

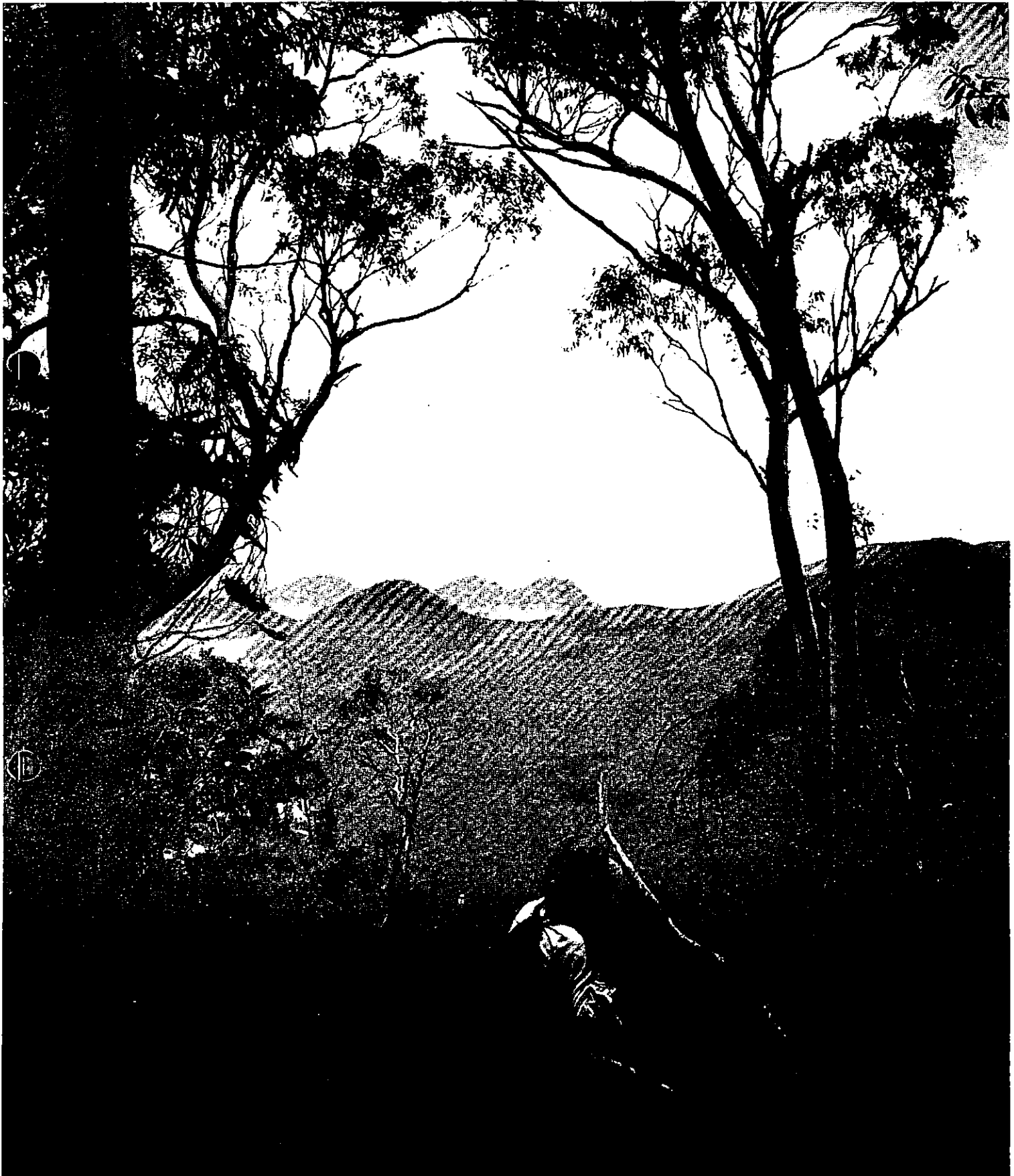


NPA Bulletin

National Parks Association of the ACT

Vol 25 No 3

March 1988



Mt Domain, Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve

NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY INC.
Inaugurated 1960

Aims and Objects of the Association

Promotion of national parks and of measures for the protection of *fauna and flora, scenery and natural features* in the Australian Capital Territory and elsewhere, and the reservation of specific areas.

Interest in the provision of appropriate outdoor recreation areas.

Stimulation of interest in, and appreciation and enjoyment of, such natural phenomena by organised field outings, meetings or any other means.

Co-operation with organisations and persons having similar interests and objectives.

Promotion of, and education for, nature conservation, and the planning of land-use to achieve conservation.

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Membership Enquiries welcome.

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DEADLINE DATES for NPA BULLETIN contributions:

15 October, 15 January, 15 April, 15 July

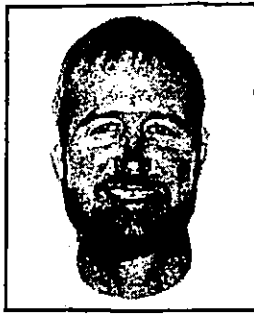
Articles by contributors may not necessarily reflect Association opinion or objectives.

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.

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President's Foreword

With her move to Sydney for a year, Den Robin had to relinquish (at least for the time being) her position as the Association's nominee on the ACT Parks and Conservation Consultative Committee. Den has been a very active member of the Consultative Committee and I would like to express, on behalf of the Association, our thanks for her work over the last three years. In the meantime, I have taken her place on the Committee – a hard act to follow.

New members of the Association may not be aware that we have a subcommittee structure which allows involvement in Association business without the formal commitment of being on the committee. It is also a way to become familiar with Association activities prior to joining the committee. Would you like to participate in one of the subcommittees?

Convenors of some subcommittees are indicated on Page 2, others include Environment (Neville Esau), Namadgi (Phil Gatenby), and Finance and Marketing (Jan Gatenby).

These convenors would welcome any enquiries, alternatively contact me on 82 3080.

Kevin Frawley

Committee News

This Committee News brings you up to date with the November and December Committee meetings. The Committee did not meet in January.

Kosciusko

Our submission on the draft amendments to the Kosciusko National Park Plan of Management was lodged in October. The Committee is considering making a supplementary submission on the impact of the international ski run near Thredbo.

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service recently asked the NPA to respond to a survey of visitors to the Kosciusko National Park. Our submission emphasised that our members do not require the development of much infrastructure in order to enjoy the park.

Brindabella

The Committee is still pursuing the proposed Brindabella National Park. The New South Wales Minister for Mines responded to our enquiries about delays, explaining that applications have been received for exploration licences. We have written back asking what applications have been received, and whether the period for comment on the applications has closed.

Rocks

The Residents of Childers and Kingsley Streets, otherwise known as the ROCKS, are keen to retain our accommodation in this convenient central location. With financial help from the NCDC, the ROCKS have commissioned a study of the long term accommodation needs of the community groups who currently use the huts in this area. The study was conducted by a firm of consultants, who came up with a number of options. The option recommended by the consultants is for the site to be re-developed to provide commercial rental properties which could be used to subsidise the accommodation of community groups. These options are still under discussion.

Heritage Week

The Publicity and Education Subcommittee is busily preparing the 1988 Heritage Week exhibition. Plans include an essay competition, to be held jointly with the National Trust, and attractive prizes will be offered. There will also be a programme of outings based on natural and cultural heritage. Any member willing to help should contact Glyn Lewis on 95 2720.

New Members

The following new members are welcomed to the Association:

Josette Allester, Macgregor; Michael and Christine Bremers, Richardson; Margaret Cole, Fisher; Elizabeth Dendinos, Campbell; Dorothy and Raymond Donnellan, Watson; Bryan Ezard, Canberra; Harriet Fox, Lyneham; Katrina Ireland, Flynn; Dirk Kroon, Flynn; Michael and Barbara Merrony, Pearce; Christine O'Connor, Hughes; Lilian Prdjan, Evatt; Alison, Bill and George Rayner, Aranda; Elaine Suey, Cook; Garry Webster, Pearce.

Walk Softly

The last general meeting for 1987 was devoted to the subject of minimal impact bushwalking, and included the screening of the video *Walk Softly* produced by the Tasmanian Film Corporation. The NPA owns this copy of the video, and would like to make it available to any members who would like to view it in their own homes. The video is 14 minutes long, and would be especially suitable for viewing by young people. If you would like to borrow the video, please ring Laraine Frawley at the Office, or Julia Trainor on 81 1195 to arrange the loan.

The Gudgenby Property and Grazing in National Parks

Kevin Frawley

At the ACT Parks and Conservation Consultative Committee meeting in December 1987, it was announced by Mr Greg Fraser (First Assistant Secretary of the Parks and Public Transit Division) that the Gudgenby lease would be terminated on 30 June 1989. This gives the lessee time to wind down the grazing operation. This move would, I believe, have general support in the Association as grazing is inconsistent with current Australian National Park philosophy.

There is an argument being advanced by some heritage interests that grazing (which dates from the 1830s) should remain in the valley floors. It is argued that the grazing has a cultural resource value worthy of preservation, and that grazing is part of National Parks in the United Kingdom, Europe and the United States.

In general, the chief functions of Australian National Parks are nature conservation and compatible recreation, though all park services also recognize cultural values. There are exceptions - parks such as Kakadu in the Northern Territory equally protect outstanding cultural values. The advance of farming and grazing across the Australian landscape in the last two hundred years has resulted in ample opportunity for residents in any part of Australia to experience rural cultural landscapes close to home. Close to the ACT, the Braidwood area has outstanding historic resources, with many remains of 19th century European settlement and pastoral activity such as convict quarters, grand homesteads (some in substantial disrepair), small slab huts and pise houses. It is the natural landscapes which are growing scarcer, with some areas particularly affected, for example, flatter areas west of the Divide in New South Wales used for broad acre farming and grazing.

False comparisons should not be drawn between the National

Parks of the Australian States and Territories and those of Britain or the United States. In the USA, large areas that would be in National Parks in the Australian system are contained in the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service wilderness areas. Comparisons with Britain and Europe are even more inappropriate though are often made, in ignorance of the origins of the systems there. For some, perhaps, it is still the cultural cringe, or the feeling that landscapes need the human hand to make them complete. The English and Welsh style of National Park is not the product of deliberate policy but derives from the fact that by the time *The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act* was passed in 1949, there was no large reservoir of land in a natural state, nor was there any extensive area remaining as public land. The parks created were little more than lines drawn on a map covering a landscape severely modified and simplified during centuries of intensive settlement and farming activity. The English and Welsh parks are best thought of as 'protected landscapes'.

In Australia, we have a National Park system uniquely Australian which substantially predates that of the United Kingdom and of which Australians can feel proud. The (Royal) National Park was declared in 1879, Lamington (Qld) in 1915, Kosciusko in 1944. Queensland's *State Forests and National Parks Act* of 1906 was a leader in legislation. There is little justification in looking to other systems which derive from a different history, culture, political structure and, most importantly, landscape. It is our wild and natural landscapes that are today under most threat, and National Parks are of major significance for their survival. By contrast, our ubiquitous grazing landscapes appear little threatened - except where the land has begun to take its own revenge.

