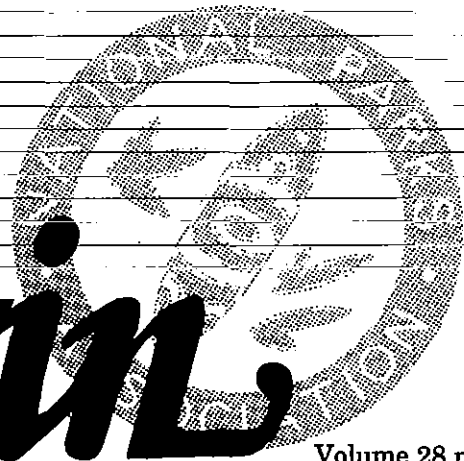


NPA Bulletin



Volume 28 number 4
December 1991

NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION (ACT) INCORPORATED



Protecting Australia's coastline

Cultural heritage and the alps

CONTENTS

Peak councils' meeting	5
Fenner conference	6
Jervis Bay Marine Park	8
Parkwatch	9
Environmental budget	11
Kosciusko plan	12
Parkwatch	14
Cultural heritage of the alps	15
Footcare for bushwalkers	16
Econuts v culture vultures	18
NPA annual report	18

Cover

Photo: Babette Scougall
Naas River, upstream from Caloola Farm.

National Parks Association (ACT) Incorporated

Inaugurated 1960

Aims and objects of the Association

- Promotion of national parks and of measures for the protection of fauna and flora, scenery and natural features in the Australian Capital Territory and elsewhere, and the reservation of specific areas.
- Interest in the provision of appropriate outdoor recreation areas.
- Stimulation of interest in, and appreciation and enjoyment of, such natural phenomena by organised field outings, meetings or any other means.
- Co-operation with organisations and persons having similar interests and objectives.
- Promotion of, and education for, nature conservation, and the planning of land-use to achieve conservation.

Office-bearers and Committee

President Beverley Hammond 288 6577(h)
Vice-President Dianne Thompson 288 6084(h);
 244 7572(w); 244 7934(fax w)
Immediate Past President Les Pyke 281 2982(h)
Secretary Len Haskew 281 4268(h)
Treasurer Mike Smith 286 2984(h); 248 3624(w)

Sub-committee conveners

Co-Conveners Environment
 Tim Walsh 285 1112(h); 274 1465(w)
 Len Crossfield 241 2897(h); 263 2267(w)
Conveners Outings
 Dianne Thompson 288 6084(h); 244 7572(w);
 244 7934(fax w)
Conveners Namadgi Dugald Monro 231 8776(h)

Other Committee members

Neville Esau 286 4176(h); 249 9500(w)
 Syd Comfort 286 2578(h)
 Clive Hurlstone 288 7592(h); 246 5516(w)

Subscription rates (1 July - 30 June)

Household members \$20 Single members \$15
 Corporate members \$10 Bulletin only \$10

Concession: half above rates

For new subscriptions joining between:

1 January and 31 March - half specified rate

1 April and 30 June - annual subscription

Membership enquiries welcome

Please phone Laraine Frawley at the NPA office.

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

10am to 2pm Mondays

9am to 2pm Tuesdays and Thursdays

Telephone: (06) 257 1063

Address: GPO Box 457 Canberra 2601.

Contribute to your *Bulletin*

Contributions of articles (news, description or fiction), black-and-white photographs and line drawings are keenly sought for the *Bulletin*. Please label photographs with the name of the subject, the name of the photographer and the date. Leave contributions at the office or phone the editor, Roger Green, on (06) 247 0059. The editorial fax is (06) 249 7373.

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

Deadline for March issue: 1 February, 1992.

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

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

ISSN 0727-8837

President's foreword

Our National Parks Association continues to work in the interests of the environment, formally through its committee and sub-committees and informally through you, the members, as you intermingle with all kinds of people as part of your daily life. Thank you to all those members who have given so much time towards promoting the aims of our association through committee membership, writing submissions, contributing ideas, writing for the *Bulletin*, leading outings and just being supportive.

If you haven't read our aims and objectives recently, please take a moment to look at the opposite page now. I hope you have taken an interest in the Draft Territory Plan. Does it meet these objectives? If we all contributed from the perspective of our varied experiences and professional knowledge the Government should realise that the people of Canberra really do care about the environment.

Once again we are negotiating with the Environment and Conservation Bureau for work to be done to stabilise the Orroral Homestead. Volunteers will be called for to assist people qualified in the restoration of old buildings. An enthusiastic ranger has been given the responsibility for the homestead project and we look forward to supporting her efforts.

If you would be able to help one weekend soon with this project, please contact our secretary during office hours and leave your name, phone number and an indication of your experience with or interest in working with building projects.

Several other issues continue to receive our attention—Jervis Bay, the Alpine National Park, Mulligans Flat in Gungahlin, Molonglo Gorge, the Landcare Plan and Budawang work programs. Our watching brief on Namadgi is always of great importance. We value input from all members—so please contact a committee member if you can



contribute to any of these projects.

We are fortunate in Canberra to be able to draw on the universities, CSIRO and other government as well as private and voluntary organisations for speakers at meetings. If you have been thinking 'Why don't they discuss...' or 'I wonder if NPA members have seen this good environmental film?' or 'That was an excellent speaker—she/he would be great for an NPA meeting', please let us know.

Bulletin articles are always welcome and outings leaders always needed. So, there are lots of requests in this foreword for all of our members to stay or get involved in our association's activities. Please do your bit for the 'Promotion of nature conservation and the planning of land use to achieve conservation'.

Beverley Hammond

NPA Christmas party
Sunday 15 December 1991
Orroral Valley picnic ground
Starts 3pm
Members and friends welcome

Environment subcommittee

Over the past few months the Environment subcommittee of the NPA has been busy on quite a number of fronts. Some of these issues are covered in more detail elsewhere in the *Bulletin*.

A submission was made to the NSW Government inquiry into the Kosciusko National Park Plan of Management draft amendment.

