



# NPA Bulletin

National Parks Association of the ACT

Vol 25 No 4

June 1988



*Flannel Flower (Antinotus Helianthi) in the Morton National Park*

**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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*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

Ian Fraser's report outlining the case for the conservation and reservation of the northern Cotter area of the ACT is now with the Association. Ian's thoroughly researched document clearly details the natural and cultural values of the study area. It shows that the potential timber values of the wet sclerophyll forest zones have been the major obstacle to the area's reservation, even though the realizable timber value appears quite small. The wet sclerophyll forests are of high habitat value and the *Eucalyptus delegatensis* (Alpine Ash) and *E. fastigata* (Brown Barrel) forest is itself of special ecological significance.

Reservation of the area is a logical complement to Namadgi National Park and would contribute to the completeness of the tri-state 'Alpine Parks' complex.

Copies of the report are available from the NPA Office. Any comments or observations on the report would be welcomed by the committee.

Kevin Frawley

## Committee News

### Outings

The Committee accepted with regret the resignation of Ian Haynes, and thanks him for his excellent contribution to the Association as Outings Convenor.

While we continue our search for a new Outings Convenor, Stephen Forst has kindly agreed to prepare the next outings programme.

### Heritage Week

Heritage Week 1988 saw a renewed effort by Glyn Lewis and his Publicity and Education Subcommittee. An exhibition was held at the Albert Hall, and there was an essay competition and a full outings programme.

### General Meetings

The Association's general meetings are always addressed by interesting speakers, and the Committee is seeking ways to publicise our meetings more widely, for example on local television and radio stations which might offer free announcements. If you have any suggestions for publicity, please contact the Office or a member of the Committee. We currently advertise our general meeting in the Notes & Quotes column of *The Canberra Times*.

### Environment

The report on the lower Cotter has been published under the title *The Northern Cotter catchment, ACT: a case for its conservation and reservation*, by Ian Fraser. Copies have been distributed to members of the ACT Parks and Conservation Consultative Committee, and it will be used as a lobbying document. Copies are available at cost, i.e. \$6.00 each.

In an effort to publicise the values of the proposed Brindabella National Park, the Committee plans to publish a colour brochure describing the area.

Further afield, but in an area much visited by our members, the National Parks and Wildlife Service of New South Wales is planning to restore tracks and camping areas in the Budawangs, especially in the Monolith Valley area. The Committee has resolved to support this proposal with appropriate lobbying effort.

### ANPC Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Australian National Parks Council for 1988 will be held in Canberra in October.

### ACT Parks & Conservation Service Consultative Committee Meeting

The ACT Parks and Conservation Service has informed the meeting that they are conducting rabbit control in Grassy Creek, and have let contracts for the spraying of blackberries to commence in May. The Square Rock track near Smokers Gap is now completed. Copies of the ACT Tourism Strategy are available from the Office.

### New Members

The following new members are welcomed to the Association:

Andrea Allen, Lyons; Mrs Jan Bruce, Fraser; Richard Callan & Vicky Mackay, Kambah; Anne Cochrane, Weetangera; Nada Dobrijevic, Deakin; Trevor Francis, Pearce; Kay Griffiths, Dickson; Graham Hatherley, Fyshwick; R. Holt, Campbell; Andrew Lyne, Waramanga; Barry McHugh, Queanbeyan; David Pryce & Barbara Rae, Wanniasa; Alexandra & Maria Pukalskyj, Queanbeyan; Tim & Lynn Pulford, Curtin; Prof. Peter Self, O'Connor; Pat Treacy, Downer; Nina Wood, Canberra; Mark Zanker, Lyneham.

# The Northern Cotter Catchment, ACT

## A Case For Its Conservation and Reservation

Some extracts from the recently completed report prepared for the Association by Ian Fraser

The study area represents the northernmost extent of the main chain of the Australian Alps. Except for a very small portion in the north of the area (roughly north of the Blue Range Road) the whole area is in the catchment of the Cotter River. It is generally referred to as the Northern, or Lower Cotter Catchment. (See map.)

In accordance with the brief provided by NPA the report examines the area's:

- physical characteristics (eg climate, geology, vegetation);
- current management and legislation;
- cultural values;
- natural values.

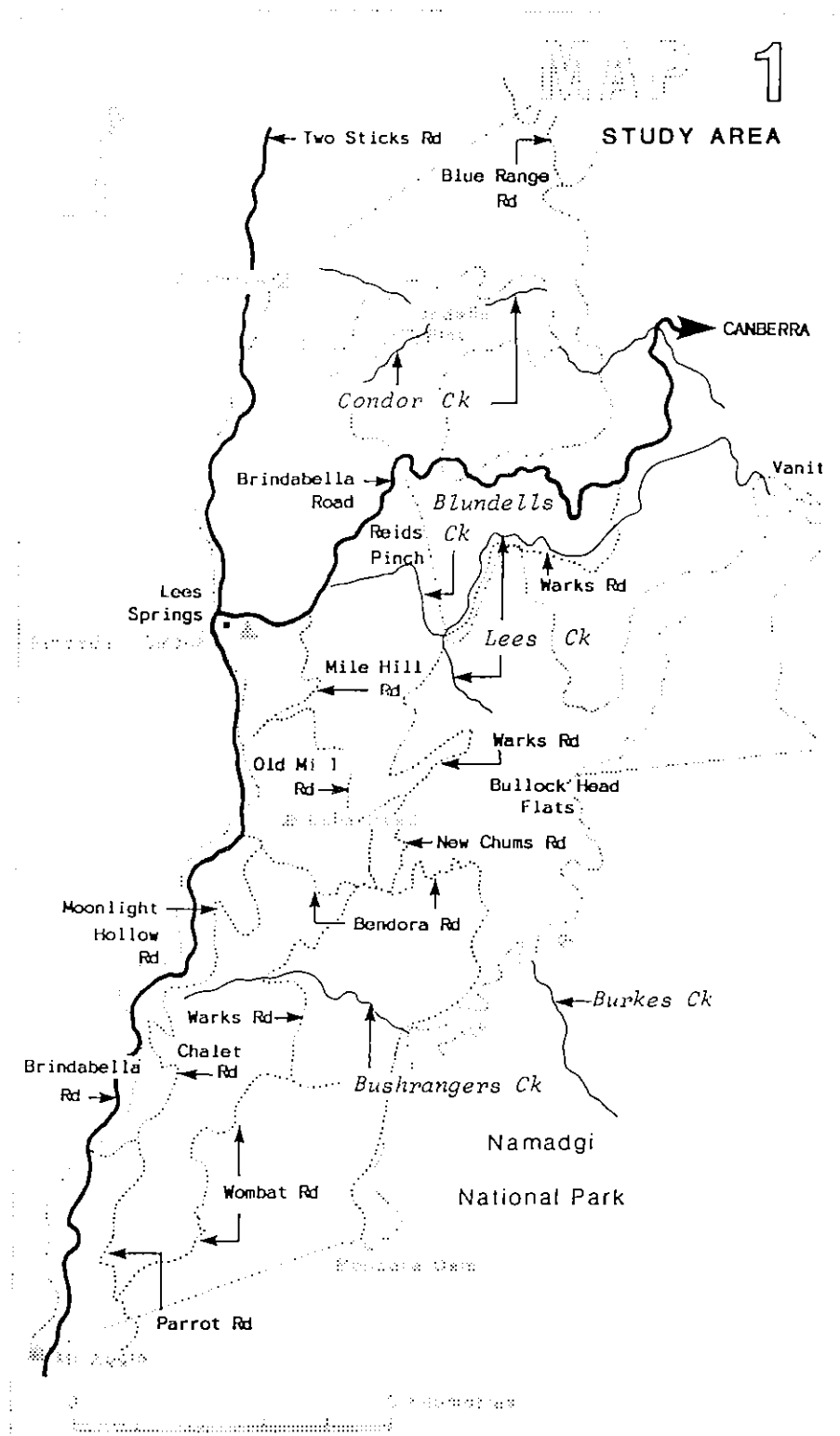
The work was based on the premise that the area is worthy of conservation and reservation and is a presentation of the case in support of such action.

Ian's conclusion is that 'the area has high conservation value and is eminently worthy of legislative protection. There is also a high level of community and professional support for the proposed reservation. Indeed, in the course of my investigations I was surprised by the number and diversity of people who willingly contributed to the preparation of this report, and to the intensity of some of the views expressed in support of protection for the area'.

The case for conservation and reservation is set out in the following terms (text edited and modified slightly for the Bulletin):

'The only way to ensure protection of the area with statutory force would be to declare it a reserve according to Section 51 of the *Nature Conservation Ordinance* 1980.

In order to present a sound case for proceeding with this, it is first necessary to understand why the area is not currently 'conserved', ie why it was not included in Namadgi National Park in 1984. There seems to be no disagreement that the reason for its exclusion lies in the marketable hardwood potential of the area. It should be noted that



there is no short-term plan for such a hardwood operation; it is generally accepted that such a proposition would be politically unacceptable at present.

The commercial interest is not a general one; "the only forest types within the catchment having an adequate bolewood volume with economically acceptable levels of defect" are the *E. delegatensis* and *E. fastigata*. The irony – and the basis of the whole conflict of interests – is that it is precisely these scattered wet sclerophyll pockets that have been continually identified as the key habitat component of the area.

Over a sixty year rotation the timber resource has been estimated as yielding 2000 cubic metres per year. (To place this in perspective, the ACT produces 180,000 cubic metres of *Pinus radiata* per annum.) This would be insufficient to support even a small mill, but would be used to supplement an existing mill, probably either at Yass or Captains Flat. Precise royalty figures are not available but on the basis of varying estimates, give a *maximum* revenue of \$50,000 to \$80,000 per annum.

In normal circumstances, it seems hardly likely that this supplement to consolidated revenue would be considered worthwhile. However, there is a most unusual factor operating here, which is crucial to the whole issue. In 1955, a Forestry Trust Account was set up to give "financial flexibility" to ACT forestry operations. This means that the approximately half a million dollars spent on roads in the area came not from consolidated revenue, but from Forestry Branch's 'own' money. Conversely, logging royalties would not return to consolidated revenue, but would be retained by the Branch as a return on 'investment'. This, I believe, fundamentally alters the situation with regard to the practicalities of pursuing a case for effectively removing the area from the Forestry Branch's control. This is not to suggest that such a course is not feasible or desirable, but it is necessary to understand this important dimension to the opposition to the proposal.

Certainly, other disinterested studies have expressed opposition to logging in the area e.g. an ANU Dept of Forestry study in 1973.

A chapter in the report details known natural values of the area. It

is clear that 1) many, if not most, of them are associated with the wet sclerophyll pockets under threat of logging, and 2) these values are incompatible with logging.

The argument for retaining the current values of the area are sufficiently strong I believe, and the arguments for economic exploitation of the timber resource sufficiently weak, to allow the case for preserving the area to be pursued with confidence. However, while a necessary precondition, this is insufficient in itself to argue for formal conservation and management.

There are, however, several powerful arguments for this course. Some of these I have identified as follows, in no order of priority.

1. Management coherence and sympathy with surrounding natural areas. To the south and east of the study area lies Namadgi National Park, which has a comprehensive management plan. There is little doubt that the value of both areas would be enhanced by the management of the northern area in sympathy with Namadgi. If the lands to the west are dedicated as part of the NSW parks system the same argument applies.

