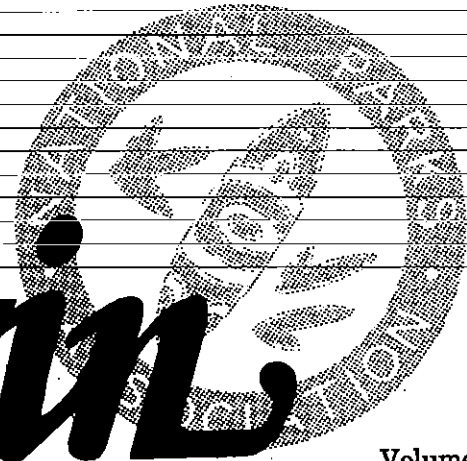


NPA Bulletin



Volume 28 number 1
March 1991

NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION

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Namadgi is educational

Conservation Council environment policy

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Cover

Photo: Reg Alder

The internal walls of Brayshaw's hut in Namadgi National Park were wallpapered with pages from newspapers and magazines. Besides being decorative and providing reading they served to keep the chill winds from blowing through the joints in the slab timber walls. Most of this history has now disappeared and this photograph shows one of the two remaining small complete sections. How long will these survive the efforts of vandalising souvenir hunters? No dates are on the sheets but judging from the advertisement for the all-electric Telefunken radio the walls would have been freshly papered in the 1930s. Another photo on page 9.

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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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.

Deadline for June issue: 1 May, 1990.

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President's foreword

What is your perspective?

It is easy to pose questions. Answers can be harder to state. Often a protagonist will assert that one should ask the right sort of question, and thus lead one to their side of the debate. Nonetheless life is full of questions; not least in the realm of conservation.

When you look at an area of cleared land that has passed from commercial use into a national park, what is your perspective—should it become like it was in 1788, or in pre-Aboriginal times, or perhaps in the Cretaceous if you could wangle the climate, or simply let nature take its course? But the latter could also mean feral trees and shrubs, weeds, cats, pigs, foxes and rabbits; and hence the need for human intervention, but to what ultimate objective? For example I read recently that the Orroral Valley was originally a marsh which was drained to make the present river. Therefore should we now dam or block the river to re-create the marsh?

All this raises the question of

whether humans are part of nature and how we should accept or modify human impact on the physical environment. If one's perspective went, say, 50 or more years ahead, we might envisage that because of efforts of organisations such as ours, on the merits of wilderness areas, some hundreds or perhaps thousands of people in the future larger Canberra metropolis might want to go backpacking in Namadgi each weekend. But you might prefer to say 'Let us simply enjoy it as it is today so long as we can escape beyond the esky range of four-wheeled urbanites'. Who can say you would be wrong?

In the domain of industries based on the exploitation of limited nonrenewable natural resources, perspectives have sharp relevance. With forests, for example, the loss of biological diversity can, apart from the ethical question of the extinction of species, mean the closing off of future options in the production of new medicines and drugs which in the long-term may be of greater economic value than today's short-term forestry operation. But do not expect support for that proposition from the forestry

operator whose perspective is looking down the barrel of debt redemption, for trucks and machinery, over only a few years. What else does such short-term perspective tell us?

How does a forestry operation, faced with a sudden adjustment on conservation grounds, compare with another industry which has to adjust to tariff reductions but gently phased down over some years. Might not there be some case for a scheme of compensatory or redundancy payments in the forestry industry? Subject, of course, to the consideration that in these fast changing times no one has the inalienable right to have precisely the same occupation all their working life. But do not feel confident of an initiative from governments, given their perspectives of only a handful of years between elections. In the case of our federal governments, on average there is less than three years between elections, which is farcical by any relevant international comparison. Thus the proneness of our governments to political expediency, but that is what we all work on and that is not a bad perspective.

Les Pyke

A busy holiday

Over the 'holiday' period the Association has been very busy. There is a lot happening which requires our voice to be heard if we are to have any real meaning to our aims and objectives. Also, authorities love to set deadlines for submissions near holiday periods when people are starting to relax from serious matters.

On 21 December was the deadline for views on *Ski 2000*, a proposal from NSW for increased development of resorts and facilities within the Kosciusko Park area. Your Association made the deadline with a submission of soundly based criticism. 31 January was the deadline with NSW authorities for views on the future planning and development

of Jervis Bay and its environs. The Association was represented at a meeting at Nowra on 13 December and lodged a thorough and detailed submission, the product of some energetic members.

Other work throughout the holiday period included preparing a paper on mining in national parks, running a NPA display at Fun in the Park on 13 January, studying draft ACT land legislation (submission by 28 February) and being represented at seminars on it on 16 December and 20 January, and meetings of subcommittees throughout December and January on various important topics. Elsewhere in this bulletin are some further details.

Les Pyke

New members

Sandra Berry and Ian Smith, Curtin
 Neil Campbell, O'Connor
 Dr Hamish Cresswell, Cook
 Mark Darmody, Watson
 Mary Louise Done, Ainslie
 Roger Emmerson, Duntroon
 Digby and Kerry Habel, Weetangera
 David and Robyn Horton, Kambah
 Ellen Koi Headford, Deakin
 Adrian and Louise Marchant, Wanniasa
 Alison McLean, Hawker
 Muller family, Hawker
 Nigel Pearson, Gowrie
 Kieran and Lynne Vassallo, Mawson
 Maureen Waller, Macgregor
 Peter and Lola Wilkins, Curtin

New policy statement

The Conservation Council of the South-East Region and Canberra has produced a substantial policy statement on environmental issues for the region. It is the only conservation body in Australia to have produced such a comprehensive policy statement.

The statement was launched by Federal Environment Minister, Ros Kelly, at Red Hill lookout. Opening her remarks, Mrs Kelly said that it was appropriate that the publication be launched by a Commonwealth minister because the ACT should provide a lead in environmental matters for the whole country. She explained that she saw her role in Cabinet was to promote environmental matters but to do so at a level that kept the issues within reach of her col-

leagues. Conservation bodies should, she said, take the lead in actively pursuing environmental issues within the community and the political arena to shape public opinion and to put pressure on governments and ministers to pursue environmental goals. She looked to environmental groups to provide impetus and direction to her portfolio. In speaking of Jervis Bay Mrs Kelly drew attention to the complexities of the issues and of the need to consider the area as an entity. However, she gave an unequivocal and heartening commitment to work towards the preservation of Jervis Bay. She congratulated the conservation council on producing the policy statement and commended it to all those present.

The policy statement is a revision of a similar statement released in June 1990. The 70 page document is well produced with an index and footnotes giving cross references.

It is divided into two major sections covering the ACT and then the rest of the region. It covers a broad range of topics while admitting that even this breadth is not definitive. The Council has 37 member groups, among them the NPA.

There are sections dealing with areas as diverse as nature conservation, animal welfare, energy, Aboriginal rights and heritage and fire management.

The document has a decidedly practical bent and extensively lists actions it suggests governments and community groups undertake. The preface says this policy statement 'is intended to set out a broad direction for policy but it contains many practical proposals as well. Though Governments, whether State, Territorial or Local, have a limited budget, and many of our points have dollar costs, they would all produce benefits, and many of them financial savings, over the longer term.'

In the section on nature conservation in the ACT there are 26

policy suggestions mostly aimed at the ACT government. These include a call for the Canberra Nature Park to be gazetted under the Nature Conservation Act and Molonglo Gorge in particular passed over to the Parks and Conservation Service, surveyed and gazetted. It also calls for the replacement of pine plantations with native plantations or mixed native and exotic plantations and some such as Boboyan Pine Plantation to be rehabilitated to native plant communities. The need to discourage weeds is emphasised including taking steps to keep nurseries informed so they will not stock or sell undesirable plants.

Important parts of the report on areas outside the ACT include a section on the much pressured coastal region particularly pointing out that the onus of proof of benefit must rest with developers and the importance of discouraging ribbon development. The need for the declaration of a Jervis Bay Marine Park is reiterated here.

The alpine region is the subject of another chapter which emphasises the region must be managed as a whole and calls to World Heritage Listing for the national parks system that exists there. The forests of course are the subject of a substantial chapter with 34 policy recommendations relating to the southeast forests, logging, the development of native hardwood logging and upgrading Greening Australia.

The policy statement provides an excellent overview of these and many other essential issues in the southeast region; recommended reading for anyone interested in local conservation issues. Copies are available for \$10 from the Conservation Council office in Kingsley St, Acton or GPO Box 1875, Canberra.

Changes to guest speakers

The Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service must be a busy place. Because of work priorities our two speakers from that Service have had to cancel their scheduled talks to the Association. Mr Rob Jenkins is now scheduled to speak (on snakes of the Canberra region) on 21 March instead of 21 February, and the Director of the Service, Dr Peter Bridgewater, is now scheduled for 18 April instead of 21 March (same topic: National Parks or national Parks).

A member, Mr Rod Dalgleish, kindly filled the spot for 21 February when he spoke on his walking trip to the Darjeeling-Sikkim area which took in the vicinity of Mt Kanchenjunga, with colour slides.

Kelly meets Peak Council

The environment minister, Ros Kelly met with peak conservation organisations last November. The minister's agenda item was the greenhouse effect and what is being done in Australia to help control it. She outlined Australia's call for a 20 per cent overall reduction in greenhouse emissions, how this will be tackled locally and the need to help the developing world achieve similar goals.

A national issue brought up by the Peak Council was its strong opposition to the so-called resource security legislation the logging industry is seeking to guarantee access to native forests. This proposed legislation, aimed to override national estate and environmental impact laws is a very disturbing trend for conservation groups as it is an attempt to rewrite the very ground rules upon which conservation and development issues are decided.

The ecologically sustainable development committees were also

discussed and the minister agreed to ask the eight chairs of the committee to address the next Peak Council meeting.

