



NPA BULLETIN

National Parks Association of the ACT

Vol 26 No 1

March 1989



Canberra Nature Park: where is it? how safe is it?

**Why the Australian Alps should
be on the World Heritage List**

National Parks Association of the Australian Capital Territory Incorporated

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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Please phone Laraine Frawley at the NPA office.

NPA Bulletin March 1989

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Cover: *The bark of a scribbly gum, Eucalyptus rossii, which is typical of the flora in Canberra Nature Park. Photographer unknown.*

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Contribute to your Bulletin

Contributions of articles (news, description or fiction), black-and-white photographs and line drawings are keenly sought for the *Bulletin*. Creative works will be given a high priority for placement. Letters to the editor should be brief (less than 500 words). Leave contributions at the office or phone the editor.

Deadline for next issue: 1 May, 1989.

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

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President's foreword

For both present and future generations of Australians, the bicentennial year will be marked by one of the most significant events in forest conservation in Australia – the inscription of the Wet Tropics of Queensland on the World Heritage List. The nominated area stretches from just north of Townsville to south of Cooktown, covering a diversity of terrain but mostly confined to the ranges and tablelands which were not taken up for farming (though some areas such as the Palmerston, near Innisfail, came perilously close to being thrown open). One of the most celebrated parts of the region listed is the area north of the Daintree River. I had the privilege of first visiting there in 1978 when few had probably heard the word 'Daintree'. This was well before the senseless bulldozing of the Bloomfield track and the sometimes brutal confrontations

shown evocatively in the film *Earth First*. These events brought 'the Daintree' into every living room in Australia.

One did not need to have a specialist interest or knowledge of rainforest to be enthralled by the area – the magnificent coastline with rainforest overhanging beaches, its crystal clear freshwater creeks flowing to the sea, the orographic cloud effects atop Thornton Peak, and the white plumage of the migratory Torres Strait pigeons, feeding on the mainland and returning to their young on offshore islands, etched against the dense green of the forest. These are unforgettable images of place.

As in the case of the Franklin River, we are all indebted for the Wet Tropics outcome to the unstinting commitment and sacrifice of greenies like Aila Keto, founder of the Rainforest

Conservation Society of Queensland. I cannot help but compare this effort to the sleaze, corruption and self-interest unveiled by the Fitzgerald enquiry.

Closer to home, this *Bulletin* contains extracts from Geoff Mosley's *Australian Alps World Heritage Nomination Proposal*, the production of which was supported by the Association. The report finds that the area satisfies all four criteria for World Heritage inscription as a natural property, with the primary basis being the distinctive sclerophyll vegetation dominated by endemic species. The Association plans to actively promote the proposal during the remainder of 1989.

Kevin Frawley

Direct action begins near Eden

Conservationists have begun direct action to prevent woodchipping in the forests of southeast NSW. Late in February 20 people were peacefully arrested for trespassing in state forests in a part of the Coolangubra area that has been proposed as a national park. The NSW Government has rejected recommendations to list Coolangubra under the state's Wilderness Act and has allowed logging to continue.

The Coolangubra wilderness contains the rugged gorges of Myanba and Stockyard Creeks, with views over the Wallagaraugh and Towamba River basins from White Rock, Big Jack and Wog Wog Peaks. The range of altitudes in the area means a diverse flora which includes Gippsland waratah, pinkwood rainforest and apple-top box. Large populations of tree-dwelling mammals are found there.

According to the Forestry

Working Group of the Conservation Council of the South East Region and Canberra (of which the Association is a member), the existing small reserves in the area are not adequate to protect the flora and fauna. Conservationists have proposed new reserves for the Coolangubra, Tantawangalo and Egan Peaks areas. These were accepted by the NSW Labor Government shortly before its fall in early 1988.

The Association has donated \$50 each to three organisations working to save the southeastern forests from woodchipping: the Forestry Working Group, the Australian Conservation Foundation and the Tantawangalo Catchment Protection Association.

The campaign of direct action is expected to continue in coming months. A base camp has been set up at Reedy Creek in the Towamba

Valley, near the Coolangubra forests. Tours, concerts and letter-writing will draw attention to the issue.

Anyone concerned about the extension of woodchipping into these areas could write to the the NSW Premier, Mr Nick Greiner, Parliament House, Sydney, the Prime Minister, Mr Hawke, the Environment Minister, Senator Graham Richardson, or the Resources Minister, Senator Peter Cook, at Parliament House, Canberra. As well as expressing dismay about the threat to undisturbed forests, correspondents might suggest the importance of establishing plantations if the forest industry is to be sustainable.

Members who wish to make a **tax-deductible donation** to the campaign may send donations to the National Parks Association of the ACT, marked for the Forestry Working Group.

Committee news

Yerrabi Track

The interpretive brochure for the Yerrabi Track should be printed in about two months' time. The wording and diagrams have been developed jointly by the NPA and the ACT Parks & Conservation Service. The layout and printing will be done by the service.

The brochure is designed as an introduction for the general public. More detailed information such as bird and flora lists and geological background may be prepared by the NPA if members are interested. If you wish to contribute, please contact Philip Gatenby.

Australian Alps

Letters have been sent to the Commonwealth and New South Wales governments, expressing the Association's support for nomination of the alps for World Heritage listing (see story in this issue of the *Bulletin*). Glyn Lewis organised a World Heritage display at the Environment Fair held in Weston Park on 5 March. The NPA has donated \$100 to the Victorian NPA fund to campaign for the establishment of an Alpine National Park in Victoria.

Heritage Week

This year the theme of Heritage Week is World Heritage. During Heritage Week, the NPA will be emphasising the nomination of the Australian Alps for World Heritage listing. Geoff Mosley has been invited to speak at the April general meeting of NPA about the nomination, which he prepared. Our usual program of outings for the public will include interpretive outings in our local alpine country, focusing on its heritage values, especially the eucalypts.

The *Bulletin*

This is the first issue of the *Bulletin* to be edited by Roger Green. Roger is being employed by the NPA to edit the *Bulletin*, and will be assisted by an Editorial Committee comprising Fiona Brand, Timothy Walsh, and Kevin Frawley as President. The Committee has drawn up a *Bulletin* Policy which appears on page 22.

Join a subcommittee

The committee is looking at ways of involving more of the membership in conservation activities. In particular, we hope to strengthen the Association's two major subcommittees, the Namadgi Subcommittee and the Environment Subcommittee. Members of these subcommittees help formulate the Association's responses to draft management plans, environmental impact statements, parliamentary inquiries and so on. If you would like to get involved, contact the convenor of the Namadgi Subcommittee, Philip Gatenby, or the convenor of the Environment Subcommittee, Neville Esau.

The subcommittees meet on about four evenings per year. In addition to attending meetings, subcommittee members might also expect to spend time reading relevant documents in preparation for the meetings. The Environment Subcommittee, which handles a diverse and interesting workload, is especially looking for new members.

Master plan for Thredbo

Just before Christmas the lessees of the Thredbo resort in Kosciusko National Park, Kosciusko Thredbo Pty Ltd, released an environmental impact statement called Thredbo Village Master Plan. The plan was to build a large hotel, condominiums and lodges, to increase the size of the resort from about 2900 to 4800 beds, and a range of sporting facilities including an ice-skating rink and a sports academy. The existing nine-hole golf course was to be increased to 18 holes, at the expense of snow gums, wet heath, alpine bogs and the wildlife of the river bank.

The Association responded in February, criticising many aspects of the plan. In its submission, the Association pointed out conflict between the resort proposals and the plan of management of Kosciusko National Park. The plan of management supports recreation facilities designed to encourage the appreciation and enjoyment of the park. But the need to protect nature means that national parks cannot cater for every recreation activity. Elements of the proposal that conflicted with these precepts included the sports academy, extensions to the golf course and tennis courts, a playing field, a music bowl, a concert hall, swimming pools and squash courts. Comparable facilities could be provided at lower cost and greater convenience to the public in regional population centres.

The submission also said the resort expansion was a departure from the current policy of maximising skiing by encouraging day visits rather than overnight accommodation. Day visitors have less environmental impact on the park.

The submission pointed out the major effect of the proposed buildings and facilities on the local environment.

The Association's submission concluded that the plan should not be approved.



Canberra Nature Park comes into its own as the rest of the city disappears beneath fog. This view from Mount Ainslie is by an unknown photographer.

Canberra Nature Park depends on public interest

Walter Burley Griffin's vision for Canberra was of a place where garden suburbs nestled into the bush of the surrounding hills and mountains. As the city has grown into something far larger than he planned, the hills no longer surround the city but are surrounded by it. Bushland that was once out the back — like Black Mountain and Red Hill — is now in the heart, and heavily used for walks, jogs and other forms of recreation, restaurants, tourist amenities and other facilities. The expansion of the city has also increased the real-estate value of all centrally located vacant land.

In the early 1970s the lack of care for the hills and ridges of

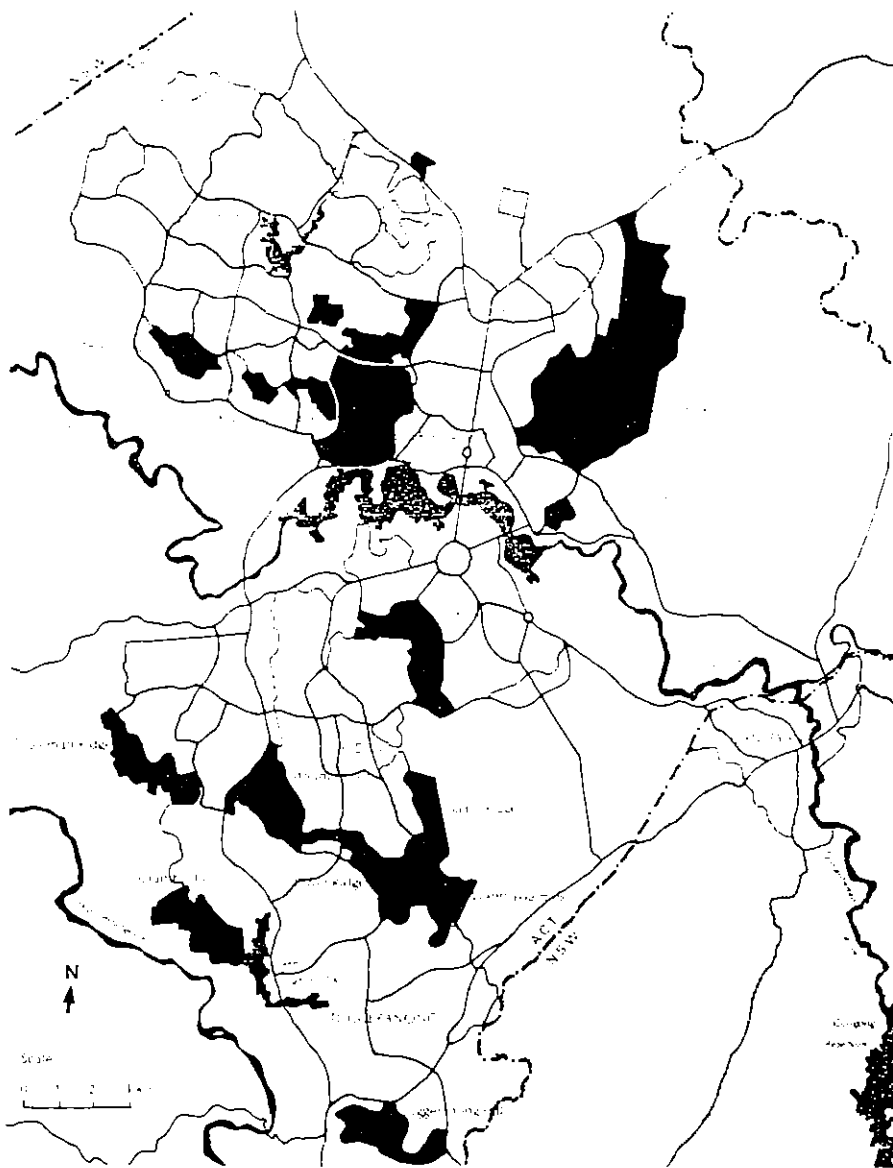
Canberra not used as suburbs, spurred some conservation officers in the Department of Interior, which then looked after Canberra, to make something positive of them. Rather than being the bits of the city left over after the National Capital Development Commission finished its building programs, the officials called them Canberra Nature Park. This idea encompassed the value of the land for the enjoyment and conservation of nature, recreation, education, and as a scenic backdrop to the city.

