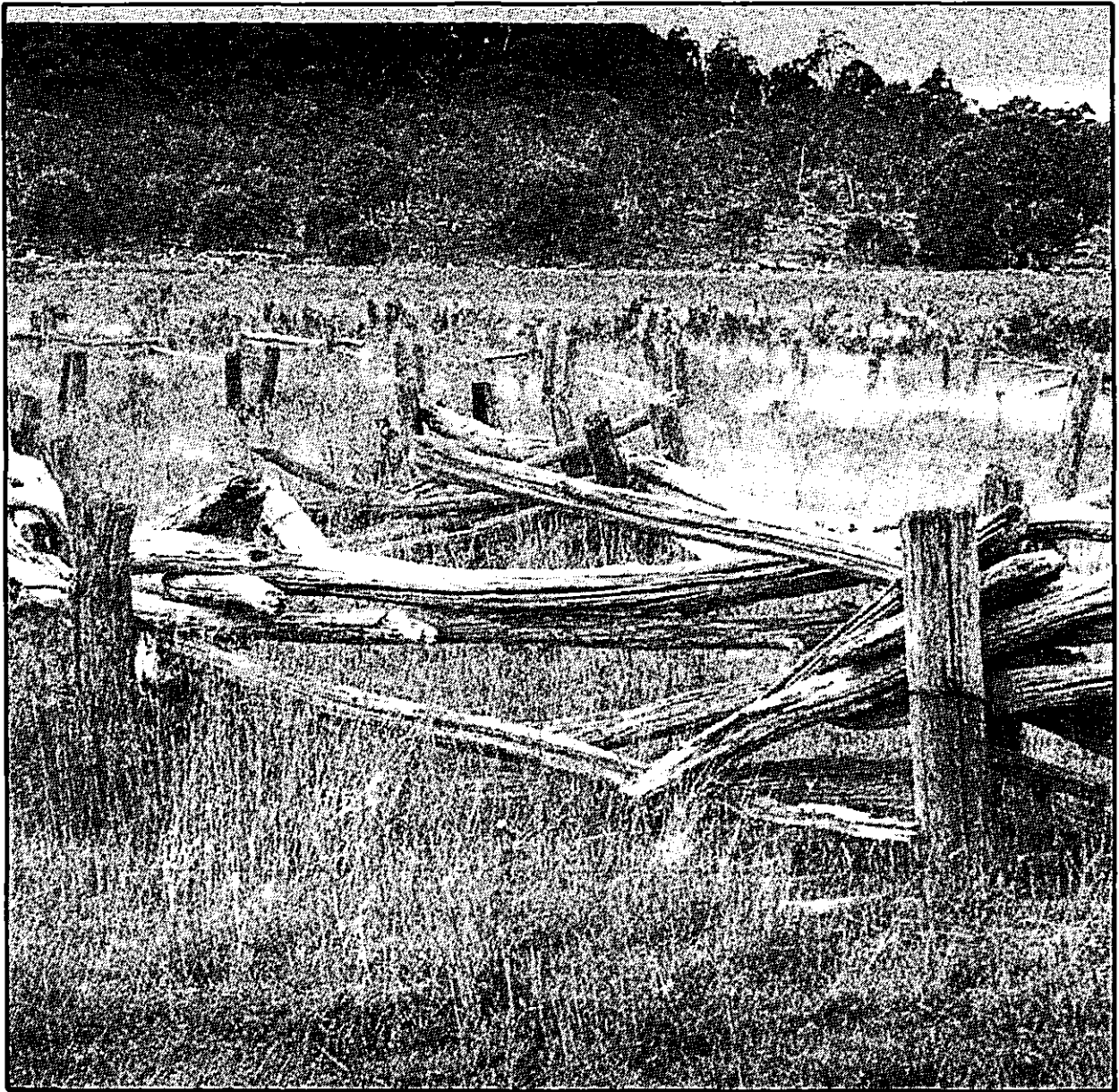


NPA Bulletin

Volume 26 number 4
December 1989

NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION (ACT) INCORPORATED



Track work in the Budawangs

The coastline and forests of southeast NSW

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Cover

Photo: Babette Scougall.

Stockyards between Waterholes hut and the Lone Pine site, Namadgi National Park. Easter 1989.

National Parks Association (ACT) 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.

Office-bearers and Committee

President

Syd Comfort 862578 (h)

Vice President

Beverley Hammond 886577 (h) 581877 (w)

Immediate Past President

Kevin Frawley 823080 (h) 688309 (w)

Secretary

Judith Webster 414646 (h)

Treasurer

Les Pyke 812982 (h)

Committee members

Steven Forst 516817 (h) 748426 (w)

Jacqui Rees 958567 (h)

Mike Smith 862984 (h) 819565 (w)

Glyn Lewis 952720 (h)

Jill Roberts 491390 (h) 724192 (w)

Phil Bubb 814929 (h) 466128 (w)

Tim Walsh 851112 (h) 741465 (w)

Dugald Monro 318776 (h)

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Please phone Laraine Frawley at the NPA office.

The NPA (ACT) office is located in Kingsley Street, Acton. Office hours are:

10am to 2pm Mondays

9am to 2pm Tuesdays and Thursdays

Telephone: (062) 571063

Address: GPO Box 457 Canberra 2601.

Contribute to your *Bulletin*

Contributions of articles (news, description or fiction), black-and-white photographs and line drawings are keenly sought for the *Bulletin*. Please label photographs with the name of the subject, the name of the photographer and the date. Leave contributions at the office or phone the editor, Roger Green, on (062) 470059.

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

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President's foreword

A recent seminar on future directions for Canberra was told that the National Capital is now entering a second age of development and planning in which the structure is no longer monolithic, funds are limited and there are many more players who wish to take part in the action.

It is certainly true that a great deal is changing: planning is the responsibility not of one body but of the National Capital Planning Authority and the Territory Planning Authority which together have to work out a modus operandi for this important function; self-government means that decisions and policies are made by the Territory Government operating in the local political climate

rather than by a Commonwealth Government operating at an arm's length from the local scene; the Assembly is addressing the issues of leasing and the environment and many other important areas with a view to enacting significant new legislation. The changes are occurring against a background in which the stimulus for economic activity in the Territory is being sought in the



private sector rather than in government initiatives.

One implication of all this is the increased need for people concerned about the Territory and its environment to be involved in the debate on planning and development to ensure that the values which they support are properly represented. More than ever, active participation in issues is needed with particular emphasis on longer term outcomes. Our association has a part to play in doing this both by acting in its own right and by collaborating with like-minded organisations.

Syd Comfort

Boboyan pines cause concern

The Boboyan pine forest is in Namadgi National Park, near Gudgenby station. The old Boboyan Road is open for cars as far as the forest and is a common starting point for walks to wild places such as Mount Gudgenby, Mount Kelly, Mount Scabby and Namadgi Peak.

The 45 minutes or so walk through the forest at the start and finish of such trips detracts from the experience of visiting these magnificent places. The forest is a blot on the landscape.

The visual impact is not, however, the major concern. The pine forest was severely damaged by the 1983 bushfires. Some dead trees were subsequently removed. Following the recent wet spell, extensive regrowth has occurred. Worse, wilding pines are spreading into the surrounding native forest.

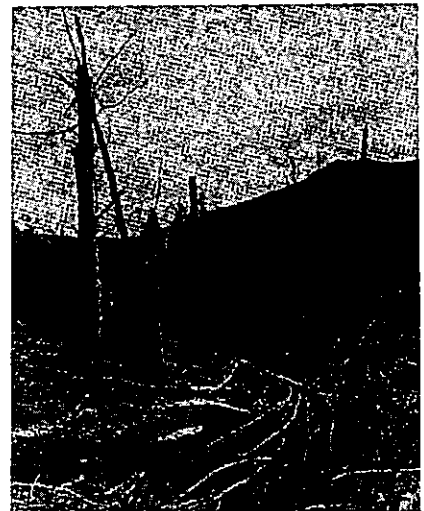
The Namadgi management plan of June 1986 states: 'The remainder of the pine trees will be left until economic maturity. This will be in another 20 years or so. Thinning may take place in the mean time. The plantation will then be harvested, pine regrowth and wildings suppressed and re-

placed with appropriate native species. A major rehabilitation program will commence in the interim in those parts of the former plantation where only dead or uneconomic pines remain.'

The ACT Parks and Conservation Service has been granted \$13 500 over the period 1988 to 1991 from the National Estate Grants Program for rehabilitation work.

In view of the current state of the forest, to wait 20 years before clearing regrowth and wildings would be unwise. The time to do this is now, while the trees are small and relatively easy to remove. Indeed, in view of the likely need for such clearing operations every few years, one wonders whether it might not be better (and perhaps cheaper in the long run) to remove the plantation now, despite the loss of revenue from timber sales.

As a result of these concerns the Namadgi subcommittee decided that the NPA should write to the Parks and Conservation Service requesting that work to suppress regrowth and remove wildings be undertaken. The subcommittee also decided that the NPA should



offer a work party to remove the wildings. The Association has written to the service raising these issues and also asking for information on the progress of work being undertaken with the national estate grant.

As we expect that our offer of a work party will be accepted, I would ask any interested volunteers to give me their names. My address is 5 Masters Place, Kambah. Telephone (062) 318776.

Dugald Monro

MEETINGS

Sanders on the ACT environment

The guest speaker for the October general meeting was Senator Norm Sanders. Senator Sanders, a geomorphologist by training, represents Tasmania in the Federal Parliament. He is currently the endorsed Australian Democrats' Senate candidate for the ACT.

Senator Sanders' talk, entitled *Environmental Issues in the ACT*, was presented in two segments. In the first he gave a summary of the main environmental issues facing the ACT and in the second he discussed the planning issues Canberra people needed to be aware of.

Senator Sanders sees Canberra as a city blessed by open space and, to date, good planning. However, he said we need to be alert to the dangers of lead in the air from cars and the possibility of problems from fuel stoves. However, Senator Sanders believes that an efficient wood

heater (and he has designed one) is preferable to a power station burning coal to provide an equivalent amount of heating.

Noise is not a major problem in the ACT except for Northbourne Avenue. Canberra has good quality drinking water. However, problems are present with regard to the flow of run-off water from storm drains into the lakes.

In regard to the conservation of energy, Senator Sanders believes that the ACT, and Australia as a whole, should have an energy conservation strategy. A lot can be done in the ACT by designing and positioning houses so as to get maximum advantage from solar heating and sensible insulation.

Senator Sanders also raised the greenhouse effect and its possible impact on Canberra. Other matters mentioned in his overview of environmental issues for Canberra were the developmental pressures

on Murrumbidgee west and the commercial creep in Civic along Northbourne Avenue and Torrens Street, Braddon.

In regard to the overall planning issues in Canberra, Senator Sanders said that until self-government the planning process had been overseen by a basically farsighted government. However, now we have little more than a shire council, dangerously open to pressure from developers. The danger of Canberra changing from an 'oasis of rationality' into part of the world-wide horror or urban sprawl must be watched with vigilance and acted upon vigorously by the local community.