A working party has been established to follow on from the remnant woodlands survey conducted by Kevin Frawley. Consideration is being given to the production of a flora guide in the ACT.

The subcommittee has continued to monitor the long-running saga of a proposed Commonwealth-NSW national park for Jervis Bay.

A submission has been made to the Ecologically Sustainable Development Working Party on Tourism.

A watching brief is being maintained on proposed developments in West Belconnen and the lower Molonglo River valley. The corridor below Scrivener Dam possesses high scenic and natural values which have received little recognition or protection. The area is now under threat from urban expansion (West Belconnen), continued grazing, lower Molonglo water quality control centre, high voltage power lines and increased human visitation.

A submission is to be prepared for the NSW Government review into the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service.

The House of Representatives 'Injured Coastline' report is under study and a submission on the implementation of the recommendations will be made.

Anyone wishing to join in the work of the subcommittee should contact one of the convenors (see inside front cover) or come to a meeting.

MEETINGS

Sustainable tourism

The Association recently made a submission to the Federal Government's Ecologically Sustainable Development Working Party on Tourism, chaired by Professor David Throsby. The submission pointed out the dependence of all tourism facilities upon the natural environment, at least to some extent. It also expressed concern about:

- the development of tropical beach paradises, which formerly sustained local coastal communities, as economy tourist destinations or resorts
- some unsustainable tourism—such as four-wheel-drive access into many national parks

- the establishment of a 'national representative system of protected areas' which will only be effective if it does not result in unprotected areas being available for unsustainable exploitation.

The submission supported:

- the need to diminish or remove tourist opportunities, for example, controlling access to wilderness areas
- redevelopment of degraded sites rather than development of natural areas, although removal of degraded facilities and site rehabilitation may be more appropriate for some areas (for example, alpine lodges, facilities

in wilderness or remote areas)

- user pays mechanisms suggested for the industry
- integrated waste management strategies

Effective education to raise public awareness and improve tourism industry and visitor behaviour was seen as the key to ecologically sustainable tourism. Well targeted education and training must be integral to all tourist strategies. General environmental awareness—a step towards personal action for the environment—is the outcome of environmentally sustainable tourism practices and a way of assisting other sectors.

Boboyan roadworks

Clarification has been received from the local Minister for Environment, Land and Planning, Bill Wood, regarding the sealing of a section of the Boboyan Road.

'This project has been agreed to by the government because it is a maintenance project for short sections of the road and not part of any major upgrading. The scope of work involves low impact works which will improve safety and reduce maintenance costs and associated problems. In particular, it is intended to continue the existing sealing south for approximately 1.6 kilometres to improve safety along the steepest section of the road within the ACT as well as reduce maintenance problems.

Another section being improved for similar reasons is a location known as the 'big dipper'. This section has a significant safety problem due to its alignment. During winter the road becomes very slippery when wet or icy and there have been a number of times when vehicles have had to be rescued as a result of accidents. Other works involve alignment improvements at various short sections together with drainage improvements.

New members

Jan Erik and Julie Aamodt, Belconnen; Toni Bolschelarski, Evatt; David Bonny, Dickson; Maree Anne Bowman, Pambula Beach; Doug Crawford and family, Spence; Paul Dalgleish and JoAnne Clancy, Rivett; Julie Drevitt, Symonston; Adam Henderson, Aranda; Douglas and Christine Higham, Bungendore; Mr and Mrs E Kiss, Macquarie; Terena Lally, Canberra; Kate Lewis, Cook; Darren Phillips, Parkes; Diana Schneider and John Kennedy, Kambah; Dean Turner, Duffy; Carol and John Woodrow, Narrabundah.

Refrigerator gardening

A display of plants from sub-Antarctic Macquarie Island has been installed in the Visitor Information Centre at the Australian National Botanical Gardens. The plants are on display for the first time in Australia and are being grown in a modified commercial refrigerator.

The plants were collected by Jim Croft, of the Gardens' scientific staff, during a trip to the island in 1989. Jim collected living plants to be grown in a cool room in the nursery and preserved specimens for the herbarium.

Going in circles

If you are trying to navigate on a featureless plain, through thick bush or in a whiteout, even with a compass, chances are you will travel in a circle. If you cannot see a fixed point and there is no ridge or valley to follow, you might as well sit still. On sloping ground, people tend to walk downhill; in the ACT a descent into scrub-filled creeks can be a mistake.

At the NPA meeting on 19 September a spokesman for the Australian Federal Police Rescue Squad, Constable Steve Walsh, related the behaviour of people who get lost or injured in the bush. He also described the operations and services of the squad and showed survival gear.

Most of the bush rescues have occurred in Namadgi National Park. Inexperienced walkers have survived for remarkable amounts of time without food or warm clothing, and bushwalkers carrying food and equipment last even longer. One lone bushwalker, injured in a fall and out of sight, seemed lucky to be found.

One of Constable Walsh's most forceful messages was to always let someone know where you are going and when you should be back. This considerably narrows the search area.

Gathering of conservation groups

In early September, conservation organisations met in Canberra for the second peak councils' meeting of the year. 'Peak councils' are the foremost conservation organisations, usually organisations which represent many small organisations under the one umbrella. A good example of this is a conservation council which may represent 50 or more organisations broadly concerned with conservation, from ornithologists to bushwalkers to people concerned with urban planning or waste management. The Australian National Parks Council (ANPC) was at the meeting to represent state and territory national parks associations. National organisations—the Australian Conservation Foundation, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the Wilderness Society and Greenpeace—were also represented.

Peak councils' meetings, which usually take place two or three times a year, allow an interchange of information and concerns to occur between conservation groups, government officials and federal ministers. One day is set aside for talks with officials from the Department of the Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and Territories in order to receive up-to-date information on environmental matters. Another day is spent at Parliament House meeting government ministers and other members of parliament.

At the meeting with the Minister for the Environment, Mrs Kelly informed us of her priorities for the coming year with regard to the environment: world heritage areas, setting up the environmental protection authority, developing a biodiversity strategy and setting up a representative system of marine reserves around Australia.