Brindabella National Park No Closer

Kevin Frawley

The Association has continued its representations to New South Wales' Ministers regarding the declaration of the long-proposed Brindabella National Park. The following are two recent responses:

Dr K. Frawley
President
National Parks Association of the
Australian Capital Territory Inc.

Dear Dr Frawley,

Thank you for your letter dated 22 September 1987, supporting early establishment of the proposed Brindabella National Park.

The Director of National Parks and Wildlife has advised me that the National Parks and Wildlife Service is still negotiating with the Department of Mineral Resources regarding this proposal and as a result no anticipated date for dedication can yet be given. While it is unfortunate that decisions regarding reservation of areas under the National Parks and Wildlife Act in some cases take some time to attain, it is nevertheless important, in the social and economic interests of the State, that in reaching such decisions adequate consideration is given to the claims of other landuse authorities.

I have noted your Association's proposal that the Brindabella Ranges National Park become part of the Tri-state Alpine Park System and I consider this to have considerable merit.

Your interest in this matter is appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Bob Carr
Minister for Planning
and Environment
22 Dec 1987

Dr. K. Frawley
President
National Parks Association of
The Australian Capital Territory

Dear Mr. Frawley,

I refer to your letter dated 23rd November, 1987 concerning information relating to exploration licences affecting the proposed Brindabella National Park.

As was previously pointed out to you in my letter dated 29th October, 1987, two exploration licence applications, Exploration Licence Applications Nos. 348 and 349 Goulburn, by BHP Gold Mines Limited, were lodged on 20th August, 1987, over areas of 100 units (300 square kilometres) to search for Group One (1) minerals such as copper, silver, gold, lead, zinc. The applications are at a relatively early stage of processing and no decision has yet been made as to whether or not licences will be granted.

I wish to point out that the Mining Act does not make any statutory provisions for objections to be lodged in respect of exploration licence applications. The period for which an exploration licence is normally granted is twenty four (24) months.

In the event that exploration licences are granted to BHP Gold Mines Limited, stringent conditions will be incorporated in the licences to ensure the rehabilitation of any areas disturbed by exploration activities. For example, prior to commencing operations which will involve disturbance to the surface of the area, the registered holder will be required to notify the Regional Mining Engineer of my Department, informing him of their intentions and the registered holder will be required to observe any conditions which may be imposed by him.

Licence holders are also required to lodge with my Department, at the expiration of each (6) months of the term of their licence, a written report to my satisfaction, containing particulars of all surveys and other operations conducted during that six month period. I trust that this information will be of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Ken Gabb
Minister for Minerals and Energy
8 Jan 1988

The Grampians with SGAP

Shirley Lewis

To go on a trip with SGAP (Society for Growing Australian Plants), is to have one's horizons widened considerably. In early October, eight NPA members (Sheila Krusa, Ralf Iannuzzi, two Curries, two McFarlanes, and two Lewises) were fortunate enough to take part in the SGAP excursion to the Grampians in Victoria. For several of us, it was a 'first' with such a group. It certainly won't be the last. Perhaps we didn't cover as many kilometres as we might do on an average NPA walk, but what we saw in every kilometre – or every centimetre on some occasions – would fill volumes; and in an area as rich in flora as the Grampians, it would be a waste to do it any other way. Whichever area we visited, it was like an extensive flower garden, and as we were with a knowledgeable group, every plant could be identified.

We saw the Grampians in many moods, and it seemed to matter not that we walked up to the top of Mt William in thick mist and icy cold, unable to get any view. The walk was exhilarating and the roadside lined with a great variety of flowers and branches with trailing 'Old Man's Beard' (Clematis) dripping in the misty rain.

Mt Zero and Mt Stapylton with its sculptured sandstone rocks, caves and overhangs, were much drier, but again, flowers everywhere, covering the flat sandy areas, and in every rock crevice. In spectacular Goltan Gorge, where the creek had worn its own channel for its water to tumble down in a series of waterfalls and deep pools, orchids were seen in the most unexpected places midst a profusion of shrubs.

Impressive Mt Arapiles, the Mecca of rockclimbers, and some distance from the Grampians Range, rises abruptly from the expansive plains. Walking tracks to the top, through rockeries of flowers, provided extensive views of the rich flat farming country below.

The rugged cragginess of Mt Arapiles and Mitre Rock contrasted starkly with the Little Desert – flat, sandy – with its stunted mallee eucalypts and profusions of flowers, a desert in name only. It is a legacy for us all to enjoy, and a tribute to those conservationists who battled



Craggy faces of Mt. Arapiles.

to save it from development as marginal farming land, about 20 years ago.

The trip was well organized by the Canberra SGAP in conjunction with the Wimmera group in Horsham, Victoria, one of whom always accompanied us on our trips, and with their depth of knowledge of the area, were founts of information. They organized visits to gardens in the area, all planned and cultivated with great dedication. Visits to nurseries were also arranged, resulting in the bus looking like a mobile nursery, filled with everyone's purchases.

On the last evening, we were guests of the Wimmera group at the Natimuk Hall. In true country style, a delicious meal was served followed by talks and slideshows by both groups.

As on the forward journey, when the Warby Ranges near Wangaratta were visited, the trip back to Canberra was also broken, at Beechworth and a fern factory in Albury. In all, a very interesting and enjoyable excursion.

Kosciusko National Park

Visitor Facilities and Services Study

Kevin Frawley

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service is currently conducting a study of visitor facilities and services in Kosciusko National Park, and is attempting to estimate future visitor use so as to plan for further investment of funds in facilities and services. Under consideration for expenditure are the moneys which have been collected by the park use surcharge fee - originally imposed on winter visitors, but now paid generally by those who frequent those parts of the park where collection is made.

A workshop to assist in this study was held on 13 January with the aim of estimating visitor use of the park over the next five years, as well as the areas involved and the types of activities. Also to be considered were the management implications of trends in visitor use, and the formulation of criteria for setting priorities in the allocation of funds. The purpose of the workshop was not to debate park management goals, rather to ascertain the trends in usage as perceived and anticipated by some of the user groups, commercial enterprises, and tourist promotion organizations. Nevertheless, discussion of the purposes of National Parks did arise.

It is difficult to summarize outcomes of a workshop such as this, but some general points can be made. Firstly, some of the commercial interests see nothing in the proposition that National Parks serve conservation purposes. To them, the main interest is in growth of tourist numbers which they perceive to be threatened by 'restraints' applied by the NPWS. A representative of one of the main resorts suggested that resort areas should be excised from the park so that development could proceed unrestricted. It was also suggested that 'there is nothing for visitors to do in summer' and that 'attractions' are needed to bring more visitors. Not surprisingly, this brought a vigorous response from conservation representatives as well as some of the tourist promotion representatives who know that the large number of

summer visitors come for the superb natural attractions of the mountain environment. Workshops throughout the day identified the general lack of sound data on the various activities undertaken in the park, especially outside the southern area of management focus. It was generally agreed that all types of recreation activity would continue to grow. There would be a slower rate of growth of some activities than previously (e.g. four wheel driving, canoeing) while others would continue with high levels of growth (e.g. cross country skiing).

The final part of the workshop sought propositions for 'key projects' for different recreation activities. Space precludes detailing all of these, but for bushwalking three items were suggested:

- (1) That designated low key track-head carparks be established at popular entry points such as Round Mountain;
- (2) That there be improvements in interpretation and bush etiquette information;
- (3) That consideration be given to a permit system for overnight camping in the alpine zone.

The Association has submitted a written contribution to the study. If members have any comments, observations or ideas which they feel may be relevant, they should forward these to:

Ms Janet McKay
Project Manager
Kosciusko National Park
Private Mail Bag
Cooma NSW 2630

----- Help Wanted

Is there anyone who would be willing to spend an evening four times a year helping to dispatch Bulletins?

The work is fairly tedious, but good company and food is provided, so that a good time is had by all.

If you are interested, would you please contact Judith Simondson on 91 6201 (after hours) or Laraine Frawley at the office on 57 1063, stating which nights you would be available.

Namadgi Matters

Philip Gatenby

Editing work by the Parks and Conservation Service on the Yerrabi Track interpretative brochure is continuing, and the Association expects to see an edited version of the brochure shortly. The plan is to release the brochure before the end of this financial year, but not until both the Association and the Service are completely happy with its contents. The Service is also producing or helping to produce a number of other brochures on walks in Namadgi. These include a general brochure on tracks and bushwalking in the Park and specific brochures on the tracks to Square Rock and Nursery Swamp and the Naas River Fire Trail (in conjunction with the Field Naturalists Association of Canberra).

The Yerrabi Track has been in the news lately. The December 1987 issue of the *Australian Ranger Bulletin* features an article by Reg Alder on the Yerrabi Track that describes the development of the Track and the interpretative work involved. The *Annual Report* for 1986-87 of the ACT Administration notes NPA's involvement in the construction of track to Boboyan Trig. Also, two recent publications from the National Capital Development Commission, the 1986-87 *Annual Report* and a report entitled *The Way We Are* contain photos of Boboyan Trig.

Other developments concerning Namadgi include the idea of establishing a Friends Group for the Park, currently being investigated by the Parks and Conservation Service. If such a group were set up the Association could expect considerable involvement. Research by John McIlroy of the CSIRO on feral pigs in the Park is underway (as reported in *The Canberra Times* of 9 February 1988). This project is looking at feeding habits, movement patterns, predation and the most effective control methods for pigs.



National Park Definition

Kevin Frawley

One of the resolutions of the 1987 Australian National Parks Council Annual Conference held in Sydney in October was for the incorporation of a substantive National Park definition in the ANPC constitution. The formulation of such a definition was a resolution of the previous year's conference in Hobart.

What is a National Park? Any definition, while directed towards an ideal, must also accommodate some practicalities. In the Australian context this means recognizing that our National Park system, while being one of the oldest in the world, is based on State legislation, and that many of our National Parks are inherited from previous times when National Park concepts were different to now. For example, the 'beauty spot' National Parks of Queensland – such as small areas around waterfalls or crater lakes – reflect the early setting aside of these areas for mainly passive recreation, rather than a consideration or understanding of conservation values, for which the areas would be too small.

The most universally accepted description of a National Park was developed by IUCN and adopted at New Delhi in 1969. A later report (CNPPA, 1978) contained a detailed classification for reserved areas of which National Parks are one type. The criteria for selection and management of a National Park are as follows:

National parks are relatively large land or water areas which contain representative samples of major natural regions, features or scenery of national or international significance where plant and animal species, geomorphological sites, and habitats are of special scientific, educational, and recreational interest. They contain one or several entire ecosystems that are not materially altered by human exploitation and occupation. The highest competent authority of the country has taken steps to prevent or eliminate as soon as possible exploitation or occupation in the area and to enforce effectively the respect of ecological, geomorphological, or aesthetic features which have led to its establishment.

The resource is managed and developed so as to sustain recreation and education activities on a

controlled basis. The area is managed in a natural or near-natural state. Visitors enter under special conditions for inspirational, educational, cultural, and recreational purposes.

The protected status of the area is adequately maintained directly by the central government or through agreement with another agency.

