or the Portuguese and supports the investigation of Michael Pearson<sup>5</sup> who claims that it was built by the Imlay brothers in 1844. To support his theory, Pearson quotes from the journal of George Robinson, Protector of Aborigines for the Port Phillip District, who visited Bittangabee in 1844 and noted that the stone foundations for a house or storehouse had already begun. As there are no chimney foundations in the ruins, it can be assumed that the building was to be used as a storehouse, while on the other hand, there appear to be too many rooms for it to have been used as a storehouse, and chimneys could have been added at a later stage of construction.

The Imlays had financial problems in 1843-44 and it is probable that work on this substantial building would have ceased by then. No mention is made of the building in any documents about Boyd's activities in Twofold Bay. The use of random rubble instead of dressed stone indicates that the building is



not in the style of those built at Boyd Town. Boyd's project failed in 1849.

Evidence purporting to prove the Portuguese or Spaniards built the foundations is purely circumstantial and covered by unlikely events. From the research done by Michael Pearson, the Historical Archaeologist of the National Parks and Wildlife Service of NSW, the proposition that it is an unfinished Imlay Brothers structure has the greatest probability.

#### References :

1. K.G. McIntyre, *The Secret Discovery of Australia*
2. Lawrence Hargrave, *Royal Society of NSW Journal*, Vol 43, 1909
3. Roger Herve, *Chance Discovery of Australia and New Zealand by Portuguese and Spanish Navigators between 1521-1528*
4. Lawrence Fitzgerald, *Java La Grande - Portuguese Discovery of Australia*
5. Michael Pearson, 'The Bittangabee Ruin - Who Built It?' *NSW NPWS Monograph*; 'Shore-based Whaling at Twofold Bay - One Hundred Years of Enterprise', *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society*, June 1985.



#### NEW MEMBERS

The following new members are welcomed to the Association:

Margaret ABRAHAM, Kaleen; Jill ARNOLD, Curtin, Alan BERENDSEN, Deakin; Mr & Mrs BISCHOFF, Griffith; Simon BLAKE, Yarralumla; Frances BRAY, Curtin; Barbara BULKELEY, Holt; Kay BUSH, Lyons; Mr & Mrs G. CAITCHEON, Holder; Robert CALVERT, Reid; Mr & Mrs J. CAMPBELL, Macquarie; Ian CAREY, Kaleen; Mrs J. CHORLEY & family, Mawson; Jenifer HAWKINS, Macgregor; Rod HOLESgrove, Spence; Michael HOYLE, Downer; Sonja LENZ, Aranda; Fiona & Scott McLENNAN, Watson, W.D.J. MITCHELL, Giralang; Dugald & Helen MONRO, Kambah; E. MUIR, Braddon, Regina NICOL, Page; Joan SMITH, Lyons; Geoffrey STAFFORD & Jocelyn PECH, Watson; William OSBORNE, Canberra; Anthony WHITFORD, Narrabundah; Joy WIEBE, Weston; Bill & Patricia WOOLCOCK, Macquarie; Hal & Mrs WOOTTEN, Balmain.

#### COOEE

*Neville Robinson*<sup>o</sup>

That most Australian of human noises in the bush is almost as familiar as the kookaburra's racketing gargle. It is the call which says 'I am here. Is anybody there?' Its sound can be as reassuring as the smell of gumleaves in Soho.

According to Bill Peach, it was first recorded in European writings by French ensign Francis Barrallier, who was one of the first to attempt a crossing of the Blue Mountains. In November 1802, Barrallier crossed the Nepean River, went through the Picton area as far as Christys Creek and the Kowmung River near the base of Kanangra Walls. He heard aborigines evidently contacting one another with the cooee call. For a long time, Barrallier's achievements were virtually unnoticed

because his journals lay untranslated.

It is not surprising that cooee (or cooey) is often found in literature. For example, in 1876 A.J. Boyd in *Old Colonial* writes: 'When you are starved and are not within cooey of a meat-safe or a bread-bin...'. Henry Lawson, in *The Shanty on the Rise* wrote: 'And I mind how weary teamsters struggled on while it was light, Just to camp within a cooey of the Shanty for the night.'

Recently, on a Blue Mountains walk, some of us heard what seemed to be a Red Indian yelp used as a contacting call. Somehow it's not up to the good old cooees which echoed around the cliff walls in response.