2. Management of Research. The area is an important and heavily-used research laboratory and classroom. These activities need to be both protected and managed.

3. Fire Management. This is currently quite ad hoc, a situation which a management plan would certainly require to be remedied. The issues are complex and require more than ad hoc decision-making to resolve the imbalances created over the past 150 years of disruption to fire regimes.

4. Recreation Management. There are many recreation pressures on the area, which can only increase as Canberra's population does.

5. Feral animal and weed control. Currently random and scant; a data-based plan is required.

6. Pine management. A problem of the area is the very long involuted north-east boundary of *Pinus radiata*, an aggressively colonising weed species in a natural forest. I would strongly recommend a longer-term goal of eliminating – or at least not replacing after harvest – the peninsula of pines north of Blundells Hill, surrounding Blundells Flat.

While this is not necessarily an exhaustive list, I believe that it is sufficiently comprehensive and powerful to support an argument for the required preservation of the area to be achieved by its formal gazettal and prescribed management.

I recommend therefore, that NPA pursues with confidence the case for conservation and management of the North Cotter catchment as an extension of Namadgi NP, via the following short-term mechanisms:

- a) That a north Cotter Nature Reserve (merely a descriptive title on my part) be proclaimed forthwith, as a separate reserve under the ACT Nature Conservation Ordinance 1980, with its own management plan as prescribed by the Ordinance;
- b) that the revision of this plan be timed to coincide with that of Namadgi, and that the amalgamation of the two take place at that time.'

Note: References have been deleted in the above. The complete report is available for purchase from the NPA office for \$6 and postage.



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*The most important thing about Spaceship Earth – an instruction book didn't come with it.*

–R. Buckminster Fuller

*You can tell all you need to about a society from how it treats animals and beaches.*

–Frank Deford

*No one can really pull you up very high – you lose your grip on the rope. But on your own two feet you can climb mountains.*

–Louis Brandeis

*Individual commitment to a group effort – that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilisation work.*

–V.L.

*The key to success is not information, it's people.*

–Lee Iacocca



# The Gudgenby Grazing Controversy

Kevin Frawley's article in the March Bulletin, 'The Gudgenby Property and Grazing in National Parks' has created some controversy. The following four letters have been received as a result of Kevin's article.

Remember that the Bulletin is a forum for all members to express their views. Perhaps other members would like to put forward their thoughts after checking out the property for themselves.

-Editor

## Gudgenby: A Cultural Heritage Asset

This statement is a response to Kevin Frawley's article (National Parks Association of the ACT Bulletin 25:3) on the Gudgenby grazing issue by the ACT Heritage Committee, a Committee charged with the duty of having regard to all aspects of heritage. The implication of the title of Kevin Frawley's article is that continuation of grazing at Gudgenby on cultural heritage grounds can be taken as support for grazing in national parks generally. This is not so. The ACT Heritage Committee would, for example, strenuously support opposition to reintroduction of grazing or mining in a fragile wilderness ecosystem; it is clear, from archival evidence available, that it was not untouched wilderness when Europeans arrived, but was a manipulated system of open grassy woodland or open grass floored forest.

Dr Frawley's equation with Braidwood is spurious. One pastoral landscape with historic associative values is not the same as another, just as the particular site values which set one national park aside will be different from other parks. The equation by Dr Frawley demonstrates a lack of appreciation of the range of cultural heritage places, their historical significance and meaning and an unawareness of the interrelationship between natural and cultural material. It also demonstrates a lack of understanding of the methodology which is applied to the determination of cultural heritage significance, a methodology equally as rigorous as that employed in natural heritage resource work. The methodology for determination of cultural heritage significance is incidentally, an Australian development encapsulated in the internationally recognised Australia ICOMOS Guidelines for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (The Burra Charter).

Accusations by Kevin Frawley of cultural cringe and the call to Aus-

tralian pride appear as a distasteful and chauvinistic attempt to belittle the integrity of professional opinion other than those held by himself. The description by Kevin Frawley of comparisons with the USA, Britain and Europe as 'inappropriate' and 'made in ignorance' is scarcely a positive contribution to informed discussion. The ACT Heritage Committee is wary of analogies with Britain. There are however, valid parallels with the USA where the National Park Service manage both natural and cultural resources. Australian natural resource managers, concentrating on natural heritage issues in national parks, quote USA literature, practice research and invite personnel to Australia. We also reserve the right to make valid comparisons. The National Park Service in the USA, through their Cultural Resource Management Division, manage cultural heritage sites including historic sites, National Historic Parks and rural historic districts within national parks where wilderness values coexist.

Kevin Frawley's supercilious dismissal of the human hand in terms of landscape values, meanings to people and heritage conservation interrelationships ignores the deeply ingrained appreciation of rural cultural landscapes in the Australian psyche. This is well documented in literature sources, including many of our current historians (Smith, Bolton, Russell, Blainey, White). It is part of human biological and cultural cognitive responses to these landscapes, strengthened in Australia by our tradition of literature and landscape painting which has enshrined these cultural landscapes as a national symbol.

This Committee recognises that grazing has impacted Australian ecosystems and that there is unequivocal justification for presenting wilderness areas and national parks on natural heritage value grounds. However, this justification does not sustain a dogma against pastoralism. There is a responsibility to have regard to the intrinsic values that relate to given pieces of land,

particularly in public ownership. Not to do so is to divide support for conservation (whether in or out of national parks) by a blinkered dislike of grazing. Gudgenby is an example of responsible grazing management, continuing the traditions of a cultural landscape where the actions of European settlement, commencing 150 years ago and written across the face of the landscape, were documented over 100 years ago.

Gudgenby expresses cogently three of the values set out in the Burra Charter. These are Historic Values, Social Values and Aesthetic Values. The basis for cultural heritage value and continued grazing at Gudgenby is related to its historic beginnings in the 1830s/1840s. This history is well documented and available for interpretative purposes. Archival evidence and current grazing use show that Gudgenby is an outstanding example of a mountain valley used historically for transhumance grazing, and later settled grazing; it bears distinctive component parts identifiable with its past. These have been lost in other valleys. The component parts of the Gudgenby cultural landscape display integrity of fabric, setting and appearance resulting in heritage significance as defined in the Burra Charter. The existing grazing landscape pattern demonstrates historical interrelationships, continuity over time and strong historical associative values because of our knowledge of historical events and people. The area presents a fascinating picture of settlement by ordinary Australians with whom people can identify. It is an evocative living link with our past whose social history values are preserved in a living, working landscape. Elements connected with Gudgenby's pastoral history are vividly related to their cultural and intellectual background; Gudgenby, therefore, stands as a genuine and functioning historical record of our past of local, regional and national significance. Locally and regionally it is significant because it is a record of settlement

## The Gudgenby Grazing Controversy . . . continued . . .

of the area with integrity of setting, appearance, fabric and association. It is nationally significant because it was part of the remarkable early push into the valleys of the south-west part of the Monaro within 40 years of the first fleet landing.

Gudgenby is a cultural heritage asset requiring expert professional treatment to ensure continuity and appropriate landscape management to protect its significance. To suggest that continued grazing is a threat to 'our wild and natural landscapes' is a misrepresentation.

*D.J. Mulvaney CMG  
Chairman  
ACT Heritage Committee  
April, 1988*

### The Future of Gudgenby

The two articles in the March Bulletin on the future of Gudgenby Station and national park definitions demonstrate the difficulty of arriving at a definition to cover complex situations and of securing consensus from a number of disparate opinions.

The Association, in the immediate past in its comment on the policy and management plans for Namadgi, put forward submissions which recognised that the lease of Gudgenby should be retained until plans for its future use were finalised and the Service had the ability to implement them.

The NCDC Policy Plan of June 1986 divided Gudgenby into two sections to allow grazing to be phased out. The western section would be naturally revegetated as a buffer to the Wilderness Area. The eastern section would be used for car based recreation and the homestead retained for park purposes. The Service in its Management Plan of June 1986, issued simultaneously with the NCDC Policy Plan, is in contradiction in that it opposes a phased withdrawal of grazing and the use of the buildings for park purposes. With the proposed lease termination the policy makers and managers are at odds since I know of no public variation of the NCDC policy document.

Association comment on the NCDC policy plan was that the present land use be maintained

and grazing stopped where regeneration occurs.

Comment on the Service draft management plan was more extensive and recognised the importance of Gudgenby as a wilderness buffer zone in restricting public access and its value in fire and weed control. The Association commended the Service on its initiative to carry out investigative studies but expressed concern that before the leasing was terminated, all plans should be in readiness and adequate funds and resources be available to implement the plan. Until plans and funds were at hand, no objection was raised for appropriate leasing to extend, with incentives for the lessee to act in the interests of ultimate park policy.

The Association outlined a number of items it would like to be included in the investigative studies and these included: parking areas, public access across the property, fire control measures, restoration of pasture areas, reforestation, assistance to the lessee to progress the post lease stage and a survey of educational institutions to see if there is a requirement for the homestead to be used for educational or field study purposes.

Considerations on the future use of Gudgenby are still active and, on past experience, until these are consolidated, it is premature to terminate the lease in June 1989 and possibly leave the whole of the property without the resources to manage it. The value of the property as a fire buffer zone was demonstrated during the devastating 1983 fire and withdrawal should be in at least two phases in accordance with the promulgated NCDC policy.

In the proven Bradley method of bush regeneration, one of the stated principles is to allow regeneration to dictate the clearing rate of exotics. The withdrawal rate of cattle should be an experiment designed to maximise the resources available. This procedure is both economically and environmentally sound. There are many examples in the declaration of new national park areas, where the abrupt termination of grazing has resulted in exotics proliferating and becoming completely out of hand through the inability of a Service to eradicate them.

It is now over five years since a

major part of the Boboyan pine forest was burnt. The dead trees are now being blown over into tangled heaps and exotics proliferate unchecked. The Administration is unable to cope with the problem. Will the adjoining Gudgenby, likewise, become a wilderness of weeds?

*Reg Alder  
March, 1988*

### Gudgenby

The recent announcement by the Parks and Conservation Service that the grazing lease in the Gudgenby Valley would be terminated in June 1989 (reported by Kevin Frawley in the last Bulletin) will be welcomed by members. As one who was intimately involved in the campaign to remove grazing from the Orroral Valley, I am particularly pleased that the aims of the Association to conserve the natural values of the Park are slowly being realised.

As some comments have been made concerning the retention of European cultural heritage and current patterns of land use in the Park, it may be timely to re-emphasise the role of national parks in conserving natural ecosystems, and the vital part played by NPAs around Australia in striving to protect and extend Australia's National Park system. A national parks system is needed to conserve the diverse and fascinating ecosystems and wildlife of Australia, and to protect areas of outstanding scenic value. Parks are important for recreation, research, education, retention of diversity, and protection of fragile environments. None of these needs can be ignored if we wish to conserve our distinctive natural heritage for future generations.

For all these reasons, grazing is not an activity we would want to support in national parks. As has been documented in many studies, grazing modifies natural ecosystems, either deliberately or incidentally, in ways which prevent natural processes from continuing, and most importantly, which reduce the natural species diversity in an area. In a wider context, grazing also impacts land management issues such as catchment management,

## The Gudgenby Grazing Controversy . . . continued . . .

where erosion, as well as siltation and pollution of streams are important issues. These are particularly important issues for our alpine parks system.

