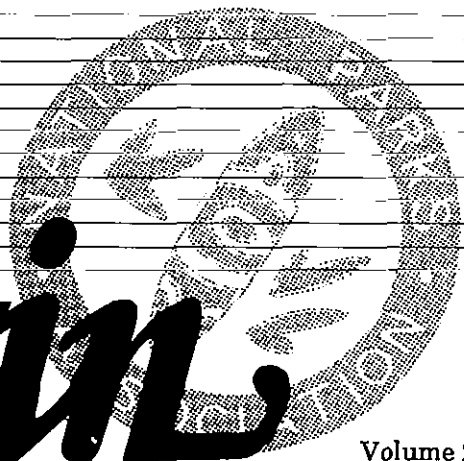


NPA Bulletin



Volume 27 number 2
June 1990

NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION (ACT) INCORPORATED



Endangered moth at Belconnen
Picnic at Mount Dromedary

CONTENTS

A disillusioned forester	4
National Capital Plan	5
Fast trains and real estate	7
Hedda Morrison exhibition	8
Mount Dromedary	10
Forest subsidies in the USA	12
Parkwatch	13
Canoeing the Upper Murray	14
Endangered moth in Belconnen	16
Heritage listing procedures	20

Cover

Photo: Reg Alder

Heritage week walkers at Mt Clear campground
Sunday 29th April 1990

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 286 2578 (h)

Vice President

Beverley Hammond 288 6577 (h) 258 1877 (w)

Immediate Past President

Kevin Frawley 282 3080 (h) 268 8309 (w)

Secretary

Judith Webster 241 4646 (h) 248 4141 (w)

Treasurer

Les Pyke 281 2982 (h)

Environment subcommittee convenors

Jacqui Rees 295 8567 (h)

Tim Walsh 285 1112 (h) 274 1465 (w)

Namadgi subcommittee convenor

Dugald Monro 231 8776 (h)

Publicity and education subcommittee convenor

Jill Roberts 249 1390 (h) 272 4192 (w)

Walks convenor

Steven Forst 251 6817 (h) 274 8426 (w)

Other committee members

Mike Smith 286 2984 (h) 281 9565 (w)

Glyn Lewis 295 2720 (h)

Phil Bubb 281 4929 (h) 246 6128 (w)

Subcommittees are open to all members. Anyone interested in their work should contact the convenor.

Subscription rates (1 July - 30 June)

Household members \$20 Single members \$15

Corporate members \$10 Bulletin only \$10

Concession: half above rates

For new subscriptions joining between:

1 January and 31 March - half specified rate

1 April and 30 June - annual subscription

Membership enquiries welcome

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: (06) 257 1063

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 (06) 247 0059.

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

Deadline for September issue: 1 August, 1990.

NPA Bulletin is produced by Green Words for the National Parks Association (ACT) Incorporated. It is produced with the assistance of an ACT Community Development Fund grant.

Printed on recycled paper by Union Offset Co Pty Ltd, Fyshwick, ACT.

ISSN 0727-8837

President's foreword

Canberra Alive staged during Canberra Week was a field event in which well over 100 ACT organisations mounted displays to show the public what each group is about. The event reinforced a view long held that voluntary organisations occupy a very important place in Australian society in general, and in the ACT in particular. As well as bringing people together for pursuing charitable and welfare causes and taking up sporting, hobby and artistic pursuits, voluntary organisations provide the opportunity for the community to express a position on public policy issues. As ACT society finds its way in the new field opened up by self government, the capacity for the community to take a stand on issues and for the government to respond becomes even more important.

Our Association has a contribution to make in this process, a contribution only possible with the continuing involvement of members. Association subcommittees are open to all

members and provide a way by which they can influence and help project our views. Support of these groups is vital to the effectiveness of our voice in the community.

Syd Comfort

*Syd and Barbara Comfort at Johnsons Beach, Myall Lakes, on the central coast of NSW.
Photo: Judith Webster*



Space for NPA and other groups

Tucked away in the Childers/Kingsley Streets complex, the NPA office has an importance out of proportion to its somewhat modest dimensions. The Association's Office Secretary, Laraine Frawley, maintains from the office an efficient continuity of operation which would not be possible without this accommodation. The effectiveness of the office is greatly enhanced by its being adjacent to both the Environment Centre and the Conservation Council office, facilitating ready communication with these organisations. The central location of the office makes it accessible to members from all parts of Canberra and enables it to be used as a meeting place and clearing house, particularly for committee members and those involved in *Bulletin* preparation and subcom-

mittee activities. Thus the office in its current location makes a considerable contribution to the smooth running of the Association.

Recently, control of some of the Childers Street buildings, including the NPA office, passed from the Australian National University to the ACT Government. Following this, representatives of tenant groups constituting ROCKS - Residents of Childers and Kingsley Streets - met with Mr Norm Jensen MLA, Executive Deputy for Planning, Environment and Heritage, and Leasehold Management, to discuss the future of community group accommodation in the area. Mr Jensen indicated that in the long term the area would require redevelopment but that he favoured redevelopment which would retain

the ethos of the precinct. Writing to ROCKS after the meeting Mr Jensen said that 'The ROCKS area has been recognised as a community precinct for some time and this use has been recorded in the Civic Policy Plan. There are no current plans to vary the use of the area and the community use will be reflected in the Territory Plan when it is finalised. Any proposal to vary use of the area would be subject to extensive public consultation and could not happen 'overnight'.

The retention of the area as a community precinct remains the long term goal for which ROCKS will continue to seek widely based support. The NPA has indicated its strong backing of this position.

Syd Comfort

MEETINGS

Displays

The Association has provided a number of public displays this year which have been well received. To improve our capacity to mount displays in the future, the Publicity and Education Sub Committee hopes to obtain some display panels and a banner bearing the Association's name and logo. There is also a need for additional photographic material for inclusion in the display particularly covering flora, including some close ups and photos involving children or family groups. Jill Roberts, convenor (telephone 249 1390 h), would like to hear from any member willing to make available suitable photos which could be used to produce display material.



*The NPA stand at Canberra
Alive in March.
Photo: Syd Comfort.*

A disillusioned forester

Ray Hammond, one-time district forester and now an active conservationist, spoke to the Association at the March meeting. Ray's theme was one of disillusionment with current forestry practices in NSW especially in the south east of the State. He believes that the people of Australia, the forests, and the accompanying flora and fauna are being ill-served by the woodchip industry. Ray's view is that a timber industry does not require woodchipping to be viable as is often maintained by proponents of the 'integrated' forestry theory. As he points out the Australian timber industry operated for decades without a woodchip industry, and on the NSW north coast still does.

The key to the present problems in the industry is, claimed Ray, the complicated royalty system operated by the Forestry Commission. This means that sawmillers are subsidised by the taxpayer in that the forestry industry is not based on cost recovery principles. Ray pointed out that for every ten logs cut in the south east of NSW nine go to the chipmill. As well, he claims that a large number of trees felled and sent to the chipmill are in fact perfectly suitable for sawn log purposes. This comes about because an employee of the chipmill selects which trees are to be sawn and which are to be chipped after they have been felled. No one else has a say, not the sawmill, not the Forestry Commission, and certainly not a conservationist. Ray believes that the role of selecting logs for chipping must be taken out of the hands of the chipmill.

Ray explained that when the woodchip industry was initiated in the sixties the proposal had been for milling of 50 000 super feet of timber per annum for 5-10 years. Originally the timber for chips was to come from timber salvaged from sawn logs. However as the customer has demanded more and more chips so the life of the chip industry has been extended by the Commonwealth and NSW Governments. Chip production has become an end in itself rather than a short term by-product of the

sawn log industry.

As described by Ray, these days the timber industry is prepared to use species and qualities not acceptable twenty years ago. This means that much of the timber used for chips could not be used for, say, housing. Instead the chip industry's appetite for Australian native forests becomes greedier and greedier.

Ray claimed that instead of an adequate management plan for the State's timber resources, the present management plan was one of 'sustained disaster'. He prophesied that in 15 to 20 years' time the timber industry, because it has allowed so much timber to go to the chipmill, would be pressing the Forestry Commission and governments to allow logging in national parks. Ray suggested that the Government needed to impose a levy on the logging industry to allow hardwood plantations and adequate silviculture practices to be established. He believes that such a levy would add about \$500 to the cost of an average house. He also suggested that membership of the Forestry Commission be expanded to include representatives of the conservation movement. In this way the current industry dominated Commission could be influenced to work for the good of the forests, the streams, the fauna and flora and the taxpayer rather than just for the benefit of the logging and chip industries.

Towards the end of the talk Babette Scougall showed some slides she had taken at a recent protest near Eden. Slides of logged timber on trucks were analysed by Ray who was able to point out the particular logs, destined for the chipmill that could have been used for sawn logs.

Charles Hill gave the vote of thanks to Ray on behalf of the Association. He remarked that the devastation brought to the south coast forests of NSW by woodchipping could be seen dramatically from Mount Imlay. He thanked Ray for his fascinating 'insiders' view of the timber industry.

Timothy Walsh

The National Capital Plan

At the February monthly meeting Dr Gary Scott, until recently at the National Capital Planning Authority, generously spent his last night in Canberra giving a very stimulating and thought provoking talk to the Association.

Dr Scott began by presenting a short explanation of the history of planning in the ACT. The NCDC, he said, had been atypical as a planning authority as it had both planning and management functions. With the demise of the NCDC, the coming of self government and the creation of the National Capital Planning Authority and the Interim ACT Planning Authority, Canberra had moved to a planning régime more like the States. That is, planning and management will be carried out by different authorities. For instance, ACT Electricity and Water now have an enhanced management role. This, warned Dr Scott, could lead to a number of 'overlaps' rather than the 'voids' in the Canberra planning process. This could lead to the public tending to

watch the 'overlaps' rather than the 'voids'. Such a situation could enable some planning matters to escape adequate public scrutiny unless groups such as the NPA are particularly vigilant. Dr Scott returned to this theme a number of times. He pointed out that Canberra was part of a world experiencing a period of rapid change in political and public administrative 'ways and means'.

Planning 'voids' are apparent already, said Dr Scott, because although the role of the NCPA in regard to the protection of areas of Canberra of national significance was defined in the relevant legislation, what is not so clear is the role of the Territory's planners.

The history of the Canberra Open Space system was dealt with by Dr Scott. He explained the 1984 Metropolitan Policy Plans' lack of a cohesive policy covering the ACT's Open Spaces. Since then the Open Spaces have been placed firmly on the agenda of politicians and bureaucrats. However the lack of a Territory Plan makes it

unclear just what the future of Canberra's open areas really is.