<sup>o</sup> Reprinted from Illawarra NPA Newsletter.



One of the walkers and her cabbage patch friend on a recent camp alongside the Goodradigbee River.  
Photo by Reg Alder

## FITTING YOUR FEET. HOW TO BUY BOOTS

*Peter Marshall*

Once upon a time bushwalking boots were lumps of stiff leather with a pound of screws in each sole. Blisters were a natural product of a day or two's walk. Lunatic breaking-in schemes abounded. Some people favoured boiling neatsfoot oil in their new boots, others soaked them in water overnight then walked in them till dry.

Later more finely made European boots began to appear on the market. With their soft leather linings and thick midsoles they should have been comfortable. Yet many bushwalkers still experienced cramped toes and blistered heels. Why don't they fit we wondered? Are my feet somehow different?

My guilty secret was solved on a business trip to the boot factories of Europe some years ago. The wooden mould or last which a boot is built on determines its final shape. The typical continental last is narrow and flat, like the typical street shoe clad continental foot. As a rule the Australian bushwalking foot is broad and square at the toe, with a high instep and arch, a wide curved heel and pronounced ankle bone. No doubt due to bare-foot beach romping and a childhood in thongs and sandals.

So the first step in fitting yourself with walking footwear is to identify your foot type. Oz or Italian? Look for the last which feels right.

Begin with your favourite pair of socks. they needn't be too thick, the lining of the boot should reduce friction against your foot.

Lace on the new boots and walk around a bit. Don't decide against them too quickly.

You are looking for plenty of room in front of your toes, a snug heel with minimal vertical movement and a firm, comfortable fit. Any excess movement of the foot inside the boot will cause blisters on a long walk. Bear in mind, however, that feet can spread a size after an hour's walk with the weight of a pack. This tends to reduce movement within the boot.

Lace the boots more firmly and stand on your toes (lean on the shop counter). The big toe should be free of the boot front except when all your weight is on one foot.

Insufficient toe room will cause the dreaded 'black toenail syndrome'. Next consider the broad part of the foot. If the boot hurts then the last is not for you. Slight pressure on the little toe and the inside of the foot will disappear as the lining of a well designed shoe breaks in.

How is the heel? A finger's width of vertical movement within the heel counter will diminish on longer acquaintance. Much more will cause trouble. Excess lateral movement indicates that a narrower last is needed.

The instep area can cause problems with hefty Oz feet. The last should offer ample room over the top of the foot to reduce pressure from the lacing. A well padded tongue will help reduce friction and also serves to force the heel snugly down.

Should your prospective companions pass all these tests it is time to consider support underfoot. The 'rocker' or curve of the sole should flex a little under the ball of your foot. The midsole and insole combination takes the shock of heavy strides and distributes load across the bottom of your foot. Does it feel right? Custom moulded insoles may solve problems that appear here. They are particularly useful to bulk up flattish feet within a too roomy last.

Touchy subject for women. If you wear high heels your achilles tendon (at the back of the ankle) may be short and under some tension. This

may feel uncomfortable when you don your first boots. Make sure that the ankle area is well shaped and padded (the boot, not your foot). Try wearing flat shoes for a few weeks before a long walk.

### Breaking in

Having purchased your new boots set about breaking them in with the minimum of heroics please. Evening strolls and a few day walks will render a well chosen boot comfortable. Carry Moleskin or Leucosilk for the first long walk and treat blisters as soon as you are aware of their development.

### Maintenance

Don't use neatsfoot oil or Dubbin. They rot boots. Keep the leather well treated with your favourite conditioner.

Excess heat ruins good leather. The back window shelf of a car in summertime will kill boots. As do campfires.

Accumulated mud on the leather upper acts as an abrasive and absorbs the softening oils from the leather. Dunk the boots in warm soapy water and scrub off the mud.

Soak the inner-lining also, this removes the sweat salts which in time corrode the soft lining.

### Summary

So, before putting your best foot forward, think carefully before you buy. Whatever you decide upon, ensure that your feet are comfortable. Happy feet will mean happy bushwalking.