Such threats include the very fast train and associated multi-function polis and a multi-laned highways around North Canberra.

Tim Walsh

Campaigning on many fronts

The Environment subcommittee, convened by Jacqui Rees (958567) and Tim Walsh (851112 home, 741465 work), is currently made up of about 15 members who meet on the fourth Thursday of every second (odd) month. Ring Tim to check the date and location of the next meeting.

The subcommittee operates by a member or several members taking portfolio responsibility for a particular subject area. This person then acts as the contact or initiator of action by the committee for that particular subject. The subject areas taken up by the subcommittee recently include:

- Australian alps - developments in Kosciusko ski area and possible world heritage listing
- The coast, especially Jervis Bay - possible naval relocation
- The southeast forests
- East coast national parks, especially the Budawangs
- Canberra and ACT environmental and planning matters.

On these issues we undertake

the usual activities of lobbying politicians and public servants, preparing responses to calls for public submissions for such matters as the Canberra Nature Park and arranging visits to environmental hot spots. The recent working parties in the Budawangs, the weekend visit to Jervis Bay and the participation of some members in the peaceful protests to save the southeast forests are examples.

NPA members do not need to come along to subcommittee meetings in order to participate in its working (although everyone is very welcome to attend). If you'd like to follow up a particular issue and you think the environment subcommittee might be able to help, give Jacqui or Tim a ring. They will tell you who to contact or suggest how you can initiate action.

Alternatively, if you'd like to contribute to the work of the subcommittee but don't have a specific area of interest in mind, the convenors can put you in contact with a member working on a particular

issue who may need some assistance with research, letter/submission writing, site inspections, meetings with government officials or attendance at seminars.

The environmental threats facing the world often seem overwhelming. However, the threats facing the Canberra region are more easily understood and acted upon.

New issues appear all the time: the national aquarium, the very fast train, the future of the Canberra open space system and the Canberra Nature Park are but a few examples. Further afield we need to be vigilant in helping to protect the areas we use and love - the Budawangs, the Kosciusko region, Jervis Bay.

The Environment Subcommittee hopes to work as a catalyst to encourage all members to pursue the aims of the Association. Please participate.

Tim Walsh

\$1 million to protect Durras Lake

The Friends of Durras have launched a campaign to raise \$1 million to buy 509 hectares of unspoilt forest on the shore of Durras Lake and close to Murramarang National Park. The group fears that unless the land is acquired for conservation purposes it will be developed as a tourist resort.

The land, which has a five-kilometre frontage on the eastern shore of the lake, was passed in at auction in July after a bid of \$920,000. The reserve price was \$1 million.

Durras Lake is one of the attractive small lakes on the south coast of New South Wales which are increasingly being surrounded by development. The wetlands provide an important habitat for fish and birds. The land around the lake has valuable spotted gum forest with an understorey of burrawangs.

A narrow stretch of coastline north of Batemans Bay is protected within Murramarang National Park. While this park is valuable, it is too small to be a viable biological reserve or to disperse the impact of many thousands of visitors every summer. Local conservationists, such as the Friends of Durras and the Coastwatchers Association, and the Total Environment Centre in Sydney have long argued for extensions to Murramarang National Park, further up the coast beyond Bawley Point and inland towards the Princes Highway. Much of the hinterland is state forest.

Durras Lake would be one of the key features of the extended national park. At the moment the lake's catchment is made up of different types of land tenure: freehold land in the villages of North and South Durras, the freehold land that is currently for sale, Crown land and state forest. The New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service is currently investigating the possibility of incorporating the Crown land into Murramarang National Park. The New South Wales Government has



Durras Lake is surrounded by valuable forests and wetlands.

a new policy of limiting the transfer of forestry land to national parks so conservationists can only hope that the lakeside state forest could be managed for nature conservation values. To secure a significant part of the catchment the freehold parcel is needed.

The land for sale, which has not been cleared, is presently zoned for rural use. This would allow a tourist resort but not intensive suburban subdivision. As recent advertisements in *The Canberra Times* indicate, suburban subdivision is rapidly extending north along the Pacific Highway from Batemans Bay.

The Friends of Durras fear that this could soon lead to some sort of clearing and building on the foreshores of the lake. If they succeed in purchasing the land, they will give it to the National Parks and Wildlife Service for permanent protection.

The last time Australians bought land for conservation purposes and returned it to the nation was during the height of the Depression. In 1931 Myles Dunphy and other members of the Mountain Trails Club and the Sydney Bush Walkers rallied to save Blue Gum Forest in the Blue

Mountains west of Sydney. Through the holding of social functions, with the support of businesses and societies, and with publicity in *The Sydney Morning Herald*, the conservationists managed to raise £260 in time to stay the lessee's axe. Only one tree was lost. Once the land was acquired, and significant public support for the forest demonstrated, the Department of Lands reserved adjoining strips of forest on the floor of the Grose Valley. It is now part of the Blue Mountains National Park.

Pledges of money or donations to the Friends of Durras, for their campaign to acquire the land at Durras Lake, should be sent to The Treasurer, Friends of Durras, PO Box 174, Batemans Bay, NSW 2536. Telephone (062) 475097. If the site is not secured, the money will be returned or the pledges voided. The group can send a form for tax deductible donations through the Australian Conservation Foundation.

WORKS

Repairing the Budawangs

Chapter one

Minding the cheeses

A title to confuse? And well you may ask what are cheeses? In work-party terminology they are substantial and weighty pieces of round log (in this instance iron bark), cut to approximately 25 centimetre lengths, placed in mud for use as stepping stones.

Reg Alder and Fiona Brand volunteered to be The Minders. And

what are Minders and why were they needed? The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) had arranged for the delivery of a large trailer load of cheeses to the car park and camping area at Wog Wog in the Budawangs on the Friday immediately prior to the NPA's first work party scheduled for the weekend 2/3 September. The NPWS held fears that such logs, cut at such reasonable lengths, would at best be used for

camp fires or at worst be trucked off by passing motorists for firewood. The Minders' sojourn was uneventful.

The main party, comprising 13 workers, arrived early Saturday morning and set about the tasks at hand. These tasks revolved around the stabilisation of the track for approximately 100 metres either side of Wog Wog Creek. At that time the track was a quagmire, and the main task at hand lay in the transportation of the cheeses predominantly by wheelbarrow and sometimes by hand to appropriate sites along the length of the proposed work area. Then followed the mud wallowing. Out of the wallowing came measurements, track routing, digging (pugging), the handling and finally placement of the cheeses.

The energies of the workers knew no bounds. By lunch time they had used all of the cheeses that had been supplied and almost completed a number of other earth works as well. The challenge was presented to the leader to do some quick thinking about additional tasks, finessing the existing work and providing options for a leisurely stroll to explore the Wog Wog Creek and gorge. Things were looking good as the group lazed around the lunch time fire. Then . . . the distant sound of a vehicle. It drew closer and what's more turned into our camp site. It was the ranger Roger Hosking complete with a ute packed full of cheeses!! So that solved the decision making for the afternoon. The site of the crestfallen faces was something to see.

The NPA's poet laureate, Judy Webster, composed a commemorative sonnet 'Working at Wog Wog', which can also be sung to the tune of a well known Australian melody. It was subsequently rapturously received following its debut around the Wog Wog campsite of the second Budawangs work party.

Ultimately Saturday's work saw:

- the sinking of 150 cheeses (covering both sides of the creek)

Working at Wog Wog

(to the tune of a traditional Aussie song)

Once some jolly workers sat around their lunchtime fire
Under the shade of some eucalypt trees;
And they sang as they watched and waited till their billy boiled
'Who'll come a-working alongside of me?'

*'Working at Wog Wog, working at Wog Wog
Who'll come a-working alongside of me,'
And they sang as they watched and waited till their billy boiled
'Who'll come a-working alongside of me'.*

Then up drove a ranger, impressive in his uniform
Up jumped the workers - one, two, three
'What's that jolly load, you've got in your service truck?'
'A hundred more cheeses' he shouted with glee

*Working at Wog Wog, working at Wog Wog
etc*

Then those weary workers, told him of their labours
Slaving all morning - and all of it for free!
Shifting stones and rocks, and cheeses by the dozen
'Who'll come a-working alongside of me?'

*Working at Wog Wog, working at Wog Wog
etc*

They took the ranger down the track, to see the progress they had made
'It's great work you're doing here, for sure!' said he
And they thought they heard him chuckle, as he left them all - hard at it
still
'That'll keep them busy, till it's time for tea'.

Final refrain:
*'Working at Wog Wog, working at Wog Wog
Who'll come a-working alongside of me,'
And they thought they heard him chuckle, as he left them all, hard at it
still
'That'll keep them busy, till it's time for tea'.*

Judith Webster

- the construction of three rock walk ways
- the building of a number of rock steps
- stepping stones across the creek (until the next flood)
- the installation of two further log steps, gutters and many drainage channels.

Sunday the party walked to the bog on the swamp just short of the junction of the Corang Peak and Corang River tracks. There, with a variety of bush saws, the group cut logs of varying lengths and thicknesses for incorporation into a substantial corduroy track. The finished section was most impressive.

Following the second day in the mud we sat near the track to admire our work and wait for the first bushwalker and the compliments that we thought were so deserving. Can you believe the first group of walkers over the corduroy actually were disappointed that the adventure had been taken out of the bog. Well, they were boy scouts!

Chapter two Log jamming

Following some initial concerns by the work-party project officer over the number of workpersons volunteering for the next lot of hard labour, the NPA contingent eventually took to the field on Saturday 28 October with 24 artisans.

They were ably assisted and supported by Alan Norman and Roger Hosking, rangers from the Nowra office. The service had already helicoptered in some 70 piles of wood (we were soon to discover not your ordinary plank variety but four-foot lengths (yes, something over a metre) of very dense iron bark, each approximately 30 centimetres in diameter).

The logistics of transporting 23 rucksacks, 24 day packs, ranger equipment and radios, dozens of picks, mattocks, shovels and other digging paraphernalia, a large quantity of steel pegs, plus Les Pyke's car camping equipment complete with gas stove and folding chair. The latter workperson pleaded no knowledge of instructions that the workers were to



Jane O'Donohue placing rocks during the Wog Wog work party in September. Photo: Judith Webster.

come as for a back pack. Nearly all of the party elected to walk in the nine kilometres to the work scene; in fact it took considerable persuasion to get eight carriers (those required to transport the equipment the 1.5 kilometres from Wog Wog camp up onto the escarpment) to step forth to be transported together with gear in the NPWS vehicles supplied for the occasion. Interesting to compare the decision-making processes demonstrated by the teenage trio Andrew Payne, Ben Thompson and Michelle Puniard, who had almost rushed Roger when he said he could take three passengers, together with a large number of the packs in the Toyota 4 x 4 utility to the camp site! Obviously they were saving their energies for the work party itself.

Some time later, having packed a Landcruiser troupe carrier to the ceiling with gear, sandwiched in five NPA members, further gear and the said Mr Pyke's chair into the rear section of the vehicle, we were about to depart to discover that Les had been overlooked in the packing. As there was scarcely breathing space in the back, (well that was the excuse) he quickly opted to sit in the front with Alan (the ranger) and the female occupants. This entailed Les nursing Karen Wilson, with Doreen Wilson

left to perform some fancy leg work to the tune of the engine revs as Alan manoeuvred at each gear change.