The minister was interested in the discussion on ways to improve federal legislation covering development proposals. Minister Kelly indicated this should be done in conjunction with the development of a federal environmental protection authority.

The Australian National Parks Council's agenda item was the protection of Jervis Bay. The minister agreed on the need for a marine park run along similar lines to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, but was more cautious about the need for a land component to such a park.

A major feature of the meeting was a discussion of trends within the conservation movement itself particularly regarding effectiveness, communication, cooperation between different groups and the trend to domination of government

and media by the four major conservation groups. A 1988 discussion paper at a meeting of the Conservation Councils and Environment Centres on this topic stated that the 'conservation movement in Australia is a power base up for grabs at the moment... Government and the media can pick and choose who they meet with or talk to for a conservation viewpoint... However a single representative body of the movement that can speak for all and be a sole negotiator is not desirable either. Such a body is likely to create divisions in the movement and could be easily undermined or manipulated...' At this meeting it was argued that there is more compelling need than ever for a national conference of all conservation organisations and a coalition to help coordination. It was agreed that a concrete proposal be circulated and discussed at the next Peak Council meeting in February or March.

Sunday in the park

Our Association participated in 'Sunday in the park' activities by mounting an information and promotional display in the Sculpture Garden of the Australian National Gallery on Sunday 13 January 1991.

Thanks to our large and interesting collection of mounted photographs (both in colour and black and white) our display proved to be eye-catching and we attracted a considerable number of viewers. While some came only to look (and pick up any 'freebies') the majority of visitors were interested to discuss the Association's aims and various activities with us. We took care to let people know that our Association catered not only for those interested in bushwalking and camping, but also for people with concerns for the environment generally, for those with an interest in committee work and prepar-

ing submissions, or conservation and restoration, or for interesting monthly meetings and so on.

In all we gave out over 100 membership application forms and a similar number of previous copies of the bulletin and outings programs. We also managed to sell several books. While we do not anticipate that all who took application forms will become members, we feel that the display was worthwhile because it let people know that there was a local organisation committed to the preservation of our natural environment.

The display was coordinated by members of the Marketing, Education and Publicity subcommittee but it was staffed through the day by various office bearers and committee members.

On behalf of the subcommittee I would like to thank all those who contributed to the successful dis-

play. Special thanks must go to Mike Smith who obtained our tent and display boards and who transported them to and from the site.

Len Haskew

Len Haskew is convenor of the marketing, publicity and education subcommittee.

MEETINGS

E Team beats deadlines

Woe betide the bureaucrat or politician who tries to run the gauntlet of the environment subcommittee. Impossible deadlines set for submissions; reports for comment released just before Christmas or with little or no publicity; discussion papers full of jargon; all count for nought. The scrutiny of the environment subcommittee is never ending. During the period under review the subcommittee, or as they are now more commonly known, the E Team, has notched up an impressive number of achievements.

Mere rhetoric you say? Well just note this! Kevin Frawley, under contract to the Association, is well on the way to completing his landmark remnant woodlands and grasslands study. Team newboy, Dennis Murray, drafted an impressive submission to the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Services' Ski 2000 discussion paper on the future of Kosciusko National Park. Di Thompson, Len

Crossfield and Dennis Murray prepared an incisive submission to the Industry Commission's draft Report on Mining and Minerals Processing in Australia. (This is a dangerous report that suggests mineral exploration and mining should be allowed in national parks). Anne Taylor prepared a professional response to the Interim Territory Planning Authority's Gungahlin External Travel Study. Jervis Bay and the NSW Government's Regional Planning Project received the tenacious attention of Den Robin and another new recruit to the subcommittee, Rod Dalgliesh. This culminated in a magnificent submission containing the hopes of many members for Jervis Bay. Jane O'Donohue remains the conscience of the team, ever ready to bring passion to an argument but equally ready to find common ground and resolution to a disputed issue. Neville Esau, recently promoted to the presidency of the

Australian National Parks Council, continues to perform the essential role of scribe and holder of the corporate memory. Graham Gutteridge watches over the development of Canberra's urban park system.

Other matters dealt with include Namadgi tracking stations, the endangered species program, and the draft territory plan. Members should not be put off participating in subcommittee activities by this remarkable record. If a particular issue interests you don't hope someone else will take it up and do something about it. Rather, find out the details, think about a course of action the Association might take, and bring it to the attention of Len Crossfield or Tim Walsh. Better still, bring it along to a subcommittee meeting. Details of these are given elsewhere in the bulletin.

Timothy Walsh

Environmental history of the Murray-Darling

The Murray-Darling Basin drains one-seventh of Australia. It stretches from northeast Queensland, includes most of New South Wales, all of the ACT, a large part of central and northern Victoria and a chunk of South Australia. It contains a range of natural resources, the economic value of which accounts for about one third of the national output from rural industries.

At the November 1990 meeting the Association was fortunate to have Dr Richard Baker, curator for the environment at the Museum of Australia, to describe a fascinating travelling exhibition being developed by the museum on the human and environmental history of the Murray-Darling Basin. Dr Baker explained that in recent years there has been a growing

awareness of the environmental issues facing this region. Such issues cannot be considered independently of social factors. According to Dr Baker the exhibition will explore the connections between environmental and social factors.

The exhibition will describe the pre- and post-European history of the area and peoples' interaction with the natural environment. It will tour towns in the basin in 1992 and 1993.

In his talk, Dr Baker explained how the area had to be seen as an historical entity. Every event in its history is connected: Aboriginal with European, farming with land degradation. For instance, European bridges link states but they also indicate where Aborigines had crossed rivers for

thousands of years—places such as Echuca and Murray Bridge. Another example of the interaction between Aborigines and early Europeans is the use made of Aboriginal guides by the early explorers. Aboriginal tracks and water sources were an important feature of European exploration.

Naturally the Murray itself dominates the exhibition. Its use for transport, irrigation and more recently recreation, will be a major theme. At the time of Federation, Dr Baker pointed out, South Australia wanted the Murray for transport while Victoria and New South Wales saw its principle purpose as being for irrigation. The exhibition will show the use to which the river has been put and will question the real cost of water in Australia.

Environmental history of the Murray-Darling

Other issues to be covered in the exhibition are the current problems of salinity in the soil, the growing ethic of tree planting and, combined with this, total catchment management, landcare and salt action groups. The irony of this theme was highlighted when Dr Baker explained that vegetation was still being cleared in the Pilliga scrub! The exhibition will also explore the reasons for the decline in employment in rural Australia and the effect of this on local communities.

A vital part of the planning for the exhibition will be to involve each local community in developing a component of the exhibition. The museum is committed to as full as possible consultation with each local community on ideas for issues that the exhibition should cover.

Dr Baker illustrated the theme of his talk with a fascinating collection of slides. These showed, amongst many other things, CSIRO experimental equipment for rabbit control, and signs naming towns and signifying their uniqueness.

Dr Baker believes that the exhibition will help Australians to read their landscape and understand why it is as it is.

The NPA audience could not help but be impressed by Dr Baker's enthusiasm for his work. Although not mentioned by Dr Baker, the shortsightedness of government in its lack of support for the museum hung over the meeting like a grey cloud. The contrast between Dr Baker's vision and politicians' parsimony spoke for itself.

Timothy Walsh

Jervis Bay future

The Jervis Bay Regional Planning Project has been set up and public meetings have begun. The project has been set up by the New South Wales Government in conjunction with the Shoalhaven City Council. It is envisaged that an issues paper and draft guidelines will be issued for public discussion by May this year. The project has a planning committee of twelve members: a chair from the NSW Department of Planning, 3 aldermen from Shoalhaven Council, representatives from the state departments of fisheries, lands and State Pollution Control Commission, the Australian Conservation Foundation and the Jervis Bay Protection Committee. The Commonwealth has been asked to supply two members to the committee but has not done so yet.

The first public meeting on 10 December in Nowra has already revealed strong opposition to a marine park for the region. Some people who bought land they have been unable to obtain building permits for have been persuaded by lobbyists that their cause would be served by opposing a marine park

for the region.

One of a series of meetings was held on 13 December at Shoalhaven Council to inform various parties and groups of the intent and extent of initiatives taken by the local and state governments. The meeting was mainly composed of conservation, ecological and park interests. Earlier meetings had related to fisheries, rural interests, local resident groups and business and development.

The project team has been set up to do this study with its own office separate from government bureaucracies. Interested groups have been encouraged to inspect their work as well as make submissions. The project has thus started in a very open fashion and it is to be hoped this continues.

Lack of Commonwealth participation so far is worrying as their input is essential for any conclusions that come out of the project to have any real weight.

The Environment Subcommittee met on 15 January to prepare a submission from the NPA. Forms for public responses are available as well.

Parks program for children

The ACT Parks and Conservation Service is congratulated for its program for young children during the summer school holidays. Apart from the service's laudatory educational outings for the general public, some of which are well suited for young children, the Service provided a separate program for children. This ran from mid-December and throughout January.

The program included a number of sessions on Namadgi National Park. The one the writer took his granddaughter to involved rangers Trish Macdonald and Steve Welch explaining features of the exhibition and the audiovisual at the

new Namadgi Visitor Centre, followed by a short distance field exercise. A skilled question and answer approach was used which had the youngsters trying to reason why animals and birds behaved the way they did and drew out the important influences of their predators.

Other events on the holiday program were in the Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve and along Googong foreshores. There is nothing like learning in the field. It is recommended that parents and grandparents check out what is offered by the Parks and Conservation Service for children during holidays and other times.

Australia's alpine parks

The Australian Alps National Parks Liaison Committee has produced a document consisting of a proposed three year cooperative work program for 1990 to 1993 and an annual report for 1989/90.

The committee was established in 1986 by a memorandum of understanding between the Commonwealth, New South Wales, Victorian and Australian Capital Territory governments. It coordinates work programs for the seven parks and reserves that cover 1.53 million hectares of Australia's high country.