*Photo by Russ Kefford*

## FLINDERS RANGES

*I have visited the Flinders  
And my thoughts return anon  
Though the soil has blown away  
And the grass is well-nigh gone.*

*The plain is flat and dry  
With the mountains rising near  
Red and jagged to the sky,  
Their rocky faces sheer.*

*It's a broken-hearted country,  
A land of shattered dreams,  
Where the farmer standing silent  
Prays for water in the streams.*

*But the creek-bed's dry and rocky  
'Neath a straggling line of trees  
With overhead the murmur  
Of a thousand million bees.*

*And the sun beats down in anger  
On the ruins of a farm  
Where the settler pitted nature  
Against his strong right arm.*

*For he came with sheep and wagons  
And a wife and children gay  
And he thought that he'd be wealthy  
From the wheat he sowed in May.*

*But the settler's hopes were withered  
Like his crops before the spring  
As one by one the graves were dug  
And the laughter ceased to ring.*

*For the country always beat him  
And with cruel mocking smiles  
Would paint a gorgeous sunset  
Across the barren miles.*

*Still the government in Adelaide  
Encouraged them to go  
With more sheep by the thousand  
In a never-ending flow.*

*But the sheep have killed the country  
And the grass is almost gone  
And the lonely wind is howling  
The saltbush plains upon.*

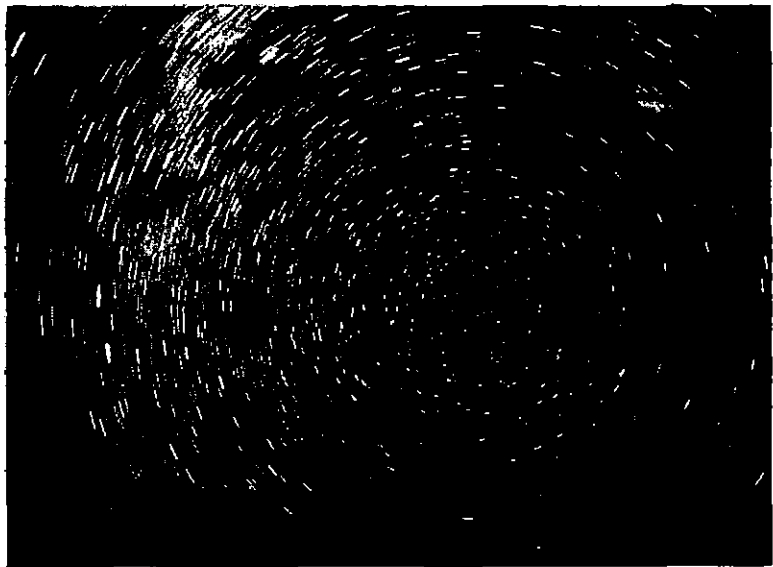
*And the ghost of Morolana,  
Does it grin and curl its lip  
To see the white man beaten  
And watch his fortunes dip?*

*For in generations less  
Than the fingers on a hand  
He has massacred the tribe  
And ruined all its land.*

*No, the ghost of Morolana  
Takes no pleasure in the scene  
But lingers at the sacred sites  
Remembering what has been.*

*And you'll hear it if you listen  
Up the gorge and round the peak  
In the breeze's gentle crying  
And the soaring eagle's shriek.*

*And the ghost of Morolana  
Will be there for aeons to come  
When the settler's in his grave  
And the tourist's been and gone.*



After Vince Ford's excellent talk in March the participants of Ian Currie's car camp at Ravine over Easter studied the heavenly sky at length under ideal conditions and 'discovered' not only the star cluster omega centauri but also the South Celestial Pole as seen above.

Photo by John Gascoigne



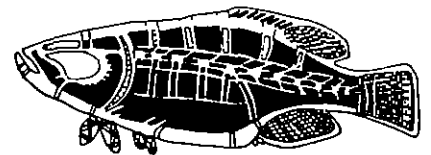
## KAKADU NATIONAL PARK — MY BEAUTIFUL PLACE

Vanessa Lee  
(when she was 11 years old)

Not everyone may think that the park is beautiful, but I do. The heat may spoil it for many, but not for me. Those who have no interest in the Australian Aborigines or wildlife, or hate bushwalking, will not like it and may find it boring, but I like all these things. The park is a sanctuary for wildlife, a place where you can see a dingo trot across an open plain, species of wallaby and other animals which can be found nowhere else in the world. The Oenpelli python of which eight have only been found, the deaf adders lying in wait for unsuspecting creatures and the beautiful billabongs with crocodiles lurking in them, and not least of all the beautiful and intriguing Aboriginal art. All this can be seen among the bush, monsoon forest and open plains.