Canberra Nature Park now includes many of the undeveloped hills of Canberra: Gungahlin Hill, Mounts Ainslie and Majura, Black Mountain, The Pinnacle, Mount

Painter and Mount Pleasant in the north, Red Hill, Cooleman Ridge, Mount Taylor and Isaacs Ridge in the south, and the Wanniasa Hills, Urambi Hills, Tuggeranong Hill and Rob Roy around and beyond the Tuggeranong Valley. Under the new management plan for Jerrabomberra Wetlands, the wetlands are also part of Canberra Nature Park.

A number of the parts of Canberra Nature Park have regional ecological significance. The eastern side of Mounts Ainslie and Majura contains important bird habitats. The uncommon legless lizard, *Aprasia parapulchella*, lives on Mount Taylor. Botanists from

continued next page



The parts of Canberra Nature Park. Jerrabomberra Wetlands not shown.

Canberra Nature Park

continued from previous page

CSIRO and ANU have found a number of rare plants on Black Mountain, remnants of the native grasslands that have been altered by grazing. The linked hills and ridges form important corridors for wildlife movement.

But the importance of Canberra Nature Park is not so much the uniqueness or wildness of its flora and fauna but its proximity to the city. The park gives everybody the chance to stroll through Australian bushland and enjoy the beauty of Canberra's landscape. Scribbly gums, red stringybarks and white brittle gum may not be uncommon

but anyone can see them on Black Mountain. Among the trees are interesting plants like trigger plants and sundews or beauties like the purple orchid, *Glosodia major*. In a cool gully might be a cluster of necklace terns.

The Ainslie Majura humps bear similar trees and also a number of kurrajongs, which may have been introduced, and she-oaks, which have recovered since the exclusion of grazing. Instead of cattle, eastern grey kangaroos roam the hills. An old quarry on the eastern slopes is an artificial refuge for three ferns uncommon in the ACT. At night ringtail possums or even a sugar glider might be seen.

Canberra has a wealth of native birds and the parkland is where they are most likely to breed and

feed. The further one lives from part of Canberra Nature Park, the more likely the garden is to be infested by introduced starlings and sparrows.

At the moment the conservation status of these areas, which most Canberrans assume will remain as parkland, is not secure. All areas except Black Mountain and a small area on Mount Ainslie, behind the War Memorial, known as Remembrance Nature Park are unleased Commonwealth land, with no formal protection. Black Mountain and Remembrance Nature Park are covered by the *Public Parks Ordinance 1928*. Changes of government or management philosophy could quickly degrade Canberra Nature Park; the land could be cleared for roads, power lines, water reservoirs, communications towers, tourist attractions, hotels or even the extension of suburbs.

For example, the natural area of one part of the park, Gossan Hill, has been reduced by the development of South Bruce on one side and Radford College on another. A new suburb is currently being carved out of the western side of Gossan Hill. Transportation plans for the proposed urban development at Gungahlin could lead to a major road along the side of Mount Ainslie or the O'Connor Ridge and Black Mountain.

Some of these developments may be what the people of Canberra want, or what the new ACT Government decides. But at present they would take place without objectives, policies, plans or guidelines for management of the parkland. Development could be ad hoc and destruction piecemeal.

The ACT Parks and Conservation Service has embarked on a program to devise a management plan for Canberra Nature Park. The first stage is to make members of the public aware of the existence of the park, what it contains and what it can be used for; and to encourage individuals and groups to join in the planning



Looking from Mount Ainslie towards Mount Majura. The Ainslie-Majura area makes up a large block of Canberra Nature Park but already contains easements for roads, power lines and water supplies. Without legislative protection and a plan of management, suburbs could be extended up the hillsides and the easements further developed. Photo ACT Parks and Conservation Service.

process. The second stage is to find out what Canberra people want to do with the land. Based on the response, a draft plan of management will be prepared.

In the first half of 1989 the service plans to raise awareness. For some time the Parks and Conservation Service, in conjunction with community groups like the Canberra Ornithologists Group, has been organising walks to show the park's nature, history and views. Last year signs were erected on roadsides identifying the various parts of Canberra Nature Park and leaflets describing wildlife and showing walking trails in the nearest area were distributed to most households. In the near future there will be advertisements, radio discussions and articles in community newsletters like this one, describing the resources of the park and raising planning issues. Another leaflet will outline the park and how to join in its planning.

What will most vitally affect the use of the land is legislation. The park could be managed under the *Nature Conservation Ordinance*

1980, the *Public Parks Ordinance* or some new conservation or heritage legislation that the ACT Government may pass. Or it could be left as uncommitted open space, with the future use of segments decided by the local government, the National Capital Planning Authority, other government agencies or entrepreneurs.

Most of all the future of these areas will be decided by the people who live near them. They choose whether to use the land as a rubbish heap (where garden cuttings grow into the next generation of weeds) or native bush. Their watchfulness helps prevent bushfires. Their energy plants trees or allows natural regeneration. Given time and a lack of fire Mount Ainslie, Tuggeranong Hill and many of the more recently grazed parts of Canberra Nature Park could become as heavily wooded as Black Mountain which, in the 1920s, was quite clear.

In Sydney the weeding and reinvigoration of urban bushland has become a popular local issue. In Canberra there are already groups such as the Friends of

Mount Taylor planting trees and agitating for protection and appropriate use. More such activity will ensure a green future for Canberra Nature Park.

In the second half of 1989 the Parks and Conservation Service hopes to hear ideas from individuals and community groups. One of the advantages of living in Canberra is that everyone lives close to some bushland. If there is a piece of Canberra Nature Park that you particularly care about, start putting your ideas on paper.

If you have some thoughts on park management, or would just like to get on the mailing list, write to Canberra Nature Park, ACT Parks and Conservation Service, GPO Box 158, Canberra 2601, or telephone a ranger at the Canberra Nature Park depot on (062) 865356 or 861346.

The manager of Canberra Nature Park, Tony Brownlie, and a project officer from the ACT Parks and Conservation Service, Bernadette O'Leary, addressed the March meeting of the Association on the subject of the park.

Australian Alps proposed for World Heritage

The pressure to nominate the alps of Victoria, NSW and the ACT for World Heritage listing is building up. The Victorian Government has *been backing the idea for some time* and recently the NSW Government has begun examining the proposal. The scientific basis for the alps nomination was given a boost by the Fenner Conference at the Australian Academy of Science in Canberra in September. Late in 1988 the Victorian National Parks Association, in conjunction with the National Parks Associations of NSW and the ACT, produced an attractive 122-page Australian Alps World Heritage nomination proposal, written by **Geoff Mosley**. Extracts from the proposal, with slight amendments, are reproduced here. Dr Mosley will address the ACT Association's meeting on 20 April.

The World Heritage Convention

In 1972 the member states of UNESCO adopted the World Heritage Convention. Through the convention UNESCO has established a World Heritage List. This includes properties which have outstanding universal value and form part of the signatory country's cultural and natural heritage.

Throughout the world there are almost 300 World Heritage properties listed for preservation. These include the pyramids of Egypt, India's Taj Mahal and Sagarmatha National Park (containing Mount Everest) in Nepal. In Australia, eight



The diversity of eucalypt species in the alps is the basis for the proposal to nominate the area for World Heritage status. The photograph, by Hedda Morrison, shows snow gums (Eucalyptus pauciflora) near 3 Mile Lake in the Kiandra area of Kosciusko National Park.

sites are listed. These include stages 1 and 2 of Kakadu National Park, the Willandra Lakes region of NSW, the Lord Howe Island group, the Western Tasmania Wilderness National Parks, the east coast rainforest parks in NSW, Uluru National Park (Ayers Rock and the Olgas), and the wet tropics of Queensland.

Preface to the alps nomination proposal

We tend to take the eucalypt forests for granted and it is easy to imagine from their ubiquitousness that they must be a very ancient flora. Actually, while they are a distinctive product of Australia, they are much more modern than the

rainforests which now exist in only a few places.

We owe their development to two major circumstances. Firstly, the stable history of Australia's land surfaces which through weathering created infertile soils, and secondly, our position close to Antarctica which cooled and dried our climate when its ice expanded. The result was the gradual emergence from the rainforest of plants well adapted to the poor soils and to the drier conditions – plants with hard leathery leaves of 'sclerophylls'. In the better watered south-eastern and south-western tips of the continent this new type of flora took a forest form; and

Areas in World Heritage proposal

In the Australian Capital Territory

Namadgi National Park

area in
hectares

94,000

In New South Wales

Kosciusko National Park

646,893

Bimberi Nature Reserve

7,100

Scabby Range Nature Reserve

3,400

In Victoria

Cobberas Tingaringy National Park

116,600

Cobberas Tingaringy National Park (unproclaimed)

38,000

Snowy River National Park

92,400

Bogong National Park

81,200

Wonnangatta Moroka National Park

107,000

Wabonga Plateau State Park

21,200

Baw Baw National Park

13,300

Mount Buffalo National Park

31,000

Avon Wilderness Park

40,000

Coopracambra Native Park

35,100

Errinundra National park

25,100

Proposed Additions to create Victorian Alpine National Park

292,050

Total proposed for World Heritage nomination

1,644,343

because Australia was isolated by its journey north from Antarctica it became dominated by the many species of a home grown genera – the eucalypts.