The proposed work program describes four strategies. These are to develop community awareness of the alpine parks, provision of visitor facilities, resource conservation and developing manage-

ment expertise. For the first time this year the four governments have committed agreed funds to give a budget of \$360 000. There are strings attached to these funds ensuring the state contributions will be largely spent within the states, but the effect of the liaison committee is to coordinate work in the different parks and prevent unnecessary duplication.

The second part of the report reviews the operation of the memorandum of understanding which the liaison committee works from.

The declaration of the Victorian Alpine National Park was a highlight of 1989/90. So was the accompanying Great Alpine Trek which publicised the memorandum of understanding and the declaration of the Victorian park.

Other achievements have been developing codes on horse riding and trails and preparation of draft management plans for parts of the park. The overall view provided by the liaison committee has enabled cooperative work on fire management, cross border training for park staff, compatible computers for geographical information systems and weed and feral animal control.

The opening page of the document contains a quote praising the memorandum. Jim Thorsell and Jeremy Harrison, authors of a 1990 IUCN report on transborder parks system describes the alpine parks system as 'the most advanced operating border park now in existence.'

Namadgi additions

Members will recall that on Environment Day 1990, the Chief Minister announced the government's intention to add three areas to Namadgi National Park. These were the Lower Cotter catchment, Mount Tennent/Blue Gum creek and parts of the Gibraltar creek valley and Gibraltar range. Gazettal of these additions has not yet been made but surveys of the boundary areas are under way.

For both the Lower Cotter catchment and the Tennent/Blue Gum areas the basis of the extensions is to be found in the Namadgi policy plan prepared by the National Capital Development Commission in 1986 and now incorporated in the national capital plan. The policy plan zoned these areas for nature conservation on the basis of their ecological importance and in the case of the Lower Cotter, of the need for compatibility with catchment protection for water harvesting.

The Namadgi subcommittee is following through the matter of

boundary determination of these park additions because of their significance for the future of the park.

This is one of a number of important matters on the agenda of the subcommittee which meets monthly as shown in the calendar on the back cover of this bulletin. New faces would be very welcome at these meetings.

Loose change?

Do you have any loose change wearing a hole in your pocket or weighing down your purse? We can lighten that load for you by selling you a book or two at monthly meetings.

For example:

50 cents will buy Australian Alpine Areas

\$1 will buy Eden Woodchipping

\$2 will buy Jervis Bay Marine Park

\$5 to \$10 will buy various walking guides to the local area, the Budawangs, the Snowy area or NSW rainforests, or you might prefer the 1990 revision of a Field Guide to the Native Trees of the ACT or the Alps in Flower.

For larger amounts of loose change you can have

The Mallee in Flower \$12

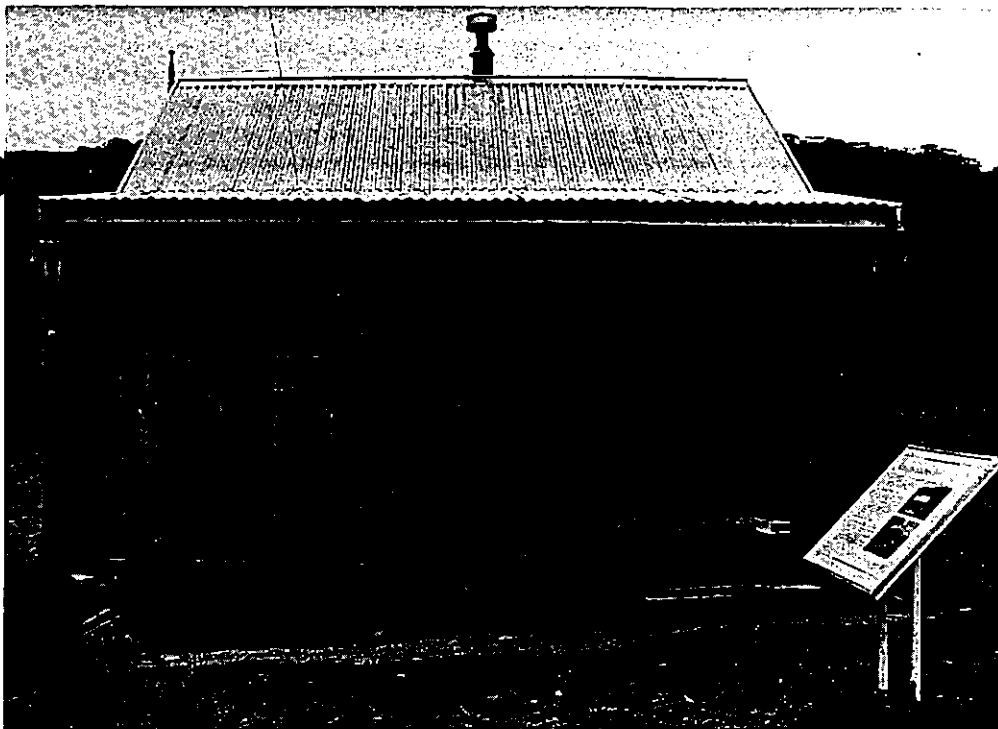
Pigeon House & Beyond \$20

Fitzroy Falls & Beyond \$23

Kiandra to Kosciusko \$25

Range Upon Range \$33

*Brayshaw's hut in Namadgi is programmed for stabilisation and the first stage, now completed, has been to remove the badly vandalised asbestos cement sheet covered annexe. This annexe was not part of the original 1903 structure and besides being an eyesore, because of the material used was not capable of being restored.
Photos: Reg Alder.*



The Burrungubugge shelter hut, built from recycled materials by Kosciusko Huts Association members with the cooperation of the Parks Service, was opened for public use on 17 November 1990. The shelter has been built on a site adjacent to the burnt-out Constances Hut. The slab walls came from a church in Dural and the floor and ceiling timbers from a house in Tumut. Inside the hut has been fitted with bench seat / sleeping platforms, a pot belly stove and a preparation bench. The ceiling is insulated. The hut has been built to provide another route to the snowfields and to relieve pressure on the Whites River corridor.

Salutary tales

New Zealand limits

There is hope for the elders yet! Last summer I visited New Zealand with four mates. After sailing a hired yacht in the Bay of Islands for a week we flew south to Queenstown for backpacking in Fiordland. I must now refer to our ages. Four of us were in the late 50s or early 60s. One of those had scarcely any backpacking experience, two had backpacked a little but not for over a year (obviously having given priority to being connoisseurs of the refreshment arts; inquiries to one from curious Kiwis as to why he carried two flasks on his belt elicited the response 'one has pale tea but you don't mix milk with it'). My fourth mate was only 25 but his knee was bandaged from a lingering football injury. In my case I had regular backpacking practice but one boot did not fit well and sore spots developed. So we were all on a level playing field.

Our route started at The Divide, on the road to Milford Sound from Queenstown. We had a winding sharp climb on the Routeburn Track before turning into the Greenstone Track. Then after passing Lake Howden we turned into the Caples Track. This route deteriorated into a scramble over rocks and tree roots up to the McKellar Saddle, making a total climb of 500 to 600 metres. About 9pm we lurched into the Upper Caples Hut to the fearful cries of the inmates of 'Don't let the sandflies in'.

The next morning there was to be none of this proceeding along the tourist trail. No—we aimed to go along the obscure Steele Creek track which would take us across country back to the Greenstone Track. As we left the hut at 8 am we looked up but there was mist above us. Just as well. If we could have seen where we were to climb we would have promptly changed plans. We innocently set out.

1000 metres altitude and 7 hours later we reached the saddle in the Ailsa Mountains. We then worked down Steele Creek valley. This was hardly a respite as the valley

was full of scree and landslides. It was difficult to avoid putting a foot down on curved surfaces, even where ground cover had grown. We pitched tents between 9 and 10 pm in a beech forest.

The moral of this story is that unyouthful and out of practice backpackers can survive long climbs if they take it very slowly and put in the time. Because of our overall timetable we had to put in about 12 hours per day, helped by the long twilight. I know of a number of younger backpackers whom I suspect would go faster, burn themselves out and pitch tents earlier.

Thirst in the Budawangs

Near the end of November two experienced backpackers (ages 63 and 69) and I set out on an ambitious four night walk in the Budawangs. The idea was to cover Wog Wog to Bibbenluke (camp), up and over Mt Tarn and down into Hollands Gorge (camp), up through Darri Pass to near Mt Mooryan (camp), and then through Monolith Valley, Bibbenluke, Canowie Brook, Corang River Lagoon (camp) and Wog Wog.

We had our first misgivings as we crossed Wog Wog Creek at the start. We had not seen it so low. When we reached Canowie Brook near Corang Arch the temperature must have been in the 30s, the valley was very humid, and we had begun hitting our water bottles hard. The water in the brook was barely flowing, another week it would be stagnant. We topped up our bottles and crashed into the undergrowth for shade.

Eventually and after many shade stops in the scrub we reached the main campsite at Bibbenluke. There was barely a flow of water at this site and no water at all at favoured sites in the vicinity. It was now obvious that we should not move to the next objective (Hollands Gorge) unless we could carry enough water to return.

The next morning in the heat we went up Mt Tarn and found the tarn very shallow. With care we could fill our already depleted water bottles with warm water without disturbing the sediments or catching tadpoles. We left our heavy packs on the top of Mt Tarn and slid down the awkward pass to the bottom of the cliff and moved along the base of the cliff to the camping cave from which one descends into Hollands Gorge. Water sources were dried out except in one instance where there was a drip sufficient to fill a cup in a minute or two.

The warning was clear; if there were to be no water in the gorge it would be disastrous to go there. We would quickly consume our supply in the heat and the long haul out of the gorge. We abandoned the original plan, returned to the top of Mt Tarn, and moved over to the large arched camping cave at Mt Haughton, with the intention of going down Boonbah Brook to the Corang River and then that river's large lagoon. Alas, all the water points were dry.

