

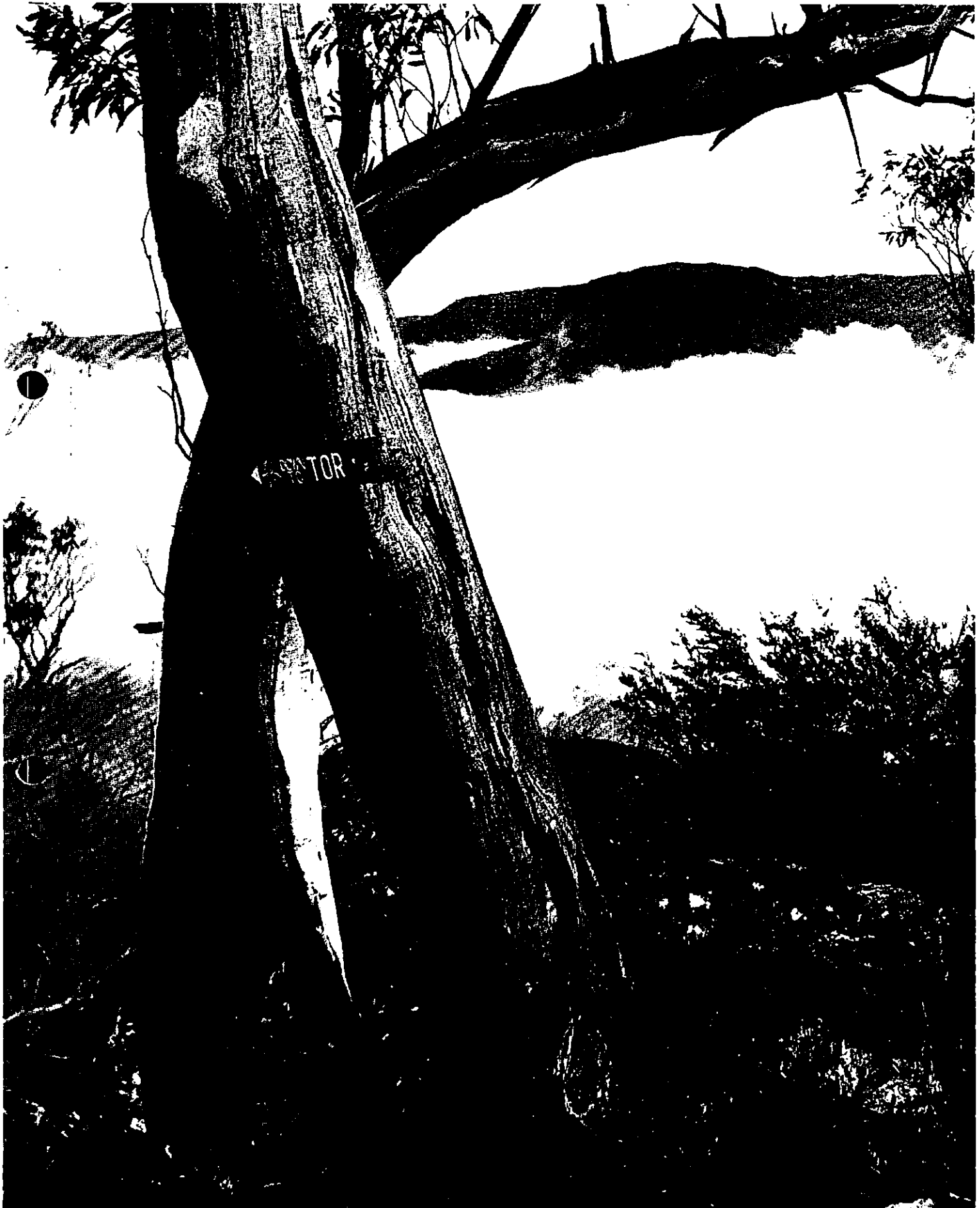


NPA Bulletin

National Parks Association of the ACT

Vol 25 No 1

September 1987



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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Bulletin Only \$10

Concession: Half Above Rates

For new subscriptions joining between:

1 January and 31 March - half specified rate

1 April and 30 June - annual subscription
(up to 15 months membership benefit)

Membership Enquiries welcome.

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Articles by contributors may not necessarily reflect Association opinion or objectives

Attention All Members !

Contributions of between 200 and 300 words, with or without photographs (black and white preferably) are sought eagerly for the *Bulletin*. Of course we need longer items as well, but short ones are popular ... with everyone !

Share with us your camps, trips and pack walks, your trials and tribulations and adventures of all kinds.

DEADLINE DATES for NPA BULLETIN contributions:
15 October, 15 January 15 April, 15 July

Printed by Derek Kelly 54 1226
Typeset by Top Typesetters 51 6550

COVER *The Yerrabi Track*

Photograph by Reg Alder

PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD

Prior to the recent election, the Federal government announced its intention to proceed with the nomination of the rainforests of the Queensland wet tropics for the World Heritage List. This Association has stood in strong support of such listing and I have written to the government accordingly. Now that the election is over, it is important that the government be kept to its word on the nomination intention. Proceeding will probably mean a showdown with the Queensland government, but this may be the only way the matter can be resolved. Clearly, the National Rainforest Conservation Program instituted in June 1986 with funding of \$22.25 million has achieved little in Queensland where the most urgent requirement is a moratorium, and preferably a definite cessation of virgin rainforest logging.

The Queensland Forestry Minister's reaction to the nomination intention was not surprising, but shows how ill-informed he is. Despite Mr Glasson's ravings about 'militant greenies', and a 'few fanatical conservationists' (*Canberra Times* 6 June 1987) the plain fact is that the nomination has had strong and unequivocal support from the scientific community world-wide. The outstanding biological values of the area are now well established, and are very clearly and concisely set out in the Heritage Commission publication *Tropical Rainforests of North Queensland: Their Conservation Significance* (1986). Based on current knowledge, the world's oldest continuously surviving rainforests are concentrated in the Queensland wet tropics, with their origins dating back to the Gondwanaland supercontinent more than 100 million years ago. The area is now a 'living museum' containing the richest assemblage of families of primitive flowering plants in the world.

If the Minister examined his own Department's records, he would find, not a 'viable timber industry', but a rapidly contracting one - declining as the old growth resource is cut out. The current quota (50,000 cubic metres per annum) is one quarter the annual cut of the post war decades. As for employment, even by his Department's own estimates, the figure of 800 directly employed (CT 6 June 1987) is a substantial exaggeration - 300 is a closer figure.

Concentration of interest on the small rainforest logging industry, however, draws attention away from other major threats to the rainforest, especially north of the Daintree River, where currently there is no logging. These threats include tin mining, road building, subdivision and unsympathetic tourist development. The Queensland government has been unable to see alternatives to these and grasp the innovative concepts put forward for the north Queensland rainforest which would tie promotion and protection and earn tourist dollars - the proposed Downey Creek canopy walkway near Innisfail being a prime example. North Queensland is already a prime tourist destination, with the rainforests and their setting a major drawcard. Activities associated with proper management of the rainforest environment combined with a forestry plantation program have the potential to soak up some of the unemployment which would result from the cessation of logging. There could be immediate employment in ripping and revegetating the infamous Daintree 'road' from Cape Tribulation to Bloomfield! I believe there would be widespread community support for Commonwealth financial assistance in such restructuring.

In 1986 most of the remaining New South Wales rainforest became Australia's sixth World Heritage Area entitled the 'Subtropical and Temperate Rainforest Parks of Eastern Australia'. It is to be hoped that the Wet Tropical Rainforests of north-east Queensland becomes Australia's seventh area in 1988.

Members of the Association are encouraged to write to the Federal government in support of the intended nomination.

Annual Report

The NPA of the ACT's Annual Report for 1986-87 is now available. Interested members may obtain copies from our Kingsley Street Office, or if preferred the Report will be posted to you. Phone Laraine on 57 1063.

Red Spot

A red spot on the label of your Bulletin indicates that NPA records show you as unfinancial. To renew your membership see the Treasurer at the next general meeting of the Association, call at the NPA office in Kingsley Street, Acton (phone 57 1063) or post your subscription to GPO Box 457, Canberra 2601. The Bulletin distribution list will be revised in December by deleting any unfinancial members.

New Members

The following new members are welcomed to the Association:

Evelyn ADAMS and David BAGNALL, O'Connor; Barry and Gail ALLEN and family, Pearce; Leslie BACKEN, Mawson; Judith BARBER, Queanbeyan; Avice BARRETT, Chifley; Collette BARTON-ROSS, Narrabundah; Judy BOOTH and Roy FORWARD, Kingston; Mrs Pamela BROWN, Weston; Mr and Mrs A. CARLESS, Torrens; Mr and Mrs Philip CHYNOWETH and family, Weston; John and Janice CLEMENT, Fraser; Tim DAVIES, Hughes; Derek DRINKWATER, Weston; Paul DUNCAN-JONES, Curtin; Ms Janice FOULKES, Narrabundah; Nan GRIGG, Pearce; David HALL, Curtin; Janet HANLEY, Garran; Mary HUGHES, Griffith; Mrs J. JILLARD,

Kaleen; Mr & Mrs A. JOHNSTONE, Garran; Mr and Mrs A. KELLY, Kaleen; Mr Denis KERR, Weetangera; John and Judy MCKENNA and family, Garran; Rein MERE, Chapman; Keith and Carolyn MINTO, Holt; Helen MURRAY and Tim BURDEN, Dickson; Peter NAUMANN and Deborah STOKES, Dickson; Karen NENABER, Holt; Dimitry OGAREFF, Waramanga; Geoffrey PAINTON, Barton; Robert PARKER, Curtin; Peter and Robyn ROE, Monash; Miss Jeanette SCHULTZ, Kambah; Mr and Mrs David SHORHOUSE and family, Lyneham; Mrs Anita SIMMONS, Lyneham; Mike and Annette SMITH and family, Farrer; Robert STOOHOFF, New Zealand; Elizabeth STORRS, O'Connor; Ivi WARD, Gowrie; Hilary and David WEBSTER, Campbell; Doreen WILSON, Rivett.

Committee News

The highlight of the last three months is undoubtedly the construction and opening of the Yerrabi Track to Boboyan Trig. The Committee thanks Reg Alder and his band of helpers, whose efforts are surely justified by the fact that the carpark at the head of the walking track has overflowed almost every weekend since the opening of the track.

The contentious issue of the administration of Namadgi National Park received considerable attention from the Committee. The recommendations of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Environment were considered independently by both the Committee and the Namadgi Subcommittee, and the Committee finally adopted all the suggestions of the Namadgi Subcommittee. On the key recommendation of the declaration of Namadgi under the *National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1975*, and the concomitant delegation of powers by the Director of ANPWS to the Department of Territories, the Committee's support was based on the belief that a parliamentary act potentially offers greater security for the Park than an ordinance. Support for this recommendation, however, was qualified by the belief that its implementation may be fraught with administrative and legal difficulties.

Also in Namadgi, a proposal for naming features in the Park, including a peak after Dr Nancy Burbidge, has been sent to the ACT Parks and Conservation Service. Support for the Mt Burbidge proposal is being sought from the ACT Parks and Conservation Consultative Committee.

On the cultural side in Namadgi, Peter Freeman and Partners have recently completed their consultancy on Orroral Homestead, the result of which is a report describing the architecture and condition of the homestead, and identifying the repairs which are needed. The report is a necessary precursor to any work to be done on the homestead by members of this Association. It is hoped that NPA will be able to perform restoration work on the homestead next summer.

The Committee has received a letter from the Kosciusko Huts Association (KHA) expressing their interest in working on the huts in Namadgi National Park. At the time

of writing the Committee is conducting discussions with the KHA, and if any members wish to contribute to the discussion they should contact a member of the Committee.