The stresses caused by the break up of the Australasian fragments of the former super continent Gondwana created the Australian Alps giving the sclerophyll open forests environmental scope for considerable diversification. Today, this eucalypt-dominated sclerophyll open forest occupies all but the highest areas. These distinctive forests with their rich fauna are the outstanding example of this phase in the evolution of the earth's cover.

The rainforests, now mere remnants, are deservedly the focus of much conservation interest. The eucalypt forests which have replaced them seem more extensive and therefore safer but the thought is an illusion and a threat since their genetic diversity is easily lost through human disturbance, and the world could lose a resource of great scientific, spiritual and commercial interest.

Similarly, the alpine communities perched precariously on the



Alpine sunrays (Helipterum albicans) near Blue Lake, Kosciusko National Park.

high plateaus, protecting the sources of our major rivers, are fragile and require careful conservation.

In 1977, the Australian Academy of Science commented on the world heritage qualities of the region and supported a continuous tract of parkland. Ten years later the Victorian Government announced it would nominate the Victorian alps and forest parks of East Gippsland for inscription in the World Heritage List. In September 1988 the First Fenner Conference

at the Academy of Science in Canberra on the scientific significance of the Australian Alps also resolved in support of World Heritage nomination on the basis of the area's scientific values.

The study area

The study area, as determined by the Victorian National Parks Association in consultation with sister organisations in New South Wales and the ACT, comprised the areas listed in the table at left (for location, see map). Altogether the protected lands in the study area cover 1,314,293 hectares and the areas proposed for protection 330,050 hectares, a total of 1,644,343 hectares.

The nomination

The title given to the nomination is the *Sclerophyll Open Forests of Australian Alps Region*.

Justification

(natural property)

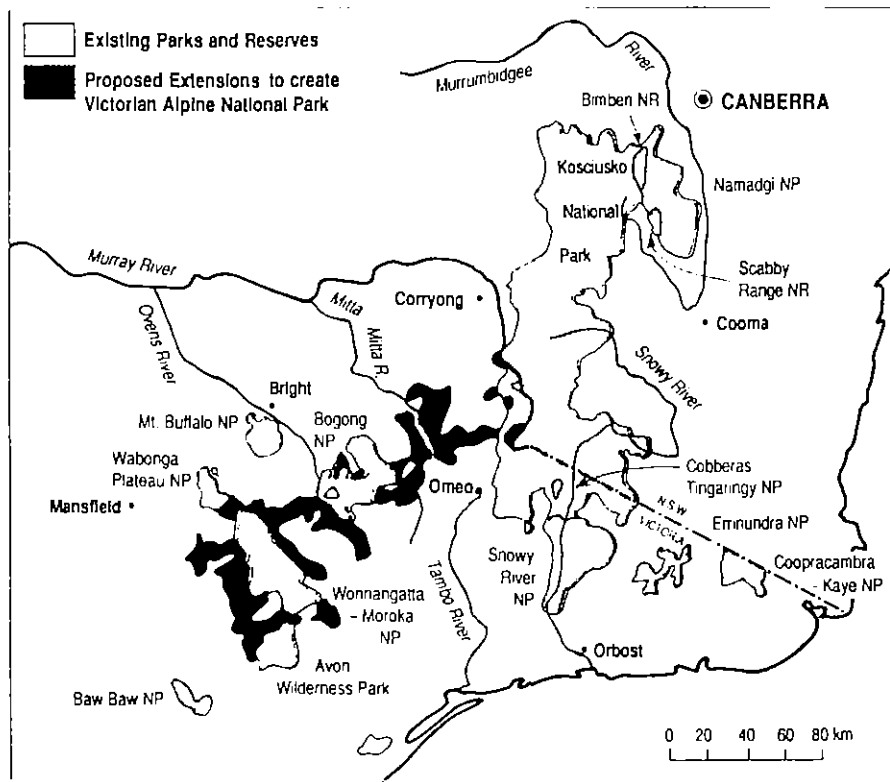
The nominated areas satisfy all four criteria required for inscription on the World Heritage list as a natural property. Their features are considered worthy of nomination by the Australian Academy of Science, and the Australian Conservation Foundation.

(a) Representing major stages in the earth's evolutionary history

The Australian angiosperm flora contains a very high proportion of xeromorphic plants and is unique for the way a few genera, notably the largely endemic Eucalyptus, dominates the vegetation. These features are the result of major events in the history of the southern hemisphere which followed the break up of Gondwana, namely the rafting northwards of the continent, the drying of the climate combined with the poverty of the deeply weathered soils of the continent's land surfaces.

The domination of the flora by the species of a few genera and the many endemic species are the result of the relative isolation of the continent over a period of 30

continued next page



Conservation areas in the World Heritage proposal

Alps for World Heritage

continued from previous page

million years. The contemporaneous uplift of the alps provided moist conditions for the ultimate development of a diverse forest form of the sclerophyll vegetation which today survives as a dynamic and well preserved living record of these events.

Although its history is less well known the fauna of the region is also important for evolutionary biology. Important discoveries in the last two decades such as the mountain pygmy possum and long-footed potoroo are a sign of the limited nature of our current knowledge. Understanding the relationship of the characteristic species, including unique marsupial arboreal browsers, nectar suckers and diverse seed eating parrots, to vegetative elements in the open sclerophyll forest, is crucial to the management of these elements. The relatively undisturbed forests of the nominated areas present unrivalled opportunities for research.

(b) Representing significant geological processes and biological evolution

The sites in this nomination provide the best example possible of the evergreen sclerophyllous forests, one of the world's 14 principal biome types recognised in the IUCN System of Biogeographical Provinces (International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, 1985). This biome is extremely poorly represented in existing and protected world heritage sites.

The detailed study of the diversity of the sclerophyll forest vegetation and the plant-animal relationships is only just beginning. The large number of distinctive genotypes are a distinctive resource of international importance in their own right. This knowledge and the future seed supply are of value wherever eucalypts are managed and planted.

(c) Contain rare or superlative natural phenomena, formations or features of exceptional natural beauty

The forests which stirred Baron Sir Ferdinand von Mueller to eloquence and to missionary zeal for their export to other lands are a magnificent sight. They reach their zenith in the tall mountain ash (*Eucalyptus regnans*) forests – the tallest flowering plants on earth. But each of the different species from the hardy snow gums to the white box of the drier country have a distinctive beauty. Not surprisingly, the bright light streaming through the open canopy is a major part of the atmosphere of the Australian bush.

The great extent of the forest is another outstanding feature. From the top of any one of the innumerable escarpments the country, as far as the eye can see, is covered with eucalypt forest, ridge after ridge to the horizon.

There are also many wildernesses incorporating sections of most of the characteristic landscapes of the region. The rolling plateau landscapes of Jagungal, the Pilot and Mount Bogong-Mount Nelse offer both a summer and winter wilderness experience, being ideal for cross country skiing.

(d) Habitats where populations of rare or endangered species of plants and animals survive

The alpine areas are the habitat of a number of species which are limited to the area, including the mountain pygmy possum (*Burrmys parvus*) and the Baw Baw frog (*Philoria frosti*), as well as many species of insects. Although the habitat seems adequate, all must be considered vulnerable because of their restricted distributions. The endemic plant species of the environment probably fall into the same category, although the cessation of grazing in the Snowy Mountains has improved the prospect for survival there.

Some forest types are rare in terms of limited areas which are in a natural condition. The only extensive stands of montane and wet sclerophyll native tall open forest exist in a recent addition to the Snowy River National Park and in



the newly created Errinundra National Park.

Summary of justification

The site has unusually outstanding examples of open sclerophyll forest which developed from rainforest in response to nutrient deficient soils and the drying of the climate. It is unique in terms of its domination by about 50 species of the distinctive Eucalyptus genera which developed during Australia's relative isolation following its separation from Gondwana. It is the best area in the world for showing this speciation.

Other areas of sclerophyll flora around the world are mainly scrub. None has extensive forests. In Australia no other large area primarily of interest for its eucalypts offers such a large altitudinal range for continuing speciation and migration.

- It offers the best prospects in the world for the conservation of the evergreen sclerophyllous forests biome.
- The endemic alpine vegetation has developed from autochthonous (indigenous) lowland vegetation and migrants. The Australian Alps is a regional dispersal centre for both elements.
- The higher areas are outstanding examples of a rock mantle created by periglacial processes. Unlike most of the world's mountain areas the soils are deep.

- The processes of speciation are still continuing and future migration within the region will be assisted by the over 2100 metres of altitudinal variation which exists in the area.
- The alps region provides habitats for populations of restricted species, and the forests offer the best opportunity on the continent for the protection of characteristic species whose future elsewhere is severely threatened.
- The distinctive landforms, vegetation and fauna combined with the absence of a permanent resident population and the undisturbed character of most of the area combine to create a superlative wild natural scenery.

Dr Geoff Mosley has worked over the last two years as director of his environmental consultancy firm, Peak Environmental Enterprises. Before that he was director of the Australian Conservation Foundation (1973-1986). A geographer by training he is the author of several books on conservation, the most recent being Antarctica Our Last Wilderness (1986) and Australia's Wilderness Heritage: World Heritage Areas (1988).

Copies of the illustrated nomination proposal are available for perusal in the NPA office library or may be purchased for \$20 (enquiries 571063).

REGENERATION – PLEASE KEEP OFF

says the sign.

Cattle cannot read but they do appreciate a luscious pasture. In January cattle grazing on Mount Bogong in Victoria broke through an inadequate fence near the Cleve Cole Memorial Hut. They vigorously attacked many years of regeneration. The effect of removing cattle from the alps is most marked on Mount Bogong, where previously rutted tracks have been covered by natural regrowth. This also shows the effect of allowing cattle to graze other parts of the Victorian alps. The break-in was reported to the parks service at Falls Creek but as the area is remote little remedial action was expected before the cattle returned to the low country in autumn. Colour slide by Dianne Thompson, negative and print by Reg Alder.

Cobberas-Tingaringy still unproclaimed

One of the vital parts of the proposed World Heritage nomination for the alps, the Cobberas-Tingaringy National Park, is still unprotected, despite long-standing legislation. There are continuing delays in the proclamation of parts of the park, which is near the Snowy River in Victoria. The legislation creating the park was passed ten years ago. This vital part of the Victorian alpine national park is at risk from mineral exploration and mining.

*VNPA Newsletter
December 1988*

Majority opposes exploitation of parks

An opinion poll has shown that 85 per cent of those surveyed oppose mineral exploration and mining in national parks. Over 70 per cent opposed grazing and timber production in parks. The majority also disapproved of major tourist facilities in national parks, though 72 per cent favoured the construction of kiosks.

The poll of 1307 people in January was conducted by the Australian Conservation Foundation in association with the market research company, Frank Small and Associates.

The poll is a warning for the states planning mineral and tourist development in national parks, some of which are detailed below.

ACF Conservation News
March 1989

Resort for Kangaroo Island

Developers have proposed a \$5.5 million tourist resort for Rocky River in Flinders Chase National Park on the rugged western coast of Kangaroo Island. Local people and conservationists oppose the proposal, which would affect the national park's fragile and unique vegetation.

