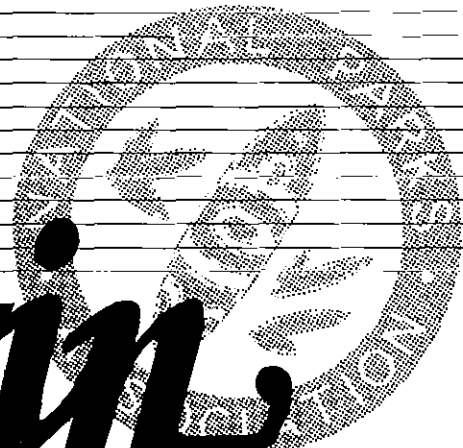
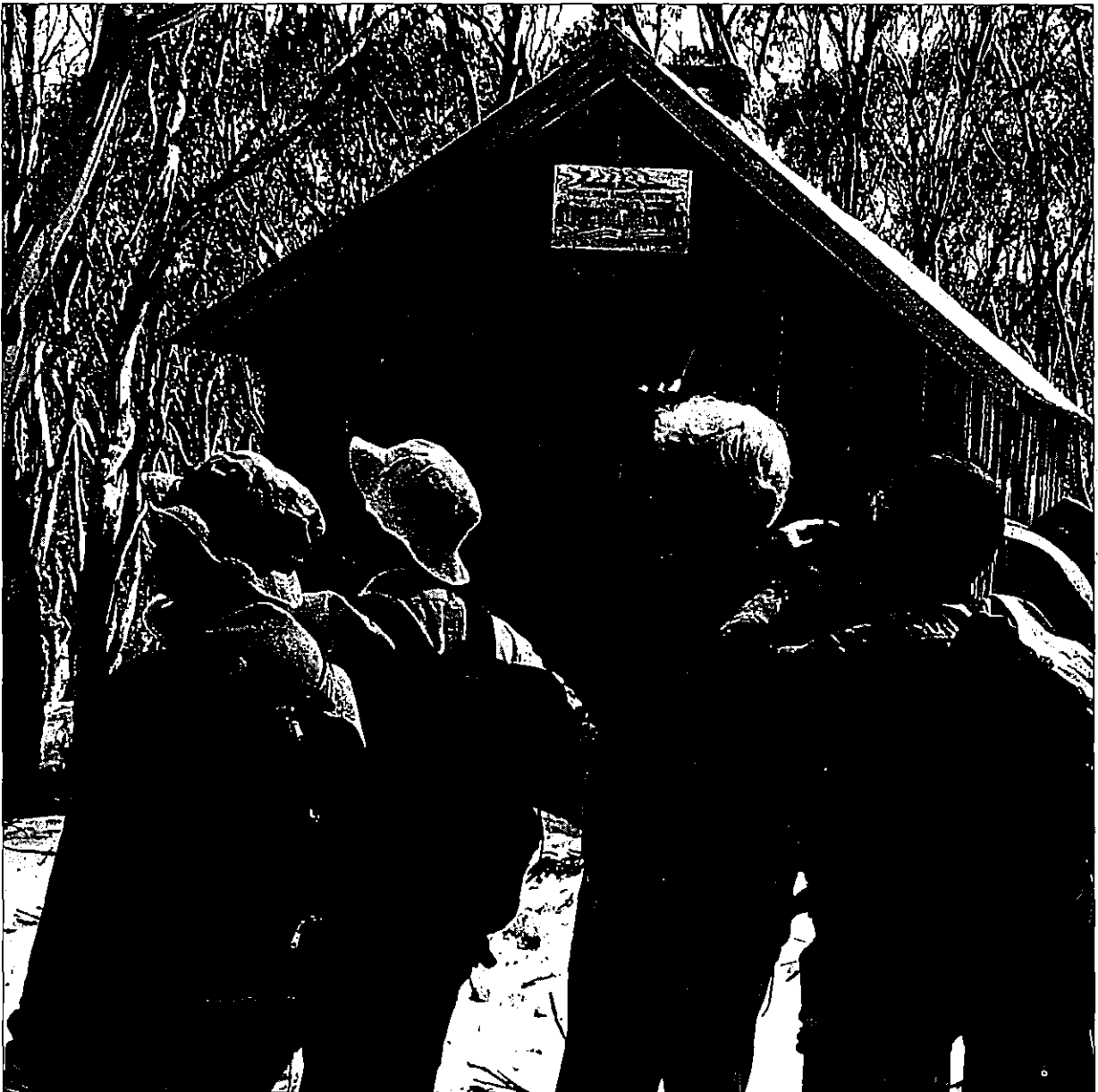


NPA Bulletin



Volume 27 number 4
December 1990

NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION FACT FILE



Canberra: Arcadia in the Antipodes?

A walking track for the south coast

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Cover

Photo: Len Haskew

Reg Alder, centre, and Len Crossfield, bearded, in the late September snow at Prior's Hut in the Brindabella Ranges.

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.

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Vice-President

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Membership enquiries welcome

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Contribute to your Bulletin

Contributions of articles (news, description or fiction), black-and-white photographs and line drawings are keenly sought for the *Bulletin*. 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. The editorial fax is (06) 249 7373.

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

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President's foreword

We can take pride in stating what we are about. Members who joined the Association because of particular interests, and outsiders, may be unaware of the total scene of our activities. The aims and objects of the Association stated on page two of the NPA Bulletin encompass a wider spectrum than most other organisations we might be compared with.

We not only provide outings, we also provide publications, field working parties and written submissions on governmental policies.

Our outings cater for as many needs as possible—day walks, overnight backpacks, car camps, canoe excursions, ski outings, mid-week walks and specialty walks. We roll up our sleeves and form volunteer field parties to work with the authorities in the formation and renovation of tracks in national parks, in removing unwanted vegetation, in planting trees and in combatting erosion. We prepare, publish and distribute written material. For example, this bulletin is distributed to libraries, secondary schools and col-

leges throughout the ACT, and we have just updated and reprinted our popular booklet, Field Guide to the Native Trees of the ACT. Our material on the Yerrabi Track and other subjects has been distributed or used by the authorities.

During 1989-90, as in previous years, our Association made submissions to governments on policies concerning conservation, environmental, planning and zoning matters. These emanated from a very busy structure of committee and subcommittees, the members of which do their best to keep abreast of the environmental and conservation issues exploding around us. Most of our committee and subcommittee members hold down full-time jobs. Their efforts in absorbing the heavy documentation coming in and in drafting submissions and papers are applauded.

I therefore ask members of the Association generally to consider whether they have a relevant skill to offer, professional or otherwise, towards the study and authoring of papers which might cover legal,



Les Pyke. Photo: Babette Scougall.

ecological, botanical, zoological, biological and other aspects. If you wish to assist please supply your name and contact phone number or address to the Association's office. Your offer would imply no commitment on your part; your participation would depend on the nature of the task and what is needed from time to time and your availability at the time.

Les Pyke

The Environmental Budget 1990-91

The Association, consistent with its proper role, is quick to lobby and make demands on governments. It is therefore refreshing to be able to give a bouquet where it is due. The *Environment Budget Statement 1990-91* presented by the Chief Minister on behalf of the ACT Government is claimed to be the first of its kind for the ACT. Without prejudice to our views from time to time on particular points, the government and its advisers are to be congratulated on this 41-page document which so conveniently lays out the policy landscape before us.

Its contents encompass the conservation of natural resources, the urban environment, energy conservation, environment education, water and air quality, waste management and conserving the cultural heritage.

Management plans are dis-

cussed for the Canberra Nature Park, the Murrumbidgee River Corridor, the Jerrabomberra Wetlands and the Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve. The draft plan for the Nature Park is due in April 1991 and the final plans for the Jerrabomberra and Murrumbidgee River projects are due in March 1991.

A total of \$3.71 million has been allocated to new programs and capital works including \$0.1 million 'so that the Parks and Conservation Service can develop, coordinate, promote and evaluate a program to use local volunteers in conservation activities to revegetate and rehabilitate areas which it manages'.

With regard to Namadgi National Park, there will be extensions to 'link into the proposed NSW Brindabella National Park thereby generating a natural wildlife corri-

dor that extends from the Southern Tablelands to the alpine regions'. Also the extensions will cover 'the north Cotter region with its ecologically valuable vegetation species and the Mount Tennent/Blue Gum Creek area which has a diverse ecology including some flora and fauna species that are uncommon in the rest of the territory'. The existing management plan for Namadgi will be revised in 1991; it will put forward management strategies for all proposed extensions.

The government promises extensive and broad public consultation. Your committee will monitor this with the objective of putting the Association's case where possible.

The *Environmental Budget Statement* is available for \$5 at the ACT Government Shopfront, North Building, Civic Square.

Les Pyke

SUBMISSIONS

Discussion paper on ACT planning

The Interim Territory Planning Authority is seeking comment on plans for the ACT. This follows the release of a discussion paper which aroused considerable public debate in September.

Some of the key discussion points concern open space and conservation. The section on protecting the environment says that maintaining natural resources and ecological processes for future generations could mean:

- promoting higher density development as a basis for more efficient transport systems, reductions in energy consumption and savings in infrastructure costs, and
 - promotion of public transport at the expense of private transport.
- This appears related to a comment in the section on open space and recreation. The paper states: 'In the urban areas, a guideline for

the provision of open space has been four hectares per 1000 people. In the light of evidence of over-provision of open space on this basis and the increasing cost burden of maintaining open spaces, there is a need to assess the use of land which exceeds the guideline and to develop a mechanism to ensure that open space is provided in a way which meets the community's aesthetic and recreational requirements but which is sustainable in budgetary terms.

'The cost of maintaining open space is high and an important issue for the territory is who should pay and how, or should the existing quality of maintenance be continued. The key related planning issues are: What constitutes open space? How much should be provided and how much can we afford to maintain? What type of open space should be provided and

where should it be located?'

Another topic relevant to open space is the question of whether hobby farms should be permitted in some rural areas.

The discussion paper also raises the matter of air pollution. Cars are the major contributors but the use of wood and other solid fuels for heating is also a significant source. The paper notes that fine particles from these fuels cause a grey-brown haze and are also a potential health hazard.

The authority is canvassing community opinion on these and other planning issues as part of the preparation of a new territory plan. Contributions and ideas should be addressed to the chief territory planner, Interim Territory Planning Authority, GPO Box 158, Canberra ACT 2601.

Environment subcommittee

The Association's Environment subcommittee continues to meet on the fourth Thursday of every month to pursue a range of activities connected with the environment of the ACT and surrounding region.

Some of the subjects being dealt with at the moment include the proposed terrestrial and marine national park for Jervis Bay, participation in the recently established National Endangered Species Network, the Interim Territory Planning Authority's Draft Territory Plan, regional cooperation for the Murrumbidgee River Corridor, the Gungahlin External Travel Plan, Canberra Nature Park, the future of Melonglo Gorge, the Industry Commission's draft report *Mining and Minerals Processing in Australia* (which suggests that mineral exploration and mining should be allowed in national parks), ACT bird habitat and the ACT Government's Environmental Budget Statement.

In response to the talk to the

Association in May by Ian Taylor of the Canberra Ornithological group, the Subcommittee has been considering a study into remnant woodlands in the ACT. The aim of this is to identify areas of remnant woodland of conservation value in the ACT, outline their current conservation status, demonstrate the short to long term threats to their ecological values and make recommendations to the ACT Government on strategies for achieving their reservation. A party from the subcommittee recently spent a Sunday inspecting four of the areas in question: Mulligan's Flat, Callum Brae, Rob Roy and parts of Mount Ainslie.