The challenge then, in Gudgenby, is to manage the change to a natural regime without producing undesirable side-effects for the Park. This challenge has been met in Kosciusko, Kinchega, and other parks where grazing was once a major activity. The ACT Parks Service is no less able to manage this process, with strong support from conservation organisations.

The preservation of European pastoral heritage and rural landscape values in the ACT and surrounding region, also an important issue, can be managed without compromising national parks values in Namadgi. There are a number of excellent examples of working grazing properties, such as Lanyon, which have been, and can continue to be managed to preserve these values without the same conflicts which arise in Namadgi. Film and other forms of documentation can also be used to preserve any form of heritage before changes occur in patterns of land use.

In national parks, the prime goal is the conservation of natural systems. With the imminent cessation of grazing at Gudgenby, we have the opportunity to extend this concept to another important part of Namadgi. We should grasp this opportunity and provide strong support for the ACT Parks Service in this endeavour.

*Neville Esau  
29 April, 1938*

### Grazing in Gudgenby

Our President was entitled to state in the March Bulletin his belief that the termination of grazing in Gudgenby would have general support in the Association. Nevertheless I am sceptical as to whether this belief is valid. Some members are bound to disagree and I would question whether most members have thought much about the matter let alone reached any conclusion. So perhaps I may express a dissenting view and point out some of the implications which have not

been canvassed in the Bulletin.

Personally I am in favour of a continuation of grazing in Gudgenby. I find it aesthetically pleasing and Gudgenby provides a useful buffer zone on the fringes of the Namadgi wilderness area. Except in purely ideological terms I do not believe that grazing in Gudgenby adversely affects Namadgi. I would much prefer to see the lessee granted a long and secure extension.

*This is not to say that I am in favour of grazing in every national park but I believe that a reasonable degree of flexibility is desirable. Summer grazing in high alpine areas should certainly be banned because of the destruction it causes to alpine plant communities. But in the case of a productive, long-cleared valley floor such as Gudgenby I can see no objections to well managed grazing, provided public access through the property is preserved.*

An area such as the Gudgenby lease will not readily or quickly regenerate as natural forest when grazing ceases. It will rather, at least for the next 30-40 years, become a waste of poor scrub with a large population of introduced plants, especially brambles and briars. The ACT Administration will not have the resources to maintain or replant the area. The already large kangaroo population may keep down pasture growth but in seasons of lush growth severe grass fires may occur. Furthermore I can see no logic in leaving the very slow growing Gudgenby pine plantations until they are ready to be harvested in 20 years time or so while banning grazing in the adjoining areas.

In any case I seriously question whether Gudgenby is likely to be left alone after June 1989. The probability is, given Gudgenby's scenic values and easy accessibility, that demand will grow rapidly for its development as a recreation and tourism centre. There is already increasing demand for more camping/caravan facilities within the ACT. The Gudgenby homestead area would be well suited for such a purpose. From camping and caravanning it is only a short step to a tourism centre, complete with kiosk, chalets, children's playground, swimming pool and large all-weather car park.

Riding access is another likely demand. It is not a desirable activity in a national park because horses – and especially numbers of horses organised by commercial interests as is happening elsewhere – are bound to introduce weeds through their fodder and droppings. But the large open areas of Gudgenby, giving access to Rendezvous Creek on one side and the Naas Valley and Grassy Creek on the other, are inviting for riders.

And of course the Gudgenby area could provide splendid facilities for 4WD and trailbike enthusiasts to demonstrate their talents for environmental improvement charging through swamps and creek beds and up steep slopes.

Self government is almost upon us. It is going to bring profound changes to the control structure of the ACT. The authority of bureaucrats will be modified and reduced by the political process. Coupled with the weakness of the statutory protection enjoyed by our national park this can easily mean that very real and new environmental pressures are likely to arise to the detriment of Namadgi. Ideological purity will not, I am afraid, be effective in withstanding such pressures and our Association may well come to regret the void that will shortly be created in Gudgenby.

*Alastair Morrison  
20 March, 1938*

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## Typewriter For Sale

The Association has an old typewriter which has been twice superseded – first by our electric typewriter and now by our computer. If anyone would like to purchase the old typewriter, it is a bargain at \$10 or nearest offer. If you are interested, please contact the Secretary or the Office.





# Eden Forests: New National Parks – almost? perhaps?

Information from article by Grahame Wells in *National Parks Journal* (NSW) 32(1) 1988:9-11.  
With permission of author.

Prior to the NSW State election, Liberal leader Nick Greiner and National Party leader Wal Murray stated that should the opposition win the forthcoming election, they would not proceed with the revocation of the State Forests necessary to bring about the dedication of proposed new national parks in the south-east. The results of that election are now history, and unless there is a change in coalition direction in New South Wales, the future of the parks proposal looks bleak.

The extent of these park proposals is outlined below (see map).

## The Greater Coolangubra National Park

This park will include the existing Nungatta and Nalbaugh National Parks as well as an additional 35,100 hectares bringing its area to 47,260 hectares.

The park takes in the nominated Coolangubra Wilderness and protects all land in the vicinity on the Interim List of the Register of the National Estate.

Coolangubra National Park will include the "spectacular gorges" of Myanba and Stockyard Creeks, as well as waterfalls and other scenic areas. It contains several land systems not represented in existing Parks and will provide a link with the Coopracambra National Park in Victoria.

The Park will contain 11 plant communities which prior to the Eden decision were poorly conserved. Additionally, it would protect four rare and threatened plant species and seven endangered mammal species.

## Tantawangalo National Park

The new Tantawangalo Park will protect the catchment which reliably supplies high quality freshwater to rural townships in the Bega Shire. Tantawangalo Creek qualifies as a "wild and scenic river".

The Park will include the only area of upland forest on basalt which remains uncleared in the Woodchip Agreement Area. Two rare eucalypt species will be protected and the area includes important habitat for

several rare animals and arboreal mammals in the region.

## Wadbilliga National Park additions

A major addition of 14,000 hectares to the southern end of the Park incorporating Bega Swamps and Bemboka State Forest.

The addition will contain the largest stand of Cool Temperate rainforest in the region, and will encompass two plant communities not adequately protected elsewhere.

## Egan Peaks Nature Reserve

A large extension of 10,800 hectares will protect 10 rare plants, including four which are new to science. In addition four inad-

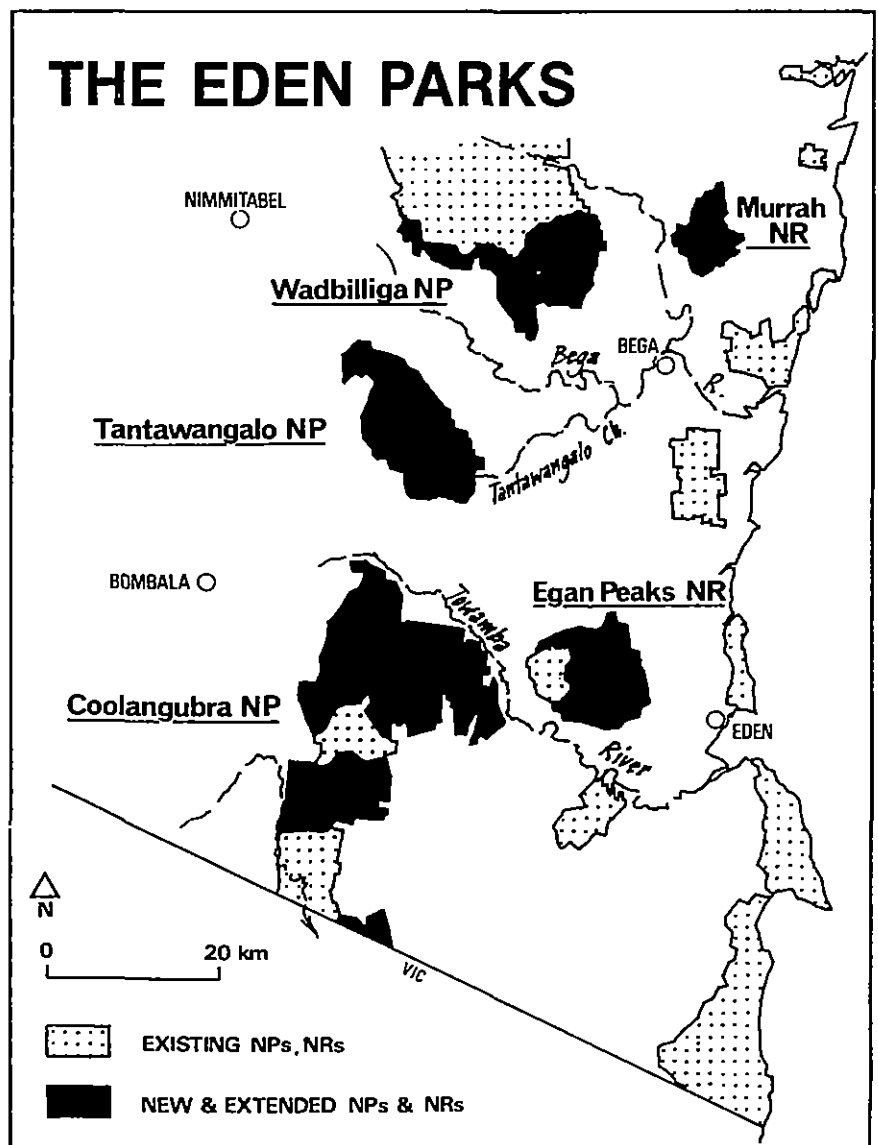
equately conserved plant communities will receive better conservation. The habitat of five endangered mammals will also be protected.

The additions will protect two undisturbed river catchments and help protect an important wildlife corridor between the coast and the tablelands.

## Murrah Nature Reserve

This new Nature Reserve encompasses land which is already given some measure of protection under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act* as the Biamanga Aboriginal Place.

The area is listed on the Register of the National Estate.



Nick Fisher.

# Summary of Report to Minister of Lands

*The following is a summary of a report offered as constructive criticism to the Minister of Lands.*

Our party (8 adults and 3 children) left Canberra on Boxing Day morning, making camp at the Henry Angel Flat 10km south of Tumberumba at lunch time, for a stay of two nights and three days.

We were all pleasantly surprised at the historical content of the area with respect to Hume and Hovell and human activity, first goldmining and now agriculture. We enthusiastically read every pamphlet and plaque available and are eager for more historical information on life around the route of this expedition.

From our wide combined experience we felt that the facilities and space at the track-head were excellent. We are eager to return in another season perhaps in spring to see the flowers and visit further afield.

We feel that the public has been bombarded with activities relating to the Bicentennial year, and it appeared to us that the Lands Department may have done this work without giving enough thought to future use and maintenance, eg the camping area is vulnerable to misuse and vandalism. While we were there, there was far too much beer-drinking, fast driving, dust, and "blue" music into the early morning from the transient loutish element, to the annoyance of those wanting quietness. One cannot imagine the local police would be keen to patrol 10km out of the town regularly. The generous provision of facilities has been abused - a board torn from the BBQ shelter, women's toilets flooded, and hot washing-up water used for showers in the site for disabled people's toilets (and we understand 9 rolls of toilet paper used as bath-towels).