Suffice to say the organisational structure held, and the party regrouped on the top of the escarpment some two to three kilometres on the Wog Wog side of the Corang Peak track. Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond Alan's control, like bushfires further north in NSW, and high winds in the area, the helicopter dropped all of the iron bark logs on the one site some distance from our designated work area. Considerable time and effort had to be effected to transport the logs to the work area. It was not a task that should be underestimated in any way. That Saturday saw the laying of 45 logs, angled and partly sunk into the track. All had drainage channels and some required pinning with steel spikes. In between each log the track was back-filled and drained. The idea being to divert water from the track at the highest elevation to allow for natural silting and stabilisation of the track in the longer term.

Sunday's work involved the excavation of channels off a large stretch of the track in the Corang Peak-Kora Hill area, thus

continued next page

Repairing the Budawangs

continued from previous page

alleviating in time much of the existing quagmire problems which currently occur during and after rain. We also performed some enhancing work on the earlier drains constructed. It was all part of the learning process.

Chapter three The reward

I have tried to convey the extent of my thanks to each and every person who has attended these work parties. Without their enthusiasm, reliability, fortitude, strengths and beyond all humour, neither party would have been a success. And great events they have been . . . we have all gained personal satisfaction and been rewarded by the experience. The club has added its support, and the NPWS representatives have given us some very positive feedback and thanks. The NPWS at the macro level is strapped for funds and manpower resources. We have been told at the micro level how dispiriting it can be for one person to labour all day on a hill and to see how little effect their efforts have made to a large-scale prob-

lem, but put 20 people there and the scene is transformed before one's eyes. We can all attest to that. It's exciting stuff.

In addition, on the last work party we were rewarded with pristine views while we worked, of the Budawang and Morton National Parks. These were even further enhanced by side trips up Corang Peak and out to Admiration Point.

Thank you all. Thanks also to Alan Norman for co-ordinating the events on behalf of the NPWS and to Roger Hosking for his assistance. We have all enjoyed meeting and working with them and look forward to other collaborative projects with the service in the future.

Chapter four Other volunteer work

Over the last 12 months or so members of the Coast and Mountain Walkers, who are Sydney based, have re-routed and cleared parts of the Folly Point track, and cleared sections of the Corang Peak track. Volunteers from the Canberra Bushwalking Club have also carried out extensive soil conservation work in Monolith Valley. That club also do-

nated \$1000 to the NPWS to assist the project.

The NPA is keeping both clubs and the NPWS informed of both progress and plans, and in the process has developed further friendships and the offers of collaborative help from each of the organisations.

Chapter five The future

It is obvious that there is going to be a continuing need for club and community support in many areas of natural importance. The members of NPA have a long tradition in this field and it is likely that the Outings Committee will set aside a number of weekends during each year specifically for such tasks. These will be published in the outings program. In addition to work in the Budawangs our skills and labours will be required at Orroral Valley homestead, amongst the wildling pines at Namadgi and for track work at Kosciusko National Park in the not too distant future.

Di Thompson

*Budawangs work party
coordinator*



Di Thompson and her troops poised on a line of ripe Budawang cheeses. Photo: Reg Alder.

Churchill fellowships

The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust is calling for applications for fellowships to be taken up during 1991. Merit in any field of value to the community is the major criterion for the granting of fellowships. Fellows are given airfares and the chance to study overseas.

Applications forms can be obtained by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope, 24 by 12 centimetres, to Application forms, Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, 218 Northbourne Ave, Canberra 2601.

Applications close on 28 February 1990.

NSW director sacked

The New South Wales Minister for the Environment, Tim Moore, sacked the director of the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service, John Whitehouse, in September.

As an adviser to Labor ministers for parks, planning and environment, Whitehouse helped draft planning and heritage laws and create new national parks throughout the state. He was appointed director of the service in 1985. The Labor Opposition said the sacking was due to Whitehouse's defence of the environment in the face of National Party pressure.

Interest focuses on the replacement for Whitehouse and the two new deputy directors who are being appointed. Among other tasks they will have to cut staff numbers and repay, from a tight national parks budget, at least part of the \$6 million overspent.

Big park for Nullarbor

The South Australian Premier, John Bannon, has announced the creation of the largest national park in Australia, Nullarbor National Park. The park will cover 2,000,000 hectares of western South Australia. Unfortunately this park, apart from a 10-kilometre-wide strip along the coast, is subject to mineral exploration and mining. A large area of Crown land north of Nullarbor National Park has been designated regional reserve, but is also subject to mining.

The South Australian Government has said it aims to have 15 per cent of the state within the national parks system by 1991, the centenary of national parks in that state. That system increasingly allows exploitation by mining or grazing. Only 4 per cent of South Australia is park that is free of mining rights.

The Nature Conservation Society of South Australia is seeking to have the Yellabrina wilderness, east of Nullarbor Regional

Reserve, declared a mine-free national park.

Mr Bannon has also announced a marine conservation zone for the Great Australian Bight. It is not clear exactly what will be conserved in this zone as fishing will still be allowed. The bight is one of the breeding grounds of the endangered southern right whale, *Eubalaena australis*.

SA prepares wilderness law

The Minister for Environment and Planning in South Australia, Susan Lenehan, announced in October that the state would prepare a wilderness protection act. The legislation will control development in areas designated as wilderness. These areas are likely to be 100 islands off the coast, including parts of Kangaroo Island, and parts of outback South Australia. It is not clear whether restrictions will apply to the activities of mineral prospectors, graziers and four-wheel-drivers who have done much to reduce the wilderness quality of South Australia's arid northern lands.

Oxley Wild Rivers extended

The New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service has purchased 13,000 hectares of land to add to Oxley Wild Rivers National Park in northern New South Wales. The land increased the park's size to 94,000 hectares. Each year 150,000 people visit the park's plateaux and rugged gorges.

Broom doom

Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) is threatening rare plants in Barrington Tops National Park and neighbouring state forests in northern New South Wales. The weed also occurs in Kosciusko National Park.

Dense clumps of broom compete for space and change the habitat. The vulnerable plants at Barrington Tops are the broad-leaved pepper bush (*Tasmania purpurascens*) and the beautiful

donkey orchid (*Diuris venosa*), which is also threatened by illegal collecting. Horses and off-road vehicles could also affect the drainage patterns of the swampy ground where the orchid grows.

Broom seeds are probably spread by horse hooves, car tyres and bushwalkers' boots.

National Parks Journal, NSW
July 1989

Miners look at WA parks

A number of mining companies have applied to explore for minerals in national parks in Western Australia. Areas of interest to miners included Shark Bay, a potential world heritage site, and the Rudall River, Yalgorup, Fitzgerald, Cambridge Gulf, D'Entrecasteaux and Moore River National Parks. Some other areas proposed for national park reservation have also aroused the interest of miners. Only 5.8 per cent of Western Australia is secured as national park or nature reserve.

Conservation News, Australian Conservation Foundation, August 1989.

Parks for Mallee

The Victorian Land Conservation Council has recommended parks and reserves for the Mallee district in northwestern Victoria. The proposals include the creation of a 600,000 hectare Murray-Sunset National Park and the addition of Pine Plains and the central Big Desert area to Wyperfeld National Park. The council has failed to recommend an end to broombrush harvesting and grazing which threaten the wilderness quality of the region. Victorian conservation groups are organising a major campaign to try to more fully protect the Sunset Country and the Big Desert.

Conservation News, Australian Conservation Foundation, September 1989.

'Spring into action' in the



*Trees cleared for the extension of Wog Way in Coolangubra State Forest.
All photos: Phyl Goddard.*

Such was the motto for the October long weekend for those concerned with protecting the southeast forests, and three National Parks Association members decided to provide support and join the forest festival.

Directions to the campsite were obtained from the information tent at the Bombala turn-off and we arrived late Saturday morning to find a well-established camp with marquees, toilets, entertainment rostrum, cooking and food supply facilities and hundreds of tents. Obviously a lot of work had gone into preparing the site over the previous week for the expected one thousand visitors.

Having found a campsite, we investigated things to do in the afternoon. There were several walks available, as well as tree-climbing, workshops on non-violent action and kayaking on the Bombala river.

We chose a walk to Devils Creek in the Tantawangalo area. The Tantawangalo is the catchment for Bega and the surrounding coastal area's water supply which is currently under threat from the Forestry Commission's trial logging program. Devils Creek forms part of the catchment, and looks like a rainforest gully which has in the past been selectively logged but remains in pristine condition compared with the area across the

road we travelled on, which had been subjected to 'integrated logging' fairly recently.

The next day, after a late night enjoying the bush dance, we joined a large group of people who had opted to have a look at the disputed Wog Way, a major highway being pushed through the Coolangubra wilderness.

Currently the work has been stopped via an injunction in a Sydney court, and we were interested in seeing what had been going on. The first hazard was a locked gate - the forests were officially open - closed and manned by the district forester, who was refusing to let vehicles proceed. We left him arguing and started walking along the broad metalled road, cleared to about three times the eventual width of the road itself.

After about 45 minutes' walk we came to the new work which had been recently proceeding, and at the same time the rest of the cars and television crews caught us up, having won the argument at the locked gate.

Although a fire trail already existed in the area, the Forestry Commission had cut a huge swathe through the forest crossing this fire trail, and wide enough to put a major highway through, before being stopped by the injunction. Such was the confidence of the organisers that this injunction would hold indefinitely, we were all encouraged to accept newly gathered tree seeds and some soil and sow them over the recently bulldozed areas. Maybe this was somewhat symbolic, but it gave some purpose to the visit, and the action was recorded by the television crews.

Some of those in the party apparently walked a lot further on to where the tree-sitters were still sitting after several weeks of protest, and who welcomed the moral support.

Having seen the destruction caused by this roading we were not surprised that access had been made difficult. I will leave the reader to imagine why such a major roadway should need to be pushed through wilderness area but one obvious interpretation was that this was just a way of getting lots of large vehicles into areas previously unlogged.

After a very cold and windy evening the next day dawned a little better and the camp was in full

*During the
October
long
weekend
protesters
camped on
the banks
of the
Bombala
River.*



Public versus private parks

The rugged Gammon Ranges National Park may be a great place to visit. But I wouldn't know. I only stayed long enough for the ranger to grudgingly open the visitors' centre, tell us that the Corolla wouldn't be able to cope with any of the roads, and warn that because the park was wilderness there wasn't much point trying to do any bushwalking. Besides, you needed a map; the only map was the one stuck to the wall.

Accommodation? We could camp if we got a permit but we were assured that the only good spots were the ones we couldn't get to.

'Is there any chance of seeing a yellow-footed rock wallaby in the park or have the goats pushed them out?' I asked. We had seen a motley coloured flock of goats by the road, shortly after we entered the park.

'No goats in this park,' was the gruff reply.

Well, I guess if you don't admit to management problems, you don't have to spend so much money on park managers. We promptly got back into the car and drove along the rough dirt road, out of the park and into Arkaroola.