Subcommittee meetings continue to be well-attended, lively evenings and are an excellent means by which members of the Association can get involved in the ever increasing range of environmental issues facing the ACT and its related region. Give Tim Walsh or Len Crossfield a call if you would like to come along.

(See the contents page for telephone numbers). They will send you a copy of the minutes of a recent meeting and an agenda for the next meeting. You've nothing to lose but your apathy!

Timothy Walsh



*Kangaroo grass,
Themeda australis.
Drawn by Helen Hewson-Friend.*

Industry Commission and a rational environment

In late September the Federal Government's Industry Commission released a draft report, *Mining and minerals processing in Australia*. The draft provides an overview then a series of findings and recommendations in sections on access to land, mining and environmental concerns, government regulation, taxation and royalties, construction and operating costs, other influences on competitiveness and special topics and case studies such as Kakadu, uranium and the Office of the Supervising Scientist.

The report's focus has been on what Australian governments at state and federal level can do to improve the efficiency and competitiveness of mining and early-stage mineral processing in this country. The draft report estimates that if just some of its recommendations were implemented, 'output of resource-based products is estimated to increase by around \$4 billion, with economy-wide gains likely to be very much greater.'

The report acknowledges damage

to the environment must be regarded as part of the basic costs of mining. Repeated clashes between mining and environmental groups have led to some familiarity with each other's viewpoint and a less black and white approach to the issues.

The report reveals however that the Commission has a good deal of faith in market forces as the best mode for solving disputes, and even viewing the issues in the first place. One of the findings on National Estate listings says, 'Because they often effectively preclude other uses and since economic considerations play no role in the decision-making process, National Estate listings can frustrate rational assessment of the likely costs and benefits of alternative land uses.' This seems to betray a belief that economics is the only form of rational behaviour.

A finding on exploration and mining in national parks claims National Parks have been set up 'without a convincing case being made that the entire area must

remain immune from other potential land uses (such as mining). There are those who would argue that immunity from other land use seems central to the whole point of having a national park. The report recommends national parks be required to justify their existence in terms of economic costs and benefits.

On mining and the environment the commission recommends mining companies be required to post rehabilitation bonds to cover the cost of mine-site rehabilitation, and that rights and obligations of property ownership be more carefully defined.

There are inevitably several controversial recommendations in the report and its tenor suggests there is a still a lot of territory between opposing camps. That territory will have to be covered by both sides before the emergence of a way to proceed instead of just a way of standing in each other's path.

Donald Gill

Canberra's natural areas

In August 1989, as part of drawing up a draft management plan for Canberra Nature Park, the ACT Parks and Conservation Service invited public contributions. The ACT Government has published a brief summary of the submissions it received from the community.

Canberra Nature Park includes most of the undeveloped hill and ridge areas in and around Canberra, and the Jerrabomberra wetlands. The wetlands have been covered in a study of their own. Most of Canberra Nature Park falls somewhere between a national park and a recreational reserve, providing both bushland and a resource for human activity; neither pristine nor manicured.

The call for public submissions drew over 570 responses from individuals and groups, covering a wide subject range. The most popular areas of nature park were found by household survey to be Mount Ainslie, Mount Majura, Mount Taylor, Black Mountain and Red Hill. Next most popular were Coleman Ridge, Farrer Ridge, the Pinnacle, Aranda bushland and O'Connor ridge.

The bulk of the publication deals with topics brought up in the submissions and how many respondents commented on each topic. These include values of Canberra Nature Park, future protection, areas for inclusion, management, development, access, litter and

environmental education.

The next step for the future of the Canberra Nature Park is that the ACT Parks and Conservation Service will prepare the draft management plan during the rest of 1990 in consultation with other ACT and Federal government bodies. On completion this document will be available for public comment before going to the Legislative Assembly. This draft report will be one worth waiting for and it will be important to make final submissions to help shape government policy for one of Canberra's most beautiful and particularly Canberran resources.

THE GARDEN CITY

Canberra: a pastoral ideal or Arcadia in the Antipodes?

Guest speaker for the June NPA meeting was Associate Professor Ken Taylor of the University of Canberra whose subject was the landscape heritage of Canberra.

Ken divided Canberra's landscape heritage into three categories: urban open spaces and the setting of Canberra, rural lands of the ACT, and its natural landscape. These he sees as being independent of one another while making a cohesive whole. He believes they should be marketed more for tourism.

The open space system is what he considers to be the major aspect of Canberra's landscape. It is what Canberra is famous for and what will be the most enduring. Inroads into the system are now taking place and we all have to take steps to protect it.

Rural lands he sees as part of our inheritance. It has an intangible value—it relates us to the early history of the area through events and people as well as places.

The natural heritage of the area is important because of the way we relate to nature and Canberra's close proximity to large tracts of natural lands makes it easy for residents to keep in touch with nature.

Placed as it is in a rural setting with wilderness in the background, the first impression of Canberra is picturesque. The natural surrounds add to the value of Canberra. Pioneers and early visitors to the region related warmly to the same scene and all the early paintings of Canberra depicted this pastoral beauty.

Of the city landscape Ken not only gave full acknowledgement to Walter Burley Griffin's original concept, he also pointed out how much we owe to John Sulman, the man responsible for putting Griffin's plan into effect, and to Thomas Weston for the initial street and park plantings.

Sulman softened many of

Griffin's ideas. For instance Griffin wanted a city of large monuments, imposing buildings and residential complexes. Sulman saw a Canberra of low buildings with modest cottages and bungalows in the suburbs. Griffin's residential suburbs were geometric in concept with narrow streets and right-angled corners and with open spaces behind the residential areas. Sulman brought the parkland to the front of the houses, widened many of the streets and rounded the corners. Ken used the suburb of Reid, one of his special research areas, to illustrate the points he was making.

Thomas Weston set the highest possible standard in research and in street and park planting—native trees for major avenues and deciduous trees for minor roads. This is a heritage we need to continue according to Ken Taylor. Weston also reafforested the hills, planting over one million trees. Griffin on the other hand wanted

each hill a different colour.

Ken illustrated his talk with a wide variety of well-chosen slides including: views of Canberra and Washington (what Canberra might have been if the American 'city beautiful' concept had been developed rather than the European 'garden' city one, as it is now); a then-and-now series of Canberra's development; aerials of Canberra in autumn; and a fine collection of landscape and pastoral paintings to illustrate how the development of landscape painting can be seen in Canberra's development.

Phil Bubb thanked Ken Taylor on behalf of the Association for his interesting and informative talk. Phil said that it was a feast for the mind as well as for the eye and that after hearing Ken's views on the subject he would be looking at Canberra's landscape quite differently.

Babette Scougall

Canberra Nature Park taken from the upper slopes of Mount Ainslie. Black Nountain, Bruce and O'Connor Ridges are in the distance. Photo: ACT Parks and Conservation Service.



Working groups on ecologically sustainable development

The Federal Government has appointed Professors Stuart Harris and David Throsby and Dr Roy Green to chair the working groups on ecologically sustainable development.

These working groups have grown out of a review of the topic which culminated in the June 1990 release of the Federal Gov-

ernment discussion paper Ecologically Sustainable Development. This report announced the formation of nine working groups comprising representatives of industry, the conservation and trade union movements, State and Commonwealth governments and the CSIRO. Consumer groups will also be represented on relevant

working groups.

Since the report's release the Government has received comments from many sectors on the report; working groups will have this commentary before them as well as the original report. Many comments pointed out issues that have relevance in several working groups and these groups have been asked to take these into account.

These comments will all be made public and be considered by the Federal Government.

Each chairperson will be responsible for three working groups. Professor Harris will chair the mining, manufacturing and energy production and distribution working groups; Professor Throsby the transport, energy use and tourism groups, and Dr Green the agriculture, forestry and fisheries groups.

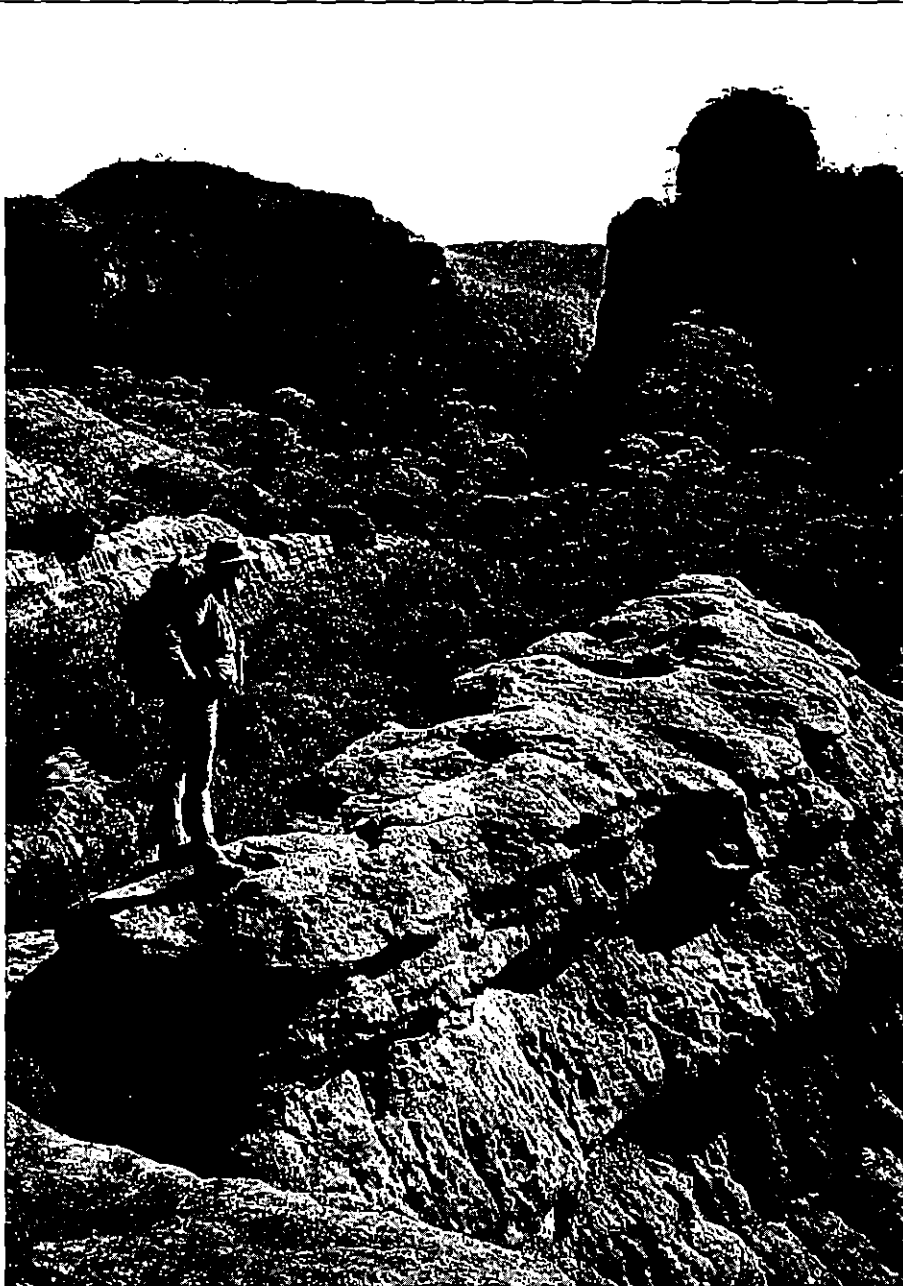
The three appointees will be responsible for ensuring other interested groups and individuals not on the working groups are able to give information and opinions. The three will consult together as well as with Government Ministers.