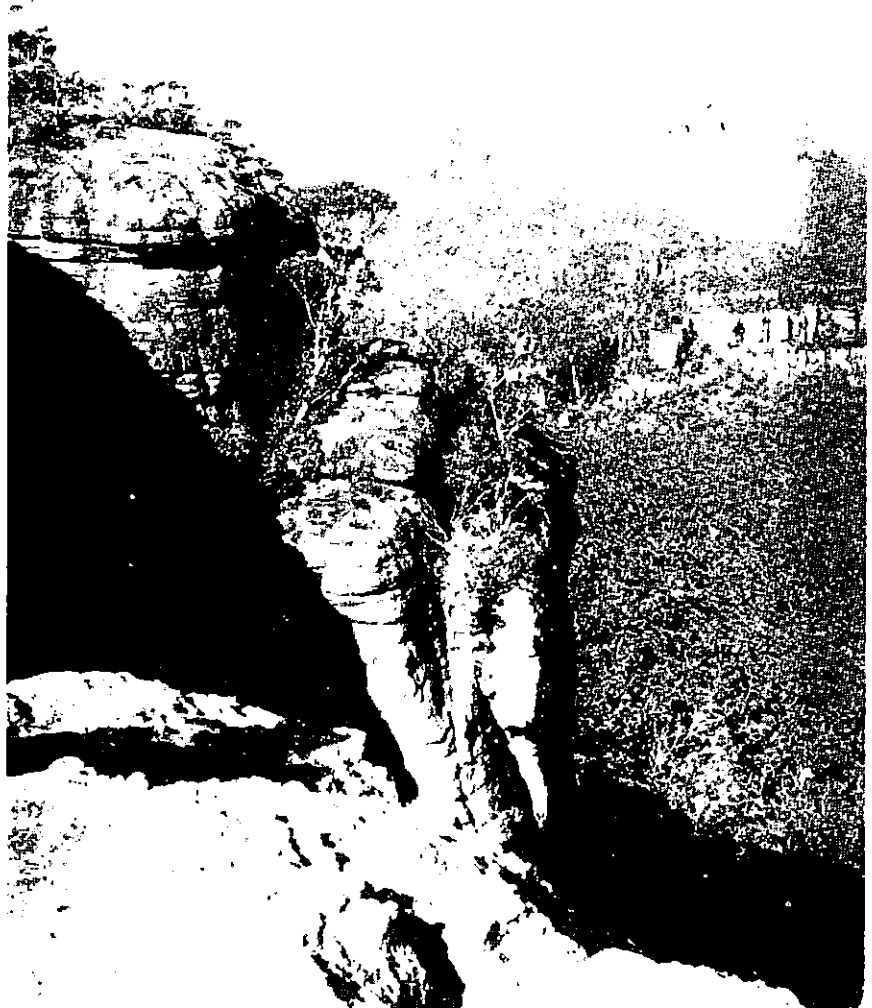
The resort has been approved in principle by the South Australian Government. The South Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service is assessing the environmental impact of the proposal.

Another tourist resort has been proposed just outside the national park

The Weekend Australian
4-5 February 1989

Other SA parks open for business

Meanwhile the fight continues in Flinders Ranges National Park. The South Australian Government has approved the first stage of a \$50 million resort near Wilpena Pound. The Australian Conservation



The view from a lookout along the Monolith Valley track, which is being upgraded, with Pigeon House in the distance. Photo Babette Scougall.

Foundation is challenging the decision in the courts and information days will be held at the site and in Adelaide.

The director of the South Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service (and former south-east regional director of the NSW service), Bruce Leaver, is reported to have said that commercial tourism in national parks is necessary in 'times of fiscal stringency'. Multiple land uses (mining, tourism, grazing), in the form of regional reserves, have been placed under the control of the park service which now manages 11 per cent of the state. However, only 3.8 per cent of the state is not

encumbered by mineral exploration or other commercial uses.

ACF Conservation News
March 1989

Deua National Park extended

The NSW Government has added 137 hectares, including 40 hectares of river frontage, to Deua National Park, on the coastal escarpment east of Canberra. The additions are close to the Araluen-Moruya road in the northern part of the park. The park, which includes much wild country (frequently disturbed by four-wheel-drivers on the network of 'fire' trails) is now

27 May-Saturday walk (A/B)

Horse Gully Hut Ref: ACT 1:100 000

Leader: Steven Forst 51 6817 (h) 56 2426 (w)

Meet at Kambah Village shops at 8.30 am. A 15 km walk from Mt Clear camping ground along fire trails beside the Naas River to Horse Gully Hut and return. 140 km drive.

27/28 May-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 Quilys Mountain. 25 km walk 340 km drive.

3/4 June-pack walk (2)

Hume and Hovell Track

Ref: Department of Lands sketch map, Bossawa Campsite to Thomas Boyd Trackhead

Leader: Phil Bubb 81 4929 (h) 46 6134 (w)

Contact leader by Wednesday for details. A 25 km walk along the Hume and Hovell Track from Micalong Swamp to the Goo-barragandra River, through dry montane forest. A 35 km car shuffle may be necessary. 240 km drive.

4 June-Sunday walk (A)

Nursery Hill Ref: Rendezvous Creek 1:25 000

Leader: Neville Esau 86 4176

Meet at Kambah Village shops at 8.30am. A 10 km walk with a 250 metre climb to one of the Nursery Peaks between Nursery and Rendezvous Creeks. Views over the central section of Namadgi with a return trip via Nursery Swamp and Nursery Creek. 100 km drive.

10/11/12 June-car camp (1)

Bournda

Leader: Ian Currie 95 8112

Contact leader by Wednesday for details. Camping on Lake Wallagoot in the Bournda State Recreation Area. Beach and forest walks. Consider staying even longer to fully explore and enjoy this restful scenic area. 200 km drive.

17/18 June-pack walk (3)

Booths Creek

Ref: Michelago 1:25 000

Leader: Jack Smart 48 8171

Note: Not for beginners. Contact leader by Wednesday for details. A walk from near the junction of Boboyan Road and the Brandy Flat Firetrail (810429) over Booths Hill and down the ridge to Booths Creek camping about 845462. A short exploratory walk without packs along Booths Creek will be attempted before returning over the saddle (840462) to Brandy Flat Firetrail (at 826456) and back along the track. 120 km drive.

14 June-Wednesday midweek walk (A)

Molonglo Gorge

Ref: ACT 1:100 000

Leader: Olive Buckman 48 8774

Meet at the first barbecue (picnic) area on the right (east) on Moreshead Drive after the main gate to Duntroon Military College at 10am. A 6 km return walk on tracks with some rocks and short climbs. 10 km drive.

24/25 June-pack walk (2/3)

Mt Owen

Ref: CMW Budawangs

Leader: Steven Forst 51 6817 (h) 56 2426 (w)

Contact leader by Wednesday for details. A walk to visit Mt Owen, Monolith Valley, Seven Gods Pinnacles, Natural Arch and possibly the Castle. 300 km drive.

1 July-Saturday walk (C)

Cotter Gap and Mt Orroral Ref: Corin Dam 1:25000
Rendezvous Creek 1:25000

Leader: Philip Gatenby 54 3094

Note: Not for beginners. Contact leader by Thursday for details of this walk in Namadgi National Park. The plan is to walk to Cotter Gap and then explore some of the rock outcrops around Mt Orroral. Return via Nursery Creek. Some thick scrub may be encountered and rock scrambling will be involved. A short car shuffle is intended. 100 km drive.

9 July-Sunday walk (A)

Googong Reservoir Ref: Captains Flat 1:25 000

Leader: Peter Roe 91 9535

Meet at Woolworths car park Queanbeyan at 8.30 am. A 12 km walk through London Bridge to Curleys Falls and into Compo Canyon walking on some fire trails then back to the cars via London bridge. 50 km drive.

13 July-Thursday midweek walk (B)

Sawpit Creek

Ref: ACT 1:100 000

Leader: Bob Story 81 2174

Meet at Kambah Village shops at 8.30am. Please contact leader by 12 July. A 16 km return walk from the car park at Orroral Valley Tracking Station on fire trail and bridle track towards Cotter Gap. 80 km drive.

Points to note

New faces to lead, new places to go. Please help keep our outings program alive by volunteering to lead a walk occasionally. Telephone the walks convenor, Steven Forst, on 516817 (h).

All persons joining an outing of the National Parks Association of the ACT 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 ACT, 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 (to the nearest dollar) be offered to the driver by each passenger accepting transport. Drive and walk distances quoted in the program are the approximate distances for return journeys.

Outings program April to July 1989



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 facilities often limited or non-existent. Vehicles taken to site can be used for camping. BOOK EARLY WITH LEADER.
Other activities include nature rambles, field guide studies, ski tours, snow crafts and tree maintenance.

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 but may include rougher terrain, ie. heavy scrub, rock hopping or scrambling, or steep terrain.
- D Up to 30 km on 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 but 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 walk in territory unfamiliar to the leader.
- The walks program contains additional information. If necessary, contact the leader.

2 April-Sunday walk (A/B)**Goodradigbee** Ref: ACT 1:100 000**Leader: Steven Forst 516817(h) 562426(w)**

Meet at the corner of Eucumbene Drive and Cotter Road at 8.30am. A 10 km walk down and along the river. Some very steep sections of track. 120km drive.

11 April-Tuesday midweek walk (A/B)**Hut on Hospital Creek** Ref: Yaouk 1:25 000**Leader: Bob Story 81 2174****NOTE** Change of date from that in previous program. Meet at Kambah Village shops at 8.30am. A pleasant day walk of 12 km mostly on tracks. 100 km drive.**8/9 April-pack walk (3/5)****Smokers Flat/McKeahnie Area****Ref: Corin dam 1:25 000****Leader: Les Pyke 81 2982**

Contact leader by Wednesday. An exploratory walk towards Orroral Valley from a base camp at Smokers Flat to establish a link-age point for a future walk from the valley. 80 km drive.

9 April-Sunday walk (B)**Black Springs** Ref: Tidbinbilla 1:25 000**Leader: Lyle Mark 86 2801**

Meet at the corner of Eucumbene Drive and Cotter Road at 8.30am. A 14 km walk to Fishing Gap and onto the Cotter River. Partly along historic bridle path. A long but gradual climb back to the gap. 70 km drive.

12 April-Wednesday meeting (D)**Outings Program Meeting** Ref: Canberra UBD**Leader: Steven Forst 51 6817 (h), 56 2646 (w)**

Meeting to be held at Steven's place, 46 Wybalena Grove. Cook from 7.30pm. The contents of the next outings program will be discussed, along with any other business. All welcome.

13 April-Thursday midweek walk (A)**Colinton Gorge** Ref: ACT 1:100 000/**Bredbo 1:25 000****Leader: Margaret Roseby 88 3679**

Meet at Kambah Village shops at 9am. A 15 km walk along the Murrumbidgee from Bredbo to nice vistas down Colinton Gorge. Level to undulating walking but with sand, rock, mud and probably cowpats underfoot. A short car shuffle is planned. Bring the billy for tea! 150 km drive.