Dr Scott said that he agreed with the idea that Canberra Nature Park should be a local ACT planning issue under the control of the ACT Government. It was the local parkland that contained the human perspective; areas that people can identify with and feel affinity for. This is where their children play, where dogs are walked and where damage could most easily be done. The NPA, Dr Scott explained, must take an 'aggressive' interest in these areas and ensure that planners and politicians are well aware of the wish of the community to preserve and extend 'their' open areas.

Jacqui Rees moved the vote of thanks. She paid fulsome tribute to Dr Scott for his talk and the perspective he had brought to planning during his time in the ACT. Jacqui said his vision would be missed. Jacqui stressed the need for the Canberra community to ensure that this vision was upheld.

Timothy Walsh

Environment subcommittee ranges widely

The environment subcommittee now has about 15 active members who meet for three hours one evening per month. Between meetings its members draft submissions to the increasing number of environmental inquiries taking place and lobby Government at all levels to adopt policies in line with National Parks Association principles.

Recently submissions have been forwarded to:

- the NSW Legislative Council's Inquiry into Coastal Development in NSW
- the ACT Government on their environment policy, draft planning and heritage legislation and Inquiry into the Very Fast Train
- the Resource Assessment Commission's Inquiry into

Australia's Forest and Timber Resources.

The Association has also appeared before hearings into the National Capital Plan.

The subcommittee's interests are not bound by the ACT's borders. It has lobbied the Shoalhaven Shire Council in relation to the need to prevent unsympathetic development in the Jervis Bay region and the Commonwealth and NSW Governments on the need for a Jervis Bay Marine Park. A proposal by the Victorian Government to create a National Park in the Mallee Region led to the Association writing to the various political parties in the Victorian Parliament expressing support for this proposal.

Other areas of activity have in-

volved the National Aquarium, development and recreational pressures in the Snowy Mountains, working parties in the Budawangs, the impact of the Very Fast Train on the ACT and activities associated with the Canberra Nature Park.

All NPA members are welcome to attend environment subcommittee meetings. Details of time and place are published in the *Bulletin* or can be obtained from the office. If an evening meeting does not suit you but you have a particular issue you feel the NPA should pursue get in touch with Jacqui Rees or Timothy Walsh. The NPA can have an impact on environmental issues but only with the assistance of its members.

Timothy Walsh

ACT PARKS

Parkcare - a community initiative in Canberra Nature Park

I note with interest Syd Comfort's article 'Weeds in urban bushland' in the March edition of NPA Bulletin. Mr Comfort rightly states that weeds in Canberra Nature Park are a significant management problem. The ACT Parks and Conservation Service is currently working with the community to establish a continuing program of volunteer activities to rehabilitate areas within Canberra Nature Park.

During 1989 the ACT Parks and Conservation Service began to plan for the management of Canberra Nature Park (CNP). Displays at local events, information materials and a series of public meetings focussed interest on CNP, and in particular on community participation in the management of CNP.

In July 1989 the Service was invited to a meeting organised by the Australian Institute of Horticulture to discuss 'bush regeneration' on the hills and ridges of urban Canberra. The result of that meeting was an expressed desire that the ACT community be involved in the reestablishment of native vegetation and the maintenance of established areas on CNP.

With the cooperation of individuals and existing 'Friends of . . .' groups the Service set up a volunteer pilot bush regeneration program in September 1989. The pilot program formally included groups on The Pinnacle, O'Connor Ridge, Mount Ainslie, Red Hill, Farrer Ridge and Mount Taylor. Related activities are now also underway on Mount Painter, in Remembrance Nature Park and Macarthur Ridge (Wanniassa Hills).

All volunteers have been trained by CNP staff in the safe use of tools and chemicals, weed identification, safety around large machinery, seed collection and propagation. The main activity to date has been the removal of woody weeds by cutting and dabbing with a safe-use herbicide. Some groups have been involved in

collecting seed from local species and propagating seedlings which will be planted back in the areas. Groups will also maintain plantings.

The term 'Parkcare' will cover a range of activities suitable for community involvement in open space management. The Service believes that Parkcare is about nature conservation through participative land management, and environmental education through field experience. Other advantages are that Parkcare activities provide active recreation opportunities and a way for individuals in communities to get to know their local environment and each other. Future activities proposed for Parkcare groups in CNP are vegetation mapping, fauna survey and habitat evaluation.

A community in action

The residents of Cook and surrounding suburbs have joined to form an action group for Mount Painter. The Friends of Mount

Painter (FOMP) have organised a number of weeding and planting activities in recent months and have achieved strong community support. In an effort to raise the awareness of politicians and the wider community about CNP and Parkcare, FOMP hosted an event on Mount Painter on Sunday 8 April.

Despite the threatening weather this 'politicians' walk' was well attended by politicians (both local and Federal) and community. FOMP provided guided tours on the day, and participants were also treated to afternoon tea.

The Minister for Finance and Urban Services, Mr Craig Duby (the Minister responsible for the local environment) was an invited speaker. Mr Duby acknowledged the important role for the community in local environmental management, and emphasised the Alliance Government's policy of protecting Canberra Nature Park and encouraging regeneration programs. Mr Duby also announced that the Government has allocated \$15,000 towards Parkcare activities.

More about Parkcare

If you would like to find out more about the Parkcare volunteer groups please contact one of the group coordinators below. If you would like to find out more about Parkcare generally, or would like to know how to start a group up for your area of CNP, please contact Tony Brownlie, *Manager of CNP* (286 1346).

Group	Contact	Phone No.
Mt Ainslie Weeders	Ian Taylor	247 6315
Friends of Mt Painter	Geoff Clarke	251 1043
	Philip Bell	251 5837(h) 273 3100(w)
Friends of Mt Taylor	Francis Ross	286 5315
Friends of Macarthur Ridge	Judith Lee	291 7313
Farrer Ridge Revegetation Group	Leon Horsnell	285 1124
Red Hill Regeneration Group	Sandy Berry/Ian Smith	282 1226
Friends of Remembrance Nature Park	Honor Thwaites	249 6625
The Pinnacle Environment Group	Lee Thomas	254 2858
O'Connor Ridge Regeneration Group	Peter Ormay	246 2055

The ACT Parks and Conservation Service welcomes your participation in managing Canberra Nature Park.

Bernadette O'Leary

CNP Project Officer, ACT Parks and Conservation Service

Fast trains and real estate

The Sydney to Melbourne very fast train proposal has more to do with real-estate speculation than efficient land transport, two opponents of the train told the Association's April general meeting. The director of the Conservation Council of Canberra and the South East Region, Rodney Falconer, and a town planner, Colin Handley, explained some of the environmental, economic and political aspects of the proposed railway.

The most apparent environmental problems are its route through environmentally sensitive areas and the noise that the train would make. As is well known the consortium behind the VFT would like to follow a coastal route from Canberra to Melbourne through the tall forests of East Gippsland. This country can easily be sampled by a drive down the Bonang Highway from Bombala to Orbost. Less well known is that, whatever route the train takes from Canberra to Melbourne, on the way from Sydney to Canberra it will pass through the proposed Nattai National Park west of Mittagong and south of the Blue Mountains. This is an area of rugged eucalypt country admired by bushwalkers since the days of Myles Dunphy. Its dedication as a national park has only been held up by miners not wanting to relinquish coal prospects.

As well there would be a lot of noise as the frequent trains screamed along the 780-kilometre route. If the noise did not scare off the wildlife, the 200-metre-wide rail corridor would. Underpasses would be too long for most animals. During construction the rail work would erode soil and pollute streams.

Of course many have asked why there needs to be another rail route at all. Colin Handley pointed out that the existing rail line from Sydney to Melbourne, for about \$1 billion, could be gradually realigned and grades reduced so that it could take high speed trains. The existing route was laid out in the 1870s with minor upgrading in

the 1910s. If the state rail authorities improved the efficiency of their operations, passenger and freight trains could move cheaply between the cities in half the time it takes at present. While this would not compete with aircraft, nor will a VFT trip of three hours at airline-ticket prices.

The existing rail line from Sydney to Melbourne, for about \$1 billion, could be gradually realigned and grades reduced so that it could take high speed trains.

The opponents said that the reason the consortium was proposing a new route was because it wished to profit from land development along the way. This would depend on governments and citizens subsidising the VFT through taxes on land, compulsory acquisition and the sequestering of capital gains. The financial details and legal mechanisms remain sketchy.

The economics of the train as a means of transport do not appear viable. The Japanese bullet train has 24 million passengers a year over a shorter route. The Australian train would need at least 6 million passengers to cover construction costs. At present there are only 250 000 passengers between Sydney and Melbourne, many at concession fares. Even if half those who travel by aeroplane (faster), bus (cheaper) and car (more flexible) converted to the train, they would still be short of 6 million. So the land profits are essential.

The speakers said that Australia needs a national transport strategy. The ACT Government, which has already voiced support for the VFT, should be part of that strategy.

When the strategy has been formulated, the VFT should be judged against alternatives – existing rail, other new rail, road, air, ship – with all their costs and benefits. There was a need for an energy-efficient, safe freight and people mover from Sydney to Melbourne. The pros and cons of the VFT should not be judged in isolation.

The speakers urged the audience to write to the ACT Government emphasising the importance of a national transport strategy and insisting on public participation in discussions before the government decides its position on the project.