Stuart Harris is currently professor at the Department of International Relations in the Research School of Pacific Studies at the Australian National University. He was previously director of the Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies at the Australian National University.

David Throsby is professor of economics at Macquarie University.

Roy Green has been director of the CSIRO Institute of Natural Resources and Environment since January 1988. He has been secretary to the Australian Science and Technology Council.

Copies of the Commonwealth discussion paper, Ecologically Sustainable Development, and a related Treasury paper, Economic and Regulatory Measure for Ecologically Sustainable Development, are available at Australian Government Publishing Service bookshops in all capital cities.



Ian Haynes in the Shrouded Gods Mountain area of Morton National Park. Photo: Russell Kefford.

ACT environment management

Future directions for conservation and environment management in the ACT was the title given by Greg Fraser to his talk to the October meeting of the Association. Mr Fraser, director of the Environment and Conservation Bureau of the ACT Department of the Environment, Land and Planning began his talk by describing the creation of a new department in July to oversee planning, lease administration, heritage and environment matters in the ACT. This new entity includes the Interim Territory Planning Authority and the Land Division and the ACT Parks and Conservation Service. These changes, Mr Fraser explained, provide for a more efficient and simplified land system for the ACT community in line with the new package of legislation for heritage protection, planning, environmental and lease management being considered by the ACT government.

Mr Fraser described in considerable detail the philosophy behind the new legislative proposals; in particular the aim of promoting economic growth while also addressing environmental concerns and community expectations with an emphasis on community participation in the planning process. After describing each of the proposed bills in detail Mr Fraser spoke of the program for declaring reserves in the ACT. The aim of this program is to develop a comprehensive system of ACT nature reserves which contains representations of native plant and animal communities.

In this respect the Government has made specific commitments to:

- the protection of wilderness areas of Namadgi National Park
- extension to Namadgi to include the Lower Cotter catchment and the Mount Tennent/Blue Gum Creek area
- gazettal of Jerrabomberra Wetlands, the Murrumbidgee River Corridor nature reserves and the Canberra Nature Park under the Nature Conservation Act.

This action will, Mr Fraser explained, increase by 23 000 hec-

tares the area of land in the ACT reserved under the Nature Conservation Act.

In Mr Fraser's view areas of open space in the ACT should only be reserved as public land if the community is satisfied that there is value in their long term reservation. Thus not every block of open space will be reserved. The ACT Parks and Conservation Service is identifying areas to ensure that significant natural and cultural resources receive appropriate protection and management. The NPA, Mr Fraser reminded the audience, was involved in this process through its membership of the ACT Parks and Conservation Consultative Committee and participation in the consultative processes associated with the preparation of the Territory Plan.

Mr Fraser then went on to explain how the Canberra Nature Park was currently the subject of

major community consultations and resource planning to identify those components of the undeveloped hills and ridges of Canberra which are important for nature conservation and related public uses. The end result will be a range of protected areas which will contain significant elements of the Canberra landscape, nature conservation, recreation and educational resources.

Mr Fraser praised the NPA for the important role it has played to date in the establishment and maintenance of an ACT nature reserve system. He also pointed out that the Government would in the future be relying more and more on volunteers and community groups in the managing of these areas. In this regard he mentioned the Parkcare groups that are being formed in various parts of Canberra to allow people to participate in the management of areas near

On parks and visitor



Display in the NSW national parks office in Tibooburra. Photo: Barbara Comfort.

of New South Wales with park headquarters and information centre located in the town of Tibooburra. The centre occupies the old courthouse, a fine single storied stone building in the centre of the town. One enters an attractive foyer containing a number of natural exhibits and backed by a counter where the rangers provide information and advice. The main display room, the old courtroom proper I imagine, opens off the foyer and contains a variety of displays covering natural and cultural aspects of the park. There is no film or slide presentation but a very well selected series of exhibits, paintings, maps and models providing a good sample of park features.

The original Cameron's Corner wooden survey post is placed in a realistic and artistic setting evocative of that site. Nearby is a model of the Burke and Wills convoy

About the time the Namadgi Visitors Centre was opened I visited two other park information centres which in their own distinctive ways also impressed me.

The Sturt National Park covers a large area of the northwest corner

where they live. Tree planting and weed control are two of the activities being undertaken by nearly 400 people in 11 groups now in existence.

In his vote of thanks Syd Comfort mentioned the good working relationship the Association has with the ACT Parks and Conservation Service and thanked Mr Fraser for his detailed explanation of the direction in which nature conservation in the ACT is taking under self-government. Syd pointed out that Canberra was going through a major period of change as far as land management and planning matters are concerned. He emphasised the need for the Association to continue to monitor closely the developments proposed by the Government. It is only by constant vigilance and active participation that the Canberra of the future will be as we and earlier members of the Association would wish.

Timothy Walsh



Group of NPA members walking along a track in the Naas River valley on the western side of Boboyan Road after visiting the ruins near Luton's crutching shed. Photo: Babette Scougall.

centres

which graphically emphasises the scope and complexity of this most lavishly equipped of Australian inland expeditions whose distant spirit still inhabits the corner country. There is an interesting oral history exhibit which, through headphones, allows the visitor to hear Aborigines of this area tell the story of their forced relocation earlier this century to reserves many miles to the east. So one can move around the displays, some active some passive, but all carefully selected and well presented which together give a comprehensive picture of the unique area forming Sturt National Park.

Located on Victoria's Westernport, the Coolart Reserve is far removed from Sturt National Park in distance, natural features and cultural heritage. Farmed from the 1830s onwards, the Coolart property came to prominence around 1870 when it was developed as a gentleman's country estate with the construction of a fine two storied residence and de-

velopment of the grounds into a park with sweeping lawns, European trees and formal plantings. Lakes and other waterways with skirting woodland walks were particular features of the property. Most of this was still in place when the Victorian Government acquired the property ten years ago.

Coolart offers a wide span of attractions: the house, the gardens with wonderful specimens of the deciduous trees so favoured in English country parks, landscapes redolent of English country estates, and woodland walks. All of these reflect a culture introduced from the 'old country'. But there is another side to Coolart, its lakes and wetlands are host to huge numbers of water birds of many species including the sacred ibis which nests there in its thousands.

Thus when a visitors' centre was built it was placed beside a lagoon on which many birds live and breed. The centre is largely given over to a tiered theatre where an audiovisual presentation is shown. Following a general and historical introduction this presentation takes the visitor into Coolart section by section, indicating the

particular values and attractions of each and how to see and enjoy these. The slides projected are of a high quality, those of the bird life being outstanding. When the lights come up at the conclusion of the presentation, Coolart's warden speaks briefly to the audience and makes himself available to answer questions. When the audience is about to leave he quietly moves along the front wall of the theatre raising the blinds to reveal a panoramic view over the wetlands and of their avian inhabitants, a stunning finale and irresistible invitation to go out into the reserve.

Displays in visitor centres in national parks and reserves serve to inform, entertain, inspire and to motivate visitors to go into the reserve for further understanding and enjoyment. The ways of achieving these goals are varied and limited only by the imagination of the staff and the resources at their disposal. The Namadgi Visitors' Centre adds yet another dimension to the spectrum of such displays offered in Australian parks.

Syd Comfort

SA endangered species think tank formed

A number of groups and individuals in South Australia have come together to form a think tank on endangered species and habitats in the state. Those involved bring together a lot of expertise in this field. Members of the think tank are the South Australian Museum, South Australian National Parks and Wildlife Services, Native Vegetation Management Branch, Fisheries Department, Black Hill Flora Centre, Adelaide Zoo, Nature Conservation Society of South Australia, Australian Conservation Foundation, the Wilderness Society, South Australian National Parks Association, the Marsupial Society and the Federal Member for Hawker, Mrs Christine Gallus.

With so many eminent scientists and researchers together there is excellent opportunity for exchange of ideas and methods and stronger links between some of these bodies.

The body aims to identify species and habitats at risk, set conservation and research priorities, identify projects for government and non-government organisations, and identify bodies which have relevant expertise for any project.

Xanthopus October 1990

IUCN general assembly in Perth

The General Assembly of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) was held in Perth at the Burswood Island Convention Centre from 28 November to 5 December 1990. Over 1200 delegates were expected to attend from around the world. The IUCN is a unique body whose membership comprises 63 countries, 110 government agencies and over 400 non-government organisations.

Twelve technical workshops were held at the University of Western Australia during the Assembly. They analysed relevant sections of the World Conservation Strategy for the 1990s. The titles of the

workshops were: the world conservation strategy for the 1990s, human population dynamics and resource demand, designing and implementing the global strategy for conserving biodiversity, conservation of the marine environment, realistic strategies for tropical forest conservation, critical issues for protected areas, sustainable utilization of wildlife, implementing the global strategy for conserving wetlands, the conservation strategy for antarctica, the environmental implications of global change, conservation and sustainable development in the Sahel and other arid regions, and harmonizing environmental conservation and economic development.

Labor pledges national parks

The NSW Labor Party has pledged to create 20 new national parks in its first year in government and add two million hectares to national parks over 10 years. This would also involve creating 75 new positions, principally park rangers, within the state's National Parks and Wildlife Service.

The majority of the proposed parks are along the coastal region with three inland near Bathurst, Dubbo and Tamworth. The ALP proposal also contains plans for an inventory of wildlife in existing parks, and setting up marine national parks.

NPA. Illawarra Branch newsletter, August-September 1990

History of Lamington National Park

Past secretary of the National Parks Association of Queensland, Keith Jarrott, has written *History of Lamington National Park*. The book covers the period from the mid-1880s to the 1960s and was launched in June this year, the seventy-fifth year of Lamington National Park. The book is published by Jarrott and the National Parks Association of Queensland.

NPA News (Queensland). September 1990

New World Heritage sites overseas

We all know about southwest Tasmania but several sites in Africa have recently been added to the World Heritage Committee list. One is Banc d'Arguin National Park, 1 200 000 hectares on the Mauritanian coast which hosts millions of migrating birds and which was nominated for both terrestrial and marine environments.

Zambia and Zimbabwe jointed nominated the Victoria Falls/Mosi-Oa Tunya regions, adjacent in the two countries.

Finally the Bandiagra in Mali has been accepted to the World Heritage list for its cultural importance and as home of the Dogon people. Eight more sites around the world are currently under consideration.

IUCN Bulletin, March 1990

Threat to Australia's oldest national park

Royal National Park south of Sydney, established in 1879, is threatened by a draft plan for urban and industrial development at Helensburgh.

The plan suggests 2000 to 3000 new home sites and 40 hectares zoned for industrial use in the upper catchment of the Hacking River, the main waterway of Royal National Park. Stormwater runoff associated with the development will mean special ponds will need to be constructed, possibly partly within the Garawarra State Recreation Area adjoining Royal National Park.

The proposed development threatens to pollute and silt up the Hacking, promote weed and domestic animal infestation and generally degrade the ecosystem of a vital green buffer between Sydney and Wollongong. The development breaks into a green area that currently links Royal National Park with the Illawarra escarpment. This could endanger some species such as the greater glider and the powerful owl which is already

listed as vulnerable and rare.

The preservation of this green buffer between two of Australia's largest cities is vital for the quality of life of their human inhabitants and the preservation of what is known to be one of the most botanically diverse areas of its size in the world.

NPA, Illawarra Branch newsletter, August 1990

Sand mining opposed

The central west branch of NPA is campaigning against further sand mining on the Newnes plateau north of Lithgow in the Blue Mountains. They say more mining will adversely affect the area by stream siltation, noise pollution and weed infestation. Several sites would affect rare high altitude shrub swamps.