15/16 April-pack walk (5)**Bundanoon Area** Ref: Bundanoon 1:25 000**Leader: Phillip Gatenby 54 3094**

Contact leader by Wednesday for details of this exploratory walk in Morton National Park, near Bundanoon. No tracks, steep climbs and rock hopping are likely. 300 km drive.

16 April-Sunday walk (A)**Mt Ginini-Ginini Flat** Ref: Corin Dam 1:25 000**Leader: Lyle Mark 86 2801**

Meet at the open parking area to the east of Bonner House,

Woden Town Centre at 8am. An 8 km walk among some of the highest peaks in the ACT. A botanist will be present to talk on the flora of the region. **Note:** The walk covers swampy terrain so a change of footwear would be advisable. 135 km drive.**16 April-Sunday walk (A)****Mt Ainslie-Mt Pleasant** Ref: ACT 1:100 000**Leader: Gary Schneider 54 9801**

Meet at the car park behind the War Memorial at 10.00am. An easy day walk with excellent views of Canberra.

18 April-Tuesday midweek walk (A/B)**Hardys Range** Ref: Cotter Dam 1:25 000**Leader: Charles Hill 95 8924**

Meet at the corner of Eucumbene Drive and Cotter Road at 9.30am. A 10 km walk the length of Hardys Range, through interesting terrain and with good views. A steep climb up a fire-break then easy undulating walking along the ridge. Total climb 400 metres. Walking on forest roads and in parts open forest. Suitable for anyone who can puff up a firebreak rising 200 metres. 40 km drive.

19 April-Wednesday midweek walk (A)**Yerrabi Track** Ref: Rendezvous Creek 1:25 000**Leader: Reg Alder 54 2240**

Meet at Namadgi National Park visitors centre on the Tharwa-Adaminaby (Boboyan) road at 11.00am. A 5 km return walk along a well graded track constructed by members of the NPA with a 150 metre climb to a point with views of the spectacular and prominent features of Namadgi. 40 km drive (150 km round trip from Canberra).

23 April-Sunday historic walk (B/C)**Brayshaws Hut** Ref: Yaouk 1:25 000**Shannons Flat 1:25 000****Leader: Andrew Lyne 88 6682****Note:** For experienced bushwalkers only. Meet at Brayshaws Hut on the right of the Boboyan Road just before Grassy Creek at 9.00am. This walk is planned by the Kosciusko Huts Association and will be jointly led by representatives of the KHA and NPA. A 19 km walk which takes in Westermans Hut, Lone Pine Homestead, Boboyan Homestead ruin etc. KHA members will discuss the historic significance of the sites visited. 160 km return drive from Canberra.**23 April-Sunday walk (A)****Historic walk** Ref: Yaouk 1:25 000**Shannons Flat 1:25 000****Leader: Syd Comfort 86 2578**

Meet at Kambah Village shops at 9.00am. This is a shorter variation of the Brayshaws Hut walk. A 12 km walk from the junction of the Boboyan and Old Boboyan Roads visiting the hut and yards of the Naas Creek area, the Boboyan Homestead ruin and the site of James Brayshaw's house. 135 km drive.

30 April-Sunday walk (A)**Orroral Valley** Ref: Corin Dam 1:25 000**Leader: Shirley Lewis 95 2720**

Meet at Kambah Village shops at 9.00am. A 14 km walk along Orroral Valley with lunch near Sawpit Creek. Very little climbing involved. 100 km drive.

6 May-Saturday walk (C)**Cotter Rocks** Ref: ACT 1:100 000**Leader: Steven Forst 51 6817 (h), 56 2426 (w)**

Meet at Kambah Village shops at 8.00am. A 23 km walk from Orroral Valley up the old bridle track to Cotter Gap and up to Cotter Rocks. This spectacular pile of giant boulders gives great views of Namadgi. One of the boulders has a dog leg fracture to walk through. This is a long walk mostly on trails, however, the final climb to the rocks is through open bush. 100 km drive.

6/7 May-weekend away (A)**Braidwood History Tour****Leader: Kevin Frawley 82 3080**

Contact leader early as numbers are limited. The Braidwood district retains strong elements of 19th century European settlement, agricultural experimentation and development. The landscape today reflects a settlement pattern and economy largely established by World War 1. During the weekend we will look at the history of the district in the course of visiting some of the remnants of 19th century settlement. Little walking involved. Families welcome. Numbers limited. NPA members only. 180 km drive.

10 May-Wednesday midweek walk (A)**Yerrabi Track** Ref: Yaouk 1:25 000**Leader: Trevor Plumb 81 3258**

Meet at Kambah Village shops at 9.30am. A 5 km walk along the NPA built Yerrabi Track to Boboyan Trig for fine views of Namadgi National Park (weather permitting). A climb of 150 metres on a well-graded track. 100 km drive.

13/14 May-pack walk (3/5)**Orroral Valley/Smokers Flat****Ref: Corin Dam 1:25 000****Leader: Les Pyke 81 2982**

Contact leader by Wednesday for details. An exploratory walk towards Smokers Flat from a base camp near the dog fence at the end of Orroral Valley. 100 km drive.

14 May-Sunday walk (B/C)**Fishing Gap to Camels Hump****Ref: Tidbinbilla 1:25 000****Leader: Phil Bubb 81 4929 (h) 46 6134 (w)**

Meet at the gate to Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve by 9am at the latest. An arduous but scenic walk over the ridges which form the Canberra skyline. 70 km drive.

20 May-Saturday walk (A/B)**Casuarina Sands to Kambah Pool****Ref: ACT 1:100 000****Leader: Dugald Monroe 31 8776**

Meet at Kambah Pool overflow car park (turn right after crossing cattle grid at entrance) at 8.30 am. A 16 km walk on the Murrumbidgee Walking Trail. A car shuffle is necessary. 10 km drive.

Parkwatch

about 81,275 hectares in extent, including 42 kilometres of the winding and rugged Deua River. The new areas contain tall river oaks and will improve access to the park. A camping area is to be established on the river bank.

National Parks Journal (NSW)
December 1988

Encroaching on Murramarang

The Colong Foundation for Wilderness has raised the problem of some caravan residents at Merry Beach encroaching on Murramarang National Park, on the south coast of NSW. The NSW Opposition Leader, Mr Bob Carr, has criticised the occupation in the NSW Parliament. The caravans, some of which have annexes set in concrete, are a cheap (but crowded) way of getting a holiday home on the beachfront.

The Total Environment Centre in Sydney has urged the NSW Department of Lands not to allow any caravan parks on public reserves and to remove those that are already occupying parklands. Some caravan parks are in environmentally sensitive sites beside watercourses or behind sand dunes. The government has plans to legalise some caravan parks by revoking the reserve's status!

Another threat to the national park is a proposal to redevelop 524 hectares of land on the western shores of Durras Lake as a 'rural resort'. The Total Environment Centre in Sydney has proposed extending the national park to take in this area, presenting detailed plans to the NSW Government in 1985. The original proposal to include the lake in the park was made by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service in 1969. Conservationists have been pushing for protection since then.

Any clearing or development would jeopardise the integrity of the lake system, one of the few remaining, relatively undeveloped, large lagoons on the south coast.

Parkwatch

Durras Lake has a variety of habitats for water fowl and other fauna – shallow estuary, shallow saline lagoon, saltmarsh, salt meadows, reed swamps and casuarina swamps. NSW fishing authorities are concerned that urban expansion may cause siltation and excessive weed growth in the lake, as has happened on the central NSW coast.

Total Environment Centre Newsletter, November 1988

(The director of the Total Environment Centre, Milo Dunphy, will address the Association's May general meeting on the problems of coastal development).

Budawang track work

The track through Morton National Park to Monolith Valley is at some places like a four-lane highway, at others like a boggy pig-pen. The Canberra Bushwalking Club, in conjunction with the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, is working to reroute and stabilise the track to reduce its environmental impact. The work will include establishing new pathways through Monolith Valley, posting signs and building bridges. Materials have been airlifted into the area and a number of working parties have already spent weekends on the job.

Anyone wishing to help the Canberra Bushwalking Club with the restoration work should contact the project coordinator, David Campbell, on (062) 541511 (home) or 754702 (work).

Nattai park proposal

The Colong Foundation for Wilderness has launched a campaign to save the Nattai bushland northwest of Mittagong. The rugged region is part of the Greater Blue Mountains National Park Plan put forward by Myles Dunphy and the National Parks and Primitive Areas Council in 1933.

The Nattai wilderness contains large areas of forested river flats and is rich in birdlife. Ironbarks and

Parkwatch

Sydney blue gums clothe the valleys. The area is Crown or Water Board land.

Conservationists took the NSW Environment Minister, Tim Moore, for a walk in the area in October. He said that the main obstacle is the objections of the Department of Mineral Resources, which does not want to 'sterilise' the coal under the proposed park. Attempts at coal mining in the area have proved uneconomic.

Local politicians, including the National Party Member for Goulburn, Robert Webster, have supported the park proposal. Any other supporters should write to the NSW Premier, Nick Greiner, at Parliament House, Sydney, calling for dedication of the park.

Total Environment Centre Newsletter, November 1988

More mining for Kakadu

BHP continues to push for mining in the conservation zone within stage 3 of Kakadu National Park. The company has gained an exploration licence for the El Sherana area, near Coronation Hill. Submissions on the environmental impact statement for gold and platinum mining at Coronation Hill are currently being assessed. Conservationists have objected that mining in the conservation zone is a threat to wildlife in the headwaters of the South Alligator River which flows through the area.

As the Federal Cabinet debates the merits of including the conservation zone in the national park, letters opposing mining in the existing and proposed national park are needed. Send them to the Prime Minister and other Cabinet ministers.

ACF Conservation News
March 1989

Civic planning and the Kingsley Street area

The Civic Centre Policy Plan released by the National Capital Development Commission (now disbanded) in January 1989 has particular significance for the Association and other organisations located in the Childers-Kingsley-Hutton Street area.

The policy provides that 'a community use precinct around Hutton Street will be created'. The plan recognises that Civic is the location of a wide range of social and community facilities which serve both local and metropolitan populations and contribute to the diversity and character of Civic both during working hours and at night. It is the intention of the plan that the uses currently catered for in the Hutton Street precinct will be retained.

Community organisations may draw comfort from these planning decisions but further reading of the plan indicates that the picture is not without shadows:

- a permanent car parking structure is planned to adjoin the Hutton Street community area, facing Barry Drive and extending over the area now occupied by the Pensioners' Club
- although the primary land uses intended for the Hutton Street area are social, community, cultural and a health centre, other ancillary land uses to be considered include retail, restaurant, office suites, motel and carparking
- a regular review (annually) of Civic community spaces and requirements will be co-ordinated by the ACT Administration
- although the policy plan remains valid after the demise of the NCDC, the plan may be changed by the planning authorities which replace the commission. Thus it is unlikely that this January 1989 plan will be the last word on land use in Civic.

