



NPA BULLETIN

National Parks Association of the ACT

Vol 25 No 5

September 1988



Registered by Australia Post Publication No NBH0857 ISSN 0727-8837

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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Cover photo: *NPA members on the way to Folly Point in the Budawangs.*

–Photo by Babette Scougall

DEADLINE DATES for NPA BULLETIN contributions:

15 October, 15 January, 15 April, 15 July

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Typesetting & Layout by Top Typesetters 51 6550

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Corporate Members \$10

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Concession: Half Above Rates

For new subscriptions joining between:

1 January and 31 March – half specified rate

1 April and 30 June – annual subscription

Membership Enquiries welcome.

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

Attention All Members !

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

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

President's Foreword



Snow-covered mountains are a particularly limited resource on the Australian continent. It is not surprising, therefore, that various interests have competed over the last 150 years for the use of the resources of the area now contained within Kosciusko National Park. The genesis of the first major conflict was in the last third of the nineteenth century when the mountains attracted interest for irrigation and power generation. A half century later, the powerful Snowy Mountains Authority worked towards eliminating the graziers from the mountain catchments and ultimately, in 1969, from the whole of the Kosciusko National Park. From the 1970s, one outstanding conflict has emerged in the park. This is the demand for mass recreation, based particularly on the snow fields, versus the nature conservation values – now well documented and recognised in the park's UNESCO Biosphere Reserve status.

The revised plan of management for Kosciusko National park (1982) sought to balance the recreational and nature conservation values and, with regard to urban type developments, stated that 'future major development of tourist overnight facilities, particularly of the hotel/motel/lodge type will be encouraged outside the park'. It seemed at the time that nature conservation values were being given a chance. But the pendulum is now clearly swinging the other way. The New South Wales premier has recently described the National Parks and Wildlife Service as being 'unreasonably obstructive' towards development in the park, apparently signalling to developers that the government would look at development proposals sympathetically.

The comments by Mr Greiner warrant some comment. The so-called obstructionist NPWS has sanctioned approximately \$370 million of resort development and refurbishment in the park over the last 3 years, and has allowed a new ski development (Blue Cow) to be built across Mountain Pygmy Possum habitat. There remain unsolved problems with sewage. None of the lease arrangements in the park are available to the public, so the details of concessions to developers remain secret.

Skiing is a superb recreational activity, but the Kosciusko environment also has exceptional natural values which must be preserved. To do this, the self interest of skiers must be tempered, and it must be made clear to the large corporations and entrepreneurs who own the resorts, that development cannot proceed apace forever.

It appears as if the struggle to conserve Kosciusko is to be re-run; this time with a new set of protagonists.

Kevin Frawley

Red Spot

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

Annual Report

The NPA of the ACT's Annual Report for 1987-88 is now available.

Interested members may obtain copies from our Kingsley Street Office, or if preferred the Report will be posted to you.



Remembrance – Dr Beatrice Holt

Members will be saddened to learn that Bea Holt, surely one of the staunchest, most faithful members of NPA, died in early June. She attended the early meetings of NPA in 1960 with her friend Jocelyn Long and continued attending most regularly until her death. For many years she participated regularly in outings and car camps – especially if the trips were to a good bird watching area. Her knowledge of birdlife was extensive and she enjoyed extended trips to the Macquarie Marshes and the Flinders Ranges.

The Conservation movement has benefited from her long loyal commitment and interest.

Committee News

Environment

The Environment Subcommittee is preparing a response to the recently released Management Plan for the Murrumbidgee River Corridor.

Also on the local scene, the Association will contribute \$85 to the Conservation Council to pay for a newspaper advertisement for the Forest Working Group.

The Committee decided that the Association will send one representative to the Australian Conservation Foundation Conference which will be held in Sydney in October.

On the New South Wales conservation front, the Association will sponsor the National Parks Association of New South Wales in its application for a National Estate Grant for an environmental study of the Namoi Valley.

The Committee has written to the NSW Minister for Environment and Planning supporting the proposed works on track maintenance in the Morton National Park, and asking whether the NPWS would like to receive help from the Association in the form of voluntary labour.

The Committee has also written to the Minister expressing the Association's views on the proposed excision of the ski resorts from Kosciusko National Park.

In Victoria, the Committee is supporting the Victorian National Parks Association in its Alpine Parks strategy by writing letters to Joan Kirner, the Victorian Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands in support of the inquiry into grazing, and to the Leader of the Opposition to express our support of the Alpine Parks concept.

Rocks

Syd Comfort continues to represent the Association at the Residents of Childers and Kingsley Streets (ROCKS) meetings, and the Committee decided to donate \$20 towards expenses of the ROCKS campaign.

New Members

The following new members are welcomed to the Association:

Mrs H. Wenda Brown, Garran; Jennifer Chait, Kambah; Penny Collings, Weetangera; Doug & Pat Curtis, Kambah; Sue Duggan, Latham; Robert & Victoria Edmonds, Aranda; Brian & Lorraine Newman, Curtin; Robert Olney, Chifley; Leonie Paynter, Reid; Dr John & Mrs Francis Tregellas-Williams, Campbell; Brian Wood, Duffy.



Just a Minute from the Walks Planning Subcommittee

The Walks Planning Subcommittee, upon the prompting of Reg Alder, is considering possible changes to the grading system used in the walks program. The committee would welcome any and all comments from interested persons.

As always the Walks Subcommittee would like to hear from people willing to lead walks. The Subcommittee can provide back up assistance in the form of experienced people for reconnoitre trips and back up leaders, should a leader find that he or she is unavailable closer to the actual date of the walk.

Please send your ideas for walks, comments and suggestions on the walks grading system to:

The NPA Walks Convenor
46 Wybalena Grove
COOK ACT 2614

Or better still turn up at the next Subcommittee meeting on 21 September at 41 Maranboy Street, Fisher.

Field Guide Revised

As part of the revision of the "Field Guide to Native Trees of the ACT", the Field Guide Sub-committee is considering the deletion, from any new version or revised edition, of the small locality maps which are in the text adjacent to the tree descriptions. The sub-committee feels that, because of the difficulty of establishing initial accuracy and the need to keep the maps up to date, their inclusion may not be practical.

If any member (or reader of the Bulletin) has strong reservations about this we invite comment by their phoning Kevin Totterdell on (062) 81 4410.

Kosciusko Wildflowers All Gone

Kevin Frawley

Earthworm (ABC Radio: 5.30pm Wednesdays) carried a report on 29 June referring to the cattlemen's rally at the ALP National Conference in Hobart. A spokesman for the cattlemen, arguing for access to the Tasmanian high country, told the audience that since grazing was withdrawn from Kosciusko National Park, *all the wildflowers had disappeared*. This is the latest example of the misinformation being spread about the benefits of high country grazing. Similar misinformation has been spread in Victoria – that the high country turns rank and sour unless grazed.

The Association has written to Mrs Joan Kerner (Conservation, Forests and Lands Minister, Victoria) supporting the Victorian National Parks Association's suggestion of an open enquiry into high country grazing in that State which can assemble and present the information accumulated on this question over a number of decades away from the nostalgic and emotional 'Man from Snowy River' publicity campaign.

Nungatta National Park

Eric Pickering

The last Outings Program contained details of a walk that Pat and I were to lead into this park just north of the Victorian border on June 11, 12 and 13. It was to be an exploratory walk in an area we had never visited.

Much to our surprise, we received a telephone call from Melbourne, just two days after receiving the *Bulletin* in the post, from Stephen Johnston, a member of the Victorian NPA. Stephen provided valuable information on the Genoa area, enough for this walk and several others we intend to undertake over the next couple of years.

Through the *Bulletin*, we thank Stephen for his generous assistance. We are reciprocating by giving Stephen some advice on his proposed 10 day Budawang walk in October for the Victorian NPA. Readers may be interested in our letter to Stephen following our walk.

Dear Stephen,

Pat & I thank you sincerely for your advice on the Nungatta/Genoa area. Your phone call, lengthy letter and maps proved invaluable in preparations for our exploratory walk into that area last weekend.

We left our cars about 10am Saturday on the Genoa River Road, not far from the junction with Saddle Flaps Road. We walked south along the track then followed a creek flowing into the Genoa at 060.776. We were thankful that the cold water of the Genoa was only ankle deep and we were quickly across and climbing the spur running north-east to the Nungatta Plateau. A pleasant surprise was the beautiful display of *Epacris impressa* in full

bloom under the canopy of Blue-leaved Stringybark (*E. agglomerata*) and Messmate (*E. obliqua*).

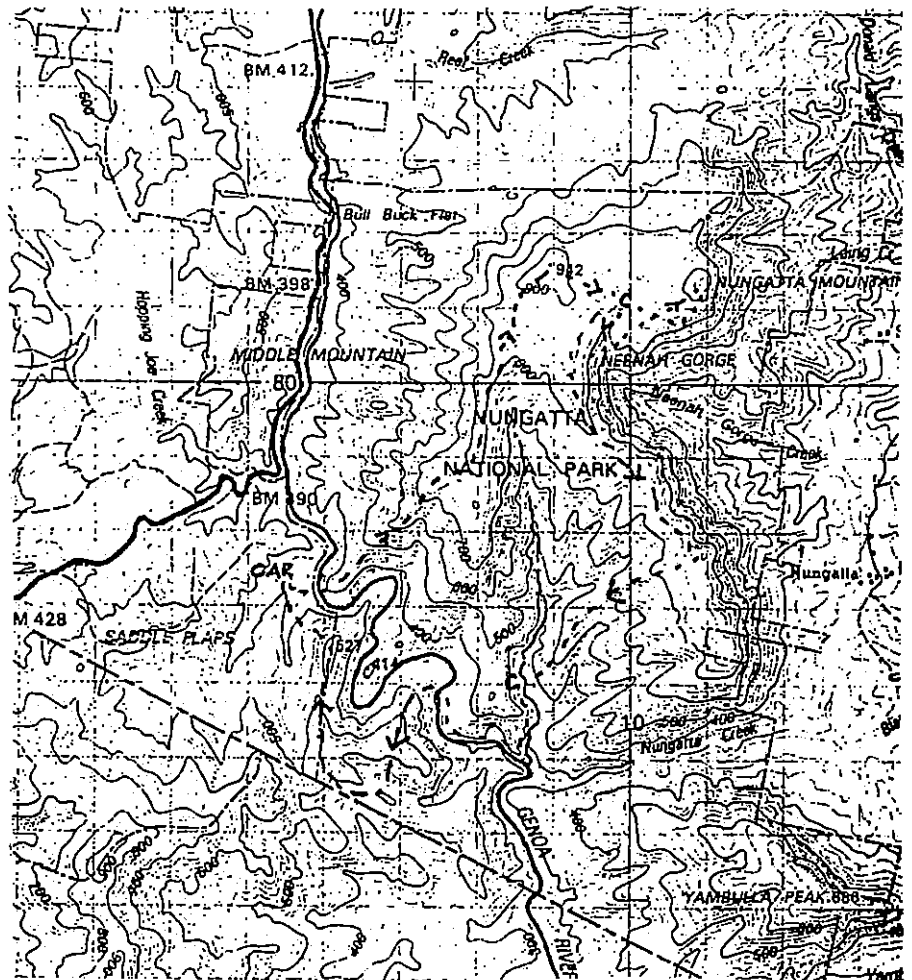
The ridge took us to Neenah Peak with its most unusual trig pole – a sad sight – doubled over with its head almost touching its foot, its PVC tubing obviously unable to withstand the winds in the area. We descended to a rocky viewing platform which gave good views over the Bondi Forests and the roads we had travelled earlier that morning.