We suggest that the hot water facility should be removed or that showers should be provided. We realise that at peak times showers will need more servicing.

Fortunately most campers settled close to the facilities. We were most grateful for the access to both sides of the creek, because we were thus

able to enjoy a cool and private site away from the crowds.

The first afternoon we walked to the junction of Burra and Tumberumba creeks and were greatly interested in the documentation and photos along the track. There is scope for this to be extended. The general public does not appear to go far beyond the waterfall, and from there on the track was at times faint, overgrown and inadequately marked.

The next day we walked to the Junction Campsite and returned. The track was in poor condition and overgrown, and needs to be cleared in a much wider swathe. We suspect it may have been vandalised or sabotaged in places. Very few track markers remain, and the timber barriers on this northern part of the track have *all* had the nuts removed from the bolts, so that the cross-beams can be easily removed, and the barriers are weakened. A large tree has fallen across a signpost and some of the documentation. Bridges and steps are well made and were in good condition.

We were concerned about access to public roads. Having been emphatically denied access on one road, and understanding the unwillingness of farmers to have hoodlums roaring around their properties, we should like to be advised of our rights.

Staff from the Department have been particularly willing and helpful and correspondence has been prompt and informative. If the Lands Department is to be successful in the development and maintenance of various categories of tracks it should not only adopt some management practices from other authorities but also create its own.

In his reply of 29 Feb 1988, the Minister said that the problems of vandalism mentioned in the report were being investigated. He confirmed our remarks on overgrown parts and vandalism, and said that the Australian Trust of Conservation Volunteers would be carrying out a monthly maintenance programme. He did not give the information we were seeking on legal access.

The full report is on file in the NPA records.



*Junction Campsite, Hume and Hovell Track, Tumberumba*

# OUTINGS PROGRAM

## June – September 1988



- 20 August – Saturday Ski Trip (A/B)**  
**Perisher Area** Ref: Kosciusko 1:50 000  
**Leader: Phil Bubb 46 6134 (w) 81 4929 (h)**  
 Phone leader early for details of this day trip for relatively inexperienced skiers. Exact location depends on snow. Numbers limited. 450 km drive.
- 21 August – Sunday Walk (B/C)**  
**5 Peaks** Ref: Yaouk 1:25 000  
**Leader: Frank Clements 31 7005**  
 Meet: Kambah Village Shops 0830. A walk of 20 km climbing five individual peaks south east of Mt Gudgenby. Steep climbs, one of 350m at start. 100 km drive.
- 20/21 August – Weekend Pack Walk (1/2)**  
**Peak adjacent to Mt McKeahnie**  
 Ref: Corin Dam 1:25 000  
**Leader: Les Pyke 81 2982**  
 Contact leader by Wednesday. Easy pack walk 6km up Orroral Valley then from base camp a 400-500m exploratory climb up un-named peak. 120 km drive.
- 27 August – Saturday Ski Trip (A/B)**  
**Three Mile Dam/Reeds Hill**  
 Ref: Cabramurra 1:25 000  
**Leader: Neville Esau 86 4176**  
 An easy day ski tour of approx 10-12 km. The venue may vary with weather and snow conditions. The outing should be suitable for less experienced skiers but is not meant for beginners. Contact leader as numbers are limited. 350 km return drive.
- 28 August – Sunday Walk (A/B)**  
**Historic Walk** Ref Yaouk 1:25 000,  
 Shannons Flat 1:25 000  
**Leader: Peter Roe 91 9535**  
 Meet: Kambah Village Shops 0745 or Brayshaws Hut at 0900. A 19 km walk at bottom end of Namadgi which takes in Brayshaws, Westermans and Grassy Creek Huts, Lone Pine and Boboyan ruins. Easy walk except for distance. 160 km drive.
- 31 August – Wednesday Weekday Walk**  
**Boboyan Hut on Hospital Creek**  
 Ref: Yaouk 1:25 000  
**Leader: Robert Story 81 2174**  
 Meet: 0930 at Glendale Park Headquarters. 13 km walk with 100 km drive.
- 4 September – Sunday Walk (B/C)**  
**Middle/Rendezvous Creeks**  
 Ref: Rendezvous Ck 1:25 000  
**Leader: Graham Guttridge 31 4330**  
 Meet: Kambah Village Shops 0830. A 14 km walk with a 400m climb up the (Mavis) ridge between Middle and Rendezvous Creeks. Excellent views over the Gudgenby Valley and southern end of Namadgi National Park. 100 km drive.
- 3/4 September – Pack Walk (1)**  
**Starlights Trail and Nattai River**  
 Ref: Burragarang 1:100 000  
**Leader: Kevin Totterdell 81 4410**  
 An easy weekend pack walk with base camp at the Nattai River. Easy/medium walking throughout the weekend. 15km round trip. Contact leader for details. 380 km drive.

- 11 September – Sunday Ski Trip (C)**  
**Guthega area** Ref: Kosciusko 1:50 000  
**Leader: Phil Bubb 46 6134 (w) 81 4929 (h)**  
 A challenging trip to Whites River Hut and Schlink Pass with a significant climb. Down Disappointment Spur with some walking and carrying skis for about 1 hour. Snow conditions may cause changes. Contact leader early for details. Experienced skiers. 450 km drive.
- 10/11 September – Weekend Pack Walk (1/2)**  
**Grassy Creek area** Ref: ACT 1:100 000  
**Leader: Les Pyke 81 2982**  
 Contact leader by Wednesday. Easy pack walk. Several km walk up Grassy Creek from Mt Clear, then from base camp do exploratory walks involving 400m climb. 140 km drive.
- 15 September – Thursday Weekday Walk (A)**  
**Ginninderra Falls** Ref: ACT 1:100 000  
**Leader: Gladys Joyce 95 6959**  
 Meet: Carpark at entrance to Ginninderra Reserve 1000. Walks on tracks to see falls and down to Murrumbidgee. 4/5 km, 100m climb. Entrance charge. Pensioners free.
- 18 September – Sunday Walk (A)**  
**Brandy Flat Hut** Ref: Rendezvous Creek 1:25 000  
**Leader: Jean Marshall 31 3443**  
 Meet: Kambah Village Shops 0930 for 8 km walk on fire trail from Glendale Crossing to Brandy Flat Hut. 80 km drive.
- 24/25 September – Car Camp**  
**Berrima – Box Vale Track**  
 Ref: Burragarang 1:100 000  
**Leader: Peter Roe 91 9535**  
 Contact leader by Wednesday for details of this pleasant car camp. Arrive by lunch time Saturday and walk around outskirts of Berrima in afternoon. Sunday an historic walk on Boxvale Track, possibly continuing along the Nattai River to Mittagong.

### 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).

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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.

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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 GUIDE

- Day Walks** – Carry lunch, drinks & protective clothing  
**Pack Walks** – Two or more days, carry all food and camping requirements. CONTACT LEADER BY WEDNESDAY.  
**Car Camps** – Often limited or no facilities. Vehicles taken to site can be used for camping. BOOK WITH LEADER EARLY.  
 Other activities include Nature Rambles, Field Guide Studies, Ski Tours, Snow Crafts, Tree Maintenance and other projects.