Roger Green

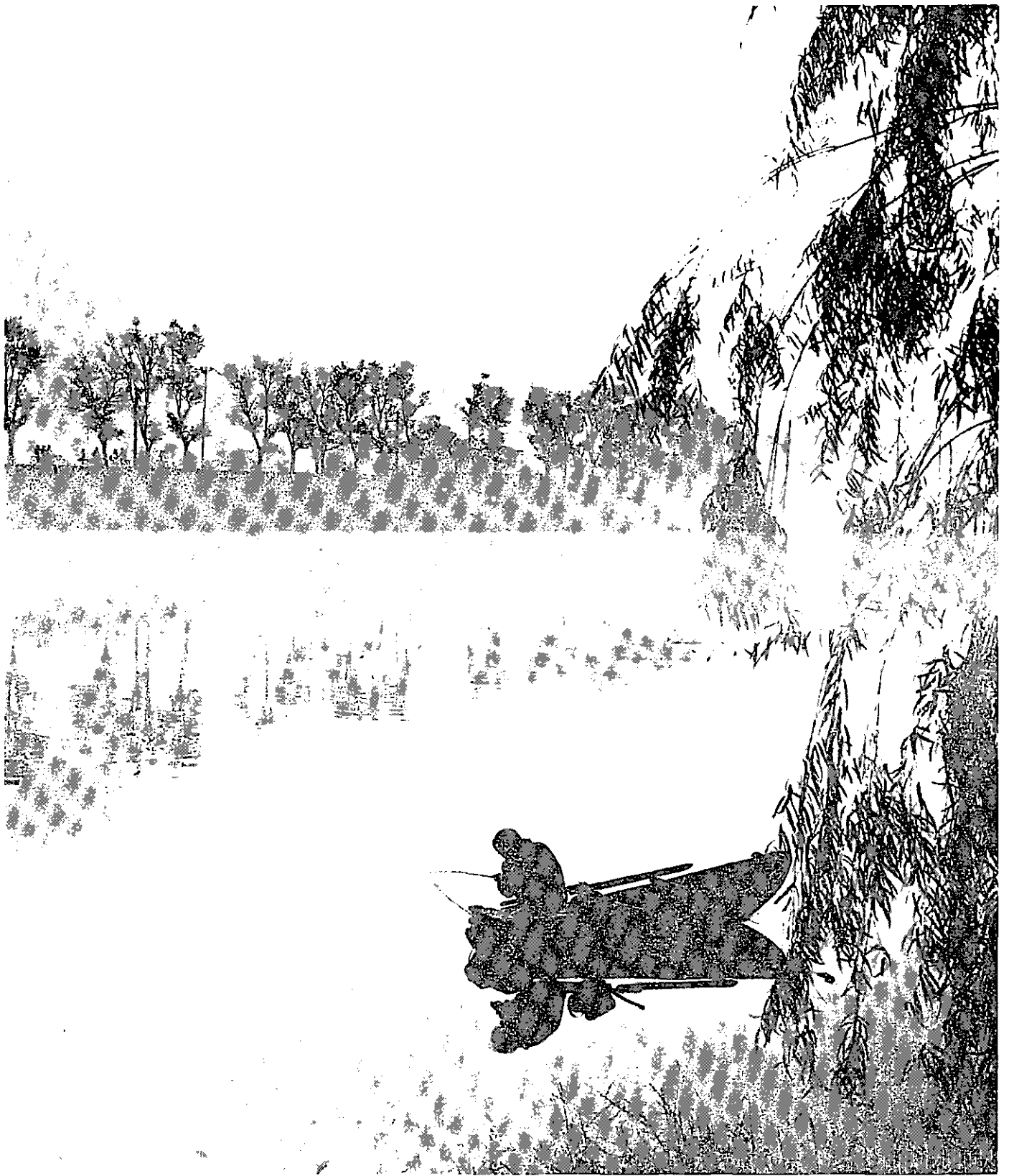
Environment Centre inventory

The Environment Centre resource inventory for 1990, now available from the centre, contains information on the centre's extensive collection. Established in 1971, the Environment Centre is a significant public resource centre devoted to environmental issues.

The centre holds over 6000 books and reports, 7 filing cabinets of newspaper clippings as well as educational kits, project materials, pamphlets, video and audio tapes and copies of environmental impact statements and management and planning proposals. The centre also currently receives 90 environmental magazines and journals.

Books, reports and magazines are available for reference and other educational material is available for loan. Located behind the Fortune Theatre building between Childers and Kingsley Streets, the centre is open on weekdays from 9 am.

GALLERY



A scene from Hanoi in the 1980s

Hedda Morrison exhibition

Readers will be aware of the fine photographs taken by NPA member Hedda Morrison which have been reproduced in many issues of this *Bulletin*. A retrospective display of her photography – titled *Travels of an Extraordinary Photographer* – was held in the Link Gallery of the Canberra Theatre Centre in March and contained a fascinating collection, spanning more than 50 years in time and from China to Canberra in space. Each work was a masterpiece – the portraits full of character and the landscapes evocative.

As a young photographer in Germany, Hedda set out for China in 1933. Hartungs Photo Studio in Beijing had advertised for a woman to manage the studio. Even though the Sino-Japanese war was going on, Hedda visited and photographed a number of areas of China. Being unhappy with developments in Germany she decided not to return and spent the second world war in China.

In 1946 she married Alastair Morrison and together they travelled through Asia. Following his army service, Alastair took up a position with the British administration in Sarawak. This provided a base for Hedda's travel and photography in Asia and the Pacific until 1967.

Alastair and Hedda Morrison on Castle Hill, ACT. Photo Reg Alder.



A girl from Rajasthan in India

In 1967 the Morrises moved to Canberra and, soon after, joined the National Parks Association. They have since travelled right around Australia, most intensively in the southeast.

Hedda has two books of photographs, *A Photographer in Old Peking* (Oxford University Press, 1985) and *Travels of a Photographer in China, 1933-46* (Oxford, 1987). Both provide fascinating insights into a life of adventure, combined with illustrations of places that have played impor-

tant parts of our region's recent history.

In 1989 the Canberra Photographic Society viewed some of Hedda's photographs and realised that much of her work outside China remained relatively little known. This prompted the society to organise the recent retrospective exhibition of Hedda's work. Even so, the exhibition displayed only a fraction of Hedda's meticulously indexed and annotated collection.

TRIPS

Climbing Mount Dromedary

On the Canberra Day weekend 36 NPA members, families and friends took over the Beauty Point Caravan Park at Wallaga Lake, a truly delightful spot.

A few lucky people were able to arrive on the Friday afternoon with the rest arriving on Saturday. Both Saturday morning and afternoon saw members walking along the lake foreshore then a short walk across to the ocean beach with Camel Rock as sentinel on the northern end and Bermagui at the southern extreme. Saturday evening people sat around the fire and enjoyed their friends' company.

Rain during the night kept the temperature down for the climb of Mount Dromedary (806 metres) on the Sunday. The party split in two, some tackling the mountain from Tilba Tilba whilst others approached the summit from Central Tilba.

Cars were left at Pam's Store for the climb from Tilba Tilba. The track, built in 1894 as a pack horse track for the gold miners who mined from 1852-1919, leads through farming country at first. Soon after entering the Flora Reserve you pass 'Chinaman's Grave' roughly the spot where a Chinese miner is buried. From Half Way Rock the steep hillsides are covered with tree ferns, low scrub and eucalypt regrowth. They were once covered with cool temperate rainforest but were cleared during the mining boom to provide fuel for the steam powered stamping battery, remains of which may still be seen on the Engine Track. At the Dromedary Saddle we met up with members of the party who had tackled the mountain from Central Tilba, and the majority then climbed to the summit through a magnificent patch of rain forest and were rewarded with views to Narooma in the north and Bermagui in the south. Lunch was eaten on the summit before starting on the return walk back to the cars, some participating in refreshments at Pam's Store before returning to Beauty Point and afternoon tea.



Ian Currie catching dinner from Wallaga Lake, with Mount Dromedary in the background. Photo Syd Comfort.

Over 50 miners lived and worked on the mountain between 1880 and the turn of the century and the population of men, women and children is thought to have peaked at 400 in 1902-1903. A school was set up for a short period, otherwise the children walked to Central Tilba School and attended on alternate days, the long rugged journey being so tiring. Between 1877 and 1910 335 kilograms of gold were won from the reefs, but total production was far greater as much alluvial gold was not recorded.

Monday was a delightful day and during the morning some

people were able to go out on Wallaga Lake bird watching. This proved very popular but unfortunately we were only able to hire two boats. Most people made their way home to Canberra after lunch with a few lucky ones able to stay on an extra day. One member was clever/lucky enough to catch his evening meal from the lake - some lovely flathead.

This is an excellent car campsite and the small caravan park, well run and with on-site vans and flats to hire, is highly recommended.

Barbara Comfort

Book review

'At 6 o'clock we were abreast of a pretty high mountain laying near the shore which on account of its figure I named Mt Dromedary'. So wrote Lieutenant James Cook RN on 31 April 1770 as he sailed northwards along the south coast of New South Wales.

Rising to an altitude of 806 metres Mt Dromedary lies 13 kilometres southwest of Narooma and is a dominant feature of the south NSW coast. The mountain was formed by a volcanic eruption in the Cretaceous period about 95 million years ago and at its zenith rose two kilometres above the surrounding area with lava-clad slopes extending beyond Bermagui to the south and perhaps to Tuross in the north. It occupied a significant place amongst the Aborigines being known to them as Gulaga and today remains a very important landmark to the Aborigines of nearby Wallaga Lake.

It was the discovery of gold and its mining from the 1850s on that focussed European attention on the mountain. Subsequently it became part of a state forest and a Flora Reserve of some 1255 hectares. This is now listed in the Register of the National Estate by the Australian Heritage Commission and is part of the NSW temperate rain forest area included in the World Heritage List.

This publication sets as its aim 'to tell you a bit about this fascinating area' and to my mind, succeeds admirably. The booklet covers the geology, topography, vegetation, Aboriginal and European history of the area and gives general guidance to the visitor to the area including walking routes. Considerable detail is given about the plants of the area and the days when gold mining dominated the mountains. There are a selection of clear maps, a number of botanical illustrations and a good collection of photos from the turn of the century.

Syd Comfort

Forestry Commission of NSW: Mount Dromedary, A Pretty High Mountain. Sydney 1987 44pp Price approximately \$5.50.

Bogong is tops!

'I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help' says the psalmist in the old Jewish writings and certainly hills and mountains have an age-old attractiveness. It is most satisfying to climb and then reach the summit and enjoy a bird's eye view of the countryside below and beyond.

So it is that groups of NPA members have travelled for the past 5 years to Falls Creek in Victoria to climb Mt Bogong, the highest mountain in that state.

We have always taken 4 or 5 days to approach the mountain via Mt Nelse, descending into Big River and then climbing either T Junction Spur or Quartz Ridge to the summit. We spend 2 nights and 1 day on the mountain top, enjoying the views, the vegetation and moods of this alpine region before we return down to Big River, up Tim's Spur or Douane Spur back to Rocky Pondage where the cars are and from where there is a variety of day walks possible.

However the High Plains area is much abused. The emotional image of the 'Man from Snowy River' reigns supreme and the herds of cattle, the cattlemen's horses and now horse riding treks right onto Mt Bogong summit are destroying this fragile environment. Flowers like euphrasia, snow aciphyll (native celery) and

gentians have disappeared from the Mt Nelse, Kelly and Fitzgerald hut areas due to over a century of grazing (but the fly population is unbelievable!) The snow daisy carpets the land along with kunzea as the cattle leave them alone, but the cattle do trample down swampy areas and commence erosion in gullies. Fortunately they have been removed from Bogong summit, some of the flowers are returning and cattle pads are filling in with vegetation. However the cattle have now been joined by horse camps in the trees below the summit. It is so incongruous when walkers are urged to 'tread softly' in a local tourist newsheet article, but the same newspaper promotes the incompatible destructive horse treks and camps.