Beside the carpark was a display hall and information centre with maps, posters and all sorts of beautiful and useful things for sale. Inside the door were big photographs of yellow-footed rock wallabies (*Petrogale xanthopus*) and a log of the times and places of recent sightings. The marsupials were obviously a major attraction.

The man at the counter was being cheerful beyond the call of duty explaining repeatedly the condition of every road and track to a monumental bore. 'I was down there in the Moke yesterday. The creeks are down; you just have to be careful of the boulders.'

The bore asked about another track but he couldn't fool the adviser. This guy knew his patch of dirt. It turned out that every major



Arkaroola property and village with Gammon Ranges National Park in the distance.

route was negotiable to two-wheel-drive cars, given some careful driving through creekbeds and over rocky roads. Only a few side tracks were restricted to four-wheel-drive.

I got a map and a poster of the strange arid-land wildflowers we had been seeing by the roadside and then began inspecting the glass cases of sparkling minerals and fine-leaved fossils. There were large charts of geological history. There was an article of mine from an obscure Canberra publication. How did they find that? The research must have been very thorough. Eventually my partner dragged me away.

We didn't feel like camping so for \$10 each we got beds in an old bunkhouse. We got the whole bunkhouse to ourselves. After weeks of camping it was nice to have some electric light to read by.

The next day we set out to explore Arkaroola, still unsure of exactly what it was. Tourists were clamoring into a convoy of four-wheel-drives for a tour of some part of the property. We asked the information man about walks and were given a rundown of marked tracks which ranged from a few minutes to all day, over a variety of grades, with extensions if we felt inclined.

We picked something short but pretty, with the hope of a view at the end. The wildlife in the dry Flinders Ranges keeps a pretty low profile during the day but it wasn't long before we saw a large-scaled tailless lizard. We kept walking up the ridge. Eventually we reached the kind of rocky outcrops which we had been told the wallabies liked. We dropped off the ridge and started scrambling around the side of the slope, clinging to the well-spaced low shrubs.

Across the slope we saw a jump. It was a wallaby. A bit far away to see any details of colouring. We tried to get closer without disturbing it again. It hopped further away. No sign of yellow feet. It must have been something else.

We descended to the dry creekbed. Kangaroo tracks in the sand. We followed until we flushed out another wallaby. Still no yellow markings. What about that cave in the cliff above? My energetic mate climbed up and found a spacious cave with animal bones inside. It would have been a good place for Aboriginal hunters to sit and survey the landscape.

Eventually the creek led us back to the car. It had not been a long walk but at least we had gained some feeling of the rocks, plants and animals of the Flinders Ranges without dying of thirst.

We went back to the shop to get a drink and find out a bit more about Arkaroola. It is a privately owned nature reserve of 61,000 hectares with a history of mining.

17/18/19 March-Pack Walk (3/A)

Tumbarumba-Talbingo

Ref: Hume & Hovell track sketch maps or
Yarrangobilly 1:100 000, Courabyra 1:25 000
Leader: Phil Bubb Ph 81 4929 h 46 6128w

Contact leader early for details. A two day walk (15km and 20km) along a pleasant and varied section of the track, camping at the delightful Paddys River Dam. We shall hire a bus from Talbingo to the start of the walk. There is vehicle access in good weather to the camp site for car camping (pack portaging?) members. 400km drive.

17/18/19 March-Car Camp (1/A)

Mt Dromedary

Leader: Peter Roe/Syd Comfort Ph 91 9535/86 2578

Contact leaders early for details of this car camp in the Mt Dromedary area. Walks up Mt Dromedary and along the coast. A caravan park camping fee maybe necessary. 600km drive.

24/25 March-Pack Walk (1/A/B)

Mt Talaterang Ref: CMW Budawangs

Leader: Steven Forst Ph 51 6817 h 74 8426 w

Contact leader for details of this walk to a less visited high point in the Budawangs. An easy short walk with packs to a campsite on top of a waterfall then a harder day walk up to the summit and back, picking up packs before returning to the cars. Spectacular views. 600 km drive.

24 March-Saturday Walk (1/A)

Stockyard Hut Ref: Corin Dam 1:25 000

Leader: Lyle Mark Ph 86 2801

Meet at the corner of Eucumbene Drive and the Cotter Road at 8.30am. A good beginners walk from Mt Ginini on tracks across Cheyenne Flats to Stockyard Arboretum, the ruin of Stockyard Hut and Priors Hut. Return along the track. 120km drive.

1 April-Sunday Walk (4/A/D)

Rock Flats Ref: Rendezvous Creek 1:25 000

Leader: Frank Clements Ph 31 7005

Meet at the Kambah Village Shops at 8am. A longer walk half on fire trails and half through bush, some of it rough. There are two steep climbs of about 200 metres each. 80km drive.

8 April-Sunday Walk (1/A-E)

Bungonia Gorge Ref: Caoura 1:25 000

Leader: Mike Smith Ph 86 2984

Meet at the Drive-in on Northbourne Avenue at 8am. A steep walk down on the track from Bungonia lookdown to Bungonia Creek, then following the creek up into the gorge through some spectacular rock formations. Lunch at the pool in the gorge. Finally a steep climb out of the gorge via 'Efflux'. 220km drive.

Advance Notices

Budawangs Work Party Ref: CMW Budawangs

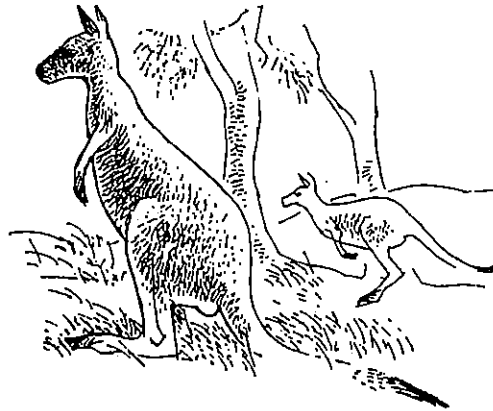
Leader: Dianne Thompson Ph 88 6084

Contact leader early to become involved in the conservation of our national parks at a really down to earth level.

Gudgenby Work Party Ref: ACT 1:100 000

Leader: Dugald Monro Ph 31 8776

Contact leader to find out how to become involved in the conservation of our local environment.



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

December 1989 to April 1990



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, environmental and field guide studies and ski tours.

Walks gradings

Distance grading (per day)

- 1 - up to 10 km
- 2 - 10 km to 15 km
- 3 - 15 km to 20 km
- 4 - above 20 km.

Terrain grading

- A - Road, firetrail, track
- B - Open forest
- C - Light scrub
- D - Patches of thick scrub, regrowth
- E - Flock scrambling
- F - Exploratory.

The walks program contains additional information. If necessary, contact the leader.

**13 December-Wednesday Sub-committee Meeting
Walks Program for April to June 1990**

Leader: Steven Forst Ph 51 6817 h 74 8426 w

This meeting will be held at Gladys Joyce's place, 14 Borrowdale St, Red Hill, from 7.30pm. The contents of the next outings program will be discussed along with any other business. All welcome.

14 January-Sunday Walk (1/B)

Corroboree Frog Search Ref: ACT 1:100 000

Leader: Will Osborne Ph 51 3829

Meet at the corner of Eucumbene Drive and the Cotter Road at 8.30am. A walk in the Ginini Flats area in search of the Corroboree Frog with the expert. 100km drive.

20/21 January-Canoe Trip (1/A)

The Upper Murray

Leader: Chris Bellamy Ph 49 7167

Contact leader by 13 January for details. A canoe trip along the upper Murray River. Rented canoes available at Walwa or BYO. Plenty of platypus to see. Start from Towong and canoe past Tintaldra and Walwa to finish at the Tintaldra riverside Pub. Stay at or camp next to the riverside Tintaldra Pub Friday/Saturday nights. Easy paddling, suit beginners. 800 km drive via Holbrook and Jingellic.

26/27/28 January-Pack walk (2/A)

The Main Range Ref: Mt Kosciusko 1:50 000

Leader: John Hutton Ph 58 7334

Contact leader by 19 January for details and bookings as numbers are limited. A walk from Dead Horse Gap up Heshaw Climb to the Ramshead and onto Mt Kosciusko and Mt Townsend. The three days will be spent exploring the Main Range, visiting Lake Albina, Blue Lake and Seamans Hut. A good introductory walk to the Main Range. Limit of 10 people. 400km drive.

26/27/28/(29) January-Pack walk (2/E/F)

Ettrema area Ref: Touga 1:25 000/Yalwal 1:25 000

Leaders: Pat & Eric Pickering Ph 86 2128

An exploratory walk in the area of Ettrema, Tullyangela, Dynamity, and Cinch Creeks in Morton National Park. Steep climbs (400 m), waterfalls, pools and swimming. The leaders would like to extend the walk to four days if participants are agreeable. Contact leaders by Tuesday 23 January for details. 320 km drive.

3/4 February Pack-Walk (3/E/F)

Wadbilliga

Leader: Phillip Gatenby Ph 54 3094

Contact leader by Wednesday for details. An exploratory walk in the Wadbilliga National Park. Steep climbs and the possibility of swimming with packs. Not for beginners.

4 February Sunday-Walk (1/A)

Swamp Creek Ref: ACT 1:100 000

Leader: Olive Buckman Ph 48 8774

Meet at the corner of Eucumbene Drive and the Cotter Road at 9.30am. A pleasant 2-4 km stroll along Swamp Creek. Hopefully lots of blackberry picking and swimming. 20km drive.

10 February-Saturday Walk (2/A/B)

Beyond Flea Creek Ref: ACT 1:100 000

Leader: Steven Forst Ph 51 6817 h 74 8426 w

Meet at the corner of Eucumbene Drive and the Cotter Road at 8am. A walk along the Goodradigbee River from the Brindabella bridge northward beyond Flea Creek and return. Opportunities for swimming and possibly blackberry picking. Note the road into the Brindabella Valley can be quite rough. 120km drive.

15 February-Mid week Walk (1/A)

Fishing Gap, Tidbinbilla Ref: ACT 1:100 000

Leader: Gladys Joyce Ph 95 6959

Meet at the corner of Eucumbene Drive and the Cotter Road at 9.30am. An 8km walk on tracks, moderate walking but steep in parts. 60km drive.

17/18 February-Pack walk (3/B/C/E)

Townsend's Spur/Canyon Falls Ref: Kosciusko 1:50000

Leader: Phil Bubb Ph 81 4929 h 46 6128 w

Contact leader by Wednesday for details. A hard Snowy Mountains pack walk for the fit only. Down Townsend's Spur to the falls on Lady Northcotes Canyon, camping nearby. Then probably up Watsons Crags Spur. A steep descent and climb of about 1000 metres with rock scrambling, some scrub and scree slopes to negotiate. 450km drive.

17 February-Saturday Walk (1/A)

Urlarra Crossing Ref: ACT 1:100 000

Leader: Syd Comfort Ph 86 2578

Meet at the corner of Eucumbene Drive and the Cotter Rd at 8.30 am. A walk or li-lo along the Murrumbidgee downstream from Urlarra Crossing. Stay on for lunch and swim if you wish. 30km drive.