On the wider conservation front, the Committee endorsed in principle a proposal by the Australian National Parks Council to seek World Heritage nomination for the Australian Alpine Area. The proposal would involve engaging a consultant to prepare a report comparing the Alpine Area with the criteria for World Heritage nomination. The total cost would be about \$6,000, to be shared among the National Parks Associations of the ACT, New South Wales and Victoria. The Committee will attempt to attract a grant to cover these costs before deciding whether to commit any Association funds to the proposal.

Also in the Alpine Area, the Committee decided to oppose cloud seeding in the Kosciusko National Park, and has written to the appropriate ministers and to the Commissioner of the Snowy Mountains Authority objecting to cloud seeding and its associated works, such as roads and gauging stations, in the National Park.

And finishing on a positive note, the tree planting project at Glendale has reached a stage where the oversight of the trees can be referred to the rangers at Namadgi. Charles Hill's report on the project is published in this Bulletin. The Committee congratulates Charles and his team of workers on the success of the project.

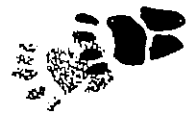
Publicity Matters

The Publicity and Education Subcommittee is beginning preparations for the Kingsley Street Markets on the morning of Sunday 6 September. The Market is organised by the Environment Centre as a monthly fund raising venture, and on 6 September it will be our Association's turn to assist with directing stall holders to their allocated places in the Market. If you would like to assist in this way, or if you would like to staff the NPA stall (selling our merchandise and signing up new members) please contact Glyn Lewis or the NPA Office.

The Subcommittee is also beginning to plan our Association's part in an Environment Fair in 1988, which has attracted substantial funding from the Australian Bicentennial Authority. If you have any ideas you would like to share, or if you would like to be involved in any way (large or small), please contact Glyn Lewis or the NPA Office.

Help Wanted

An outdoors type with an interest in the community is wanted as leader of the Diamantina Scout Group in Kaleen. The Group consists of two troops, each with about twenty members, whose ages range from twelve to fifteen years. Activities include a monthly hike and/or camp, and weekly meetings. If you are interested contact Bill Hyland, phone 41 4074 (H) or Bob McGarry, phone 52 6134 (W).



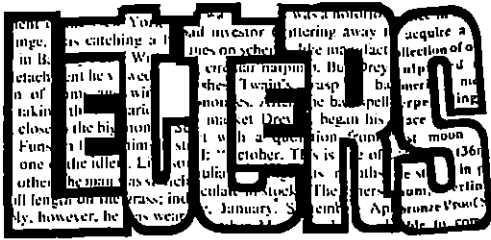
Speakers for General Meetings Wanted

The NPA holds general meetings on the third Thursday of each month from February to November inclusive.

These meetings are planned to provide a variety of guest speakers and films on conservation and national parks issues.

Volunteer speakers and/or suggestions for topics are always needed. If you would like to know more about a particular subject, or know someone who is willing to speak, we'd like to know!

Please contact Julia Trainor (phone 81 1195) with your ideas.



The Man From The Misty Mountains

Have you read *The Man From The Misty Mountains*, which is the post-humous publication of the memoirs and poems of Major Jim Sturgiss? Major Sturgiss was an early explorer of the Budawangs, and his association with the country is reflected in the mountain which bears his name. His book is a very readable and often humorous account of the events and personalities encountered in his long and interesting life, and it covers many of the areas where we walk today: Ettrema, Budawangs, Shoalhaven, Deua, Tuross. Major Sturgiss was a self-educated man with a remarkable gift for bringing his reader closer to the lives of the early pioneers whose hardships make a sobering comparison with our own experience of "roughing it" when we go bush. The stories reveal how much this country was explored by the miners and farmers who came before us, and adds an extra cultural dimension to our enjoyment of some of our favourite walking areas.

The book is beautifully printed and maintains the high standard set by *Pigeon House and Beyond*.

The Man from The Misty Mountains: Memoirs and poems of James Henry Sturgiss, 1890-1983, edited by Jim Thomson, was published by the Budawang Committee. It is available from the NPA Office or at the monthly general meetings.

The Secretary
National Parks Association
of the ACT Inc.

Dear Secretary,

The Kosciusko Huts Association would like to help maintain some of the huts of Namadgi National Park which have no designated caretakers and which are therefore on the way to becoming ruins. Our Association would regret the loss of these relics of early European settlement in the area.

I am writing this letter to you as a courtesy in view of the long involvement of the National Parks Association with the area and the establishment of Namadgi National Park.

The Kosciusko Huts Association has formed a Namadgi Subcommittee, and on 17th May Brian Terrill, the Chief Ranger, took some of us on an inspection tour of Brayshaw's, the forest huts, Frank's and Rolly's. We decided to begin in a small and modest way with minor works on the last three. We understand from Mr Terrill that the Parks and Conservation Service would supply materials if we organised the labour.

Accordingly, another inspection trip has been organised for 5th July in order to make estimates of needed materials and labour, and a letter has been sent to Mr Terrill informing him of our intentions.

We appreciate the potential problems of caring for and restoring the Namadgi structures and are keen that the good relations between our Organisations should continue. I should be glad to discuss this further with your Committee and answer what questions I could, and I should appreciate it if the contents of this letter could be brought to the attention of your members.

Graham Scully
President
Kosciusko Huts Association
Incorporated

Hon. B. Cohen
Minister for Arts, Heritage and
Environment
Parliament House

Dear Mr Cohen,

I am writing to you on behalf of the National Parks Association of the ACT to indicate how pleased members of this Association are, to note that the government intends to proceed with the nomination of the Queensland Wet Tropics for World Heritage listing. The Association has long supported such action because of the outstanding scientific and scenic values of the area, the threats to these values, and the failure of the Queensland government to give any concession to them.

As in the case of Western Tasmania, we believe these actions will stand prominent long after many of the apparently pressing issues of the day are long forgotten.

Dr Kevin Frawley
(President)
c.c. Rt Hon. R.J. Hawke



Major Jim Sturgiss and the Old Cabin, Sassafras. From *The Man From The Misty Mountains*, with permission of the Budawang Committee.

Yerrabi Opening

Ross Carlton

Billy tea on a sun-washed flat rock circled by the mountains of Namadgi National Park. It was a classic NPA winter setting. All the old and bold were there: the members who have been there as long as anyone can remember. But this was an outing with a difference. Not only the pillars of the Association but hordes of newer and younger members, and non-members as well; children, babies, the fit and the unfit, about 200 in all. And not just a billy of tea. Billy after billy. Tea by the gallon (sorry, litre), with Julia pouring out seemingly endless cups. And speeches. Speeches! On an NPA outing! Yes indeed. And appropriate and to the point they were, from our President, Kevin Frawley and John Langmore, the Member for Fraser. Reminding us of the importance of getting out into the bush to refresh our office-jaded lives and of the need to preserve the bush against the pressures tending to destroy or degrade it. Reminding us too of the fact that national parks and preservation don't just happen, they require the vision of a few, long term effort by organisations such as ours and the co-operation and support of officials and politicians. We are fortunate in the ACT to have had all these ingredients in sufficient measure to gain us a national park big enough to be worthwhile. And so we were able to gather on that sunny rock to celebrate the opening of the Yerrabi Track, two kilometres of low-impact path which enables anyone who is even half fit to go over the hills, out of sight and sound of the road and into the heart of the Park. Boboyan Trig is one of the most easily reached view points in the Park and yet one which gives the feeling of being right amongst the mountains. From it one can see most of the high peaks of the southern ACT: Sentry Box, Gudenby, Yankee Hat, Scabby, Kelly, Namadgi, Burbidge. The track was formed by a group of members working over a period of a few weeks. They marked the route, cleared obstacles, bridged the creek, built steps where necessary and erected signs indicating the names of tree species along the way. The aim was to build a track, readily followed and easily negotiated but as unobtrusive as possible.



Cars on the Boboyan Road on the opening day of the Yerrabi Track

Photograph by Reg Alder

In this I believe they were eminently successful. The name Yerrabi comes from the language of the Ngunawal people, the original inhabitants of the area, and is said to mean 'walk'.

The building of this track illustrates one of the lesser known activities of the Association. Most people are aware of the NPA's long struggle to obtain a national park and of our input to the Plan of Management through direct submissions and through representation on the Consultative Committee. Most people would also know that the Association works in various ways for a multitude of wider environmental issues. However, probably fewer would be aware of efforts, like the building of this track, which are undertaken from time to time to enhance or preserve the Park. Such efforts have included the planting and maintenance of trees at Glendale and the revegetation of temporary fire trails. Such work is always undertaken with the knowledge and co-operation of the Department and within the framework of the Plan of Management. It underlines the role of the Association as a group whose chief interest is the Park: its preservation, development and management. This role will continue as long as there are members who enjoy the Park and are prepared to work for it. One of the long term effects of the Yerrabi Track may well be a steady stream of recruits to this group, introduced to the Park via this easy and attractive track. The thanks of us all to the team that brought it about.

Opening Day Of The Yerrabi Track

Olive B.

*Thank you - small band of ardent workers
for all you've done for all we shirkers,
Namadgi and its glories to untold
for everyone, both young and old*

*All those who tread that pretty path -
will they think of the toil and the
aftermath -
the aches, the strains, the cuts and
pains?*

*Will they take for granted the hand-
hewn rocks
(Oh! the bruises and the knocks!)
the ledges which with strength were
hacked,
cement carried on weary backs
to make the steps where nature
lacked?*

*For many, they had never seen, the
mountains bold that did unfold.
And those brave ones who said "I've
been",
Oh! what tall stories they all told.*

*With a welcome warm and a cup of
tea
(our thanks again to workers all)
- a perfect day we will recall.*

*Our membership should grow and
grow
and in the future then maybe,
the 'young' will make a 'Yerrabi',
and once again we can proudly say
"All done by members of NPA".*

Mt Kelly And The Association

Reg Alder, Thelma Chippendale and Fiona Brand

Mt Kelly has a particular place in the history of the National Parks Association. It was the centre of the Association's proposal for a national park in the ACT and is an objective from which to explore the surrounding wilderness.

At 1829 metres, Mt Kelly is the fourth highest peak on the ACT border and by a quirk of nature has over three quarters of its mass within the ACT. The three highest peaks on the border are shared equally with New South Wales. Mt Kelly forms a triangle of peaks with Namadgi and our unofficially named Mt Burbidge. These peaks surround Rotten Swamp, an important source of Canberra's water supply.

Another link with the Association is that Mt Kelly was probably named after an early settler in the area, William Kelly (or one of his sons) who is a relative of Thelma Chippendale. Thelma's husband, George, is a past president of the Association. He was active in having the area declared as a national park.

William Kelly arrived in Sydney in September 1836, from Mallow, County Cork, Ireland, as a free settler. Eventually he met another new arrival, Catherine Cameron from Inverness-shire, Scotland. She was

later to become employed as the personal maid of the wife of the Governor. William and Catherine were married in Scots Church, Sydney on 1 April 1839 and settled at 'Garryowen' in Queanbeyan in the 1850's. In April 1856 they moved to 'Spring Valley' at Michelago. Descendants of the original couple still live on the property.

Family tradition holds that Mt Kelly was named after William Kelly or one of his sons, John or William. Exhaustive research through the NSW Geographical Names Board and various local sources of information has failed to find documentary evidence to substantiate the origin of the name for the mountain. The name first appeared on maps after the mid 1800's. Any documentary evidence on the origin of the naming of Mt Kelly would be welcomed.

Mt Kelly can be seen plainly from Boboyan Trig, to the west as a low triangle on the skyline. It may also be seen just peeping over the shoulder of Yankee Hat from the Boboyan Pine Forest Car Park.

In the early 1960's when the Association looked at the ACT to find an area suitable for a National Park, the area centred on Mt Kelly

seemed to be the most suitable. It did not extend into the catchment area of the Cotter and was relatively free of alienated land.