Because their classification included a comprehensive range of reserve types, IUCN requested governments to keep the National Park designation for reservations that fitted the National Park criteria.

Clearly, in Australia many of our National Parks would not fit the IUCN criteria, and we are unlikely to have a comprehensive and uniform redesignation of reserved lands. The IUCN definition stands, therefore, as an ideal for National Parks but, in the absence of alternative, equivalent status designation of reserves, we will continue to see and no doubt support the reservation of other areas (small areas, landscapes with a higher cultural component etc) as National Parks.

Using the IUCN definition as a base, the Fourth Australian Ministerial Conference on National Parks in 1970 adopted the following simplified definition:

A National Park is a relatively large area set aside for its features of predominantly unspoiled natural landscape, flora and fauna, permanently dedicated for public enjoyment, education and inspiration, and protected from all interference other than essential management practices, so that its natural attributes are preserved.

Lunney and Recher (1986) suggest that this definition has two deficiencies, first, it fails to recognize the scientific value of parks, second, it omits reference to landscapes altered by human activities. They point out that altered landscapes may form a valuable addition to the National Park system. The Lunney and Recher definition is as follows:

A national park is a sufficiently large area set aside for the conservation of flora and fauna, dedicated for public enjoyment, education and scientific research and man-

aged so that its natural attributes are retained or restored.

From these various definitions and the ideas behind them, the definition adopted by ANPC was formulated – and here the critical comments by the Victorian National Parks Association on some first drafts must be acknowledged. The emphasis of the definition remains on the preservation of natural values though 'special' cultural values are recognized when these are contained within the existing landscape. An example would be Aboriginal archaeological sites. The question of the preservation and management of cultural and historic landscapes and sites in Australia is one that is likely to become more important in the future.

The final definition (incorporated as item 2.2 in the ANPC constitution) is as follows:

2.2 'National Park' definition:

A National Park is a relatively large area set aside by legislation for the conservation of flora and fauna, the protection of scenic, landscape, and special cultural values; permanently dedicated for these purposes and for education, inspiration, scientific research and public enjoyment, and managed so that its natural attributes are retained and restored.

For the purpose of this constitution, the term national park means any national park, state park, flora and fauna reserve, recreation reserve, geological or archaeological reserve, wilderness or primitive area, or any lands or waters or submerged areas, however designated, which are reserved or managed in the terms of the preceding definition.

References:

- CNPPA (Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas) 1978. *Categories, Objectives and Criteria for Protected Areas.* (IUNC, Morges, Switzerland)
- Lunney, D. and Recher, H.F., 1986. 'The living landscape: An Ecological View of National Parks and Nature Reserves' in *A Natural Legacy: Ecology in Australia* Eds H.F. Recher, D. Lunney, I. Dunn (Pergamon, Sydney), 2nd Edit:

Exploring Queensland's Central Highlands

An Introduction to the National Parks of the Sandstone Belt for Experienced Walkers

Author: Charles Warner

Book Review by Charles Hill

The area covered by this book is bounded by Duaringa–Alpha–Charleville and a point 100 km north of Miies. The author states

The Central Highlands of Queensland form a spectacular series of mountains, clifflines and gorges, supporting a wide variety of vegetation from rainforest to dry grassland, and a plentiful wildlife. This great contrast to the rather featureless surroundings has attracted many of the more adventurous tourists and bushwalkers, but the area is not well known. I hope in this book to arouse interest, to help people find their way to some of the more interesting places and to aid their understanding of what they discover. ... Here and there along the sandstone are several National Parks and the Palmgrove Fauna Reserve. The Parks are the Salvator Rosa, Ka Ka Mundi, Buckland Tableland, Mount Moffatt, Carnarvon Gorge and the three Moolayember Sections of the Carnarvon National Park, the Robinson Gorge and the Isla Gorge National Parks, and, to the north, the Blackdown Tableland National Park. There are proposals for more.

To many southerners, the Carnarvon Gorge is the best known of these places but it is shown by this book to be a relatively small part of the attractions in the area.

Charles Warner has undertaken an impressive amount of research and his book is a mine of useful information. It is divided into three main Parts and I briefly give the scope of, and some comments on, each Part.

Part 1 Location Characteristics and History of Area

Covers rock types and general geological history; formation of the dramatic scenery; weather, climatic controls, cycles and statistics; plants, animals, birds, etc; the aboriginal people, pre-history and history, social organisation, culture and life-

style; white conquest and the black wars, settlement, man's effect on the environment; and hope for the future. The weather is given detailed treatment because rain and water are so important to the visitor; heavy rain rapidly renders most of the access roads impassable, even to four wheel drive vehicles; on the other hand, water in creeks, gorges and springs is necessary for the long distance walker. Plants, animals and birds are treated briefly with no attempt at exhaustive lists.

Apart from the important weather, Part 1 seems designed to give background information, interest the thoughtful observer and walker and add value to a journey through the area. I think it does these things well.

Part 2 Preparation

The author writes,

In this Part I describe some of the conditions special to the Central Highlands area, so that visitors from afar may know what gear they need and what sort of plans to make. The area has some hazards not found in many other bits of back country and wilderness; I give a brief description of these and how to cope with them. ... The Central Highlands area is one of the world's great rock art regions, though the art is perhaps not so dramatic as that found in some other places. For anyone who has not yet discovered the excitement of finding these sites, particularly if you suspect that you may be the first to see them since the artists left them a hundred or perhaps a thousand years ago, I give a few hints on how to look for them and what their significance might be.

This Part covers information about contacting Park offices, permits and bookings; maps and aerial photographs; bush driving, use of conventional drive and four wheel drive vehicles, spares, extra food and water; size of walking

party, walking conditions, climbing, gorges, tracks and route finding; camping; water and where to find it; search and rescue; neighbouring landholders; hazards, overheating and dehydration, hypothermia, snakebite, lightning strike, stinging tree, bushfire and flooded creeks. The hazards may appear rather daunting but are designed in the book to encourage care and thought in planning the equipment carried and care during the walk. Thank goodness not all hazards descend on the one person at the one time!

The lightning strike precautions have wide application and are worth repeating

Get off peaks and ridges, avoid steep slopes; stay out of small depressions, a slight rise is better; a flat ledge or gentle slope away from a cliff face is best; keep away from overhangs or small caves; do not shelter near isolated trees. ... Make your point of contact with the ground as small and compact as possible. Sit or crouch on an insulating object such as a rucksack (the frame should be on the ground, if metal). The members of a party should be close together but not touching.

Then follows a section on Aboriginal Art and Artifacts which is most interesting. The author writes,

The Central Highlands form one of the richest rock art regions in Australia, indeed in the whole world. There may be as many as 10,000 sites in the region. ... It seems likely that the extensive use of stencilling and other blown pigment techniques in the Central Highlands was due to the technical limitations of the local sandstone. The fluid pigment penetrates the pores of the coarse rock so that if the surface granules erode the basic design is still clear.

A page is added about protection and reporting of sites found and also hints on photographing native art.



Boowinda Gorge, off main Gorge way up beyond Cathedral Rock Gallery. Looking upstream.

Part 3 Exploration

This is the main part of the book and gives details of suggested walks and routes. The larger Parks are divided into sectors and in all there are eighteen sections in this part. Each Park has a geological map and each sector has a walking sketch map. Grid references are used when referring to the maps. Charles Warner cautions against relying wholly on these small maps as navigation calls for a larger scale map with contours and clifflines.

Each section covers local sources of information, permits, road access, nearest shops, service stations, petrol, landforms, maps available and their reliability, camping, probability of finding water,

practicalities of walking, points of interest and even on occasions, the best time for photographs. However the precise route taken by a walker is left for careful navigation in the light of circumstances found on the actual day. Tracks developed for tourists are not given much attention apart from being included on maps: the view is taken that these are adequately catered for by ranger-produced pamphlets. Some special attractions in the tourist category are included in points of interest, but the basic aim of the book is to interest and guide the bushwalker in rewarding walking country beyond an ordinary tourist.

One minor point I noted is that in discussing access to Carnarvon

Gorge on page 68, the names of four properties are used to define routes; these names are not on maps in the book and I had to get a RACQ district map to find out. Of course the visitor would need these RACQ maps to plan a trip in any case.

General Comments

The book is liberally sprinkled with black and white photographs which add to its presentation, subject to the loss of clarity when reproducing those photographs with low contrast vegetation. The book is bound with a semi-soft cover, weighs 320 grams and measures 244 x 175 x 15mm – too big for a pocket but well worth including in a rucksack! The recommended retail price is \$13.95.

The reviewer spent eight enjoyable days walking in the Carnarvon Gorge and Blackdown Tableland areas in spring 1986. It was surprising to me how many points made in the book I could fully agree with from my own experience, and I could not find even one to dispute! I would have found the book most useful if I had had a copy at the pre-trip planning stage, as well as with me on the trip. I would have spent longer there, less time on chasing information, and added to the interest and to the beautiful places visited. Even reading the book after the event was enjoyable and answered a few lingering questions.

I recommend to members both the book and an adequate walking visit to Queensland Central Highlands. To gain the most benefit, the book should be studied at the first pre-trip planning stage. I consider the member who intends only to walk on made tracks and in the side gorges and on tops accessible from tracks would also find the book worth reading.



Humbuggers Inc.

David Rainey

A letter published in the December 1987 Bulletin urged members to share their bush-ranging (sic) experiences by writing reports on their trips.

Rather than providing a blow-by-blow account of any one walk our small group has done, this article will give what may be a slightly different approach to organising walks. It is also a rather personal statement of observations, preferences and attitudes which we hope will not be humbug to all, with some readers at least finding something interesting or useful about gear, a destination, a route - or just a 'why' to it all.

There are six Humbuggers. We make up a loosely connected group having its origins in a walk from Smokers Gap to Corin Dam via Bogong Cave, Billy Billy Rocks, the 1409m hill and its spur down to White Sands Creek. Three of the four on that first walk continued and were soon joined by three friends. Our name Humbuggers comes from the first letter of our surnames i.e. HMMBGR. This is not inappropriate, because it's plain humbug, most would regard us as a bunch of old buggers, and we tend to hum after being in the bush awhile.

We've been walking as a group now for almost five years, and average perhaps five or six walks a year - mostly day walks, but with at least one overnight or longer trip.

I'm not sure whether the success of the arrangement is due to any intrinsic merit in an entirely ad hoc approach, or whether as a group we just happen to get on well. It's probably both and we all agree that Humbuggers Inc. has been more than worthwhile. A camaraderie born of shared hardships, triumphs, campfires and mountain tops has developed alongside an interdependence which acknowledges the relative strengths and aptitudes of all.

A small cohesive group of people who know each other's bush habits well also has other advantages.

Perhaps most obvious is that a small group is less obvious - less noise means more animals as well



"Fortress" Rock, McKeahnne Ridge.

as personal peace and quiet. With a small group, varying walking speeds are also a lesser problem. After half an hour's hard walking we are seldom more than 20m apart. Another advantage - more potential for us than real - is that a closely knit small group can save weight by sharing food, cooking gear and items such as first aid kits. Task sharing also falls into place and becomes fairly automatic; gathering wood, getting water, pitching tents and lighting fires, each has its devotees or - as in the case of fires, which I have been known to kill - persona non grata.