We cooled off in the shade and returned to Bibbenluke for a second night, grateful to see the water there still flowing. On the way home we managed to top up at Canowie again, and make our way along the Corang River past the rock ribs to the large lagoon where we camped. This was an oasis as the water level there had not yet dropped. On the way back to Wog Wog we crossed water courses and Goodsell Creek which were in the process of drying out.

There have been many times in the Budawangs when I have cursed the heavy rain and winds; but there is certainly the other extreme. The Budawangs cannot be taken for granted. Do not judge the weather there by Canberra's weather, they are different climates, and in hot, dry weather measure your distance by availability of shade and water bottles, not kilometres.

Intrepid

Outings program

April to July 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.

April-Sunday Walk (2/B)

Murrumbidgee Ramble Ref: Namadgi 1:100 000
Leader: Phil Bubb Ph 248 6769h or 246 6128w
Meet at Kambah Village shops at 9am. Walk on the west side of the Murrumbidgee near the red rocks gorge, between Kambah Pool and Pine Island, if access can be obtained. 30km drive (\$6 per car).

6/7 April Pack Walk (2/A)

Dunns Flat via Harrys Spur Ref: ACT 1:100 000
Leader: Robert Story Ph 281 2174
Meet at the corner of Eucumbene Drive and the Cotter Road at 8.30am. Park at Mt Ginini and walk 3,000 feet down Harrys Spur to the Goodradigbee River. Camp at Dunns Flat. Return the same route. 120km drive (\$24 per car).

10 April-Wednesday Meeting

Outings sub-committee
8pm 27 Geerilong Gardens Reid
All members are welcome. Covers program for July to October. Phone Phil Bubb 248 6769h if unable to attend.

13 April Saturday Walk (2/A/B/)

Lower Cotter Extension Ref: ACT 1:100 000
Leader: Ian Fraser Ph 249 1560 or 286 2578
Limit of 20 people - contact leader in advance. Meet at the corner of Eucumbene Drive and the Cotter Road at 8.30am. A 10 - 15km guided interpretive walk through a part of this recently included section of Namadgi National Park. Ian, the author of a study on the natural resources of this area, will explain its special natural values and characteristics. 80km drive (\$16 per car).

14 April Sunday canoe trip

Clyde River Ref Bateman's Bay, Ulladulla 1:100 000
Leader: Chris Bellamy Ph 249 7167h
Contact leader by Wednesday. Day trip paddling from the Clyde River Road Bridge to Shallow Crossing, 22km, subject to water levels. Suit beginners. Byo canoe or hire. 200km (\$40 per car)

13/14 April\tab Pack Walk (2/A/C)

Orroral Valley rock outcrops Ref: Corin Dam 1:25 000
Leader: Chris Leslie Ph 251 6123h
Meet at Kambah Village shops at 8am (combined walk with CBC). Varied shapes and passageways between huge boulder arrangements. Sleep headwaters of Orroral River. 80km (\$16 per car).

17 April Wednesday Walk (1/A/B/C)

Honeysuckle Ridge Ref: Corin Dam 1:25 000
Leader: Les Pyke Ph 281 2982h
Meet at Kambah Village shops at 9am. A four km walk from Honeysuckle Tracking Station to spectacular views from ridge, with a six km return trip through light scrub, open forest and scenic grassland. 265m uphill on firetrail. 60km drive (\$12 per car).

21 April Sunday Walk (2/A/C)

Joint KHA, NPA Heritage Week Walk
Mt Franklin Chalet/Pryor's Hut
Leader: Graham Scully
Limit of 30 people: write to Mr G Scully, PO Box 3626, Manuka 2603, enclosing stamped self-addressed envelope for booking and trip details. The walk includes a guided tour of Mt Franklin; the

Mt Ginini ski slopes, a walk to Pryor's hut and a talk by Lindsay Pryor about the attempt to establish an alpine annexe of the Botanical Gardens in the early fifties. 120km drive (\$24 per car).

20/21 April-Weekend Pack Walk (2/A/C/D)

Booths Creek from Brandy Flat Ref: Michelago 1:25 000
Leader: Jack Smart Ph 248 8171
Meet at Kambah Village shops at 8.30am. The walk commences from the Brandy Flat carpark on the Boboyan Road to camp on grassy flats at Booth's Creek. Return, possibly over Booth's Hill.

27 April-Saturday walk (2/A)

Mt Aggie and Mt Franklin Ref: Tidbinbilla 1:25 000
Leader: Len Haskew Ph 251 4268
Meet at cnr. Eucumbene Drive and Cotter Rd at 8.30am. A walk along tracks to two peaks with fine views, passing through beautiful alpine countryside. 120km drive (\$24 per car).

28 April-Sunday Walk (1/A/B)

Remnant Woodland interpretation walk
Leader: Kevin Frawley
phone NPA office 10am-2pm, Mon, Tue, Thu. ph 257 1063
Learn the results of a study by the Association of the remnant woodlands of the ACT, and the implications for their future, Field inspections may limit numbers.

1 May-Wednesday Walk (2/A/C/F)

The Source of James Creek Ref: Corin Dam 1:25 000
Leader: Bob Story Ph 281 2174
Please contact leader by Monday for details. Meet at Kambah Village shops at 8.30am. A 12km walk starting from Orroral Valley. Climb of 400 metres. 120km drive (\$24).

5 May-Sunday Walk (3/A/B)

Googong Dam Ref: Hoskinstown 1:25 000
Leader: Len Haskew Ph 281 4268
Meet at Coles carpark, Queanbeyan at 8am. A testing walk through forested and hilly country on the Eastern foreshores of Googong Dam, from the Northern carpark to the Woolshed near the Southern gates. A short car shuffle needed. Not suitable for beginners. 40km drive (\$8 per car).

4/5 May-Car Camp/Day Walk (3/4/A)

Wog Wog, Corang Peak and Arch Ref: Corang 1:25 000
Leader: Olive Buckman Ph 248 8774
Contact leader by Wednesday. Leave Canberra on Saturday afternoon and car camp at Wog Wog between Braidwood and Nerriga. Next day walk on track to Corang Peak for lunch (view of Pigeon House, the Castle) and on to Corang Arch, and return, about 20km. Bring drinking water. 300km drive (\$60 per car).

8 May-Wednesday Walk (1/A)

Isaacs Ridge Ref: ACT 1:100 000
Leader: Margaret Aston Ph 288 7563
Meet at the top end of Cabarita Street, O'Malley. A 6km easy morning walk up Isaacs Ridge. Bring morning tea.

12 May-Sunday Walk (3/A/D/E)**Mt Gudgenby****Leader: Phil Bubb**

Meet at Kambah Village shops at 8am sharp. A solid walk for moderately fit walkers, 10km return on tracks plus 5km return up 700metres through scrub and regrowth for superb views and splendid rock mazes. Some rock scrambling. 140km drive (\$28 per car).

Ref: Yaouk 1:25 000**Ph 248 6769h****11/12 May-Weekend Pack Walk (2/A/E)****Tantangara Mountain****Ref: Tanangara, Denison 1:25 000****Leader: Di Thompson****Ph 288 6084h 284 5043w**

Contact leader by Wednesday. Tantangara Mt via Black Waters Creek, Boggy Plain and Alpine Ridge, the route depends on snow. Some tracks, mostly bush. 750metre climb.

15 May-Wednesday Walk (1/A)**Brandy Flat Hut****Ref: ACT 1:100 000****Leader: Olive Buckman****Ph 248 8774**

Meet at Kambah Village shops at 9am. A pleasant 9km return walk from Glendale Crossing, billy tea on an open fire (watertank at hut). 80km drive (\$16 per car).

18 May-Sunday Walk (4/A/B)**Cotter Rocks****Ref ACT 1:100 000****Leader: Steven Forst****Ph 251 6817h 256 2426w**

Meet at Kambah Village shops at 8am. A 23km walk from Orroral Valley up the old bridle track to Cotter Gap and Cotter Rocks. This spectacular pile of giant boulders give great views of Namadgi; one has a dog leg fracture to walk through. 100km drive (\$20 per car)

18/19 May-Weekend Pack Walk (4/A/C/D)**Scabby Range Nature Reserve****Ref: Yaouk 1:25 000****Leader: Chris Leslie****Ph 251 6123**

Meet at Kambah Village shops at 7am (combined walk with C.B.C.). Mt Scabby is a high alpine basin, the source of the Cotter. This hidden valley has fragile and pristine plant and shrub communities so no fires are allowed by leader, and stoves or pre-cooked food needed. Stunning views. Approach by long but attractive Naas Creek valley. 160km drive (\$32 per car).

22 May-Wednesday Walk (3/A/B)**Inner Hills Circuit****Ref: ACT 1:100 000****Leader: Syd Comfort****Ph 286 2578**

Meet at Hughes shopping centre at 8.30am. A walk of 17km following the ridges from near Red Hill across Mugga, Isaacs, Wanniasa, Farrer to Mt Taylor. Some ups and downs. A short car shuffle. 10km drive (\$2 per car).

25 May-Saturday Walk (2/A/B/C)**Rendezvous Creek/Nursery Swamp****Ref: Rendezvous Creek 1:25 000****Leader: Les Pyke****Ph 281 2982h**

Meet at Kambah Village shops at 8.30am. Circular 15km walk up from Orroral Valley to, and down, Rendezvous Creek. Climb Saddle to southern end of Nursery Swamp, following Nursery Creek up to complete the walk (two 300m climbs). 80km drive (\$16 per car).

26 May-Sunday Walk (1/A)**Farrer Ridge****Leader: Margaret Aston**

Meet at cnr. Hawkesbury Crescent and Wagga Street, Farrer at 1.30pm. A 6km easy afternoon walk along Farrer Ridge and across to Wanniasa. Bring a nibble. Some kangaroos are expected to be seen.