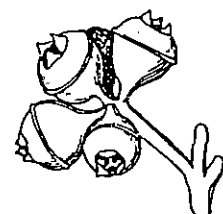
To look closely at this area, Association members Dr Robert Story, Julie Henry and Fiona Brand walked to Mt Kelly in 1961 as members of an Alpine Club walk led by Alan Bagnall. They were delighted with the Alpine high swamps and gentle creeks wandering through snow grass, the steep slopes covered with forests and the unspoilt views from the rocky top of Mt Kelly. To gain an overall view of the proposed area for a national park, a light aircraft was hired (flown by John Gray, now Director, Landscape and Environment, NCDC), and Julie Henry, Alexander Brand and Fiona Brand flew over the area and took photographs.

Dr Richard Shodde made a survey of the birds in the area and Dr Nancy Burbidge and Dr Robert Story made a list of the plants. A list of fauna was also produced to complete the survey. Julie Henry was the co-ordinator for the proposal, writing the text and gathering the colour photographs. Dr Robert Story edited the text and finally it was typed and made up into a formal proposal. The final compiling was done in Julie Henry's tiny room in Havelock House.

The proposal for the national park was sent to the Minister for Territories in 1963, signed by Dr Nancy Burbidge who was President of the Association. In later years it came to be referred to as the Mt Kelly National Park proposal. In 1979 when the proposal was recognised it was enlarged to be named the Gudgenby Nature Reserve. Subsequently the area was incorporated into Namadgi National Park.



John Langmore, Kevin Frawley (making a speech), Robert Story and Fiona Brand at the Yerrabi Track opening. Photograph by Reg Alder



Pigeon House 1954

The two photographs are from a trip to Pigeon House Mountain by the Catholic Bushwalking Club of Sydney in Easter 1954. The party came in by taxis from Milton and camped on the Clyde River. The mountain was a day's walk from the camp. The present access road for the standard trip to Pigeon House may have been there at this time but was not used. One of the participants to this climb of Pigeon House in the days before ladders were installed was NPA member Pat Totterdell. Pat is pictured next in line for the chimney ascent and in the foreground but looking to her right in the summit photograph.



On top

Photograph by Jim Barrett



Going up

Photograph by Jim Barrett

Namadgi Notional* Park

Reg Alder

Repeat something often enough, display signs, print pamphlets etc. and in time it will become accepted as a fact. Members should not be deluded into thinking that Namadgi is a national park.

The initial amendment to the *ACT Nature Conservation Ordinance* 1980, covering management plans and procedures for revocation of the reserve, after a lengthy gestation of many years was induced in a short period of eight days after the House of Representatives Standing Committee on the Environment presented their report on the management of Namadgi to Parliament on 14 October 1986. An amazing feat. A further amendment was made to the Nature Conservation Ordinance on 23 January 1987.

The Standing Committee in their recommendations recognised the weaknesses of the legislative protection of the park in an ordinance and recommended that Namadgi be declared under the National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act with the powers of administration under this Act delegated from the Director of the ANPWS to our Parks and Conservation Service.

In the Ordinance, Namadgi is described as 'the reserved area

known as Namadgi National Park'. The Ordinance only has provision for reserves and these are given a name by the Minister. The Commonwealth could not have two pieces of legislation to regulate national parks. Hence, in spite of its name, it is nothing more than a reserve and any part or the whole of it can be revoked by the Minister publishing a notice in the Gazette. The Ordinance now seeks, in the amendments, to give protection to 'ad hoc' revocation by requiring a notice in the Gazette to be laid before both Houses of Parliament for fifteen days, when during this period it may be disallowed. However, under the Act, revocation, after fifteen days notice, requires a resolution of both Houses of Parliament. This action brings the matter to the notice of the public and encourages debate rather than automatic approval along with a large number of other regulation and ordinance amendments.

The protection of Namadgi in the Ordinance is notional in the extreme unless some other party can exercise a casting vote. The possibility of the party in government initiating a motion to disallow some of its own legislation is most unlikely.

The procedures for the approval



of the present ordinance amendments offer a good example of how difficult it would be to have an ordinance disallowed. Amendments to the Nature Conservation Ordinance are made under the *Seat of Government Act 1910* and are serially numbered annually to that Act. The amendment dated 22 October 1986 was deemed with other papers to have been presented before Parliament on 23 October 1986. In the presented form it already had the approval of the Minister for Territories, the Federal Executive Council and the Governor General. The chances of it being disallowed after fifteen days are remote.

The amendments are not indexed in Hansard or debated in Parliament. In approval they are joined with a large number of other papers as sundry regulations etc. for approval at the expiration of the period of tabling. The first amendment appeared on the last page of the Daily Hansard on the last day of a sitting period of the House as 'Seat of Government (Administration) Act-Ordinances-1986, No 65 - Nature Conservation (Amendment)'. There is nothing to indicate that it even relates to the ACT. Moreover, even if you were an avid reader of Hansard or the Gazette it would serve no purpose since what has been done is most unlikely to be disallowed.

Possible changes to Namadgi which could be permitted (even allowing for a vigilant Consultative Committee which has no legal basis to influence a Minister's opinion) with little public notice by a Minister, or on a change of government are many. These could include restoration of the grazing leases in the Orroral, Gudgenby and Naas valleys, extension and upgrading of the road systems, the building of ski runs and facilities along the Brindabella Range, the routing of high voltage power lines, the building of concessional recreation facilities for private profit, forestry operations and so on.

Let us not think we have a national park with the fullest protection available; we have a reserve with limited protection awaiting changes. Its sanctity is at the whim of a Minister, who by a notice in the Gazette may revoke any part or even all of our so called 'national park'.

*NOTIONAL (Of thing etc.) Existing only in thought. Imaginary. (O.E.D.).

The Footpath Question

Alastair Morrison

Now that the Yerrabi Track has been completed it might perhaps be timely for members of our Association to consider whether more footpaths in Namadgi would be desirable.

The Yerrabi Track is designed to encourage members of the public to take a short walk in order to look out over the Namadgi area from an exceptionally good viewpoint. One hopes that this will encourage greater public awareness and understanding of Namadgi and increase the numbers of those who appreciate its value. Such interest, once awakened, may perhaps help to protect Namadgi from any threatening despoliation in the future.

But to what extent should other footpaths be a feature of Namadgi?

Footpaths must cause some damage even if it is very minor. They necessitate signs of human intrusion which some may consider objectionable. Reasonably competent walkers who are capable of using maps do not need them.

On the other hand, we have to recognise that many potential walkers are exceedingly timid about venturing into the bush. They regard the bush - anything wooded or uncultivated - as mysterious and threatening. They may not possess maps or know how to use them or be familiar with Graeme Barrow's excellent little book on family walks. Despite their limitations we surely need to encourage such potential walkers to familiarise themselves with the countryside and not to be dependent on guided tours. As they gain confidence so should their dependence on marked tracks and footpaths diminish.

I am not suggesting that Namadgi should be criss-crossed with marked footpaths leading to every peak and valley but I do think that there is a need for a reasonable variety of good, clearly marked day walks of varying lengths which a family or group can undertake without difficulty on a self guided basis.

Types of footpaths must vary with the terrain but there has to be a signboard at the starting point. It should provide a concise description of the path illustrated by a simple sketch map. If the path is a formed one, as in the case of Yerrabi, not

much more is needed apart from supplementary signboards pointing out special features.

If the path follows an old road or a firetrack there must be supplementary signboards at any junction or turn-off and it is important that they should point in both directions. In wooded areas or meadowland, if there is no formed footpath, the essential thing must be that from one signboard or other marking, you can always clearly see both the next one and the preceding one. How this should be done is open to debate. Personally, I favour small dabs of paint on trees, rocks or posts. The paint will weather away as a formed footpath develops. Signboards are only needed at key turning points.

By these criteria the signposts erected by the Park administration are of limited value. They are of modest dimensions and do little more than point in a direction and say "Thataway"! The uninitiated may have little idea where he will find the next signpost. They are so unobtrusive that when my wife and I recently walked up the new Brandy Flat path from Glendale Crossing we met a couple who had meandered off the track after missing the initial signpost. An entire NPA outing once walked past this particular signpost without a single participant noticing it.

I realise that my suggestions may be anathema to some valued fellow members of our Association but I think, if they reflect on the subject, they will see that they may be in some danger of falling into the trap of elitism. I suggest that members give the Bulletin the benefit of their views and, if in favour, make suggestions for suitable walks both on the eastern and western sides of Namadgi, starting from points on vehicular access roads. The possibilities are numerous, especially if one includes walks calling for a car shuttle, that is walks starting and finishing at different points. If I might set the ball rolling, I would suggest the following:

* Extension of the Yerrabi Track from the trigpoint to Hospital Hill and then down to Little Dry Creek and so back to the starting point on

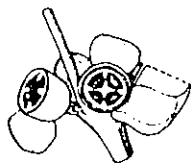
the Boboyan Road. Such a round walk would be more interesting than simply following the same route in both directions.

- * A walk round the top of the Boboyan Hill/Pheasant Hill massif to the site of the old Boboyan Homestead, starting and ending at the parking place on the road.

- * A shuttle walk from the Boboyan Homestead road parking area, up the line of the old road that once ran from the Homestead to Bradleys Creek on the Yaouk side, but turning off to follow Back Creek down to the Boboyan Road.

- * Another shuttle from the tower above Honeysuckle Creek, along the top of the escarpment above the Orroral Valley and passing Emu Flat, to the locked gate on the Smokers Trail. This is the sort of walk that would call for paint markings.

I hope that the foregoing may promote a little useful discussion in which members of the Park administration should feel free to participate. Our Association does excellent work in organising well led outings, but I feel that we should be doing a little more to encourage would-be walkers to gain knowledge and experience of Namadgi by doing their own thing, and doing it without getting lost, and in times of their own choosing.



Conglomerates, Bush Bottoms.



Bush Bottoms

Photograph by Russ Kelford

Bush Bottoms

Pam Kelford

On Saturday 16 May, Ian Haynes' NPA group met with Laurel Lowe's Goulburn Field Naturalist group (a total of twenty-two) at Goulburn Court House, for the drive out to Greenwich Park. Here we were met by Ernie Stephenson and his two daughters. Ages of the group ranged from teenagers to over seventy years.

Ernie led the cars about six kilometres to his property, Bush Bottoms, which is part of the Megalong Conglomerate (parts can also be seen at Tallong). The conglomerate is estimated to be 300 million years old, and is of great interest to univer-

sity groups and geologists.

After parking the cars on the property, we walked about two and a half kilometres, and nearing the lunch spot passed through ferny, mossy areas, and high, pale grey conglomerate rock formations which were thickly embedded with water worn pebbles. Ernie had gone ahead with a small group in his truck, and had the billy boiling (kerosene tin size) when the rest of us arrived. We had an early lunch with numerous cups of tea.

After a relaxing lunch break, Ernie led us around the western base of the rocks, pointing out lyrebird nests on some rocky ledges. Rock lilies could be seen high up in crevices. The conglomerate formations were often coneshaped; some formed large caverns; others had wind/rain holes worn in them; and some rockfaces had deteriorated, showing attractive pastel colours. At the northern end of the property we came to another group of interesting coneshaped rocks, from where we had extensive views to the north and west. When afternoon tea was over, we returned to the lunch spot by a different route, scrambling down off the rock formations we had walked under shortly after lunch.

We noticed that many native shrubs were in bud, including leucopogon, wattles, boronia and calytrix, all of which should make a good show in spring.

Photograph by Russ Kelford

7/8 November – Pack Walk (5)

Coronet Peak Ref: Rendezvous Creek 1:25 000
Leader: Frank Clements 31 7005
Contact leader before Wednesday for details of this exploratory walk to Coronet Peak, camping on the high ground of the Rock Flat area. 100 km drive.

7 November – Saturday Flower Walk (A)

Monga Ref: Batemans Bay State Forests
Leader: Karin Haynes 51 4762
Meet at Braidwood swimming pool at 0830, then drive to Monga. At this time of the year the waratahs - *Mongaensis* - should be well into bloom. The trip is well worth the 160 km drive. Several locations will be checked out in the area. Bring lunch.