### DAY WALKS – GRADING

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

### PACK WALKS – GRADING

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

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

- 1 June – Wednesday Walk (A)**  
**Mount Mugga** Ref: ACT 1:100 000  
**Leader: Robert Story 81 2174**  
 A pleasant walk of 10 km. Telephone leader for time and place of meeting.
- 5 June – Sunday Walk (A)**  
**Majors Creek Falls** Ref: Monga 1:25 000  
**Leader: Stephen Forst 51 6817**  
 Meet: King's Highway & Thurrallilly Street, Queanbeyan 0900. A 5 km walk to a lookout above Majors Creek Falls near Araluen. 200 km drive.
- 11/12/13 June – Car Camp**  
**Oallen Ford** Ref: Ulladulla 1:100 000  
**Leader: Russ Kefford 26 2631**  
 Telephone leader before Wednesday. Base camp with walks in the Budawangs – Corang Peak and Admiration Point. 200 km drive.
- 11/12/13 June – Pack Walk (3/5)**  
**Genoa River** Ref: Craigie 1:100 000  
**Nungatta 1:25 000, Yambulla 1:25 000**  
**Leaders: Pat & Eric Pickering 86 2128**  
 Contact leaders by Wednesday. This will be an exploratory walk in the upper reaches of the Genoa River, on the NSW/Victorian border, in an area bounded by the Genoa River, Mt Coopracambra, Mt Nungatta and Mt Merragunegin. Not for beginners as steep climbs, rock scrambling and scrub may be involved. Gorges and mountain views. 500 km drive.
- 18 June – Saturday Walk (A)**  
**Canberra Skyline** Ref: ACT 1:000 000  
**Leader: Peter Roe 91 9535**  
 Meet: Kambah Village Shops 0900. A 12 km walk up and over Mt Taylor (200m) and across to Farrer Ridge. Up to Mt Wanniasa Trig then return to cars by a round trip.
- 19 June – Sunday History Drive/Walk (A)**  
**History Tour – Various Sites** Ref: ACT 1:000 000  
**Leader: Doreen Wilson 88 5215**  
 Meet: Chisholm Shopping Centre at 0900 for a tour of axe grinding grooves, canoe tree, rock shelter and Farrer's grave. Bring lunch. 40 km drive.
- 26 June – 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 700m. 120 km drive.
- 26 June – Sunday Walk (A)**  
**Mts Ainslie/Majura** Ref: ACT 1:000 000  
**Leader: Judith Webster 47 6769**  
 Meet: Horse paddock in Antill Street just past end of houses towards Health Hostel at 1000. Climb Mt Majura on footpath, then along ridge to Mt Ainslie and back along fire trail. 7 km walk.
- 29 June – Wednesday Weekday Walk (A)**  
**Mt McDonald** Ref: ACT 1:000 000  
**Leader: Charles Hill 95 8924**  
 Meet: Eucumbene Drive and Cotter Road 0930. Ramble and walk for 6 km with 150m steep rise. Tracks and forestry roads; very good views. 20 km drive.
- 2/3 July – Pack Walk (3/5)**  
**Square Top Mountain and Castle Hill**  
 Ref: Endrick 1:25 000  
**Leader: Philip Gatenby 54 3094**  
 Contact leader by Wednesday. A partly exploratory walk in a seldom visited area of the western Budawangs. Most of the walk will be off tracks and rock scrambling may be involved. 300 km drive.
- 10 July – Sunday Walk (B)**  
**Mt Coree** Ref: ACT 1:100 000  
 Meet: Cotter Road/Eucumbene Drive at 0830. Climb 600m up fire trail from Blundell's Flat for good views from Mt Coree and return down Pabra's Road fire trail. 12 km walk. 80 km drive.
- 16 July – Beginner's Ski Day (A)**  
**Perisher Track** Ref: Perisher Ski Touring Map  
**Leaders: Stephen Forst 51 6817**  
**Nick Gascoigne 46 2167**  
 Contact leader by Wednesday for details on this beginners' ski touring day. An introduction to cross-country skiing for beginners and those wishing to refresh old skills. Numbers limited. 450 km drive.
- 20 July – Wednesday Walk**  
**Murrumbidgee Walking Track** Ref: ACT 1:000 000  
**Leader: Shirley Lewis 95 2720**  
 Meet: Kambah Pool bitumen parking area 0930. Walk along a track following the Murrumbidgee River from Kambah Pool to Pine Island and return. The country is undulating with good river views; lunch at a sandy beach and total distance approx 16 km.
- 23/24 July – Ski/Camp Weekend (B/C)**  
**Island Bend** Ref: Kosciusko 1:50'000  
**Leader: Garth Abercrombie 81 4907**  
 Day tours from Guthega with an overnight car camp below the snowline at Island Bend. Exact details of trips will depend on weather and snow conditions. Contact leader by Wednesday. Numbers limited. 450 km drive.
- 24 July – Sunday Walk (A/B)**  
**Honesuckle Ridge** Ref: Corin Dam 1:25 000  
**Leader: Shirley Lewis 95 2720**  
 An 8 km walk from Honesuckle Creek Tracking Station up a firetrail and along a track in open forest along the ridge. Spectacular granite rock formations and views over Orroral Valley. 265m climb. Meet at Kambah Village Shops at 0900. 100 km drive.
- 30 July – Saturday Ski Trip (B)**  
**Kiandra/Mt Selwyn** Ref: Cabramurra 1:25 000  
**Leader: Dugald Munro 31 8776**  
 Phone leader for details of this ski day. Exact location will depend on snow conditions. An easy (approx 12 km) trip but some experience necessary. Numbers limited. 400 km drive.
- 30 July – Saturday Walk (A)**  
**Yankee Hat Paintings** Ref: Yaouk 1:25 000  
**Leader: Beverley Hammond 88 6577**  
 Meet: Kambah Village Shops 0900. Round trip of 10 km through Boboyan Pine Forest to Yankee Hat Aboriginal Paintings and back across open paddocks. 100 km drive.
- 31 July – Sunday Walk (A)**  
**Mt. Budawang** Ref: Braidwood 1:25 000  
**Leader: Les Pyke 81 2982**  
 Meet: Canberra Railway Station car park 0830. Travel to Mt. Budawang via Braidwood and Mongarlowe then walk up trails to fire tower for panoramic view of coast and inland. 500m climb on trails. Walk 6 km. Drive 220 km.
- 6 August – Saturday Ramble (A)**  
**Duffy Pines** Ref: ACT 1:100 000  
**Leader: Margaret Aston 88 7563**  
 Meet: Cotter Road/Eucumbene Drive 1300 for a 5 km ramble through pine forest and open country west of Duffy. Bring afternoon tea.
- 6/7 August – Weekend Snow Camp (1/2)**  
**Tabletop Mtn/Mt Selwyn** Ref: Cabramurra 1:25 000  
**Leader: Stephen Forst 51 6817**  
 Contact leader early for details of this weekend ski tour. Camping will be in or at Broken Dam Hut (above the snowline). Numbers limited. 400 km drive.
- 7 August – Sunday Walk (A)**  
**Big Hole and Marble Arch** Ref: Kain 1:25 000  
**Leader: Shirley Lewis 95 2720**  
 Meet: Canberra Railway Station 0730. A pleasant walk through open forest, along tracks and firetrails. Bring old runners and towel for the paddle across the Shoalhaven River. Spectacular gorge at Marble Arch but can be slippery in wet weather. 10 km walk. 180 km drive.
- 13 August – Sunday Walk (A)**  
**Hills & Ridges of the National Capital Open Space System**  
 Ref: UBD Canberra & NCDC NCOSS brochure  
**Leader: Kevin Frawley 82 3080**  
 Meet: corner Archibald & Dryandra Sts, Lyneham (car shuffle). Walk from Oakey Hill (Woden) to Scrivener Dam to Green Hills Pine Forest, Black Mtn and Bruce Ridge.
- 13/14 August – Weekend Ski/Camp (2)**  
**Venue depends on snow.**  
**Leader: Nick Gascoigne 46 2167 (w) 51 5550 (h)**  
 Contact leader early for details of this ski touring/snow camping weekend. Numbers limited. Venue will depend on snow conditions and levels of experience. Ski with pack. 450 km drive.
- 13/14 August – Pack Walk (1)**  
**Rendezvous Creek/Nursery Swamp**  
 Ref: Rendezvous Ck 1:25 000  
**Leader: Dianne Thompson 88 6084**  
 Walk from Orroral Valley to camp on Rendezvous Creek, 300m climb over saddle to southern part of Nursery swamp. Meet at Register book in Orroral Valley 0930 (please contact leader) 80 km drive.

## ATTACHMENT TO BULLETIN 25 (4)

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The following was inadvertently omitted from the Bulletin

### Response to article by Professor Mulvaney

The article in the previous Bulletin (25 (3)) was a general statement on the question of grazing in the Gudgenby valley related to current Australian National Park philosophy. It was not aimed specifically at the ACT Heritage Committee nor was it an attempt to 'belittle the integrity of professional opinion' as represented on that committee. The points made were in response to representations which have been made to this Association in support of the continuation of grazing, as well as some discussion within the Association.

While Professor Mulvaney may be 'wary of analogies with Britain' others are less cautious or less well informed. I have never suggested that 'valid comparisons' should not be made, but I do object to false ones which are made in ignorance of origins and current structures, or selectively draw from overseas systems to press a case in Australia. This is not something I have accused the ACT Heritage Committee of doing.

I do not 'equate' Gudgenby with Braidwood. I simply use it as an example of an outstanding local pastoral landscape. Its setting is different but in some ways it is a more living landscape. Despite Professor Mulvaney's point to the contrary, Gudgenby is no longer a completely functioning pastoral property operating to current economic conditions e.g. the lessee is not able to use fertilizer or agricultural chemicals without the approval of the Commonwealth, and in time other constraints would no doubt apply, in line with surrounding National Park management. Gudgenby is already partly a museum. I do not believe it would lose its historical and cultural value once grazing ceased. Subsequent changes - a combination of natural responses and the management applied - would be part of a continuum of use that reflected preferences derived from our culture. In time, restored 'natural values' would probably dominate the scene, but it may be the case that trees will never grow completely back into the valley bottom even though they may have been there before.

I do not 'superciliously dismiss the human hand' in terms of landscape values. However, I do believe that English landscape tastes colour some perceptions of Australian landscapes and while the exact nature of those tastes can be debated, they appear to be based on a tamed, tidy, humanized landscape in which cattle grazing in park-like surroundings is a traditional delight. I can only agree on the importance of the rural cultural landscape to the Australian identity (the pastoral component of which is now being threatened by tree decline in former woodland areas). But I do not believe we need to keep grazing in Gudgenby on this basis. In general, I believe that the question of preservation and management of cultural and historical landscapes and sites in Australia now needs attention.

I concluded my article in the Bulletin with the general point that the ubiquitous grazing landscapes of Australia are not under threat (except from a breakdown of the natural system itself), whereas maintenance of our wild and natural landscapes is a constant struggle. It should be noted that Namadgi National Park is part of a tri-State alpine park complex in which there has been exclusion of grazing (NSW), a long campaign to exclude grazing (Vic.), and exclusion except for Gudgenby (ACT). It would be of great concern to the conservation movement and the Park Services to have an enclosure of grazing within Namadgi National Park which could (and would) be used by proponents of grazing in National Parks as an example in support of their case.

I respect and understand the views of the Heritage Committee on this matter, but do not believe that given its setting, that grazing of Gudgenby should continue. The ACT Administration has the support of this Association in terminating the grazing lease in 1989.

Kevin Frawley President

# Trees, Birds and History

Ross Carlton

It must have been one of the smallest NPA car camps ever: just the five of us. But what a great spot. Paddys River Dam in the forest west of the Tumut. We travelled via Kiandra and Sue City and miles and miles of forestry roads which seemed to be taking us well away from civilisation. It came as a bit of a surprise therefore to arrive and find part of the camping area full of tents and caravans. While we were considering camping in an inviting area close by, a chain saw opened up on the firewood and an outboard-powered canoe came by. (Why anyone would use an outboard on a canoe on a dam about 500 metres by 100 metres is beyond me.) We quickly opted for a spot at the other end of the dam separated from the main camping area by a slight rise. This was a delightful place and much quieter. Later in the day a party of 60 arrived and settled in the area we had originally been considering. However, not to give the wrong impression, the area was well able to handle the crowd and most people were quiet and well-behaved. After the first burst we never heard the chain saw again and our slight separation was quite adequate to allow us a peaceful and enjoyable camp. On the Sunday night and Monday it was even better: it was Canberra Day and we had the place entirely to ourselves.

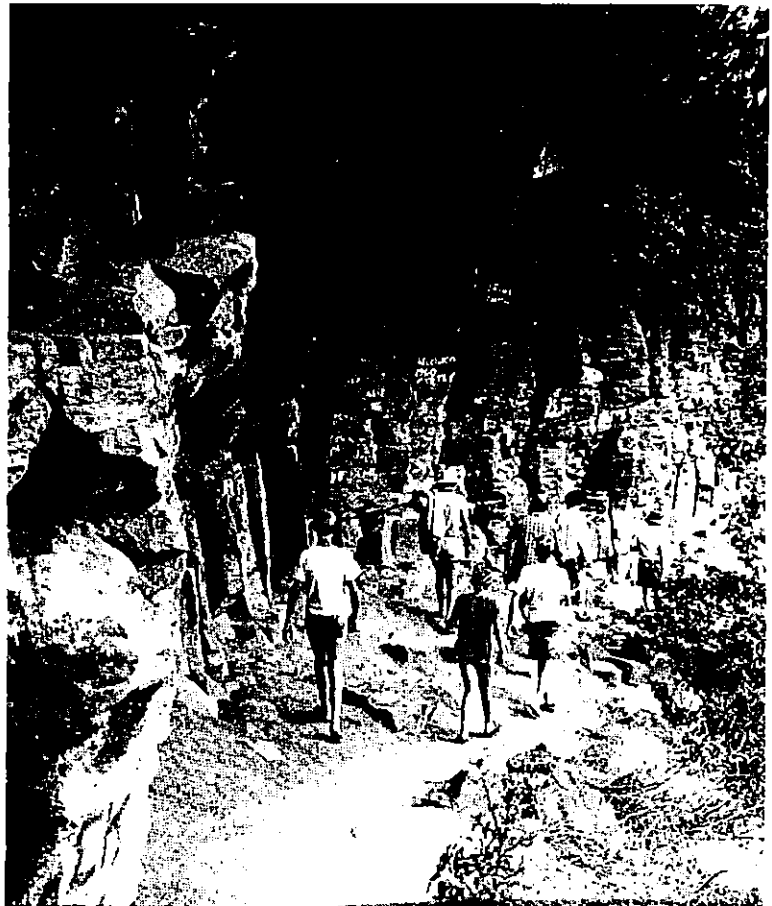
From our camp we looked across the upper part of the dam to a small reed bed and the magnificent tall timber of the forest. Coots, grebes and an occasional heron provided constant interest, while the forest was filled with the calls of wattle birds, cockatoos and many others. Gang gangs performed acrobatic feats on an overhanging branch to get at the water weed in the dam.