You are standing at Obiri Rock in the shade, in fact in a sort of cave. You are surrounded by Aboriginal

art, above your head and on both sides of you. Behind you is the hot glare of another 37° day and in front of you, you can see one of the many



flood plains and in front of that, some monsoon forest. You can see many birds, a wallaby speeds by and a dingo passes. You are still and quiet.

You can hear a few birds singing, some cicadas from the bush and scrub around the rock, and then the still still silence of the bush before everything starts again.

You can smell the dryness of the air outside and the smell of rock. You can taste the dryness and the freshness of the air around you. You can feel the coolness of the cave, the rough stone walls and the smooth stone floor.

But most of all you can almost feel, hear, smell, taste, and even see the history of the place. It's easy to imagine an old blackfellow sitting here and talking with others of his race as they sat there to keep cool.



# Hut-to-Hut Walking in Austria

Bill Watson

The specification of the adventure in the brochure read:

*'Hut-to-Hut Tour of the Stubai and Oetzal'. A small group of guests under the leadership of an experienced Alpinist will travel by coach with the main party to Oetz departing 10th August from London. From there the group will make their way to a nearby mountain hut in the Stubai Alps to begin their tour. The second week will be spent in the Oetzal Alps where an attempt will be made to climb the Wildspitze as well as many other snow-clad peaks. The party should be prepared to travel light, with a minimum of clothing and equipment, though a good pair of mountain boots and an ice axe are essential.'*

I made enquiries and was told that previous mountaineering experience was not necessary, but that one had to be fit and have 'a good head for heights'. So I booked in, travelled by train from Vienna (where we were living for 6 months) and met up with the party at the Gasthof Pension Waldhof at Habichen, near Oetz about 60 km west of Innsbruck. Oetz is on the Oetz Piver in the Austrian Tyrol. The Stubai Alps are on the east of the valley of the Oetz, and the Oetzal Alps are on the south of the valley along the border with Italy. The valley itself is very beautiful with waterfalls tumbling down each side of the winding road. The villages are just perfect – immaculate houses complete with geraniums on all balconies, mown green fields with grass drying on stakes in druid-like poses, and dramatic mountains deep green below the tree-line, then snow white and topped with black rocks.

On arrival I learnt our hut-to-hut group only numbered four – our leader (Peter, an Electronics Lecturer from Aberdeen University, had climbed the Matterhorn and been photographed by German Television doing so), John Snr (40), John Jnr (27) and me (61).

We had to carry enough food for our lunches, but the huts provide breakfast and dinner, and provide blankets. So our packs were not unduly heavy, even with the mandatory crampons and ice-axe. We had to take turns at carrying the

rope, and I quickly learnt to take my turn early in the morning before it got wet.

Peter explained the route we would take. Most days involved climbing a peak on the way between huts. A high proportion of the time we would be on glaciers. The map contours looked alarmingly close together. It all looked very difficult, but Peter assured us that he knew what he was doing. The first day was a warm-up on a one day walk near Oetz.

The next day we were driven up the valley to the tiny village of Niederthal (1537m), and then we started walking west into the Stubai Alps heading for Pforzheimer Hutte. Initially it was a nice easy walk alongside a creek to Gubener Hutte (2034m). Then it was a long hard rough climb to the top of a mountain called Zwiselbacher Roskogel

boulders, again not easy with a pack. In the midst of a great boulder field John Snr left his camera behind after a break. We returned and hunted for over an hour, but to no avail. This meant our first day had been longer than planned, and so arrival at our first hut was very welcome.

The huts in Austria are not really 'huts'. They are usually 3 or 4 stories high, solid, accommodating at least 50. Sleeping is mainly in mixed dormitories on bench beds. They provide grog and good plain Austrian meals. Sometimes there are warm showers, but usually the water is freezing. In August they are crowded, and Peter was most particular to ensure that we always had an advance booking. Most huts have two names – an Austrian name and one that of a German city e.g. Brandenburger Haus, Dresden Hutte.



An Austrian Hut – Hochjoch Hospice

Photo by Bill Watson.