8 November – Sunday Dual Walk (C/B)

Hardy Range, Cotter Hill, Pipeline Road
Ref: Cotter Dam, Tiddinbilla 1 :25 000
Leaders: Charles Hill 95 8924, Shirley Lewis 95 2720
Meet at the corner of Cotter Road and Eucumbene Drive at 0830. More demanding and varied walk is up and along Hardy Range, descending steeply over Cotter Hill. Mostly off tracks with tangled scrub at times. 15 km walk, main climb of 200 metres with ups and downs on the Range. Less demanding walk is along Pipeline Road to the foot of Cotter Hill. 14 km walk with ups and downs, steepish at times. Both walks return along Pipeline Road with good views and wild flowers. 35 km drive.

13/14/15 November – Ski Lodge Weekend

Charlotte Pass Ref: Kosciusko 1:100 000
Leader: Ian Haynes 51 4762
Arrive Friday evening or by 0900 Saturday morning. Do your own thing, join an organised walk or just relax. Bring sheets, pillow slips (or sleeping bags) and food (cook your own). Please contact leader by 3 November to confirm bookings. NPA members only. 420 km drive.

14/15 November – Pack Walk (3/5)

Bogong Peaks Ref: Talbingo, Yarrangobilly 1:25 000
Leader: Garth Abercrombie 81 4907
Contact leader by Wednesday for details of yet another exploratory walk in the Bogong Peaks area at the northern end of the Kosciusko National Park. Expect some thick scrub, rock scrambling with climbs of 600 metres. 360 km drive.

17 November – Tuesday Walk (A/C)

Booroomba Rocks Ref: ACT 1 :100 000
Leader: Olive Buckman 48 8774
Meet at Kambah Village shops at 0900. A 9 km walk along the fire trail, track and some scrub to a high point with extensive 360 degree views from an area of granite outcrops. A climb of 300 metres. 50 km drive.

21/22 November – Pack Walk (2)

Western Budawangs Ref: CMW Budawangs
Leader: Philip Gatenby 54 3094
Contact leader by Wednesday for details of this walk in from Wog Wog, mostly on tracks, to somewhere near the Corang River. Time for swimming, weather permitting. 300 km drive.

21 November – Saturday Walk (C)

Stockyard Spur/Black Springs
Ref: Corin Dam, Tiddinbilla 1 :25 000
Leaders: Kevin Tottardell 81 4410, Ian Haynes 51 4762
Contact leaders by Wednesday for details of this walk from Corin Dam to Stockyard Spur, Black Springs and Fishing Gap. A car shuffle between Fishing Gap car park and Corin Dam is required. A demanding days' walk of 16 km, with a climb of 530 metres in the first 1.5 km. Mostly on tracks, but some scrub bashing. This walk is not for beginners. 120 km drive.

22 November – Sunday Walk (B)

Boboyan Hill Ref: Yaouk 1:25 000
Leader: Beverley Hammond 88 6577
Meet at Kambah Village shops at 0900. A pleasant 12 km walk, beginning with a gradual climb of 200 metres through open bushland to Boboyan Hill. Descend to Bulls Flat Creek then join the Old Boboyan Road, passing ruined homestead. 120 km drive.

25 November – Wednesday Walk (A)

Rollys Hut Ref: Rendezvous Creek, Corin Dam 1:25 000
Leader: Robert Story 81 2174
Contact leader for details of this walk to a hut in the Orroral Valley. 100 km drive.

27/28/29 November – Pack Walk (4)

Brindabella/Mt Franklin/Mt Aggie
Ref: Brindabella 1:100 000
Leaders: Ken Johnson 48 5979, Ian Haynes 51 4762
Contact leaders by 20 November for details of this walk from 'Koorabri' up to Mt Franklin then returning via Mt Aggie. Friday night will be spent in cabins at Koorabri so that an early start can be made on Saturday. 150 km drive. Some may wish to join us and make a Sunday walk down to the valley.

28 November – Saturday Walk (B)

Stockyard Creek Ref: Corin Dam 1:25 000
Leader: Kevin Frawley 82 3080
Meet at the corner of Eucumbene Drive and Cotter Road at 0830. Visit arboretum which is the highest remaining in the ACT, see the early wild flowers. Suitable for families. 120 km drive.

6 December – Sunday Morning Walk

National Botanic Gardens Ref: Canberra Street Map
Leader: Barrie Hadlow 88 1168
Contact leader as numbers limited. NPA members only. Stroll around part of the Botanical Gardens. View the flowers and possibly the glasshouses. People may choose to stay and have lunch in the gardens.

13 December – Annual Christmas Party

Orroral Ref: ACT 1:100 000
Leader: President
Meet at Orroral picnic grounds at 1500 for NPA Christmas party. Members and friends welcome.

Advance Walk Notice

Spring 1988
The Flinders Ranges
Anyone interested in walking in this area contact Outings Convenor.

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.

OUTINGS PROGRAM

September – December 1987



OUTINGS GUIDE

Day Walks – Carry lunch, drinks & protective clothing
Pack Walks – Two or more days, carry all food and camping requirements. CONTACT LEADER BY 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 20km, 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 program. If necessary contact leader.

- 5/6 September – Pack Walk (2)**
Naas Creek Ref: Colinton 1:25 000
Leader: Jack Smart 48 8171
 Contact leader before Wednesday for details of this walk from the car park to Shanahans Mountain down Reedy Creek to Naas Creek. Steep climbs. 140 km drive.
- 5/6 September – Ski Weekend (2)**
Table Top Mountain Ref: Mt Selwyn Ski Tour Map
Leader: Steven Forst 57 3304
 Contact leader by Wednesday for details of this weekend tour, camping in/at/near Broken Dam Hut. Numbers limited. 450 km drive.
- 5 September – Saturday Walk (C)**
Mt Clear Ref: ACT 1:100 000
Leader: Kevin Totterdell 81 4110
 Meet in Kett Street beside Kambah Village shops at 0800. A walk of approximately 12 km partly on tracks, mainly open scrub with 600 metre climb. 140 km drive.
- 9 September – Wednesday Walk (A)**
Gudgenby Hut Ref: ACT 1:100 000
Leader: Robert Story 81 2174
 Meet at Kambah Village shops at 0830 for this walk to one of the 'Mountain Huts' in the Gudgenby area. 100 km drive.
- 11/12/13 September – Car Camp**
Bundanoon Ref: Bundanoon 1:25 000
Leader: Ian Currie 95 81 12
 Arrive Friday or Saturday. Bundanoon spring flowers. Bushels of Boronia, pecks of Pea Flowers, oz of Ozz, glow worms. A D.I.Y. weekend. Please contact leader by Wednesday as numbers are limited. 320 km drive.
- 13 September – Sunday Walk (B)**
Nursery Hill Ref: Rendezvous Creek 1:25 000
Leader: Neville Esau 86 4176
 Meet at Kambah Village shops at 0830. A 12 km walk, no tracks, some scrub, with a 350 metre climb. 90 km drive.
- 13 September – Sunday Ski Day**
Perisher Ref: Perisher Ski Tour Map
Leader: Gwen Hartigan 81 3622
 Contact leader early for details of this cross country ski day from Perisher to Mt Wheatley, Illawong and return. Final venue depends on snow. Some experience necessary. Numbers limited. 500 km drive.
- 15 September – Tuesday Walk (A)**
Gibraltar Falls Ref: ACT 1:100 000
Leader: Trevor Plumb 81 3258
 Meet at corner of Eucumbene Drive and Cotter Road at 0930. Drive to Woods Reserve then walk up to Gibraltar Falls and return. A 4 km walk returning to the cars for lunch. 90 km drive.
- 15 September – Outings Subcommittee Meeting**
21 Roberts Street, Macquarie
Leader: Ian Haynes 51 4762
 Meet at 1930 with ideas and details of outings for December, January and February.
- 19/20 September – Pack Walk (4)**
White Rock/Yankees Creek Ref: Yankees Gap 1:25 000
Leader: Philip Gatenby 54 3094
 Contact leader by Wednesday for details of this walk in Wadbilliga National Park. Mostly off tracks, some steep climbs. 400 km drive.
- 19/20 September – Ski Weekend (1/2)**
Perisher/Kiandra Ref: Perisher/Mt Selwyn Ski Tour Maps
Leader: Nick Gascoigne 51 5550
 Contact leader early for details of this ski touring/camping weekend. Numbers limited and venue depends on snow.
- 19 September – Saturday Walk (A/B)**
Cotter Rocks Ref: Rendezvous Creek 1:25 000
Leader: Steven Forst 57 3304
 Meet at Kambah Village shops at 0800. A long walk through Orroral Valley along fire trails and a bridle path, easy grades to the rocks above Cotter Gap. Good views and an interesting rock formation. 20 km walk, 550 metre climb and 100 km drive.
- 20 September – Sunday Walk (A)**
Orroral Valley Ref: Corin Dam 1:25 000
Leader: Shirley Lewis 95 2720
 Contact leader for details of this 16 km walk along tracks and open forest up the Orroral Valley with lunch near Sawpit Creek. Virtually no climbing. A suitable walk for those who like to stretch their legs but don't like hills. 100 km drive.
- 20 September – Sunday Morning Walk (A)**
Black Mountain Ref: Canberra Street Map
Leader: George Chippendale 81 2454
 Meet at Belconnen Way Entrance at 0930. Morning ramble to see the flowers, for those aged 4 to 80. Bring morning tea. Finishes at midday.
- 26 September – Saturday Walk (A)**
Bush Bottoms Ref: Goulburn 1:100 000
Leader: Karin Haynes 51 4762
 Contact leader early for details of this walk on private property to see the spring flowers, wattle and fascinating geology of the area. Billy tea provided for lunch and BBQ facilities. Small fee, short easy walk. 270 km drive.
- 27 September – Sunday Walk (B/C)**
The Pimple Ref: Tidbinbilla 1:25 000
Leader: Lyle Mark 86 2801
 Meet at corner of Eucumbene Drive and Cotter Road at 0815. A 10 km walk with a climb of 700 metres, partially along Camel Back Fire Trail then to Tidbinbilla Peak and The Pimple, returning via Tidbinbilla Mountain and Lyre Bird Spur. 70 km drive. Unsuitable for beginners.
- 3/4/5 October – Pack Walk (1/2)**
Gudgenby/Sams Creek/Caloola Ref: Rendezvous Creek, Yaouk 1:25 000
Leader: Les Pyke 81 2982
 Contact leader by Wednesday for details of this walk in the southern part of Namadgi National Park from the pine forest, across to Sams Creek Fire Trail and finishing at Caloola Farm. 100 km drive.
- 3/4/5 October – Pack Walk (3/5)**
Coolangubra State Forest Ref: Coolumbooka 1:25 000
Leader: Eric Pickering 86 2128
 Contact leader by Wednesday for details of this walk in the threatened Coolangubra State Forest. Visit waterfalls and mountains before the area is logged (?). 500 km drive.
- 10 October – Saturday Bird Walk**
Jerrabomberra Wetlands Ref: Canberra Street Map
Leader: Malcolm Fyfe 54 3310
 Meet at entrance to bird watching area on Dairy Flat Road at 0800. A lazy morning with the birds of the wetlands.
- 10 October – Saturday Walk (A/B)**
Googong Dam Ref: ACT 1:100 000
Leader: Peter Roe 91 9535
 Meet at Woolworth's Car Park. Queanbeyan at 0800. A 15 km walk through Googong catchment area taking in London Bridge Home- stead, Curley's Falls and steep climb to Compo Canyon. Two river crossings, possible wet feet, finishing at London Bridge arch. Not for beginners. 50 km drive.
- 11 October – Sunday Walk (A)**
Mt Clear Ref: ACT 1:100 000
Leader: Steven Forst 57 3304
 Meet at Kambah Village shops at 0830. After a long drive, this is a pleasant river valley walk along the Naas River to Horse Gully Hut for lunch. 15 km walk and 140 km drive.
- 14 October – Wednesday Walk (A)**
Campbell Park Ref: Canberra Street Map
Leaders: Sheila Kruse 48 6104, Ken Johnson 48 5979
 Meet at entrance to Campbell Park Offices at 1000. Parking at northern end of car park (leaders will direct). An easy meandering two hour ramble through open undulating woodland along 4WD and animal tracks.
- 18 October – Pack Walk (1/2)**
Brindabellas Ref: ACT 1:100 000
Leader: Robert Story 81 2174
 Contact leader early for details of this pack walk in the 'Brindabellas'.
- 17 October – Saturday Dual Walks (A & C)**
Smokers Flat Ref: Corin Dam 1:25 000
Leaders: Sophie Caton 47 2468; Graham Guttridge 31 4330
 Meet at Kambah Village shops at 0830. Two walks into the Smokers Flat area for lunch then separating into an easy walk returning to cars with Sophie and for the more energetic a hard return walk among the granite tors with Graham. These walks are approximately 7 km and 14 km, with 90 km drive.
- 18 October – Sunday Walk**
Devils Peak Ref: Cotter Dam 1:25 000
Leader: Les Pyke 81 2982
 Meet at corner of Eucumbene Drive and Cotter Road at 0830. A 10 km walk along the fire trail from Blundells Flat, with a steep 300 metre climb to the peak. Views of Canberra and surrounds. 60 km drive.
- 24 October – Saturday Walk (C)**
Pierces Creek Falls/Cotter Hill Ref: Cotter Dam, Tidbinbilla 1:25 000
Leader: Lyle Mark 81 6985
 Meet at the corner of Eucumbene Drive and Cotter Road at 0830. A 17 km walk mainly on tracks to Pierces Creek Falls and return via Cotter Hill and Bendora Pipe Line track. Great for photos. 60 km drive.
- 25 October – Sunday Walk (A)**
Nursery Swamp Ref: Rendezvous Creek 1:25 000
Leader: Dianne Thompson 88 6084
 Meet at Kambah Village shops at 0930. A walk of about 10 km on a bush track from Orroral Valley to Nursery Swamp. 100 km drive.
- 27 October – Tuesday Walk (A)**
Mt Ainslie Foothills – Hackett Ref: Canberra Street Map
Leaders: Sheila Kruse 48 6104, Ken Johnson 48 5979.
 Meet at the entrance to Canberra Nature Park in Mackenzie St, near the top of Grayson St, at 1000. An easy 2 hour walk up the 4WD track to the water tank, along the striding ridge to the powerline and return via the equestrian trail to the starting point.
- 31 October/1 November – Car Camp**
Sandy Flat/Meryla Ref: Bundanoon 1:100 000
Leaders: Russ Kefford 26 2631 and Outings Convenor
 Contact leader by Wednesday for details of this car camp in the Morton National Park. Come and see the flowers, waratahs, water- fall and birds in the surrounding area.
- 31 October/1 November – Pack Walk (1)**
Mt Talaterang Ref: CMW Budawangs
Leader: Steven Forst 57 3304
 Contact leader before Wednesday for details of this walk to a less visited high point in the Budawangs. After a relatively late start, a short walk to the camp site with full packs.
- 31 October – Saturday, Map and Compass Skills**
Black Mountain Ref: ACT 1:100 000
Leader: Margus Karilaid 82 4118
 Numbers limited. Please contact leader early for details of this tuition on map and compass use. Included is a morning of instruction followed by an afternoon of field experience on Black Mountain.
- 1 November – Sunday Bike Ride**
Lake Burley Griffin/Mt Pleasant Ref: Canberra's Bike Paths and Street Map
Leader: Gary Schneider 54 9801
 Meet at Acton Ferry Terminal at 1000 for a bike ride via 'The Lakes' bike paths then to Duntroon and Mt Pleasant. Bring lunch and puncture repair kits.