A broad range of issues was dealt with, but a noticeable theme threaded its way through the meeting: the so-called 'new federalism'. The Commonwealth government is adopting a policy of less involvement and is showing

itself increasingly reluctant to intervene in states' affairs where environmental matters are concerned. We expressed many times our grave concern that this policy would only heighten the lack of coordination and the inadequacies of environmental policies from state to state.

Resource Assessment Commission

We expressed concern about how, and whether, the RAC report on forests and timber would be implemented, given that the government is keen to get resource security legislation passed even before the final report is published. Also, the ecologically sustainable development working group on forests is due to publish its report in November, whereas the RAC report will not be finished until March. Mrs Kelly said she would look into the possibility of having the ESD report await the final RAC report.

Resource security legislation

We stated our vehement opposition to this proposed legislation and in particular to the one-off nature of the environmental

assessment procedure. Mrs Kelly declared that the assessment would be thorough but admitted that existing environmental impact statements might be used.

Threatened species legislation

The proposed Commonwealth legislation will not have the power to override any state legislation. This was of grave concern to us as some states do not have endangered species legislation or a good record on environmental management. The WWF suggested that the legislation should include international obligations, have third party appeal and involve an independent scientific process of identification.

Marine reserves

Greenpeace suggested that what was needed was one national authority for the protection of the marine environment, such as the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, to manage reserves in cooperation with the states. Mrs Kelly agreed that a national marine conservation strategy was needed.

Anne Forsythe
ANPC Executive Officer



NPA members view present and future work on the track at Little Forest plateau, looking towards Pigeon House Mountain. See story on page 17.
Photo: Reg Alder.

Protection of coastal waters

The issue of marine reserves—and the lack of them in Australia—was brought into the public arena at the Fenner Environment Conference held in Canberra in October. The three-day conference was the initiative of the Australian Committee for the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (ACIUCN) and was organised and hosted by the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service.

The theme of the conference was 'Protection of marine and estuarine areas a challenge for Australians'. And it is indeed a challenge. Delegates were informed of the woeful state of affairs as regards the lack of protection for marine and estuarine areas around Australia. Although Australia is one of the most coastally oriented nations in the world, and is responsible for a marine environment larger than the Australian continent itself, only a paltry 0.57% of marine areas outside the Great Barrier Reef are afforded any sort of protection.

The conference covered a range of topics including the urgent need for a system of representative marine reserves, progress towards a world-wide system of marine reserves, and selection, design and management of reserves.

Molly Olsen, of Greenpeace, opened with a paper stressing the urgent need to protect our marine environment. She pointed out the great magnitude of the oceans—they are more than 100 times larger than the terrestrial biosphere and contain more than 90% of all life on earth. Yet, up until now, we have treated the oceans as both an endless resource to be exploited and as a rubbish dump to be used with impunity. Ms Olsen explained existing mechanisms for the protection of the marine environment and summed this up by saying 'The author is not aware of any nation which has enacted comprehensive laws and policies to protect the marine environment and restore degraded marine ecosystems. More typi-

cally, existing laws are ad hoc and not enforced properly. One example is that Boston will not be brought into compliance with the Clean Water Act until 22 years after the law's deadline.'

Graeme Kelleher, Chairman of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, outlined progress made towards a global system of marine reserves. He distributed to delegates a recent publication 'Guidelines for establishing marine protected areas' which cover selection, legal considerations, planning guidelines and biosphere reserves. These guidelines will be distributed to delegates at the 4th World Congress on National Parks and Protected Areas to be held in Venezuela in 1992. Mr Kelleher explained that working groups had been set up as a framework for developing the global marine protected areas system. Their aims are: to divide the region's marine environment into its major constituent biogeographic zones, to identify gaps in the representation of marine protected areas in those biogeographic zones and to propose sites for protected areas to fill in those gaps. The selection criteria for possible sites cover the categories of naturalness, biogeographic importance, ecological, economic, social and scientific importance, and international or national significance and practicality. He summed up his talk with his personal vision, which was that 'the large marine ecosystem approach to management of the world's coastal marine areas will become the norm. I believe that the very great benefits of managing complete ecosystems in an integrated way, and the costs of not doing so, mean that there really is no viable long-term alternative. Indeed, I think that integrated management of the coastal zone, covering both the land and the sea, is the objective to which we should all aspire.'

The question of protection and management of reserves was given much consideration. Effective protection of the environment

requires proper management based on sound management plans, backed up by adequate resources. According to Dr Tony Underwood of the University of Sydney, we cannot manage the marine environment properly at the moment because we do not have a good enough understanding of the life histories of marine organisms and their ecological interactions. "Without this ... there is no basis for sustained implementation of a policy. Further, interactive species will be ignored and irrational options will continue, as at present, to be used."

Stacey Malcolm, of the Victorian National Parks Association, outlined the state of affairs in Victoria. Commercial and/or recreational fishing is allowed in most marine and estuarine protected areas (MEPAs) in Victoria. Indeed, only 50 hectares of Victoria's marine environment is totally protected, in the sense of the protection which a terrestrial national park affords the environment.

Management plans are sometimes not prepared, or, as in the case of the Harold Holt Marine Reserves in Victoria, do not appear until many years after the proclamation of the reserve.

Funding is a problem to the point where staff responsible for the Point Nepean Marine Reserve in Victoria have no boat! There is also little signposting, so that many people who visit are unaware that they are within a reserve, why the area is protected or what is acceptable behaviour within the reserve.

Ineffective legislation in Victoria is also a problem. Victoria's eleven MEPAs have been declared under various Acts, but are all unsatisfactory as they are only temporary and can be revoked without reference to parliament. Serious legal problems have arisen with the Wilson's Promontory Marine Reserve. The government is powerless to implement its ban on commercial fishing, and was taken to the Supreme Court by a group



*Cox's Bight in Tasmania.
Photo: Babette Scougall.*

of professional abalone fishermen in 1986.