It was bitterly cold in the exposed places so we decided to head for a campsite on Neenah Creek. We chose a very sheltered spot at 099.812 where good water was available and plenty of wood. Nearby were two well established *Telopea oreades* (Gippsland Waratah) and numerous tree ferns. That afternoon we explored upstream then settled down to the business of preparing our evening meal whilst the wind

whistled above in the tops of the Silvertop Ash (*E. sieberi*).

The next morning we set off with day packs, following the creek down through a delightful rain forest gully with ferns, mosses and numerous Black Olive-berry (*Elaeocarpus holopetalus*) and *Telopea oreades*. We came to several small waterfalls and then the picturesque drop into the deepest part of Neenah Gorge. We admired the falls and listened to the lyrebirds calling but soon headed uphill again to find Nungatta Peak. The views from the peak and the rocky platform further south were certainly worth the effort. We could see Green Cape lighthouse and Mt Imlay dominating the skyline eastwards. Further south we could see Yambulla Peak and Mt Merragunegin, with Mt Coopracambra showing above the ridge we wished to follow that afternoon.

Back to camp and lunch before



New Alps Group

Roger Green

setting off through more Messmate and Blue-leaved Stringybark and red, pink and white epracris. We followed the ridge to 108.777 then the spur WSW down to a pleasant creek with a solid rock base. That night we nestled among the *Bedfordia arborescens* (Blanket bush) 088.758 with only room for our two tents, David's 1 man and our 3 man 'palace'.

Monday dawned fine again, in spite of gloomy weather reports, and we headed south, following the rocky creek over small waterfalls and delightful pools, until we reached the mighty Genoa. In summer this would have been very appealing. The banks of the Genoa varied from sandy beaches to rocky platforms and the occasional cliffs with interesting layers of coloured rock. One rock wall intrigued us with exposed stalactites in numerous cracks and cavities.

Our son, Stephen, was all in favour of following the Genoa back to our cars but after several crossings in the very cold water we decided to head up a spur at 075.764 on to a dry, open ridge running north towards the Genoa again. At 061.765 we turned NW down a good spur which led us back to the track not very far from our cars.

The walk was very interesting, taking us over a variety of terrain and varying types of flora. We found plenty of colour in the bush with the epacris in full bloom and a few wattles, several species of banksias and correa flowering. The only mammal we encountered was a very deaf and blind wombat which went about his business of eating while we watched and even sniffed Pat's boots before deciding to retreat to tastier pastures.

Basically our exploratory trip was a review of your 'green' trip. We have decided to go into that area again sometime - perhaps in warmer weather. Our aim will be to take in more of the Victorian section of the Genoa Wilderness including Coopracambra.

Thank you for all your help - if we can reciprocate in any way eg advice on Budawang etc please let us know. We have passed on your wishes to Phillip, Reg and Fiona.

Best wishes,

Eric Pickering

For the last few years many NPA members have watched with some dismay as the alps of Kosciusko National Park have been gradually covered by more and more buildings, roads and carparks. Areas where we once walked or skied have been cleared, levelled and drained. For those with long memories this process of attrition has been going on since construction began on the Snowy Mountains hydro-electric scheme.

Since the Kosciusko NP management plan was finalised early this decade, we have remained fairly quiet, leaving the management of the park in the hands of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, which we thought trustworthy. In that time, and according to plan, we have seen a new railway line from Bullocks Flat to Blue Cow, a new resort at Blue Cow, a considerable extension of the Mount Selwyn ski area, greatly increased accommodation at Charlottes Pass, Perisher Valley and Thredbo, and bulldozing ('grooming') and extension of ski runs. There have been other developments - ski runs, accommodation, water pollution and rare-animal habitat destruction - that have not been in accord with the plan.

These have been the years of appeasement. With relatively little objection from conservationists or the NP&WS, development has proceeded apace. We believed it would stop when the limits set by the plan were reached.

The change of government in New South Wales has produced a whole new ball-game. The new premier is a keen downhill skier and member of a lodge in Charlottes Pass. On a recent skiing trip to Thredbo, Mr Greiner said that development in Kosciusko NP was 'constipated'. The NP&WS was 'unreasonably obstructive'. At the time he was opening a new skiing complex at Friday Flat.

Far from being obstructive, the service, which is charged with protection of wildlife in the park, has been unnecessarily agreeable to developers' proposals. If development is constipated now, then what would diarrhoea be like?

These concerns have provoked the formation of a new alpine conservation group, the Alpine Conservation Network. Though there are already a number of groups, such as the NPA of the ACT, committed to conservation of the alps, a few greenies from Canberra and Sydney felt there was a need for a specific-purpose group to help counter the immediate threat. There is also a need for an information link between groups separated by state and territory borders.

The Alpine Conservation Network is dedicated to the conservation of alps in NSW, Victoria, the ACT and Tasmania. Its primary function will be to communicate between existing groups, stir them to greater action and to raise public awareness of threats to the environment. It is not intended as a mass-membership group that organises demonstrations or political lobbying. There will be a news sheet but a minimum number of meetings.

The network's first press release, drawing attention to Mr Greiner's statements, aroused interest from newspapers, radio and television around NSW and the ACT. People and groups concerned about the alps have rung the network from Cooma, Jindabyne, Tumbarumba and Gundagai, as well as more populous centres. The current need is for as many people as possible to write to Mr Greiner and the NSW Minister for the Environment, Mr Tim Moore, at Parliament House, Sydney, expressing the need to restrict resort development to the limits imposed by the Kosciusko park plan. Those who live or vote in the Snowy River Shire should write to the shire council in Berridale, pointing out that unplanned tourist development is not always in the best interests of local people.

Anyone interested in supporting the network should contact the author on (062) 47 0059 or Jeannie Douglass on (062) 48 9874.

Editor's Note:

NPA (ACT) has agreed to be part of the Alpine Conservation Network.

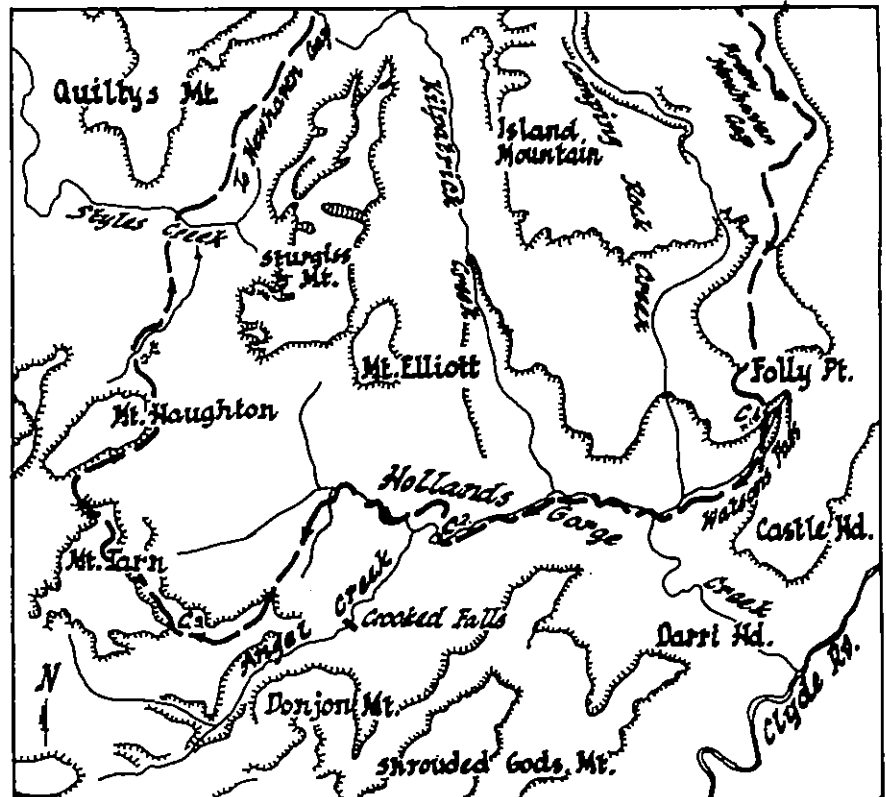
Seeing and Not Seeing Crooked Falls

Syd Comfort & Ken Johnson

A few notes on a Budawang walk which we covered in May 1988 may be of interest to readers and of assistance to other walkers wishing to follow the same track. Although the route is shown in the Coast and Mountain Walkers (CMW) map and some information is provided in 'Pigeon House and Beyond', much of the walk was exploratory. Starting from Newhaven Gap, we descended Watsons Pass from Folly Point to Camping Rock Creek, followed Hollands Creek upstream beyond the junction with Angel Creek and then walked up the spur to Mt Tarn, returning to Newhaven Gap by the track around Mt Haughton and through the Vines.

Leaving Canberra at 5 am we started walking from Newhaven Gap at 8.30 am. On the way into Folly Point we noticed that the track had been cleared recently with some wet spots and climbs bypassed, no doubt during the three CMW working weekends recorded in the Folly Point Visitors' Book for September 1987. Interestingly, there is a further entry in the book for the following month recording a visit by Mr Bob Carr in his (then) capacity as NSW Minister for Planning and Environment. Persistent mist and occasional drizzle severely reduced visibility and robbed us of the views Folly Point usually offers, so after a quick lunch at the top of Watson Pass we started down the pass. We descended over a rock face to which spikes and a chain have been fixed and then down two crevasses at the head of a gully, a rope proving very useful for lowering packs on this section. Following the track around the base of the cliff and down a spur, we reached the camping cave in the next cliff-line and camped here overnight (C1 on sketch map). This cave, shown also on the CMW map, is suitable for a small party and has plenty of water nearby.

We explored a little way along the track that evening so we were able to walk easily with the packs on the following morning. On leaving the cave, the track crosses a small



Camping Cave on Mt. Tarn – Syd Comfort at the fireplace, 1988.

—Photo by Ken Johnson

creek on the north eastern side of the cave and after about 150 metres reaches a sign pointing to 'Castle Head' and 'Valley'. Following the 'Valley' direction, the track is along the right side of the creek and is marked for about 350 metres. Then follows a puzzling gap in the marks, probably caused by fallen trees, before the marks resume about 200 metres further on where the track crosses to the left bank of the creek. At this point the valley widens as the cliffs recede and the creek begins a steeper descent.

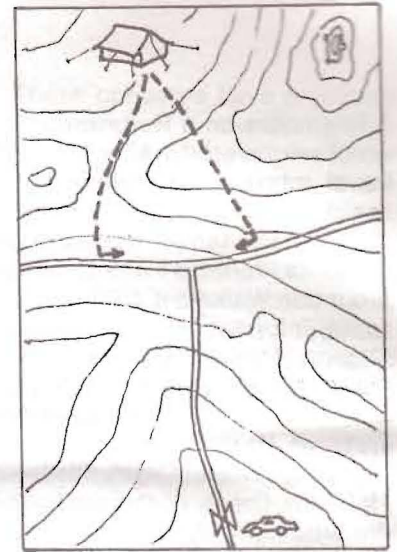
It occurred to us that if one did this walk in the opposite direction, there could be some difficulty in picking up the start of the pass as the markers end where the pass reaches the valley floor, the last marker being some distance from Camping Rock Creek itself (on a fallen tree which spans the track). Finding this starting point could be facilitated by noting that Camping Rock Creek should be followed for about 500 metres above the Hollands Creek junction to a point where a low but steep bank rises beside the creek making it difficult to follow close to the water.