Ref ACT 1:100 000**Ph 288 7563****29 May-Wednesday Walk (1/A)****Mt Arawang****Ref: ACT 1:100 000****Leader: Margaret Aston****Ph 288 7563**

Meet at top end of Kathner Street, Chapman at 9.30am. An easy 5km morning walk around Mt Arawang. Bring binoculars and a morning nibble.

8/9/10 June-Weekend Pack Walk (2/A/B/C)**Sentry Box Rock and Mountain****Ref: Yaouk 1:25 000****Leader: Reg Alder****Ph 254 2240**

Contact leader by Wednesday. Walk up Naas Valley to camp at foot of ridge leading to Sentry Box. Day walk to top (400m climb). 13, 11 & 13 kms. 170km drive (\$34 per car).

8/9/10 June-Car Camp**Bournda State Recreation Area****Ph 286 2578****Leader: Syd Comfort**

Contact leader by 1 June. Camping near Lake Wallagoot in Bournda S.R.A. Activity spectrum from coast and forest walking, bird-watching to studied idleness. Drive 400km (\$80 per car).

15 June-Saturday Walk (1/A)**Lake George****Ref: ACT 1:100 000****Leader: Margaret Aston****Ph 288 7563**

Meet at the Coast Road junction at Bungendore at 9.30am. A gentle walk along the Lake George foothills with some birdwatching. Bring lunch and binoculars. 80km drive (\$16 per car).

16 June-Sunday Walk (2/A)**Long Point/Shoalhaven Gorge****Ref: Caoura 1:25 000****Leader: Steve Forst****Ph 274 8426w 251 6817h**

Meet just past the Dickson traffic lights in Northbourne Ave at 8.30am. A 12km walk into the spectacular gorge near Tallong. Mostly climbing (680m) or descending. Lunch on the river. 250 km drive (\$50 per car).

20 June-Thursday Walk (1/A)**Molongolo Gorge****Ref: ACT 1:100 000****Leader: Olive Buckman****Ph 248 8774**

Meet at first picnic area right on Morshead Drive, after main gate to Duntroon College at 8.30am. A 6-7 kilometre return walk on tracks above river to picnic area for lunch, some rocky spots and climbing. Suitable for families and beginners.

23 June-Sunday Walk (3/A/B/C)**Bullen Range/Murrumbidgee River****Ref: Cotter 1:25 000****Leader: Syd Comfort****Ph 286 2578**

Meet at corner Eucumbene Drive and Cotter Road at 8.30am. A walk of 15km with a climb of 120m to the ridge, walking along the ridge to a trig point, with good views of the rivers. A descent of 220m to the river, and back over the range. Short car shuffle. Drive 20km (\$4 per car).

29 June-Saturday Walk (1/C/E)**Billy Billy Rocks****Leader: Lyle Mark**

Meet at Kambah Village Shops at 8.30am. A ten km round walk via the Bogong Caves and Billy Billy Rocks. Magnificent views. Suitable for fit beginners, following a route which avoids fallen timber. Drive 96km (\$20 per car).

Ref: Corin Dam 1:25 000**Ph 286 2801****30 June-Sunday Walk (3/A)****Hume & Hovell Track/Wee Jasper Ref: Brindabella 1:100 000****Leader: Mike Smith****Ph 286 2984h**

Meet at cnr. Eucumbene Drive and Cotter Road 8am. Walk the Hume and Hovell Track from Fitzpatrick trackhead at Wee Jasper to the Logbridge Creek campsite via Mt Wee Jasper, with a climb of 600m. Car shuffle needed. 130km drive (\$26 per car).

Sunday 7 July (2/A)**Camel Back Ridge****Ref: Tidbinbilla 1:25 000****Leader: Len Haskew****Ph 281 4268**

Meet at corner of Eucumbene Drive and Cotter Road at 8.30am. A 13km return walk along a fire trail with an optional rock scramble to the Camel's Hump. 70km drive (\$14 per car).

10 July-Wednesday Walk (2/A)**Casuarina Sands/Bulga Creek****Ref: ACT 1:100 000****Leader: Olive Buckman****Ph 248 8774**

Meet at corner Eucumbene Drive and Cotter Road at 10am. A 16km walk on tracks through undulating country above Murrumbidgee. Ideal for families/beginners. 40km drive (\$8 per car).

14 July-Sunday Walk (3/A/C/D)**Nursery Creek****Ref: Rendezvous Creek. 1:25 000****Leader: Jack Smart****Ph 248 8171**

Meet at Kambah Village shops at 8am. Orroral Valley to Orroral Mountain, descending NW to headwaters of Nursery Creek, and down Nursery Creek. 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.

IUCN meets in Perth

With my suitcase half full of papers circulated prior to the conference, I flew to Perth to attend the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) meeting from 28 November to 5 December 1990, as the sole representative of the Australian National Parks Council (ANPC). Costs to the council were nil because I used the ticket provided by the Commonwealth Department of the Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and Territories and because Dave Arntzen, the recently elected honorary treasurer of ANPC, and his wife kindly provided me with accommodation.

ANPC joined IUCN several years ago and both Kevin Frawley and I have attended meetings of the Australian chapter of IUCN. Many motions have been submitted on issues such as cane toads, *Mimosa pigra*, World Heritage listing for the alps, marine reserves in Tasmania and NSW, grazing in the Victorian mallee, and the Kennedy Range National Park in WA. Some have been successful, but, as others lacked sufficient supporting information or the motion had been overtaken by circumstances, they were unsuccessful or had become redundant.

Several field trips had been arranged and I selected one to visit—Mt Lesueur, a proposed national park, which lies on a coalfield to the north of Perth. CRA has been considering open cut mining and using the coal for electricity generation. Although it was not the height of the wildflower season there were sufficient to make the trip a pleasing and informative one as we were accompanied by Dr Stephen Hopper, an expert botanist from the Department of Conservation and Land Management. Overseas delegates were horrified that mining was proposed in the area because of the richness of its flora and the number of rare and endangered species present.

The conference, attended by 1400

delegates from non-government organisations, national and international, states, government organisations and affiliates from all parts of the world, was held at the Burswood Convention Centre. The formal sittings of the assembly, which took place over a six day period, began after the opening ceremony during which the Prime Minister suggested that Australia would work towards the establishment of a number of marine parks in cooperation with the states. ANPC has already started working on a draft policy on such parks and will be discussing it at its next annual meeting.

During the first part of the meeting it became clear that this was going to be significant for conservation interests. ACF, the Wilderness Society, and Greenpeace opposed the admission of the Forestry Commission of Tasmania and the Fur Institute of Canada on the grounds that both represented economic interests. The issue was referred to a committee and I understand that their admission was refused. Dr Holdgate the director-general of IUCN initially supported the idea of sustainable development but, as the conference progressed, the mood of delegates rejected a watering down of conservation ideals. The term has been excluded from the Union's revised mission statement.

Much of the work of IUCN is done through commissions which address the issues of species survival, national parks and conservation areas, environmental law, ecology, environmental strategy and planning, and education and communication. A number of specific programs on women and natural resources management, tropical forests, population and natural resources, global change, biodiversity, conservation of species and genetic resources, wetlands, coastal and marine programs, conservation areas program, such as Eastern Europe, environmental impact assessment, environmental law, education and

communication for environmental conservation, were proposed for the next triennium. Although the list is long it gives an idea of the scope of issues addressed by IUCN.

In the evening Australia hosted the delegates. A presentation was made on Australian conservation policy and practice which went for over two hours. It was extremely disappointing because there were far too many speakers, repetition of material and the videotapes used were of poor quality. Afterwards there was a dinner held by the swimming pool of the nearby hotel with a magnificent range of foods. Music was provided by a bush band and Aboriginals playing traditional instruments.

On Friday and Saturday I attended a two day workshop at the University of Western Australia on protected areas. Some papers were interesting, particularly those which addressed local issues. There were presentations on the following:

- Phillip Toyne discussed present and possible Australian World Heritage areas. The alps and the Victorian mallee were not mentioned.
- A case for the Lake Eyre Basin to become a World Heritage area.
- Public participation in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. Overseas visitors were bemused by our State-Commonwealth disputes over World Heritage listing. They were not impressed that it was being used to obtain protection for an area which would otherwise be denied by the particular state.

Before I left to return home there were some 73 motions on notice. These were referred to a resolutions committee for the wording to be tidied up before being presented. As would be expected, a great many of the site specific motions related to Australia. They covered topics such as oil drilling on the Great Barrier Reef, the use of oil tankers inshore of the reef, western Tasmania wilderness

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IUCN meets in Perth

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World Heritage Area, Tasmanian rainforests, the Kimberley region, mining in Kakadu, conservation of wetlands, especially in the Lake Eyre basin, and the addition of Macquarie Island to the sub-Antarctic islands World Heritage Area listing proposal. In addition, emergency motions were added condemning the West Australian Government's proposal to allow prospecting and mining in three national parks, calling for a ban on mining in Antarctica and the abandonment of the Australian government's resource security legislation. ANPC had condemned the proposal to mine in its first press release.

I think that too often we are concerned with our own narrow state issues on national parks, and being allowed to attend and participate in such a conference certainly broadened my horizons.

However, ANPC strictly speaking has limited interests in many of the broader conservation issues raised by documents which were being discussed, such as a new draft of the World Conservation Strategy. Our workshop did express concern that this document did not contain a separate section on protected areas.

At our last annual meeting it was decided the ANPC has a future and that it should play a greater role in national issues relating to national parks. Playing a part in IUCN and ACIUN is important, but since our resources are limited we need to work out our priorities. ANPC is proceeding with the appointment, for a few hours per week, of an executive officer to work on specified tasks, based in Canberra. This should help a little.

Janet Coveney

Janet Coveney is the honorary secretary of the Australian National Parks Council.

Kosciusko alert— keen eyes needed!