Nor has the region escaped the logging. Long Ridge, leading off Bogong to Mt Wills, has a steep face now almost devoid of trees. All this in an area which is a national asset, part of the Alpine National Park system and part of the Alpine track. It is still being used for the private financial gain of a few stock owners and commercial enterprises.

This alpine area is a unique part of Australia and the world and is not receiving the care it deserves.

Fiona Brand



ROCKY VALLEY DAM

FC
3-1-90

Woes of the US Forest Service

The US Forest Service is a nationalised industry encouraged by federal budget habits to lose money by clear cutting forests that almost everybody would prefer to leave standing for owls to live in. Change is imminent.

For 85 years the United States Forest Service has been charged with overseeing the nation's vast wealth in timber and wildlife. The agency had heroic beginnings, founded by Gifford Pinchot, a forester, to save wild lands from the depredations of the robber barons. It remains the second biggest landowner in America with nearly 10% of the country in its care. But today the service finds itself assailed from all sides and losing its leadership role in the 191m acres of forests it professes to know best.

The visible symptoms of the agency's impotence are numerous. In the Rocky Mountain states the timber industry has reacted with rage to President Bush's proposal, contained in his fiscal 1991 budget, to end unprofitable timber sales from national forests. For Alaska, the House and Senate are likely to work out a compromise on a bill that would largely wrest from Forest Service control of the Tongass national forest where sweetheart deals made years ago have fuelled the ire of environmentalists dismayed by the subsidised destruction of the majestic Tongass to make toilet paper. And in the Pacific North West, the Forest Service is all but paralysed by a one year 'compromise' designed to save both timber industry jobs and the Northern spotted owl.

The Forest Service is to blame for its own woes. After the second world war the booming housing market and economy led the service to give its conservation ethic second place to a policy that called for more logging. It came to view the forest as an agricultural crop. The annual timber yield grew from 3.5 billion board feet to 8.3 billion board feet during the 1950s, peaking at 12.7 billion board feet in 1987.

During those years the Forest

Service became the timber industry's barely unofficial partner. It mapped out timber sales, organised the bidding then cut the roads that let the big log trucks roar in. An entire generation of Forest Service employees was trained to regard stands of ancient trees as a rotting obstacle to the brave new forest promulgated under hopeful sounding policies of 'sustained yield' and 'multiple use'.

From the late 1980s Forest Service critics relentlessly laid bare its close ties with the timber industry. Agency allies in the timber business raised an embarrassing clamour for increased cutting on federal land because of the 'timber gap' caused by overcutting in nearly all private forests. Caught between extremes the agency now stands transfixed like a deer in the headlights.

The National Forest Management Act decreed in 1976 that the Forest Service would draw up fair and impartial management plans for each national forest. This has become a ponderous process that now eats up more of the Forest Service budget than road building or recreation - upwards of \$200m annually by some estimates. Yet only three quarters of the plans have been completed; 98% of those are under appeal. Typical is a report on the Coconino National Forest in Arizona; 1 352 pages long, it weighs eight pounds.

The plans even come complete with Soviet-like timber production goals. Calculated in Washington, they are then thrust down the throats of the 156 individual national forests. Forest managers are given proportionately more money for cutting logging roads, thus making it easier to reach their timber goals, than roads for campers. In many cases the money raised from selling the timber is far exceeded by the cost of building the roads to get the timber out, but, as with all good bureaucrats, this only encourages the managers to make unprofitable sales so as to increase their budgets.

Compounding the problem, is a stultifying, almost Stalinesque

bureaucracy, demoralised by the service's changing reputation. There are signs of internal revolt. One forestry professor says his former students call up to say 'we're raping the woods'. The spark plug is Mr Jeff Debonis, who until this year was a forester in the vast Willamette national forest in Oregon. Mr Debonis's conversion came after his transfer from the smaller Nez Percé national forest in Idaho. He was appalled at policies in the Willamette; clear cuts, silted streams and a labyrinth of logging roads led him to reconsider policies learned during 13 years with the Forest Service.

Trying to bring about change, Mr Debonis formed the Association of Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics, which now claims 2 500 members among the 39 000 employees. The group has given voice to complaints long left politely unspoken in the fraternity-like service. Nettling questions are now being asked of Mr Dale Robertson, the Forest Service's chief since 1987.

Mr Robertson initially tried to ignore Mr Debonis then sought to placate him with soothing assurances that he wanted to work with the rebels. Mr Robertson may not be the man to enact change however. 'The Forest Service needs a suicidal leader', says one observer. His mission: admit that the service has seriously mismanaged the national forests and lived too long in industry's pocket. The frenzy over such a confession would surely lead to this kamikaze's dismissal, leaving the way open for a successor to launch a new, progressive agenda.

The Forest Service has always had chiefs promoted through the ranks unlike the National Park Service which has borne the other cross of political appointees. For a Forest Service professional to say candidly what many of them now believe might open the door for an outsider. That prospect terrifies the agency's hierarchy.

The Economist
10 March 1990

VNPA proposes linear parks

With 8 per cent of Victoria now protected in national parks, the Victorian National Parks Association has decided that the well-being of the state's environment requires a comprehensive system of links between national parks. At the same time the state government has been selling off old railway lines. This has led to the association's proposal for linear parks, formed from old railway reserves.

Though narrow, these reserves occupy a considerable area of land. And, despite embankments, clearing and other abuses over the years, these reserves are often sanctuaries for plant species that have been wiped out on neighbouring farmlands. When expressions of interest are called for the disposal of the old lines, the VNPA plans to make submissions on their conservation value as linear parks.

Park Watch, Victorian National Parks Association, March 1990

Conserving caravans in national parks

Do they know something we don't? On 23 February the Australian Financial Review carried a full-page advertisement for investment in Viscount caravans. With the proliferation of imported truck-like four-wheel-drives and fully fitted out vans one would have expected the dowdy home-grown caravan business to be a little slow. But the ad boosts the potential of vans as 'a home of your own'. Times are tough. But not all these homes of your own are going to be in suburbia. The ad says that the appeal of caravans 'will grow when the expected relaxing of National Park rules becomes effective'. Caravan parks already threaten Murramarang National Park on the south coast of New South Wales; perhaps they could be parked on top of some of the peaks of Namadgi for the best views in the ACT. If anyone knows which official in which state has encour-

aged expectations of relaxed national park rules, we would like to know.

Wet tropics development

In the 1987 federal election the Labor Party won the green vote with a promise to nominate the wet tropics of north Queensland for world heritage listing. The listing was duly achieved, but management of the area is becoming a problem. There is no management authority or management plan and more than 20 proposals for development, ranging from cable cars to crocodile farms. One development, the Tully-Millstream hydroelectric scheme, would have a devastating effect on the area. It is the first major development proposed for a world heritage area in Australia. What will the federal government do?

Wilderness News, The Wilderness Society, March 1990

Cousteau visits Jervis Bay

The 82-year-old marine explorer and filmmaker, Jacques Cousteau, visited Jervis Bay in February, in the company of the then Commonwealth Minister for the Environment, Senator Graham Richardson, and the then Minister for Science, Barry Jones. He was shown CSIRO research into salt-marshes, mangroves and sea grasses.

Senator Richardson expressed support for the idea of a marine park for the bay and its catchment. The Australian Conservation Foundation, with support from the National Parks Association of the ACT, has prepared a proposal for such a park. Senator Richardson called for support from the NSW Government.

Jacques Cousteau said, 'There are no half ways with conservation; either you protect them or you don't. Development is never good. I am not in favour of small parks.'

The New Bush Telegraph, Nowra, March 1990

Moore reacts

A few weeks later, on 19 April, the NSW Minister for the Environment, Tim Moore, announced the creation of two marine parks at Lord Howe Island and Jervis Bay. He said the government would amend national parks legislation to allow for the creation of marine parks. He also promised to cooperate with the Commonwealth. The management model would be the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. Other details are awaited.

Earlier the NSW Premier, Nick Greiner, announced a plan for state world heritage legislation. Conservationists criticised the plan, saying it would give loggers, miners and farmers an effective veto over the nomination of new world heritage sites and entrenched National Party control over the disappearing natural environment. The director of the National Parks Association of NSW, Grahame Wells, said that the National Parks and Wildlife Service should not be made responsible for assessing the economic impact of world heritage listing. This proposal signalled that areas of interest to loggers or miners would not be nominated.

Big mallee park

About one million hectares of semi-arid mallee land in northwest Victoria will be protected in the new Murray Sunset National Park and existing Wyperfield National Park when legislation passes the Victorian parliament. The legislation is opposed by the National Party and so will need Liberal Party support to pass the state's upper house. The decision follows exhaustive study by the state's land conservation council and an extended campaign by conservation groups including the Victorian National Parks Association. The park's creation will end cattle and sheep grazing and broom-bush harvesting which was having a dramatic effect on the mallee.

The Age, Melbourne, 21 March 1990

TRIPS

Upper Murray canoe trip

Paddling past shady redgums, coming round a bend to see the majestic western face of the Australian Alps, often snowcapped in the cooler months, looking out for the odd platypus, azure kingfishers et al, cooling off with the odd waterfight with the nearest boat, boiling the billy at lunch, a refreshing swim, paddling in to a riverside pub at the day's end, and camping on a grassy bank are all part of the delights of a summer weekend on the Upper Murray in north eastern Victoria, four hours drive from Canberra.

This trip could appeal to beginners and experienced paddlers alike. Beginners can get a taste for river touring under ideal conditions whilst more experienced paddlers can bring the family along in one of the larger hire canoes and enjoy a relaxing fun weekend. The river is almost all grade 1 with a few grade 2 (easy) rapids to make it extra enjoyable. You just need to be fit and able to swim. You don't even need your own canoe which can be hired from Walwa.

Canoes can be hired from Boris of Upper Murray Canoe Hire at Walwa for \$50 a weekend. He has canoes in two sizes and also kayaks. He can even cope with three day or one hour trips if required. Boris' canoes come with barrels, paddles, lifejackets, detailed maps etc. Boris uses a 10-seater bus and a large trailer to arrange pickups and dropoffs.

With good water a three day trip sees you put in at Bringenbrong Bridge, near Khancoban, paddling 42 kilometres to Tintaldra then next day 35 kilometres to Jingelic, pulling out at Dora Dora another 40 kilometres down river. A two day weekend might finish at Jingelic. Lower water might mean a start from Towong shortening day one to 29 kilometres.