How does the plan relate to the submissions made by the Residents of Childers and Kingsley Streets (ROCKS) in response to



Car-parking stretches from Marcus Clarke Street to the University. The Environment Centre is in the middle distance on the left, the NPA office is to its left.

the 1988 draft plan? The major policies advocated by ROCKS have been largely adopted in that a community precinct has been declared, existing uses will be retained and the land use statement makes other uses subsidiary to community, social and cultural use. However, ROCKS' opposition to a parking structure has not been accepted nor have the concerns about traffic pressures in the area been allayed. ROCKS put forward a concept of a low key development in a landscaped setting and this has not been specifically adopted. However, without favouring any particular style or concept, the plan does place a three-storey

limit in Hutton Street and requires that the buildings in the precinct be developed on the basis of a comprehensive plan, thus leaving the way open for possible acceptance of many aspects of the ROCKS proposal.

Thus by creating a community precinct in Hutton Street the plan gives a positive direction to the development of the area but there continues to be a need for vigorous community effort to influence further planning and development to ensure that community interests are well served by future decisions affecting the area.

Syd Comfort

Conference on giardia

Giardia is a parasitic organism that causes persistent stomach pain. In North America giardiasis has become common and is known as 'backpackers' disease'. It is also affecting increasing numbers of those who drink untreated water from the mountain streams around Canberra. (Anyone unwise enough to drink from Canberra's rivers and lakes would be very likely to suffer from giardiasis).

The managers of water catchments, reservoirs and associated recreation areas have to face a number of difficult management issues. These include the problem of protecting native animals which may be carriers of the disease.

As well as spreading in waterways, giardia can be transmitted by hand to mouth contact in places where high standards of personal hygiene are not maintained, including some child-care centres.

The Centre for Continuing Education at the Australian National University is organising a conference on the medical and water-management issues of giardia, to be held on 21 April. The conference will bring together experts on a number of aspects of giardia. Participants will examine its epidemiology, pathology and diagnosis, as well as its detection and treatment in water supplies.

The conference is open to anyone interested in giardia. For information write to the Giardia Conference, Centre for Continuing Education, ANU, GPO Box 4, Canberra 2601, or telephone (062) 493891.

Grants for National Estate announced

The Federal Government has made a grant of \$13,500 to the ACT Parks and Conservation Service to rehabilitate the Gudgenby pine plantation over the next three years. The work, proposed in the plan of management for Namadgi National Park, relates to radiata pines at the southern end of the Boboyan pine plantation. These were burnt during bushfires in 1983 and have been neglected since.

Grants made under the National Estate Grants Program for the ACT were announced in February. The grants totalled \$70 000 for 1988-89 and \$23 000 for later years.

Other grants to the Parks and Conservation Service were for:

- the preparation of a conservation plan for sites of cultural significance in the London Bridge karst area (\$5000). Sites identified will be nominated for the Register of the National Estate.
- the preparation of a conservation plan for caves in the Paddy's River precinct (\$8000). Significant sites will be nominated for the Register of the National Estate.

- the preparation of a conservation plan for the Reid Urban Conservation Area (\$15 000). Significant elements will be identified to bring up to date the listing on the Register of the National Estate.

- a survey of government housing stock in central Canberra, in conjunction with the ACT Housing Trust (\$20 000). This project will identify pieces of cultural heritage of National Estate significance.

The National Trust of Australia (ACT) has received grants to:

- publish registers of classified places and of significant 20th-century architecture in the ACT (\$5000).
- research, recommend the National Estate listing of, and publish a register of classified places (\$17 000).

The ACT chapter of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects received a grant of \$9,500 to record and exhibit entries in the Marion Mahoney Griffin Measured Drawing Competition, which provides accurate and enduring records of National Estate buildings in the ACT.

Hazardous chemicals seminar

The Australian Environment Council (the council of all environment ministers) will hold a seminar on hazardous chemicals on 8 and 9 May in Belconnen.

The topic is *Education for understanding chemicals – putting chemical hazards in perspective*. It aims to overcome ignorance and misconceptions about the relative hazards and benefits of chemicals in the environment.

The seminar has been designed for teachers and other educators, manufacturers and users of chemicals, conservation-

ists, farmers, unions, emergency services and the news media.

The keynote speaker will be Dr Herbert Thier, from the University of California, Berkeley. He is director of a project devoted to the integration of chemical concepts and social issues.

The seminar fee is \$60. Anyone interested should contact, as soon as possible, the AEC seminar organiser, chemicals management section, Department of the Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and Territories, GPO Box 787, Canberra 2601.

Just briefly

At an official dinner held recently in Melbourne, NPA members Bill Adams and Charles Hill were presented with medals commemorating 50 years with the Melbourne Bushwalking Club.

A colony of strangely silent, uncharacteristically non-odoriferous 'flying foxes' is presently hanging from foliage at the Australian National Botanic Gardens. It helps create the correct atmosphere in the visitors' centre (open weekdays 10am-4pm, weekends 9.30am-4.30pm) for the current display: **Rain Forest - a world of difference**, which opened in December and continues until late in May.

To quote the gardens' news release 'The exhibition displays flora and fauna of Australia's rainforests and outlines the features which characterise these special places.' As well as the more correctly named fruit bats, there are twisted vines, primitive flowering plants, strangler figs, rainforest insects of amazing size and colour and other seldom-seen treasures.



the lesser long-eared bat

It is appropriate to mention here, one of the gardens' horticultural triumphs - the Rainforest Gully. Only 20 years ago this was a dry gully with a few scattered eucalypts. Now, shaded pathways and boardwalks guide visitors through majestic tree-ferns and tall rainforest trees - plantings ranging from the wet valleys of Tasmania to the mountain rainforests of north Queensland. Seats placed along

the way are an invitation to linger awhile in the coolness.

Did you know that the Australian National Botanic Gardens:

- occupy 90 hectares on the slopes of Black Mountain, Canberra, and 80 hectares at the Jervis Bay annexe on the NSW coast
- were opened in 1970 and now contain 90,000 live plants representing 6,000 species and receive about 40,000 visitors each year
- aims to increase knowledge, appreciation and enjoyment of Australia's plant heritage by establishing a national collection of living and herbarium specimens of Australian plants for study, interpretation and display.

Visitor services aim to provide a favourable environment for people to enjoy and understand the national collection in the gardens and Australia's plant heritage, through publications, exhibitions and interpretive programs.

Whilst graffiti on mountain tops should not be condoned, it is difficult to ignore the curiosity and interest created on discovering the scribbles of 80 or 90 years ago, as Reg Alder demonstrates in the following contribution:

Tidbinbilla, the 1561-metre peak southwest of Canberra, has always been a beckoning beacon for walkers to climb, and from it enjoy the extensive views of the Canberra plain and the Colter valley.

The wooden trigonometrical station on Tidbinbilla Peak was erected in 1897 and until recently had weathered the violent storms which blast across its narrow ridge. The top of the mast rotted and the vanes carrying the graffiti of 202 agile, determined walkers has fallen to the ground. There is now no 'visitors book' on Tidbinbilla.

On 18 August 1902, A McIntyre was the first to pencil a name, followed by some in 1907, early cadets from Duntroon in 1912 and some from the Sydney University in 1913. Names follow regularly over the intervening years, including one who may not now wish to be associated with graffiti. A complete list of the names has been recorded.

It is amazing with the exposure to the weather, that the vanes with the early names are only slightly less legible than those of more recent origin.

Obviously Reg does not take signs along the road at their face value, as evidence in his other item:

Seen from the road TALLANGATTA VALLEY - PINE FREE ZONE. It is not that the farmers object to pines, but the resumption of cleared land for pine plantations. Native forests in the area are now considered too steep for clearing and too expensive for growing pines. The lower, already cleared hills are a more economical proposition.

On the border of an established pine forest, NATIVE PLANTS AND ANIMALS ARE PROTECTED. They probably need to be, as not many would be found in the sterile understorey of the pines.



Brief travelogues brought to you in the last issue were of Africa, America, Fair Isle, and Lord Howe Island, with highlights of trips made by Norma Price, the Curries, and Olive Buckman. Here are a few features of a trip to Europe taken recently by Sheila Kruse.

During four happy weeks in England and Scotland, the time was divided between family affairs, and walking in the country and in fresh sea air, the latter promoting the healthy appetite required for those enormous Scottish meals!

Four memorable weeks were spent in France. A visit was made to historic Bayeux to view the famous tapestry, thereby fulfilling a long-standing ambition for Sheila. Bayeux has other claims to fame. It was the first French town to be liberated from the Nazi occupation in 1945, and as such is a fitting location for the vast D-Day, Normandy Landing Museum. Five days of Mediterranean warmth were appreciated at sunny Toulon after the cold temperatures experienced in the charming small town of Colmar is Alsace. As well, a few days were spent in Paris (apparently working her usual magic).

Only perhaps one other city is more celebrated in music and song than Paris. That is Vienna, where Sheila spent four days enjoying the beauty of baroque architecture and music. Just ask her about it.

Contributions to this column, particularly items regarding members and their outings, etc are required. Please forward to Melliodora on 881889.



Nature of Australia producer talks

The February meeting of the Association was treated to an address by a producer from the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's natural history unit, Dione Gilmour. As well as showing videotape from the acclaimed series, *Nature of Australia*, Dione revealed the techniques and skills required to make such a documentary. Of course, as any wildlife watcher knows, one of the secrets to seeing animals is patience. Another is advice from experts in the field.

But there were some particular innovations that contributed to

making the television series. Scenes in the canopy of the rainforest were taken by a photographer suspended from a flying fox. Unusual footage of platypus in a stream was shot in a netted stretch of a river near Hobart. Skilful editing combined broad vistas of Australia with close-ups of animals taken in a studio in Melbourne.

The meeting also heard from one of the candidates in the ACT election, Tony Fleming, a former director of the Conservation Council of the South East Region and Canberra who will go close to taking a seat in the assembly.

Quarry extension queried

The Association has written to the NSW Minister for Local Government and Planning, Mr David Hay, expressing its concern at a proposal to extend the red gravel quarry near Ginninderra Falls, just outside the ACT. Tharwa Sands Pty Ltd has made the proposal to Yarrawlumla Shire.

The plan is to extend the existing quarry to the top of the hill and into an area that the shire has designated, under its 1986 Local Environmental Plan, an Environment Protection (Scenic) Zone. This zone includes the Ginninderra Falls, a popular recreation area and tourist attraction.

The Association believes that the environment protection zoning was made with good reason. The area is environmentally sensitive and enhances the visual amenity of the shire. The letter stated that quarrying should not be allowed in the environment protection zone. The quarry could be substantially extended without intruding into the zone.

The letter stated that whatever economic arguments were put for the quarry extension, 'the long-term preservation of this area for the enjoyment of present and future generations is the only consideration in this matter.'