We followed the southern bank of Camping Rock Creek (the CMW track follows the northern bank) from the end of the pass to the junction with Hollands Creek, passing through a number of attractive camp sites. It is probably easiest to

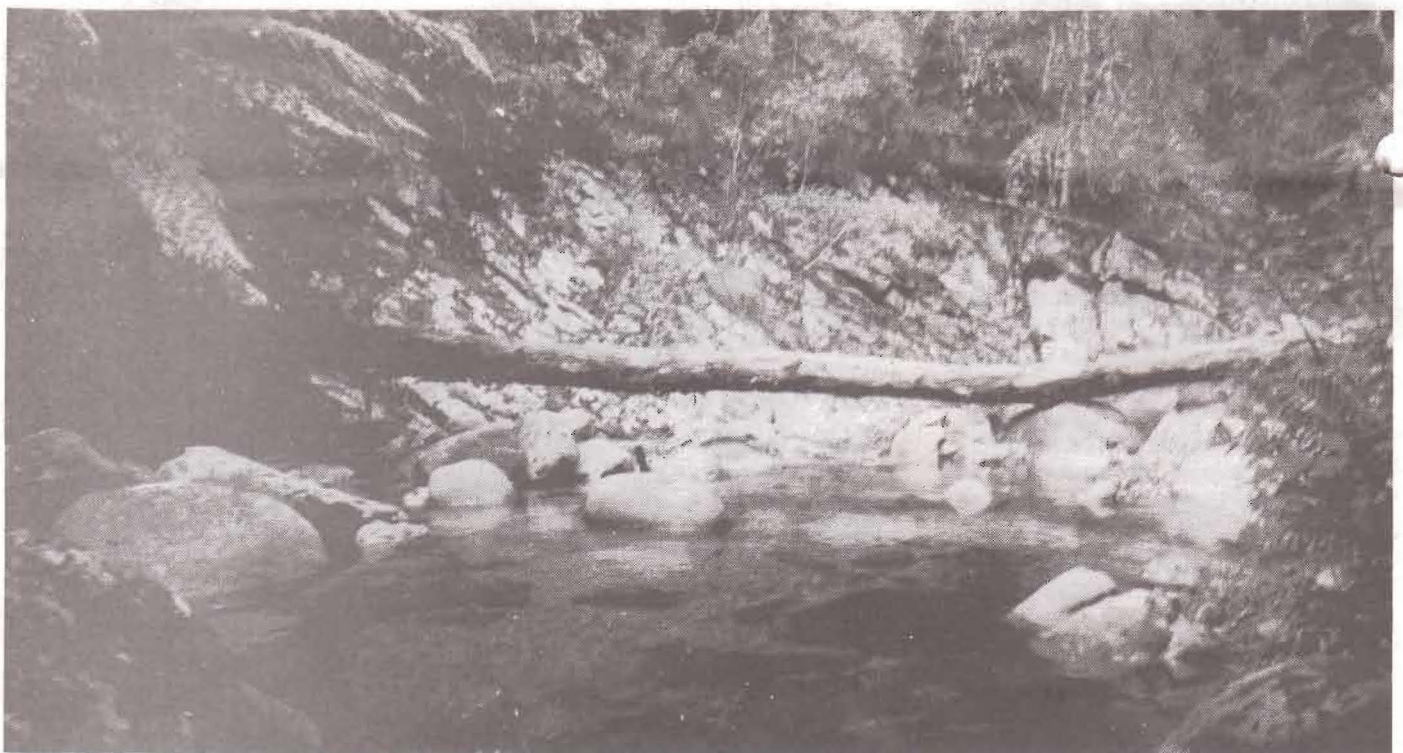
cross Hollands Creek just below this junction and then to walk up the creek to the camp site shown on the CMW map. In following up Hollands Creek we generally found it best to favour the southern side keeping near the creek and crossing if necessary. However, just before the Kilpatrick Creek junction a track climbing over a steep rise before returning to the bank provided the easiest path. We camped for the second night in a delightful ferny spot (C2) on the northern bank of the creek where the creek takes a marked turn to the north and somewhat below the Angel Creek junction. Darkness came early that evening preventing us from examining the way forward for the following day.

In the morning, because walking close to the creek looked difficult, we took a route over high ground some distance from the water which gave us good but distant views of the Crooked Falls. Syd noticed that the stream pattern was different from the planned route whilst Ken thought that it was a mapping variance, but when we reached the next creek it was evident from its weak flow that we were upstream of Angel Creek. Rather than retrace our steps we crossed the river and started up a spur which joins the spur we had intended to follow near its top, just below Mount Tarn. However by doing this we missed

out on visiting the Crooked Falls Lookout, so next time we will make sure of finding Angel Creek and following the adjacent spur.



It was a steep climb (over 700 metres above the previous camp) to the camping cave below Tarn (C3) which is quite large and has good water nearby. A narrow path below the cliff-face provides the route out of the cave and one should follow this to its very end before scrambling up some rocks on to Tarn where cairns indicate the direction northwards to join the track towards Haughton. We noted that the track from Haughton across



Hollands Gorge Creek upstream from normal route.

-Photo by Ken Johnson

Swampy Plain now goes straight! down to the swamp and to the western side of the creek eventually joining the old four wheel drive track which we followed to Newhaven Gap. The Budawang's were, however, not to let go of us so easily; heavy showers that afternoon, on the already wet Newhaven Road, had turned it into a rally driver's track. Ken rose to the challenge and we slipped, slithered and slogged out to the Sassafras-Braidwood Expressway.

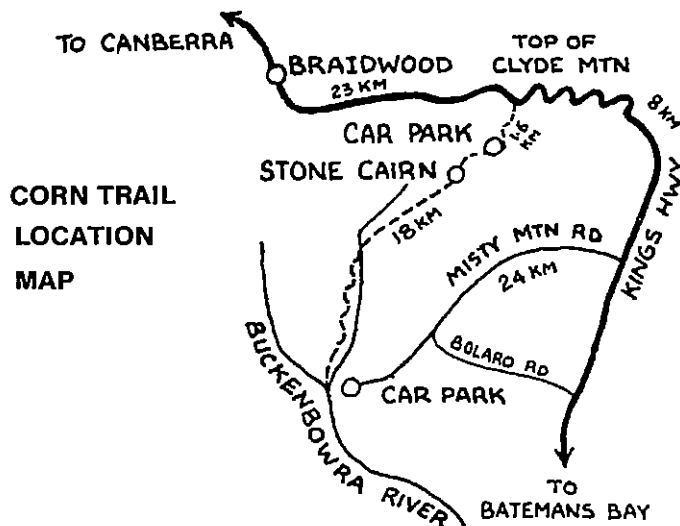
Postscript:

We ran into a problem during the climb up the spur from Hollands Creek towards Tarn in the following way. We had lunch near the bottom of the spur and then walked together up the first section but on the next section Syd moved ahead to find a route up the rocky outcrop and reached the top. Ken having lost sight of Syd, called, asking for help and directions, giving his position as on the right of the ridge (actually it was centre). Syd went down the right whistling, and passed Ken who was also whistling. It wasn't long before contact was lost. Ken managed to reach the top, called and whistled to no avail; meanwhile Syd was doing the same below. After some hours and as daylight was failing, both headed independently towards the evening camp. Ken, who knew the route, blazed the trail with cairns and broken branches until he came upon fresh breaks and, thinking that Syd had managed to find a shorter route, stopped marking and got to the camp just before dark. Syd, of course, was behind. Syd, being caught by the dark camped on the track and next morning managed to reach the camp quite early. It was great to realise that we had both reasoned what the other would do and had both made for the camp-site instead of milling about in an area where whistles and voices did not carry.



The Corn Trail

Reg Alder



The Corn Trail from the top of Clyde Mountain to a creek junction at the terminal car park on the Misty Mountain Rd in the Bolero Valley was recently opened on one of the foulest weekends we have known for a long while. An information brochure with maps, history and botanical details has been published, I do not know where it can be generally obtained but as it was published with donations from the Batemans Bay and Braidwood Chambers of Commerce, enquiries to them may be fruitful. The 25 000 series maps are Monga and Araluen.

The trail commences on the right immediately before the descent of the Clyde Mountain, be on the alert for it as otherwise you will go a long way down before being able to return. (The Misty Mountain Rd commences 8km further down.) It is probably best to stop at the car park on the left and reconnoitre the first part of the road because of a muddy patch just in from the highway. This may shortly be not such a hazard as some filling has been tipped nearby. On my visit I could not go the full distance of 1 1/4 km to the car park because of fallen trees.

The true distance of the track is a bit of a mystery because the brochure gives 12.5km and 18km, likewise the metres at each end of the track, the top one 12.5km and the lower 18km. Map measurement, not allowing for the zig-zags is about 12km and 15-20% additional distance would not be unreasonable. The Buckenbowra River is reached after a descent of 600m at approximately half way. The brochure gives walking times of 4 1/2-7 hours,

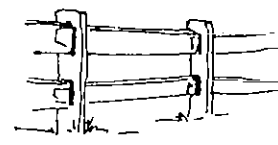
the notices 3-6 hours. Our actual walking times, not allowing for rests or lunch, were 2hrs 25mins down to the Buckenbowra and 2hrs 30mins to the lower track head. The lower section would have been covered more quickly except that more than 50 trees blown down in the recent storm had to be climbed over or through - for more than one half it was necessary to make detours, sometimes in thick bush and on steep slopes. It seems as if the conditions of wet and wind have been exceptional as only a fraction of this number of fallen trees had to be cut for the recent opening and it had been 60 years since the track was last used.

It is probably easier to car shuffle, camping sites at the lower end being minimal and rough. Without concentration, it is a little hard on the lower section to keep tab on where you actually are. A waterfall is particularly elusive as several gully crossings with rocky outcrops could fit the description. The real one has a drop of about 12-15 metres.

Escarpment views going down are stupendous and there are many types of rainforest combinations on the lower section to make it worthwhile going at least as far as the waterfall. Still that would require an early start with the prospect of the 600m climb to round the day off. For most, however, reaching the river and walking through the beautiful rainforest with large birds-nest and tree ferns immediately after the crossing would make the day's walk well worthwhile after allowing for rest and lunch stops.

Letters to the Editor

More Gudgenby Controversy



Dear Editor,

Gudgenby Grazing

The letters to you in the June NPA Bulletin on this subject have well covered the arguments against a hasty termination of the lease of Gudgenby Station. I wish to show support for these arguments but do not need to repeat them all here. However I would like to state briefly what I consider are the important points of my own position on this matter.

I agree with the principle that there should be no grazing in National Parks, particularly in the few areas of alpine flora we have in the high country in Australia. Nevertheless I would be happy for the well-run property of Gudgenby to continue as an exception in Namadgi. In my opinion:

- . it adds to the scenic values of the Park;
- . it is a good buffer zone for the wilderness area;
- . our own experience on tree planting at Glendale shows the difficulties of regeneration in open pastures in a geographic location similar to Gudgenby, even if seedling trees are planted; and

. it is a good, living example of successful cattle production dating back to early pioneer days in a difficult mountain environment.