In Tasmania, according to Dr Kriwoken of the University of Tasmania, marine reserves do not adequately preserve and manage representative samples of marine habitats and ecosystems, nor do they have administrative or legislative capacity to control outside impacts which may have detrimental effects on the natural environment. They have generally been designed along the lines of terrestrial national parks, that is, isolated pockets of naturalness, and could therefore be described as 'islands of management in a sea of mismanagement', according to Dr Kriwoken.

However, in recent years Tasmania has realised the importance of giving greater protection to its marine environment. The government has developed a new marine reserves policy, declaring four new reserves, and will soon release a coastal strategy. Another hopeful sign in Tasmania is that the commercial fishing industry has swung around from opposing the idea of MEPAs to supporting them. Declining fish stocks have

led fishermen to believe that 'fish propagation areas' might be beneficial to the fishing industry.

The design of MEPAs was a topic of importance at the conference. There was unanimous agreement that the terrestrial national park model was not appropriate to the marine environment. While there are well-established methodologies for the design and management of terrestrial systems, no such methodologies exist for the marine environment. However, we cannot just extrapolate from terrestrial methodologies, as the characteristics of the marine environment and its organisms differ from those of terrestrial systems. The most fundamental difference, according to Dr Peter Fairweather of Macquarie University, is 'the greater degree of connectedness among habitats and places in the sea. Complex and dynamic currents, waves and tides move water in the ocean, allowing considerably greater transport of nutrients, material, conditions and species than do the passive media on land, air or freshwater flows.'

The delineation of biologically meaningful boundaries for a

marine reserve is problematic, according to several speakers at the conference, because of the very nature of the sea. That is, "nominal boundaries will not ensure protection because they cannot provide barriers to water masses or migratory species", said Dr Fairweather. Pollution emanating from ships, as in oil spills, or from the land—sewage disposal, run-off, chemicals being dumped indiscriminately—knows no boundaries.

Delegates were also able to attend workshops with themes ranging from public education to integrating conservation and fisheries objectives within a MEPA. This enabled everyone to participate more fully in discussions. The outcomes of these workshops will be presented to ACIUCN, along with several resolutions dealing with public participation and funding for non-government organisations. ACIUCN will, in turn, pass these on to appropriate members of parliament.

Anne Forsythe

Jervis Bay Marine Park— one-third won

The Federal Government's recent decision to declare its Jervis Bay Territory as national park is a laudable step towards the creation of a Jervis Bay Marine National Park.

The Commonwealth is showing its commitment to protect this valuable natural area and hopes to lead by example in establishing 'Stage One'.

It is a worthwhile initiative, but unfortunately points up some larger concerns. Obviously the Commonwealth, temporarily at least, has abandoned its efforts to negotiate the total park proposal with State and Local Governments. The most vulnerable areas—Beecroft Peninsula, the waters of the Bay and the catchment area—remain unprotected. Over the last two years, even talk of possible land reservation in the Shoalhaven area seems to have thrown real estate developers into a frenzy of activity and the bulldozers are presently having a field day. And while the Federal Government continues to stall in its decision on the relocation of the armaments depot, the state and local governments have an excuse to continue to duck their own responsibilities to conservation.

This situation requires us to become more vocal than ever in pressing for the implementation of the marine national park proposal this Association and the Australian Conservation Foundation developed in 1989.

The Environment sub-committee has devoted many hours work to Jervis Bay matters. To handle the workload, a few months ago the sub-committee formed a Jervis Bay Working Group. This lively group, comprising Anne Taylor, Anne Forsythe, Bernadette O'Leary, Jane O'Donoghue, Kevin Frawley, Neville Esau, Sonja Orford and Den Robin, has been formulating submissions, monitoring developments, drafting letters and developing strategies to strengthen our campaign.

Our position is summed up in a letter to the Prime Minister of 19 August (opposite page). Anne Taylor recently represented NPA in a deputation to a number of Federal politicians led by the Jervis Bay Protection Committee (see page 10).

The Working Group now is monitoring three major processes running concurrently which have major implications for the national park proposal. All three are positive initiatives but, even if all likely outcomes were combined, they still stop a long way short of achieving our goal. They are fragmented, lacking coordination between the major players (i.e. the three levels of government) and don't give us any great sense of optimism. In brief, the three planning processes underway are:

Jervis Bay regional planning exercise

In November 1990 the NSW Minister for Local Government and Planning, in conjunction with Shoalhaven City Council, established an advisory committee known as the Jervis Bay Region—Environment and Planning Committee to oversee the preparation of a report on the planning and conservation issues relating to the Jervis Bay Region. The area under consideration is roughly equivalent to the area proposed for the Jervis Bay Marine National Park.

NPA ACT responded to the call for public comment with a detailed 12-page submission. The report was due to be produced for public discussion by May 1991, but after a good start, the advisory committee became bogged down in local politics and its work was put on hold pending the Local Government elections on 15 September. The new State Minister announced recently he was going to reconstitute the Committee.

Not a great deal of hope is held now for the fruitfulness of this

exercise. Despite conservationists' plea for a moratorium on major developments until completion of the report, real estate development is running rampant.