Butts start bushfires

According to the February newsletter of Canberra Action on Smoking and Health, *Ashes to Dust*, half of the fires in the ACT in 1987-88 for which a cause was identified were caused by smoking materials. Cigarette butts and other smoking materials were suspected of causing 35.8 per cent of all bushfires. When the figure for unknown causes was distributed among the suspected causes, this indicated the higher figure.

Suspected causes of bushfires in the ACT, 1987-88

Smoking materials	35.8%
Campfires	10.1%
Lightning	7.3%
Device	4.6%
Burnoff	4.6%
Vehicle	3.7%
Other	4.6%
Unknown	29.4%

Marvellous Namadgi

Dear Reg

In a sentence, we had a marvellous walk through Namadgi. We had a drizzly, cold start as we walked up the Orroral Valley to make camp by lunchtime which was all most of the group wanted to do after the long overnight bus trip. In the afternoon as the rain cleared four of us walked up to what Graham Barrow has called in his latest book, Eyerie Rock.

On the following morning we walked up to Mount McKeahnie and then after lunch took to the road and then the bridle path to Cotter Gap where we camped. From Cotter Gap we climbed up to that big rock to the south. There are some good views there but the real feature is a fantastic passageway through the rock where it has split in a precise L-shape. The line of the passageway is so straight, it looks as though it's man-made. From there we walked south along the ridge through the sometimes quite thick fire regrowth until we dropped down to Little Creamy Flats.

After lunch we climbed up on to the bluff you marked GV on my map for good views (it became known to us as Mount GV) and then south to Namadgi past the bora ground. I think the view from the top of Namadgi is just great. Although not as high as Kelly, you really are right in the centre of all that wilderness area and the weather was perfect except for a very strong westerly wind which blew for most of the trip. We returned to camp by the very easy route - Creamy Flats and along Creamy Creek. I would love to return to Creamy Flats someday to camp for a couple of nights.

The following day we headed down Creamy Flats Creek through thick fire regrowth and did a side trip to Coronet Peak.

After lunch we crossed over the ridge and down towards the junction of Licking Hole Creek and Creamy Flats Creek. I wish we

hadn't. It was hard going down the steep slope but worse was the fire regrowth on the flat. At one stage we just had to take to the creek but even that was no good as the way was blocked with flood rubbish. Next time I would use the track out from Little Creamy Flats. Still we got to a campsite on Bimberi Creek and had enough time for a late afternoon stroll to Cotter Flats.

The following morning we left the road about 300 metres south of Cotter Hut for the ascent of Bimberi. It was very steep at first, then steady going and a bit scrubby on the last section before we reached the snow grass and snow gums. It was a four hour climb to the trig where we had lunch and then crossed that open bowl to the west of the trig point to make camp. It was well worth camping on the top with a spectacular sunset that night.

Next day to Murray Gap, up Murray for lunch and then to the very nice camping spot below Mount Morgan travelling cross country. After a packless early morning ascent up Morgan, we followed the road down and crossed the flat to the base of Scabby. I simply could not find the start of the fire trail up to Scabby you had marked on the map so we pushed up that ridge and finally about two thirds of the way up came onto it. It is in a dreadful condition - really it is an eroded gutter and no attempt has been made to put logs across to prevent erosion.

The views from the top of Scabby were great, particularly on to the southern ridge where we could see a small tarn. We then moved through thick regrowth again along the Scabby ridge to the small tarn which had very little water in it, to camp. That was our hardest day and in hindsight I should have stopped at Mount Scabby.

On then along the ridge, dropping down to Sam's Creek and a

packless round trip up to Mount Kelly and over to the mountain to its west. Sam's Creek is a problem area. Too many groups going in and lighting campfires so the area is becoming dotted with campfire remains. I have a strict policy now of no fires for groups I lead in wilderness areas. All cooking must be done by stoves. The wind on Kelly was unbelievably strong.

The next day along the creek and a side trip up Mount Gudenby where we saw the first people since leaving Orroral valley. Then after regaining packs, along the Naas Valley to camp near the yards. I had forgotten what a beautiful valley it is, but the rabbits pose enormous problems, they are in such great numbers.

On the last day after a morning walk up on to Sentry Box Hill (we didn't bother going right around to the Sentry Box rock) we walked out to the waiting bus on the Boboyan Road.

In just over a week's time four of us head to Cooma for 10 days in the Brogo wilderness - still the most fantastic place I have ever been to.

Thank you very much for your advice for our walk, it was absolutely vital and meant that we did the right thing in relation to getting camping permits for the Cotter catchment.

Stephen Johnston

Stephen Johnston is a Melbourne journalist and member of the Association. He is also vice-president of the Victorian National Parks Association. This is the text of a letter to Reg Alder.

Shy ladies and their family

I recently began collecting material for a talk about Allan Cunningham, botanist and explorer. As well as re-reading W G McMinn's biography of Cunningham (Melbourne University Press, 1970) and planning to consult at least some of its many references, I obtained from the National Library a print-out of post-1970 publications on my chosen subject. This list was short but contained one title I found intriguing 'Allan Cunningham and the Shy Ladies at Caley's Repulse'. As far as I knew, Cunningham had little to do with ladies, shy or otherwise, after his mother's death when he was still a child. On the other hand, one of his favourite phrases was 'the pursuit of Flora' according to his first biographer, Robert Heward in 1842.

The Shy Ladies article was by A E J Andrews and appeared in the *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society* in October 1985. As I soon found, it contains no information whatsoever about Cunningham's social life, but is nevertheless of some interest.

First, a little explanation about Caley's Repulse. This was a cairn, or perhaps just a heap of stones, near Linden on the Blue Mountains of New South Wales. Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth saw it in 1813 and associated it with George Bass. William Cox in 1814 called it Caley's Pile and Lachlan Macquarie in 1815 referred to it as Kealys Repulse because, as Cunningham recorded in April 1817, it was 'supposed to have been erected by the indefatigable and persevering botanist Mr George Caley, and suspected to his farthestmost advancement Westward in a grand botanical excursion which he had undertaken with a view to crossing the Mountains'. (Caley was paid 15 shillings a week as a botanical collector by Sir Joseph Banks and operated in New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land between 1800 and 1810).

According to Andrews there is no evidence that Caley ever visited this site. On his expedition, in 1804, he kept to the north of the Grose River and reached a point in the vicinity of Mount Banks. Whether or not he met the Shy Ladies has not been established.

But who or what were the Shy Ladies? If you are schooled in botany, I suggest you read no further. But if, like me, you are an amateur who likes to see even a few small pieces of the giant botanical jigsaw fit together, then this may interest you. Today the Shy Ladies are called *Acrophyllum australe* and their family is the Cunoniaceae (R D Hoogland, *Brunonia*, 1981, 4 : 213-16), although in earlier publications you are likely to find them under *Calycomis australis*.

Acrophyllum is a rare shrublet found amongst ferns in a few dark, moist sites between Springwood and Lawson - not at Caley's Repulse itself, which Cunningham described as an 'extremely bleak barren part'.

In his description of the shrub Andrews says it is likely to put us in mind of Sydney's 'black wattle'. That statement came as a surprise to me but the answer is simple. Sydney's black wattle is not an acacia but is *Callicoma serratifolia*, another member of the Cunoniaceae family.

According to Thistle Harris in my 1962 edition of *Wild Flowers of Australia*, the first wood used in Australia for the wattles of the wattle-and-daub huts was cut from trees of this species. They were common around the shores of Sydney Cove and Black Wattle Bay received its name from the many specimens growing in the swamp at its head (now Wentworth Park). Later, acacias came to be used as wattles and by popular consent the common name of 'wattle' was transferred to them.

There are some fine specimens of *Callicoma serratifolia* in the rain-

forest area at the Australian National Botanic Gardens, along with two other attractive members of the family, *Ceratopetalum gum-miferum* (the New South Wales Christmas bush) and *C. apetalum* (coachwood). Another member of the family, and one that could never be called shy, is *Andopetalum*, notorious in south-west Tasmania for its horizontal habit. Its slender stems bend and tangle to form almost impenetrable horizontal jungles.

Trevor Plumb

Sick and injured animals

The Wildlife Foundation is an organisation that cares for orphaned, sick and injured native birds and other animals in the ACT. It is a voluntary organisation that cooperates with the ACT Parks and Conservation Service.

The foundation has a very good record of rehabilitating young magpies, wombats and kangaroos - even the occasional platypus - and returning them in a fit state to the wild. For feeding the young animals they use special formulas of milk.

The foundation is seeking new members or donations of money or equipment - an old cage. If you are interested in helping, or come across an injured animal, telephone the 24-hour answering service on (062) 804537 or write to the foundation at PO Box 207, Jamison Centre ACT 2614.

Youth on right track

Much is written about youth today with its predilection for tobacco, alcohol, drugs and all manner of material acquisitions.

Recently, in the company of several other NPA members, I walked for five days over Mount Bogong in the Victorian national park of the same name. Out party consisted of the two younger Thompson children who managed the problems of pack weight, steep terrain, long climbs, rain, heat and cold with a positive equanimity that made their company a pleasure.

At every camp we were joined by young people. At the first, in the company of their mothers, they had come across the top of Mount Bogong in mist and rain to make camp on sodden ground. They freely gathered wood, albeit a little too enthusiastically, assisted their parents and made no intrusions on our affinity with the peacefulness of our camp alongside the Big River.

Mount Bogong is a popular destination for day-trippers coming up one of the spurs from near the town of Mount Beauty. There was a succession of groups, one happy one came with their two-litre bottle of fizz, large slabs of ginger cake and an enormous bag of fruit. This varied, but probably not unusual diet, was consumed with great vigour and banter before a line-up for photos alongside the trig and then at what appeared to be the start of a skipping race dashed off down towards the Staircase Spur, no doubt arriving home tired but happy with slightly aching muscles.

At our camp near the Cleve Cole Memorial Hut an eager working party was carrying large slabs of stone from much higher up to provide the raw material for extending a room on the hut. Near our camp a group of ex-Scout Venturers came over to ask if they could join our camp fire and pool experiences. One other nearby camper came over to tell us how he was studying to be a physiotherapist with computer experience, his problems of

keeping an ailing VW on the road and of the various jobs he had to take on to support himself in his studies. One piece of sound advice that he gave was that at an interview it was best to over-emphasise your minimum experience rather than the lack of it. Another, a high-school history teacher, told us about all the problems of the NSW education system under the new government and of how he had wanted to be a lawyer, but settled for teaching after finding out the hard way that he was unsuited to study law.

At our final camp, once again on the Big River, another lone walker joined us, not from choice as one of his companions had developed a knee injury and had to withdraw with her companion from their projected eleven day walk. He had an enormous pack load, even on his last day, as he had taken over much of the surplus food of his companions - probably because it was difficult to divide up a tin meant to be shared by three. He was studying to be a cartographer, again with computer experience. He was in all the outdoor activities, canoeing, walking, rock climbing, hang gliding, running up stairs of tall buildings etc. He described falling off a rock face and being held by the rope as being good to set the adrenalin flowing!