The NPA subcommittee on the environment has asked me to keep an eye on developments in the Kosciusko National Park. I am very willing to do so but like all of us I am limited in the amount of time that I spend in this lovely area. But I know that NPA has many keen walkers who regularly tramp the high country and it occurred to me that if I could make use of their many eyes then I would be much better informed about conditions in the park.

What I propose is that walkers keep an eye open for problems or potential problems in the areas of Kosciusko that they walk, for example, weed infestation, feral pig damage, erosion and unusual

flora or fauna sightings. If they could then telephone me on 297 2147 (ah) I will gladly make a note of it. Such information will help make for more informed and relevant submissions by NPA to plans of management and development proposals for the park.

Actions of the NPWS that please you should also be reported as it is very important that we encourage efforts by the authorities that we consider further sound management of the park. Please make the effort as I believe it is a simple way for many members to assist NPA in protecting the wonderful Kosciusko National Park that we all enjoy so much.

Dennis Murray

Information on landcare

The Commonwealth has released a booklet outlining environmental programs it runs. Titled *Landcare information: land, water and vegetation programs 1990-91* it has information on six programs run by the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service, Landcare Australia, the Murray-Darling Basin Commission, Greening Australia and the National Soil Conservation Program.

The booklet lists the kinds of landcare activities which are supported by the programs and shows which of the programs is responsible for these. There is a chapter covering each of the six major programs giving information on the work they support and how community groups can get funds for such work. A contact name, address and number for each program is also given.

The Save the Bush program concentrates on remnant native vegetation and is mainly concerned with maintaining biodiversity in areas outside parks and reserves. It can provide funds for education, inventories and plantings, conservation strategies, weed control, fencing and employing project officers.

The One Billion Trees program is run by the community group Greening Australia. The program is oriented toward providing funds for local self help groups with specific projects in replanting. A billion is a lot of trees and so there is potential for a lot of useful community work in the coming decade.

The booklet is 38 pages of useful information, even includes colour photos and is printed on recycled paper. It is available from AGPS.

Namadgi is educational

NPA member Reg Alder was last year asked to plan and lead a bushwalk for a group of year 9 students in Namadgi national park which would provide wilderness and cultural experiences—keeping in mind some of the party had never bushwalked before.

He selected a route up the Naas valley past the Boboyan homestead to a camp at the confluence of two creeks below a ridge which led directly to Sentry Box Rock. The party consisted of 29 students and three teachers. As part of their course, pupils had to prepare an assignment.

Reg was able to read all the assignments and what came through, even from those who found it hard going was the enjoyment of their experiences, how much better they got to know their classmates and an appreciation of what Namadgi has to offer. Following are extracts of one of the better submissions, put in by Jennie Gill of Alfred Deakin High School.

This is it, the year 9 wilderness experience.

I settled on a pack weight of 17 kilograms basically as test of my ability. Although we were only permitted to carry a maximum of 15 kilograms I decided that this walk would be a good opportunity to see how I would cope with a heavier pack than I usually carry.

Half an hour later we arrived at the old Boboyan Homestead (only a fire place and a few bricks left although it's obvious the occupants would have had a good view) for our first stop. The majority of the class were dead to the world...after only half an hour's walk.

...others were way up ahead and decided to wait for the group on a rock that was just to the side of the track. They all trooped over to it and were about to sit down when they spotted a snake poking its head up just behind it. All thinking it was about to attack them they instantaneously thrust themselves at lightning speed as far away from that snake as they

could get. At least they all agreed it was a brown snake afterwards.

While exploring round the shed Tamsin found an *Amphibolurus barbatus* otherwise known as a bearded dragon.

The campsite was a good choice. Everyone spread themselves out between the two creeks that flowed down from either side of Sentry Box to a 'v' at the base of our camp. We were camped within ten metres of the right side of the 'v'. The creek was only about half a metre wide with its water flowing at a steady pace which could be easily heard from our tent. This is the life, almost pure bliss except for the blasted mosquitoes which attack in the hundreds... I must say some people are creative with their menus on camp. The best being Tamsin and Elise's first dinner which consisted of cold Kentucky Fried chicken and chips which had become rather soggy and out of shape and which they attempted to reheat.

I really believe that people should learn new jokes before they come on camp...

Up at the crack of dawn, well almost... We all set off in single file, chatting and laughing with the usual rush for the front. It was an enjoyable walk up, not 'really' dense scrub so it was rather easy going without the added weight of our packs although some used their emptied out packs as day-packs. The route up was enhanced with interesting boulders and a large variety of plants, changing as we increased in altitude. Reg Alder explained to the group that most of the rocks were a form of granite and that the acid in the rain and soil was causing them to corrode and change shape.

Next we proceeded to Sentry Box Rock where we spent over an hour doing just as we pleased. It was one of the best rest spots of the whole trip. I didn't rest, I just continually climbed, jumped and explored the configuration of boulders. I was slightly annoyed to find that Sentry Box Rock was unclimbable without climbing equipment.

Before we continued on we looked at an interesting Aboriginal shelter located down under a large rock... Next stop, a formation of rocks which marked the border between ACT and NSW.

I awoke this morning to the song of one bird, a grey shrike-thrush that was repeating its call over and over again.

The walking back was relatively easy, we travelled back over the same fire trail with fewer but longer rests. By about ten we reached the old crutching shed over an hour ahead of schedule.

A few minutes walking and the rain had ceased... The remainder of the walk was rather uneventful, we sang songs, recited ads, told jokes and generally disturbed the peacefulness of the wilderness. Tamsin and I walked back the last part with Reg Alder and had an interesting chat with him.

From the walk I gained a wider knowledge of the Namadgi area and its inhabitants, and individuals in the class group itself... Overall it was a great trip, a chance to expand on previous experiences and to get out of the regular class pattern to appreciate the Australian bush.

Huge Tibetan reserve

Chinese officials have agreed to set up what will be the third largest nature reserve area in the world in northwest Tibet. It will cover 260 000 square kilometres of a remote wilderness inhabited by gazelles, antelopes, brown bears, snow leopards, lynxes and wolves as well as wild sheep, yaks and asses found only in Tibet. When the reserve is established it will increase by 5 per cent the total protected land area of the world.
IUCN bulletin, September 1990

World Parks Endowment

The World Parks Endowment, established a year ago to ensure the survival of the 250 environmentally richest areas of the world has announced its first two projects. It will donate US\$200 000 to help park management costs of a reserve in Belize and has announced the purchase of 4500 hectares of tropical rainforest in the Sierra de las Minas mountains of Guatemala.
IUCN bulletin, September 1990

If at first you don't succeed...

Bega Valley Shire Council has twice attempted to develop coastal hinterland between Tathra and Bermagui since 1988. Each time the council tried to have the land rezoned so it could be subdivided and even commercial use made of the land. Local opposition defeated these attempts on both occasions but it is reported that the council may have plans to try yet again. The Total Environment Centre is advocating the government resume this beautiful land and make it an extension of the Mimosa Rocks National Park.
Total Environment Centre Newsletter, November 1990

Eyesore near Nattai Park

It is reported that CSR plans to develop a quarry site it has bought which overlooks the proposed

Nattai Park. The site is a prominent one and development will involve removal of Mount Blatch, scarring another mountain top and create quarry pit scars over a kilometre long. CSR is being opposed in court by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness.
The Colong Bulletin, November 1990

Protection zones in South Australia

Access to parts of Cape du Couedic on Kangaroo Island have been restricted to protect a resident colony of New Zealand fur seals which has made a significant recovery from a dangerous low point a decade ago. Increased numbers of visitors has made the change in management strategy necessary. The Pages Conservation Park between Kangaroo Island and the mainland has also been declared a prohibited area to protect resident colonies of Australian sea lions and seabirds.
Xanthopus, December 1990

Natural history around Goulburn

The Goulburn Field Naturalist Society is to produce a new edition of An introduction to the natural history of the Goulburn district. Their last edition was in 1980 and quite a lot of new information has been collected since that time. It is hoped that a conservation project grant will be made by the Department of the Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and Territories to cover the cost of printing the new book.
Goulburn Field Naturalist Society, June 1990

Sherwood saved

The long awaited announcement by state and federal governments of the purchase for reservation of the Sherwood bush block in Epping Forest in Tasmania was made on 25 November. This is the last major remnant of the forest and the most important area of private land for conservation in Tasmania. The purchase is the culmination of a long campaign to preserve a treasured landmark of

the midlands of Tasmania. It is a habitat that supports rare species including the tiger orchid, *Helipterum australe*, thought extinct since last century until its discovery on the block.
The Tasmanian Conservationist, December 1990-January 1991

Bitou bush

Jervis Bay Nature Reserve has a diverse range of flora, fauna and landscape which has made it an increasingly popular recreation area—700 000 people visit each year.

This makes its infestation with bitou bush all the more unfortunate. Ironically the bush appeared in the reserve because it was deliberately planted there in 1969 as part of a dune stabilisation program.

An integrated attempt is now underway to eradicate or control bitou bush. Although expensive, ground spraying has been effective and there are evaluations of aerial spraying being carried out at Bherwerre Dune, supported by ACT Parks and Conservation Service. The service is also cooperating with CSIRO in their biological control program involving several insect pests which attack different parts of the plant and different stages of its growth. The bitou leaf eating beetle has recently been released into the park.

Jervis Bay Beacon, January 1991

Lantana project

Local NPA members and other helpers have made substantial progress over 1990 in clearing lantana and other exotic plants from Boombana National Park. Work will continue this year along with a rainforest plant replanting program carried out by park rangers and supported by a grant from Greening Australia.
NPA News, Queensland, January 1991

Chasing whales for the tourist dollar

The two Yamaha motors directly behind me snarled into life and the boat lurched forward, its prow lifting high before it settled back as the craft gathered speed in a matter of seconds. We were off on the great whale chase.

During the next three hours the boat often became momentarily airborne before it thumped back into the sea and churned ahead, leaving in its wake swirling white water stretching fifty metres. Luckily this part of the South Pacific Ocean was calm and the wind merely a zephyr.