We decide where we are going in a most arbitrary fashion. Someone will feel the deprivation that city-dwelling bush-lovers know only too well, reach for a map or a memory, decide on a route and ring around for a quorum. This is generally three, although a quorum of one has seen us variously breakfasting on top of Stockyard Spur on Boxing Day, lurching above North Arm Creek near Camel Trig in rain and mist, or lying in the sun in the snow along Stockyard Spur fire trail.

The originator's plan may well be varied when someone says something like 'Why not drop down to x instead of contouring around? That

would still get us to y and we'd have been to z like we planned 2 years ago.'

This process of concensus route-planning once took us from Corin Dam up to Stockyard Spur, along the fire trail and across Stockyard Creek to the Arboretum, through Cheyene and Morass Flats, east to the falls at 638666 on Stockyard Creek, then back up the Spur and down to the Dam. Not easy, but an absolutely marvellous day walk.

A simple walk is from Smokers Fire Trail Car Park to a lookout with views of Bimberi and Gingera and then along Blue Gum Creek. It's a tremendous introductory walk with a mixture of fire trail, good bush, rock clumps, clearings, creek banks, a small hard uphill, a small clump of Melaleuca thicket, and a mighty stand of Mountain Ash.

The longest walk we've done is nine days from Orroral to Schlink Pass. This was intended to have been through to Murray Gates but a poisoned foot forced us to Munyang in spite of two recuperative days at the Schlink Hilton.

If anyone is interested in details of any of these walks, feel free to ring me at home on 31 8017.

After five years I hope we are doing things a bit better than when

30 April - Saturday Walk (A)

Horse Gully Hut

Ref: ACT 1:100 000

Leader: Stephen Forst 51 6817

Meet: Kambah Village Shops 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.

1 May - Sunday Walk (B)

Caloola Farm/Brandy Flat Hut Ref: ACT 1:100 000

Leader: Dianne Thompson 88 6084

Meet: Kambah Village Shops at 0830 for a 16 km walk from Caloola Farm on track following the creek uphill to Brandy Flat Hut. 80 km drive (\$4).

8 May - Sunday Walk (B/C)

Mt Booth

Ref: Michelago 1:25 000

Leader: Frank Clements 31 7005

Meet: Kambah Village Shops at 0830 for a 15 km walk to Mt Booth with a steep 700 metre climb and some thick scrub but views from the top. 110 km drive (\$5.50).

11 May - Wednesday Walk (A)

Mt Rogers

Ref: Canberra Street Map

Leaders: Sheila Kruse 48 6104, Ken Johnson 48 5979

Meet: Top of Jacob Place, Flynn at 1000. Car parking in Jacob Place. A pleasant easy walk on a formed track to the summit. Good views of the surrounding urban and rural country and distant hills.

14/15 May - Pack Walk (4)

Mt Burbidge (715460)

Ref: Rendezvous Creek 1:25 000, Yaouk 1:25 000

Leader: Philip Gatenby 54 3094

Contact leader by Wednesday for details of this walk in Namadgi National Park. A 700 metre ascent via Bogong Creek and Bogong Gap. Return via Rotten Swamp and Middle Creek. 100 km drive (\$5).

22 May - Sunday Walk (C)

Coronet Peak

Ref: Corin Dam 1:25 000, Rendezvous Creek 1:25 000

Leader: Garth Abercrombie 81 4907

Meet: Kambah Village Shops 0700. A walk mostly on tracks from the Orroral Valley, with a 200 metre climb through the scrub to the summit. 120 km drive.

28/29 May - Pack Walk (1/2)

Mt Clear

Ref: Colinton 1:25 000

Leader: Gary Thompson 88 6084

Contact leader early for this 28 km walk with a 600 metre climb, mostly on tracks. 150 km drive (\$7.50).

29 May - Sunday Walk (C)

Booroomba Rocks/Emu Flat Area

Ref: Corin Dam 1:25 000

Leader: Philip Gatenby 54 3094

Contact leader by Thursday. A partly exploratory walk that may involve rock scrambling and some steep climbs. 100 km drive. Not for beginners.

Aims and Objects of the Association

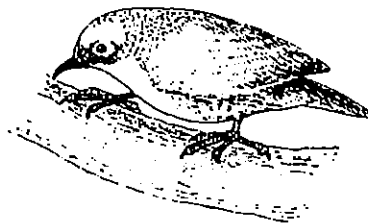
Promotion of national parks and of measures for the protection of fauna and flora, scenery and natural features in the Australian Capital Territory and elsewhere, and the reservation of specific areas.

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.



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

March - May 1988



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, i.e. heavy scrub, rock hopping or scrambling.
- 4 Strenuous long distance or much steep climbing or very difficult terrain.
- 5 Exploratory in an area unfamiliar to the leader.

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

5/6 March - Car Camp

Mystery Bay Ref: Narooma 1:100 000
Leader: Nick Gascoigne 46 2167
Contact leader early for details of this car camp. An easy weekend on scenic coastline camping in a council camping area. This area has no facilities other than pit toilets \$5 per night. 440 km drive

6 March - Sunday Walk (A/B)

Corin Road Ref: ACT 1:100 000
Leader: Peter Ormay 51 2428
Meet: Corin Dam turn off on Tidbinbilla Rd at 1000 for a 3 km walk to examine the only site of *Eucalyptus sieberi* "Coast Ash" in the ACT plus other plants and bird watching. An ascent of 270 metres, descent of 80 metres and return. 80 km drive

6 March - Sunday Walk (C)

Booth Range and Dry Creek
Ref: Michelago 1:25 000, Colinton 1:25 000
Leader: Jack Smart 48 8171
Meet: Kambah Village Shops 0800. Walk from Brandy Flat Fire Trail to Booth Hill, follow southerly ridge to frost valley and to Dry Creek. A 16 km walk on a circular route, some thick scrub and scree slopes. Climb of 700 metres. 120 km drive (\$6).

8 March - Tuesday Walk (A/B)

Kambah Pool to Red Rocks Ref: ACT 1:100 000
Leader: Shirley Lewis 95 2720
Meet: Kambah Village Shops 0930. Walk upstream on track with some sandy patches and rocks, from Kambah Pool to steepish rock wall on Murrumbidgee. Bring swimming gear. 5 km drive and 5 km walk.

12 March - Saturday Walk (B)

Gudgenby Creek Area Ref: Michelago 1:25 000
Leader: Graham Guttridge 31 4330
Meet: Kambah Village Shops at 0830 for a walk in the Gudgenby Creek area with 80 per cent of the walk in bush. A 300 metre ascent and descent and 100 km drive (\$5).

19/20/21 March - Car Camp

Burra Creek/Hume and Hovell Track
Leader: Phil Bubb 81 4929
Contact leader early for details of this car camp near Tumbarumba, with walks along the Hume and Hovell Track.

26 March - Saturday Walk (A)

Murrumbidgee River Ref: Brindabella 1:100 000
Leader: John Perry 47 9529
Meet: Cotter Road/Eucumbene Drive 0830. An easy walk with a mild geological flavour along the left hand bank of the river from "West Yeumburra" to "Glenbower" (involves a car shuffle). Look at fossiliferous limestone near "Glenbower". There will also be a stop along the Mountain Creek road to see spectacular folding in limestone.

27 March - Sunday Walk (B/C)

Mt Gingera Ref: Corin Dam 1:25 000
Leader: Dugald Monro 31 8776
Meet: Cotter Road/Eucumbene Drive at 0800 for a walk in the Mt Gingera area, both on tracks and through scrub. 300 metre climb and 12 km walk. 120 km drive (\$6).



1/2/3/4 April - Pack Walk

Yaouk Valley/Mt Scabby Refs: Yaouk 1:25 000
Rendezvous Creek 1:25 000

Leader: Reg Alder 54 2240
Contact leader by Wednesday. The walk follows both the route of and parts of an early track from Gudgenby over to Naas Creek and on to Sams Creek, where it debouches into the Yaouk Valley. Mt Scabby is then skirted and climbed on a fire trail from Rowley's Hut. The walk then continues to Sams Creek and then on to Naas Creek where the earlier route is followed back to Gudgenby. A 46 km walk through open forest, on tracks and fire trails. Daily distances of 12, 12, 10, 12 kms and climbs of 450, 70, 560 and 200 metres. 100 km drive (\$5).

9 April - Saturday Walk (A/C)

Googong Reservoir/Hell Hole Ref: Hoskinstown 1:25 000

Leader: Peter Roe 91 9535
Meet: Woolworths Car Park Queanbeyan at 0830 for this walk with panoramic views of Canberra. Queanbeyan and Googong, then continuing down a deep cutting into Hell Hole on Bradleys Creek. A 14 km walk and 25 km drive.

14 April - Thursday Weekday Walk (A)

Dairy Farmers Hill/Stromlo Forest Ref: ACT 1:100 000

Leader: Robert Cruttwell 81 3100
Meet: Carpark on north side of Scrivener Dam at 1000 for a 6 km walk on easy forest track to a good look out point.

17 April - Sunday Walk (C)

Mt Orroral Ref: Rendezvous Creek 1:25 000
Leader: Neville Esau 86 4176

Meet: Kambah Village Shops at 0800 for a 10 km walk from the Orroral Valley to Mt Orroral with views over the northern section of Namadgi National Park. A 760 metre climb and 110 km drive (\$5.50).

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HERITAGE WEEK WALKS 17-24 APRIL 1988

17 April - Sunday 'Open Day' Walk (A/B)

Yerrabi Track Ref: Rendezvous Creek 1:25 000
Leaders: Reg Alder 54 2240, Charles Hill 95 8924

A self-drive visit to the track constructed by members of the NPA. The track starts 9 km after the bitumen ends on the Boboyan (Adaminaby) Road and is signposted. From here a walk of 5 km (round trip) on a well graded track with a 150 metre climb brings you to a point offering views of spectacular and prominent features of Namadgi. Arrive at the track anytime from 10.30 am onwards but no later than 2.30 pm. 150 km drive.

20 April - Wednesday Walk (A)

Gilbraltar Peak Ref: Tidbinbilla 1:25 000
Leader: Shirley Lewis 95 2720

Meet at Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve visitor centre 1000. Involves a brief visit to the Visitor Centre and short walk round the adjoining Turkey Trail. Afterwards a walk up a fire trail with a few short steep grades to the spectacular rock formations on Gilbraltar Peak. Some optional rock-scrambling involved. Bring a packed lunch. Total walking distance 6-7 km. 90 km drive.

23 April - Saturday Walk (A)

Rendezvous Creek Aboriginal Paintings
Ref: Rendezvous Creek 1:25 000

Leader: Beverley Hammond 88 6577
Meet at Kambah Village Shops 0830. A walk in conjunction with the Archaeological Society, a representative of which will be present to interpret and discuss the Aboriginal Rock Art on the site. A 12 km walk across open paddocks to the paintings above Rendezvous Creek. 90 km drive.