OUTINGS PLANNING FORM

This form is for leaders and intending leaders to submit outings ideas for the next program, which covers the period December to February. The next program is being prepared in September.

Please think about the outings you would like to lead, then complete the form and send it to the Outings Convenor **by 15 September**.

Outing/Locality:

Map Reference:

Outing Date:

Alternative Dates: (1)

(2)

Major Attractions (views , waterfalls, forest, wildflowers, etc)

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Major Difficulties (steep climbs, thick bush, rock scrambling, compulsory swim, etc)

.....
.....
.....

Grade:

Ascent/Descent: metres

Total Walking Distance: kilometres

Total Driving Distance: kilometres

Meeting Place and Time:

Leaders Name:

Leaders Contact No:

ALSO USE THIS FORM FOR NATURAL HISTORY WALKS, LOOK AND LOITER WALKS, ETC.

Planning And Management Of The Murrumbidgee River Corridor

Greg Hayes

The ACT Parks and Conservation Service is preparing a plan of management for the Murrumbidgee River Corridor (MRC). It is expected that the plan will be available in draft form for public comments at the end of October this year. The Service is keen to involve organisations such as the NPA in preparation of the final plan which will be published early next year. The contact officer for further information is Greg Hayes, Reserves Biologist, phone 46 2560.

The Murrumbidgee River flows through the ACT for sixty-six kilometres from its entry point at Angle Crossing to a point three kilometres north of Uriarra Crossing where the river re-enters New South Wales. The landscapes along the river valley are varied and include spectacular rocky gorges, rolling rural plains and thickly wooded hills.

Most Canberrans would be familiar with some components of the river corridor. Surveys have shown that on a typical summer Sunday up to 10,000 people are attracted to recreation areas on the river with the most popular sites being Pine Island and the Cotter/Casuarina Sands area. The recreation demand can be expected to continue to increase particularly in areas adjacent to Tuggeranong.

However, there are many other values associated with the river corridor and a concentration on recreational issues ignores the *raison d'être* for the emergence of the concept of a continuous corridor. In terms of natural values:

- . The riverine environment provides habitat for a wide range of migratory and resident wildlife. Fish species include Murray Cod, Golden Perch, Silver Perch and Macquarie Perch. The last is listed as an Australian endangered species. The autumn migration of honeyeaters along the river corridor constitutes one of the most dramatic wildlife displays in the region with up to 10,000 birds per hour estimated to pass a given point.

- . 130 bird species have been recorded in the MRC. Twenty species are particularly associated with

the riverine environment including the Rainbow Bee-eater and the Yellow Thornbill. The Painted Honey-eater returns to the ACT region in November each year to coincide with the flowering and fruiting of a food source, the mistletoe parasite of local casuarinas.

- . Important remnants of natural vegetation exist in pockets along the MRC including riparian stands of the River Oak (*Casuarina cunningghamiana*) and Manna Gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis*). Four rare, threatened or endangered plant species are also present, namely *Discaria pubescens*, *Drabastrum alpestre*, *Pomaderris pallida* and *Thesium australe*.

The MRC has many cultural associations with the prehistory and history of the ACT region. These range from inconspicuous scatters of Aboriginal stone artefacts to developed precincts such as Lanyon homestead and its surrounding landscape. The Paddys River mines, De Salis cemetery, William Farrer's laboratory and the stone wall at Tuggeranong are just a few examples of sites with interesting and educative historical stories.

The MRC as a Planning Concept

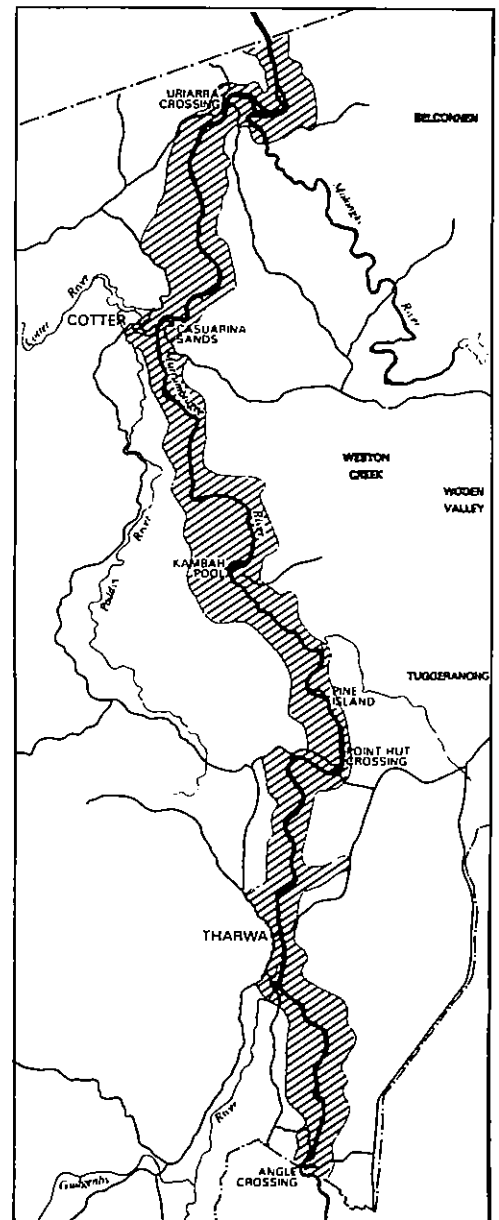
The development of Tuggeranong began in the early 1970's and served to focus attention on the impact of Canberra on the Murrumbidgee River.

The value of various landscapes associated with the river had been given recognition prior to this time, particularly the rural landscape and the Bullen Range which forms a backdrop to Tuggeranong. The emergence of the concept of a contiguous river corridor in the ACT reflected community interest in protecting values associated with the water body itself and the riverine environment.

In 1981 the Parliamentary Joint Committee on the ACT conducted an inquiry into the Murrumbidgee River in the ACT. The NPA made a submission to this inquiry proposing declaration of a continuous river corridor to be reserved largely for nature conservation. The NCDC submission proposed a similar cor-

ridor with a defined set of land uses including recreation, vegetation restoration, grazing, historical/cultural sites as well as nature conservation.

This proposal formed the basis of the draft policy and development plan for the MRC which was published for public comment by the NCDC in 1983. The NCDC undertakes planning in the ACT while management is the responsibility of the Department of Territories. Within the Department the ACT



The Murrumbidgee River Corridor as defined in the Draft Policy and Development Plan (NCDC, 1983)

Parks and Conservation Service undertakes management of open space, including the MRC. The NCDC presents its planning intentions in a hierarchy of documents at the top of which is the Metropolitan Plan for the ACT. This plan refers generally to the inclusion of the river corridor into the National Capital Open Space System – the landscape settings in the ACT that contribute to Canberra's role as the national capital. Specific land uses are ascribed in policy plans of which the above-mentioned MRC policy plan is a draft. Having assessed public submissions, the NCDC is nearing completion of the final policy plan for the MRC.

In other developments since 1983:

. The MRC was listed in the Register of the National Estate. This took place in 1985 and was based on the boundaries shown in the draft policy plan.

. In 1985 the Lanyon-Lambrigg area was declared a Landscape Conservation Reserve under the

Nature Conservation Ordinance 1980. This is seen as an interim measure until specific ACT heritage legislation is available.

Management of the MRC

In 1986 the Service commenced preparation of a management plan for the MRC. The intention of this document is to define the role of the Service within the MRC, to provide a clear statement of management objectives for the area, and to detail management programs designed to achieve the objectives.

The Service plans to publish the draft plan in October this year for public comment. A three month period will be available for submission of comments. These will be assessed by the Service and changes made to the plan where considered appropriate before the completed document goes before Parliament for approval.

The Service believes the value of the document will be greatly enhanced by the public consultation phase and intends making a considerable

effort to ensure the draft is brought to the attention of the public and other organisations.

Methods will include use of the media for publicity, travelling displays in public areas such as shopping centres and opportunities for discussion of the plan with management staff. The Service believes the NPA can make a significant contribution to the preparation of the completed plan of management for the MRC.