(3082m). It was the hardest scramble I'd ever done, made harder by the unaccustomed packs. However, I was reassured to note that all four of us were puffing. Then down the other side to Pforzheimer Hutte, my first meeting with slippery and precipitous gullies, which I, in my inexperience, tried to handle on my bottom – but it didn't work as the pack kept pushing me off the mountain. I could see I'd have to master gullies going down backwards. At the bottom of the gully there was a long stretch of large

The latter is most commonly used, and I was told it refers to the German Alpine Club which has responsibility for the running of that hut.

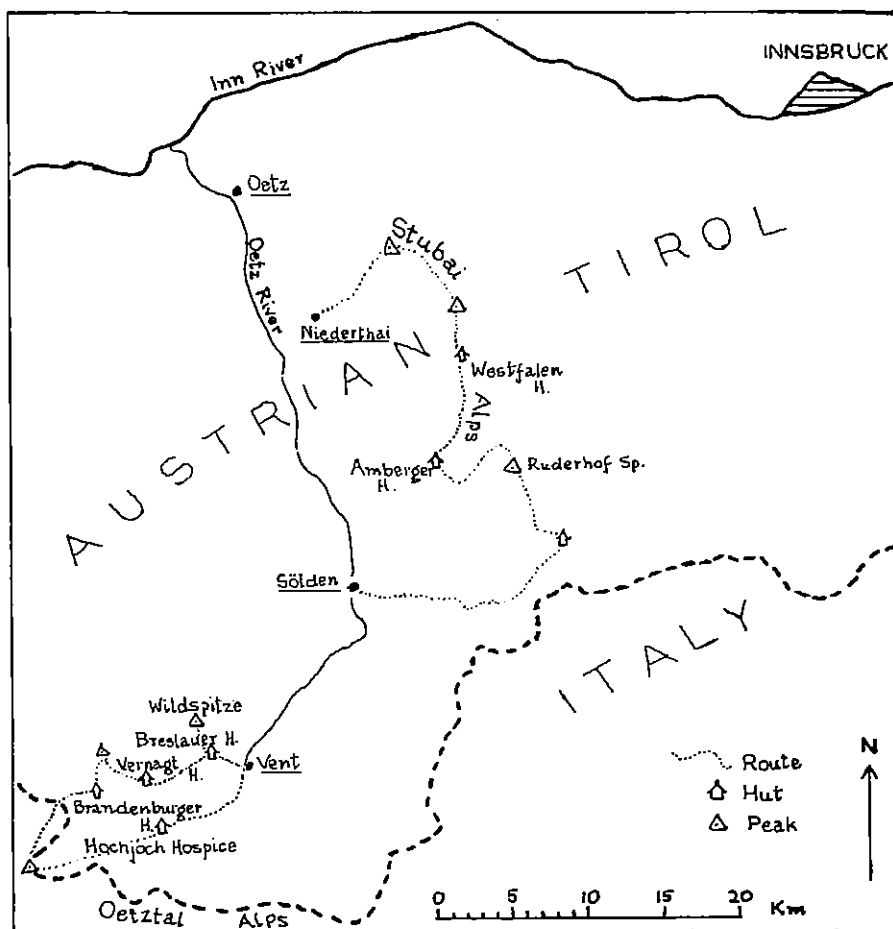
The next day we walked to Westfalen Haus, and encountered two new features. We crossed our first glacier roped together using our crampons and ice-picks. I always imagined glaciers would be easy to walk on – not so. Sometimes we sank into covering snow up to our knees – sometimes they were very steep. They could also be slippery. Then there was the hazard of

crevasses – great deep gaping cracks. Peter would carefully find a crossing on a snow bridge, and we would stand braced on the ropes in case it gave way. Then we would follow in his footsteps. Conditions were better if one rose at 5am when all was firm. The peaks were often great piles of rock protruding from the glaciers. On the second day the pile was called Vordere Grubenwand, and it is greatly to Peter's credit that he got me to the top of it. I learnt what it was to be belayed. It is the process of tying me to a rock, while the rest of the party position themselves to urge me up the next bit of the mountain. It was, in fact, easy climbing, but I was very inexperienced. We weren't clinging to rock walls like flies, but we were scrambling over rocks with sheer drops on either side. However, one hasn't many options as one member of a four-man organism, and so I was cajoled to the top of my first peak at 3175m. The elation was only moderated by concern about the descent. However, it worked. And so down another steep gully to Westfalen Hutte.