The campsite has been developed by the Lands Department as a staging post on the Hume and Hovell Track, a walking track which follows approximately the route of the explorers. We walked about 16km of this track starting from Buddong Falls, a spectacular series of falls and cascades bringing water down from the plateau to the Tumut near Talbingo. The track is easy and

well marked, partly following fire trails and partly cut through the bush with a minimum of impact. The forest is beautiful and made me wish I knew more about trees. The vegetation changes constantly as the track traverses low-lying swamps, gully slopes and dry ridges. The effort of traversing this country with drays would be monumental even now that the forest has been modified by man, and would have been considerably greater for the explorers in the 1820s. Added interest is provided by the sometimes intriguing relics of early activities in the area. We had lunch at a place where gold miners had blasted a channel through the rock for their sluicing operation. Running through our campsite and following the track for many kilometres below the dam is an aqueduct possibly built by the gold miners but later utilised for a

small hydro-electric scheme at Tumbarumba. The area also contains relics of sawmills powered by water wheels, one of which was in use until 1971. There was much speculation about the sequence of events around the dam itself, where the river appears to have been diverted and later dammed back to its original course. (That is one theory anyway.)

Monday was a perfect lazy day. Quiet and still with the light playing on the autumn colours of the candlebarks and a couple of willows. The only movement, the ripples from water birds diving for weed. The kind of day that made it a pleasure to simply be in the bush with no need to do anything. We let it soak through our skins before rushing back to Canberra, filling a bucket with blackberries on the way.



*Under the Paddy's River Falls, Tumbarumba. Showing off the beautiful rock columns.*

## Just Briefly –

Appeals for news, mostly ignored,  
Probably because you're bored.  
No more of my dreadful doggerel,  
folks.

And no more purple prose.  
Old Melliodora's all burnt out  
(As everybody knows).  
She's got termites in her timbers  
And beetles in her bark.  
Now she leans, and dreams  
Of straight young trees  
In some national park.

But wait! What's this? A phone call  
here, a phone call there, a chance  
meeting somewhere else. Eureka!  
Some members' news and views at  
last. But first, some quite exciting  
news.

The NPA display at the Heritage  
Week exhibition won First Prize in  
the Canberra Building Society  
Albert Hall Display Award. Our con-  
gratulations to Glyn Lewis and his  
Sub-committee members, Anne  
Robertson, Adrienne Nicholson,  
and Frank Clements, who created  
and set up the display. Many thanks  
also to those who staffed it.

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A definite theme, and the added  
*advantage of having on an outing*,  
someone with specialized knowl-  
edge of a given area. This is what  
Shirley Lewis emphasized when  
describing the Heritage Week walk  
which she led. Having participated  
in the Murrumbidgee River walk in  
March, (described elsewhere) led  
by John Perry, a member of the  
Geological Society, Shirley had the  
initiative to invite John along to the  
walk she was to lead to Gibraltar  
Rocks on 20 April. Most of the  
sixteen people on the walk agreed  
that John's presence contributed  
immensely to their interest and  
enjoyment. He gave an insight into  
how the Tidbinbilla area was used  
before white settlement, and sug-  
gested that the wet sclerophyll forest  
constituted a reliable food resource.  
That much-prized delicacy, the  
bogong moth was feasted upon by  
the indigenous people among the  
rocks now known as Gibraltar Rocks.  
On the way to this rocky outcrop  
John pointed out the site of a former  
cave dwelling. Up above, on Tidbin-  
billa Peak, initiation ceremonies  
were held.

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Three days later, Beverley Hamm-  
ond's Heritage Week walk to  
Rendevous Creek attracted 82  
people. Fortunately Beverley had  
asked three other NPA members,  
Dianne Thompson, Doreen Wilson  
and Reg Alder to assist in leading  
an anticipated large turn-up. Sev-  
eral participants had come as a  
direct result of attending the (Prize-  
winning) NPA Heritage Week Exhib-  
ition at Albert Hall. Bearing out the  
point made by Shirley, interest in  
the main features of this walk was  
maximised in that John Feint of the  
Archeological Society was present  
to interpret the Aboriginal Rock Art  
at the Rendevous Creek site.

\*\*\*

Happy co-incidence; Being a some-  
time insomniac, Melliodora sat at  
1am, idly leafing through back  
copies of the Bulletin, hoping for  
inspiration for this column. The  
short article she chose to read  
happened to be in the March 1984  
issue, "The Kosciusko Snowcraft  
Ski Tour" by Pieter Arriens. Just a  
few hours later, Graham Scully of  
the Kosciusko Huts Association  
rang, offering *Just Briefly* the fol-  
lowing item re snowcraft, with  
accompanying photographs like  
the one with the Bulletin of four  
years ago, was taken by Pieter  
Arriens.



The three snow houses in this photo have a common entry tunnel and 'Y' junction. Note the three snow saws and trojan car shovel used on the job."

"Something *has* to be done" thought  
one member who, for various  
reasons, had been unable to get on  
walks for six months. A short, sharp  
walk up Ainslie in February (when  
temperatures dropped for one day)  
resulted in aching hips, but no other  
ill effects. So! Down on the floor and  
peddling an imaginary bicycle  
seemed to be the answer. "Too time  
consuming" she thought – "let's try  
it while relaxing and reading in the  
bath" (water being an excellent  
medium for exercise). All went well  
except that the leisurely reading  
could not be done also. Within days,  
it became a *fine art*. By pedalling  
with only one leg at a time, the book  
ceased to wobble! A few more  
longer walks up and around Ainslie,  
then the real test – Mt Orroral on  
the NPA programme. As it was  
described as a 10 km walk with a  
700m climb, she was quite prepared  
to find the whole thing too exhaust-  
ing. In the event, it was done in fine  
fettle, and she could hardly believe  
that something like that had not  
been done for seven months!

So! – if it's quick and easy exercise  
you are needing, the above is well  
recommended by ONE member at  
least!

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Item from Graham Scully, KHA: – With the coming of winter, the thoughts of many of us turn to skiing. The Kosciusko Huts Association, as well as maintaining shelter huts in the snowfields, is also keen that ski tourers be as self-sufficient as possible.

A social evening on snowcraft and snow shelters has been arranged, and the guest speaker will be Pieter Arriens, one of Australia's most experienced trainers in snow shelter construction. The talk will be slide illustrated and the differences between Australian and Northern Hemisphere snow conditions will be addressed.

It will be held on Tuesday 28 June at 8.00pm in the Rehearsal Room of the Griffin Centre. Admission \$2 per person, \$4 per family, supper included.

★ ★ ★

We thank Graham Scully also for submitting the following resume: As part of Heritage Week, on 24 April, the NPA and the KHA organised two Heritage walks in the Grassy Creek/Naas Creek areas of Namadgi National Park. Sixty-six enthusiastic people attended, with ages ranging from one month to 74 years. They enjoyed the fine sunny day, the easy walking, and the opportunity to learn something of the early European settlement of the area and to visit some of the remains of their dwellings.

Eight people, four from NPA and four from KHA led the walks and have since met to review them. It was generally agreed that they were successful and that it would be good for NPA and KHA to continue to co-operatively sponsor heritage walks such as these in future Heritage Week programs.

★ ★ ★

The following descriptive piece on the above walk comes from Olive Buckman:

Forty one folk – members of NPA, KHA and other Canberrans finally (after an error in *some* publicity re the starting time) carried out a delightful 'historical' walk under the leadership of Peter Roe (NPA) and Andrew Lyne (KHA) during Heritage week. The long – but fairly even and

straightforward 19 km covered mainly fire trails and open bush in perfect weather, with good views of Sentry Box and Mt Kelly from some points.

From time to time, the group scattered in all directions, once while crossing a swampy area (climbing along a fence being the answer) but mainly by those gathering mushrooms, which grew in *abundance* everywhere. (NPA takes NO responsibility for any ill effects!).

There were many points of interest including: Boboyan Homestead area (c 1840), Luton's crutching shed – where small groups sat in sun or shade for lunch, Lone Pine homestead and its interesting rock and stone dog kennels, Waterhole hut with its original dirt floor (and a fascinating area for collectors of glass bottles!), Westerman's hut (c1883), and finally back to the cars parked near Brayshaw's hut (about 1903). This is the only slab hut remaining in the area, its walls lined with fascinating snippets of history in old newspapers and magazines. One couple had driven from Sydney for the weekend, to escape weeks and weeks of rain. They saw a Heritage programme, and being keen bushwalkers, phoned Glyn, who put them onto Peter. It is quite likely they will join the NPA after chatting with one member who extolled the joys of backpacking in the Budawangsl!

Only one criticism could be made – to do the walk in reverse – and this will be done when the same area is covered in the NPA programme in August. Those who missed a good long 'leg stretch' with beauty, history and interest are recommended to keep an eye open for a repeat of this memorable day.

★ ★ ★

The first walk in the Heritage Week series was on the Yerrabi Track and was organised by Charles Hill and Reg Alder. Run on the "open-day" idea, visitors were arriving from about 11am until 2.30 or so. The thirty-one people who attended as a result of Heritage Week publicity, seemed to consist mainly of NPA members and their friends or families.



From Fiona Brand comes this interesting and useful contribution: Association members have recently discovered two newly constructed Bi-centennial walking tracks which are both rich in history. The Corn Track follows the track walked in the 1830's to 1850's by European settlers of Bateman's Bay who wished to trade their produce with the people of Braidwood. The track was most used by women selling corn and by drovers and gold prospectors. Easiest access to the track is at the top of Clyde Mountain at the "Welcome to Tallaganda Shire" sign.

The second track which members found is a section of the Hume and Hovell route from Gunning to Victoria. The section easiest for Canberra people to visit goes from Wee Jasper to Mt. Wee Jasper for an overnight camp. A cheerful, helpful ranger at Wee Jasper, Mr Anderson – will help you with information.

★ ★ ★

Shirley Lewis has forwarded the following notice for any interested NPA members: The Society for Growing Australian Plants (SGAP) is organising a trip to Girraween National Park in Queensland near Stanthorpe from 25 September 1988 to 3 October 1988 – by bus. A full itinerary will be available at a later date, but travel to Queensland will be via the New England Highway and return via the Pacific Highway. A motel has been booked and camping for non-bussing members is available in Stanthorpe.

A \$50 deposit by 30 June is required, with a bus fare of \$125 per seat, provided the bus is full. Only 41 seats are available. Please contact Ian Anderson, telephone 81 0609 (H) for payment and further details. National Park Association members very welcome.

★ ★ ★

Thank you to those members who contributed to this column, and may all potential contributors be inspired – remember, send in your comments on walks, etc. or ring 88 1889.





# Don't Fence Me In!

John Perry

In late March eighteen members studied the topic of fences on behalf of NPA in the course of an amble beside the Murrumbidgee River. (The first three fences didn't count in the study because gates allowed dignified passage!)

It was a lovely autumn day, enjoyed by the walkers, but probably not by the property owners, for at the time the area sorely needed rain; after our cars entered the property mobs of sheep in successive paddocks trotted towards the convoy no doubt expecting to be fed. Underfoot the dry grass crackled, and the river level was low and the water clear so that in many pools we could see carp stirring up the mud on the bottom.

One young follower of Izaak Walton caught several large specimens during the day, disposing of them in appropriate fashion by burial! Despite this activity he kept up well with the group, which gives an indication of the delaying effect of fences on the more mature members!