At both Tintaldra and Jingelic a lovely green shaded public camping reserve separates the pub from the river, just made for canoeists. Both pubs serve lunch and dinner. If you forget the muesli, the Tintaldra one does a nice brekky

as well as showers for \$1 a head for campers. Tintaldra also offers simple pub style accommodation. Both are small friendly country pubs and the visiting paddler soon feels at home. Walwa has a riverside caravan park as well. Tintaldra also has a small shop selling some food, including pies, sandwiches etc. Walwa and Jingelic both have large general stores as well as petrol stations.

of the National Parks Association of the ACT. Our arrival coincided with the end of the annual Walwa canoe trek. Ever the politician, Mr Fischer made very approving noises in favour of national parks. His electorate stretches from Khancoban to Wentworth on the South Australian border.

To get there one can either drive via Cooma, Adaminaby, Cabramurra and Khancoban over

TINTALDRA HOTEL



NPA members and other bushwalkers quenching their thirsts at Tintaldra on their way down the Murry River in January. Photo Chris Bellamy.

On the weekend 19-21 January nine Canadians (canoes) paddled all by bushwalkers, mostly NPA members, did the first two days using Boris' boats and staying at Tintaldra on Friday and Saturday nights. On that trip only the early birds saw the platypus foraging for food in the middle of the river at dawn. The grand finale was pulling into Jingelic at the end and being greeted by the local federal member (now leader of the National Party), Tim Fischer who shook hands as we clambered up the boat ramp and having the local Lions Club pushing steak sandwiches and cold cans into our hands. One of our party made the most of the opportunity to press Mr Fischer for more national parks, most of us being members

the Snowies. Alternatively use the Hume and turn left at Holbrook for Jingelic. Either way is all on sealed roads. Total distances are similar, about 300 kilometres. Either way it is a lovely place to visit and it boasts several nature reserves (the Victorian version of a national park?) in which one can camp along the way if you wish. Boris can advise on that too.

Chris Bellamy

Getting immersed in national parks

National parks are a serious business but like all but the grimmest situations in life, also provide the setting for light-hearted moments of enjoyable recollection. The waters of Myall Lakes which form the larger part of the national park of that name, recently saw us anchored in the scattered company of other boats including some hired houseboats. One of these had a good sized runabout tethered at its stern with its canvas canopy in position and acting as a very effective water collector after a night of heavy rain. A couple of youngsters from the houseboat, seeing the potential of the situation, abandoned their placid feeding of the ducks, scrambled onto the runabout and, standing on the gunwales set about rocking the boat vigorously, each aiming to tip a goodly helping of rain water on the other. Of course the inevitable happened and one six year old boy was unceremoniously dumped in the lake and without delay set up a caterwaul of surprise triggered by this unplanned immersion. His sister, a little his senior, true to the tradition of elder sisters, came to his

rescue and within seconds there were two noisy, snowy heads bobbing in the water.

Mother soon emerged from the inner depths of the houseboat but before she had time to act or react, a rushing father dashed past her, plunged over the side, and in a trice had a struggling small body under each arm. In his zeal for results he had however omitted the minor ritual of donning clothes, probably being disturbed from his morning ablutions, a disgraceful luxury available to houseboaters. In the urgency of the moment of jumping in, his exposed situation appeared to phase him not at all, but in the calmer moments of regaining the houseboat mid the unwelcome interest of the occupants of adjacent boats, his demeanour was somewhat less cavalier, perhaps even demure.

A while later the children reappeared clad in life jackets and before long we witnessed the inflation of a large tractor tyre with enough buoyancy for a family of six!

Syd Comfort

Nerong Creek, Myall Lakes. Photo: Barbara Comfort



Warrabah National Park

Warrabah National Park is in wild granite country surrounding 15 kilometres of the upper Namoi River in northern New South Wales. It is in the middle of the triangle formed by Tamworth, Armidale and Barraba.

The park, 3200 hectares set aside in 1984, is another case of land the farmers did not want. In the early 1970s a few friends bought land adjoining the national park with the hope of setting up a small artists' cooperative. The man who sold them the land was delighted to receive cash for his remote acres of ironbark and native cypress broken by the occasional angophora. No commercial crop could be grown there, or animals grazed. After a few years the track into the property was closed.

Though they built stone, timber and mud brick huts, the artists have never settled. But the area is still worth a visit. The land is west of the great divide and the soil is poor so the vegetation is a change from that of the coast or the Monaro. The Namoi cuts a deep gorge as it flows down from the tablelands.

The park has 50 species of birds and a variety of fish that can be pursued from the banks of quiet shady pools. There are gentle walks up hills for good views of the park. Some of the hills are topped by granite tors, others by basalt, offering richer vegetation. The park has a basic camping ground with pit toilets.

Roger Green

Belconnen naval station harbours endangered moth

Synemon plana is a brown, orange and black moth, white or pale grey on the underside and about three and a half centimetres across. It is a day-flying moth active in the late mornings and the afternoons of sunny days. The males have a rapid, energetic flight just above the grassland in which they live. In a warm dry spring adults fly from early November until the beginning of December. In cooler or moister conditions they do not begin to fly until about 20 November and will fly until Christmas. In suitable habitat they are very common.

The *Synemon* moths belong to the family Castniidae. This family contains about 120 species in Central and South America, about 40 species in Australia and two species in South East Asia. Most of these species live in rainforests. In Australia however they inhabit seasonally dry habitats where they feed on sedges or grasses. The family is well distributed over the mainland with tropical as well as temperate species, and the moths are most diverse in southwestern Western Australia. With such a wide distribution it is likely that the Castniidae family had its origin on Gondwana.

Synemon plana only inhabits native grasslands dominated by silver-top wallaby grass, *Danthonia carphoides*, and another grass, *Danthonia auriculata*. The larvae tunnel in the soil and feed on the underground parts of the grass. The moths cannot survive if the grassland is not dominated by wallaby grass or if the area is heavily invaded by introduced plants.

With other members of its family, *Synemon plana* shares a number of peculiarities. They almost certainly recognise potential mates visually. They have antennae with well developed, clubbed tips, like the butterflies although not closely related to them. *Synemon plana* males and females are very different in appearance



The endangered moth, Synemon plana.

and behaviour. The females have bright orange hind wings unlike the bronze-brown of the males. When a patrolling male flies over an unmated female she flips the fore wings forward exposing the hind wings to which the male responds by alighting beside her.

The females have small wings. While they can fly, and do so when disturbed, they do not fly far. This implies they once inhabited an extensive and continuous habitat and had no need of powers of flight to colonise unconnected areas. With the fragmentation of grasslands, this limited mobility of females has become a significant disadvantage for the species.

At the time of European settlement *Synemon plana* and its habitat were widespread. There are reliable records from Winburndale near Bathurst, the Yass plains, Canberra, Bright, Eildon, Broadmeadows, the Grampians and other places in Victoria and at Bordertown in South Australia. With grazing by sheep the wallaby grass survived well and the effects of trampling on the underground-feeding species were small.

Pressure on the moth population

increased greatly with widespread pasture improvement in the 1950s, with the use of chemical fertilisers and the sowing of introduced pasture plants into native pastures. Scientists and naturalists have been unable to locate any *Synemon plana* in New South Wales or South Australia in the last few years. There is a small population near Kiata near the Grampians in Victoria but the locality is not part of a conservation reserve. The major remaining known colonies are in Canberra.

Three other species of castniid moths are known to feed on wallaby grasses, although another six or eight probably do. One of these, with no scientific name, feeds on *Danthonia eriantha* and is known only from a 100-metre patch of grass, beneath power lines, at an altitude of 1000 metres in Kosciusko National Park. By contrast, a related moth, *Synemon magnifica*, which feeds on sedges surrounding large sandstone or granite rocks is not endangered. Such habitats are useless for agriculture and the eight or ten known locations of this moth are all in national parks.

The grassland-inhabiting moths have suffered almost total destruction through the agricultural development of their habitat. *Synemon plana* and other species of *Synemon* were listed by the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service in their 1988 list of threatened insects. They received international mention in the International Union for the Conservation Nature *Bulletin* in September 1987.

Suburbs replace moth habitat

Wallaby grass habitats contain many other moths and butterflies as part of their animal communities but no others have been identified which are confined to the grassland. *Synemon plana* has never been found in other grassland communities in Canberra, namely those dominated by *Themeda*, *Bothriochloa*, *Stipa* or *Poa*.

The wallaby grasses of the Limestone Plains were heavily grazed until the urbanisation of Canberra began in the 1930s. However, in the suburban environment they escaped the total replacement by improved pastures which occurred in rural areas. There are a few remnants in the older parts of Canberra.

The newer parts of Canberra occupy land improved in the 1950s and 1960s with ryegrass, phalaris and clovers. The native silver-top wallaby grassland has disappeared. No individual plant species has become endangered because the plants exist in other places, but the plant community is endangered. There are no national parks or nature reserves in the ACT, New South Wales, Victoria, or South Australia which include silver-top wallaby grassland.

Several old entomologists in Canberra remember the moth as plentiful around Civic and Acton. It is now extinct in these areas. There are eight sites in the older parts of Canberra where *Synemon plana* survives. Four of these sites are so small, about 20 by 30 metres, that there is no chance of the moths lasting long in them. Three other sites may be large

enough if no contraction occurs. The largest of these measures 100 by 35 metres but even here the moth's survival is problematical.

The only remaining large site, some hectares in size and in excellent condition, is the Belconnen naval station. There the wallaby grasses have survived because of high mowing, light grazing by sheep and limited public access.

All known moth sites are in areas which are likely to be developed for houses, public buildings, roads, parking areas or cycle paths. Several grasslands, which are often viewed as waste lands, have recently been damaged: one by a road construction depot, another by spoil from the construction of Parliament House, another by the planting of oak trees the shade of which will destroy the native grassland. In addition to threats posed by development, the moth sites are threatened by weed invasions, especially during moist springs. The principal introduced plants are clovers, flatweed, plantain, paspalum and wild oats.

The reservation of five hectares or more of wallaby grassland becomes urgent.

Conservation needs

To prevent the extinction of *Synemon plana* in the near future the remaining sites, and in particular the Belconnen naval station, need to be protected and carefully managed. In small sites weeds must be kept to a minimum. High mowing is one of the best techniques and could maintain these sites. A search for further sites should also be made. More study is needed to know what size of population is viable, how much weed invasion the grasses can tolerate and how to control the weeds.

Synemon plana is a moth of scientific interest. It was once successful across a large area of southeastern Australia. It survived grazing, mowing and fires but because it was confined to a single plant community and not

very mobile, the moth was vulnerable to modern agriculture.

As well as the moth a whole plant community is at risk. We do not know how many other animal species may go with it. It should be remembered that this moth is a large, day flying and conspicuous insect which is easy to study and find. There may well be other less conspicuous fauna confined to the same habitat.