Newnes Plateau was proposed as part of a Blue Mountains national park by Myles Dunphy in 1932 and recently some of the area has been suggested for inclusion in the proposed Gardens of Stone national park.

National Parks Journal, NSW, September 1990

Robust and precious Antarctica

Assistant Director of the Australian Antarctic Division, Dr Patrick Quilty, recently presented the first lecture of the NPA Sydney Branch's series, Global Environmental Futures. Dr Quilty is a research scientist and has spent several seasons in the Australian Antarctic Territory.

Dr Quilty gave some scientific background on Antarctica and on some of the work being conducted there now. His talk revealed a continent of extremes, the highest continent, the windiest, the coldest, the most lifeless, the remotest, but also he said, possibly the most beautiful. An interesting aspect of Dr Quilty's remarks was his statement that Antarctica is not a fragile environment but an extremely robust one except for that two per cent not covered in ice where the

only known life forms grow. A continent covered with an average depth of about 2.5 kilometres of snow is not one man can easily change he says.

Large areas of the land mass under the ice are actually below sea level, forced down by the huge weight of the ice cap. This ice cap is believed to have begun to form about 15 million years ago and to have advanced and receded several times. Researchers drilling in the Ross Sea in 1986 found a 30 million year old leaf apparently belonging to a form of nothofagus very similar to species still found in Tasmania and Chile. There is other evidence to suggest vegetation as recently as 2.5-3 million years ago.

One of Dr Quilty's favourite things about Antarctica is its lack of boundaries and devotion to scientific research. Another thing well worth preserving about Antarctica.

National Parks Journal, NSW, September 1990

Nth Brindabellas nominated for National Estate

The Canberra branch of the Australian Conservation Foundation, has prepared a submission to include the northern Brindabellas on the National Estate register. The region nominated, entirely within NSW, is a magnificent one worthy of inclusion.

ACTACF September update

Whole farm planning

The National Soil Conservation Program and Greening Australia (Tasmania) have combined forces to begin the Tasmanian Whole Farm Planning Project. This tackles Australia's biggest environmental issue, soil degradation, especially of agricultural land.

The plan enables farmers to identify soil types, land capacity, farm use, water, wildlife and other factors which determine ecologically sound farm management. It is currently based around three test farms in the Tasmanian midlands,

selected as typical for the region.

Costs are shared by the two organising bodies and the farmers of the three properties. Courses for farmers of twelve weeks have been run and the three farms used for demonstration.

The Tasmanian Conservationist, August 1990

Uniting for the escarpment

A number of bodies have combined to form the Escarpment Coalition to protect the Illawarra Escarpment. This is a vital area for the Wollongong region and is not a renewable resource. There has been concern that each development proposal for the escarpment is being fought individually and not necessarily most effectively.

The coalition members are residents, members of Wollongong and Shellharbour Councils, local members of Parliament, Council planning officers, a South Coast Labor Council representative, the Australian Conservation Foundation, wilderness groups and the South Coast Conservation Society.

Smoke Signal, August 1990

Canberra energy use

A Perth academic and renowned energy expert, Dr Peter Neuman, is to conduct a study of Canberra's energy usage. The study will examine urban consolidation, car use, public transport and energy efficiency. The study is being funded by the Australian Conservation Foundation, Canberra Association for Regional Development, Australian Federation of Construction Contractors, Master Builders Association and the Building Owners and Managers Association.

ACTACF September update

Namadgi oral history project near completion

The draft report on the Kosciusko Huts Association's Namadgi Oral History Project was completed at the end of September. Project historian and KHA member Matthew Higgins has interviewed over 20 people associated with the Namadgi area and the sound and pictorial archives produced as a result of the project represent a major contribution to our knowledge of Namadgi's European history.

The project, conceived by KHA President Graham Scully, was funded by an ACT Government Community Development Fund Heritage Grant and materially supported by the National Library of Australia. All the interview tapes have been deposited with the Oral History Section of the library where they will be stored in perpetuity under proper archival conditions and will be accessible to the public. (The KHA, which holds copyright on the contents of the tapes, has its own set of cassettes of the interviews). About 100 photographs were able to be borrowed from interviewees during the project and were copied by KHA member Graeme Handley. A small amount of documentary material was also copied.

Interviewees talked about a wide and varied range of aspects of Namadgi's past. These included details about past and present structures in the park such as Boboyan, Orroral, Brandy Flat, Cotter House, Mt Clear, Mt Franklin Chalet and RMC Duntroon ski lodge, Gudgenby and the various huts that once fringed that property, Old Station, Frank's Hut, Curtis Refuge Hut, Stockyard Creek Hut, Pryor's Hut and many more. People who once lived in or were strongly associated with the region, like Dick Brayshaw, Jack Maxwell, Tom and Ada Oldfield, lived again in people's memories and much information was gathered on aspects of the various families who had holdings in the park.

The lifestyles of the people

associated with the region were another important theme of the interviews and ranged from the routine of dipping and drenching sheep to droving stock through Orroral and the Cotter to the snow leases, chasing brumbies up on Ginini and Gingera, trapping rabbits during the Depression, schooling, raising families and running households in the days before electricity and other modern conveniences, skiing on Franklin and other peaks, bushwalking, and glimpses of the social life of the people who preceded the national park. Observations on wildlife and attitudes to the park itself were also touched upon.

While focusing on Namadgi, the project also uncovered valuable material relating to areas adjacent to the park—particularly the northern snow lease country of Kosciusko National Park and parts of Bimberi Nature reserve.

Since completing the draft report, Matthew has conducted several additional site visits with interviewees (with the assistance of ACT Parks and Conservation rangers) and the results of these will be incorporated into the final report which is due to be completed early in December.

The KHA is deeply indebted to all the people who agreed to be interviewed during the project. Without their cooperation the Namadgi Oral History Project would not have got off the ground.

Matthew Higgins

A walk in a threatened forest

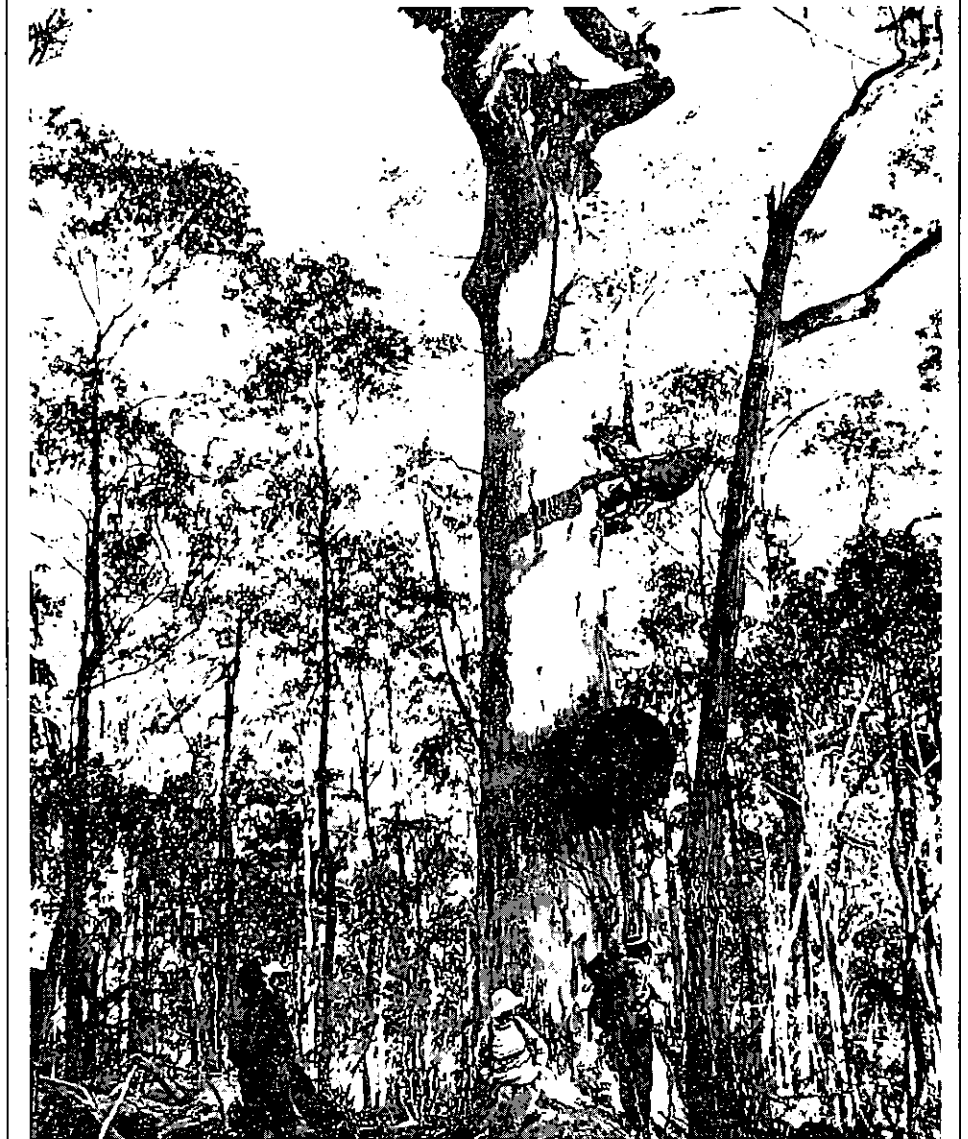
On 28 and 29 July, Judy Webster and I joined a small party of Canberra bushwalkers led by Mike Morriss for a walk in the beautiful but threatened Coolangubra State Forest.

Our walk commenced near the tiny village of Rocky Hall and after an easy stroll through a rural settlement of mostly young Victorian settlers we began walking and rock-hopping up Myanba Creek. The creek was flowing with clear water and for the most part cut its way through a fairly narrow, rocky valley. Just before it entered a deep gorge we climbed up out of the creek bed to where we could just see Myanba Falls tumbling into the creek below. We camped at a flat site a kilometre or so above the falls and beside the creek.

Sunday morning saw us take a leisurely stroll through an open forest with many tall old trees.

This was an area that had never been logged and it was criss-crossed by small streams reflecting pockets of tall tree ferns. Soon, however, we came across a forest 'expressway', wide and well surfaced, with logs tidily lining the verges marked MILL or PULP!! We followed this road up towards Coolangubra Mountain and almost as soon as the road surface deteriorated so did the apparent tidiness of the logging. The slopes of Coolangubra Mountain are relatively steep and it was here that the logging effects were worst. The area (kept secure by the presence of a watchman) was a churned up, boggy mess of stumps, broken trees, stacked logs, bark and soil. We had morning tea amid all this mess and wondered how

Below: Fallen trees in Coolangubra State Forest. Photo: Len Haskeu.



An 'overmature' tree in Coolangubra State Forest. Photo: Len Haskeu.

some people could accept the devastation of such a beautiful area.

After our return to camp the party separated into two groups, one group rock-hopping back downstream and the other, including Judy and myself, going inland climbing a steep spur and then dropping down an even steeper spur into Myanba Creek near the new settlers.

If any of us had any doubts about the effects of logging in areas of almost pristine wilderness, these doubts vanished after this experience. Mike and some other members of our party are dedicated forest supporters and it was very interesting (and

humbling) to hear of how they had supported the demonstrations in an effort to save these magnificent stands of old trees.

Len Haskeu



Acacia mearnsii. From Field guide to the native trees of the ACT.

A walking track for the south coast?