With all our silver, grey, salt and pepper and tinges of shades to come we appeared to be the oldest group on the mountain. One marathon type was very interested in our ages. We were more interested in how youth is taking up the outdoors and with their healthy attitude to life.

The youthful camaraderie on the track and their acceptance of the conservation ethos made our walk a memorable experience.

Reg Alder

The first grass-roots greenies

Did you hear *Talking History* on the ABC on 14 January when some pioneer Sydney bushwalkers, including Paddy Pallin, recalled their experiences circa 1931? A few snippets may help to sketch the picture. On equipment, whereas today an outlay of over a thousand dollars may be needed to equip a walker, two shillings and sixpence sufficed then. Twoessian sugar bags were required, one for carrying food and clothing and the other, folded hood-like and worn over the head and shoulders, served as protection from rain. No tents were carried as shelter was found in cliff overhangs or in hollow logs, the latter being more common then than now. Staple food included rice, macaroni and lima beans although catering largely amounted to taking whatever was in the kitchen cupboard.

Walkers frequently travelled by train to the start of walks, often in carriages with box compartments. On the return trip the group of walkers seldom had difficulty in securing a compartment to themselves as, according to the speakers, 'the smell of campfire smoke' (a euphemism, perhaps) discouraged other passengers. Singing around the campfire was another tradition of the times, one that might have succumbed to the now ubiquitous music of tape and transistor.

The saving of the Blue Gum Forest was seen as perhaps the first grass roots action to preserve a natural area. Walkers who used to visit this area learned that a neighbouring land owner was moving to acquire the land and fell the trees. Although unversed in the ways of influencing public opinion, walkers were successful in rallying the support necessary for the trees of Blue Gum Forest to be protected; so that today the area remains a valued natural feature.

Syd Comfort

No more room at the top



There is no longer plenty of room at the top of Mount Kosciusko. Fiona Brand's photograph shows a small section of the stream of visitors coming from Charlottes Pass and Thredbo on a mid-January weekend. Is the new steel track from Thredbo attracting more visitors and transferring their impact onto the summit? asks Reg Alder, who was also on the walk. There could have been more than 500 visitors on that day. Most ignore the request not to use the badly eroding short cut from Rawsons Pass up to the summit. No rangers were seen. When the steel track is completed popularity of the walk will increase. Can the summit be saved from becoming an arid waste? Perhaps a permanent presence of rangers during peak periods could confine visitors to specific areas. Print by Reg Alder from colour negative.

Leechy bits

(Two leechy snippets triggered by the continuing success of this species in the Budawangs)

From a well known watering place en route to the Budawangs comes the advice to use soap liberally applied to the skin as a specific defence against leeches, and from Miles Franklin's account of her early years at Brindabella the description of how the boys there used to go to the river and compete to see who could have the greatest number of leeches clinging to them at a time. She continues with

some highly discriminatory remarks about the young of the male sex.

Writing in 1847 in his *Settlers and Convicts*, Alexander Harris described his descent of the Illawarra escarpment 20 years earlier in phrases that ring true to walkers today: 'I was glad at length to find myself at the foot of the mountain. I think I never felt anything more difficult to bear than the strain on the knee joints, occasioned by this descent; it was not exactly pain, but something worse.'

Syd Comfort

New members

The following new members are welcomed to the Association:

Monika Binder, Ainslie; Lorraine Ball, Downer; Ian Beverley, Curtin; Adam Blizzard, Mawson; Barbara Court and family, Downer; Anne Courtney, Woden; Hope Hewitt, Red Hill; Rev Herbert Robey, Charnwood; Catherine Tighe, Oxley; M Van den Bergh, Woden; Rosemarie and Barry Millar, Higgins; M French, Melba; June Wilson, Curtin; Cynthia Breheny, Campbell; Mr and Mrs J Swart, Yarralumla.

NPA Bulletin policy

This policy was adopted by the Committee of the Association on 2 February 1989.

1.0 The *Bulletin* should be:

1.1 First and foremost, a vehicle for communicating and supporting the Association's aims and objects:

- The 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.
- Cooperation 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.

1.2 Tangible proof of the Association's commitment to these aims and objects.

1.3 A vehicle for providing timely advice to members on current conservation and outdoor recreation issues in the ACT and elsewhere, that is, fulfilling a news function.

1.4 A regular communication link within the membership of the Association, informing members of recent research projects and publications, Association activities, including Committee decisions and actions, the outings program, forthcoming work parties, opportunities for participation in Association and community initiatives, research and in publications.

1.5 A forum for the expression of members' views on matters within the aims and objects of the Association.

1.6 A forum for creative expression by members through articles, poems, photographs, sketches and the like.

1.7 A means by which the Association may contribute to education on environmental matters in the ACT and elsewhere.

1.8 A publication which portrays the Association's status as a major force for conservation in the ACT.

1.9 A low to moderate cost publication, with high-quality content and presentation.

2.0 To achieve these aims:

2.1 The editor of the *Bulletin* will be a person able and willing to implement this policy.

2.2 A small Editorial Committee comprising the President or nominee and two Association members will be available to assist the editor with *Bulletin* policy.

2.3 As the final responsibility for the *Bulletin* rests with the Association, the President or nominee shall, on behalf of the Association, have the opportunity to clear the publication at final proof stage.

2.4 Acknowledging the importance of the *Bulletin* to the Association's overall objectives and public identity, a budget commensurate with the task and desired production standard shall be prepared and considered annually. Paid advertising may be sought. Community Development Fund and other grants should be acknowledged.

2.5 Membership participation in the *Bulletin's* production and distribution will be encouraged and valued.

3.0 Guidelines for achieving policy objectives

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the statement

on the Association's *Bulletin* policy. They should be reviewed regularly, and may be developed further with the editor.

3.1 As a general guidance, it should be the aim to include, in each issue, material on:

- promotion of national parks
- protection of fauna or flora, scenery, natural features
- outdoor recreation areas
- planning/land use questions with emphasis on the ACT.

3.2 Forward planning should tie articles to projected events. For example, when it is known that a draft management plan is to be issued for public comment, *Bulletin* features could help enhance members' understanding of the issues involved and help them have an input into the public participation process.

3.3 Salient information should be set out clearly. A workable, easy-to-follow format has been established for the outings program. Page Two currently clearly conveys administrative information. There is room for the introduction of regular spaces/columns to cover other important subjects, for example, track notes, news from national park management authorities, forthcoming events, research findings, publications.

3.4 A regular column will be devoted to news from the Committee. The copy will be provided on a regular basis to the editor in time to meet deadlines.

3.5 Articles and letters-to-the-editor to be encouraged. As a general rule, letters should be brief (not more than 500 words). Articles will be judged on their merit and the editor will have the discretion to edit and, if necessary, to discard. As a matter of courtesy, the author should be informed of decisions to make major amendments or not to use at all. Problems arising from

editorial decision will be referred to the Editorial Committee for resolution.

3.6 Creative works will be given high priority for placement.

3.7 The *Bulletin* should be distributed to schools and consultation with teachers should take place on ways the *Bulletin* may serve educational needs.

3.8 The editor should focus on current issues and tap the expertise of members and call on professionals for high standard and up-to-date information. In some instances, special articles may be commissioned outside the Association with provision for payment at professional rates. A scale of payment for contributions will be adopted to meet such circumstances.

3.9 Distribution of the *Bulletin* will be periodically reviewed to ensure maximum promotion is achieved.

3.10 The editor shall continually review the *Bulletin* for improvements in presentation and layout.

3.11 Costs of the *Bulletin* shall be agreed to by the Association in consultation with the editor.

3.12 The editor shall solicit advertising in the *Bulletin* at commercial rates, consistent with the objectives of the Association and the need for balance in content and layout according to these guidelines.

3.13 A summary of these guidelines should be included in the *Bulletin*.

3.14 These guidelines to be reviewed periodically to reflect changes in the Association's interests.

Join the publishing revolution

The editor of the *Bulletin* always asks people for help – writing articles, reporting walks and other events, drawing pictures and taking photographs. I encourage readers to continue asking what you can do for the *Bulletin*. But also consider what the *Bulletin* can do for you.

As stated in the policy guidelines, the *Bulletin* is a medium for the creative expression of members. So while contributions of articles or illustrations may not be paid for, they are usually published. They can then be added to a portfolio used to impress more commercial publishers.

But as well as the creative side, there are many interesting aspects of production. Personal computers have brought about a revolution in publishing that allows individuals and groups with little capital to edit, typeset and layout publications quickly and at low cost. This gives everyone a greater opportunity to communicate his or her message to others. Reducing the economic obstacles to the free flow of ideas should make our society more democratic.

From this issue the *NPA Bulletin* is being produced on a Macintosh computer. Those who do not like computers should not be afraid; the machinery will make no difference to contributions made on paper, except that deadlines will be a little later. But those who have overcome such fears may like to learn what the equipment looks like and how it works. Such knowledge is becoming quite valuable for those working or seeking work in journalism, publishing, academia and many areas of the public service.

If you want to learn about word-processing, typesetting and layout on the Macintosh, and help produce the *Bulletin* at the same time, ring me on (062) 470059 or leave a message at the NPA office. If you want to learn and practise some of the managerial skills required to producing a regular newsletter – chasing contributors, finding illustrations, supervising printers – you should also get in touch. For those who just want to read, I hope you enjoy the ideas and talents of your fellow members.

Roger Green

Coming events

April 7-9, Australian Conservation Foundation, Canberra branch, guided walks in Kosciusko National Park, phone Kath Kelly (062) 825366 (h).

April 7-9, Earth Repair Foundation, Earthwalk conference, Blue Mountains, phone (047) 586393.

April 11, Community Aid Abroad, 'Land is life, uranium is sickness', Canberra, phone (062) 489977.

April 12-23, World Heritage display, High Court.

April 15, Wilderness Society bushdance, Yarralumla Woolshed, 8pm.

April 21, Centre for Continuing Education, Australian National University, conference on giardia, phone (062) 493891.

May 2-5, International Environment Exhibition, Darling Harbour, Sydney, phone (02) 4374088.

May 8-9, Australian Environment Council, seminar on chemical hazards, Canberra, contact AEC seminar organiser, chemicals management section, Department of the Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and Territories.

May 15-17, Menzies Foundation, conference on the ozone layer and health, Hobart, 210 Clarendon Street, East Melbourne.

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General meetings

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

April – Thursday 20

Dr Geoff Mosley, environmental consultant and former director of the Australian Conservation Foundation, will speak about the nomination of the Australian Alps for World Heritage listing. A Heritage Week special!

May – Thursday 18

Milo Dunphy, architect and director of the Total Environment Centre in Sydney, will speak about the development of coastal areas and its impact on the environment.

June – Thursday 15

Jeff Angel, from the Total Environment Centre, will speak on forestry issues in New South Wales.