Should the Belconnen Naval Station site be developed for housing, the reservation and appropriate management of five hectares or more of wallaby grassland becomes urgent. This would not just save *Synemon plana* from extinction but would also save one of the last remnants of a complete plant community containing a little known fauna, and preserve for Canberrans a piece of the original landscape of the Limestone Plains.

Adapted from a more detailed paper by Ted Edwards of the CSIRO Division of Entomology, Black Mountain, Canberra.

Vic alps reprieve

The new Victorian Minister for Conservation, Environment and Tourism, Steve Crabb, has abandoned plans for the state government to support resort development in the alps. After many studies by the Alpine Resorts Commission and a major proposal for Mount Stirling, a popular cross-country skiing area near Mount Buller, he has decided that the skiing industry is not worth support. He told advisers that the government would not spend money when the commercial lodge owners had shown disinterest in staying open in summer and refused to market their products properly. However, he will still be allowing the resorts to evolve 'naturally'.

Presumably that means with their own money.

*The Age, Melbourne,
9 April 1990*

Wet roads at Willandra

Before I left Canberra someone warned me about the road to Ivanhoe – a friend with a four-wheel-drive had become bogged somewhere beyond Hillston after light rain. I had not planned to go to Ivanhoe and I had never heard of Mossgiel.

After a day's lazy driving through Cootamundra and Griffith I found myself driving quickly on the Hillston-Mossgiel road. The dirt surface was smooth and flat; I could not understand how the occasional lengths of deep, dark wheel ruts had come into being. We turned off to Willandra National Park and found a good campsite by Willandra Creek in time to enjoy the birds at dusk. The small park (19 000 hectares) was meant to be a brief overnight stop on the way to Broken Hill.

Some time after falling asleep I heard the patter of rain on the tent, a pleasant dreamy sound. Then I remembered the story about the bogged four-wheel-drive.

The next morning we walked a few hundred metres down to the ranger station. By the time we got there the grey clay was 10 centimetres thick on the soles of our shoes. It was easy to imagine it

sticking to the car tyres.

The ranger advised caution; while he thought a four-wheel-drive might get out, our car would not. We should give the road at least 24 hours to dry out. We decided it was better to kill time in a national park than on the side of a muddy road in the middle of a flat saltbush plain. Intermittent showers continued throughout the day.

So we had a good look at Willandra National Park. The park is basically a former pastoral property that centres on the meanders and billabongs of Willandra Creek. It is very flat. The watercourses are lined with black box and lignum trees. Beyond them is grass and saltbush. There are a few dry-weather car trails to different sections of the creek. It is not a park for keen bushwalkers.

However, it is very popular with birdlovers. The wetlands attract all sorts of migratory and inland birds; the rangers had a list of hundreds of species seen in the park.

The other main feature of the park is the historic Willandra Homestead. This rambling wooden building has been partly

restored and turned into a museum. The collection of old photographs of the house and its occupants conjures fantasies of 19th pastoral life. Reading a book on the verandah on a rainy day, one can look out across the lawns and imagine parties under the palm trees, trysts behind the trellis and, further away, tennis on the run-down lawn courts. Beside the old jetty a rowing boat bobs on the billabong. This is the setting for that rural saga you have been planning to write.

After another night the sun began to shine. Since it was the beginning of a long holiday, I was itching to get on the road. But the clay was still weighing on the shoes. We waited until after lunch before setting out.

By gunning the car through water-logged stretches of track we covered the 20-kilometres back to the main road with only a few rapid intakes of breath. Once back on the Hillston-Mossgiel road, the ruts told the story. The deepest ones, presumably made by four-wheel-drives with plenty of ground clearance, stayed in the middle. Other ruts wandered across the road, some ending in circles and others swerving into the ditches on either side. Along the way we passed three stranded trucks and one caravan. We helped push a van out of the ditch. The occupants had spent a miserable night on the side of the road.

Thanks to the ranger's advice we had chosen our departure time perfectly. By the judicious use of speed and by avoiding deep mud and ruts we reached Mossgiel (a handful of old houses) within a couple of hours. There the soil from which the road was carved changed from clay to something sandier. We got petrol and food at Ivanhoe and reached Kinchega National Park, by the Darling River and Menindee Lakes, at sunset.

Roger Green

An old bridge across a billabong in Willandra National Park. In dry weather, the park is a day's drive from Canberra.



Diamond Creek may still be logged

Deua National Park is a landscape of dry, rugged peaks and twisted, tangled valleys on the escarpment between Canberra and the south coast of New South Wales. It is hard country that does not attract much public attention. But to bushwalkers it is a mecca of challenge and, just occasionally, lush beauty.

Diamond Creek is on the edge of Deua National Park. In a wilderness where most of the streams twist and turn, it is straight. In country that is dry and dusty, it is moist. In land where the trees and gnarled and scrubby, its forest is tall. As the name suggests, it is a jewel.

It is also very popular with bushwalkers. During a recent weekend walk there I met groups from Sydney and the south coast, as well as our party from Canberra. The route down the creek is becoming a beaten track.

Diamond Creek is accessible from logging roads and snig tracks through the Moruya and Dampier state forests west of Moruya. Once you reach the creek the easiest walking is down the

middle, jumping from rock to rock or strolling along shingle banks covered with a foot of water. The banks are lined by tall trees and vines under a canopy of tall eucalypts. The forest is wet sclerophyll rather than rainforest but even that level of moisture is surprising in the rainshadow which covers most of Deua. The leeches seem to come from far away.

Progress down the stream is impeded by a series of waterfalls. Impeded may not be the right word. On a hot summer's day the scramble down from the top of the fall is rewarded by a refreshing shower in the pool at the bottom. Dressed again, the wayfarers travel to the top of the next waterfall to inspect the view. In this fashion the day walk along the length of the creek can easily stretch into a weekend.

There is just one problem: only the lower part of Diamond Creek is contained in Deua National Park (a park created from land the Forestry Commission did not want). The upper part of the stream is in Dampier State Forest, and so subject to logging.

Of course logging the upper part of the catchment would affect the lower parts with erosion and siltation. And the wild quality of the whole would be spoilt.

This has been the source of a conflict within the New South Wales Government. After representations from the NSW Federation of Bushwalking Clubs, the state Minister for Natural Resources, Ian Causley, last year wrote to say that logging of the area was still under consideration. The Minister for Environment, Tim Moore, had a different view. He stated that the Forestry Commission had agreed to delay all operations in the area for the next ten years.

The federation has nominated the catchment as part of the Deua wilderness area. The state's wilderness legislation would offer some protection to the land outside the national park. However the best solution would probably be to add the remainder of the catchment to Deua National Park. Submissions made to New South Wales ministers could help achieve that end.

Roger Green

A Mallee handbook in colour

The introduction states 'The author's aim has been to provide a pictorial introduction to the plants of north-western Victoria . . . and this is what he has accomplished. What you as user now have to do is to find the plant in flower - a fair requirement, for even people who know their plants can still be perplexed when they need to distinguish look-alikes that are not in flower. You then have to flip through the booklet and use the hunt-and-peck method. It is quicker than you might think, since there are only 55 flippings to do and each presents two pages displaying six to eight plants between them, 360 species in all. You can make a final check from the notes - which are wonders of conciseness - on distribution, flowering season, habit, height, and any striking feature. Do not look for what the

author does not claim to do, for example, he gives no key characters, which would be impossible without changing the whole layout of the book or without cumbersome notes and cross-references.

The plants are arranged in alphabetical order of families, then of genera, then of species. Common names are provided, one for each species, and scientific and common names are arranged sensibly in one index. The photos are natural size wherever possible and of excellent quality, the author having had the discernment to select just under 360 species from the more than 400 he has photographed, presumably because the rest did not reach his standard. With almost no exceptions, the background shows up the flower colours clearly and in contrast.

If the sport of baiting the author

appeals to you, you will need to do some exhaustive checking to indulge your hobby, and to relax the rules so as to include typing errors. You will also need to be very careful, because some of what appear to be howlers arise from expert but contradictory opinions and much learned debate among professional botanists. I could find only eight undoubted errors in this painstaking production, and they are not of any consequence.

The booklet would be an effective means of getting to know the mallee flora, and its small size (210 x 130 x 8 mm) and lightness (230 g) would add to its practical value in the field.

Robert Story

I R McCann, *The Mallee in Flower*, Melbourne, Victorian National Parks Association, 1989, 120 pages, \$14.95.

Heritage listing procedures

In 1972 the General Conference of UNESCO adopted a convention to allow recognition and protection of sites of outstanding value on a global scale - the 'Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage', commonly called the 'World Heritage Convention'. The Convention came into force in 1975.

Australia became a signatory to the *Convention* in August 1974 and there are now 109 State Parties.

World Heritage Committee

The Convention is administered by a World Heritage Committee consisting of 21 nations elected from those nations which are party to the Convention. The Committee meets once a year, usually in December, and elections are held every two years. Australia is the only country to have served continuously, since 1976, as a member of the Committee.

The Committee is served by a secretariat located in Paris. The Committee has developed a set of criteria to help establish which places are truly of outstanding universal value as cultural or natural heritage.

World Heritage Bureau

The executive body of the World Heritage Committee is the World Heritage Bureau. The Bureau consists of a Chairman, five Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur. The Bureau is elected by the Committee at its annual meeting, usually held in June, and holds office until the following meeting of the Committee. Australia served on the Bureau in 1980-81, 1981-82, 1982-83, 1984-85 and is a current member of the Bureau.

The World Heritage Bureau is assisted in this task by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) and the

International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS).

The process of inscribing places on the World Heritage List is shown below.

1. Australian Government submits nomination to World Heritage Committee
2. World Heritage Committee refers nomination to World Heritage Bureau for assessment
3. World Heritage Bureau obtains advice from IUCN (natural places) or ICOMOS (cultural places)
4. Nomination assessed at June meeting of World Heritage Bureau
5. World Heritage Bureau makes recommendation to WH Committee on suitability for listing
6. Additional information sought from Australian Government
7. Decision on nomination at December meeting of World Heritage Committee
8. Nomination accepted for World Heritage List
or
Decision on nomination deferred
9. Place inscribed on World heritage List
or
Nomination rejected for World Heritage List

In Australia, world heritage matters, including liaison with the States and Territories and the preparation of nominations are handled by the Department of the Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and Territories (DASETT).

The Australian Heritage Commission is frequently asked

for technical advice on world heritage values of Australian places.

As at December 1988 there were 315 monuments and sites inscribed in the World Heritage List.