At the northern end of the South Island of New Zealand is a pleasant three-day walk along the coast called the Abel Tasman track. The track runs across beaches and over headlands and towards the end of a day's walking is usually a rough wooden hut for the trampers.

The vegetation is not spectacular—the mild dry climate does not allow the excesses of New Zealand's rainforest. Most of the parkland has been reclaimed from farming, so the regenerating native trees are mixed with exotics. But the views across the bay are great, with clouds drifting across the grey water.

A walk through Murramarang National Park brought the Abel Tasman track to mind. The south coast of New South Wales has a few tiny national parks surrounded on three sides by development pressures. The development pressures are not likely to abate but the case for conservation could be strengthened with a unifying theme. At Murramarang I realised that this theme could be a walking track.

Murramarang National Park is a beautiful strip of land north of Batemans Bay containing forest of spotted gum and burrawang palms as well as Sydney blue gum, blackbutt, stringybark, ironbark and bloodwood. Rainforest patches live in the moist gullies. Glossy black cockatoos feed on the casuarina seeds in the area.

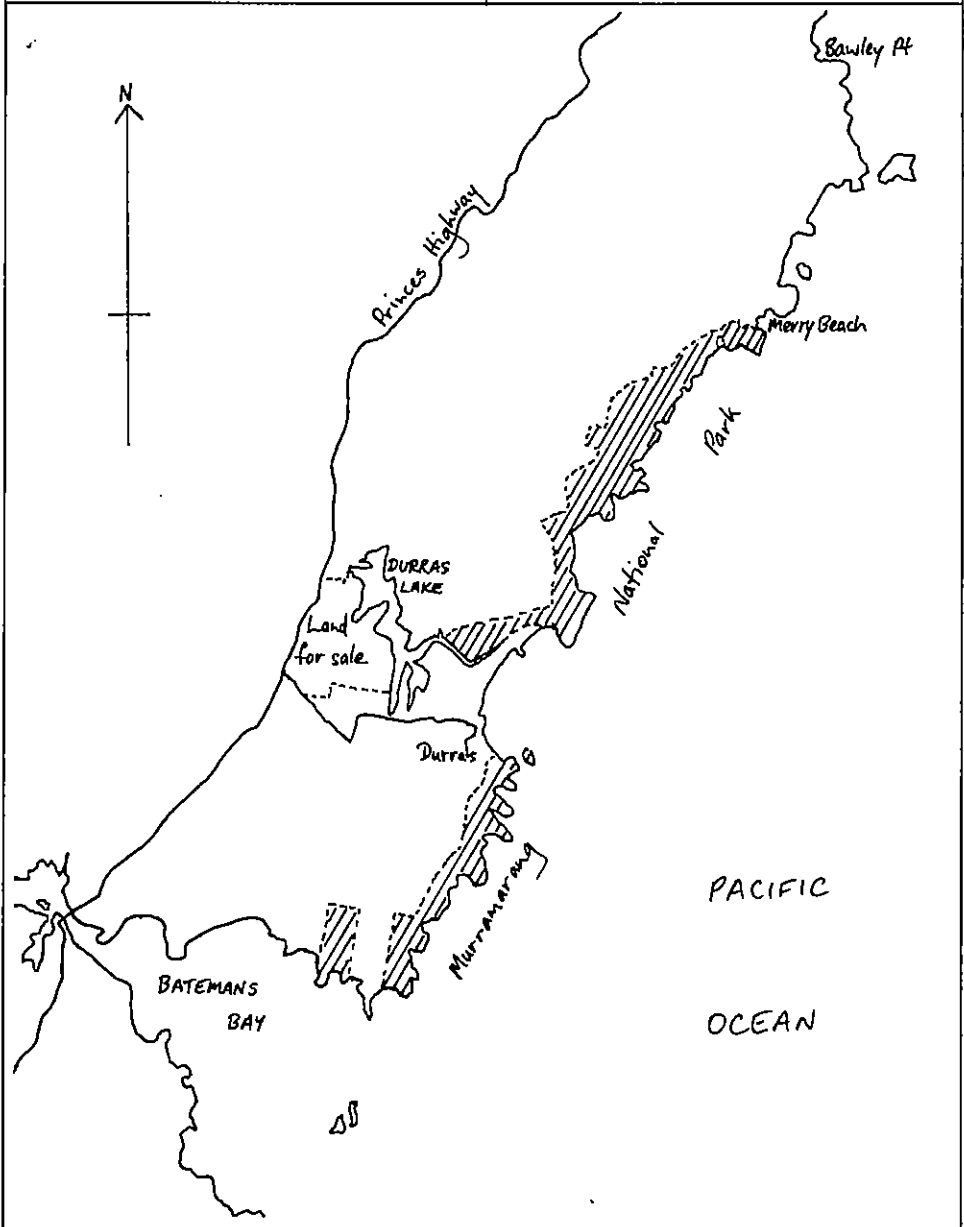
Since 1985 the Total Environment Centre in Sydney has been trying to have the park's rather arbitrary boundaries rationalised and its area extended. The present park is too small for all its habitats to survive intact. This rationalisation and extension could be based on a scenic walking track.

It is already quite feasible to start on the north side of Batemans Bay, stop at Durras for lunch, and camp at Pebbly Beach. The next day one can walk out at Merry Beach. It is a pleasant traverse of beach, forest and mountain. But the vehicle tracks are unmarked

and confusing, and civilisation often intrudes suddenly. The walk needs to be formalised, rerouted, promoted and, most of all, extended. Not far to the north are Murramarang Point, Meroo and Termeil Lakes. Why can't a strip of land connect them all?

An objection might be that track construction could damage the park's wildlife. And the people it attracts could make things even worse. Certainly people are always a problem. But formal management could confine and redirect them.

Murramarang is already compromised. Look at the hills between Batemans Bay and Durras: riddled with eroding four-wheel-drive tracks. These tracks should be closed and revegetated and replaced by one well-graded walking track: the increased numbers of walkers and rangers (paid for by the walkers) would ensure that they stayed closed. Look at Pebbly Beach: private enclaves in various states of repair and a simple camping area among the spotted gums. This could be replaced by a camping





Murramarang National Park.

area that catered for more people. Look at Durras Mountain: a spectacular view compromised by cleared forest and exotic plants. Planning could re-establish the forest (without eliminating the view) and add some information about the place's history.

At the end of that stretch of national park the track would strike caravans. The track should go through Kioloa beach to Bawley Point and beyond.

Further north and south are the national parks at Jervis Bay, Mimosa Rocks and Ben Boyd. They contain plenty of walking tracks, most based on the principle of driving to the roadhead and then taking a short stroll to the headland. What they need most is walking tracks between them.

This leads to a vision of the great

south coast walk, where Australians and overseas visitors could leave their cars, for days on end, perhaps even catch public transport between parks, and go overnight walking beside the sea. The model could be how New Zealand has turned informal routes into internationally renowned tracks. The south coast track would need careful planning, land acquisition, revegetation of some roads, weeding out exotic plants and perhaps even hut building. This may disturb some habitats but it could provide the stimulus and the money to protect others.

A popular walking track would be a great barrier, both physical and electoral, to more damaging sorts of coastal development. And it could form the case for a much longer and wider coastal national park.

Roger Green

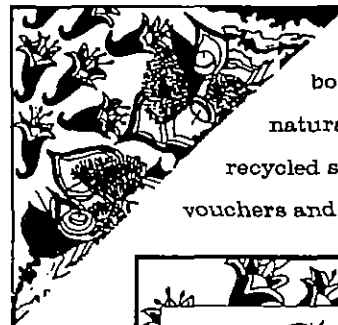
Buy a print for Durras

The Friends of Durras are making progress in their campaign to buy a piece of land adjoining Durras Lake to add to Murramarang National Park on the south coast of New South Wales. Their latest scheme is to sell copies of a painting of a gum tree by artist Peter Kestel.

An advertisement for the print and an article about the campaign recently featured in *Women's Weekly*. Simply gluing the print to a board makes an attractive picture with a good imitation of a wooden frame.

The campaign still has a long way to go so all donations and purchases are welcome. The print is available for \$19.95 from Freepost 521, Friends of Durras, GPO Box 1988, Canberra ACT 2601. Or alternatively speak to Gutta Schoefl at a general meeting of the Association.

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Botany Bay National Park

With such an historic name, this area, first visited by Europeans in 1770, has a number of parts to it. There is the original landing site at Kurnell where Captain James Cook and his party landed on 29 April 1770. Cook recorded in his diary that he saw a rabbit-like animal, which may have been a bandicoot, as well as signs of large animals (kangaroo, wallaby, wombat), and abundant birds.

Then there is the La Perouse Historic Site where Captain Arthur Phillip and the first settlers met Comte de La Perouse and the French contingent of two ships, *L'Astrolabe* and *La Boussole* on a world trip of discovery. There is a memorial at La Perouse to Pere Receveur, a Franciscan monk acting as both chaplain and scientist, who died while the French were on land. The oldest building remaining on Botany Bay shores is the Macquarie Watchtower, built 1820-22 to enable reporting on ships entering or leaving Botany Bay.

Of somewhat more recent history are the remains of some fortifications of the Army during World War Two, at Henry Head near the NSW Golf Club. Of course, too, there is the Bare Island Historic

Site, accessible from La Perouse. The construction of this fort was begun in 1881 and probably completed by 1885, but barracks were added after 1889. From 1912 to 1963 the fort was used as a home for war veterans, although it was occupied by garrison forces during World War Two. Since 1967 Bare Island has been under the care of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service. The Botany Bay National Park was officially declared on 23 November 1984, added to on 14 November 1985, and expanded by the addition of Bare Island, La Perouse Monuments and Captain Cook's landing place historic sites on 18 January 1988. The total area is 435 hectares.

Walking tracks go from La Perouse near the bus terminal via the small beach of Congwong Bay leading to Henry Head. The NSW Soil Conservation Service has established some reclamation areas in parts of this bushland with wire fencing. Not many people seem to visit this part of the national park, possibly because it is at the end of the line in its area, or possibly because it has not been as prominently known as a national park. The Wildlife Service has not

published much about the area. A few interesting leaflets are available but nothing specifically about the full range of plants and animals. The Kurnell site of course is a most popular picnic area with some good walks, namely the Muru, Yena and Cape Baily tracks with numbered posts showing points of interest in some cases.

Not yet included in the National Park but of great botanical importance is an area of bushland off Jennifer Street, Little Bay, quite near the national park. This bushland abuts St Michael's Golf Course and there has been much dumping of rubbish in this area, including car bodies, carpets, tins, bottles and garden refuse. This area was referred to by Malcolm Reed in the December issue of the NSW National Parks Journal, in which he stated that the area was the 'last remaining five-hectare remnant of *Banksia aemula* shrubland in Sydney's eastern suburbs', and that this area is in danger of being used for housing. The area is identified as being old leached sand dunes, quite different from the younger sand dunes in the nearby national park. Malcolm Reed also mentioned that the sand dune vegetation once occurred from Bondi Junction to Botany and from Surry Hills to La Perouse, and that only tiny fragments remain today. Walking in the Jennifer Street bushland in spring is a delight, despite the dumped litter. Surely it would be far more valuable to conserve this area and join it to the national park rather than use it for a very few houses in an already well-occupied suburb. There are actually three golf courses side by side in this area!

In an article in the *Proceedings of the Ecological Society of Australia*, 'Sydney's Vegetation 1788-1988' D.H. Benson and J. Howell show that the eastern suburbs banksia scrub covered 8,000 hectares in 1788, and that only 3.5 per cent of this remained in 1988 and of the 7,000 hectares



Actinotus helianthi, Flannel flower, Botany Bay National Park.
Photo: George Chippendale.