24 April - Sunday Walk

Brayshaws Hut (Historic Walk)
Ref: Yaouk 1:25 000, Shannons Flat 1:25 000

Leader: Andrew Lyne (KHA) 67 1834
Note: For experienced walkers only.
Meet: Brayshaws Hut on right of the Boboyan Road just before Grassy Creek 0900. This walk is planned by the Kosciusko Huts Association and will be jointly led by representatives of the KHA and NPA. A 19 km walk which takes in Westermans Hut, Lone Pine Homestead, Boboyan Homestead ruin etc. KHA members will discuss the historic significance of sites visited. 160 km drive.

24 April - Sunday Historic Walk (A)

Ref: Yaouk 1:25,000, Shannons Flat 1:25 000
Leader: To be advised

Meet: Kambah Village Shops 0900. This is a shorter variation of the Brayshaw Hut walk (12 km) commencing at the junction of the Boboyan/Old Boboyan Road and taking in a hut and yards in the Naas Creek area, Boboyan Homestead ruin, site of James Brayshaw's house etc. 135 km drive

For further details of both walks contact leader or Glyn Lewis 95 2720.
.....

we started. We have picked up things in different ways: something read, perhaps something suggested in a shop, something gained from experience. Like the earlier suggestion for trip reports, I would like to see members share around their experience and tips. Perhaps this could be a regular feature in the Bulletin. At the risk of losing the few readers still with me, but in the hope they are encouraged to confess their treasures, I will conclude with a random assortment of bush trivia.

Gear

. A tent fly and a bivvy bag is lighter, roomier and more versatile than a tent. A second zippered bell can be added to the entrance of an ordinary el-cheapo tent fly to make it more stable in winds. Your sleeping bag can stay in the bivvy bag and won't get wet when walking.

. A cheap light-weight walking boot (Caribee – a KT 26 look-alike with a thicker but less stable sole) can be 'waterproofed' by attaching one piece of Velcro to the boot and the other to a suitably sized piece of Goretex. Such an arrangement stayed in place between Orroral and Schlink Pass and kept the feet relatively dry up Jagungal from O'Keefes in rain. Appearance can be a problem as one resembles a Yeti in drag.

. A long-handled wooden spoon with the point sawn off flat is useful for getting into the corners of saucepans and keeping fingers away from the flames. Carry it stored in the centre of your rolled up underlay.

. A tennis head band with a small torch stuck in and suitably aligned makes night eating less a mystery.

Food

. The taste and quantity of freeze-dried packets can be enhanced with lentils or rice (red and white respectively cook more quickly than brown), dried peas or Deb dried mashed potato. Prawn powder is not recommended unless you take a garbage disposal unit.

. If using rice, half cook an extra quantity and add some dried apricots for the rest of the cooking. Topped with Instant Custard (small packets are available at some supermarkets, enough for two or three, and merely add boiling water) – it's almost a la carte.

. Mixing powdered milk with cereal prior to leaving saves weight. (But be sure the camp site is not dry!)

Bush Manners

In five years we have accumulated an amazing array of 'collectibles' in the most unlikely places. A solidly rusted pocket knife near Lake George; assorted cans at

Bogong Cave, Gingera, Gudgenby, and the very source of the Cotter; sun glasses at 723682; broken sunglasses and compass at 771644; a spider brush at 708686; a water bottle at 702680; an old pickle bottle at 725660; a balaclava at 805628; a compression band at 725383; caps at 780652 and 748535; a japara jacket in the bush in Tidbinbilla; a golf ball near Schlink Pass; two pairs of panties and a Gang Gang in a gum tree.

The point of this is that given the remoteness of most of the 'finds', the bush is obviously becoming littered. It's now easy to fill a jacket pocket with the paper chase along Smokers Fire Trail. Do we think of carrying out the rubbish of others – at least the less personal items?

On one trip to Kelly, we found the log book swimming in its container – some thoughtful soul hadn't replaced the lid. Ditto Gingera.

Also with fireplaces. Fires are prohibited in the Cotter catchment and are often unnecessary in other places. Try to find an existing fireplace to use. Campsites littered with fireplaces are not attractive. (See Booroomba.)

Safety

. Why go out in high summer? The going is generally too hot to be pleasant and the wooded areas are very dangerous if there is a fire.



Namadgi behind Rotten Swamp.

(Check out the rocks and what's left of the trees on part of Yankee Hat).

. It hardly needs saying, but don't venture forth without a map, compass and the ability to use them. (The 1:25,000 maps are excellent, although not without occasional errors e.g. the Sams Creek fire trail peters out long before Rotten Swamp and does not cross the creek at 435696.)

. If there is no official log book at the departure point, leave a message in something like a film canister under the windscreen wiper of the car, mentioning the size of party, destination, route, departure and estimated return times, and a contact phone number. The rangers will appreciate it, although one hopes it will never need to be used.

. Make sure the party has a good first aid kit which includes a broad bandage in case of snake bite. Most unlikely, as snakes will shift before you see them - except perhaps in the early mornings of spring and autumn when they are cold and sluggish, but still about.

. Don't trust pigs - and if there are young ones avoid getting between the generations. Having seen a big black pig eating a dead horse, we wouldn't like to be injured and alone above Smokers.

Smoker's Riddles

Q. How does a brumby kill an 'endangered' plant?

A. After 100 years, rather unsuccessfully.

Q. How does an 'endangered' plant kill a brumby?

A. By using a botanist with a gun.

Early Books

. *A Journey from Sydney to the Australian Alps 1834.*

John Lhotsky's rather fanciful account contains an interesting description of the view from Mt Pleasant (then called Cottage Hill). 'From this point an extensive view over the higher parts of the mountains is afforded, possessing a more decidedly Alpine characteristic ... These mountains with their long protracted, but well defined and marked summits, reminded me of several such scenes which I saw in the Alps of Tyrol.' (Could this be Camel Peak?)

. John Gale's account *Brindabella* of an 1875 trip into the area includes some turn-of-the-century lyricism

about Ginini Falls. 'This sublime and awful scene required but a corresponding volume of water to make it, if it does not already, deserve to rank amongst the most famous falls in the world.'

. Lovers of the Cotter may enjoy looking up an article on the valley in the *Canberra Times* of 20 February 1931. Before Corin and Bendora were constructed, the land now beneath them was described as 'gloomy, nightmare country, the hills rising almost vertically from the river, with very little animal life, and because of the mountains, only a short period of sunlight each day'.

. Finally a gem of a book. *Hiking from early Canberra* by Cla Allen, with assistance from other hikers. Privately published by the author in 1977, it draws on the memories personal notes and photographs of 'about 50 youngish people all keen on the idea of hiking into the mountains near Canberra' in the early thirties. My favourite, among many, is this entry:

April 2 - 6. [1931] Tom's Mt. Bimberi Climb

2nd. Tom G. cycled to Tharwa and camped under the bridge.

.....

5th. Left the bike and camp gear. [Near Orroral homestead] Walked to the Cotter Homestead via Cotter Gap, climbed Mt. Bimberi and down again, then returned to camp - a very stout one day effort.

6th. Rode back to Canberra.

Fifty seven years later Tom Greaves' signature and the date can still be clearly seen on the earliest of the three trig markers on Bimberi, along with those of many earlier walkers. I doubt that few before or since have put in a stouter one-day effort!

Why?

If you're still reading, you already know the why of the bush. Everyone has their own 'why' if not more than one.

My own favourite harks back to the Gang Gang in a gum tree.

Looking from my office window towards Domain, I'm sure I can see on the skyline the exact tree beneath which I once sat for forty minutes and shared lunch with a Gang Gang having his gum nuts barely ten feet above me. If I look really close I sometimes even think I can see the bird itself, still there cracking nuts. And that beats what's happening on my side of the window.

OBITUARIES

John Payne

Betty Campbell & Julie Henry

We are sad to advise the death of John Payne on 14 January 1988.

Members will remember John for his amiable and supportive company on so many NPA occasions, for his love and enthusiasm for bird-watching and bushwalking, for his pleasure in wildflowers and native plants, for his respect for the environment - and not least, as a talented and sensitive photographer of all of these.

John was a regular proof-reader for this Bulletin.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Judy and Alex and Andrew.

CW (Cla) Allen

Neville Esau

NPA members will be saddened to hear of the death recently of Cla Allen. Rose and Cla are long-time NPA members, and if walking activities had decreased in recent years, we were still delighted to meet them at NPA meetings and barbecues.

Older members may remember the publication (in 1977) of Cla's fascinating accounts of walking in the Canberra area in the 1930's. *Hiking from early Canberra*, as Cla's book was entitled, forms an interesting and valuable document, describing (as it does so well), not only of the exploits of the gallant groups of pioneer walkers, but containing also the genesis of that concern for the local natural environment which was to lead to the formation of the NPA years later.

As a tribute to Cla may I quote his own dedication from the cover of *Hiking from early Canberra*, which remains as true now as it did in 1931. '... to commemorate the discovery by ordinary Canberra people that they had their own mountains and valleys in which to roam'.

Letters to the Editor

How Well is Namadgi Protected?

Andy Turner and Ian Garven's response (Bulletin December 87) to my article on the lack of protection in the Nature Conservation Ordinance for Namadgi as compared to that of the National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act misses many important points of issue.

The premise that Namadgi enjoys a security of tenure and protection from inappropriate exploitation at least equivalent to protection available under any other legislation in Australia is questionable. In contrast to the Commonwealth NPWC Act and the NSW NPWS Act, the Ordinance lacks:

- a statement of the purposes for establishing reserved areas
- the power to establish national parks
- the vesting in the Conservator of the responsibility for care and management of reserved areas
- the active consideration and approval of both Houses of Parliament for revocation of a reserved area to occur
- absolute authority of the plan of management.

The implication that the Ordinance does not prescribe the use of the term 'national park' is not merely a matter of personal judgement. Legislation not only prescribes ('the Minister shall') and proscribes ('a person shall not') but also empowers ('the Minister may'). An action carried out under a power specifically provided by legislature is less susceptible to legal challenge than one that lacks such authority. The Ordinance empowers the Minister to declare a 'reserved area' but not to declare it a 'national park'. By contrast the NPWC Act states a park 'may be named a national park'.

The Milton Committee in recommending the delegation procedure would no doubt have been aware that the ultimate responsibility would have rested with the Director. This is standard in delegation procedures. An alternative possibility under the NPWC Act would be for the Director to make arrangements with the Permanent Head of the Department (s36.2).

When an area of land in the ACT is declared 'a reserved area' under the Ordinance, it does not lose its status as Commonwealth land and thus other Commonwealth agencies have the right to carry out their functions on that land without being bound by the Plan of Management. If the area is declared under the NPWC Act it loses its status as Commonwealth land because the title is vested in the Director and other Commonwealth agencies no longer have direct access. At the same time the Director is bound to the Plan of Management and not otherwise. The NPWC Act ensures that the Plan of Management cannot be avoided.

The Ordinance requires the Conservator to perform his functions and exercise his powers in accordance with the Plan of Management and not otherwise. The Ordinance, however, does not clearly prescribe these functions and powers. In the NPWC Act, two sections are devoted to defining the powers and functions of the Director.