Given my inability to swim, I had some misgivings when I climbed on board the speedboat *Paikea* at Kaikoura on the east coast of New Zealand's south island. Our guide on the trip to see migrating whales had warned the nine passengers that the craft would travel at high speeds. But it was the same type of boat as used by search-and-rescue services and was perfectly safe.

Drawing comfort from this confidence and from the fact that I had breakfasted lightly, I heard the guide, Lorraine, say we would be searching for sperm whales—migrating bulls she called them—and a residential pod of juveniles. We would also see fur seals, sea birds and perhaps, dolphins.

This was about 6 am. The sun, a growing copper sphere on the horizon, was turning the snow on the astonishing Kaikoura Mountains from white to pink. From out at sea these mighty ranges, which rise abruptly in spectacular fashion, appear to ascend directly from the ocean.

Both Lorraine and the driver of the boat, Marcus, are Maoris and the enterprise, Kaikoura Tours Ltd, may be run by their community although I was unable to check this point. In the *Canberra Times*, soon after my return to Australia, there was mention of another Kaikoura tour organisation, Nature Match Charters,

which will also take you out to see whales.

Shortly after the *Paikea* blasted off, Marcus throttled back and as the boat idled Lorraine, speaking in Maori and English, paid homage to her ancestors and the environment.

Kaikoura is said to have been named by the 'legendary explorer and mighty warrior' Tamatea-Pokae-Whenua who, while searching for three runaway wives, beached his canoe in a sheltered bay and enjoyed dining on the local crayfish to such an extent that he named the place Kai Koura, or 'feast of crayfish'.

We were to make several high speed dashes on the *Paikea*, mercifully idle between times, while Marcus hunted for whales through a sonar listening device lowered into the sea. I could hear nothing except an occasional lonely burp from what sounded like a hollow chamber.

Suddenly Lorraine was pointing excitedly ahead and the *Paikea* powered forward to confront an amazing sight—scores of pilot whales ploughing determinedly through the ocean, their blunt-nosed bodies glistening in the sun as they arched above the surface or jubilantly threw their tails high into the air. They were moving fast and ignored us although our boat came within metres of many of them. Most were travelling in pairs or groups and loners were few.

Marcus later estimated that the school was between half a kilometre and a kilometre long. The sight was comparable to that of a fortnight before when the *Paikea* had encountered a giant school of what he called a thousand southern white dolphins. Only a few days earlier watchers at Kaikoura had seen a pack of killer whales chasing porpoises to within metres of the shore.

Back on the *Paikea* we had twenty minutes to goggle at the pilot whales before the craft shot

forward on another frantic dash to join its sister boat, the *Tohora*, which had indeed sighted them. We had to be content with seeing more dolphins closer to shore, fur seals lounging on a huge rock jutting from the sea, and innumerable sea birds, among them an immature albatross and giant petrels.

Kaikoura Tours Ltd charges \$NZ70 for its exciting and memorable whale chase and will pick up passengers and return them to their accommodation. Morning tea is provided. Off-peak accommodation in Kaikoura is ridiculously cheap—a spotless cottage with all amenities was rented out for \$NZ55 a night.

Graeme Barrow

Walkers' reactions

Walking out after a few hot, dry days in the Budawangs we met some groups walking in and had brief exchanges with each of them. Some of these went like this:

'The creeks are low and the water runs near most of the caves are dry.'

'That's all right, we have a couple of litres of water.'

'Firewood is scarce for some distance around the campsite.'

'That's all right, we are set up to camp cold.'

'Do you know where the track you plan to follow takes off from the main track?'

'No, but that's all right, we have a map.'

Is there a moral in all this? Is it just that walkers are insensitive talkers who can only proffer suggestions in a way that evokes a defensive response? Or is it that walkers are a churlish lot who resent advice?

But perhaps it is that if people were not reasonably confident and self-reliant they would not be bushwalking anyway.

A cool change

It was just no good! We were dropping like limp hydrangeas.

Desperate to find relief from the heat we set off, cycling to Lake Ginninderra for a swim. Beside the path the mown grass lay, crackly dry, while in the inaccessible places it still stood tall, its pale feathery heads rustling in the hot breeze.

Rounding a bend, a smoking blackened hill and the flashing light of a fire engine came into view. We approached with caution but could see the situation was well under control with a few weary fire fighters dampening down the last acrid, smouldering patch, watched by a lone TV cameraman and two small boys. One of these spectators remarked 'Big bush fire isn't it?' Was he genuinely impressed at its size I wondered, or did I detect a note of disappointment that the fire had burnt only a small hillside of grass and singed a few trees?

We left this charred scene and continued on to a small rocky promontory. 'We could swim here,' said John. We looked into the murky depths where furred ribbons of weed lurked, and at the bankside litter left by the uncaring. No! we'd give this spot a miss. Heat, fires, pollution—was there no relief?

Wilting by the minute but doggedly determined, we pedalled on. A lift to our spirits came on the sighting of a family of young quails crossing the path ahead of us. We waited and watched while they ran and bobbed and disappeared into the golden grass.

Eventually we found a spot to swim and splashed around among the windsurfers which flopped about in the indifferent breeze.

Soon thunder clouds rolled in building up a heavy cloud cover—perhaps tonight a cool change? A freshening wind sent the windsurfers skipping across small waves while a

lone catamaran stood on its ear in a sudden gust.

These two cyclists pedalled homeward in and out of light showers that, touching the earth, released the strong, vaguely mouldy odour of damp hay but did little to reduce the heat. Alas! Soon the showers and wind passed away.

Later, languishing in our lounge room, the smell of damp hay was borne indoors on a stirring breeze. 'The rain's coming' I declared and indeed very soon we heard the first heavy drops, which soon became a steady fall that gurgled merrily in the down pipes. A slight drop in temperature was unfortunately counteracted by the increased humidity.

That night I lay hot and clammy on the bed, restless despite the soothing rhythm of the continuing

rain. I fretted for the promised cool change and drifted into a fitful sleep. A rattling window woke me. A rattling window? Only a Southerly creates that vibration, so in relief and delight I rolled off the bed to fix the rattle with a little wedge of paper. The curtains billowed and a breeze cold and fresh blew about my bare shoulders.

It was just so good!

Judith Webster

THE MACDONNELL RANGES

Rising almost vertically out of the plain that surrounds them, the Macdonnell Ranges dominate the central Australian landscape. Incredibly rugged and forbidding at first glance, they hide numerous deep gorges where permanent water provides green oases, the sole remaining habitat for ancient plant species which covered central Australia in days when the land was far wetter.

Those who view the Macdonnells from below see only a small part of the landscape made famous throughout the world by Albert Namatjira and other Aranda painters. They miss the spectacular vistas you get from the high points. The mountains seem to extend for ever as they snake out of sight to the east and west.

This is a landscape where colour dominates as nowhere else. Sometimes it is a striking contrast such as a white ghost gum outlined against blue sky or red rock. At times, a subtle merging as when the soft greens and yellows of the plains yield to the blues of distant hills. Whether striking or subtle, it is always beautiful.

Our treks take you away from the crowds into the heart of the ranges to enjoy the sights and experiences that others can only dream about. Write or phone for a free brochure describing our bushwalking tours in the Macdonnells, the rest of the NT and the Kimberley.

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Down the Murrumbidgee

Under the old timber road bridge at Gundagai, eight NPA members launched their kayaks and canoes on Australia Day weekend 1991 heading for Wagga, 110 km downstream. We had all met up the night before at base camp, the Gundagai Caravan Park next to the old Princes Bridge. Some of us were even lucky enough to score some Murray cod before the cook took it off the menu on Friday night at the Niagara cafe in the main street. That was as close as we got to a Murray cod for the rest of the trip.

The weather was fine and cool as we picked up speed, soon passing under the new Sheehans Bridge, second longest in NSW, and said good bye to the Hume Highway motor traffic, heading for Mundarlo bridge 40 km downstream. Soon Shirley Chettick was listing off the birds as they called to us from the bank or darted over our heads, flitting from red gum to red gum. Not far above Gundagai, water from Burrinjuck combined with big releases from Blowering into the Tumut, made for a wide strongly flowing river where we had put in, and in the confines of the valleys we paddled through on the first day, most paddlers were concentrating hard on the turns.

Lunch on the first day was enjoyed next to some islands on a sharp bend in the river. Whilst enjoying our hot tea and sandwiches we felt the ground move from a nearby explosion. The source was soon revealed when we paddled past some of the local lads on a nearby island engaged in some illegal fishing as well as target practice on the local parrots.

Such was our speed that we had afternoon tea at Mundarlo bridge where we met up with our cars again and Doreen Wilson, our chauffeuse for the trip. We stayed the second night also at Gundagai where we were able to explore the delights of Gundagai after dining well at the Criterion. A visit to the display at Princes Bridge is well worth while but you need 20 min-

utes to walk across the bridge. The riverside caravan park attracts a wide range of campers. In our case we met an Indian family, an American cyclist determined to ride to Perth in summer heat and a German couple. Beware camping at the road bridge end—the local kids like to rendezvous under it for a midnight soiree. Best camp at the other end next to the memorial to Sturt's passing through Gundagai on 30 November 1829 on his pioneering trip down the Murrumbidgee.

The second day saw us back at the Mundarlo bridge and soon we were winding our way round the bends on a wide slower river but with more islands to pass left or right. For morning tea, we caught up with Doreen again at Sandy Beach near Wantabadgery, Sturt's base camp. Enjoying our morning tea, Shirley pointed out a family of rainbow bee eaters and a beautiful adolescent kingfisher sitting above us.