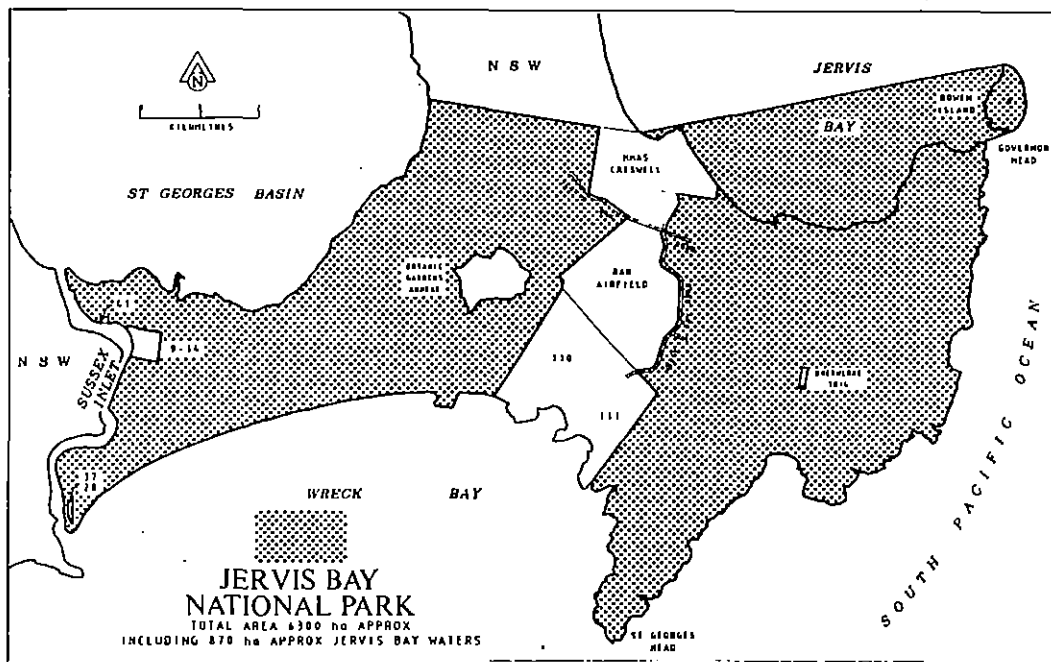
Jervis Bay Territory management plan

The draft plan, issued in February 1991 by the Territories Division of the Federal Department of Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and Territories, canvassed issues related to the Federal Government's responsibilities and activities in the Commonwealth-owned territory, on the southern shores of Jervis Bay.

NPA ACT tendered a short submission, expressing its concern about development pressure on the Jervis Bay Nature Reserve, sewerage disposal into the Bay and the ocean and the need for the nature reserve to be given an appropriate legal base (we asked for it to be declared under the *National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1975*).

Two weeks later—after being horrified to discover the Defence exercise 'Operation Termite Spray' underway within the nature reserve—we furnished an addendum to our submission. Our addendum objected to military training exercises taking place in the reserve, and expressed the view that such activities were incompatible with the principles of management of nature conservation reserves.

We were satisfied that the final plan, released on 17 October, addresses our concerns about sewerage disposal. It also foreshadows the declaration of the reserve under the requested Federal legislation. However, our point about military exercises was not heeded. The plan talks about existing government land uses including 'occasional approved training exercises'. This is something we will have to watch closely.



Declaration of stage one of Jervis Bay National Park

Following Mrs Kelly's announcement of 3 September, the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service published on 14 September a notice of its intention to prepare a report recommending declaration of areas in the Territory as national park. The notice called for submissions from interested parties.

The Jervis Bay Working Group is preparing a brief submission, setting out our ideas about boundaries, legal arrangements and management standards. We are concerned that the map published with the notice of intent indicates the national park would be cut into halves by large excisions (Aboriginal land and land for Defence use) and that the Australian National Botanic Gardens Annexe apparently is not to be managed as part of the national park area.

Other activities

The Working Group is taking every opportunity to push the case for a Jervis Bay Marine National Park. We have developed resolutions for the forthcoming Australian National Parks Council

annual meeting in Canberra and have spoken up at several recent Peak Council meetings.

We have established good relationships with other conservation groups working for Jervis Bay, such as the Jervis Bay Coalition and the Jervis Bay Protection Committee. We have discovered that Jervis Bay—such a beautiful part of our heritage—is a unifying force.

Den Robin

The Right Honourable
R.J.L. Hawke MP
Prime Minister

I write on behalf of the National Parks Association of the ACT, an active conservation organisation of 700 people with a continuing interest in the Jervis Bay region.

Members are concerned at recent alleged statements by the Minister for Defence, Senator Ray, that indicate the Federal Government is still considering constructing an armaments depot at Jervis Bay. The Bay has high conservation value (verified by many reputable bodies, including the Australian Heritage Commission). It is not an appropriate site for an armaments depot.

Eighteen months ago the Gov-

ernment recognised the importance of the area when it decided not to move the Fleet Base to Jervis Bay. Consistency is now required by excluding Jervis Bay from the armaments depot options.

Acknowledging that the armaments depot some day will need to be moved from the densely populated area of Sydney, we urge your Government to fully investigate alternative sites. We ask you to ensure that the Alternative Site Study, commissioned by the Department of Defence, be made publicly available to facilitate an informed debate on this matter.

The National Parks Association ACT believes that a decision to establish Jervis Bay Marine Park is urgent. This Park should cover a terrestrial area, the water of Jervis Bay and around the peninsula out to the 50 metre bathometric contour line, as proposed in the enclosed document *Jervis Bay Marine Park*. We urge the Government to honour what hitherto has been its commitment and to expedite the reservation. So much pressure is building up on the Bay that we are concerned time is running out to protect this important part of Australia's heritage.

L.R. Pyke
President

Jervis Bay lobbying

The NPA was invited to join members of the Jervis Bay Protection Committee to meet with several Commonwealth Ministers to discuss ways in which impediments to the Jervis Bay Marine Park might be resolved and the declaration of the park expedited.

I went as our representative. The following issues were discussed with Ministers Ros Kelly and Robert Tickner, Member John Langmore, and Senators Bob McMullan and John Coulter.

Background

Bob Hawke announced in December 1989 that the fleet base would not be relocated in Jervis Bay. In February 1990 Graham Richardson announced that the Federal Government intended to proceed with a Marine Park for Jervis Bay.

At this time Graham Richardson and the PM both indicated that while the relocation of the armaments depot to Jervis Bay had not been ruled out it was most unlikely to go ahead. The Navy was instructed to investigate alternative sites for its relocation with full public consultation. Our series of meetings with the above ministers was prompted by comments made by Robert Ray, Minister for Defence, in Jervis Bay on 27 July 1991. He stated that the alternative sites study was complete and that the preferred option is still Jervis Bay. The document was not

produced with public consultation and is to be discussed in Cabinet.