In conclusion, the article emphasises the value of Parliamentary scrutiny through the Committee system of legislation affecting the ACT and cites, as an example, the Standing Committee on Environment and Conservation. Later it questions the value of this Committee's recommendation that Namadgi be declared under the NPWC Act with delegation of the Director's powers and functions but omits to state that these powers cannot be divested by the Director without the direction of a Minister who is common to both services. Parliament is involved in the positive power of passing an Act and the negative power of disallowing an Ordinance. In the former, Parliament must consider an issue and therefore there will be public debate. With an Ordinance, Parliament is not required to take any action and it is easy for tabling to escape the attention of Parliament and the Public.

Reg Alder
30 December 1987

Response to 'The Dedicated Traveller'

I read with interest in the December issue the first part of Val Honey's article, 'The Dedicated Traveller'.

Baron Ferdinand von Mueller certainly is deserving of recognition for his outstanding contribution to Australian botany and exploration, but there is one aspect of his travels that is particularly worthy of note – and, I think, condemnation!

His interest in the economic value of plants resulted in more than just the taking of copious notes. I can recall reading (but cannot recall where) that he took with him on his travels the seeds of plants he considered would be of economic value to those who would ultimately populate the countryside he was crossing, and he scattered them in appropriate spots along the way.

Amongst the seeds he broadcast were those of *Rubus fruticosus* (blackberry). There is now hardly a river, creek, or gully in south-eastern Australia that does not bear the fruits of his labour.

I enjoy blackberries as much as anyone, but I do so wish that, in this instance, the good Baron had not been quite so diligent.

Bob Beveridge
15 December 1987

★ ★ ★

Well!

Robert Story

I saw Esau kissing Fee,
In fact, we all three saw,
For I saw Esau, 'e saw me,
and Fee saw I saw Esau!

Neville and Fiona both say they have no recollection of the incident. Not surprising really, because it is adapted from something that appeared in *The London Opinion* nearly seventy years ago.



Just Briefly—

Over the last few years, many members admit to being 'helped to climb up a long fire trail' by listening (or half listening) to Olive talking about her childhood, or her experiences in Europe immediately after the war. Many also knew that she was writing about *them*, but no doubt wondered if anything would ever come of it! After a lot of hard work, it went to print in late 1987—a soft covered book of some 170 pages with 65 photos. Entitled 'Life is a Mountain', it is an autobiography from birth to migration to Australia in 1963. The cost of the book has been kept to a minimum—\$8.50, and can be collected in person (coffee thrown in), or posted: ACT and NSW \$1.70, elsewhere in Australia \$2.20. Contact Olive Buckman, Flat 63, Block A, Currong Flats, Braddon, ACT 2601, or phone 48 8774.

★ ★ ★

Children have been acquainted with animal stories at least since Aesop's lion and mouse, and through Kipling's jungle animals, and then Toad, Mole and Peter Rabbit, the Dormouse and March Hare. The Dreamtime animals of Aboriginal legends were very real to those children brought up on them. Modern day children's films have had Flipper, Lassie and Skippy, all of superior intelligence and capability. To those marine, canine and marsupial super heroes has been added a *porcine* star! An imaginative Australian series of stories about creatures such as Black Swans, the Platypus, a Green Turtle, and the rare Numbat, has added a story book to its titles featuring a *feral pig!* Yes, it's on the local newsagent's bookshelves, *James, the Captian Cook Pig*, who '... snuffles louder and digs deeper' than any of his several siblings. He saves the foresters' camp from a bushfire by squealing into the two-way radio, and is rewarded by being released (by the camp cook), then trots off happily into the forest with his many brothers and sisters. The inevitable disastrous effect on the environment of this 'happy' ending should be made clear to any children hearing about 'James'!

At the Information Centre of the Australian National Botanic Gardens, the display 'Pollination—the sex life of Australian plants', continues until mid-March, and a film related to this is screened each day in the Theatre. A new display with the promising title of 'The Art and Science of Botany in Australia', begins in mid-March, and will continue until August 1988. Due to continuing heat, sometimes our Autumns become 'Indian Summers'; Rodney Harvey of the ANBG reminds us that the Gardens remain a shady retreat. He says that the Rainforest Gully is at its best during the summer and autumn months, and that the tree-ferns still display their magnificent fronds. Many rainforest species can be seen, including remarkably twisted wonga wonga vines and saplings of the once plentiful Australian red cedar. A 'Behind the Scenes' open day at the Gardens is being planned for late October, and will be advertised. Rodney can be contacted on 67 1811.

★ ★ ★

Notice for the April Meeting (21st). Graham Wells (Director, National Parks Association of NSW) will give an illustrated account of his recent walk (and some rafting) with three companions through trackless rainforest, swamps, heathlands, sand dunes and mangroves from Coen to the tip of Cape York in Queensland—a distance of 600km in 56 days. The last person to do this may have been Edmund Kennedy in 1848. Crocodile and wasp avoidance techniques, (fast) tree climbing ability for wild cattle, and a sharp pair of secateurs were all essential. Soon to appear in Dick Smith's *Australian Geographic*.

★ ★ ★

As the more 'walkable' weather returns, we look forward to an increase in NPA outings. In this Bicentennial year, *Just Briefly* welcomes more member participation. P-I-e-a-s-e ring 88 1889 with items regarding members, or their walks etc., or indeed *anything* you feel may be of interest to Bulletin readers. Repeat... 88 1889—*please!*

The management of Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve would like to thank the bushwalkers who notified them of the existence of a small marijuana plantation within the Reserve. It would be appreciated if other visitors to Tidbinbilla report to a Ranger, or to the Visitors' Centre, anything which may seem unusual in the Reserve.

★ ★ ★

To get to the Kangaroo Enclosure from the Koala Enclosure car park, people have been placing themselves at risk of being hit by cars by walking along the road. Several near misses have occurred. There is no need now for this dangerous practice, as a 'low key' pedestrian track has been constructed. It starts from the Water Bird Enclosure car park (across the road from the Koala Enclosure car park), and continues to the Kangaroo Enclosure.

★ ★ ★

Following the example of Kakadu National Park's role in 'Crocodile Dundee', Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve may make an appearance on TV screens overseas—though in a much more modest way. Recently, a US film crew of the Children's TV Workshop used Tidbinbilla as the basis for one of the 30 minute interpretative natural science films which they produce. Some of these are shown on Canberra's Channel 7 at 2.30 pm as 'The Investigators', (*not* to be confused with the ABC's consumer program of the same name!)

★ ★ ★

A date for your diary is Saturday, 5 March, when a display of black and white photographs entitled 'Preserving the Past', will be presented by the Tidbinbilla Pioneers' Association Inc., whose members consist mainly of descendants of the original settlers of the Tidbinbilla area. This is the Association's Bicentennial project, and will continue for the remainder of 1988 at the Visitors' Centre.

★ ★ ★

Canberra's Journey

Glyn Lewis

So much for the human activity at Tidbinbilla. Nature as usual, has been continuously active, especially so in the case of the blue-billed ducks, one pair of which having reared a family early in the season, now to be seen with a new brood of young. They are on the first, small dam where freckled ducks have been added to the several species already there.

★ ★ ★

Apparently last spring was a blooming good season for the 'woolly' tea-tree, as by December it presented an unusually spectacular sight throughout the Reserve. Also quite a spectacle, was that striking logo of the ACT Conservation Service coming to life many times over – gang gang cockatoos have been obvious generally throughout the area, feeding on wattle seeds.

★ ★ ★

Is the fire out? Following the Minimum Impact Bushwalking video shown at the November meeting, where a walker is shown checking to see if a fire is out by placing a hand on a doused fire, Reg Aider warns that this may not be a good idea where a fire is made on sand – such as in a river bed. Recently, a Sydney walker suffered second degree burns when a foot placed on such a fire sank into the red hot sand below.

★ ★ ★

Some eulogise the eucalypt,
Some adore acacias,
For others, orchids have an aura,
Some, voracious for the violaceas.

For those who hanker after banksia,
West Australia is the best,
Just ask Pam & Russ and Joan & Ray
And put it to the test.

★ ★ ★



Our Christmas Party at Orroral Valley resembled the 'Pastorale' segment of Walt Disney's 'Fantasia' (without Beethoven). Scene 1: A summer picnic in the country, the scent of rain is on the breeze, distant rumbling can be heard, whilst dark thunderheads form above but impress only with their beauty, as they are edged with silver by the still strong sunlight. A cautious few cast glances skyward and gather up belongings as isolated raindrops begin to fall. The silver-linings vanish suddenly, and the dark heavens open, drenching the dallying ones. Scene 2: Characters – those who decided to head for home through the storm. Punctuated by lightning and thunder, the heavy deluge of rain and intermittent hail belted at windscreens with such ferocity that visibility was truly nil. One vehicle, and then another pulled to the roadside verge, where width permitted. To other drivers, only vague outlines of water-filled ditches were alongside, and so the alternative was to continue driving v-e-r-y slowly. Once through the storm, the skyline of the Brindabeillas presented a spectacular contrast in themselves, with bright sunset sky and clouds at one end and, eery, murky, grey-black weather half-concealing the peaks behind us. Should we consult the Oracle before the next NPA BBQ?

★ ★ ★



As Heritage Week 1988 approaches, 16-24 April, perhaps it is worth considering what it is all about. Briefly, the aim of Heritage Week is to provide the community with an opportunity to discover and appreciate the many facets of its natural and cultural heritage. What is possibly less well known is that it is a national celebration organised in each State and Territory annually since 1985 although it made earlier appearances in some areas including the ACT.

The theme for Heritage 1988 is 'Canberra's Journey', a departure from the nationally adopted slogan of 1987; 'A Week of Discovery'. Naturally a number of activities and displays focus on historical aspects as borne out by participants such as the Canberra and District Historical Society, Australian Railway Historical Society, Naval Historical Society, and the National Trust. However, conservation and our natural heritage are prominently featured by participants like Greening Australia ACT, Canberra Ornithologists' Group, Society for Growing Australian Plants, the Conservation Council for Canberra and the South East, the Wildlife Foundation and, of course, NPA. The list is far from exhaustive.

Apart from the usual Albert Hall exhibition, which provides the base for displays by participants, there are numerous other events. For the first time Kosciusko Huts Association, in collaboration with NPA will be conducting two historical walks in the Namadgi National Park. (See Outings Program, this Bulletin). The Railway Historical Society will be running a vintage train service from Canberra to Bungendore which includes dinner at the Carrington Restaurant. The Human Veins Dance Group will be staging a ballet, 'Raising Dust', a conservation theme.

So Heritage Week indeed has many facets. Make sure you obtain a copy of the Program of Events. There is bound to be something in it for you.

A Trip to the Bogongs: A Memoir

(14-15 November 1987)

Phil Bubb

Sam is not a happy time to tear oneself from sleep. By 6.30 I was at Tharwa and shortly after on the gravel, scooting through the landscape, scattering wallabies, kangaroos and rabbits. Adaminaby and Kiandra passed and then the delightful uplands which made me feel a little better. Plunging down into the trees past the turnoff to the caves, I reached the Yarrongobilly rest area. It is a delightful, gentle valley – open and green – dotted with exotic trees bordering its sparkling river. How far from the Bogongs is this soft place?