While I would have some regrets, I would not object to change if a genuine, worthwhile use appropriate to the concept of a National Park were found for the Gudgenby property and the buildings. The change should have a detailed plan, publicly available, and the funds and staff to implement it. It would be dangerously unsatisfactory if the lease were terminated without the plan and the resources, leaving a void in utilisation and protection.

Turning to our Association, it is a healthy sign that occasionally members feel strongly enough to state views which differ from those of our executive. With a wide and diverse general membership it is difficult to obtain consensus on a controversial subject. The sub-committee system introduced into the NPA organisation a few years ago was, and still is, a step in the right direction.

Finally, I wish to pay tribute to our voluntary office bearers and committee members; they are working hard for the benefit of our Association and for conservation generally. I appreciate and commend their efforts.

Charles Hill
25 June 1988

Dear Ms Simondson,

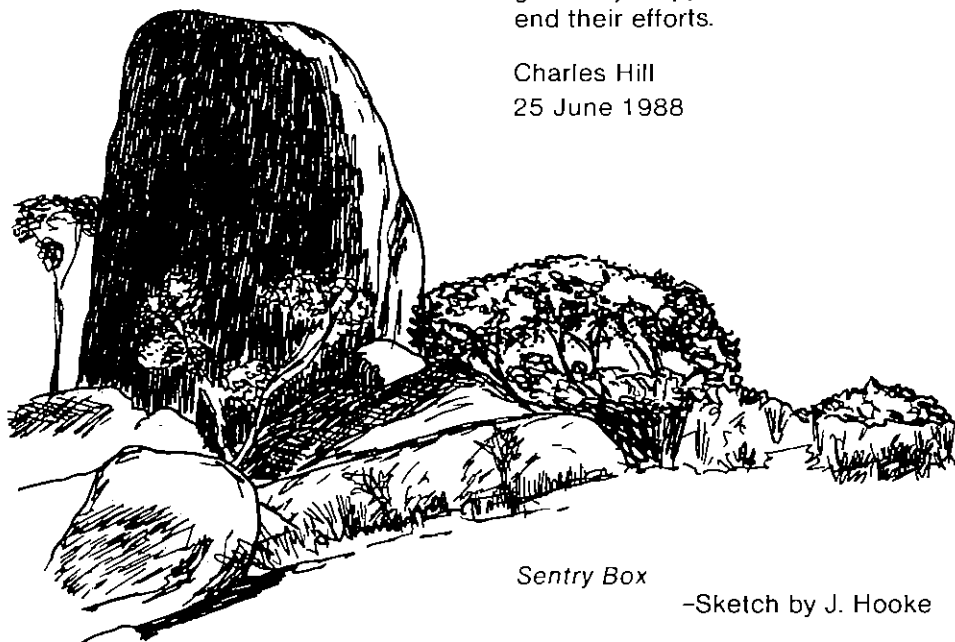
Several articles in the recent NPA Bulletins [25(3) and (4)] relate to the ACT Parks and Conservation Service's management policies and objectives for the Gudgenby station in Namadgi National Park. The articles canvass a wide range of issues and opinions and I believe it is important that your readers are informed of the course the Service is taking towards the future management of the area. The management plan for Namadgi National Park is quite explicit, indicating that the current lease on the Gudgenby property should be terminated and grazing cease. Consistent with this management plan and following advice from the ACT Parks and Conservation Consultative Committee I have advised the current lessee that the lease will be terminated from 30 June 1989.

I believe the main issue about the future management of the area is related to the landscape and its significance. The management plan for Namadgi requires the Service to undertake a detailed review of the landscape significance of the Gudgenby station and environs and a detailed evaluation of the possible techniques and management costs of achieving the landscape management policy objectives for the area.

This review will commence shortly and be completed by early 1989 well before expiry of the lease in June of that year. Once this study is completed the related issue of the future of the area for landscape regeneration, landscape maintenance and/or recreation can be addressed.

I should emphasise that the Service has consulted both the ACT Parks and Conservation Consultative Committee and the ACT Heritage Committee about the terms of reference for this study. I believe the review will provide the Service with useful advice on the future management of this part of Namadgi.

I can assure you that the Service



Sentry Box

-Sketch by J. Hooke

9/20 November - Car Camp (A)
Murramarang National Park

Ref: CMA Batemans Bay
88 6084

Leader: Dianne Thompson
Phone leader early as bookings are required. Swim, walk or just laze around in the magnificent coastal scenery around either Merry Beach or Durras South.

0 November - Sunday Walk (A)

Shoalhaven River Ref: Braidwood 1:100 000
Leader: Steven Forst 51 6817

Meet at Canberra Station at 0830. A short 10km walk along (or in) the Shoalhaven River. Plenty of time for swimming and lying around in the sun. 140km drive.

0 November - Sunday Walk (C/D)

Rotten Swamp Ref: Rendezvous Ck 1:25 000
Leader: Frank Clements 31 7005

Meet at Kambah Village Shops at 0730. A 24km walk with a steady ascent of 500m through bush. Not for beginners. 100km drive.

16/27 November - Pack Walk (1/2)

South Coast Ref: Batemans Bay or Ulladulla 1:100 000

Leader: Philip Gatenby 54 3094

Contact leader by Wednesday for precise map details and details of this coastal walk. Exact location will depend on the availability of fresh water. Numbers limited. 350km drive.

27 November - Sunday Walk (A/B)

Pyramid and Gibraltar Rocks Ref: ACT 1:100 000
Leader: Beverley Hammond 88 6577

Meet at the Tidbinbilla Visitor Information Centre at 0900. A 14km walk in the Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve to the boulders of the Pyramid then cross country to climb Gibraltar. Returning by fire trails. 300m climbs.

3/4 December - Pack Walk (3/4)

Mt Morgan Ref: Rendezvous Ck 1:25 000
Leader: Nick Gascoigne 51 5550 (H) 46 2167 (W)

Contact leader early for details. An exploratory walk in the Mt Morgan, Half Moon Peak area. Steep climbs, rock scrambling and excellent views. Numbers limited. 300km drive.

4 December - Sunday Walk (C)

Mt McKeahnie Ref: Corin Dam 1:25 000
Leader: Neville Esau 86 4176

Meet at the walks register near the site of the Orroral Valley Tracking Station at 0800. A 22km walk along Orroral Valley with a 500m climb at the end of the Valley. Spectacular views over the northern end of Namadji National Park. Please ring leader for details as this is not for beginners. 120km drive.

11 December - Christmas Party

Orroral Valley Ref: ACT 1:100 000
Leader: The President

Meet at the camping ground at Orroral Valley at 1500 (3.00pm) for the NPA Christmas Party. Members and friends welcome.

Aims and Objects of the Association

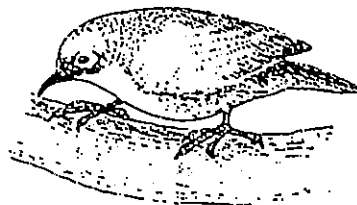
Promotion of national parks and of measures for the protection of fauna and flora, scenery and natural features in the Australian Capital Territory and elsewhere, and the reservation of specific areas.

Interest in the provision of appropriate outdoor recreation areas.

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

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

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



Points to Note

New faces to lead, new places to go!

Please help to keep our Outings Program alive by volunteering to lead a walk occasionally.

Contact Walks Convenor Steven Forst 51 6817 (H).

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

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

OUTINGS PROGRAM

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 1988



OUTINGS GUIDE

- Day Walks** - Carry lunch, drinks and 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 20 km, mainly on tracks or shorter walks through trackless open bush.
- C As for 'B' may include rougher terrain, i.e. heavy scrub, rock hopping or scrambling or steep terrain.
- D Up to 30 km, relatively easy terrain or less over trackless or steep terrain.

PACK WALKS - GRADING

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

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

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, 140km 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. Experience skiers. 450km 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.

21 September – Wednesday Meeting (A)

Walks Program Meeting Ref: Canberra UBD

Leader: Steven Forst 51 6817

Meeting to be held at Dianne Thompson's residence, 41 Maranboy St Fisher from 1930 (7.30pm). The meeting will plan the walks program for January - April 1989, discuss proposals for a new walks grading system, select an appropriate system for implementation and discuss any other business. All welcome.

24/25 September – Car Camp

Berrima – Box Vale Track

Ref: Burragorang 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 Nattar River to Mittagong

1/2/3 October – Pack Walk (3)

Coolamine to Orroral Ref: Rendezvous Ck 1:25 000

Leader: Ross Carlton 86 3892

Please contact leader early as numbers are limited and transport must be booked. A 40km walk mainly on fire trails following the track of the early settlers. Note: this walk is dependant on the weather and numbers. 170km drive.

9 October – Sunday Walk (A)

Two Sticks Road

Ref: ACT 1:100 000

Leader: Sophie Caton 47 2469 (H) 81 2200 (W)

Meet at the carpark at the entrance to the Two Sticks Road. A 12km walk up the road to the top of the Two Sticks Road. The road is a very scenic drive. The road is a very scenic drive. The road is a very scenic drive.

9 October – Sunday Walk (A/B)

Nursery Swamp Headquarters

Ref: Rendezvous Ck 1:25 000

Leader: Lyle Mark 86 2801

Meet at Kambah Village Shops at 0830. A 12km walk on bush tracks to visit the rock paintings and falls at the headwaters of Nursery Swamp. 100km drive.

13 October – Thursday Walk (A/B)

Booroomba Rocks Ref: ACT 1:100 000

Leader: Olive Buckman 48 8774

Meet at Kambah Village Shops at 0900. A 9km walk along fire trails, tracks and light scrub, to a high point with extensive 360 degree views from an area of granite outcrops. 300m climb. 50km drive.

15 October – Saturday Walk (A)

Map Interpretation/Compass Navigation

Leader: Marqus Karilaid 58 7734 or 48 6149

Contact leader by 1 October as numbers are limited. What is a HANDRAIL, the needle-in-a-haystack approach, controlled lostness, the blind faith bushwalker, re-sections? Come and find out! Includes experience on Black Mountain or Mt Majura.

15 October – Saturday Walk (B)

Corin Dam Lookout

Ref: Tidbinbilla 1:25 000,

Corin Dam 1:25 000

Leader: Charles Hill 95 8924

Meet in Kett St alongside Kambah Village Shops at 0900. A 12km walk mainly along fire trails and tracks but some off track walking. Steep in places. Walk from Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve up to Fishing Gap and south along the ridge with excellent viewpoints. 530m climb. 70km drive.