In addition to the topic of fences, we paid some attention to the nature of the rocks encountered, those seen in the first part of the walk being Palaeozoic (Silurian) volcanic rocks. Also en route to the walk location, we had stopped along the Mountain Creek road to observe some spectacular folding in limestone.

We took lunch on a tree-lined bank flanked by a sandy beach adjacent to a moderately deep pool, and for a few minutes a platypus entertained us, swimming and diving near the opposite bank. Later those with bathing togs joined the carp and platypus in the pool while some of those without swam discreetly further down stream!

After lunch we came across sedimentary rocks – Palaeozoic current-bedded sandstone – well exposed owing to the low water level. At this stage the fence count was into double figures, causing the unofficial scorer to give up and declare as meritorious and challenging any day walk with a comparable number!

Our last activity for the day was a hunt for fossils in Palaeozoic limestone on the river bank, and helped by the sharp eyes of some young members, we saw many corals, algal mats and fragments of sea lilies, visible on the weathered surface of the grey rock.

Finally, retrieving our vehicles after the necessary shuffle, we returned to Canberra, well content to have surmounted the challenge of the fences! Thanks are due to David Dowling for giving NPA members access to the area.

# Namadgi Matters

Philip Gatenby

David Rainey's interesting article on bushwalking experiences (March 1988 NPA Bulletin) mentioned that fires are prohibited in the Cotter catchment. Reg Alder advises me that this is not the case in all parts of the catchment. Under the permit system for camping in the catchment to Corin Dam which is on the Cotter, the following conditions apply:

- . camping is not permitted within one kilometre of Corin Dam
- . camping is not permitted within 100 metres of the Cotter River
- . camping is not permitted within 500 metres of Cotter House
- . observe ACT fire regulations
- . eliminate evidence of fireplace
- . all rubbish must be taken out
- . fishing prohibited.

Work recently completed in Namadgi National park by the Parks and Conservation Service includes a new carpark to service the walking track to Square Rock. Restoration and soil conservation of the old carpark is now being carried out. Also concerning restoration, the Kosciusko Huts Association has begun work on the old forestry hut in the Gudgenby pines.

## Film Projectionist Wanted

Do you know how to operate a film projector? From time to time we wish to show a 16mm film at our general meetings, and we need the services of a projectionist. In the age of videos, projectionists are becoming a rare and endangered species. We would like to compile a list of people whom we might approach for assistance. If you would like to offer your services, please ring Julia Trainor on 81 1195 (home) or 62 1514 (work).

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## Recent Arrivals NPA Library

Canberra Historical Journal, No 21. March 1988. Canberra & District Historical Society.

Australia's Native Forests. An Information Kit prepared by the Australian Heritage Commission. Dec 1987.

Wild Pigs: Environmental Pest or Economic Resource? C A Tisdell, Pergamon Press. 1982. (Book kindly donated by Reg Alder)

Kangaroos in Australia. Conservation Status and Management. Occasional Paper No 14. ANPWS Feb 1988.

Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service Annual Report 1986-87.

These publications and any others held in the NPA Library are available for loan to members during office hours. Also for loan are the various newsletters from other conservation groups.

# Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Can anyone please help?

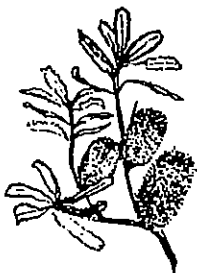
Some years ago I made the best investment that any camper can make - I bought a Therma Rest self-inflating mattress. For those who are not familiar with this wonderful invention, it is constructed of open-cell foam encased in an airtight, waterproof cover, weighs about one kilogram, and deflated and rolled up tightly fits snugly in a backpack; when needed, all that is necessary is to open the valve and within 15 to 20 minutes the mattress inflates itself. I have had some of the most comfortable sleeps of my life on this mattress.

But, last year on an extended camping holiday in North Queensland the mattress began to leak. Not only did it let me down, literally, during the night, but rolled up in a soft pack with valve tightly closed it slowly inflated until it filled the available space, lending a strange appearance to my luggage as it passed through airport baggage control!

Twice I have patched what appeared to be a small nick with recommended adhesive, but the leak persists. Staff at Paddy Pallin and Wild Country have not been able to offer any advice other than dunking the mattress in the bath. I have done this several times without detecting any air bubbles which could help to locate a hole, even from the patched area.

Maybe there is a NPA member who has had experience with repairing one of these mattresses who would be willing to look at it, or could tell me what else I could try. I can be contacted by phone on 49 7577 (work) or 81 2082 (home).

Bernice Anderson



Dear Editor,

As my father and I went down to a Pet Supplier to buy a fish we were very distressed to see some beautiful Australian birds in captivity and not looking as bright and colourful as they would in the bush. There were about seven sulphur crested cockatoos in the cage, sitting on a stick, a large pink cockatoo climbing up the cage and several red collared rainbow lorakeets who had lost half their feathers and weren't looking as colourful as they should.

I think that birds that live in the bush belong there! Not in a tiny cage. What have they done to deserve captivity. They should be free in the bush. It is very cruel to keep birds in captivity instead of the wide bushland and I think there should be a policy about it. What protection is there for lovely birds like these who are part of our national treasure?

Yours sincerely,

Alice Thompson

Age 11

17 April 1988



Cartoon courtesy of "Australian Society" April 1988.

# The Alps In Flower

Author: Ian R. McCann

Publisher: The Victorian National Parks Association 1987

Book Review by Laurie Adams

Over the years, the total number of works devoted exclusively to the flora of Australia's high country, to say the least, has been somewhat sparse. The definitive standard was set with the appearance of the magnificent "Kosciusko Alpine Flora" (CSIRO/Collins, 1979), and it has been a hard act to follow ever since. Another book is nevertheless always welcome, particularly if there is a somewhat different slant on the subject, as with the one reviewed here.

The book is small (approximately A5), intended to fit the pocket or rucksack, and printed on good quality paper and it costs (for these days) a reasonable \$9.95 HRP. The contents consist of a one-page introduction, plus 186 neat, mostly close-up colour photographs more or less in the style of Jean Galbraith's "Wild Flowers of SE Australia" (1977) or the 'coffee table' flower books published by A.H. & A.W. Reed. Each is accompanied by a brief caption giving common and botanical names, a short descriptive phrase, flowering time, coded distribution (key to which is in the introduction), and family name, finally there is a short bibliography and an index to names.

The introduction states: "The author's aim has been to provide a pictorial introduction to the plants of the high country of south-eastern mainland Australia. The area chosen embraces ... altitudinal ranges from approximately one thousand metres to the summits". But the publisher's blurb goes somewhat further with the claim that this is a "guide to the flora of the alps to help the many bushwalkers and other visitors identify the flowers of the region."

The latter claim implies that the book is an introductory field manual, but assessed in this light sadly it falls far short of the ideal. The book's estimated representation of this sizeable area is of the order of only 10-15% of the vascular plants, and the problem is compounded by the decision to gather the illustrations into their main plant groups: Ferns & allies; Gymnosperms; Monocotyledons; Dicotyledons; and Mosses,

Fungi and Lichens. A beginner unfamiliar with this classification is offered no further help in identifying a plant and must fall back on random comparison of pictures, with a high probability of making a wrong decision. A more "user-friendly" strategy, short of providing simple keys, would surely have been to attempt to group plants by their

micro-habitat, or by general flower-colour, or both. The inclusion of only one example each of a moss, fungus and lichen smacks of an afterthought: better they had been left out entirely, particularly as they are not "flowers" in the accepted sense - unlike the grasses, sedges and rushes that form such a major component of the flora but which,



without explanation or apology, are totally ignored here.

The redeeming feature is Ian McCann's excellent photography and the high standard of its reproduction (the only apparent 'failures' being a few flash shots that are too dark). In view of the limited space and coverage it is a great pity a high proportion of the pages have only three illustrations, leaving areas of blank paper (as much as 20%, excluding margins) that without unduly adding to the price could have been used for additional photographs, or for extra comment, say, on the usual habitat of each plant.

A sprinkling of spelling mistakes has crept in, mostly of a minor nature; the only serious one found was "*Dichosciadium*" (p.12 and index) instead of *Dichosciadium*. Omissions from common names appear to be the result of desultory editing: e.g. the word "Cranesbill" has been left out of "Cinquefoil Cranesbill" for *Geranium potentilloides* (p.36); and "Snow" is omitted from the common names of *Celmisia* (p.18). There are a few taxonomic and nomenclatural errors; they seem to stem from too much dependence on works cited, such as those by Galbraith (1977) or Beaglehole (1981), many parts of which are now seriously out-of-date. Two examples will suffice here:

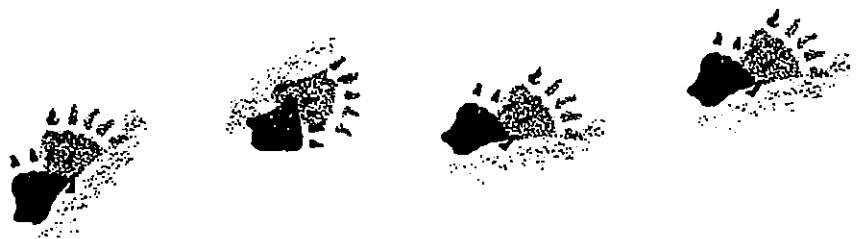
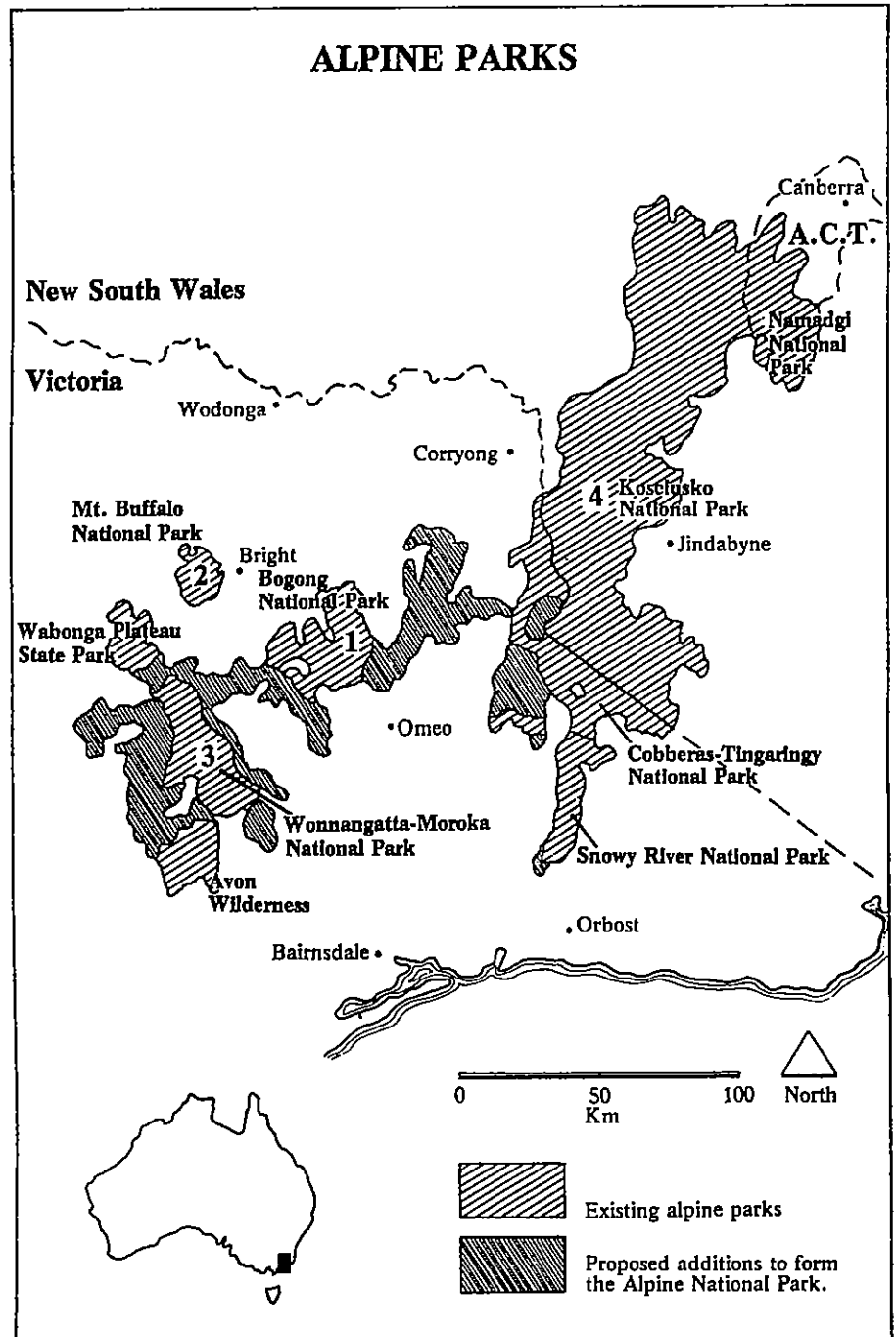
The correct botanical name for "Burgan" (p.46) is now known to be *Kunzea ericoides* (see e.g. Stanley & Ross, "Flora of S.E. Queensland" vol.2, 1986); and the "Tiny Violet" pictured (p.59) is probably an undescribed high-country form that, *inter alia*, has been masquerading under *Viola sieberiana* for many years; the latter name should be reserved for a taxon restricted to areas close to the east coast (see "Flora of Australia" vol.8, 1982).