Meetings

It is a widely held view that the unresolved issue of the armaments depot relocation has been used by both federal and state politicians as an excuse for inaction on the creation of a marine park.

We put this view to the ministers and suggested ways in which each of them might act to ensure that the issue is resolved quickly. The suggestions included: asking the Government to honour its commitment to make public the 'Alternative Sites Study'; asking questions in Parliament of Robert Ray about his recent comments and about the recent military exercise 'Operation Termite Spray' which caused considerable environmental damage within the Jervis Bay Nature Reserve; and asking Ros Kelly about the reasons for the lack of action.

Ros Kelly visited Jervis Bay on 26 August 1991. At the time of our meeting the signs that she may be prepared to declare the Commonwealth land and waters as national park were encouraging. She announced the Government's intention on 4 September 1991 to declare the Commonwealth Territory at Jervis Bay as stage one of the Jervis Bay National Park. The declaration of Beecroft Peninsula is to be stage two and the NSW land stage three.

It is hoped that the actions proposed by the various Ministers we met with will help to bring the issue of the armaments depot relocation out into the open and that it will then be quickly resolved.

If the Commonwealth goes ahead with Stage Two of its proposal and declares Beecroft Peninsula as national park then the issue of continued bombardment needs to be addressed. David Simmons and others have talked of the need for a continued Defence use of Beecroft being taken into account if it is included in the national park. The nature of the use envisaged by Defence needs to be clearly stated so that a proper assessment of its compatibility with national park objectives can be made.

The Commonwealth needs to develop a suitable management structure for the Jervis Bay Marine National Park, such as a park authority, which adequately represents the state, local and Commonwealth governments, the Aboriginal communities, professional organisations, community groups and industry.

The Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service has called for submissions in the development of its report recommending the declaration of the first stage of the national park. The NPA Jervis Bay working group is currently preparing our response.

Anne Taylor



Whilst seeking a vantage point from near the Boboyan pine forest park to photograph Mount Kelly, Mount Burbridge and Mount Namadgi, Fiona Brand noticed this rock arrangement which could be an aboriginal burial site. The ACT Heritage group has been notified of the find and location.

Photo: Reg Alder.

ACT Environmental Budget Statement 1991-92

The 1991 ACT Budget, presented by Rosemary Follett in September, shows a small increase in the allocation of funds to the Environmental Budget. The government hopes to direct resources for maximum impact in optimising long-term benefits, particularly in urban areas. The statement outlines a strategy for 'managing, conserving and improving our environment' with impact not only for the coming twelve months, but to ensure a protected and enhanced quality of life for coming generations.

An Environment Policy Section and an Environment Projects Section have been established to ensure the Government's environmental policies are evaluated and implemented. The Policy section will give advice on high priority issues associated with local, regional, national and international initiatives. It will also manage the 'coordination and integration of the ACT Government's environmental, economic and social objectives' (p.15). The Environment Projects Section will support work on issues such as: greenhouse effect, energy conservation, and an ACT Ecologically Sustainable Development Strategy. It will also 'oversight the introduction of energy efficiency and waste reduction measures across the ACT Public Service' (p.16).

The Department of Environment, Land and Planning is to implement a pilot scheme to ensure 'environmental management goals are formally integrated into all strategic planning and day-to-day activities' (p.5). The scheme is to ensure that decisions are made only after taking full account of environmental principles. The initiative will be monitored with a view to implementation across the government service. The extreme importance of this program is realised when one reads the document. No fewer than 18 'managing agencies' are detailed in the appendix as receiving some of their monies under the Environmental Budget. To give only three examples from the many listed under each agency:

- ACT Board of Health—monitor air, water, radiation
- Land Division—minimisation of soil erosion
- ACT City Services—bicycle path and vehicle emission studies.

It would certainly be to the benefit of the ACT if a set of common policies, implementation strategies and monitoring processes could be developed and used by each separate agency in achieving a common goal of excellence in environmental management.

It is impossible to summarise an already abbreviated document and I commend the booklet to those who would like to know more—borrow it from the NPA office. A series of quotations has been selected about programs of particular interest concerning Namadgi National Park. However our Committee, through both the Namadgi and Environment sub-committees, has made representations on other important issues mentioned in the plan—Molonglo Gorge, lowland grasses such as those at Mulligans Flat in Gungahlin and the Murrumbidgee corridor.

p.29 rabbit...feral pig control and the introduction of blackberry rust to the ACT...joint research project with CSIRO on foxes and feral cats (\$0.11m)

p.30 bush regeneration (\$0.04m)

p.31 The Tri-state Memorandum of Understanding (1989)...coordinate conservation and management throughout the high country of Victoria, NSW and ACT...for Alps liaison and environment committees (\$0.04m). A report on the assessment of national and international natural and cultural values of Namadgi National Park, due to be finalised in the 1991-92 financial year, will be combined with documentation from NSW and Victoria to consider World Heritage Status for the Australian Alps (\$0.01m)

p.32 Park Care...coordinates volunteers who carry out specific

programs of improvement in parks and reserves...and programs are being developed for Namadgi Park and Googong foreshores

p.33 Major initiatives include:

Namadgi National Park—working with existing community groups (e.g. Society for Growing Australian Plants and the National Parks Association) on vegetation mapping, fauna surveys and some trail maintenance

p.34 a major study of the landscape and ecological relationships of the vegetation of the Naas-Gudgenby catchment (\$0.03m)

p.34 management plan for the Corroboree Frog

p.35 raise community's awareness of the natural and irreplaceable assets in which we all have a common interest and how they are affected by the way we live, travel and consume

p.35 a booklet...guide to plants and animals in the ACT (\$0.01m)

p.35 on-site signs, displays and publications for visitors...educating the community about the values of reserved areas and providing information to support land management practices (\$0.065m)

p.35 update, promote and run regular walks in the national park and reserves...this program attracts 20,000 participants annually (\$0.024m)

p.36 a kit to train teachers taking students to the bushland areas of the ACT

p.51 ACT Heritage Grants Program...funding source for the operation of the key community groups (\$0.25m).