We lunched at a reserve near Chinamens Bend and had a picnic table to sit around. Fred was able to catch up on the latest in the tennis and cricket scores with the aid of the previous day's paper which campers had left behind. A strong southerly wind alternated between being a head wind and a tail wind as we paddled onto Oura Beach, where we again met Doreen after paddling 45 km, our longest day. Oura has a lovely public reserve. With the cool weather we enjoyed a pleasant camp fire that night having watched the setting sun and witnessed hundreds of cockatoos enjoying a drink from the river around the island across from us. As with the previous morning we were woken at 6 am by great flocks of galahs and cockatoos flying in for an early morning drink.

Monday found us paddling on a wider, slower river with even more islands to paddle around, heading for Wagga 25 km downstream. Fred and Rollo led the party through the odd tricky turn as we wended our way through the islands. Near Gumly Gumly most of us had morning tea under some

magnificent, mighty red gums whilst Mike and Annette Smith squeezed in a quick visit to Uncle Bob's place on the other side of the river. We lunched at Orange Tree Point, just upstream of Wagga. Paddling into Wagga we encountered our first bridges since Mundarlo. The sound of trains hooting as they crossed the railway bridge around the bend sounded strange to us paddling past a world of red gums and willows, perhaps reminiscent of paddle steamers of old as they pushed on up to Gundagai, their eastern terminus on the Murrumbidgee.

Our entrance into Wagga was not what I expected, as normally big towns mean much visible pollution. I was surprised to come upon one church spire and then another, poking up above the red gums and willows, as we paddled into the city. I managed a nice photograph of wood ducks on a grassy point with a tree shrouded church spire behind them across the river. Then the Wagga beach hove into view on the left bank, with grassy banks, a sandy beach, beach cricket in progress, girls in bikinis and so on. Soon the boats were on the cars ready to turn for home. Shirley, Leigh and I had to escort the three kayaks, stacked across the roof of Adrienne Nicholson's Mazda, to Urana Street where we had hired them. Then back to Canberra so quickly, cruising at 100 kph on the bitumen past khaki paddocks in contrast to our 7 kph paddling speed on the Murrumbidgee with its green banks and shady trees.

For anyone interested in paddling the Murrumbidgee anywhere between its confluence with the Murray and Lake Burrinjuck, the NSW Department of Lands office in Wagga sells a superb set of colour maps 1:50 000 scale showing a strip map outline of the river, featuring islands, riverside public reserves and so on for \$4 a set.

Chris Bellamy

Bike path guide

Local author Graeme Barrow has put together *Riding Canberra's bike paths: a commuter tourist cycling guide*. It is a 64 page booklet divided into two sections—the first dealing with 21 commuter rides and the second with what he calls top rides which are seven scenic rides he recommends for the tourist or sightseer on what the introduction tells us are the 130 kilometres of cycle path in Canberra.

The contents list and an index map at the front of the booklet make it easy to find rides for any particular area of Canberra. The commuter rides described are divided into four sections according to whether they go from city north, city south, Belconnen town centre or Woden town centre. Each ride has an illustrating map and text describing the route and some points of interest. It also give hints on dangers to watch and black spots are marked on the maps. The distance of each ride is given and connections the route has to others and nearby suburbs is also given.

The top rides section has the same information and maps for each ride but also has a handy summary at the beginning of ride description. In these descriptions more effort has been made to provide information on points of interest along these rides though as cycle path guide it obviously does not have as much information as other sources might provide.

The extensive use of street names to describe positions might not always be useful since street names are often not obvious from the cycle paths though the maps alleviate this somewhat. One detail of the descriptions that is particularly good is that potentially confusing intersections are mentioned. There is little more frustrating to a first time out explorer than to encounter a fork in the path not even mentioned in the guidebook.

The research was done in 1989 and some changes in the path network have already dated this book but it still provides a lot of useful information. The NPA library has a copy so you can inspect it for yourself.

Urban wildlife

Most of us at sometime have encountered injured wildlife. Often a bird blown from a nest. What to do for it and especially what to feed it are problems we often do not have answers for.

Taronga Zoo's guide to the care of urban wildlife tells you this and many other things besides—like how to pick up an echidna without damaging either of you.

Author Erna Walraven is a wildlife rehabilitation officer at Taronga Zoo. She compiled the book with help from colleagues and was certain there is a need for it because the zoo receives thousands of requests every year for information on caring for animals.

The book has 157 pages, seven chapters and a good index. It is well rounded off with appendices on further reading, conservation groups, sources of care materials and advice and legal requirements. There are line drawings throughout the text and several colour plates. It is also printed on recycled paper.

The preface by Dr Dedee Woodside, curator of research and conservation at Taronga Zoo, says the book 'is designed to assist the average

person who wishes to plan their local environment to sustain healthy wildlife and to help the occasional injured or orphaned animal. It also raises questions that all of us should ponder about conservation in general.'

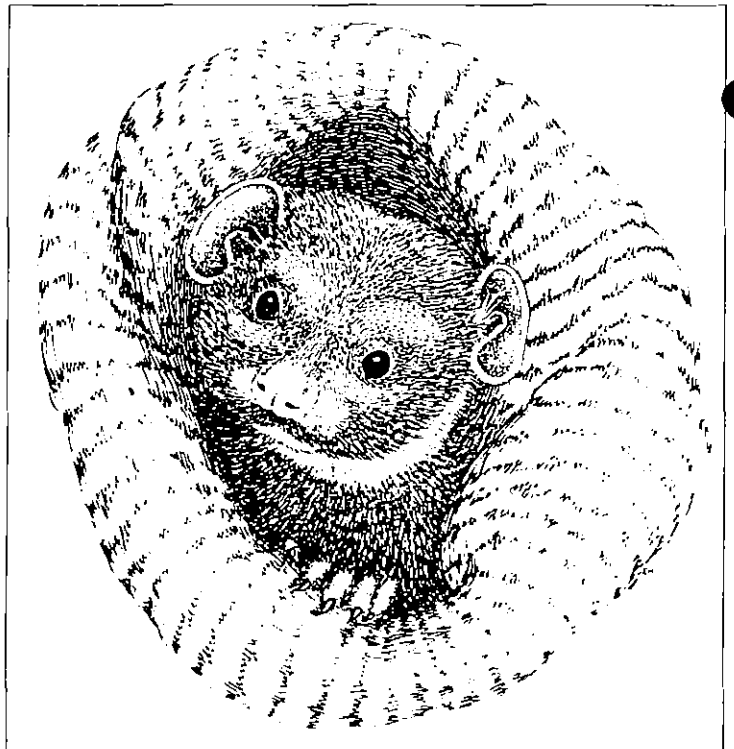
The care it describes calls for equipment that many of us who are doing well just to find an empty shoe-

box do not have, such as cages with light bulbs or specialists teats for feeding. The book does tell you where you can get some of this equipment though. Care for a range of animals is described from birds to marsupials and bats.

Caring for sick animals though is the subject of only two of seven chapters. The book begins with advice on creating habitat helpful to wildlife, thus providing them food and shelter and giving you a more interesting backyard. Conflicts with wildlife are also dealt with including insect pests. Did you know you can catch cockroaches on a piece of vaseline smeared cardboard with crushed dog biscuit on it? Dangers from pets are mentioned and possums in the roof it says are best dealt with by trapping them and providing them a shelter in a tree in your yard.

For anyone interested in any aspect of the wildlife found around their patch of suburbia there is lots of valuable information here. The NPA library has a copy.

A yellow-bellied glider from Guide to the care of urban wildlife.



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or provide entertainment.

Enquiries: Canberra and South-East Region Environment
Centre. Phone 247 3064.

Calendar

MARCH

- Monday 4 Marketing, Education and Publicity (MEP) subcommittee meeting 8.00 pm 24 McCormack Street, Curtin; Len Haskew 281 4268(h)
- Thursday 7 Committee meeting, 7.30 pm 35 Millen Street, Hughes, Les Pyke 281 2982(h)
- Thursday 14 Namadgi subcommittee meeting 7.30 pm 5 Masters Pl, Kambah, Dugald Monro 231 8776(h)
- Thursday 28 Environment subcommittee; contact: Tim Walsh 285 1112(h) 274 1465(w)

APRIL

- Monday 1 Marketing, Education and Publicity (MEP) subcommittee meeting 8.00 pm 24 McCormack Street, Curtin; Len Haskew 281 4268(h)
- Thursday 4 Committee meeting, 7.30 pm 35 Millen Street, Hughes; Les Pyke 281 2982(h)
- Wednesday 10 Outings subcommittee 7.30 pm 27 Geerilong Gdns, Reid; Phil Bubb 248 6769(h)
- Thursday 11 Namadgi subcommittee 7.30 pm 87 Shackleton Circuit, Mawson; Syd Comfort 286 2578(h)
- Thursday 25 Environment subcommittee; contact Tim Walsh 285 1112(h) 274 1465(w)

MAY

- Wednesday 1 Bulletin deadline; Roger Green 247 0059(w)
- Thursday 2 Committee meeting 7.30 pm 35 Millen Street, Hughes; Les Pyke 281 2982(h)
- Monday 6 Marketing, Education and Publicity (MEP) subcommittee meeting 8.00 pm 24 McCormack Street, Curtin; Len Haskew 281 4268(h)
- Thursday 9 Namadgi subcommittee 7.30 pm 87 Shackleton Circuit, Mawson; Syd Comfort 286 2578(h)
- Thursday 23 Environment subcommittee; contact: Tim Walsh 285 1112(h) 274 1465(w)

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General meetings

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

21 March

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

18 April

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

16 May

Dr Robert Boden, a former Director of the Australian National Botanic Gardens for many years, following experience with the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service, will speak on 'Canberra's tree heritage—a look at the original vegetation and the way it has changed'.

20 June

Mr Peter Buckmaster, a primary producer and member of the ACT Parks and Conservation Consultative Committee, is involved with Greening Australia, has family links to the rural pioneering of the region and has many years of leadership in the local rural industry, will speak on 'Nature conservation in the ACT—a primary producer's historical perspective'.