A bushwalking hazard

that existed between Bondi and Botany Bay only 2 per cent remains, mostly on the Kurnell Peninsula, and that *Banksia aemula* is not at Kurnell but is in the Jennifer Street area.

I have been delighted with the sight of wildflowers in the La Perouse area of the national park and in the Jennifer Street area. One of my greatest delights is to see the native fuchsia (*Epacris longiflora*) with its pink or red and white flowers at many times through the year but particularly in spring. Other epacrids include *Astroloma piniflorum*, *Brachyloma daphnoides*, *Woollisia pungens*, and *Epacris microphylla*. Flannel flowers (*Actinotus helianthi*), wax flower (*Crowea saligna*), and Christmas bells (*Blandfordia nobilis*) are other delights with trees of lillypilly (*Acema smithii*), various banksias, eucalypts, tea trees, bottlebrushes, boronias, wax flowers, trigger-plants and many more. There are also some introduced plants, some of which seem to have started from garden cuttings disposed of in the area and including canna, watsonia, lion's tail and other common weeds, including the very intrusive boneseed or bitou bush (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*).

The Botany Bay National Park is within easy reach of the city area of Sydney and members of the National Parks Association of the ACT should make a visit. It will refresh you to be in this historic spot and see wildflowers seen by Joseph Banks in 1770.

George Chippendale

On the way back to the cars on the Namadgi Peak pack walk in April we stopped at a small clearing for lunch and I took the water bottles of the four of us back to the creek we had just crossed for filling.

At the edge of the clearing and straddling the animal track we had picked up, there was a small cluster of regrowth wattles. With four water bottles clutched to my stomach I had no free hand to part the branches, so I put my head down and pushed my way through. In so doing I must have walked into a hard twig on a branch because I received a painful jab in my left eye.

I think most bush walkers have suffered the occasional flick in the eye from scrub flicking back from the walker in front, or of course, by just walking through scrub, but in my experience of these any pain suffered has not lasted very long. But the pain from the jab I received that Sunday was to last five to six weeks.

I kept the eye closed for most of the remaining three hours or so back to cars, it being marginally less painful closed than open, and that night at home the television I did watch was watched with one eye only. I was half asleep so things evened out.

By the following Wednesday and Thursday I had noticed that the eye was at its most painful in the morning from when I opened it until two or three hours after. Fortunately I had an appointment with my eye specialist on the Thursday and naturally I told him about the injury. He examined the eye and yes, I had damaged it. He asked if it was painful on opening the eye when I woke up and receiving an affirmative answer, he proceeded to tell me that during the night some healing would take place but for reasons not understood, when the eye was opened in the morning the eyelid would take some of the healed tissue with it as it opened, this accounting for the soreness for a few hours.

He then said that if healing of the eye is prolonged he prescribes one or two drops of castor oil in the injured eye every night for one year, and in severe cases a corneal graft is necessary. I wasn't too happy at the thought of either treatment but he said to see how the eye went for a few weeks and in the meantime if the eye was particularly sore on any morning to come and see him without an appointment first thing in the morning. Any time after that would be too late as it was on this day.

I 'saw' how the eye went for a few weeks. If there was any improvement it was very slow and it was still painful first thing in the morning, though I did not judge this to be so bad as to warrant a visit to the specialist—a hopeful sign.

Then one night four weeks after the injury I felt something in the corner of the eye. I probed with a finger and there came away on the finger a yellow discharge some of it quite solid. From then on the eye healed rapidly and as far as I can judge is normal now.

I write all this as a warning. Look after your eyes. Heed the NPA subrule which says that the walker behind is responsible for dodging or fending off any branch flicking back off the walker in front. Don't walk too close to another walker so as to be out of range of any flying branch. It pays to be careful in any scrub, alone or with other people.

So to steal a line from *Hill Street Blues*, 'be careful out there', and to add one of my own—bushwalking can be heyeghly hazardous!

And if anyone asks me to fill up a water bottle for them...

Frank Clements

Pines win levels series

Confident after the massive 5000 point win in their previous encounter in May, the NPA Wanderers left Canberra in bright sunshine and with high hopes for an away game against the Boboyan Pines. The game was set down as a two day fixture over the weekend of 20-21st October to be played on the Pines' home ground.

But the buoyant hopes of the Wanderers were not to be realised. Trouble started as the visitors approached the ground when the clear skies gave way to threatening cloud. One vehicle carrying three players had a disagreement with one of the fords over the creek on the approaches to the venue and some players who had already arrived at the ground went back to assist. Those stranded were displaying highly coloured feet and legs, a condition induced by involuntary paddling in the frigid waters of the creek. Further time was lost as two of the team's cars experienced some problems with a muddy patch just outside the dressing room (known locally as Frank's hut) and caused consternation when manoeuvres to relieve this situation resulted in some of the veteran players being liberally doused with a glutinous, black mud even before they had a chance to change into their playing gear. These minor frustrations and the time lost gave the Pines a psychological edge from the outset.

The field selected for the match was a short distance from the longer central pitch played on last time but had a very uneven surface which had been poorly prepared and clearly favoured the home team. Nevertheless, when play opened the Wanderers showed the form which had shivered the timbers of the Pines earlier in the season. Veteran opener Reg Alder took the game to the biggest of the opposition while Ken Johnson and Doreen Wilson put up a spirited partnership. Adrienne Nicholson, breaking in a new club was as steady as ever while Donna and Richard created havoc in the outfield. Perhaps the most promising performance on

this first day was by the Loudon family with juniors Michele and Katie making their first appearance in the senior league, being particularly impressive. Rain and snow flurries threatened play during the morning but the Wanderers applied themselves to the task and by lunch time appeared to be cutting into the opposition. However the Pines put up a stubborn resistance and the Wanderers' strike rate was down appreciably on previous performances.

Steady rain during the luncheon adjournment threatened to cause abandonment of the day's play but the skies relented and the players resumed their steady if not spectacular chipping away at the opposition.

But the heavy conditions and cold and wet weather together with the earlier frustrations started to take their toll and some players were forced to retire and finally play was called off 30 minutes early.

However the team was not dispirited. With improving weather forecast, some fresh players and substitutes known to be available for the crucial Sunday play and intensive relaxation therapy over a camp fire under a star-filled sky, the team faced Sunday with confidence. And the day started well with seasoned players Neville Esau, Mike Smith, Sonia Lenz and Graham Guttridge arriving as planned, Mike sporting not one but two new clubs. Interstate player Dennis Murray arrived a little later and then there was Fiona Brand fresh from a successful overseas tour. Play commenced just after nine with the home team radiating a smug confidence.

The Wanderers pushed the score along at a good pace and before long had knocked out the last of the opposition for a sound if not dazzling first innings score. After drinks and into the second innings the Wanderers were in full cry, the Pines falling before them thin and fast. Then the Powers intervened, the heavens opened and the players left the field to wait for the

rain to pass but it did not and before noon the game was abandoned. In accordance with the rules the match was awarded to the Pines, an outcome I believe the Wanderers will appeal.

Disappointment could be read on the rain drenched faces of the Wanderers as they left the field and plodded back to the dressing room. The large attendance of home team supporters jeered derisively at them in their despair with an appalling, mocking cry very like the sound of a strong wind blowing through tall pine trees—a truly eerie and dispiriting note. Not sporting in victory are the Boboyans!

As the Wanderers were enduring their humiliation their team manager, Les Pyke, arrived on the scene conveyed there by some sixth sense of foreboding. But the day was already lost and despite his application of rich, dark, iced fruitcake therapy there was nothing left but mutual commiseration and an even more mutual urgency to escape the rapidly softening mud outside the dressing room.

Well, with a break in the series for the summer recess the NPA team has time to think over tactics for the next match and to do some team rebuilding. To be fair, the Wanderers were unlucky to lose this match: they were the better team both on form and on the day but events conspired to defeat them. I confidently predict a convincing win for the NPA Wanderers in their next encounter with the Boboyan Pines.

For the sport historians amongst you, on the same day as this match, 21st October, just 185 years ago England beat France in a big international. The captain of the winning English team was that great all-rounder, Horatio Nelson, and the venue, Cape Trafalgar.

Syd Comfort

South Australian test for development in national parks

Wilpena Pound is a remarkable geological formation at the southern end of Flinders Ranges National Park in South Australia. Red cliffs guard all sides of the bowl-shaped crater. Within, trees are scattered across the former grazing land. A few ruined farm buildings stand at the entrance to the narrow gorge which links the pound's water-courses with the outside world. At the exit from the gorge, on either side of the creek, is a clutter of motel, tourist services and camping areas amid the red gums.

In January 1989 the South Australian Government signed a lease with Ophix Investments to build a \$50 million resort in Aroona Valley near the pound but a bit further away than the present tourist area. The government has recently said it would help build an airport at nearby Hawker and a power line to the resort.

Conservationists in South Australia have been mobilising against the resort for some time. Not only is the government setting a precedent for development in national parks, it is helping the developers do so. *Xanthopus*, the

newsletter of the Nature Conservation Society of South Australia, reported that the new resort would require the clearing of 300 river red gums and 5000 *Callitris* trees (native pines). There is thick native vegetation and owls and bats that will be affected. *Xanthopus* says, 'Surely a national park area of class A conservation status should be a safe refuge for these and other creatures and any 200 to 300 year old *Callitris* trees.'

There are also doubts about the availability of water to a site that may have 55 000 visitors in the first year.

The conservationists suggest that accommodation should be built at Hawker.

Some people in favour of the development have apparently described the resort site as clapped out pastoral land. Certainly it was grazed till quite recently. The design would evoke rural Australia with air-conditioned buildings made of stone, timber and corrugated iron. There would be 400 campsites, 180 dormitory beds, 60 cottages and over 150 hotel rooms. Construction was due to

begin by November.

Whatever the environmental merits of the proposed resort there is little doubt that the present tourist arrangements are an environmental disaster. They straddle both sides of the main creek out of the pound and choke the approach route. While none of the area is wilderness, the wildlife would certainly have a better chance of survival amid the hordes of tourists if accommodation was further removed from the pound. Well planned walking trails and interpretation sites could protect the area closest to the pound. The rough trails and shanties of the park, which is understaffed and under-resourced, seems to come from the old era of laissez faire park management.

Though the resort proposal may be inappropriate, the tourist accommodation must be moved away from the pound if the pound is to be managed for conservation.

Meanwhile, the Australian Conservation Foundation has taken up the issue. It has undertaken a High Court action against the development.

Roger Green



*Stockyards near Luton's crutching shed in the Naas River valley.
Photo: Babette Scougall.*

Kosciusko—where the ice-trees burn

In this very attractive book author Klaus Hueneke pays tribute to his favourite part of Australia—the high country. It is a more personal statement than his two previous books on this region, *Huts of the high country* and *Kiandra to Kosciusko*. This latest book is almost autobiographical.

Only 80 pages long, with 11 pages of text and 61 of photographs it will be appreciated by lovers of both fine photographs and the Snowy Mountains alike. The book is a comfortable-to-hold almost A4 size and features 86 obviously very carefully selected coloured photographs, plus another on the dust jacket, printed on quality glossy paper. The design is excellent, using a variety of shape, size and placement of photos to good effect. The interesting mix-and-match groupings by theme and colour is especially pleasing.