24/25 February-Pack walk (4/A)

Nine Mile Diggings

Ref: Cabramurra 1:25 000/Denison 1:25 000

Leader: John Hutton Ph 58 7334

Contact leader by 16 February. A walk visiting historic huts, gold mine diggings and Table Top Mountain. Limit of 10. 400km drive.

24/25 February-Pack Walk (1/A)

Goodradigbee River Ref: ACT 1:100 000

Leader: Fiona Brand Ph 47 9538

Contact leader by Wednesday for details of this easy 2km walk for beginners or children. Lots of time for swimming. 160 km drive.

25 February-Sunday Walk (1/B)

Honeysuckle Creek Area Ref: Corin Dam 1:25 000

Leader: Lin Richardson Ph 41 5498

Meet at the Kambah Village Shops at 8.30am. A moderate 8km walk mostly in swamp/grassland or open forest starting from the tracking station site. 80km drive.

3/4 March-Pack walk (2/A/F)

Tantangara Area Ref: Tantangara 1:25 000

Leader: Dianne Thompson Ph 88 6084 h 84 5043w

Contact leader by Wednesday for details. A 28km walk mostly on tracks in the Tantangara area visiting Circuits, Pedens and Townsends Huts. Swimming in the Murrumbidgee River. 400km drive.

3 March-Saturday Walk (2/A)

Gingera from Ginini Ref: Corin Dam 1:25 000

Leader: Dugald Monro Ph 31 8776

Meet at the corner of Eucumbene Drive and the Cotter Road at 8am. A 13km walk from Mt Ginini to the top of Mt Gingera. Good views, returning by Snowy Flat. Half on tracks, half through open bush. One steep climb of 200m. 100km drive.

10 March-Saturday Walk (3/C)

Stockyard Spur Ref: ACT 1:100 000

Leader: Graham Guttridge Ph 31 4330 45 1618

Meet at Kambah Village Shops at 8am. A medium level walk with two difficult climbs (600m + 300m). Start at Corin Dam Carpark and climb the spur for an excellent view of Ginini Falls over a long lunch. Return by the same route. 70km drive.

11 March-Sunday Walk (2/A)

The Corn Trail Ref: Araluen 1:25 000/Monga 1:25 000

Leader: Mike Smith Ph 86 2984 h

Meet at Woolworths Carpark Queanbeyan at 8am. Walking track following the original pack horse route over the Clyde Mountain. A 650 metre drop from the top of the Clyde Mt to the Buckenbowa River. Car shuffle or crossover depending on conditions and numbers. 240km drive.

14 March-Mid Week Walk (1/A)

Square Rock Ref: Corin Dam 1:25 000

Leader: Olive Buckman Ph 48 8774

Meet at Kambah Village Shops at 9am. A pleasant 8km walk, on tracks through a variety of scenery, to a fascinating rock formation with wide views. A climb of 270 metres. Approximately 5 hour trip including lunch and exploration. 80km drive.

in South Australia

Judging from the displays, the owner is obviously a keen and expert geologist. He is also interested in astronomy, having established a small domed observatory on a hilltop. The tourist centre — with displays, a shop, service station, motels, caravans, swimming pool and playground — is not as compact and attractive as it might be.

Arkaroola's tourist operations seem to have grown haphazardly in the rough bush fashion; this is no slick international resort. Arkaroola offers accommodation, information, tours and other services based on its history and natural qualities.

The history starts with the formation of the solar system and moves through Aboriginal times to the feeble attempts of Europeans to establish a copper smelting industry in 1861. The Adnjamathanha people say that Arkaroo was a giant serpent that carved the gorge of Arkaroola Creek as he dragged his water-filled body from the salt lake now called Lake Frome up into the ranges. The natural qualities of Arkaroola include rugged hills, steep gorges, waterholes and radioactive hot springs (formed when Arkaroo rested his bloated body), and a range of minerals that fascinated the Antarctic explorer and geologist, Douglas Mawson.

The protection of wilderness depends on good public relations in the peripheral areas around the wilderness

Though I did not see any working mine, I suspect the tourist and educational activities are subsidised by small-scale mining. I do not know the environmental impact of this. Arkaroola may not be a model of conservation land management but its economy is sufficiently viable to allow all goats to be shot on sight.

Next door is Gammon Ranges National Park, 128,000 hectares of arid hills and river red gum-filled gorges. Its description as wilderness will only be justified when the alleged four-wheel-drive only tracks are closed to traffic. Some loyal South Australians have suggested the Gammon Ranges should be a candidate for world heritage listing.

Before the world comes to visit the park had better get its act together. Wilderness is no excuse for giving visitors a hard time. As conservationists have learnt, the protection of wilderness depends on good public relations in the peripheral areas around the wilderness.

The ranger's lack of enthusiasm for visitors may be explained by a state parks service that is understaffed and overworked. There may not be sufficient money for visitor services, information centres or feral goat eradication. It seems that the South Australian Government has placed considerable emphasis on national parks raising their own revenue, rather than the government supplying adequate budgets for park management. (On a tour of about half a dozen major South Australian national parks in August, there was no doubt that the parks were not nearly as well resourced as those of New South Wales). If so, the park managers could learn a lot from the way Arkaroola runs its land and its tourist business.

While the Gammon Ranges National Park may contain spectacular scenery and wildlife of great scientific interest (it's pretty hard for a stranger to tell on a visit), there is no doubt which place offers better services to visitors. Arkaroola shows how intelligent and enthusiastic private management can contribute to nature conservation and education.

Roger Green

Walks in the Bush Capital

If you think of Canberra as the Bush Capital, then walks around the city are bushwalks. Kim Morgan obviously thinks so; her book contains a three-page ballad called *Bush Capital*.

When I picked up her book, entitled *Canberra Bushwalks* and with a photograph of Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve on the cover, I was expecting to be transported to the wilds of the Brindabellas and Namadgi. However, the book does not go beyond the Murrumbidgee.

This need not be a problem. As the back cover says, there are plenty of beautiful places around the city. The author has walked them all with her dogs and gives a very thorough description of routes through Canberra Nature Park and other urban bushland in an area bounded by Kambah Pool, the Stromlo pine forest, Charnwood and the pines near Canberra airport.

The book is illustrated by very simple sketch maps with typed labels and dark photographs which are not always very instructive. For example, distant pictures of Mount Rogers, near Fraser, and the Urambi Hills, near Kambah, give great prominence to the highways in the foreground. Horizons are not always horizontal and the Australian-American memorial on Russell Hill (which obscures the subject of the picture, Mount Pleasant) is not vertical.

Roger Green

Kim Morgan, Canberra
Bushwalks, Kangaroo Press, 190 pages, \$12.95.

Gum tree kills walker

A 50-year-old woman died in August after a gum tree fell on top of her while she was bushwalking east of Melbourne. Police said she was walking along Gerraty's trail in the Victorian alps when the tree, laden with snow, fell on her. She had been on a one-day bus trip.

Adelaide Advertiser

Jervis Bay slide show

At the September general meeting of the Association the leader of the Jervis Bay conservation campaign, Sue Hanley, described the various threats to the bay. Despite a bad cold, she spoke to a series of slides that showed the diversity and beauty of the bay's scenery and wildlife.

Threats to these include the navy's plans for an armaments depot and fleet base, the Shoalhaven City Council's plans for a sewerage outfall and the general trend towards subdivision and suburban housing construction in attractive coastal areas that have not been otherwise reserved.

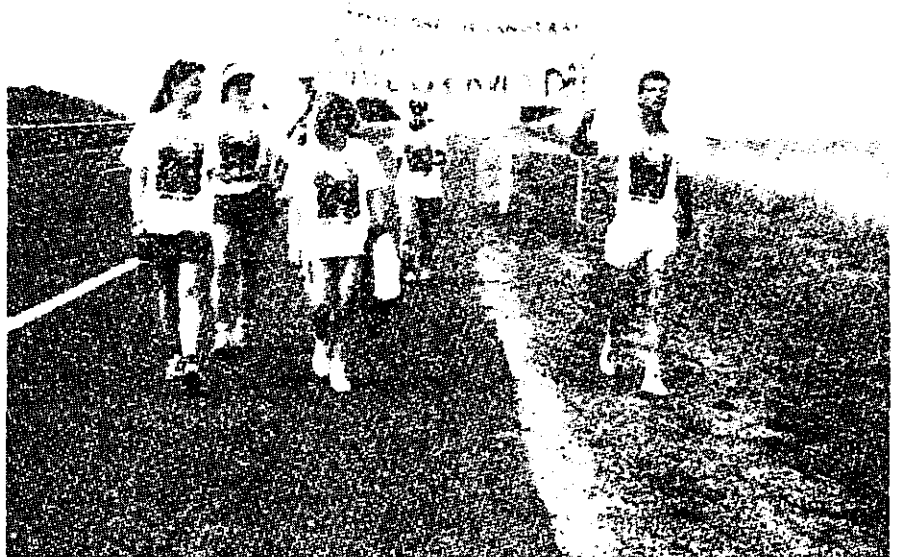
A number of national park proposals have been submitted for parts of the bay since 1944. The Canberra branch of the Australian Conservation Foundation is presently preparing a comprehensive proposal to protect the lands and waters of Jervis Bay, to be presented to the Federal Government.

At the end of the meeting the Association voted to donate \$150 to the Jervis Bay campaign. The President, Syd Comfort, wrote to the Prime Minister, Mr Hawke, in the following terms:

The Association wishes to congratulate you on the undertaking given recently that alternatives to moving naval facilities from the Sydney area to Jervis Bay will be rigorously evaluated . . .

The accessibility of Jervis Bay and its proximity to large centres of population ensure that the potential for the recognition of its inherent values by the public will undoubtedly be realised.

Rather than seek development of the Jervis Bay area, the Australian Government should, in the view of the Association, vigorously pursue the declaration of a national park and marine reserve covering the area. Only in this way can the future of this unique national asset be assured.



NPA members Gabrielle Robin, left, and Jane O'Donoghue, behind the banner, on the Hume Highway south of Goulburn. Photo: Den Robin.

Conservationists walk from the bay to Canberra

NPA members were among those who carried a petition from Jervis Bay to Canberra over the October long weekend. The petition, organised by the Jervis Bay Protection Committee and signed by about 15000 people, called on the Federal Government to hold a full public inquiry on the proposed naval developments in Jervis Bay. On Tuesday 3 October it was presented to the Federal Member for Fraser, John Langmore, who lodged it in Parliament.

The four-day protest march through Kangaroo Valley and Bundanoon and along the Hume and Federal Highways was demanding but great fun. About 50 conservationists took part, maintaining an average walking speed of 6.5 kilometres an hour. There were delicious meals, good company and a supportive response from members of the public in the towns we walked through and from the vehicles that flew past on the highways.

On 9 October the Federal Minister for the Environment, Senator Graham Richardson, said the decision regarding the proposed navy move to Jervis Bay was in limbo and that the navy was currently canvassing other possible sites along the east coast. 'The navy have withdrawn their EIS,' he said in an interview on ABC television news. 'I have no idea when they'll bring it up to me for any sort of consideration. The Prime Minister has indicated that because of this, the move may not go ahead.'