There are at present eight Australian places on the World heritage List. They are:

- Great Barrier Reef
- Lord Howe Island Group
- Willandra Lakes Region of Western New South Wales
- Western Tasmania Wilderness National Parks
- Kakadu National Park, Stages 1 and 2
- Australian East Coast Temperate and Subtropical Rainforest Parks
- Uluru National Park
- Wet Tropics of North Queensland.

These places are also on the Register of the National Estate, although the boundaries may differ.



The Great Wall of China - inscribed in the World Heritage List for its outstanding global value

Outings program

July to September 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 - Rock scrambling
- F - Exploratory.

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

1 July-Sunday Walk (2/A)

Googong Reservoir / Hell Hole

Ref: Hoskinstown 1:25 000

Leader: Peter Roe Ph 291 9535

Meet at the Woolworths Car Park Queanbeyan at 8.30 am. A 14 km walk with panoramic views of Canberra, Queanbeyan and Googong Dam then continuing down into a deep cutting to the Hell Hole on Bradleys Creek. 25 km drive.

5 July-Thursday Walk (1/A/B/C)

The Pyramid to Gibraltar Peak

Ref: Tidbinbilla 1:25 000

Leader: Shirley Lewis Ph 295 2720

Meet at Kambah Village Shops at 9.45 am. A pleasant walk, starting with a climb through open forest and a small section of scrub to the Pyramid, then along tracks and fire-trails to Gibraltar Peak. Good views of the valley and the surrounding mountains. A car shuffle will be necessary. 60 km drive.

8 July-Sunday Walk (2/A)

Shoalhaven Gorge Ref: Caoura 1:25 000

Leader: Steven Forst Ph 274 8426 w 251 6817 h

Meet just past the Dickson Traffic lights on Northbourne Ave at 8.30 am. A 12 km walk into the spectacular Shoalhaven Gorge near Tallong. Most of this walk involves climbing up or down. Great views. Total climb of 680 metres. Lunch on the river. 250 km drive.

12 July-Meeting

Walks Subcommittee Meeting

Leader: Steven Forst Ph 274 8426 w 251 6817 h

Meet at 46 Wybalena Grove Cook at 7.30 pm to plan the Spring Outings Program.

15 July-Sunday Walk (2/A)

Casuarina Sands to Bulgar Creek Ref: ACT 1:100 000

Leader: Olive Buckman Ph 248 8774

Meet at the corner of Eucumbene Drive and the Cotter Road at 9.00 am. A 16 km walk on tracks above the Murrumbidgee to a lunch spot near Bulgar Creek. 40 km drive.

21 July-Saturday Ski Tour (1/A)

Beginners Ski Trip Ref: Perisher Ski Touring Map

Leader: Steven Forst Ph 274 8426 w 251 6817 h

Contact leader early for details. An easy introduction to cross country skiing suitable for the beginner. Numbers limited. Subject to alteration due to snow or weather conditions. 400km drive.

29 July-Saturday Ski Tour (2/A)

Kiandra/Selwyn Area Ref: Cabramurra 1:25 000

Leader: Steven Forst Ph 274 8426 w 251 6817 h

Contact leader early for details of this easy ski tour of about 12 to 14 km depending on snow conditions, in the the northern end of Kosciusko National Park. An excellent follow-on to the beginners ski day. Numbers limited. 400 km drive.

4 August-Saturday Ski Tour (2/A)

Reeds Hill and Surrounds Ref: Cabramurra 1:25 000

Leader: Neville Esau Ph 286 4176

Contact leader for details by Wednesday. A day trip in the Kiandra area possibly visiting Reed Hill and surrounds. Not suitable for absolute beginners but suitable for anyone else interested in an easy day tour. As always, subject to change, postponement, or cancellation due to snow or weather conditions. 400 km drive.

5 August-Sunday Walk (1/A/C)

Orroral Aerie Ref: Rendezvous Creek 1:25 000

Leader: Lin Richardson Ph 241 5498

Meet at Kambah Village Shops at 8.30 am. The walk of 8 km starts up the valley from the entrance, crosses the river and climbs through forest to the prominent rocky peak 1.5 km east of the old tracking station. A good rock platform gives an excellent view over the valley. Return down the northern slope then swing out into the valley. 80 km drive.

7 August-Tuesday Walk (1/A/B)

Source of Sawpit Creek Ref: ACT 1:100 000

Leader: Bob Story Ph 281 2174

Meet at Kambah Village Shops at 8.30 am. A 10 km walk to the source of Sawpit Creek with a 500 metre climb. Please contact leader by Monday evening for further details if proposing to join the walk.

11/12 August-Ski Tour (2/A)

Broken Dam Hut Ref: Selwyn Ski Touring Map

Leader: Steven Forst Ph 274 8426 w 251 6817 h

Contact leader early for details. A weekend ski tour camping in or at Broken Dam Hut (above the snowline). Good views from Tabletop Mountain. The route from Mt Selwyn and return is fairly easy and would be okay for those who have never carried a full pack on skis before. Subject to cancellation due to weather or snow conditions. 400km drive.

12 August - Sunday Walk (3/A/C)

Mt Gudgenby area Ref: Rendezvous Creek 1:25 000

Leader: Len Crossfield Ph 241 2897

Meet at Kambah Village shops at 8.30am. A walk of about 16km around if not up Mt Gudgenby for excellent views of Namadgi. 100km drive.

18/19 August-Pack Walk (3/A/E/F)

Yadboro River from Wog Wog Ref: Corang 1:25 000

Leader: Philip Gatenby Ph 254 3094

Contact leader by Wednesday for details. A partly exploratory walk from Wog Wog to the Yadboro River via the saddle between Carowie Brook and Freemans Creek. Return along the Yadboro River to the Wog Wog track Total climb about 700 metres. 300 km drive.

19 August-Sunday Walk (2/C)

Pierces Creek Falls Ref: Tidbinbilla 1:25 000

Leader: Lyle Mark Ph 286 2801

Meet at the corner of Eucumbene Drive and the Cotter Rd at 8.30 am. A 14 km walk along the Hardy Range Firetrail and through open forest. Optional 50 m steep descent to the base of the falls. Return via Cotter Hill trig and the pipeline track. 40 km drive.

25/26 August-Pack Walk (2/A)

Budawangs Track Maintenance Ref: Corang 1:25 000

Leader: Di Thompson Ph 288 6084 h 284 5043 w

Please phone leader 1 or 2 weeks prior to the trip. More of the same work carried out on previous trips: laying logs, digging drains, possibly pruning Hakea and doing other earth works. As Nowra NPWS is providing transport to the campsite and rangers to assist, I need to be able to guarantee numbers at least one week beforehand. Please phone early. All welcome.

25 August-Saturday Walk (2/A)

Perisher Valley Ski Tour

Ref: Perisher Ski Touring Map

Leader: Neville Esau Ph 286 4176

Contact leader by Wednesday for details. Hopefully visiting the Porcupine, snow and weather permitting. 400 km drive.

1 September-Saturday Walk (3/A/C/F)

Booths Hill

Ref: Michelago 1:25 000 Colinton 1:25 000

Leader: Philip Gatenby Ph 254 3094

Contact leader by Thursday for details. A walk up Booths Hill and also visiting other parts of the Booth Range time permitting. A total climb of about 800 metres. 100 km drive.

2 September-Sunday Walk (2/A/C)

Rendezvous Creek Aboriginal Paintings

Ref: Rendezvous Creek 1:25 000

Leader: Beverley Hammond Ph 288 6577

Meet at Kambah Village shops at 9.00am. A 12km walk across open paddocks to the paintings above Rendezvous Creek. 90km drive.

8 September-Saturday Walk (2/A)

Devils Peak Ref: Cotter Dam 1:25 000

Leader: Les Pyke Ph 281 2982

Meet at the corner of Eucumbene Drive and the Cotter Rd at 8.30 am. A 10 km walk along the fire trail from Blundells Flat, with a steep 300 metre climb to the peak. Views of Canberra and surrounds. 60 km drive.

9 September-Sunday Walk (3/A/C)

Emu Flat to Mt Lincoln Ref: Corin Dam 1:25 000

Leader: John Webster/John Hook Ph 241 4646

Meet at the Kambah Village Shops at 8.30 am. A walk out along the Smokers Flat firetrail then through open forest to examine some unique stands of trees in this area. 100 km drive.

15/16 September-Pack Walk (2/A/C)

Tantangara Ref: Tantangara 1:25 000

Leader: Di Thompson Ph 288 6084 h 284 5043 w

Contact leader by Wednesday for details. A walk to Wityes Hut. An easy walk mostly on trails, or through frost hollows. Search for other hut ruins, possible climb to gain extensive views of Tantangara Dam. 400 km drive.

16 September-Sunday Walk (1/A/C)

Coree Area Ref: Cotter Dam 1:25 000

Leader: Lin Richardson Ph 241 5498

Meet at the corner of Eucumbene Drive and the Cotter Rd at 8.30 am. The 8 km walk starts from Blundells Flat and follows fire trails most of the way, with a little open scrubby forest near the end. The lunch spot offers some interesting scrambles in this delightful new spot, while if the weather is favourable others may like a swim in a rock pool. Return by fire trail. 80 km drive.

23 September-Sunday Walk (3/A/C)

Stockyard Spur to Gingera Ref: Corin Dam 1:25 000

Leader: Len Crossfield Ph 241 2897

Meet at the corner of Eucumbene Drive and the Cotter Rd at 8.30 am. A steep (very) climb up Stockyard Spur (900 metres total) then along the ridge to Mt Gingera. Magnificent views, cloud permitting. 80 km drive.

29/30 September/1 October-Pack Walk (2/D/E/F)

Northern Budawangs Ref: Endrick, Nerriga 1:25 000

Leader: Pat & Eric Pickering Ph 286 2128

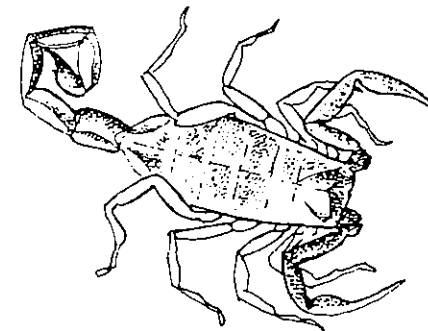
Contact leader by Tuesday for details. A 2 to 3 day walk in the northern Budawangs. Taking in Bainbrig Creek, Bulea Brook, Picture Canyon, Sassafras Peak and surrounding plateau. Walk will be extended to 3 days if participants agree. 300 km drive.

Appreciation expressed...

The walks subcommittee would like to express its appreciation of the work put in by Gladis Joyce who, over a number of years, has been our midweek walks coordinator. Gladis has done a marvellous job and has greatly reduced the workload of the program coordinator.