15/16 October – Pack Walk (1/C)

Mt Talaterang

Ref: CMW Budawangs

Leader: Steven Forst 51 6817

Contact leader for details of this walk to a less visited high point in the Budawangs. A short walk with packs to a campsite on top of a waterfall then an optional harder day walk up to the summit and back to pick up packs before returning to the cars. Excellent views but numbers must be limited. 400km drive

23 October – Sunday walk (B/C)

Tidbinbilla Peak and Camel Ridge

Ref: Tidbinbilla 1:25 000

Leader: Olive Buckman 48 8774

Meet at the corner of Eucumbene Drive and Cotter Rd at 0900. A 14km walk along fire trails and through some light bush scrub to Tidbinbilla Peak, along the ridge (some rock scrambles) to Camels Hump and return by the fire trail. 70km drive

29/30 October – Pack Walk (5)

Wine Glass Tor and Tim's Gully Ref: Touga 1:25 000

Leader: Peter G... 81 2200

Leader: Peter G... 81 2200

Leader: Peter G... 81 2200

Leader: Peter G... 81 2200

Leader: Peter G... 81 2200

Leader: Peter G... 81 2200

30 October – Sunday Walk (A)

Smokers Flat and Square Rock

Ref: Corin Dam 1:25 000

Leader: Graham Guttridge 31 4330

Meeting at Kambah Village Shops at 0830. An easy 12km walk up Smokers Trail for a Billy tea at Smokers Flat where you will have the choice of taking a long lunch and a doze or continuing on to the good views from Square Rock. Then returning to Smokers Flat before perhaps trying a different route through light scrub to the cars. 80km drive.

5 November – Saturday Walk (A)

Black Mountain Morning Field Study

Ref: Canberra UBD

Leader: George Chippendale 81 2454

Meet at the Belconnen Way entrance to Black Mountain Reserve at 0930. A morning ramble to view the spring flowers in Black Mountain Reserve.

5/6 November – Pack Walk (1)

Hidden Valley

Ref: Endrick 1:25 000

Leader: Dianne Thompson 88 6084

Contact leader by Wednesday for details of this delightful pack walk in the Budawangs. Visit Styles Creek, Pagoda Rocks and the Aboriginal rock arrangement on Quilrys Mountain. 25km walk and 340km drive.

9 November – Wednesday Walk (A)

Lake George

Ref: ACT 1:100 000

Leader: Betty Campbell 81 1711

Meet at the coast road junction at Bungendore at 0900. This will be a gentle local walk along Lake George foothills with bird watching. Bring your lunch and binoculars. 80km drive.

11/12/13 November – Ski Lodge Weekend

Charlotte Pass

Ref: Kosciusko 1:100 000

Leaders: John Harris/Ian Haynes 51 4762

Arrive Friday night or Saturday morning by 0900. Do your own thing, join an organised walk or just relax. Please contact leader or the Lodge Manageress Southern Alps Ski Lodge (064 75223) before 3 November. NPA members only. 420km drive

12 November – Saturday Walk (B/C)

Mt Domain

Ref: Tidbinbilla 1:25 000

Leader: Dugald Munro 31 8776

Meet at the corner of Eucumbene Drive and Cotter Rd at 0830. A 12km walk up Fishing Gap Fire Trail through open bush to Mt Domain for good views, then down Lyrebird Spur. A steep descent and a short car shuffle. 680m climb and 70km drive

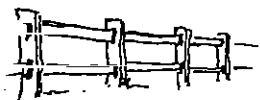
12/13 November – Pack Walk (3)

Northern Budawangs

Ref: Endrick 1:25 000

Leader: Denise Robin 81 4837

Contact leader by Wednesday for details. The walk starts at the Fire Gap and returns to the car at the Fire Gap. The walk is a very scenic drive. The walk is a very scenic drive.



will manage the area sensitively and apply appropriate resources to ensure that the qualities of the existing cultural landscape are maintained.

Yours sincerely,

R.J. Murray
A/g Director
ACT Parks & Conservation Service
6 July 1988

Dear Judith,

Gudgenby

This is in response to your invitation to comment, on page 6 of Bulletin 25 No 4.

In Bulletin 25:3, page 4, Kevin Frawley states that grazing is inconsistent with current Australian National Parks philosophy, and that false comparisons should not be drawn between our national parks and those of Britain and the USA.

We are not obliged to adopt Australian National Parks philosophy, and while there is no harm in making comparisons with foreign national parks, we are not obliged to adopt their philosophy either. It is our members who should dictate our policies and nobody else.

As to the Gudgenby grazing, I presume that it is a Committee decision to support the termination of the lease. If I am correct in this, I think it should be clearly stated. No one could then take exception. But to say that it has the *Association's* support, as Kevin does in the last sentence of his inadvertent omission (Bulletin 25:4) may or may not be correct. This can be established only through a resolution at a general meeting or through a questionnaire. We need to bear in mind that the Committee, for all its conscientious work, cannot always please everybody. The Committee should bear this in mind too, and not take it amiss if some members dissent from a Committee decision. They can put a dissenting view, without rancour, through a private

letter to the relevant Authority, with a copy to the Secretary as a courtesy matter.

If the Gudgenby lease is terminated before there is a full-time caretaker for the homestead, the louts will move in and foul it. Any doubts on that score can be dispelled by a look at the abandoned tracking stations or by a talk to those who have tried to care for the Franklin Chalet, the old Boboyan homestead, or the huts in Namadgi. The lease should not be terminated before the future of Gudgenby homestead is secure. Until then, I for one would prefer a herd of cattle on Gudgenby than a herd of pigs in the house, and that is the choice we are faced with.

Sincerely,

Robert Story
5 July 1988

Dear Editor,
**On Gudgenby and the Future of
Grazing in Australian National
Parks**

Kevin Frawley, in using the example of Gudgenby to advocate an ideology of total exclusion of grazing from all Australian national parks, seems unduly zealous to belittle the value of European cultural heritage (including representative elements of grazing). Yet I imagine that most NPA members as a matter of civilised principle share a concern not only that the natural heritage, but also the European and Aboriginal cultural heritage, should be protected whether or not these exist within Australian national parks.

I therefore dissent from Kevin Frawley's thesis (Bulletins 25/3 and 25/4) that the European cultural heritage at best is of minor value in Australian national parks, and may be repugnant to the purpose of national parks. Such views often derive from wilderness doctrines. I also have no empathy with the sort of reasoning which downgrades the European cultural heritage at Gudgenby, simply because other

examples exist elsewhere, eg near Braidwood. The same kind of reasoning equally would downgrade Namadgi National Park, because other national parks likewise exist near Braidwood and in the Snowy Mountains.

Kevin Frawley without cause also disparages much that can be learned from overseas experience with national parks, and resorts to 'Aunt Sally' assertions that English taste requires contented cattle grazing in a 'pretty pretty' park-like landscape. This has nothing whatsoever to do with the cultural significance of grazing which came very early with European settlement, nor with the way the present landscape at Gudgenby closely evokes the landscape as it would have been seen there by the early white settlers. The same is true in Victoria, where cattle grazing within ecologically sustainable numbers should be retained in perpetuity on at least some of the highland leases as an essential part of the Australian cultural heritage.

Finally on bigotry - this can be exploited for short term gains even by good causes like conservation and national parks, but the process too soon leads to fixed uniformity of regimented opinion, and unnecessary contempt for people holding similar but not identical views. The results are well exemplified by religious bigotry which recurrently induces disgraceful conflict between and within religions. Environmental bigotry likewise leads to division over spurious orthodoxies among conservationists, ultimately weakening the real cause. In Victoria, public support for an integrated alpine national park clearly has been retarded by the perceived threat to cattle grazing throughout the highlands, and the wilderness extremists who illegally burned down three mountain huts some years ago also did little to promote public esteem for their cause.

Pieter Arriens

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I'm in the process of writing a book on the Hume & Hovell Walking Track. It will have sections dealing with:

- Hume & Hovell's actual journey in 1824-25
- The construction of the track by the NSW Dept of Lands
- People (Individual and Club) who walked sections of the track during the time of construction or at the time of the official/inaugural opening walk in October/November 1988.

I've been in close contact with the Department of Lands and have had its blessing and help in what I'm doing.

It would be appreciated if, through your meetings and your Newsletter, your members were made aware of my intentions.

I would like to hear from people (individuals/groups/clubs) who have walked or intend to walk sections of the track, or those who might join in the official/inaugural opening walk in October/November 1988.

I would then include an Appendix to the book listing names of walkers, date of walk, sections walked, comments, etc.

If I can be of assistance to any of your members, in providing information about the track, I would be only too pleased to do so. I can be contacted at 121 Dalhenty Street, Tumut NSW 2720 or by phone. (Tumut 069-47 2093).

To help establish my credentials I am:

- A retired primary school Principal.
- President of Talbingo and District Bushwalkers Club.
- Involved in restoration work on buildings in the KNP with KHA and others.
- Author of several articles in recent editions of "Snowy River Country".

Yours sincerely,

Harry Hill
22 July 1988



Dear Editor,

Buzz Off

The Management Plan for Namadgi National park makes provision for Service exercises subject to specific guidelines but with the provision that the forces will be encouraged to seek alternative locations (cl 11.1; p90).

Recently on a mid-week walk my party had a new wilderness experience in the wilderness zone of the park as we climbed Mt Burbidge and Mt Kelly and so could clearly observe and more importantly hear a naval exercise being carried out. For a period of four hours we were circled by two Navy helicopters who like angry hornets seemed to be intent on inseminating the largest boulders on the adjoining ridges. Thinking they were going back to base was a false premise as they would appear again low down in the intervening valleys to make near landings in the meadows.

Perhaps this form of exercise is the least harmful in creating ecological damage apart from disturbing the mid-day siestas of the fauna but to us seeking wilderness solitude the high decibels engendered by their proximity was getting to be just too much.

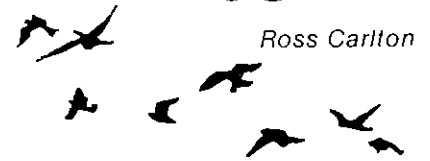
It is bad enough to be on the flight path of the higher flying commercial aeroplanes regularly passing on their way to and from Melbourne. Fortunately for us we were on the way out when the helicopters returned the next day.

There must be areas in state forests where extended exercises such as these could be carried out with equal facility rather than by intruding into the solitude of a wilderness zone of a national park.

Reg Alder
2 July 1988



Morning at Yuraygir



Ross Carlton

With the first faint flush of colour in the east the honeyeaters started. They chirped and chattered in half a dozen dialects while they and I together waited for the sun. Like all keen fishermen the gannets were already out at sea and hard at work. At last the sun appeared and with it came the first faint stirrings of a breeze in the casuarinas. The banksias sat stiffly and did not deign to move. The sun laid a golden pathway from the edge of the world right to my feet.

Suddenly there was an explosion of colour and sound as the lorikeets arrived. Rainbows and scales together. They flashed overhead with the newborn sunlight catching the extravagance of their colours as they wheeled and disappeared and returned over and over. The honeyeaters were forgotten, their colours and their chirping completely overcome by the frenzy of the newcomers. For the moment the world was full of lorikeets and existed only for them. On some pre-arranged signal they descended on the trees all around me. And now the banksias moved. They were alive with movement, their branches weighed down with the mass of birds. Then suddenly they were off again, whizzing by, inches from my face. Under my arms, between the branches. In seconds they were gone. But they would surely be back for the next act.

During a lull in the proceedings I heard a familiar screeching and there, just above the treetops, was a flock of black cockatoos flapping their leisurely way to a breakfast elsewhere. Observing the whole business with a very disdainful look was a spangled drongo. He sat in his black suit, very upright and proper on an exposed perch, but forbore to comment. Not so the friar birds. They were the last to awaken, but when they did, they discussed the morning's revels in noisy and irritated tones before they too said grace and went to breakfast. Lorikeets, of course, never say grace.