The situation is looking better, although our campaign to protect Jervis Bay must not also go into limbo. We need to put our efforts into achieving a Jervis Bay national park, including a marine reserve, as outlined by Sue Hanley, and continuing to closely monitor developments in defence.

Den Robin

Milo Dunphy on coastal development

The director of the Total Environment Centre in Sydney, Milo Dunphy, addressed the May general meeting of the Association on the subject of the south coast of New South Wales. He said that the Greiner Government was destroying environmental legislation and allowing developers to consume the remaining natural areas on the coast outside national parks.

He said that 'New South Wales Inc' - a term applied to the business management style of the Premier, Nick Greiner - may be the most successful asset-stripping exercise by any corporate raider in New South Wales history. National Party policies which would destroy natural areas were being implemented.

Development applications in coastal areas had boomed and were being fast tracked by the leader of the National Party, Wal Murray. Amendments to planning and environment legislation would destroy zoning regulations and make coastal subdivision harder to block. Urban sprawl threatened coastal protection and rural zones along the whole coastline.

Part of Sydney Harbour National Park was to be leased to a private university. The government aimed to sell Crown land on the coast without regard for the interests of the National Parks and Wildlife Service. Despite the impending greenhouse effect, which threatens to raise the sea level by one or two metres in the next 50 years, low-lying lands were still being subdivided.

In 1988 there were 150 applications for developments valued at over \$1 million along the New South Wales coast. Many were combinations of a hotel, golf course and suburban subdivision, concentrated in the area from Port Stephens to Coffs Harbour. Along the Gerroa-Ulladulla stretch of coastline, 25 projects - naval, tourist and residential - were planned.

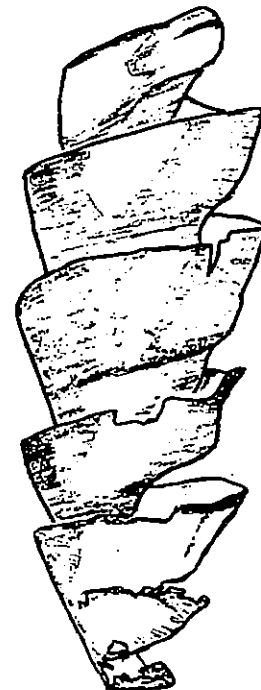
Dunphy said that there was a need to reserve long chains of the remaining natural parts of the coastline in national parks. Wetlands, wild rivers, endangered and migratory species especially had to be protected.

The Total Environment Centre had been responsible for gaining the Myall Lakes National Park in the 1970s. It was currently working on a number of national park proposals: Bongil Bongil near Sawtell on the north coast, Jervis Bay, and extensions of Royal and Murramarang National Parks.

Development should be kept within existing built-up areas. There should be no more tourist roads close and parallel to the coast. There also had to be more public information and consultation on plans. Government agencies - the Forestry Commission, the Department of Main Roads and local councils - also needed to be reformed.

Conservationists needed to make a big effort to achieve a planning system which balanced developers and empowered community groups to protect coastal lands.

After the talk the meeting expressed its concern at the tidal wave of development along the NSW coastline and donated \$100 to the Total Environment Centre's coastal fighting fund.



Sketches by John Payne

A former member of the Association, the late John Payne, was a talented sketcher who spent many happy hours on NPA outings recording things of interest in the bush. Our thanks to Judy Payne for allowing us to reproduce some of his work in the *Bulletin*.

Above: Egg case of a Port Jackson shark, found on the shores of Jervis Bay.

*Below: Blue Oliveberry (Blueberry Ash), *Elaeocarpus reticulatus*, from Jervis Bay.*



THE ALPS

Alpine trek

On 2 November eight rugged outdoors types set out from the front of Parliament House in Canberra on their way to Victoria. They had with them a memorandum of understanding, an agreement between the Commonwealth, ACT, New South Wales and Victorian Governments, on the cooperative management of the national parks of the Australian alps. Before they left the Federal Minister for the Environment, Senator Graham Richardson, signed the memorandum, which was passed on by the Acting Minister for the Environment, Clyde Holding.

The trekkers walked, skied, cycled, rode horses, drove, climbed and rafted from Canberra to Victoria in an attempt to publicise national agreement on the need to conserve the alps in national parks. The representative of the ACT on the trek was the president of the Canberra Bushwalking Club, David Campbell. Another trekker, Carrie Steffen, also lives in Canberra.

After setting out from the top of Capital Hill on mountain bikes the trekkers' first camp was in Orroral Valley. The next day the ACT minister responsible for national parks, Ellnor Grassby, signed the memorandum. Then the trekkers rode off into the wilds of Namadgi National Park and on to Cooleman Plains.

On 9 November the trekkers emerged from the wilderness at Charlotte Pass in Kosciusko National Park. There the New South Wales Minister for the Environment, Tim Moore, signed

the memorandum of understanding. Then the party walked and skied to the top of Mount Kosciusko.

The Great Alpine Trek culminated with the proclamation of the Victorian Alpine Park by the Victorian Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands, Kay Setches, at Snowy Plains near Licola on 2 December. All types of users of the park, from bushwalkers to horse-riders and four-wheel drivers, attended the event. Members of the Victorian National Parks Association attended to show their support for the national park, albeit somewhat compromised, for which they have been campaigning for decades.

NPWS decides on Thredbo EIS

The director of the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service has determined the environmental impact statement on the redevelopment of Thredbo village. The service has approved the expansion from 3200 to 4800 beds, an international hotel, lodges, townhouses, condominiums and a sports centre. The extension of the golf course was rejected. The service varied the plan for the siting of the hotel: it should be sited near the valley terminal, not on the village green. The service required the lessees, Kosciusko Thredbo Pty Ltd, to maintain walking tracks, prepare educational material on the park, provide funds for water-quality monitoring, control storm and close the tip.

Thredbo plan criticised

The Kosciusko Advisory Committee, set up by the NSW Minister for the Environment, Tim Moore, has advised against the expansion of the resort at Thredbo beyond the current developed area. At its October meeting the committee opposed moves by the lessee, Kosciusko Thredbo Pty Ltd, to apply for an extension of its nine-hole golf course, a proposal rejected by the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

The committee also resolved that any development should be within the existing built-up village area and further that no additional accommodation should be built until the water-quality monitoring and waste-disposal measures proposed by the developers have been completed. If the new tip at Jindabyne, to replace the unsightly dump on the banks of the Thredbo River near the resort, takes two years to complete, this may delay the redevelopment of the resort.

At the meeting the committee also discussed feral animals and plants, the recycling of rubbish, the declining national park budget and the use of volunteers for some park maintenance jobs. NPA members may be interested in this last topic, which will be discussed further by the parks service.

Resort for sale

The Transfield construction group and Fritz Feiersinger are trying to sell Blue Cow resort in Kosciusko National Park. The resort was built in 1987. Though the resort was supposed to be the most environmentally sensitive, it led to the construction of roads through sensitive subalpine habitats and buildings that are visible from the main range. Research is continuing on the impact of the resort on the mountain pygmy possums (*Burramys parvus*) that live beneath the ski runs.

According to *The Canberra Times*, the resort, which was supposed to open summer and winter, will be operating at a reduced level this summer.



The ACT minister for national parks, Mrs Ellnor Grassby, addressing alpine trekkers at Orroral camping ground. The memorandum of understanding between four governments on cooperative alpine management is in the cylinder on the table. Photo: Reg Alder.

Winter trip

approaching the pass
up the west fork of valentine creek
leaning on a strong southerly
snow-whipped skin numb

stumble on ridged crust
dull under our packs
some were quicker at this
we were all close to our courage

we glimpsed the lowlands under
black
shreds of racing cloud
and the sight of one mountain
recalling
where we had been

down in an exulting traverse
below the snowbound arena
meeting
sunshine, colours, running water
other birdsong than crow-cawing

people were climbing
just as far as they pleased
smiling, we babbled
our hearts were dazed and slow

as if we had just been born
it is like this, climbing ad
descending
year after year
we are always pleased to return

Ken Cameron

Warner on Kosciusko

Charles Warner's *Bushwalking in Kosciusko National Park* is a classic. Our copy of the first edition is dirty and dog-eared with use. It was a basic production but the maps were good and the notes brief and useful. The book did not give detailed route instructions.

The second edition is much glossier. It has a full-colour cover picture of Jagungal, better paper, perfect binding, more photographs and more pages (though the weight is similar). My initial fear was whether it would be as useful and durable as the old, stapled edition.

The maps are similar, though with a little more detail. Blessedly, the text is also structured in the same way as the first edition with each section of the park having an introduction, list of maps, list of roads, tracks and other constructions, notes on access, and description of points of interest. The author has added the odd paragraphs to each section and brought other information up to date.

The walker is still left to plan his or her own walk. That is the great beauty of this book compared to the many other detailed route guides to national parks. It also explains why the subtitle and

'Compulsory preface and warning' emphasise that the book is for experienced bushwalkers.

As well as the description of walking areas, Warner has three other chapters on the locality – describing the landforms, climate, vegetation, wildlife and human history, the special needs and regulations of walking and camping in Kosciusko, and dealing with hazards – hypothermia, snakebite, bushfires and floods.

For someone capable of negotiating his or her own way through relatively gentle terrain, as is Kosciusko National Park, and coping with changing weather conditions, Warner's book is the best available. For those who like to be guided every step of the way, they should get something else.

In my opinion *Bushwalking in Kosciusko National Park* is the best regional bushwalking guide I have seen in Australia.

Roger Green

Charles Warner, Bushwalking in Kosciusko National Park, published by the author, 128 pages.

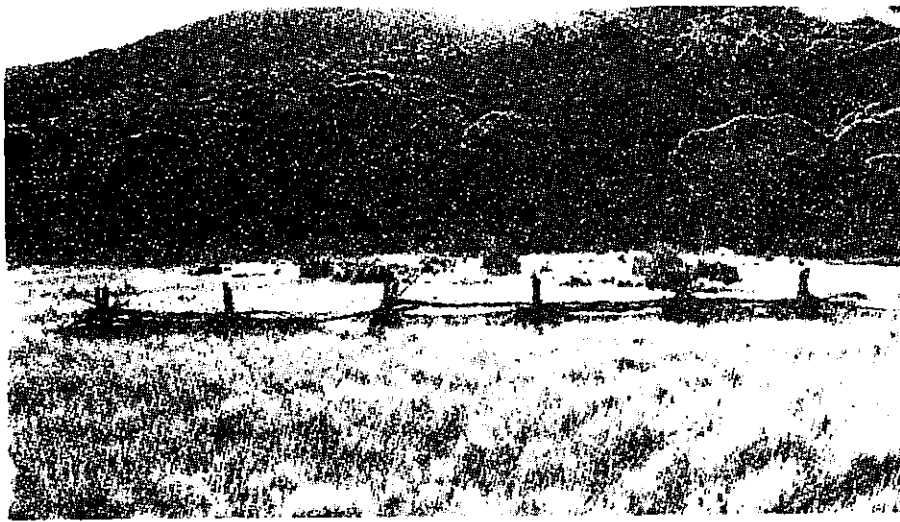
Meetings with the ACT Government

The September *Bulletin* reported that a briefing paper setting out major environmental concerns of the Association within the ACT had been prepared for Mrs Ellnor Grassby who, as Minister for Housing and Urban Services, had responsibility for parks and reserves. Kevin Frawley met with Mrs Grassby in August and subsequently, together with Syd Comfort and Anne Taylor, met with the Director of the Parks and Conservation Service, Mr Greg Fraser, and senior officers from his department.