The National Parks noticeboard warned canoeists that the river, with very little warning, all but disappeared underground at a specified map reference and suggested care.

Three cars turned up at Yarrongobilly rest area and we proceeded along the fire trail to 377680. I noted wryly that, in addition to Garth who was leading, I was the only participant who had been on the previous trip in the area. Had I forgotten how difficult it was?

We made a start up the very steep slope through open forest: where was the scrub? Shortly the terrain flattened out and we crossed 30 metres of swamp. The target 'knob' could be seen threateningly high above us and I cursed my unfitness many breathless times before reaching it. The scrub appeared too, bright yellow with flowers

The knob (320666) was reached some time after 1pm. We could not safely climb one part of the scramble to the top with packs and, after a reconnaissance to the top without them, retreated to lunch. This almost finished our supply of water. After clambering to the top for the view, seeing the much higher Pillared Rock Ridge and a clearing in between we started skirting the base of the cliffs. This was a hard, tiring, unpleasant traverse. It seemed forever. I was dry and saw no prospect for water. I had not seen a clear level piece of ground since leaving the car. I had that depression which I had found that the Bogongs can induce with surprisingly little warning.

Sitting writing this with the 1:25 000 map (Talbingo), which I did not have then, it seems ridiculous. We traversed less than a kilometre to a small knob (314667) in the thick scrub. From the top Garth and Phil G. could make out a clearing and Phil went ahead and signalled back that it had water. We crashed through and each person enjoyed the sight of the small trickle of running water.

In my limited experience of walking I had encountered little scrub. In fact I had gone out of my way to avoid it. I can see that the scrub in the Bogongs is not particularly bad, only in a few spots is it woody. But it is unremitting, on and on with no opportunity to stride freely. You walk with your whole body: legs, arms, trunk and head: ducking, pushing, twisting and squeezing through the gaps. Even the brain must be in action or you stumble, become exhausted and dispirited, and panic with claustrophobia. Get me out of here! It allows only ten or twenty metres of vision. If you lag, when the leaders stop you can no longer hear them and you must call to locate them. When the person ahead gets too far in front you must apply the mental effort of choosing your own route. It is hot and dry and the leaves and twigs fall through the neck of your shirt onto your back.

Further on in the clearing was a suitable camp site. We pitched camp and were joined by 10,000 ants wherever we went. Fortunately they were early to bed and late to rise. We rested and ate and rested. Darkness fell slowly and we kept checking the time to see if it was late enough to go to bed. After the unpleasant heat of the day, the evening was surprisingly chill. A couple of bats gorged on insects a few feet above our heads.

The sun shone on my tent before I finally decided to rise and crunch through the frost. A calmer, more resolute group, without packs, pressed into the scrub to climb to the Pillared Rock prominence (310663). Across another clearing and a swamp, up to the cliff and a surprisingly easy scramble up the

steep rocks. And then the view. The Brindabellas could be picked out individually, there was snow on the Main Range, Jagungal, Tabletop, far to the south west, and far to the north and north west. An easy, exhilarating clamber along the narrow elevated line of boulders took us to the highest point on the prominence (it now deserved to be an eminence).

And here we settled in to enjoy it. It takes time to get used to doing nothing and to sit absorbing the sun, the breeze, and the panorama. This is what the Bogongs are about. No peaks I know offer such delight, such a sense of elevation, so distant an outlook in so many directions, and the wonderful elevated valleys with their swamps, and their scrub, which from this height looked benign. The peaks themselves are a giant's playground of boulders, fanciful three-dimensioned jigsaw puzzles of rock.

Lunch. Break camp. There was a lot of scrub between us and the cars. We rested at a charming little mossy creek. We struck the road 100 metres from the cars. Seven tired people. Thank you Garth. Driving home I could feel how exhausted I was, but satisfied too.

There is something special about walking in the Bogongs. I am forced to recognise my limitations. I have to come to terms with them but do so without distress or shame. I can observe my spirits drop in the scrub and rise in the few clear spots. The landscape is alien to me and unpleasant. Not hostile, but indifferent and maybe this is worse. Travel is an act of will, but in some strange way it helps to make me more content with myself. There is a feeling of satisfaction without any hint of smugness. I could grow to like this place. Without doubt the peaks are superb and worth hours of striving.

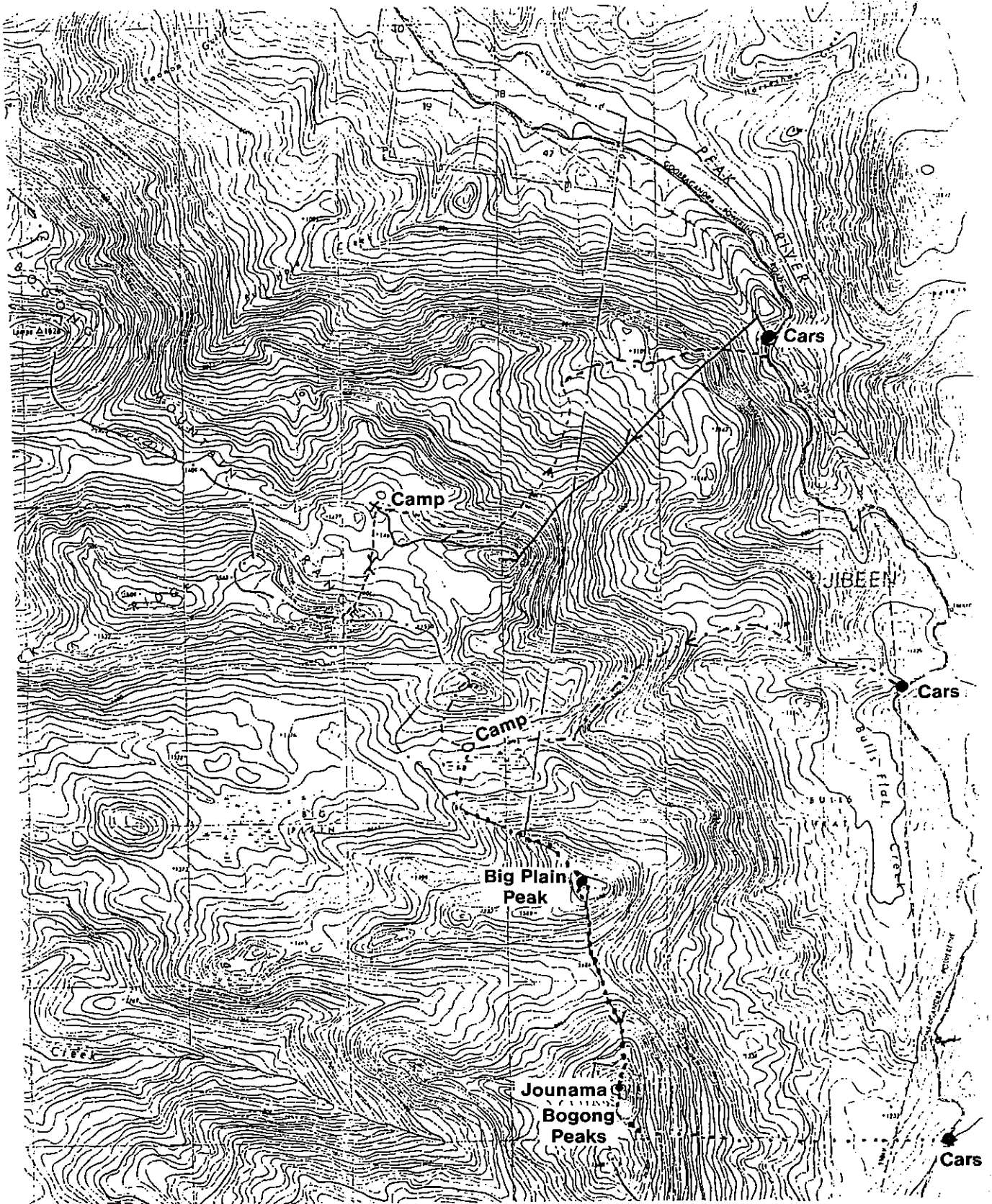
On the map I have marked the approximate route of the walk, and of the previous walk. If I had to choose a walk I would start a little south of the lesser Bogong Peak (344621) and virtually follow the parish border to the peak. Then in little more than 300 vertical metres (and a kilometre) you are above the

surrounding country and on the south slope of the peak, which tends to be more open.

Then traverse Jounama. The saddle between Jounama and Big Plain Peak is a top camping spot, although I would be tempted in

good weather to carry water and camp just under Big Plain Peak (for the romance of it). Then proceed west down the rocky ridge of Big Plain Peak which appears fairly clear and turn north onto the Big Plain. If time permitted the section

of the Pillared Rock Ridge visited on this walk could be included. Then exit down the ridge from the knob at 320677 following the turns of the ridge to exit at 339673.



Mt. Egmont – The Hard Way

While on a tour of New Zealand's North Island in 1986.

Garth and Sarah Abercrombie climbed Mt. Egmont.

Here is Sarah's account of the climb.

My mind was casually turning over the Sunday walks we had been on before. They were not so strenuous, I had managed them all right. I could not work out what Dad was so excited about. Two hours at the most to the top and then down. We might even be able to fit in a swim afterwards. The car pulled up into the carpark and I turned around to look at the hill.

'Sarah,' Dad called. 'Go and stand in front of that board and I'll take a photo of you.' Just another of Dad's endless photos. I casually sauntered over to the notice board. On closer inspection I noticed it was a map of the trail we were to take. I looked at it; I shouldn't have. It stated very clearly: To the Summit 5 hours. Oh dear. I turned and looked again. It had suddenly turned into a very large mountain.

'Sarah, smile.' Smile, ha! With my mind reeling I staggered back to the car. I wonder if Dad really knew what we were in for. Perhaps that photo was to be the last taken of me alive.

We worked our way up the hill which led to the ridge we were to follow. I glanced up at the non-operational ski-tow. Why wasn't it working? Why did it have to be closed down in summer? Those skiers have all the perks.

'Look, there's someone coming down.' I wished it was us. I don't see why we actually have to go right to the top. Isn't it enough just to say you'd been to Mt Egmont? I wondered, what's so great about reaching the top anyway? We passed a man coming down and after Dad had had polite climbing-type conversation with him we continued up the ridge to the snowline, having now left that non-operational tow behind.

I stopped and turned to look at whence we had come. Gosh, we really had gone some way. It couldn't be all that far now. I looked back up again but I was wrong. There was absolutely miles. I decided not to look up again until I reached the top. I didn't need the disillusionment.

'Isn't this something?' cried Dad as we continued to scramble over scree and mossy rocks. 'I feel great.' His comments, not mine. Grunt, groan, puff, pant. I hate you Dad. I don't even want to be here. As I stumbled bravely on towards the snow I started devising insults I could throw at anyone, preferably Dad, if he were to so much as whisper what a great time we were having.

As we approached the snow I suddenly realised Dad was planning to cross it. No way was I going to. What happens if it cracks. I should have gone on that diet after all.