The photography is remarkably varied and evocative and seems to encompass every mood of the mountains from the vast expanse of the ranges to close detail, from winter into summer and from inanimate objects to intimate observations of companions, it is all there. In this his only book of colour, Klaus shows that he has an excellent eye for colour as well as black and white prints, it is surprising we have not seen more of his colour work before.

Just as the photographs portray visual impressions, the text also conveys personal impressions of his visits to the mountains, first with his parents and brother and sister and later with friends and children. To read the book is to listen to Klaus talking in his own natural style.

Essentially a book of photographs, the final chapter is mainly

about photography and cameras. Here the author generously praises fellow photographers and acknowledges the impact they have had on this work, as well as sharing his knowledge and experience with the reader.

I recommend the book to all who are interested in Kosciusko National Park. It would make an ideal gift for anyone who has been touched by the Snowy Mountain's magic.

The book costs \$32.95 at all traditional book outlets. It is available for NPA members who attend monthly meetings at the reduced price of \$25. A copy is available in the NPA library in the office.

Babette Scougall

Kosciusko—where the ice-trees burn, by Klaus Hueneke, 1990; published by Tabletop Press, 40 Miller St, O'Connor, ACT 2601.

Books at bargain prices

Do you know that you can buy books at our General Meetings at considerable savings on normal retail prices? These books range from small walking guides to glossy, high quality productions. So come along to a General Meeting to see our extensive range including:

The 1990 Revision of our own *Field Guide to Native Trees in the ACT* at a low price of \$5.

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Walking guides such as two publications by one of our own members, Graeme Barrow, *Walking Canberra's Hills & Rivers* at \$5, and *Exploring Namadgi & Tidbinbilla* at \$7.

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If you would like to explore further afield we have the latest edition of Charles Warner's *Bushwalking in Kosciusko National Park* at \$9, the NSW National

Parks Association's publication *Bushwalks in the Sydney Region* at \$11, *Bushwalking in the Budawang*s by Ron Doughton at \$10 as well as The Total Environment Centre's *Discovering NSW Rainforests* at \$10.

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If you like background information about where you are walking/touring we have *Pigeon House and Beyond* at \$20 and its sister publication *Fitzroy Falls and Beyond* at \$23.

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If reports are your thing you will find *Eden Woodchipping - A Review* at \$1, *The Northern Cotter Catchment, ACT* at \$5, *Jervis Bay Marine Park* at \$2, *Australia's Alpine Areas* at 50c and *Fighting for the Wilderness* at \$7.

~*~

Two quality guides to flora which will fit into the pocket of your pack are *The Alps in Flower* at \$7.50 and *The Mallee in Flower* at \$12. Both these books are printed on glossy paper and contain a wealth of clear, colour photographs.

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Two high quality bargains are *Kiandra to Kosciusko* by Klaus Hueneke at \$25 and *Range Upon Range*, a book of superb photographs by Harry Nankin at \$33.

Jervis Bay photo competition

The Jervis Bay Protection Committee is organising a photographic competition which will be run over the Christmas holidays. Aimed at promoting the Bay, especially in the long term campaign by the Committee to have the Bay declared a marine park, posters and flyers will be distributed to businesses, schools, tourist facilities and camera and dive shops on the south coast, in Sydney and Canberra.

An unusual feature of the competition is that entries will be in the form of unprocessed film which will be developed locally and judges will select the best prints and slides available. Two of the judges will be NPA member and wildlife photographer, Ed Slater, and manager of the Jervis Bay Nature Reserve, Graham Beech.

There are seven locations where entry forms and film must be obtained and the used film returned:

- Lance Sewell's Pharmacy, Nowra
- B&K Camera House, Nowra
- Jack Soters, 20 Albatross Rd, Nowra
- Pro Diving Services, Huskisson
- Sea Sports, Huskisson
- Vincentia Auto Marine Centre, Vincentia
- Jervis Bay Store, Jervis Bay Village.

The final date for entries is 19 January 1991.

A presentation night will be held on 25 January 1991 where the selected slides and prints will be displayed. This will be accompanied by professionally taken photos of the Bay and an area set aside for trade displays as well as entertainment and dancing.



On the shores of Jervis Bay.

Mining threat to WA parks

On 13 November the Western Australian Government announced that it may allow mining in some of the state's national parks. The government had earlier tried to ban mining but been blocked by conservatives in the state parliament's upper house.

The new policy will allow mineral exploration in three important national parks—Rudall River, Hamersley Range and D'Entrecasteaux. These parks make up about half the area included in the state's 60 national parks. Exploration will be banned in the other 57 parks.

Both houses of parliament will have to give permission to any mining.

The mining industry has for some years been campaigning for access to national parks around Australia. Conservationists see the WA decision as the first chink in the protection offered by national park status.

The Australian,
14 November 1990

Feral animal survey

National Parks and Wildlife Parks rangers have called for public help to conduct a survey of sightings of pest or feral animals near or in national parks and reserves in the Nowra district. District superintendent Mr Geoff Spencer has written to the Canberra NPA as part of the request for public help.

The survey asks people to record any sightings during 1991 of feral and pest animals such as cats, cattle, dogs, deer, foxes, goats, hares, horses, pigs and rabbits.

Information required by the survey is in which park the sighting was made, location by a six point grid reference, estimated numbers of the animal, reliability of the report, and the impacts of the animal in the park.

Further information and survey forms are available from Geoff Spencer at the Nowra National Parks and Wildlife office, PO Box 707, Nowra NSW 2541, Phone (044) 219969.



*Moss covered granite in the Bimberi wilderness.
Photo: Roger Green.*

Environmental assets for sale

Victoria's financial troubles are already having an effect on environment policy in the state. The government has announced plans to sell off the Mount Buffalo Chalet which would result in a private enclave in the centre of a national park. This reverses the usual recent trend where the Department of Conservation and Environment has bought up such enclaves.

The proposed sale of the pine plantation is a huge loss of public property with possibility of a complete change in use of the land after the pines have been harvested, thereby potentially placing greater pressure on native forests.

Victorian NPA newsletter, November 1990

Conference on water in the arid zone

The latest in a series of conferences on issues in water management will be held in Alice Springs during April next year. The conference, titled *Arid zone water: a finite resource*, will address several aspects of what is becoming a more urgent issue as demands on outback water supplies increase.

Two-thirds of Australia is arid and the lack of or poor quality of water is a serious constraint to development. Towns such as Alice Springs draw on fossil groundwater at a considerable rate. The prospects for the sustainable development of these resources by agriculture and

industry will be discussed at the conference.

The Centre for Continuing Education at the ANU and the Northern Territory Power and Water Authority is sponsoring the conference. For further information contact Shirley Kral at the Centre for Continuing Education, ANU, GPO Box 4, Canberra, or telephone (06) 249 4580 or 249 2892.

17 February-Sunday Walk (2/B/C)
Honeysuckle Creek to Corin Dam Road
Ref: Corin Dam 1:25 000

Leader: Phil Bubb Ph 248 6769h

Meet at 8 am at Kambah Shops. A walk along the ridgeline from Honeysuckle Creek to the Corin Dam Road. Car shuttle or car swap. 150km drive (\$30 per car).

16/17 February-Pack Walk (1E/F)
Belowra Creek/Yadboro River
Ref: Corang 1:25 000

Leader: Di Thompson Ph 288 6084h 284 5043w

Contact leader by Wednesday. Short scramble to Belowra Creek, and further walking/scrambling to junction of Yadboro River and downstream. 12 kms walking and 360 metres ascent or descent. Sandy beaches, swimming holes, rock formations. Car swap required. 350km drive (\$70 per car).

24 February-Sunday Walk (1D/E)
Currowan Creek
Ref: Braidwood 1:25 000

Leader: Len Haskew Ph 281 4268h

Meet at Canberra Railway Station at 8am. An easy scramble/rock hop/wade along the creek, through fern glades and rainforest vegetation. Plenty of opportunities for swimming. Bring your camera. 240km drive (\$48 per car).

23/24 February-Pack Walk (1/A)
Goodradigbee River

Leader: Fiona Brand Ph 247 9538

Meet at 10am in front of shop at Wee Jasper. An easy walk of 40 minutes to campsite. Swimming, gathering blackberries and nature watching. 160km drive (\$32 per car).

2 March-Saturday Walk (2A/D/E)
Tidbinbilla Mountain
Ref: Tidbinbilla 1:25 000

Leader: Frank Clements Ph 231 7005h

Meet at the corner of Eucumbene Drive and the Cotter Road at 8.30am. A walk of 13 km to Tidbinbilla Peak and Tidbinbilla Mountain, with a climb of 600m, mostly through bush and steep in parts. 80km drive (\$16 per car).

2/3 March-Weekend Pack Walk (2A/E)
Diamond Creek

Ref: Bendethera 1:25 000

Leader: Mike Smith Ph 286 2984h

Contact the leader by Wednesday for a walk in the Deua National Park inland from Moruya along Diamond Creek to Coondella Creek and return via Bendethera Mountain. Spectacular creeks with many 5-10 metre waterfalls in an area threatened by future upstream logging activities. 500km drive (\$100 per car).

10 March-Sunday Walk (2/A/B)

Blue Gum Creek
Ref: Corin Dam 1:25 000

Leader: Les Pyke Ph 281 2982

Meet at Kambah Village Shops at 8.30am. A 10km walk of which 3km is uphill. Excellent scenery from rocky outcrops, creeks, light scrub or open. 60km drive (\$12 per car).

9/10 March-Weekend Pack Walk (2A/B/D)

Shanahan's Mountain, Naas River and Reedy Creek
Ref: Colinton 1:25 000

Leader: Jack Smart Ph 248 8171

Contact leader early for details. Over Shanahan's Mountain, down Shanahan's Falls Creek to gorges and junction with Naas Creek. Camp site near Horse Gully Hut or perhaps further north. Return up Reedy Creek and over Shanahan's Mt. 160km drive (\$32).

9/10 March-Weekend Pack Walk (3/E/F)

Wadbilliga
Ref: Yowrie 1:25 000

Leader: Phil Gatenby Ph 254 3094h

Contact leader by Wednesday. A partly exploratory walk in the Wadbilliga National Park visiting Wadbilliga and the upper reaches of the Wadbilliga River. Spectacular views. A climb of 300m on the first day and 700 on the second. 350km drive (\$70 per car).

13 March-Wednesday Walk (2/A)

Lynham to Lyons off road
Ref: Canberra UBD

Leader: Les Pyke Ph 281 2982h

Meet at Power Sub-Station cnr. Heysen and Devonport Streets Lyons at 9am. After a car shuffle, walk from Lynham via Bruce Ridge, Black Mountain, Cork Plantation, Green Hills Pines, Scrivener Dam, and other open spaces to Lyons. 13km drive (\$2.60 per car).

16/17/18 March-Car Camp

Beauty Point, Wallaga Lake
Ref: Wallaga Lake 1:25 000

Leader: Beverley Hammond Ph 288 6577h

Phone the leader by Wednesday 6 March, earlier if van or unit sought. Commercial campsite by the lake with some on-site vans and units. Walk the beach, climb Mt Dromedary, explore Tilba and Bermagui, fish, watch birds... relax... 500km drive (\$100 per car).

16/17/18 March-Pack Walk (3A/D/E)

Wog Wog to Monolith Valley
Ref: Corang 1:25 000

Leader: Phil Bubb Ph 248 6769

Contact leader early. A walk on tracks from Wog Wog to Bibbenlue campsite, a day without packs exploring Monolith Valley and peaks, and return to Wog Wog. 260km drive (\$52 per car).