Topics discussed included the proposed extensions of Namadgi National Park to include North Cotter, Gibraltar Creek, Blue Gum and Mount Tennant areas, the formation of the ACT Parks and Conservation Committee which will be a vehicle for departmental and public consultation, the proposed world heritage listing of the alpine parks, and management plans for the Murrumbidgee River corridor and the Jerrabomberra wetlands. Parks and Conservation officers advised that public response to

the leaflet drop on the development of a management plan for Canberra Nature Park had been very encouraging and further public involvement would be sought through joint projects on regeneration and tree planting.

Syd Comfort



Near the site of Lone Pine homestead in the upper Naas valley.
Photo: Babette Scougall.

A walk in the Naas valley

This year the National Parks Association in conjunction with the Kosciusko Huts Association again conducted Heritage Week walks in the Grassy and Naas Creeks area.

The walk described here started at Brayshaw's Hut, which is situated close to the Boboyan Road between the Mount Clear turn-off and the ACT/New South Wales border. The hut, although built as late as 1903, was constructed using the traditional vertical slab walls, shingle roof and a huge chimney of granite blocks. Additions in the form of lean-tos represent two later construction patterns, milled timber and fibro sheeting. This hut was well described in an earlier *NPA Bulletin* (December 1984) and we noted further deterioration since that time: one long weatherboard plank completely removed, further breaks in the fibro, bricks fallen from the chimney capping and a door badly damaged by gun-shot holes.

Across the Boboyan Road from Brayshaw's, the remains of an old school, known as Boboyan or Tin Dish School have recently been located. We visited this site, one of the first groups to do so. Built in

1906 it is thought that the school only operated for three or four years and then on a half-time basis. Little remains of the tiny building but that little was sketched and measured by Ken Johnson and Alan Fenton during the walk.

We then drove back a short distance and along the southern end of the old Boboyan Road to the locked gate and visited the site of James Brayshaw's Hut which is located rather less than a kilometre beyond the gate. This site is identified at a distance as a hemispherical clump of quince trees and closer inspection reveals that the quince has taken over the site covering the remaining foundations of the building. The house is known to date from some time before 1882 because in that year its value was recorded at twenty pounds. Ken and Alan spent the remainder of the day locating and measuring the existing parts of the building while the rest of the party moved to other sites. Considering the unpromising prospect presented by the site, they have produced a remarkably good outline of what was a quite considerable building. They also located nearby, some

very marked cut holes in the creek bed and have speculated that these may have been made by the occupants of the property to obtain water in dry times.

Following the Old Boboyan Road up the valley we next stopped at the site of the Boboyan Homestead. Settlement was not officially permitted west of the Murrumbidgee until the late 1830's and at this time John Grey, a storekeeper from Queanbeyan, bought Boboyan and employed Charles McKeahnie as overseer and it was probably he who was responsible for the first construction on this site about 1840. Boboyan remained the principal home on the Naas Creek for well over a hundred years and a wonderful position it occupies: a gently sloping, sheltered site with a fine north-easterly aspect overlooking the valley. The remains of the 1866 and 1901 homesteads were inspected and the orchard, well, dam and graveyard visited. Recent rains have loosened some of the large stones which form the spillway of the dam, an indication of the inevitable processes of decay which go on continually unless some preservation steps are taken.

I have been told that the homestead ceased to be the head house of the property in the 1950s or 1960s but was still occupied by Ted Brayshaw for some time after that. After the house became vacant, vandalism and misuse became a concern for the owners and, conscious of its heritage value, they sought government interest in the homestead. This offer was not taken up so the house was demolished and materials sold in 1971. The property was resumed by the Commonwealth in the 1970s to be later incorporated into the national park. The ACT Parks and Conservation Service has restored the huge homestead fireplace, its massive wooden lintel having been badly burned. Much of the original mortar used in the fireplace is still in place; it is made from local clay and contains no lime or cement.

At lunchtime we were pleased to shelter from the drizzle in the crutching shed built in the 1960s

when the Luton family, the last owners, were in possession, and then went on to two older sites nearby. One of these, Venables Hut, dates back to at least 1883 but was bulldozed in more recent times. Granville Venables was a rabbit trapper for Dick Brayshaw and was in the hut until the late 1940s or early 1950s. We are told that many a lively dance and horse race meeting was held here in its hey day but this is a far cry from the remains which we now see and comprise some old fruit trees, parts of the stone chimney and house foundations.

Low cloud and drizzle prevented us from enjoying the back drop of hills which frame this valley but compensated for this by providing an atmosphere well fitted to contemplation of the occupants and life of yesteryear which yielded the heritage we value today.

Syd Comfort

With acknowledgements to the Kosciusko Huts Association and rangers of the ACT Parks and Conservation Service.

The absent-minded editor apologises for failing to print this story alongside Ken Johnson's drawings which appeared in the last Bulletin.

Frawley elected chair of ANPC

The Past President of the National Parks Association (ACT), Kevin Frawley, has been elected chairman of the Australian National Parks Council, the peak body of the national parks movement in Australia. The council represents the various National Parks Associations on major issues, particularly at the national level.

Forests past and future

The history of Australia's forests has great significance for creation, conservation and good management of many national parks. Without a knowledge of the ecological, Aboriginal and European changes made to forests there is little basis for arguments about where particular trees should be, whether their range are declining or expanding and what impacts forest ecosystems can cope with. This affects questions of the protection of species, the location of national parks and the heated debate about how often forests should be burnt.

In 1988 a number of academics, land managers and other researchers from a variety of disciplines – biology, forestry, anthropology, geography – got together at the Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies at the Australian National University for the first conference on Australian forest history. Kevin Frawley and Noel Semple have collected the proceedings in a volume called *Australia's ever-changing forests*.

Kevin Frawley has added one paper that was not delivered at the conference: a review of articles and books on the history of conservation and the national park concept in Australia. The review itself is quite illuminating but it also points to the amount of research that could be conducted into the philosophy, sociology, economics and politics of conservation over the last century or so. There is a great opportunity, and plenty of ripping yarns, for a bright young historian.

Surprisingly few historians contributed to the forest history conference. A forest historian from North Carolina, H.K. Steen, observed in his paper: 'In North America forest history is practised primarily by historians, while in other nations foresters dominate the field. Historians see forests as an organic extension of social, political and economic systems. Foresters see forests as places where trees grow and other resources occur.'

But despite the lack of historians there were lots of other interesting people at the conference. Geographers from Canberra and Hobart, Geoff Hope and Jamie Kirkpatrick, reviewed the ecological history of Australian forests. Naturalists from the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service, Dan Lunney and Chris Moon, told the story of logging and fire in the Mumbulla State Forest on the south coast of New South Wales. A parks service anthropologist, Sue Feary, reports on Aboriginal use of the southeast Australian forests. One of the senior figures of Australian forestry, Leslie Carron, reviewed the state of knowledge of the history of public forests. An architect from the University of Queensland, Don Watson, described the destruction of the softwood scrubs of southeast Queensland.

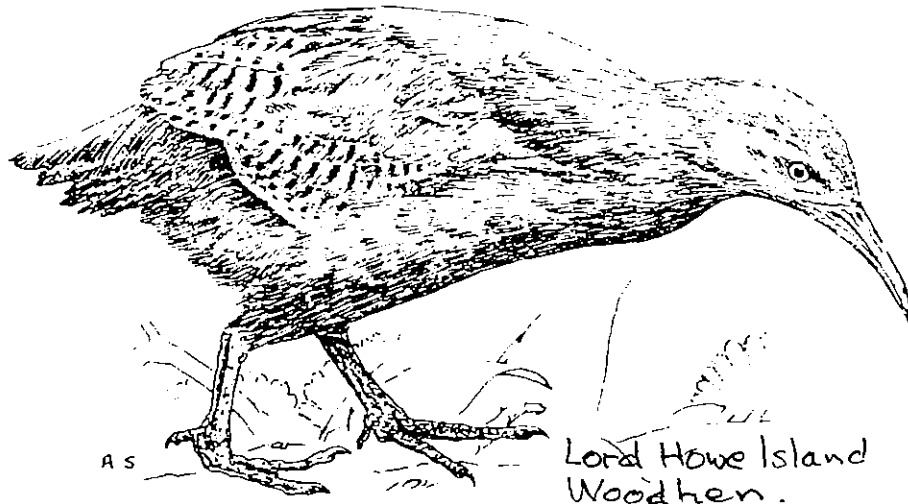
Colin Michael Hall, from the Department of Geography and Planning at the University of New England, examines the hypothesis that national parks in North America and Australia were simply lands otherwise deemed worthless. He concludes that Australia's national parks are not just the rational result of aesthetic and ecological considerations. The creation and continued protection of national parks – from the 19th century to the present – was and is dependent on an absence of material wealth as much as higher ideals.

Australia's ever-changing forests contains a wealth of ideas and information. For a set of conference proceedings the production values are high. For anyone interested in the past and future of Australia's forests, the book is a good buy, available from Association.

Roger Green

Kevin Frawley and Noel Semple, editors, Australia's ever-changing forests, Australian Defence Force Academy, 529 pages, \$15.00.

Two islands of paradise



Lord Howe Island
Woodhen.

Some months ago I decided to get away from it all. I wanted peace and quiet, beautiful surroundings and a chance to walk a lot.

Pacific Unlimited Holidays provided this through their Off Peak Tariff Tearer Twin Island package to Norfolk and Lord Howe Islands. Special rates apply from mid-May to mid-September; you choose your accommodation and number of nights on each speck of land and the final quote covers all air fares, accommodation, transfers and two tours on Norfolk Island. I found the temperatures in August were delightful and the quiet of the off season made the trip a true paradise.

Both islands are volcanic, have delightful lagoons, clear beaches, tropical rainforest, fascinating corals and rocks, masses of endemic plants, trees and birds, and peace – perfect peace. In a pleasant two-hour flight from Sydney we passed over Lord Howe Island and Balls Pyramid, that spectacular 548-metre high pinnacle of rock, a cross between a cathedral spire and a Walt Disney castle. Landing on Norfolk I was soon settled into my apartment consisting of a large lounge, well-equipped kitchen, bedroom with en suite and verandah. I had my own pet fan-tailed pigeons and black doves which happily wandered into the

lounge if I was foolish enough to leave the door open.

Food was, naturally, more expensive than on the mainland and on Norfolk one is restricted to fruit and vegetables that can be grown locally. There are also guest houses providing meals and many clubs welcome visitors. Both these and a number of restaurants provide excellent low-cost meals.