Glendale Trees 1988

Charles Hill

Our annual survey was carried out on 12 May 88. After seeing the trees at the 1987 survey and also early in December, the survey team was pleasantly surprised at the results. Not only were the losses less than expected, but the foliage looked in good condition with a marked reduction in insect damage. Despite continued high temperatures and lack of rain early in 1988, the six months before the survey were evidently favourable for the trees. It was also pleasing to see the good natural regeneration of snowgums around the small copse of pre-existing snowgums on the upper bank of the river at the southern end of the site.

Two tables showing losses and growth over the last five years are appended. Again this year the tables show that we have not only lost trees, but also lost growth compared with the previous years; high growth has died and regrowth has occurred at lower or ground level. The central area of the site has fared worst with losses and regression to regrowth at the base. Most of the *E. bridgesiana* and *E. rubida* are under one metre in height because of the regression. On the other hand a significant number of *E. pauciflora* and *E. stellulata* are over three metres in height.

Several trees have been damaged. Kangaroos hit some trees when startled at night, but usually the trees are flexible enough to escape damage; some trees have been hit by the Park mower/slasher, and some have been broken off at vehicle bumper bar level. Two or three of the trees are evidently especially succulent and are repeatedly nibbled over a period, probably by kangaroos. By the large number of large droppings, many adult kangaroos graze at the site, usually on grass and low vegetation.

The wombat who lives in the huge burrow near the large rock not far from the river is obviously fit and well, but the tree we planted nearby has succumbed to being partially buried repeatedly by the spoil from the hole.

It now remains to be seen whether the numerous trees with regrowth from the base will establish a strong leader to continue trunk growth in the normal manner.

TREE GROWTH

Species	Date	Under 30cm		30-90cm		Over 90cm		Totals	
		No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
<i>E. bridgesiana</i> (Apple Box)	22.3.84	21	11	158	82	14	7	193	100
	24.4.85	11	6	146	78	30	16	187	100
	28.5.86	59	34	83	47.5	32	18.5	174	100
	15.5.87	74	61.5	31	26	15	12.5	120	100
	12.5.88	58	59	34	35	6	6	98	100
<i>E. pauciflora</i> (Snow Gum)	22.3.84	5	22	12	52	6	26	23	100
	24.4.85	1	5	10	47.5	10	47.5	21	100
	28.5.86	1	5	5	24	15	71	21	100
	15.5.87	0	0	1	5	19	95	20	100
	12.5.88	1	6	7	47	7	47	15	100
<i>E. rubida</i> (Candelbark)	22.3.84	20	16	91	73	14	11	125	100
	24.4.85	9	7	81	66	33	27	123	100
	28.5.86	17	15	61	53	37	32	115	100
	15.5.87	29	28	52	50	23	22	104	100
	12.5.88	50	60	23	28	10	12	83	100
<i>E. stellulata</i> (Black Sallee)	22.3.84	19	31	40	66	2	3	61	100
	24.4.85	3	6	27	58	17	36	47	100
	28.5.86	3	7	6	14	34	79	43	100
	15.5.87	1	2.5	5	12	35	85.5	41	100
	12.5.88	-	-	6	13	42	87	48	100
TOTALS	22.3.84	65	16	301	75	36	9	402	100
	24.4.85	24	6	264	70	90	24	378	100
	28.5.86	80	22.5	155	44	118	33.5	353	100
	15.5.87	104	36.5	89	31	92	32.5	285	100
	12.5.88	109	45	70	28	65	27	244	100

TREE TOTALS AND LOSSES

Species	Date	Totals	Annual Loss		Cumulative Loss	
			No	%	No	%
<i>E. bridgesiana</i> (Apple Box)	4.6.83	213				
	22.3.84	193	20	9		
	24.4.85	187	6	3	26	12
	28.5.86	174	13	7.5	39	18
	15.5.87	120	54	31	93	43.5
	12.5.88	98	22	18	115	54
<i>E. pauciflora</i> (Snow Gum)	4.6.83	25				
	22.3.84	23	2	8		
	24.4.85	21	2	9	4	16
	28.5.86	21	0	0	4	16
	15.5.87	20	1	5	5	20
	12.5.88	15	5	25	10	40
<i>E. rubida</i> (Candelbark)	4.6.83	137				
	22.3.84	125	12	9		
	24.4.85	123	2	2	14	10
	28.5.86	115	8	6.5	22	16
	15.5.87	104	11	9.5	33	24
	12.5.88	83	21	20	54	39
<i>E. stellulata</i> (Black Sallee)	4.6.83	90				
	22.3.84	61	29	32		
	24.4.85	47	14	23	43	48
	28.5.86	43	4	9.5	47	52
	15.5.87	41	2	4.5	49	54.5
	12.5.88	48(1)	+7(1)	+17	42	47
TOTALS	4.6.83	465				
	22.3.84	402	63	14		
	24.4.85	378	24	6	87	19
	28.5.86	353	25	6.5	112	24
	15.5.87	285	68	19.5	180	38.5
	12.5.88	244	41	14	221	47.5

- (1) The increase of *E. stellulata* in 1988 is due to:
- a favourable season which has seen new shoots on some trees previously thought dead; and
 - a small number of trees previously classified as *E. rubida* now appearing more like *E. stellulata*, with some unusual characteristics (perhaps hybrids?)

Just Briefly –

Our congratulations to Jean Currie who was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday Honours list.

★ ★ ★

More congratulations, and our best wishes to Mary and Peter Ormay on the birth of their son Danny on 14 July. A brother for Lowana.

★ ★ ★

Saturday's fog had cleared to bright blue skies, so we tail-enders were optimistic on that Sunday as the leaders disappeared into the murky damp up ahead. Come midday however, and there we were, like carcasses in a cool-room, chilled to the bone on a Mt Majura saddle, hurriedly consuming our sandwiches, the sooner to resume the warmer activity of climbing. The sun did appear patchily in the late afternoon. Ironically, as we returned to the cars, it directed its light on the ridge along which we had walked earlier. According to the ABC News, Canberra's maximum temperature for that Sunday was 7 degrees C. Inside the cloud over Mounts Majura-Ainslie that day, it was considerably lower than that. No prizes for guessing the weather next day. Yes, Monday began a week, for the most part, of clear skies and sunshine. Well, whatever the weather, there is always the warm companionship of other members and enthusiasm of the leaders to lift our spirits. This walk had 28 participants. The cosiest was little Andrew Gatenby travelling papoose style, and in a trendy padded space suit. Thank you Judith Webster.

★ ★ ★

Someone named Judith returned from last May's Mt Burbidge walk sporting some impressive bruises. These, she said, had resulted from a nasty fall on the way *in* to camp whilst carrying a largish plum pudding in a billy. (Perhaps it was on the way *out* ie. interesting to know what % proof alcohol was in that pudding, or was there brandy in the custard sauce?)

★ ★ ★

There are those of you who think our little Audrey would never be mean enough to play a practical joke. Well in future, look more closely at those smiling blue eyes and you may discover a mischievous twinkle. The following admission is told in her own words.

Next time you're rambling along the tracks in the rainforest up Binna Burra way, have a good look up into the trees at that junction where two other tracks come into the main one. There's a nice bench there too, for a rest or a snack and, of course, the usual scrub turkey hoping for a hand-out. Well, I was padding along the track that comes into the junction at right angles, and it was so quiet; not a sound in fact. I could see the seat at the junction with the old scrub turkey picking around under it. Just then, a lone walker appeared on the track to my right. He was wearing a red 'terry' hat, and he hadn't spotted me, but he did see the turkey. 'Hello little bird', he said. Oh, the temptation!! So, 'Hello', I said.

Well, have a good look up anyway, there just might still be a splash of red up in the branches!

★ ★ ★

And a capital yarn from C(apital) Hill! It has come to my ears that an NPA member with many years' experience in leading walks was somewhat embarrassed to be lost in new Parliament House soon after it was opened. The member and his wife had attended an official presentation in the Great Hall. On conclusion the chairman of proceedings had stated that the door into the Members' Hall was open if guests wanted to look at an area not open to the public.

The NPAers took advantage of this and rambled into many places in the Ministerial Wing, admiring works of art etc. Using the 'round trip' approach they attempted to return by the western corridors, only to be blocked by solid walls. Deciding after the fashion of leaders, that perhaps a retracing of steps was the best route after all, they found the erstwhile open door had been electronically locked. With

sense of direction in high gear they tried the eastern corridors, opening numerous smoke doors and others that led to a variety of rooms, some occupied and some vacant. Finally they heard the sounds of many people, opened another door and there was the entrance foyer dead on target with only security devices to pass through. Entering, they heard the door swing shut with a resounding clunk. They then found that the doors into the foyer were electronically locked and, you've guessed it, so was the door that they had just passed through. In fact they were in a security entrance office (complete with lots of red lights) which was closed down and locked up.

It took some time to attract the attention of a security man in the foyer; his predictable reaction was 'How the ... did you get in there?' They attempted an explanation and finally his Aussie sense of humour came to the fore and he went away to get a radio intercom to call up the control room and get the entrance doors unlocked. So ended an interesting, informal and unofficial tour of Parliament House!

★ ★ ★

Just look what happens when Olive's imagination gets away!

BUSHWALKERS RESCUE HELICOPTER! – so we envisaged a reversal of an oft seen headline, as we sat atop Mt Booth on a delightful clear day in May. The said machine was flying back and forth, way way below us, more or less following the old Adaminaby road. Not only could we not understand its repeated peregrinations, but one member detected 'funny noises' and another swore she saw smoke from the rear end! Certainly we were not lost (as if any NPA group could ever get into that state!) – but we wondered about others, and even the fate of the helicopter itself, our publicity headline already mentally written.

★ ★ ★



Gladys Joyce and Mary MacDonnell have recently returned from a camping tour in the far NW of WA. It included the Bungle Bungles, that extraordinary collection of geological 'beehives', relatively unknown until a few years ago. Gladys and Mary took off from Kununurra in a 5-passenger plane and followed the rugged North Kimberly coastline, including Cambridge Gulf. Flying over the Mitchell Plateau, they put down onto a rough airstrip. Their camp for 3 nights by the side of Merten's Creek was reached by 4WD vehicle which next day took them to the start of their walk to Surveyor's Pool. Another day's walk brought them to Mitchell Falls. Moving camp, they spent one night at King Edward River where there were some impressive aboriginal paintings. During the next 5 days, Winjana Gorge was visited, Tunnel Creek walked through, and a boat trip was taken on the massive Geikie Gorge.

The three days spent in the Bungle Bungles had several highlights, such as the walk into beautiful Cathedral Gorge where a pool reflected the surrounding strange formations, and the walk through impressive Echidna Chasm which proved to be a rival of better-known Standley Chasm in the NT. With the final day came the 'icing on the cake' – an aerial perspective of the vast Bungle Bungles viewed from a helicopter, which later took them to Turkey Creek from where they were returned by bus to Kununurra. And who should be waiting for the helicopter to do the trip in reverse order but Kathleen Moriarty! No doubt Mary and Gladys will have many tales to swap with Kathleen on her return.

and MARY'S BIRD STORIES.