23 March-Saturday Walk (2A/C)

Mt. Gingera/Snowy Flats
Ref: Corin Dam 1:25 000

Leader: Lyle Mark Ph 286 2801

Meet at Eucumbene Dr and Cotter Rd at 8am. 14km walk from Ginini to Gingera visiting Snowy Flats. Return on fire trail. Good walk for beginners. 120km drive (\$24 per car).

23/24 March-Weekend Pack Walk (1A/B)

Mt Talaterang
Ref: CMW Budawangs

Leader: Steve Forst Ph 251 6817h 274 8426w

Contact leader for details of this walk to a less visited high point in the Budawangs. An easy short walk with packs to campsite on top of a waterfall, then a harder walk to the summit and back, without packs. 600km drive (\$120 per car).

29/30/31 March, 1 April

Easter Pack Walk (2A/B/E)

Namadgi National Park

Leader: Phil Bubb Ph 248 6769

Numbers limited: contact leader early. Walk to separated base camps on upper Cotter. Day walks to Bimberi, Scabby, or explore closer to camp. 100km drive (\$20 per car).

7 April-Sunday Walk (2/A)

Brindabella Range Ramble
Ref: Cotter 1:25 000

Leader: Steve Forst Ph 2516817h 2748426w

Meet at the corner of Eucumbene Drive and the Cotter Road at 8.30am. A walk of about 14km in the Brindabella Range mainly on fire trails, exploring less visited areas. 100km drive (\$20 per car).

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.

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 TWENTY cents per kilometre DIVIDED BY THE NUMBER OF OCCUPANTS in the car, including the driver, (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.

Outings program

January to April 1991



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.

6 January-Sunday Walk (1-2 C/D)

Tuross Falls and Cascades

Ref: Belowra 1:25 000

Leader: Phil Bubb Ph248 6769h 246 6128w

Meet at Canberra Railway Station at 8am, to provide for a long drive to Tuross Falls. Swimming is a possibility. 360km drive (\$72 per car).

9 January-Wednesday meeting

Outings subcommittee

Leader: Phil Bubb Ph248 6769h 246 6128w

Meet at 27 Geerilong Gardens, Reid, at 7.30pm.

13 January-Sunday Walk (2A)

Corn Trail-Clyde Mountain

Ref: Araluen/Monga 1:25 000

Leader: Phil Bubb Ph 248 6769h 246 6128w

Contact leader by Wednesday so that a bus can be organised for transport, if possible, to save a car shuttle. Meet at Canberra Railway station at 8.30am for a walk down the historic Corn Trail, with a 650m drop from Clyde Mt to Buckenbowra. The cost of bus travel would be \$10-\$20, or a drive of 240km (\$48 per car).

20 January-Sunday Walk (3/A/C/D)

Nursery Hill

Ref: Rendezvous Creek 1:25 000

Leader: Jack Smart Ph 248 8171

Meet at Kambah Village shops at 8am. Walk from Orroral Valley past Nursery Swamp, up Nursery Hill and on to point 1403 for a better view. 100km drive (\$20 per car).

19/20 January-Pack Walk (1/B/C)

Corang River

Ref: CMW Budawangs

Leader: Babette Scougall Ph 248 7008

Contact leader by Wednesday. Short walk to base camp. Swim or li-lo in Corang River or wander along old water race. A relaxing weekend. 240km drive (\$48 per car).

18-21 January-Pack Walk (2D/E/F)

Ettrema/Yalwal Area

Ref: Yalwal/Sassafras 1:25 000

Leaders: Eric and Pat Pickering Ph 286 2128h

Please contact the leaders by Friday of the previous week. A four day trip to Bundunah Creek near Ettrema in Morton National Park. Two reasonably strenuous days walking in and out, and two nights at the one campsite, with day trips to explore nearby creeks and waterfalls, or swim and relax at camp. 400km drive (\$80 per car).

27 January-Sunday Walk (1/A/C)

Murrumbidgee Corridor/Molongolo

Ref: ACT 1:100 000

Leader: Olive Buckman Ph 248 8774

Meet at the Murrumbidgee Lookout(sign) off Stockdill Drive, Holt at 9am. A pleasant riverside walk of about 4-5km. Suitable for beginners. Swimming opportunities.

26/27/28 January-Car-based Canoe Trip

Murrumbidgee River

Ref: Tarcutta 1:100 000

Leader: Chris Bellamy Ph 249 7167h

Contact leader by Wednesday. Paddle the Murrumbidgee River from Gundagai to Wagga, over 3 days, subject to water levels. Car-based camping. Pleasant paddling, suit beginners. Byo canoe or hire. 600km drive (\$120 per car).

2 February-Saturday Walk (4A/D)

Ginini-Gingera area

Ref: Corin Dam 1:25000

Leader: Phil Gatenby Ph 254 3094

Contact leader by Thursday for details of this long walk in the vicinity of Mt Ginini and Mt Gingera. Visit Stockyard Arboretum, Snowy Flats and Hanging Flat. Climb Gingera. Partly on tracks and partly rough bush. 120km drive (\$24 per car).

3 Feb-Sunday Walk (1/C/E)

Shoalhaven Li-lo Trip

Ref: Braidwood 1:100 000

Leader: Neville Esau Ph 286 4176h 249 9500w

Meet at Canberra Railway Station at 8.30am. A walk downstream from the Warri Bridge with swimming and li-loing. Distance depends on river and party. 140km drive (\$28 per car).

8/9/10 Feb-Car camp canoe trip

Mallacoota Inlet

Ref: Eden, Mallacoota 1:100 000

Leader: Chris Bellamy Ph 249 7167h

Contact leader early. Paddle Wallagraugh and Genoa Rivers, which flow into the estuary at Mallacoota, part of Croajingolong National Park. Scenery, wildlife and islands. Car-based camping. Easy paddling, suit beginners. Byo canoe or hire. 520km drive (\$104 per car).

10 Feb-Sunday Walk (2A/C)

Cotter River via Fishing Gap, Tidbinbilla

Ref: Tidbinbilla 1:25 000

Leader: Mike Smith Ph 286 2984

Meet at corner of Eucumbene Dr and Cotter Rd at 8.30am. A long, gradual climb to Fishing Gap by fire trail, and descent to the Cotter by track. 70km drive (\$14 per car).

New members

Bob Allanson, Woden; Nell Anderson, Macgregor; Kay Bailey, Jabiru (NT); Justine Brennan, Narrabundah; Lorraine & Barry Browning, Weetangera; Helen Caese, Downer; David Frost, Yass; Colin Hurlstone, Bega; Ms V. Knight & Mr R. Vasey, Evatt; Helen & Lewis Loudon, Weston; David & Patricia Morton, Pearce; Robert Ogden, Wanniasa; Richard Sinclair, Dickson; John van Beurden, Narrabundah; Pauline West, Kaleen; David Whitfield, Curtin; L. Wishart-Lindsay & R. Lindsay, Hughes; Wendy Zarb, Kambah.

Stephen Carter, Spence; Christine Clark, Duffy; Kelly & Brian Garrett, Campbell; Bruce and Julia Graham, Hackett; Susan and Greg Gurr, Giralang; David Henry, Holt; Mary and David Hicks, Holt; Val Hill, Cook; James Horniblow, Downer; Kerry Jackson, Aranda; Muller family, Hawker; Dennis and Beth Murray, Queanbeyan; Gail Newmann, Civic; Iris Philp, Waramanga; Peter and Ann Tedder, Curtin; Angela Wydeveld, Belconnen.

Interested in inland rivers?

I am looking for persons to join a party paddling canoes or kayaks, byo or hired, over 2 or 3 weeks through red gum forested sections of either the Murrumbidgee or Murray Rivers during either February, March or April 1991. Contact Chris Bellamy 2497167(h)

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.

Bequests

The National Parks Association ACT Incorporated is an organisation which cares for our natural heritage for future generations. The Association expends funds on special studies and materials of an informative and educational kind and makes representations towards the establishment and protection of national parks.

Bequests of funds or property would help achieve these objectives.

Please consider making your contribution towards the future. The Association would gladly discuss the matter of a bequest with you. You may contact the Association on GPO Box 457, Canberra ACT 2601. Telephone (06) 257 1063.

Mudbrick Cottage

A fully self-contained mudbrick cottage (sleeps 4-6) available from November at beautiful Mallacoota. This cottage backs onto bushland and is a few minutes walk from town and the beach. Superb spot to enjoy nature, photography, painting, bird watching or just plain relaxing. Reasonable rates. Contact Barbara or Chris de Bruine (06) 258 3531 (ah) or (06) 2592642

Churchill Fellowships

The Churchill Trust is inviting applications for its 1992 fellowships. These can be to further study overseas in any topic, though not for higher or formal academic qualifications. Fellowships usually provide living allowance, fares and fees for about three months. For 1992 there are also four additional Churchill fellowships:

The Amcor fellowship to study paper recycling in Europe or North America.

The Lamington Park fellowship to study national parks, nature conservation and the environment.

The Royal Australian Institute of Parks and Recreation fellowship for study related to parks and recreation in Australia.

The Swire group fellowship to study woody weed management, applicable to rangelands of Australia.

Field Guide to the Native Trees of the ACT

The 1990 Revision of this easily pocketable book is now available. The Field Guide concisely describes the 60 tree species which occur naturally in the Territory and is divided into 3 sections: Acacias, Eucalypts and the 21 species which do not belong to either of these categories.

A page is devoted to each species and in addition to the non-specialised description there are sketches detailing the main features for recognition and a map showing where authenticated specimens have been recorded.

In addition, a key to all species (together with notes on its use for the uninitiated), a glossary, descriptions of commonly planted eucalypts not native to the ACT, suggestions for further reading and a comprehensive index increase the functional value of the Guide.

The Field Guide is useful also in neighbouring areas such as Goulburn, Cooma and Kosciusko National Park.

Price \$6.50 or \$5 if purchased at an NPA General Meeting.

Calendar

DECEMBER

Thursday 13 Namadgi subcommittee meeting 7.30pm, 87 Shackleton Cct, Mawson; Syd Comfort 286 2578(h)
Sunday 16 NPA Christmas party, 3pm, Orroral picnic ground

JANUARY 1991

Wednesday 9 Outings subcommittee meeting 7.30pm, 27 Geerilong Gdns, Reid; Phil Bubb 248 6769(h)
Thursday 14 Environment subcommittee meeting 7.45pm, 43 Fitchett St, Garran; Tim Walsh 285 1112(h)
274 1465(w)

FEBRUARY

Friday 1 Deadline for March *NPA Bulletin*, NPA office; Roger Green 247 0059(w)
Monday 4 Marketing, Education and Publicity (MEP) subcommittee meeting 8pm, 24 McCormack St, Curtin;
Len Haskew 281 4268(h)
Thursday 7 Committee meeting 7.30pm, 35 Millen St, Hughes; Les Pyke 281 2982(h)
Thursday 14 Namadgi subcommittee 7.30pm, 87 Shackleton Cct, Mawson; Syd Comfort 286 2578(h)
Thursday 28 Environment subcommittee meeting 7.45pm, see January 24 meeting

MARCH

Monday 3 Marketing, Education and Publicity (MEP) subcommittee meeting 8pm, 24 McCormack St, Curtin;
Len Haskew 281 4268(h)
Thursday 7 Committee meeting 7.30pm, 35 Millen St, Hughes; Les Pyke 281 2982(h)

NPA Bulletin

National Parks Association of the ACT
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General meetings

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

21 February

Rob Jenkins of the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service will speak on snakes of the Canberra region.

21 March

Dr Peter Bridgewater, director of the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service, will speak on 'National Parks or national Parks'.