Cars are available for hire but as the whole island is only eight kilometres by five kilometres I was happy to walk everywhere. These ramblings included a fascinating day at the old penal settlement – the second in Australia – which, along with the Pitcairn settlement, provides a fascinating slice of history. The area is vast, many buildings being restored, all clearly labelled, and one can spend hours and hours of wandering without losing interest. Later I saw sound and light there.

The scenic tour was excellent, covering most of the island and main places and gave one a chance to decide what to return to. For me this was the penal settlement and the National Park. Here, in the north of the island, I spent a memorable day on well made tracks among beautiful rainforests and coastal paths with magnificent views of clear turquoise seas, fascinating volcanic

islands, sea birds, many endemic plants and, above all, perfect peace. The only sounds were the birds and the breeze through the overhead canopy.

All too soon I flew out in a tiny nine-seater plane on the two-hour flight to Lord Howe Island. If I had liked Norfolk then I was now to fall in love with Lord Howe. At the sight of the delightful long and narrow (11 kilometres by two kilometres) lush land with towering Mounts Lydgbird and Gower at the southern end and I was hooked.

The island and islets are all that remain of a 30-million-year-old volcano and the north end is the oldest. Here I had my first day's walk to old Settlement Beach and a climb through the forest to Kim's Lookout high on the cliffs, then along to Malabar.

The views were delightful – north east to the Admiralty Islands, down the narrow neck with beaches either side and the two lovely huge bulks of Mounts



Fitzgeraldia
Lord Howe Island.

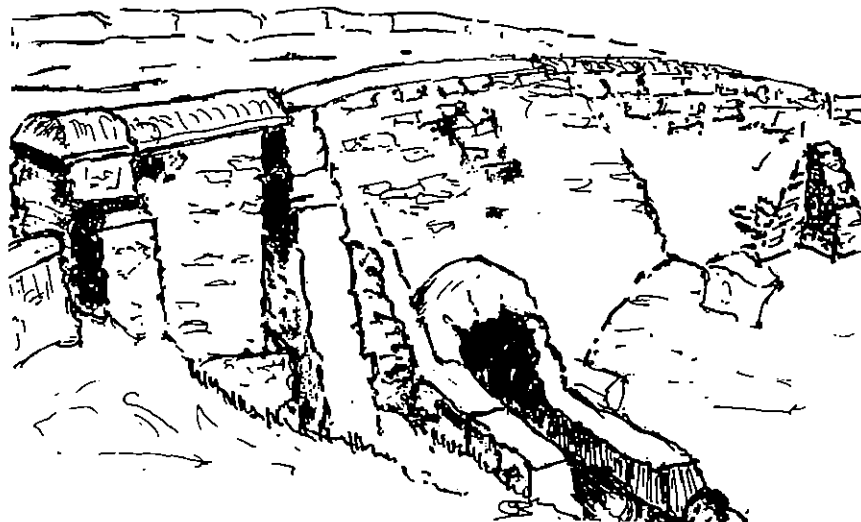
Lydgbird and Gower (both over 800 metres) at the southern end with Balls Pyramid peeping over their shoulder.

Bikes are available for hire but the walking and rambling is so delightful that I preferred to do this, stopping to chat with locals and visitors alike.

While Mount Lydgbird is inaccessible Gower can be climbed, but one must have a guide. For me this day was the highlight of my trip.

Seven starters and our able, jovial guide Ray set off around 7.30am following a track through the palms, boulder hopping along Little Island and then the start – a stiff short climb up the side of Lydgbird. This continued along the Lower Road with fixed ropes to help those with a fear of heights. There was a towering 200-metre cliff on our left and a sheer 200-metre drop to the sea on the right! The track then turned into Erskine Valley and after a total climb of about 200 metres we crossed the creek onto Mount Gower itself. Up, up over roots and rocks we climbed – a wonderful canopy of trees and ferns all around and over us, and so to the saddle at about 400 metres. From here Lydgbird took on a totally different shape and the views down to the island were spectacular. Now came the tricky part up the spine of Gower, rising very steeply, many sections having fixed ropes and above this was the 'get-up place' – a sheer cliff which saved the flightless Lord Howe woodhen. Wild pigs could not negotiate it and the few remaining birds were removed to a specially prepared area to become the nucleus of a captive breeding program in the early 1980s. This was most successful. By 1984 some hundreds of woodhens were again wandering wild and the scheme was closed.

Eventually we reached the summit at 850 metres which was an area like the enchanted forests of our childhood dreams. Constant mist encourages dozens of different mosses, lichens and ferns, each with its twinkling drop of moisture, to grow thickly on the



Norfolk Island

Bloody Bridge. Kingston Penal Settlement.

canopy of trees, ferns and palms often festooned like fairy lights. Tiny brightly coloured fungi dotted the forest floor, woodhens wandered around our feet and we were in fairyland. At a hand clap or vocal sound from Ray, providence petrels would hurtle down through the canopy and then scuttle to their burrows.

By 5pm we had retraced our often slippery steps, semi abseiled down the ropes of the get-up place, and returned to our start the richer in experiences of many kinds.

My second memorable day (apart from the joy of many rambles

around) was a two-hour cruise around the island. We covered the length of the clear lagoon inside the most southern reef in the world and rode the waves under and around Mounts Lydgbird and Gower, with the sea 50 metres deep on one side and 200 metres on the other in places. There were lovely views of Balls Pyramid, close ups of geological features of the beaches, cliffs and rocks – each new view full of beauty and interest. In and out we went, through the Admiralty Islands, swarming with their thousand of sea birds (14 species nest regularly) past the northern cliffs with their fantastic vertical dykes and so back to the lagoon.

While walking was my main activity (purchase of Ian Hutton's little book is a must to fully enjoy descriptions of walks, fauna, flora and geology) both islands also have fishing trips, glass-bottomed boats, cruises, scenic flights, bowls, tennis and so on. My lasting memories are of peace, friendliness and great natural beauty, especially on Lord Howe Island.

Olive Buckman



Kentia (or Howea forsteriana)
Palms, Lord Howe.

Your Conservation Council

What is it?

The conservation Council of the South-East Region & Canberra is a voluntary organisation much like the NPA, the major difference being its membership, which is comprised of organisations rather than individuals. The council provides a focus for a variety of groups with an interest in the environment, enabling them to act together.

Why have it?

A large number of groups all trying to comment on an issue can confuse the listeners, clouding rather than clarifying the issue. The council can integrate the many interests and concerns of its members and present them in a way which can be clearly understood by politicians and journalists, thus commanding greater attention for the issues.

How does it operate?

The Conservation Council is a non-profit organisation, which at present represents some 34 organisations. It receives some government funding both federal and local, but is quite independent of any government instrumentality. Its issues and programs are decided at open quarterly general meetings of delegates from the member organisations. The council has an elected executive which meets about once a fortnight to carry out the wishes of the member organisations. There is also a full-time director, an office manager, and two project officers. Working groups dealing with forests, and the urban environment have been set up to focus extra attention on specific issues and to develop and implement policies and actions for them.

What does it do?

The Conservation Council works by research, education, lobbying of government and media, publication, and more direct action where necessary.

The council has been able to establish itself as a representative of conservation groups of the region to such a degree that the media now approaches them for comment on any environmentally related topics. They have also been invited to represent community interests on a variety of advisory committees.

The council supports the activities of its member groups. For example the Forestry Working Group has been assisting the South Coast member groups in their dealings with the woodchip industry in a campaign that has reached such proportions it now employs two campaign coordinators and occupies a considerable amount of office space. The council is also able to pick up on any new issues which are not being covered by any of the member groups.

The two major methods of operation are: the preparation of submissions in response to

environmental impact statements, discussion papers, and draft plans of management; and active lobbying. It is important to realise that the Environment Centre cannot play the part of the council, it is a resource centre and its directors cannot speak on behalf of local conservationists.

The Conservation Council could perhaps be described as the political voice of the environment movement.

The lobbying activities of the council during the ACT elections gave a considerable boost to its public profile. During the same period the council executive, through consultation with its member groups, produced a *Policy statement on ACT Environmental Issues*. The purpose of this document was to present to the election candidates a range of issues affecting the urban and rural environments of the ACT. The statement sets out a direction for policy as well as providing practical

Calendar

December

Saturday 2 Conservation Council general meeting at Braidwood
Thursday 7 Committee meeting, 7.30pm 87 Shackleton Circt, Mawson
Sunday 10 NPA Christmas Party, 3pm Orroral picnic ground
Tuesday 12 Environment Centre general meeting 7 pm
Wednesday 13 Outings subcommittee meeting 7.30 pm, 14 Borrowdale St, Red Hill, Steve Forst 516817(h) 748426(w)

January

Sunday 14 Corroboree frog search
Thursday 25 Environment subcommittee meeting 7.30pm, 43 Fitchett St, Garran, Tim Walsh 851112(h) 741465(w)

February

Thursday 1 Committee meeting 7.30pm, 87 Shackleton Circt Mawson
Thursday 8 Namadgi subcommittee meeting 7.30pm, 11 Dyson St, Lyneham, Dugald Monro 318776(h)
Thursday 15 NPA general meeting 8pm

March

Thursday 1 Committee meeting 7.30pm 87 Shackleton Circt, Mawson

Publicity and education subcommittee meetings: contact Jill Roberts 491390(h) 724192(w).

proposals for action. The document will now become an important tool in the process of lobbying the elected ACT Assembly. It is now being reviewed and revised by the council, through the advice of the member groups.

How can you help?

It's your council; its ability to achieve real gains for the environment is only limited by the amount of effort members are prepared to make. It is up to you to bring to the council's attention any issues which you feel should be addressed. The council is heavily reliant on input from people with skills such as planning, biology, law, bookkeeping, chemistry, organisation, and most of all time and a willingness to learn. Ideas for actions are much sought after and time to back them up especially useful. The Forestry and Urban Environment Working Groups are two existing areas for involvement in the council's operations. All you need is your enthusiasm and the time to learn.

Do something positive for your environment, now.

Anne Taylor

NPA administrative assistant

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Hill, Denise Mann, Theodore, Colin and Maureen McLennan, Moss Vale, Alan Mikkelsen, Belconnen, Anne Moten, Aranda, Helen McIver, Curtin, Ruth and Peter Palmer, Watson, J and L Petchey, Dickson, Margot Pearson, O'Connor, Michael Richards, Aranda, Nancy Smale, Narrabundah, W Stock, Flynn, Ed Sjollem and family, Waramanga, Audrey Stewart, Torrens, Harry and Lorna Smith, Narrabundah, Terry and Margaret Sewell, Downer, Andrew Smith and family, Deakin, Mardi Troth, Hall, Raymond Wand, Kaleen, Ann Williams, Red Hill.

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AUSTRALIA

General meetings

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

No meeting in January

February 15

Gary Scott and a panel from the National Capital Planning Authority will talk about the future role of the NCPA in environmental planning and issues concerning sites of significance in the ACT.

March 15

Paul Butler, who has recently returned from Antarctica, will talk about conservation and that continent.