From there we went on to other huts, with increasing time on glaciers. Our marathon day was 13 hours. We rose at 6am at Amberger Hutte (2135m) and we were on the track by 7.10am. First we had a long haul along the top of a text-book example of a lateral moraine to Schwarzenberg glacier (3003m). Then we roped up and climbed on to the glacier to a bare ridge, which we scrambled over and onto Alpiner glacier. First down, then up with lunch in the middle. Then we diverted to the left, took crampons off, dropped packs and climbed Ruderhofspitze (3474m), third highest peak in the Stubai Alps. We returned to our packs, back onto the glacier, then down a difficult gully. This was followed by seemingly miles of loose big slippery stones, made worse by a shower of rain. But, we made it shortly after 8pm. We felt great after an Austrian Wiener Schnitzel. We slept soundly that night.

The next day was an easy one, first using a cable-car to go up-hill, and then strolling down hill to Sölden, in the Oetz Valley. From there we were driven back to Oetz for one night of luxury.

We rapidly recuperated after long hot showers, and were ready to be driven to Vent for the second phase in the Oetztal Alps. The highlights



were climbing Wildspitze (3772m), the second highest in Austria, and Weisskugel (3739m), on the Italian border and the third highest in Austria – both beautiful peaks. Perhaps Brandenburger Haus was our most sensational 'hut' – on a great pile of rocks completely surrounded by glacier, and with glaciers spilling off peaks on all sides. Wildspitze was quite crowded with Germans and Austrians, all very well equipped and elegantly clad, and clearly most of them very experienced.

The scenery was fabulous – a world of glaciers and peaks, with you on the top, amazed that you were there. There was a great feeling of achievement, which did make it all worthwhile. I did learn to cope with heights, and trembling stopped after the first few days. I developed great confidence in the leader, and his ability to judge my capability. I lost 4kg in weight, and collected a nasty sunburnt lip, but I would do it again – hopefully doing it better. I know there are many members of NPA or ACT who would enjoy the tour greatly. Incidentally, it was very economical. The two weeks cost me £180(S), excluding fares. For the English folk it cost £305(S),

including fares to and from London, accommodation and all meals except lunch.

For those who like to trace routes on maps, a list of huts and mountains climbed follows:

Pforzheimer Hutte	2308m
Westfalen Hutte	2273m
Amberger Hutte	2135m
Breslauer Hutte	2840m
Vernagt Hutte	2766m
Brandenburger Haus	3272m
Hochjoch Hospice	2412m

#### Stubai

Zwiselbacher Roskogel	3082m
Vordere Grubenwand	3175m
Ruderhofspitze	3474m

#### Oetztal

Wildspitze	3772m
Fluchtkogel	3508m
Weisskugel	3739m



° Bill Watson was President of the NPA during 1972-74.

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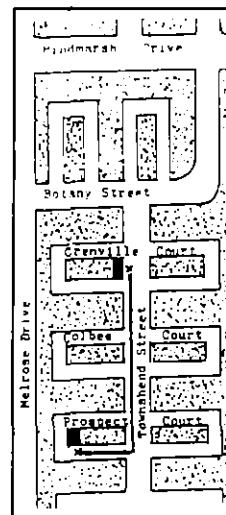
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## GENERAL MEETINGS

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

### JUNE — Thursday 19

*Ms Debbie Quarmby*, Assistant National Liaison Officer with the Australian Conservation Foundation, will discuss the woodchip issue and problems of forest management at this evening's meeting. The Association recently employed Ms Quarmby to prepare a report collating existing knowledge of the economic, social and environmental impacts of the Eden Woodchip Industry. Copies of the report 'Eden Woodchipping — a Review' are available from the NPA office.

### JULY — Thursday 18

'Flying foxes and bald mice — an introduction to the fascinating lives of bats' is the topic chosen by this month's speaker *Mr Chris Tidemann*, senior Technical Officer in the Department of Zoology at ANU. Mr Tidemann will shed light on these much maligned nocturnal mammals as part of the Association's occasional series of talks designed to foster an awareness of the living world around us.

### AUGUST — Thursday 21

Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers followed by photographs and slides of the year's activities. Come and join our genial host *Ian Currie* and stay to enjoy gluwein and other mid-winter treats. Please contact Ian if you have any photographs you'd like to show. (Phone 95 81 12 a.h.)