It is an unfortunate fact of life that botanical names have an irritating need to be updated from time to time (the reasons are too diverse to discuss here). The process has speeded up recently due to accelerated research for the new "Flora of Australia" (AGPS), begun in 1981; compilers of 'popular' works such as "The Alps in Flower" are in a position to accurately pass on this new knowledge to the general public, and need to be continually alert to the current literature.

Finally, I would have liked to see at least a couple of pages devoted to illustration and description of micro-habitats, their complexity, fragility and aspects of their conservation – a singular omission in view of the publishing body!

Despite its other shortcomings,

the illustrations make this little book good value for the casually interested tourist and bushwalker; but the keen field-botanist, hoping for a handy pocket manual to our rich high-country flora, will find the huge gaps in representation very frustrating.



# The Wildlife Parks of Africa

Author: Nicholas Louard in association with the World Wildlife Fund  
Publisher: Michael Joseph Ltd., London 1985

Book Review by Syd Comfort

Paul Kruger who became President of the Transvaal Republic in 1883 is remembered for his struggles in the political arena and in armed conflict which culminated in his being forced to leave South Africa during the Anglo-Boer War, subsequently to die in exile. Less well known are the battles he fought from the time he became President for the creation of wildlife sanctuaries at a time when such sanctuaries were almost unknown and the pragmatic farmers over whom he presided viewed such proposals as offensive and heretical. Nevertheless, Kruger won some victories in the battle for sanctuaries, his last and perhaps greatest being the creation of the Sabie Reserve in 1898 which after enlargement was to become, in 1926, the Kruger National Park. The author of *The Wildlife Parks of Africa* throws light on many other fascinating aspects of the development of reserves and

national parks in Africa. In this story, hunters turned conservationists often figure prominently and the record of the newly emerged independent countries allays fears that the demise of the colonial powers would see Africa's parks swept away. There are, today, many more national parks and reserves in Africa than there were in the days of colonial rule.

The book is divided into two parts 'Conserving the Wilderness' and 'The National Parks'. In addition to tracing the development of conservation and national parks, in the first part the author devotes chapters to the history of the continent, life in the African landscape, managing the wilderness and problems and possibilities of the future. The treatment is aimed at the laymen but remains balanced, objective and authoritative in providing a background to the understanding of this vast country and its enthrall-

ing natural endowments. In the second part of the book the author lists all the present African national parks and major reserves south of the Sahara on a country-by-country basis together with a description of each in which the location, history, visiting season, characteristics and natural values are summarised. This section is by no means a guide book to individual parks but does paint an overall canvas enabling the reader to appreciate the panorama and select parts of the scene for further study and, if fortunate enough, for a visit.

The book reflects the author's strong feelings for the country and personal knowledge of a wide spectrum of its natural attributes. It is well illustrated with both colour and black and white photographs.

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## Books for Sale

Peter Hoë

Hello Members,

Time to let you know about the books we have for sale. You will see that the prices are good value and hard to beat anywhere. Have you thought of buying your Christmas presents early for overseas posting and so avoiding the last minute panic? With winter coming on you may like to curl up with a good book yourself. Come down to the NPA office during office hours or come to a General Meeting and see the range on display. If you ring the office, a publication can be sent to you for the added cost of the postage.

*Eden Woodchipping - A Review* Debbie Quarmby \$5 A report collating existing knowledge on the economic, social and environmental impacts of the Eden Woodchip Industry produced by NPA(ACT).

*Daintree Where the Rainforest Meets the Reef* Rupert Russell \$25 Prepared by Dr Geoff Mosley of ACF.

*Kiandra to Kosciusko* Klaus Hueneke \$27

*Exploring Queensland's Central Highlands* Charles Warner \$11

*Exploring Namadgi and Tidbinbilla* Graeme Barrow \$7 Day walks in Canberra's high country by one of our members.

*Discovering New South Wales Rainforests - A Touring, Walking and Cycling Guide.* Published by the Total Environment Centre \$10. A must before your next holiday to rainforest in NSW.

*Fighting for Wilderness* \$8 Papers from the Australian Conservation Foundation's Third National Conference.

*The Alps in Flower* IR McCann 1987 \$8.50 Published by Victorian National Parks Association, it has colour photographs of many alpine plants.

*Victorian Alps* An Australian Endangered Heritage. Harry Nankin \$14 An ACF publication.

*Australia's Alpine Areas Management for Conservation* an NPA Publication for only \$2. These are papers from a conference organised by NPA(ACT) in its Silver Jubilee Year.

*Range Upon Range* The Australian Alps Harry Nankin \$36 A book of fine alpine photography.

*Budawang Map.* 1986 updated edition produced by the Budawang Committee \$4

*Field Guide to the Native Trees of the ACT* an NPA(ACT) publication \$4

# Flies and Lizards

Robert Story

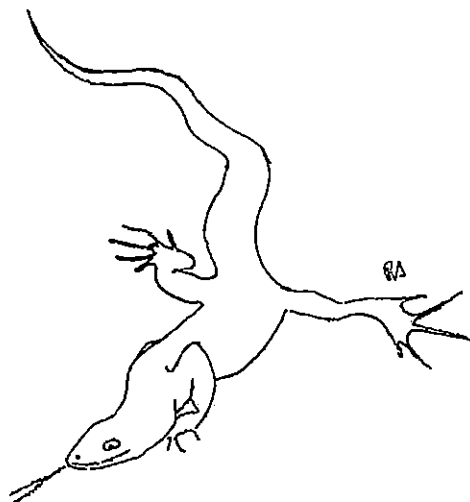


You will know the importance of the tongue in catching insects if you follow *The Swamp* (blat!) or *B.C.* (zot!); but there are other ways. We saw one while we were lazing in the sunshine near Kidmans Hut in the Kosciusko National Park, our packs on the rocks in front of us with the usual sprinkling of flies on them. Then a lizard crept on to our packs and took a look around. The nearest fly would have been a foot away – never mind, a very slow and steady advance halved the distance, then there was an unbelievably quick dash and all the flies took off, excepting one. They are slow learners, however. Half a minute, and the mingled pong of cheese and bacon and what-not had them straggling back again. The drama was repeated until we had to go.

Now, all flies are not equal. These were bush-flies, which are sluggish and, one is forced to admit, perhaps even a little stupid. The house-flies are far more nimble in wits and movement, and this is how I saw a

lizard deal with them. He started and maintained a violent trembling throughout his body, at the same time throwing himself into loops, lashing his tail, and flinging his head from side to side. In sharp contrast, the fly sat perfectly still, and goggled. Fascinating! So much so that the stealthy advance that accompanied these gymnastications went unnoticed until it was too late. It exploded into a blur and a gulp and I never saw a miss.

It may interest you to know that the Bushmen of the Kalahari, who are the most adept stalkers you could meet, can still be baffled by lack of cover when the game are grazing on short-grass plains. As a last resort they will then rise to their feet and advance at a weaving trot to get within bow-shot, but game have a good bit more between their ears than flies do, and temper their curiosity with prudence. I have seen these tactics used but never with success, though the Bushmen assured me that it sometimes did happen.



At the same scale as the lizard the fly would be too small for me to draw or for you to recognise, and if I enlarged the lizard it would be too big for the Bulletin. This way the fly will provide a really square meal at the cost of a little kind co-operation in your mind's eye.

## ACF Planning Major Conference on Environment

The Australian Conservation Foundation will be holding a major national conference, entitled **The Australian Environment: Taking Stock and Looking Forward**, in Sydney from Friday 7 October to Sunday 9 October 1988. It will be held at the University of Technology (formerly the NSW Institute of Technology).

There will be sections, task force groups or discussion groups on:

- . Australia: a land worth caring for
- . The state of the environment
- . Appraisal of economic, social and institutional constraints to highlight the root causes of environmental destruction
- . Development of critical paths for future action.

In addition there will be evening activities to reinforce the day sessions and a ten day post conference tour of NSW rainforest areas.

For further information, contact Anne Reeves, organising committee convenor, or Sue Salmon, NSW campaign officer, at the ACF NSW Office, Phone (02) 271 497 or Level 3, 18 Argyle Street, Sydney 2000.





## 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)

Produced by the National Parks Association of the Australian Capital Territory Inc.  
assisted by a Heritage Grant from the  
Department of Arts, Sport, Environment, Tourism and Territories

## NPA Bulletin

National Parks Association of the A.C.T.  
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## GENERAL MEETINGS

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

### **JUNE - Thursday 16**

Dennis Carlyle (Monarch Tours, ACT) will talk about the activities of commercial tour operators in National Parks in Australia. Monarch conduct tours locally and to north and central Australia, and Dennis has just returned from promoting tours in North America. An opportunity to discuss some of the issues raised regarding this use of National Parks.

### **JULY - Thursday 21**

Ray Mooney (Lands Inspector and Hume and Hovell Track Supervisor, Goulburn Office, NSW Dept of Lands) will address the meeting on the construction of the Hume and Hovell track. This track, from Gunning to Albury, broadly retraces the route followed by the explorers in 1824, and is intended for completion late in 1988.

### **AUGUST - Thursday 18**

Annual General Meeting. Bring along your slides and thoughts on conservation issues.