Mary MacDonnell tells of lotus birds on lily pads, brogias, herons, rainbow birds and noisy crowds of corellas, a variety of honeyeaters, and a Baillon's crane by the water's edge. Then there was the osprey surveying a nearby tree full of flying foxes as if to say 'Which one will I have for dinner?'; and the pair of barking owls, statue-still except for their eyes which followed the human onlookers in a kind of 'who'll blink first?' contest.

Finally, the small tableau presented at the water bore early each morning – a group of quaint spinifex pigeons, peaceful doves and long-tailed finches which regularly awaited the pool formed when travellers collected water. Unabashed by the presence of humans, they scattered only temporarily when a greater bower bird asserted its superiority, and quickly returned to resume their drinking and bathing.

★ ★ ★

STOP PRESS FROM NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS!

October 28-29 are to be open days entitled 'A Look Behind the Scenes'. People will be allowed into the glasshouses, nursery and herbarium, and there'll be a Research Section display. They will be interesting days.

The Education Section is holding an Art and Craft competition for children between pre-school and year 10. Called 'B for Banksia', entries should use banksias as a theme. Entries close on 23 September. Further information from Mrs Jan Dean on 67 1804. A display will be held in the Education Section between 22 October and 4 November.

'The Art and Science of Botany in Australia – An Exhibition Celebrating 200 years of Plant Study in Australia' is continuing until mid-October. It shows how art is used in botany. Original specimens of plants collected by such notables as Alan Cunningham, Banks, Solander and Robert Brown are on view. These have been lent by the Australian National Herbarium at the CSIRO Plant Industry Division.

More details later, but keep in mind that in early November there will be a rainforest display in the Visitor Centre.

In the Jervis Bay annexe of the National Botanic Gardens, an environment fair will be held by the Jervis Bay Bicentenary Community Committee on 21, 22 and 23 October. There will be displays by authorities involved in land and environmental management, and garden clubs and environment groups will be represented. As well

as other entertainments there will be activities for children, and a senior schools' open-air debate on environmental issues will take place. There will also be an arts and crafts market.

★ ★ ★

What makes a good walk?

... a good walk should be a pleasant experience. There should be rich colours to delight the eye and interesting architecture – man-made or natural – along the way to invite close-up study. The more your senses work with your feet, the more satisfying your walk will be. Birds chirping, water babbling, wind rustling the leaves and people happily talking are the symphonic sounds of a good walk ...

(An apt description of an NPA walk, taken from *America's Greatest Walks* by Gary Yanker and Carol Tarlow.)

Thanks, Olive.

★ ★ ★

... and a salty yarn for Syd the Sailor.

'Would you pass the salt, please?'

'Thank you.'

'Can I have the salt back, please?'

'Salt coming over.'

'Have you finished with the salt? I'd like it again.'

(Lunch conversation – *not* between two reactionaries against the 'Eat Less Salt' lobby, but between two NPA walkers who had stopped for a snack in a damp dell in the Budawangs, and been joined by lots of lonely local leeches lunging at a lucky luncheon on location.)

★ ★ ★

Thanks to those who contributed to J.B. this time. Maybe other members would also like to send or phone their offerings for next time? Come on, there must be something you'd like to say about ... Ring 88 1889. Melliodora.



Economics, Equity and the Global Environmental Crisis

Address to the National Parks Association Canberra, May 1988

Peter Hunt

Peter Hunt is Producer of the ABC Radio Program 'Earthworm'.

To many environmentalists, the economists and their black art are seen as fundamental to the global environmental crisis. And there is plenty of evidence which demonstrates the link between environmental destruction and the quest for economic development.

In the face of such powerful evidence, particularly in the developing world, it's difficult to defend both economic growth and the environment. But as the economic rationalists aren't going to go away (their rhetoric is now firmly entrenched on both sides of the politics – and in the media) I think it's important to see to what extent the economists and 'free market' could be considered to be a part of a solution to the problems of environmental degradation, rather than just a major cause.

The Environmental Crisis

Probably the most dramatic element of the global environmental crisis is the rate of species loss. Norman Myers summed it up when he said:

'No generation in the past has faced the prospect of mass extinction within its lifetime. The problem has never existed before. No generation in the future will ever face a similar challenge; if this present generation fails to come to grips with the task, the damage will have been done and there will be no second try.'

The most recent World Watch, State of the World report has some depressing conclusions about the prospects for mass extinction over the coming decade. They argue, for instance, that if the tropical forests of South America do actually contract by 52% by the end of the century some 15% of the forest plant species – 13,600 kinds – will be lost before a new equilibrium is reached. The Amazon basin would support 12% fewer bird species.

But even more worrying is the finding that National Parks in North America don't seem to be fulfilling their role as stable refuges for bio-

logical diversity. They listed a series of National parks in the US, ranging in size from 144 to 21,000 sq. km and all but the largest had suffered species loss of large animals – ranging from 43% in one of the smaller reserves down to 4% in Yellowstone. Yosemite Park had lost 25% of its large animals – and that in 2,000 sq. km. Worldwatch's conclusion was that designating parks – which they described as a static solution to a dynamic problem – is no longer enough to avert mass extinction.

And if all that's not depressing enough the Earth's atmosphere we're told, is being altered by the release of carbon dioxide. In 1987 the combustion of fossil fuels released something like 5.5 billion tonnes of carbon into the atmosphere and deforestation anywhere between 1 and 2.5 billion tonnes. Throw in the CFCs and we're facing global repercussions on an immense scale and within just a couple of generations.

In searching for an explanation for such apparent contempt for the global environment I can't but wonder whether Nature's own deficiencies aren't at least partly to blame. Maybe the environment deserves everything it gets.

As Ronald Reagan once noted: 'Approximately 80% of our air pollution stems from hydrocarbons released by vegetation so let's not go overboard in setting and enforcing tough emission standards for man-made resources.'

But this theme of improving on the mistakes of Nature is one that would be familiar to many people in the context of the debate over the last mature eucalypt forests in Australia. Forest management which emphasises the replacement of gnarled, old, moss-covered, over-mature trees with vigorous new ones, is – as one forester put it – simply simulating natural ecosystem functioning, but in an economic manner.

In this context the problem of Australia's National Estate simply

vanishes. (The Register supposedly lists the best of Australia's cultural and natural heritage.) Rather than seeing it as merely a list of places that might be nice for the occasional Sunday picnic, it's really an action list which directs managers to areas where the environment's been running rampant for years.

And finally, how is this new understanding that environmental destruction is really the solution – rather than the problem – how is it related to one of the central themes of so many environmentalists – the idea of sustainability?

Well that's a real easy one. As one US civil defense official put it:

'A nuclear war could alleviate some of the factors leading to today's ecological disturbances that are due to current high population concentrations and heavy industrial production.'

The Sustainable Society

The idea of a sustainable society is of course a central idea in conservation. Sustainable societies are ones in which environmental capital isn't squandered and the costs simply left to future generations. Notions of sustainability may not have been popular a decade ago, and you really were going out on a limb to suggest that energy conservation, just to take one example, was worth taking seriously.

But 1988, the bread-heads and hyper-straits are starting to see dollars in certain aspects of the sustainability argument. For instance, last year the International Energy Agency came to a remarkable conclusion.

'Investment in energy conservation at the margin', they said, '... provided a better return than investment in energy supply.' In other words energy efficiency pays for consumers, companies and countries – which of course is what the environmentalists had been arguing all along.

While we're not quite at the point of seriously considering the massive economic impacts of increasing

CO₂ in the atmosphere, it is a question that will have to be faced as governments come to terms with trying to protect productive land and cities against rising sea-levels.

For example, a 4 km long barrier in the Netherlands was completed a couple of years ago at the cost of \$3.2 billion. At \$800 million a kilometer, the costs of such protection measures would run to trillions of dollars.

Which really brings me to my second point – and it's one that doesn't rate sufficiently in my view – on the conservation agenda. It's the question of equity. Equity involves the distribution of costs and benefits in society, which is a major part of the second crisis – the economic crisis.

There are any number of statistics that demonstrate the extent of the crisis – the Third World debt, the political instability that results from massive and unrelenting poverty or the growing trend towards protectionism in international markets – particularly for agricultural commodities.

But the implication of this crisis for real people is summed up with statistics that reveal that the average domestic cat in Britain eats twice as much animal protein each day as the average African and that the cost of keeping the cat (about \$250 a year) is more than the average annual income per person of the 1 billion people who live in the world's 15 poorest nations – that's around 20% of the world's population.

In our own country the image of homeless, desperate people and increasing poverty are familiar to us all. The feeling then that poverty is on the increase is well illustrated in the US at least by economist Lester Thurow. He's recently described what he calls a surge to inequality where the rich are getting richer and the poor, poorer. This is the first real shift, he argues, since the fifties.

He also points out that this is going hand in hand with the feminisation of poverty. Seventy-seven per cent of the people living below the poverty line in the US are women and children. Half the families living in poverty are headed by women with no husband present. The distribution of income in the US is now twice as unequal as we see in Japan.

What's behind Thurow's 'Surge to Inequality'? Basically he argues

that the different sectors of economic activity aren't all equal when judged from the standpoint of equity.

Thurow claims that the surge to inequality is linked directly to declining productivity in manufacturing industry. Productivity growth in American Industry has decreased from an average of 2.7% up to 1970 to less than 1% in the last 5 years. At the same time, productivity growth in countries like Germany and Japan has been 3 to 5 times greater than in the US.

What implications can be drawn from this? I believe that one of the main messages of conservation – that a sustainable society which doesn't depend on environmental destruction is a real and desirable goal – as that message continues to spread in the wider community, conservation will continue to enjoy the kind of support it now has at the political level. But the danger there is to ignore questions of equity.

The ACF and the Wilderness Society are addressing such issues in the timber industry – by looking at the impact of restructuring of the timber industry on the people involved.

But I believe they should be going further, and involving themselves in a much wider debate about restructuring Australian industry – to decrease our dependence on the often environmentally damaging primary industries that make up the great bulk of our exports.

Now, if you think all this sounds like an argument for economic growth as at least part of the solution for the environmental and economic crisis in our own country, I think quite clearly it is. The result of the US turning its back (even unintentionally) on an economy fuelled by increasing productivity is a surge in inequality – the rich getting richer and the poor, poorer.

I think if Australia turns its back on internationally competitive manufacturing, then we will also see a surge in inequality – or more of a surge than we're probably already experiencing. I should also add that I don't think that there's a necessary connection between growth – increasing productivity – and still more environmental decline.

Productivity decline in the US is, according to Thurow, essentially management induced. When you look at what kind of productivity

increases can be achieved simply by good management – it can be quite staggering. 'Just-in-time' is a good example – a manufacturing approach that attempts to eliminate inventory which can tie up millions of dollars of capital.

Good design can reduce the need for the most expensive inputs into manufacturing – particularly materials (typically 50%) and energy. NOT, please note, labour which typically around 7 to 10% of total costs. Then, if you throw appropriate technology into the equation, you do even better.

In concluding I must say I still feel a little embarrassed about admitting that I still have faith that a combination of commonsense and technology will lead Australia to a brighter future. So I thought I'll finish with a quote that lends some support to my thesis – from what I hope you all find an impeccable source.