The ACT Government is to be commended for the pilot scheme initiatives taken. We will continue our close association and cooperation with managers and rangers at Namadgi in furthering the growth of our national park.

Beverley Hammond

NPA comments on Kosciusko

The Association has commented on draft amendments to the Kosciusko National Park plan of management, emphasising that conservation should predominate over development in national park areas.

The NPA submission stated that both *Ski 2000* and the draft amendments paper are seriously lacking in discussion of the major conservation issues which the proposed amendments raise. The recently released Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) Working Group—Draft Report on Tourism notes that ESD involves:

- improvement of individual and community well-being by following the path of economic progress that does not impair the well-being of future generations
- the design quality of a facility will not be measured simply by dollars, but also by its adherence to the principles of ecological sustainability.

As the Association noted in its earlier submission on *Ski 2000*, the first impression is that the purpose behind the amendments is totally inappropriate; that is, the proposals have a predominant and unnecessary development rationale which is quite at odds with the purpose of a national park which is to conserve environmentally valuable areas especially for the long-term, according to principles of ecological sustainability, for future generations.

The proposed extra overnight beds are not necessary.

The prime concern of the Association is with the proposed increase in overnight beds within the park and its likely impact on the problems of waste and its disposal.

The proposed increase appears to be quite unnecessary. The current level of overnight beds at Thredbo is underutilised (at 3300 out of a possible 4800 as allowed in the current plan, a shortfall of 1500). The proposed increases are largely at Perisher and Smiggins

(a planned increase from current combined level of 3366 to a proposed 4194, an addition of 828 beds).

In the past it could be argued that Thredbo and Perisher-Smigginns were separate locations but the Skitube has changed this and effectively linked them so that for planning purposes they can be regarded as being virtually one unit.

The Association agrees with requirements to provide access to visitors up to environmentally sustainable limits—after which some form of rationing would be necessary (for example, by increased charging). However, as the report itself notes, day visitors create far less waste and are far less polluting than overnight occupants. Clearly higher levels of visitor numbers can be sustained if the emphasis is on day visitors with accommodation outside the park.

If the rationale is to provide for increased visitor numbers to the prime skiing areas in the Perisher-Smigginns region then this can be done from the Thredbo area without having to accept the major environmental costs and risks (which *Ski 2000* and the draft amendments themselves recognised).

The developments at Perisher-Smigginns only make sense if the rationale of commercial viability and success of developers at Perisher-Smigginns itself are paramount. For the region, development outside the park or at a satellite village at Jindabyne or elsewhere would very likely produce more durable employment, business opportunities and benefits.

Intergenerational inequity

Both *Ski 2000* and the proposed amendments ignore the interests of future generations. The time horizon adopted of 10 to 15 years is, from the environmental standpoint, an appallingly short run view; it is more suited to a devel-

oper's investment strategy. Given concerns widely discussed elsewhere about the greenhouse effect, it is imperative that present plans take into account long-term concerns which in the case of the snowfields have the potential to decrease their utility for winter sports and the viability of the installations that depend on them. The better long-term strategy in such a situation would be to limit development to present levels. Should, however, new development take place, there should be imposed the requirement to dismantle and remove any equipment which may become redundant in future—such as skilifts left without snow if the snowfields shrink.

One of the important principles raised in ESD report on tourism is that plans need to deal cautiously with risk; developments should be within biophysical limits which the particular environment can sustain; however 'our current state of knowledge does not allow us to predict such limits with any scientific accuracy, the most we seem to know is that limits have been exceeded in various areas because environmental damage has occurred'. In such a situation where there are high (or unknown) levels of risk, development should not proceed: as the report on tourism says, 'developments should proceed on the basis of knowledge not ignorance'. This applies to the Kosciusko region now. This cautious approach is one which the NPA supports. However, in putting together the proposed amendments, to judge by the paucity of discussion in *Ski 2000* and the draft amendments document, little or no consideration appears to have been given to these issues.

The justification for the increases, that visitor numbers might increase from 34 757 at present (how can one be so accurate?) to 54 495, appears spurious in that it chooses for no apparent reason the *Ski 2000* consultant's higher projection rate of 4.6 per cent a year growth rather than the lower projection of 2.0 per cent

Outings program

January to April 1992



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.

18-19 January - Weekend Car Camp

Araluen Ref: Araluen 1:100,000
Leader: Barbara de Bruine 258 3531h 259 2642w
Contact leader by Wednesday. Camp by the river, visit local sites of interest and eat peaches. A lay-back weekend in idyllic surroundings with opportunities for swimming. 280 km drive (\$56 per car).

25-26-27 January - Weekend Canoe Trip

Lachlan River Ref: Cowra 1:100,000
Leader: Chris Bellamy 249 7167h
Contact leader by Wednesday. Canoe between Cowra and Forbes, where the Lachlan River wanders in seclusion between river gums reflecting quintessential Australia. River-side camping (hire canoes in ACT or byo). 350km drive (\$70 per car).

1-2 February - Pack Walk (2/B)

Woolla Creek Ref: Burrumbela 1:25,000
Leader: Bob Story 281 2174
Contact leader by Wednesday. Relatively easy pack walk along a tributary of the Deua River. Wading and swimming. 300 km drive (\$60 per car).

2 February - Sunday walk (2/A/C)

Yankee Hat Ref: Rendezvous Creek 1:25,000
Leader: Len Crossfield 241 2897
Meet Kambah Village shops 9 am. A favourite hill and a relatively short walk. Opportunity to see large flocks of kangaroos on the approach. 350m climb with some scrub and regrowth after the 1983 fires. 100km drive (\$20 per car).

9 February - Sunday Walk (2/C/E)

Billy Billy Rocks Ref: ACT 1:100,000
Leader: Mick Kelly 241 2330h 275 6119w
Meet Kambah Village shops at 8.30 am. A sometimes scrubby walk to outstanding rock features in the Corin Forest region. 60 km drive (\$12 per car).