'Come on Sarah, cross here,' Dad calls, 'I've kicked some steps'. What, Oh damn, here goes nothing. My eyes squeeze shut as I reach out my foot. I have visions of the ice cracking and my body plummeting downwards. Okay let's go. I'm over. That was easy.

'Look, there's a track of some sort over there. Shouldn't we be on it?'

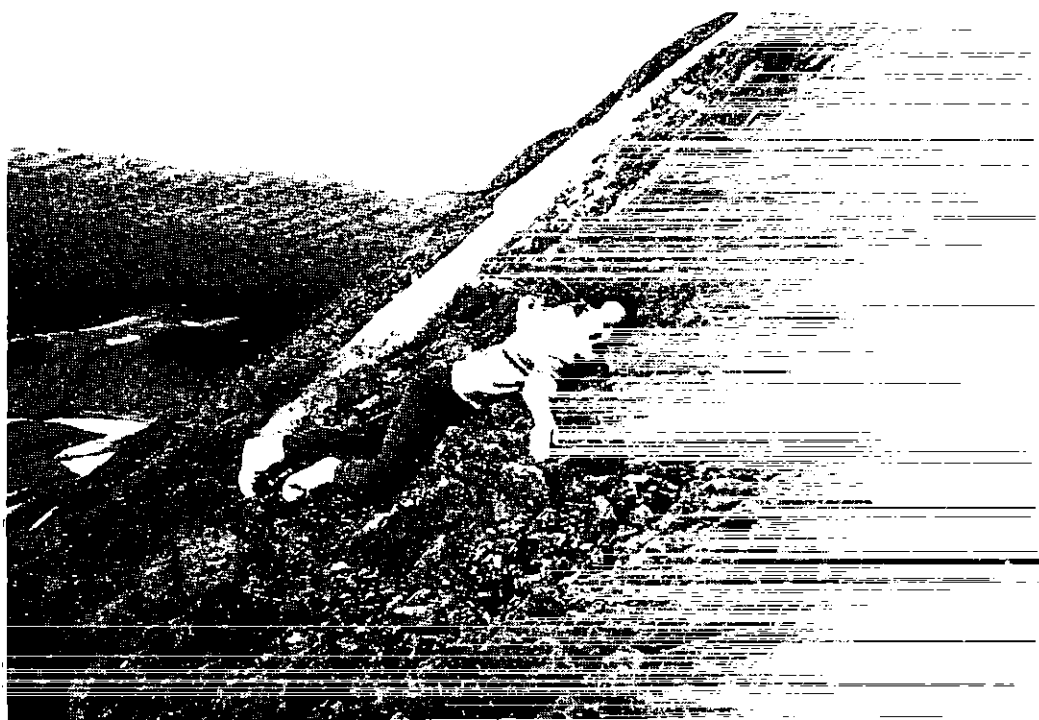
'Probably, yes. We'll head over there.'

I started thinking. I could remember all those times we went walking and never once followed a path. I swear Dad has a penchant for doing it the hard way. As we headed over to the track I noticed people coming up the ridge behind us. Who else would be crazy enough to be here? By this time we had lost sight of the path or it had petered out and we started to cross back to the ridge we had been on previously.

'We can't get across here Sarah, the snow's too steep. We'll have to go around.' You're sure? I could get across there easily enough. I was now experienced at crossing snow, perhaps Dad was a bit scared.

As we slid back and around, the people who had been coming up behind us caught up. Their friendly conversation amazed me. You would have thought they had known us for ages. It's probably just the common link all these mountaineers (fellow-sufferers) have: a silly passion for climbing 'high'.

What was that? This was Jack's 100th time up. Oh boy. Who would want to come up here that many



"I've had enough!"

times? Once, well a half was bad enough. I wished all these people would get on their way. I was quite prepared to climb to the top but now they tell us that what I thought was the summit isn't. Apparently it's across the crater and up the other side. How do they expect me to get across the crater I wondered as I inspected all their gear; crampons, ice-axes, heavy boots, gloves, hats, massive packs no doubt absolutely crammed with other useful stuff. I then looked weakly at our gear. Our little orange day-pack that Dad carried, as I'd refused to be burdened with anything, contained our lunches and raincoats. We had sneakers on our feet and that was about it.

We couldn't follow the others up. My legs ached, I was hungry. 'I've had enough', I cried. My father suddenly looked upset but the strangers piped up with, 'It's only half an hour to the top. In fact it's quicker down the other side'.

What's that, quicker down the other side? I was getting talked into it again. I could feel myself wavering. Wait on. I'll just have a jam sandwich.

I savoured the sandwich then stood up – I was ready for anything, well almost anything – and climbed on feeling very noble.

'You don't mean I have to go down there?' I looked down into the crater and clutched onto the fixed wire that I felt was all that would save me from certain death if I fell. I slowly worked my way down, my palms were sweating but finally my feet touched level ground. Made it. I turned and watched Dad easily work his way down – show-off!

Oh boy, more snow. It covered the crater floor – at least it wasn't boiling lava, I reasoned.

'Come on Sarah, I'll kick steps in it and you can follow across.'

'Can't I just slide down?'

A horrified look crossed Jack's face. 'No. You should learn to do it properly. Heel down first. Right that's it.'

Across the snow we went and up that final cliff – okay, maybe not a cliff exactly but it certainly felt like it. A hand came down and pulled me up.

'Congratulations', I heard a hearty English voice, 'You've made it'. I

could not work out why he should sound so cheerful. I was absolutely dead. Wait a second, that voice was English. My God, these strange mountaineering types come from everywhere. We continued talking.

'Isn't the view marvellous? You can see for miles.'

'Great', I mumbled without looking up. Quick, give me that last jam sandwich before I faint.

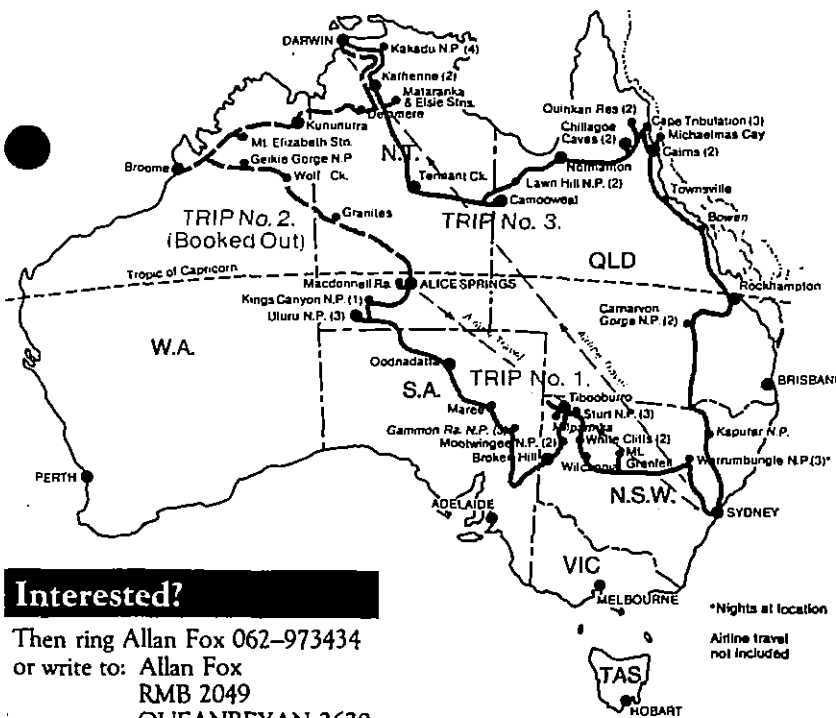
I munched away on my sandwich and then the realization that I had actually climbed to the top hit me. Well beat that, there should be a trumpet fanfare! Wait on. I still had to go down. My jam sandwich suddenly lost its taste and I felt Blah. Why hadn't I organised a helicopter to pick me up when I reached the top. Funny how all the brilliant ideas hit you when you can't do anything about them. Anyway next time I'll know.

Hold it. There wasn't going to be a next time.

I finally made it down and despite my moans and complaints I was chuffed. Perhaps... I... well maybe just a little one next...

ESCAPE!

The Bicentenary razzamattaz, come camping with Allan Fox and crew and discover what really has been our impact on Australia over 200 years.



Interested?

Then ring Allan Fox 062-973434
or write to: Allan Fox
RMB 2049
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for details – be early.

Trip 1. June 19 – July 9
21 days \$1495*

Features – Warrumbungle, Sturt, Gammon Range, Uluru and Kings Canyon National Parks – arid zone ecosystems, exploration and landuse – opal, gold and copper mining – the Aboriginal story and art – guided interpreted walks – bush and colonial culture by the campfires.

Trip 3. July 27 – August 21
26 days \$2265*

Features – Kakadu, Katherine Gorge, Lawn Hill, Chillagoe Caves and Carnarvon Gorge National Parks, the Quinkan Reserve and Cape Tribulation Rainforests – the Great Barrier Reef – tropical ecosystems, exploration and landuse – Aboriginal art – guided interpreted walks.

* Note: Includes coach, entry and camping fees, camping gear, all meals while camping, guides and 2 motel nights. This is not just a coach tour – there will be guided walks, demonstrations, photographic rambles, lectures, seminars and discussions if you want to become involved in the environmental issues – it could be challenging – it will be fun!

The Crew includes a geographer, ecologist, land-use and park management specialist, expert interpreters and top class photographers. A doctor and ornithologist will be present on Trip 3.



Field Guide to the Native Trees of the A.C.T.

This pocketbook describes 60 species of trees of four metres or more that are known to grow naturally within the boundaries of the ACT. It is written for the non-specialist and has instructions on how to use a botanical key. For easy reference it is divided into three parts – Eucalypts; Acacias and other species, with trees that are similar placed side by side.

Each species is treated separately and is fully illustrated, with a thumbnail map to show where authenticated specimens have been collected. A key to all species, index and glossary are provided.

The Field Guide is useful in the neighbouring Southern Tablelands (Goulburn, Cooma, Kosciusko National Park).

Price \$4.00
(plus \$1.00 to cover postage and packaging)

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GENERAL MEETINGS

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

MARCH – Thursday 17

Professor Henry Nix, Director of the Centre for Resources and Environmental Studies, will speak about the Greenhouse effect. An opportunity to ask an expert about the changes we can expect to our climate, vegetation and sea-level in the next century.

APRIL – Thursday 21

Graham Wells (Director, National Parks Association of NSW) will give an illustrated account of his recent walk (and some rafting) with three companions through trackless rainforest, swamps, heathlands, sand dunes and mangroves from Coen to the tip of Cape York in Queensland – a distance of 600km in 56 days. The last person to do this may have been Edmund Kennedy in 1848. Crocodile and wasp avoidance techniques, (fast) tree climbing ability for wild cattle, and a sharp pair of secateurs were all essential. Soon to appear in Dick Smith's *Australian Geographic*.

MAY – Thursday 19

Dr Peter Hunt, presenter/producer of ABC radio's weekly environmental program Earthworm, will address the meeting. He has promised us a mixture of the serious and the entertaining, and his talk will range from mining and the environment to the challenge of making conservation more than just a marginal issue in our society. Peter is a talented, knowledgeable and humorous speaker, so don't miss this meeting.