Further Reading:

National Capital Development Commission, *Ecological Resources of the ACT*, 1984.

National Capital Development Commission, *Murrumbidgee River Corridor Policy Plan and Development Plan – Draft for Discussion*, October 1983.

Parliamentary Joint Committee, *Murrumbidgee River in the ACT*, 1984. AGPS.

An Interview With Charles Hill

Judith Simondson

Charles Hill was one of the first walk leaders I experienced when I joined NPA. I was impressed with his leadership skills and his knowledge of the bush in all its forms. At the June General Meeting of the Association, Bob Story spoke of Charles' contribution to the Association in the tree planting project at Glendale, and his involvement with the Walks Committee. I wanted to know how Charles had acquired his love of the bush and his leadership skills.

Editor: I know you have been a keen walker and skier for many years and you encouraged your children to love the bush, did your parents encourage you, or is your love of the bush something which is innate within you?

Charles: Each year as a child my parents and an aunt, with their families, had a holiday at Sorrento, Victoria, with its ocean and bay beaches set in coastal bush. We children used to love looking at life

in the rock pools and my father particularly took us on long walks and encouraged our interest in everything around us. Sometimes we had competitions with prizes to see who could find the most beautiful or interesting shells or other objects.

This interest in nature was heightened considerably when, over forty-five years ago, I started walking, backpacking and skiing with the Melbourne Amateur Walking and Touring Club as it was then known. Each budding member had to survive four official walks with conduct and attitude being monitored. After considerable experience was gained one could attempt to convince the 'elders' and officials that one was ready to lead a walk. All this involved guidance and advice on navigation and bushcraft, which included conservation, although it was not called that then. The mateship and spirit in the Club has been a highlight; I am still a member and walk with them when opportunity

offers.

Editor: How long have you been walking and skiing?

Charles: Just on fifty years.

Editor: How long have you been a member of National Parks Association?

Charles: Probably about fifteen years.

Editor: Was the organisation (NPA) conservation minded in the early days or was it just a walking association?

Charles: It was started to lobby for a national park. Walking started later as an interest for members.

Editor: The word conservation is relatively new. Do you think people are more aware now than they used to be about conservation?

Charles: Yes. Even post war, the average person thought that the country's resources, except water,



Charles Hill

Photograph by Judith Simondson

were virtually unlimited. Now we are seeing that we have to conserve just to survive.

Editor: In the film *Earth First*, it seemed as though it was young people protesting against society and the government. How do people become aware of the environment and still meet their needs for food, air and shelter?

Charles: We all have high priority short term needs of shelter, food, clothing and warmth. Anyone who is having difficulty in providing these needs is unlikely to divert resources to long term conservation needs. Further, persons with an income higher than basic personal needs will generally be interested in investing money and effort in enterprises which will generate income in the short or medium term, usually within their own expected lifetimes.

Many conservation projects appear to have tangible benefits only in the long term, for example, some soil conservation projects or the planting of slow growing trees. Others appear to have only intangible benefits and then only for a very limited number of people, like saving a tropical rainforest or the protection of the beauty of a pristine natural area.

So we have a task to educate people that basic short term needs and conservation needs are not diametrically opposed; indeed without conservation the resources to meet basic short term needs will reduce and could disappear entirely in the long term. With farsighted planning and careful direction of effort using

conservation principles, basic personal needs could continue to be met for this and future generations indefinitely.

The education task must show people that saving a tropical rainforest will give future natural resources for pharmaceutical products at present unknown; more importantly in conjunction with other forests it will allow all peoples to continue to have oxygen in the air and drinkable water. You might say "What real benefit is a beautiful pristine area?" I personally believe that as population pressures continue, our future mental health will depend on the availability of such areas for recreation to relieve stress and "charge up our batteries".

This education task is a tremendous one and the help of every one of us is needed to spread the message.

Editor: You have been a member of NPA for fifteen years. What attracted you to the organisation and why have you stayed and made such an important contribution?

Charles: Coming to Canberra in 1960 with three young children and leaving nearly all our friends behind, we decided to seek our recreation largely as a family unit. We enjoyed the outdoors, walking, swimming and skiing and wanted to explore for ourselves the country around Canberra. So we had regular family outings in the Snowys, the Coast, the Brindabellas, the Tidbinbilla ridge (there was no reserve then), along the rivers and many other places. I had valuable experience as a leader in the Melbourne Walking Club so had no difficulty in finding our way from maps.

As the children grew older with widening interests I walked with member Bill Adams, a friend from earlier days in the Melbourne Walking Club. We decided that it would be an advantage to the whole family to join in activities with people of similar interests in the NPA.

We have remained active members of the NPA because we fully support the aims and objectives of the Association. We can take part in activities which are wider in range and scope than we could undertake ourselves. The general meetings are interesting and instructive. When with a group of members one can usually obtain information on a wide range of subjects such as wildflowers, trees, animals, birds,

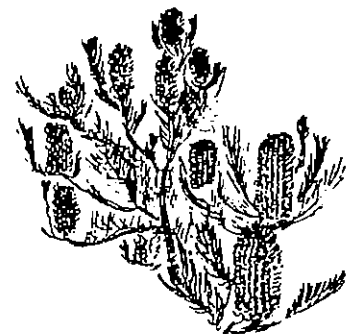
rock forms etc. It is also rewarding to work with people for a worthwhile cause. Last but certainly not least, we have made many good friends in the NPA.

Editor: What do you feel you have contributed to NPA?

Charles: The immediate short answer is "not much"! Being pressed a little more, as a leader of NPA walks and camps I hope I have contributed to members' enjoyment, interest and perhaps physical and mental well being (bruises, scratches, bites and blisters notwithstanding!).

The tree planting project comes to mind. It has been a large team effort and I hope my role as organiser and leader helped the efforts of the team to achieve something worthwhile. What really pleases me is that through this project we were able to demonstrate in a practical way that the NPA was willing to go beyond its strong lobbying for a national park and work quite hard in co-operation with the authorities to make one part of the Namadji National Park, small though it may be, a better place for all. I am proud of the mutual respect and trust this project helped to generate between the authorities and the Association.

Looking back, quite a few interesting things, large and small, happened during the time I was on the Committee and various of its Subcommittees. I was merely a team member but found I could contribute at times because of some knowledge of the country and environment and because of experience in administration and the machinery and procedures of government. On reflection, it just goes to show that any member can contribute to the work of the Committee/Subcommittees, even without the specialised skills and knowledge that luckily some other members do possess.



Just Briefly –

Attention! Koala Medicare! The management at Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve are anxious to hear about sightings of koalas *anywhere* in the ACT region. You could help in the fight against the serious disease chlamydia, by contacting Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve 37 5120 to report the location of your sighting – essentially on the same day. Blood samples are taken from wild koalas and identification tags attached to the animals before releasing. Thus a check can be made on possible chlamydia carriers. Koalas in the Nature Reserve's enclosure are regularly inspected to ensure that the population there is chlamydia-free.

On a happier note, we are now able to get stiff necks somewhere other than in the Koala Enclosure. Six charming creatures formerly of the above address now reside in trees in the waterbird area, leaving a population in the Koala Enclosure of ten - correction, ten and a half - as one tiny young has bravely emerged from the mother's pouch, very much out of season. However, don't expect a sighting of this one until snoozing-in-sun weather has arrived. To give your neck a rest whilst in the Koala Enclosure, cast your eyes about at ground level. It is a habit of the swamp wallabies herein to 'freeze' and assume a camouflage position, quite often at the path's edge. Proof of breeding success of some Tidbinbilla populations is the publication of a *Surplus Animals List*. Its purpose is to inform bodies such as wildlife sanctuaries, zoos, etc. as to what is available. Species to go to Victoria's Healesville Wildlife Sanctuary recently, included Magpie Geese, Black Swans, and Grey and Chestnut Teal. In addition to these were some wallaroos, still leaving about thirty-five at Tidbinbilla. This figure may surprise some readers, as wallaroos, being shy, tend to stay in more secluded spots than the more readily visible kangaroos, the reds and the greys.

To close this Tidbinbilla episode is another plea. Over the past few months, visitors of all ages have been delighted to make the close acquaintance of a real little 'charmer' in the form of a half-grown female wombat. There she is, surrounded by curious humans, soaking up every bit of attention she can get!

The trouble is that she is not 'traffic-wise', so when you are driving through the Nature Reserve, please observe the speed limit of thirty-five kph *especially* within the vicinity of the Visitors' Centre and beyond.

Watch for more news of your favourite Nature Reserve in the next Just Briefly.

★ ★ ★

The current display at the Australian National Botanic Gardens, 'Eaten Alive' (see 'Just Briefly', last Bulletin) has proved so popular that it will continue into late September.

A feature of late winter and the spring in Australia is the coming into bloom of hundreds of wattle species. To mark the occasion there is to be a series of 'wattle celebrations' at the Gardens. From August until 10 September there will be a small display at the Information Centre. If readers miss out on this, the pamphlets being issued in conjunction with the display, for a self-guided tour of the Gardens' wattle section, would 'fill them in' on the species in flower.

The Education Service of the ANBG is to run a 'Springtime is Wattle Time' program, giving classes on wattle propagation (ring 67 1804). However, because of the quarterly publishing of the NPA Bulletin, this information may not reach readers in time.

Now for the really exciting news – that is for those under twelve, or for "those who can remember ..." (Gumnut babies, Banksia men, etc.). From approximately 6 October until the first week in November, there is to be a display featuring May Gibbs and Peg Maltby, with lots of illustrations from their books. In addition, between 25 and 31 October (Children's Week), there will be readings from their books and those of other Australian writers.

Also during Children's Week, the ANBG's Education Service will conduct a family walk. The theme is to be Australian plants used by the Aboriginal people and the early settlers, and featured in Australian children's literature (for bookings 67 1804).

Now for the AO rated display, 'Pollination – The Mysteries of the Sex Life of Australian Plants', from mid-November to March 1988. (Children may attend under parental guidance, but should bring their copy of 'Gumnut Babies'.)

★ ★ ★

By the time you read this, NPA members Jean and Ian Currie and Gabrielle Watt will have completed a month's tour ranging from coastal north Queensland to the Northern Territory. Their group will be accompanied by Richard Jordan, who is Warden at the Barren Grounds Bird Observatory, and, whilst in the Northern Territory, by Dr Sonia Tideman.

Among the national parks visited will be Kakadu and Katherine Gorge, of course, but an earlier destination is the remote and beautiful Lawn Hill Gorge on the Queensland side of the Northern Territory border. Before that will be a visit to the lush rainforests of the Palmerston National Park, located on the heights of the Atherton Tableland. We await with great anticipation reports of any sightings of the wary cassowary and other flamboyant dwellers of that area.

★ ★ ★

The bird observatory off the Eyre Highway was part of Joan and Ray Hegarty's itinerary en route to Western Australia. These two keen observers of *all* nature will soon have many feathered tails to tell!

★ ★ ★

Reg Alder suggests that "Much can be learnt from observing the habits and 'customs' of animals and birds on our bush walks and camps". He continues, "The weekend camp at Meroo Point provided a lesson which was avidly observed and assimilated by our new parents, the Gatenbys, and put into their computer file for future reference when the decision has to be made to spank or not to spank.

A scavenging magpie family of mother and father with two near-adult off spring, came down to beg for the tasty titbits that humans can provide. A piece of bread, a half a metre away, was too close to us for father magpie. Junior, squawking incessantly two or three metres away, was quite prepared to be fed if father took all the risks. Father's patience broke after several months of continual squawking; junior needed a lesson. Running rapidly back, a most resounding peck on the back of the head was given to junior, who fell to the ground with the blow. It was a lesson well learnt. Junior, without further demur or even another squawk, ran promptly

over to take the proffered bread, again and again until the supply ran out! There must be a moral in the story, and to us the recollection of many proverbs on behaviour."

Yes Reg. Aesop enacted in the Australian bush.