... and help wanted

A midweek walks coordinator is urgently required by the subcommittee. The shoes to be filled are quite large but the only mandatory qualification is an ability to win friends and influence people. Salary: negligible (respect and title only).



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 (06) 251 6817 (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 TEN 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 approximate distances for return journeys.

The Register of the National Estate

The Australian Heritage Commission, a statutory authority, advises the Federal Government on the identification and protection of the National Estate.

'National Estate' means all those places which Australians have identified as worth keeping. More formally, the National Estate is all those places with 'heritage value' and is defined in the Australian Heritage Commission Act as:

'those places, being components of the natural environment of Australia, or the cultural environment of Australia that have aesthetic, historic, scientific or social significance or other special value for future generations, as well as for the present community'.

Nomination process

1. Any individual/organisation submits nomination to Australian Heritage Commission
2. Australian Heritage Commission assesses nomination (Evaluation panels, experts, in-house)
3. Decision on nomination at Commission meeting
4. Gazettal and public notice of proposal to list (Placed on Interim List of the Register)
5. Three month period for objections/comment
6. Objection to proposed listing
or
No objection to proposed listing
7. Reassessment of interim-listed area
8. Reconsideration at Commission meeting
9. Gazettal and public notice: Placed on Register
or
Remove from Interim List

Reprinted with permission from Education Notes, Australian Heritage Commission, Canberra.

Differences between World Heritage and the Register of the National Estate

The following chart shows some of the differences between world heritage listing and listing on the Australian Register of the National Estate.

	Register of the National Estate	World Heritage List
<i>Administration of legislation</i>	Australian Heritage Commission	Department of the Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and Territories
<i>Nomination</i>	Any individual/group	Australian Government
<i>Values</i>	National estate significance - local to international value	Outstanding universal value
<i>Types of value</i>	Natural and cultural	Natural and cultural
<i>Criteria</i>	Australian Heritage Commission	World Heritage Committee
<i>Assessment</i>	Australian Heritage Commission	World Heritage Bureau
<i>Decision on listing</i>	Australian Heritage Commission	World Heritage Committee
<i>Tenure</i>	No change in tenure	No change in tenure
<i>Commonwealth obligations</i>	YES: for Commonwealth proposals affecting places listed in the Register, Commonwealth Ministers, departments and authorities must seek prudent and feasible alternatives, minimise adverse effects and seek advice of the Australian Heritage Commission for activities having a significant adverse effect (Section 30, Australian Heritage Commission Act)	YES: Commonwealth has obligation to protect world heritage values under World Heritage Convention and the World Heritage Properties Act by ensuring appropriate management
<i>State/Territory obligations</i>	None	No legislative obligations, but day-to-day management is carried out by State/Territory in most cases
<i>Local Gov't obligations</i>	None	None
<i>Private Owner obligations</i>	None	None

BRIEFS

Bring your slides to the AGM

The Association is seeking to borrow slides and photographs, and to obtain brief descriptions of trips and activities undertaken by members this year, for use at the annual general meeting in August. The aim of the collection is to display the variety of activities in which members take part. The collection is not confined to NPA activities; members are involved in many private trips to national parks and other areas of environmental interest, in Australia and overseas.

We hope to assemble maps of the region, of Australia, and of the world pointing to the areas visited and with brief descriptions of trips, special environments or environmental issues.

The philosophy motivating the display is that the Association is not just the activities which are official, but is the sum of all members' activities and interests. Those who are active in the Association are aware of the existence of this wealth of knowledge and experience but few would know more than a fraction of what our fellow members are doing.

Heritage walk along Naas Creek

One small triumph on the heritage walk in April along the Naas Creek led by Steve Forst was the identification of the remains of a milking bail next to the remains of Alexander Brayshaw's Hut dating back to at least 1879. No member of the party had sighted this particular piece of history before so we felt rather pleased with ourselves. We were unable to locate another hut built by the same Alexander Brayshaw a few years later so I'm sure there will be some quiet searching by those who took part in this walk to satisfy their own interest in the area.

Packing the NPA Bulletin

After years of sterling service Peter Roe is retiring from the job of organising the packing of the Bulletin. We all thank him for his efforts.

Roy Tait: conservationist.

The sudden death in his native Brisbane on 26th February 1990 of James Roy Tait has broken a link with the early years of the National Parks Association ACT Incorporated.

Roy was the Association's first Public Officer. His experience made him a most suitable member to hold that pioneer office. After early years engaged in the timber industry in Queensland, he spent the rest of his working life in the service of the Queensland and Commonwealth Governments. Following graduation in commercial studies at St Lucia his attention had turned to a wide range of active study and participation in conservation issues.

This background supported a modest contribution when fellow committee members of the early sixties gained the benefit of his knowledge of Public Service 'channels' and of his ability to look objectively at the processes of dealing with the several ACT Departments which then dealt with NPA submissions. Roy's time as Treasurer of the fledgling Association resulted in a punctilious and capable accounting which easily translated into the requirements for the necessary and important step of legal incorporation.

His friends, both within and outside NPA, remember a generous and cheerful companion, always interested and intrigued by people and places. In his later retirement years in south Queensland he maintained that broad interest despite the restriction imposed by the need for skilled and opportune eye surgery extending over some years. Just into his eighty-first year, still making the most of life and sharing his enthusiasms with family and friends, he was making plans for travel and the future. It is some consolation to know that he left us as we best remember him, still outgoing in pursuit of ideas, travel plans and heritage and environment issues, and, as always, busily engaged in the care of gardens and of the wider landscape.

Brian Hammond



Sixty-eight members of the public and the NPA gathered around the chimney of Potters Hut, near Grassy Creek in Namadgi National Park in April. The hut was surveyed in 1889. Charles Potter (1850-1915) was a stonemason and was responsible for building some churches in Cooma.

Photo Reg Alder.

Thank you for being a member

Subscriptions for 1990/91 will soon fall due. Your membership is vital to maintaining the efforts of the Association to protect and extend national parks and to take raise community awareness conservation needs. Please complete the renewal form enclosed in this *Bulletin* and return it to the office as soon as possible.

New members

The Association extends a warm welcome to new members. We look forward to meeting you at walks or talks. Remember that much of the conservation work of the Association is done in subcommittees which anyone is welcome to join. Contact one of the convenors listed on page 2. If you would like

to know anything else about the Association contact a member of the committee or drop into the office for a chat or a browse through the library. For opening hours see page 2.

New members are:

Lucille Atkins, Ainslie
Roger Abbott, Jamison
W & J Abernethy, Hughes
Michael Clough, Page
J Cleland & family, Campbell
George & June Croff, Red Hill
Michael Bennett, Monash
Camilla Bennett, Deakin
Paul Farrelly, Farrer
N Hosking, Cook
M & R Howard, North Curl Curl
Paul & Mary Herbert, Cook
Matthew Higgins, Hughes
A & M Lewis, Yarralumla
Ray Leigh, Farrer
Rosemarie Millar, Higgins
R & V Oliver & family, Spence
R Peris, Narrabundah
Joan Revill, Weston
R & G Warren & family, Flynn
Terry Whatman, Mittagong

Alps books

Klaus Hueneke of Tabletop Press, author of *Huts of the High Country* and *Kiandra to Kosciusko*, specialises in locating and selling books on the Australian alps. The Association has his catalogue and can order books at discount rates. If you would like to be on the Tabletop Press mailing list write to 40 Miller Street O'Connor ACT 2601.

Advertising rates

Black-and-white camera-ready artwork:

\$140 full page

\$75 half page

\$50 one-third page

\$2 per column centimetre

Add 50 per cent for typesetting and design.

Subtract 10 per cent for annual bookings.

Inserts supplied: \$120 for 10 grams or less.

For further information telephone Laraine Frawley on (06) 257 1063 before 2pm on Monday, Tuesday or Thursday, or Roger Green on 247 0059.

KAKADU - Kimberley

Leave your winter worries behind while you explore one of the most beautiful wilderness areas in Australia. Step out of the vehicle and walk back into a land that time forgot. Trails are non-existent. The only signs of man are rock paintings done tens, hundreds or even thousands of years ago.

Flowers line the banks as you make your way along clear streams, stopping for yet another swim when a pool is just too inviting to resist. Gorges and waterfalls add to the beauty of this wondrous land.

Short sleeves suffice by day. At night, you sit quietly around the campfire before snuggling down in your sleeping bag under a blanket of stars. From the rugged escarpment of Kakadu to the rounded domes and deep gorges of the Bungles, Willis's Walkabouts has something to suit every bushwalker.

Willis's Walkabouts offers extended bushwalking trips throughout Kakadu and the rest of the NT, the Kimberley, and even overseas to Alaska and the Yukon and South America.



Write for the full 1990 program.

12 Carrington Street

Millner, NT 0810

Phone: (089) 85 2134

Calendar

JUNE

- Thursday 14 Namadgi subcommittee meeting, Tony Winsbury, 3 Avery Place, Fraser, 2585341(h) 2468486(w)
Thursday 21 NPA general meeting 8pm
Thursday 28 Environment subcommittee: Contact Jacqui Rees, 2958567(h) for venue details

JULY

- Monday 2 Publicity and Education subcommittee Jill Roberts, 84 Wiltshire St, Dickson, 2491390(h) 2724192(w)
Thursday 5 Committee meeting 7.30pm 87 Shackleton Cirt, Mawson
Thursday 12 Outings subcommittee meeting 7.30pm, 46 Wybalena Grove, Cook, Steven Forst 2516817(h) 2748426(w)
Thursday 19 NPA general meeting 8pm
Thursday 26 Environment subcommittee: Contact Jacqui Rees, 2958567(h) for venue details

AUGUST

- Thursday 2 Committee meeting 7.30pm 87 Shackleton Cirt, Mawson
Monday 6 Publicity and Education Committee Jill Roberts, 84 Wiltshire St, Dickson, 2491390(h) 2724192(w)
Thursday 9 Namadgi Subcommittee: Venue to be arranged Contact Dugald Monro 2318776(h)
Thursday 16 NPA Annual General Meeting 8pm
Thursday 23 Environment subcommittee 7.30pm 43 Fitchett St, Garran, Tim Walsh 2851112(h) 2741465(w)

NPA Bulletin

National Parks Association of the ACT
GPO Box 457 Canberra 2601
Registered by Australia Post
Publication number NBH0857

POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA

General meetings

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

June 21

Professor Ken Taylor, of the University of Canberra, will talk about the landscape of Canberra.

July 19

Mr Steve Jamieson of J&H Equipment will talk about modern bushwalking equipment.

August 16

Annual General Meeting

A members' evening, with a showing of slides, printed photographs, and accounts of trips and other activities of members which will be of interest to other members.