The person involved has a particularly astute intellect – and he goes by the name Vivian Bastard (THE YOUNG ONES). In a recent rather short article entitled 'The History of the World', he makes the following observations about the Industrial Revolution:

'And then suddenly, completely by surprise, like one of those real wiffers that accidentally escapes at mealtimes, the Industrial Revolution happened. It was an amazing and important period – and anyone who tells you it wasn't is asking for a toaster in the mouth, because it was during this time when all the mod cons that go to make present day life so comfortable were invented. Things like the bayonet, surgery, electric guitars (big surge forward in Heavy Metal around this time), hard drugs and the destruction of boring great cissy tracts of natural landscape.'

On the theme of the modern age, Vivian Bastard concludes:

'If you like getting really drunk and watching video nasties while driving at 100 mph down the motorway, listening to the radio and a Sony headset and making a telephone call all at the same time while undergoing neurosurgery from a robot, then this is the era for you.'

And if not, well, you're probably a bloody conservationist.

Can Tour Operators in National Parks assist with Education through Interpretation?

Denis Carlisle

This article is a copy of a talk given to the Association in June 1988

Denis Carlisle worked as a ranger with ACT Conservation Service for 11 years.

He has now established a touring company which specialises in bird and wildlife tours of Australia

Education through interpretation was defined by Freeman Felder as an educational activity which aims to reveal meaning and relationship through the use of original objects, by first hand experience.

First a little information. The adage of 'take only photos and leave only footprints' at the time of its utterance was classed as a profound statement by national park personnel. Values change rapidly. The volume of tourists visiting some of our more famous national parks is now making a major impact on the environment with their footprints (hence the raised footpath to Mt Kosciusko and problems experienced in Cradle Mountain, Tasmania). The current visitor upsurge in usage of the major National Parks in Australia is breaking all records. Our national parks have become one of the main attractions for the tourist, be they international or domestic. In 1987, Ayers Rock had over 200,000 visitors, Kakadu 185,000, Royal National Park 1,000,000, Kosciusko 1,500,000 and Jervis Bay (in an area of approx 7,000 hectares) 700,000. Seventy six percent of visitors to the Northern Territory visited Ayers Rock and International visitors to Australia reached a record level of 1,784,900 in 1987.

This deluge of visitors, according to informed sources (Bureau of Tourist Research) will only increase in the future. I have included some staffing figures to indicate the growing problem. In the Parks mentioned there has been very little staff increase in recent times, and in the existing economic climate there is no indication that there will be funds for additional staff. A few statistics on approximate permanent ranger staffing levels – at Ayers Rock 10, Kakadu 30, Kosciusko 17, Jervis Bay 5.

The total land area in national parks and reserves in Australia is around 5% (excluding the Great Barrier Reef). This is approximately

equal to New Zealand in area. The ranger staff responsible for this vast area is 860. The majority of a ranger's time is expended on patrolling and administration – when you add to this recreation leave, sick leave and acting in higher duties it does not take a mathematical genius to determine that there is very little time left for interpretation. A *small test* – how many times in the past twelve months have you met and spoken to a ranger in the field?

Hence we have arrived at a situation where park visitor numbers are constantly increasing and ranger staffing levels are stationary, with no foreseeable improvement. I would like to mention at this point that staffing levels are determined by the amount of funding made available by either state or federal governments, less funds equals less staff.

In 1972 McMichael was arguing that the most important method of managing Australian National Parks resources was to implement a well-designed interpretation program to inform the visitor of the value of the park and of nature conservation, not by direct teaching but by experience. Obviously at the current staffing levels this is impossible. So we have a situation where large numbers of people are arriving at our national parks expecting to see a ranger and possibly develop an awareness of the environment through ranger interpretation, only to find that the most commonly used approach is a brochure or leaflet or some type of static display – and no ranger in sight. Maybe we should add rangers to the endangered species list.

The criminal part of this shortage of staff, is that the large volumes of tourists, basically a captive audience, are just waiting to be indoctrinated in the values of environmental protection and how they can assist in this task.

If, through a 'hands-on experience', we can educate 10% of the people that are visiting our parks to the fragile nature of the world ecosystem there could possibly be hope for the world environment. This is not being achieved at the moment. Large numbers of visitors perceive our national parks as attractions on the same scale as Disneyland. Only by increasing visitor awareness of the environment by education can we hope to change this impression.

How do we remedy this deficiency of interpretation staff in the national parks system in the present financial climate?

Private enterprise

'Controlled private enterprise.' That is, licensed tour operators with some form of accreditation, with staff trained or having experience in interpretation or a similar service. The concessionaire would be charged by the park authority, either in the form of a yearly levy or on a usage basis. The report prepared by CONCOM working group on Concession Management, September 1985 covers most eventualities adequately in regard to general guidelines.

Mentioning the word accreditation to most tour companies will generate an adverse reaction, mainly because accreditation is envisaged as some form of licensing that is detrimental to their business. In regard to our national parks this may be so – but are we only interested in the number of visitors through the gates or should we ensure that the national park values are maintained through education of tour guides who then become defacto rangers or educators through their interpretation abilities?

National parks play a major role in protecting selected areas of our country's fragile environment. They are not just recreation areas and the visitor should be made aware of

this fact. That the existing park systems are not fulfilling this role is obvious.

The environment needs protection now, not 10 years down the track; either through legislation, eg more laws and harsher penalties, with sufficient staff to police them, or by education of the main despoiler, MAN. By getting people out into this natural wonderland of ours and educating them through 'hands-on experience' is a step in the right direction. No one who has camped for any length of time in the alpine region of our country, or watched the sun set from one of the many peaks of Namadgi would ever lack an understanding and appreciation of our incredible country.

We cannot afford to delay! Tour operators using the park systems on a regular basis should be required, over a period, to have staff trained in environmental interpretation. This would create multiple benefits.

The tourist would gain additional knowledge, the park authorities would have better educated park users, many environmentally aware college graduates that now find it impossible would find employment as rangers, and the environment would be less degraded through ignorance.

Recent Arrivals NPA Library

Conserving the National Estate: A Bibliography of National Estate Studies. Australian Heritage Commission. AGPS.

National Tree program Progress Report 1982-1987. Dept of the Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and Territories. AGPS.

Draft Management Plan for the Murrumbidgee River Corridor. ACT Parks and Conservation. February 1988.

Murrumbidgee River Corridor Policy Plan. NCDC. May 1988.

Gungahlin Policy Plan Implementation Plan. Draft for discussion. NCDC. April 1988.

Gungahlin Environmental Impact Statement. Draft for discussion. NCDC. April 1988.

Where the heck are we . . . ?

Margus Karilaid

Remember that line from *F Troop* years ago? According to Chief Wild Eagle, that's how his tribe got its name after being lost in the woods. 'Where the heck are we?' ... 'We're the Heckawee'. Get it? Whatever.

Have you ever asked the same question on a bushwalk?

Try the following quiz. Although it's only a paper exercise which you can do in the comfort of your lounge room, the same knowledge and skills will prove invaluable one day in the bush when you're feeling utterly bewildered.

If you don't know how to answer the following questions but would like to have a go, enrol in my one-day course on learning map interpretation and compass navigation. See the Outings Program for details.

Recently, Barry Bourke was leading a party on a walk over an area covered by the topographic map *Rendezvous Creek, Sheet 8626-1-S, Scale 1:25,000.* Caught in a misty downpour of rain, the party became disoriented. When the clouds finally lifted, that uneasy feeling filtered through the party when Bazza asked, 'Where the heck are we?'

After one of those brisk and lively exchanges of abuse between Barry and his wife Beryl which clear the air so quickly and delight the rest of the party so much, Barry knew exactly what to do. With many years of experience in leading bushwalkers he knew that above all, the leader must not lose face or undermine the party's confidence. He therefore delegated to the party the responsibility of determining its location while he took Beryl aside to admire the splendid scenery.

Imagine you were in the party. Assuming a grid/magnetic angle of 13° and given the following information, fix your exact position on the map.

You recognise three peaks at the following grid references:

Peak x at 611436

Peak y at 698458

Peak z at 620488.

From where you are standing at W (ie Where the heck are we?), your forward magnetic bearings to each

of the three peaks are:

W to Peak x = 261°

W to Peak y = 27°

W to Peak z = 303°

Question 1: What are the three peaks? (6 marks)

Question 2: What are the steps used in a compass resection/triangulation exercise to determine your location? (14 marks)

Question 3: Using these steps and showing all workings, what is the six figure grid reference for the party's location? (20 marks)

Question 4: How is your location identified on the map? (10 marks)

Question 5: What is the basic flaw in resections/triangulation to determine your location? What does this tell you about the relationship of map and compass? (20 marks)

Question 6: What do you think of Barry's leadership qualities? What would you have done? In no more than 200 words recall one of the worst examples of leadership that you have experienced or heard about. But please, no names, no pack drill. With me? (30 marks)

Answers to this simple quiz should be addressed to me, c/o the NPA office. The winner with the correct answers and most scurrilous gossip will be treated to a gourmet meal on the next pack walk I lead. Trust me. Watch this space in the next issue for all the inside dirt on NPA walk leaders.

Namadgi Haiku

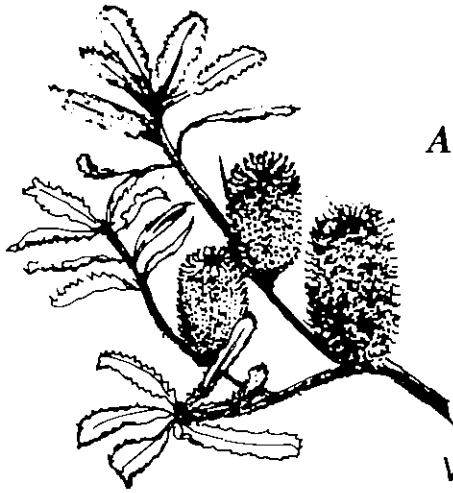
David Rainey

Why leave us alone
On the mountain with wedge-tails?
Silly clouds scudding.

Pink clouds at sunset
Make magic in still rock pool
Lo, a giant opal!

Hiss by the fireplace!
Is there a snake come in? No,
Rain down the chimney.

Fringed water lily
Grows silent but shame-faced, near
Bleached bones of brumby.



The President and Committee
wish all members
A Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year
and invite everyone to the
Christmas Party
at
Orroral Valley Picnic Ground
at 3.00 pm Sunday December 11
Bring your evening meal.
We'll have wine, cheese, biscuits and maybe a cake!

NPA Bulletin

National Parks Association of the A.C.T.
PO Box 457, Canberra City 2601
REGISTERED BY AUSTRALIA POST
PUBLICATION No NBH0857 ISSN 0727-8837

POSTAGE
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GENERAL MEETINGS

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

SEPTEMBER - Thursday 15

Mr Tom Scotney - (Park Operations Section, Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service) - will give an illustrated address on the management of the Ashmore Reef National Nature Reserve in the Indian Ocean.

OCTOBER - Thursday 20

Mike Pearson, Assistant Director, The Historic Environment at the Australian Heritage Commission, will give an illustrated talk about his trip to Antarctica in connection with Project Blizzard, to restore Mawson's Hut.

NOVEMBER - Thursday 17

Garth Abercrombie and Nick Gascoigne will give an illustrated talk about their forthcoming trekking and climbing trip in the Nanga Parbat area of Pakistan.

FEBRUARY - Thursday 16

Dione Gilmour, Acting Executive Producer of the ABC's Natural History Unit, will give an illustrated talk about the making of the series *Nature of Australia*.

Note that there will be no general meetings in December and January.