★ ★ ★

During May, the youngest member of the NPA, only six weeks old, braved the wet weather with his parents and went camping at the coast. His father, Philip, commandeered his pram to carry the large tent from the campsite at Meroo Point to the cars. No doubt this occasion is only the beginning of many years of camping and walking for young Andrew Gatenby.

★ ★ ★

Which conservation issue –

(a) caused Victoria's Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands to say "It is simply not an option to allow a unique creature to become extinct", and go on to promise between \$200,000 and \$250,000 of next year's land acquisition budget?
 (b) caused the Shire of Eltham to commit land worth \$220,000 plus \$10,000 toward fund raising?
 (c) became the subject of public meetings and ongoing reports in the Melbourne 'Age'?
 (d) decided ANZ's Esanda Finance to delay their operation at great cost? "If someone had brought up this issue ten years ago, - a butterfly halting a development, they would have been laughed out of court." (David Cameron, La Trobe University botanist.) That's right, the unique creature in question is *Paralucia pyrodiscus lucida*, the Eltham Copper butterfly. First described in 1951, it was thought to be extinct in Victoria until 1986, when three small colonies were found at Eltham. Two colonies found in January 1987 contain core breeding stock. However, these are in the centre of a fourteen hectare bush block which is to be subdivided. *Paralucia pyrodiscus lucida* breeds only in the roots of certain bursaria bushes. Larvae depend on a relationship with ants which nest in the same plant. At night, the ants shepherd the larvae up the stems to feed on the leaves and then back to the roots. The ants feed on a sweet secretion from the larval butterfly's body.

The Eltham Copper and other



The pram-hauling car camper. Meroo Point.

Photograph by Reg Alder

endangered species are of special interest to Mr David Crosby of East Melbourne, who recently presented his collection of 13,000 Australian butterflies to the CSIRO's Division of Entomology in Canberra. According to a spokesman from the Entomology Division, the two most endangered species are *Paralucia spinifera* and *Hypochrysops piceatus*. The former, like the Eltham Copper, feeds on *Bursaria spinosa* (Blackthorn) and is now found only in a square kilometre of roadside verge and farm paddock near Bathurst. The latter, whose larvae feed on the leaves of *Casuarina luehmannii* and has the same ant association as the Eltham Copper, is found only on a tiny piece of roadside verge near Leyburn on the Darling Downs.

Creatures as fragile and ephemeral as these have the same right to protection from extinction as does that awe-inspiring creature of longevity, the salt-water crocodile, and no less right than those with the instant appeal of soft fur or beautiful feathers.

★ ★ ★

Kakadu National Park Plan Of Management, with foreword by Professor J.D. Ovington, Director, Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service, is a comprehensive publication containing a four page description of the National Park, several maps and tables, an exten-

sive bibliography, and lists of the Investigating Officers, scientists, etc. responsible for the various research and survey programs. The main part of the book is divided into seventeen sections and covers such topics as flora and fauna management, habitat management (ie, fire, water and soil), cultural resource management (sacred sites, rock art and archaeological sites), recreational activities and visitor accommodation, research, administration, and capital works. A valuable source of background information for anyone planning to visit Kakadu National Park, the book can be obtained from the ANPWS, 217 Northbourne Ave, for \$10 a copy.

★ ★ ★

Thanks to those readers who have contributed to the last eight 'Just Briefly' columns. However, many more items regarding members, their walks, camps, etc are needed so as to give the column more of an NPA flavour. Please help by ringing 88 1889.

Melliodora

Report On Our Glendale Trees 1987

Charles Hill

TREE GROWTH

Species	Date	Under 30cm		30-90cm		Over 90cm		Totals	
		No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
<i>E. bridgesiana</i> (Apple Box)	22.3.84	21	11	158	82	14	7	193	100
	24.4.85	11	6	146	78	30	16	187	100
	28.5.86	59	34	83	47.5	32	18.5	174	100
	15.5.87	74 ¹	61.5	31	26	15	12.5	120 ²	100
<i>E. pauciflora</i> (Snow Gum)	22.3.84	5	22	12	52	6	26	23	100
	24.4.85	1	5	10	47.5	10	47.5	21	100
	28.5.86	1	5	5	24	15	71	21	100
	15.5.87	0	0	1	5	19	95	20	100
<i>E. rubida</i> (Candlebark)	22.3.84	20	16	91	73	14	11	125	100
	24.4.85	9	7	81	66	33	27	123	100
	28.5.86	17	15	61	53	37	32	115	100
	15.5.87	29 ¹	28	52	50	23	22	104 ²	100
<i>E. stellulata</i> (Black Sallee)	22.3.84	19	31	40	66	2	3	61	100
	24.4.85	3	6	27	58	17	36	47	100
	28.5.86	3	7	6	14	34	79	43	100
	15.5.87	1	2.5	5	12	35	85.5	41	100
TOTALS	22.3.84	65	16	301	75	36	9	402	100
	24.4.85	24	6	264	70	90	24	378	100
	28.5.86	80	22.5	155	44	118	33.5	353	100
	15.5.87	104	36.5	89	31	92	32.5	285	100

TREE TOTALS AND LOSSES

Species	Date	Totals	Annual Loss		Cumulative Loss	
			No	%	No	%
<i>E. bridgesiana</i> (Apple Box)	4.6.83	213				
	22.3.84	193	20	9		
	24.4.85	187	6	3	26	12
	28.5.86	174	13	7.5	39	18
	15.5.87	120	54	31	93 ¹	43.5
<i>E. pauciflora</i> (Snow Gum)	4.6.83	25				
	22.3.84	23	2	8		
	24.4.85	21	2	9	4	16
	28.5.86	21	0	0	4	16
	15.5.87	20	1	5	5	20
<i>E. rubida</i> (Candlebark)	4.6.83	137				
	22.3.84	125	12	9		
	24.4.85	123	2	2	14	10
	28.5.86	115	8	6.5	22	16
	15.5.87	104	11 ²	9.5	33 ¹	24
<i>E. stellulata</i> (Black Sallee)	4.6.83	90				
	22.3.84	61	29	32		
	24.4.85	47	14	23	43	48
	28.5.86	43	4	9.5	47	52
	15.5.87	41	2 ¹	4.5	49	54.5
TOTALS	4.6.83	465				
	22.3.84	402	63	14		
	24.4.85	378	24	6	87	19
	28.5.86	353	25	6.5	112	24
	15.5.87	285	68	19.5	180	38.5

1. The process continues of dieback and then regrowth at a lower or ground level with these two species. In effect, growth is regressing.
2. It is even more difficult this year to distinguish some *E. bridgesiana* from *E. rubida* as the majority of leaves are missing or badly eaten. Errors are probable.
3. These two trees have a superficial appearance of *E. stellulata* and have previously been counted as such. However, they have a different odour and rather different leaf venation. We included them as *E. rubida* on this survey but may have to wait until they flower and fruit for positive identification.
4. Some *E. bridgesiana* and *E. rubida* are in poor condition and further losses can be expected.

Members who drive at a relaxed pace past the tree site at Glendale may have noticed how tall some of the trees are growing. If the pace was even more relaxed, they may have noticed that other trees have few healthy leaves and look rather 'poorly'.

The tall trees are the Snow Gums (*E. pauciflora*) and Black Sallees (*E. stellulata*) and some of them are over three metres high. Generally, all of these two species are healthy and the numbers lost since May 1986 are very low.

It is disappointing that the well grown trees of the other two species, Apple Box (*E. bridgesiana*) and Candlebark (*E. rubida*), have mainly died or been severely set back. Trees planted by the rangers near the Information Centre have been somewhat similarly affected. As stated in my last report on the May 1986 survey, we expected losses this year of some forty of these two species, but the actual loss is well over that figure with some of the remainder just clinging to life. Although there are plenty of Apple Box and Candlebark on the site with new regrowth shoots, it seems likely that many will fail to survive the next season. On the optimistic side, a mature Candlebark is a good sized tree and a mature Apple Box is an even bigger tree with a large spread, so a small number of survivors will still make a significant contribution to the area.

Two statistical tables with this report show the detail of survivors and losses to date.

As will be seen from the notes to the tables, identification was even more difficult than in past years with Apple Boxes and Candlebarks. In some cases we will probably have to wait for flowering and fruiting to make an accurate judgment.

All wire treeguards and motor tyres have now been removed from the trees. Some wire guards and tyres have been retained in the past for small trees and those with regrowth from the base. However, we have found that slow growth and regrowth tends to spread horizontally initially and the growing tips are pinned down by pushing through the wire netting or curling around inside the tyre, so now we have removed them all. Good attendance with plenty of trailers and vans at the May maintenance outing enabled us to clear the site and transport the tyres and netting to authorised tips in Canberra.



The Timber Industry And Conservation

Julia Trainor

The Environment Centre held the first of its fund raising dinners at the Civic Youth Cafe in May. After a delicious vegetarian meal, prepared by the young people at the Cafe, we charged our glasses and settled in to listen to two after dinner speakers on the subject of the timber industry.

The first speaker was Gavin Hillier who is the NSW State Secretary of the Timber Workers Union. Gavin began by asking for a show of hands from all union members present. To his surprise the majority of his audience were not only conservationists but also unionists, and this was a favourable start to the evening.

Gavin gave a lively account of his career. After twenty-one years as a roof tiler and private contractor, Gavin was employed with Laminex Customwood in Wagga, where membership of the Timber Workers Union was compulsory. He found that the union executive was not interested in the members' welfare, and decided to correct this by becoming active in his union. Timber workers are largely non-unionised, but since attaining office Gavin has increased union membership from 4000 to 9000.

Gavin's single motive is the welfare of his members. He described timber mills in Sydney, owned by multinationals, which would remind you of the depression, and where the workers are "treated like dogs". By contrast he described the mills at Nimmitabel and Bombala, where the workers are paid generous over-award wages. Gavin had a strong commitment to maintaining the viability of these good employers, but had little loyalty to the multinational owners of large, centralised, automated mills. One important reason for this is that small (sawlog) mills employ more labour, while large chip mills are largely automated and employ few workers.

Gavin Hillier was followed by David Dumaresq who is a lecturer in the Human Sciences Program at the Australian National University. David's principal message was that it is possible to have both forests and jobs, if the industry is managed correctly. There cannot be forestry jobs without forests, and both the forests and the jobs are disappearing fast.

The losses in jobs are not due to the forests being "locked up", as the woodchipping industry would have us believe. The forests are being reduced by clearfelling, and jobs are being lost through structural changes in the industry. Labour is being replaced by capital through mechanisation. Between 1970 and 1985 the number of forest industry jobs fell by twenty-four per cent, although the industry removed forty-six per cent more logs. The fact is that the industry is taking more wood and employing fewer workers. Since the 1950's fifty per cent of all mills in Australia have closed down.

The biggest problem is that the industry is chipping today's and tomorrow's saw logs. Young regrowth forests are being harvested by large machines which require few workers. The chips are then exported in their least processed state. The conservation movement needs to put forward proposals to both unions and government to demonstrate how we can have both forests and jobs.

David Dumaresq recommended a combination of immediate and longer term goals:

. Immediately, we should move to the full utilisation of cut wood, to obtain increased revenue. With careful use of every tree we can obtain better prices, employ more people, rejuvenate the sawmill industry and produce more revenue for the industry. We should also immediately demand realistic royalties for pulpwood. Australian woodchips are worth a better price than they are getting.

. In the longer term, we should process woodchips in Australia. We should also move the production of wood fibre (chips and pulp) out of native forests into plantations or tree farms. Tree farming must be distinguished from forestry - otherwise the sawmills are likely to disappear long before the pulp and chip mills. We should use cleared farm land on the coast and on the escarpment to set up both state-owned and privately-owned agro-forestry.

These two speakers with very different backgrounds stimulated a

lively response of questions and comments from the audience. For example, one person referred to the tactic of damaging or disabling forestry machinery, but this was roundly condemned by the meeting as a whole. The meeting seemed to reach consensus on two main issues:

. Firstly, the choice between forests and jobs is a false choice. With proper management we can have both.

. Secondly, conservationists and timber workers should endeavour to identify the common ground between them, and to withstand the efforts of the multinational woodchipping companies who try to turn timber workers against conservationists.



The Potoroo's Home In Canberra

Native animal lovers will be interested to know that the Potoroo (*Potorous longpipes*) will have a prominent position in the New Parliament House in Canberra.

A sixteen metre long embroidered panel tells, in graphic form, how European man has changed the environment since settlement in 1788, by introducing predatory species which have endangered our natural flora and fauna. The Potoroo is just one of the species which has been endangered.

The embroidery panel, which is designed by Kay Lawrence of Adelaide, is stitched in wools on a linen background by hundreds of Embroidery Guild members throughout Australia. The panel will be located on the first floor gallery of the Great Reception Hall.



(As reported in VNPA Newsletter, Vol 6 No 4, May 1987)

A Historical Atlas Of Australia

Trevor Plumb

The atlas, *Australians: A Historical Atlas*, is part of a ten-volume series, *Australians: A Historical Library*, being produced to mark the bicentenary year. Five volumes of the series are written histories: *Australians to 1788*, *Australians 1838*, *Australians 1888*, *Australians 1938* and *Australians from 1939*. The other five volumes are reference works. Apart from the atlas, these are a historical dictionary, an account of events and places, a set of historical statistics, and a guide to history sources. At the time of writing, the atlas and five other volumes had been published.

The project was proposed by a group of Australian historians in 1977. At that time the production of a historical atlas seemed impracticable but, arising from interest shown by several historical geographers, a plan slowly took shape. With the appointment of two editors (both historical geographers) and, later, a chief cartographer, planning began on two fronts. The editors prepared an outline and the chief cartographer began to test the technical possibilities.

My own involvement began when the Division of National Mapping, where I was working as chief geographer, was approached for advice and assistance. As well as technical advice, Natmap offered to house the cartographic staff, although no one then realised that in the last months the cartographic staff would grow to nine people.

The production of a historical atlas of a continent is a major undertaking even if the subject matter has already been well researched and many of the maps are available in some form or other. As this was a first for Australia, the editors began with little idea of the likely final content. With the help of prospective specialist contributors they soon formulated a list of appropriate topics, but no one then knew a great deal about how much information suitable for mapping would be forthcoming on most of these topics.

As well as subject matter and its arrangement within the volume, questions such as suitable map scales, page size, size of volume, and, most importantly, the desirable balance between maps, text and

illustrations all had to be addressed before much progress could be made. This planning also meant that decisions had to be made about important printing specifications (such as the number of printing colours) long before a publisher had been found and some years before that publisher (Fairfax, Syme and Weldon Associates) had selected the printer (Griffin Press).

Some guidance on the likely readership was given early when it was agreed that all volumes should be suitable for 'the intelligent man or woman in the street' (and their family) but the exact nature of the 'timowits' family was never adequately defined. Nevertheless, it can be said that the atlas largely avoids difficult concepts and tortuous language.

After my retirement in early 1982, I was retained as a consultant for the atlas and as work proceeded I took on the role of cartographic editor. This meant that I worked along with the chief cartographer to devise appropriate ways of presenting material submitted by contributors and subsequently examined the drafts and proofs for effectiveness and consistency, both internally and with other maps. The map legends (keys) were my special concern. Later, I also examined all texts for consistency with their maps and the maps of other topics.

Achieving what for this atlas is a suitable balance between maps, text and illustrations stayed with us as a major problem throughout. Its solution called for an ability to see maps as the major component of every topic and to regard text and illustrations as supplementary material only. This ability is not common in academics, even among geographers, and is rare in book designers and publishers' editors. The difficulty was compounded by a lack of suitable maps on some topics which just could not be omitted, so that some compromises had to be made.

The volume was designed around the need for some maps of the entire continent at a scale no smaller than 1:10 million. One of these maps, plus space for a short explanatory text, could be accommodated on a double-page measuring 390 by 530 mm. This size was also

suitable for various combinations of national maps at smaller scales and for the regional maps required for case studies.

As finally published, the 300 page volume consists of three main sections, each divided into chapters, which are in turn divided into topics. Most topics occupy two pages each, although some are dealt with in a single page and others run to three or more. I am told there are, in all, 489 maps, 330 graphs and 195 illustrations.

Most readers will think of additional topics they would have liked included. For example, NPA members will look in vain for a history of national parks. Some topics had to be rejected, given the time constraints, because of a lack of information or a suitable contributor; with other topics there was no ready way of depicting the material adequately within the adopted format.

An indication of the contents of each chapter is given below.

Place

1. *Environment*. Summarises the physical setting with maps of surface rocks, soils, water, vegetation and climate.
2. *Aboriginal landscapes*. Regional case studies are used to illustrate the Aborigines' use of the environment and their rich culture.
3. *European discovery and exploration*. Contains a number of maps of explorers' routes.
4. *Rural landscapes*. Presents an overview of European use of the environment, showing how clearing, grazing, ploughing and the introduction of new plants and animals have changed the landscape.
5. *Urban landscapes*. Deals with urban growth generally and, by case studies, with urban services such as water supply, sewerage, railways and parks.
6. *Mining, manufacturing and transport*.

People

This section deals with Australia's social history.

7. *An immigrant nation*. Explores the changing characteristics of the population from the first arrivals of the Aborigines to the 1980's. One

novel set of cartograms shows the origins of the overseas born population at selected censuses, beginning in 1861. The distribution of the population across the continent is examined from 1846 onwards.

8. *Life and death.* Looks at the incidence of disease and highlights the increase in life expectancy that resulted from attempts to eradicate disease. The bubonic plague along the eastern seaboard in the early 1900's is taken as one example.

9. *Religion and education.* Includes case studies of attempts to take education to isolated children, a government responsibility resulting from the adoption of compulsory education.

10. *Convicts, bushrangers and larrikins.* Gives a general overview of Australia's social malcontents. Maps and graphs show the origins of the convicts and their distribution in the colonies. Case studies show how the bushrangers became a prominent figure in nineteenth century folklore.

11. *Australians at war.* Begins with the Aboriginal resistance to European occupation but deals mainly with Australian participation in conflicts overseas and the impacts at home.

12. *The Great Depression.* Deals with the incidence of unemployment and with government measures to combat it.

13. *Government.* Shows the evolution of State boundaries, external territories, new state movements, referenda and the extension of franchise. Concludes with charts showing the changing fortunes of parties in State and Federal elections from 1900.

Landscapes

This section is a photographic essay which, in two short chapters on *City* and *Country*, looks at the interaction of people and place.

Further information on how the Atlas was produced is given by John McQuilton, one of the editors, in *Cartography* 1987, 16(1) pp 42-50. Currently the Atlas is being sold as part of the complete set only. Full information on availability and price may be obtained from Fairfax, Syme & Weldon Associates, PO Box 134, Willoughby NSW 2068.



Earth First

Judith Simondson

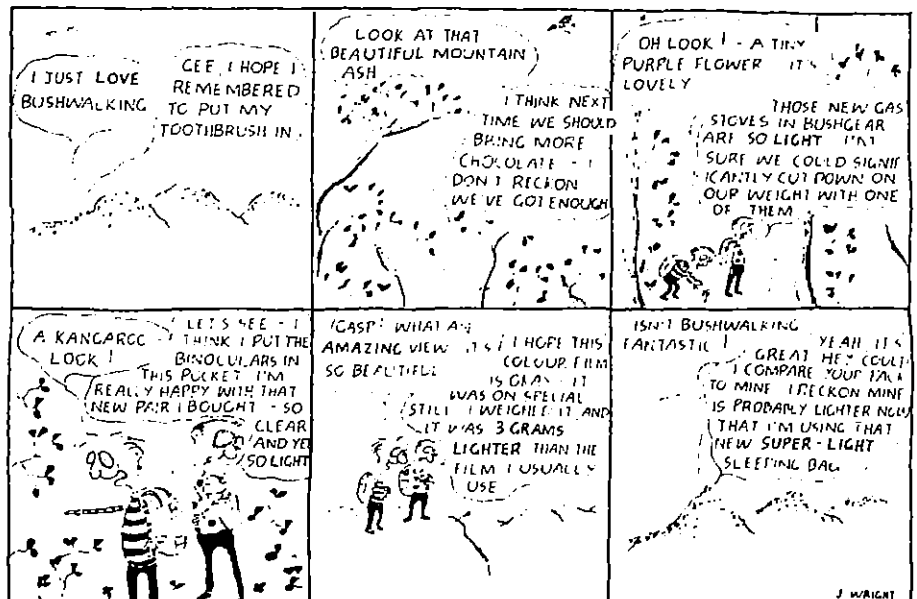
Earth First, an Australian film narrated by Jack Thompson, was shown at the July General Meeting of the NPA. This film looks at three environmental areas in Australia which have caused controversy, politically, spiritually and emotionally, in Australian society and on a world wide basis. The three areas are the Wet Tropics of northern Queensland (Daintree area), Terania Creek (in Nightcap National Park, northern New South Wales) and the Franklin River system in Tasmania. The film captured not only the beauty of the three regions and their unique natural environments; it also captured the emotions and the spiritual intensity of the people who protested. These people were influential in changing government decisions or creating awareness of the value and preciousness of our heritage, the Australian environment.

The Wet Tropics Area in northern Queensland has the most diverse plant and animal species in the world. Emphasis was placed on the importance of areas such as these in keeping balance and unity in the world on a global scale, as our air, water and emotional well-being are dependent upon the natural environment.

I was very moved by the film, as I

am sure other members of the audience were. It has brought to mind many questions. How do you educate people to see the value and importance of the natural environment rather than materialistic and commercial values? Man is a part of the total universe, how do we as people co-operate, preserve and conserve the environment while meeting our needs for food, housing, air and water? If anyone in NPA can answer these questions I would like to hear from them.

I read with interest an article by Dr Bryan Jenkins, entitled "A New System of Values Needed to Protect the Earth" (*Habitat* Vol 14 No 5, October 1986), which I thought was relevant to some of the issues raised in the film. This article looks at the conservation values in different stages of history. Dr Jenkins concludes that the answer is not to fight issues but rather to offer alternatives. The people who protested for "No Dams" in Tasmania, the wet tropics and the rainforest were providing an alternative. They perceived the value of the environment to themselves and to the world and were prepared to commit their energy and time to something larger than themselves.



Reprinted from *Australian Society*, Vol 5 No 10, October 1986.

*The President and Committee
wish all members*

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

and invite all to the

CHRISTMAS PARTY

*Orroral Valley Picnic Ground at 3 p.m.
on Sunday 13 December 1987*

**WINE, CHEESE, BISCUITS AND CHRISTMAS CAKE PROVIDED
BRING AN EVENING MEAL**



NPA Bulletin

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

REGISTERED BY AUSTRALIA POST
PUBLICATION No NBH0857 ISSN 0727-8837

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GENERAL MEETINGS

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

SEPTEMBER - Thursday 17

Andy Spate, Chief Officer, Karst, with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NSW), recently enjoyed a trip to Antarctica. Andy will give an illustrated talk about his experiences.

OCTOBER - Thursday 15

Roy Pullen, formerly a botanist with the CSIRO, is currently researching a film script and a book about the Great Dividing Range. Roy is progressively walking the Great Dividing Range, and will give an illustrated talk about his findings so far. Roy is also interested in any information which our members can supply about the type of country encountered along the Range, and the land use of the Range both now and in the future.

NOVEMBER - Thursday 19

Minimal impact bushwalking. As we begin the summer walking season, this meeting will examine how we can control the impact of recreation on the natural areas we enjoy. There will be a video prepared by the Tasmanian National Parks and Wildlife Service, followed by a panel of speakers to stimulate discussion.