12 February - Wednesday Walk (1/A/B)

Rocks above Honeysuckle Creek Ref: ACT 1:100,000
Leader: Bob Story 281 2174
Contact leader by Monday. A bush stroll to rocky outcrop above Honeysuckle Creek. Climb 200m. 60 km drive (\$12 per car).

12 February - Wednesday Night

Outings Meeting
All welcome. 7.30 pm start at Di Thompson's, 41 Maranboy Street, Fisher. If you can't attend post offerings or fax or phone them through please. If faxing, please phone me to let me know something is coming.
288 6084h 244 7572w Fax 244 7934w

15-16 February - Canoe Trip

Lake Burrinjuck Ref: Yass 1:100,000
Leader: Chris Bellamy 249 7167h
Contact leader by Wednesday. Paddle from Taemus Bridge to Wee Jasper following the old drowned Murrumbidgee River valley with its impressive gorges over 2 days of the weekend. Camp out of canoes en route. Suit fit beginners. BYO canoe or hire. 200 km return trip by road (\$40 per car).

22-23 February - Weekend Pack Walk (1/A/B)

Goodradigbee River Ref: ACT 1:100,000
Leader: Fiona Brand 247 9538h
Contact leader by Wednesday. The annual blackberrying relaxing weekend on the Goodradigbee River - around 2 kms walk each way. Lovely campsite and deep waterhole for swimming. 160 km drive (\$32 per car).

23 February - Sunday Walk (2/C/D/E)

Mt Lincoln Ref: Corin 1:25,000
Leader: David Hall 292 5262h
Meet Kambah Village shops 8.30am. A favourite walk in the Corin Forest area through some delightful bush scenery. Rock scrambling at the end to gain 360 degree views. 300m climb. 80 km drive (\$16 per car).

29 February-1 March - Weekend Pack Walk (2/A/F)

Kiandra Region Ref: Cabramurra, Denison 1:25,000
Leader: Steven Forst 251 6817h 274 8426w
Contact leader by Wednesday. Visit the Four Mile Hut region. Diggings and other historical features. Explore a number of the contributory creeks and watersheds to the Eucumbene River. Climb - 400m overall. 350 drive (\$70 per car).

1 March - Sunday Walk (2/C)

Brandy Flat Fire Trail - Booth Range - The Bog Ref: Colinton 1:25,000
Leader: Reg Alder 254 2240h
Meet Kambah Village shops 8 am. A 12km walk along the Brandy Flat fire trail to Dry Creek. Ascend ridge by an old bridle track to Booth Range and descend to The Bog hut ruins at 844415. 820m climb. 140 km drive (\$28 per car).

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

Big Hole/Marble Arch Ref: Kain 1:25,000
Leader: Mike Smith 286 2984h 248 3624w
Meet Canberra Railway Station 8 am. A walk mainly on tracks past the 'Big Hole' to the 'Marble Arch' in the Deua National Park. Requires wading across the Shoalhaven River and could be slippery in wet weather at the Arch. 180 km drive (\$36 per car).

11 March - Wednesday Walk (1/A)**Square Rock**

Ref: ACT 1:100,000

Leader: Len Haskew

281 4268h

Meet Kambah Village shops 9 am. A pleasant stroll along a walking trail to rock formations. 80 km drive (\$16 per car).

14-15-16 March - Canberra Day Weekend Canoe Trip**Murrumbidgee River**

Ref: Several maps

Leader: Chris Bellamy

249 7167h

Contact leader by Tuesday. Paddle from Narrandera to Darlington Point over the three days on a scenic section of the Murrumbidgee River. River is expected to have plenty of water. Camp out of canoes en route. Suit fit beginners. BYO canoes or hire. 740 km return trip by road (\$150 per car).

14-15-16 March - Canberra Day Weekend 3 Days Walk (3/4/A)**Tumbarumba to Talbingo Ref: Yarangobilly 1:100,000****Leader: Phil Bubb**

248 6769h 266 5128w

Contact leader SIX WEEKS in advance to express interest in bus-service walking trip from town of Tumbarumba to village of Talbingo (boating across the pondage). Stages of 16km (300 m climb), 30 km (600m climb) and 26 km (500m descent) on well graded tracks with day packs only. Can be reduced to 10, 20 and 22 kms by short bus shuttles to meet party at accessible points. Camp Henry Angel Trackhead and Paddys River Dam. All-in cost ex Canberra \$40 or less per person. Driver volunteer(s) welcomed/needed. Information sheet available now on request. Participants will be rewarded at the end of each day with champagne at the camp.

21 March - Saturday Walk (1/A/B)**Fitz's Hill to Glendale Crossing**

Ref: ACT 1:100,000

Leader: Margaret Roseby

288 3679h

Meet Kambah Village shops 9 am. An easy ridge and valley walk east of the Gudgenby Road from the top of Fitz's Hill to Glendale Crossing. Short car shuffle required. Walking distance 10-12 km. 90 km drive (\$18 per car).

22 March - Sunday Walk (1/2/A)**Lower Brindabella**

Ref: ACT 1:100,000

Leader: Steven Forst

251 6817h 274 8426w

Meet corner Eucumbene Drive and Cotter Road 8am. Meandering walk on fire trails in the forest at the base of the Brindabella Range. 100km drive (\$20 per car).

28-29 March - Weekend Car Camp (1/A/B)**Mittagong**

Ref: Burrigoran 1:100,000

Leader: Len Haskew

281 4268h

Contact leader by Tuesday for travel details. Saturday walk the Mt Alexander Loop Track (approx. 7km) through a short tunnel to old coal mine workings and horse track. Sunday walk along the well-known Boxvale Tramway

Track (8.5 km return). Stay Mittagong Caravan Park. 320 km drive (\$64 per car).

28 March - Saturday Walk (1/A/C)**Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve Ref: Tidbinbilla 1:25,000****Leader: Lyle Mark**

286 2801h

Meet Kambah Village shops at 9.30 am. An easy paced walk of 6km largely on tracks in Mt Eliza/Gibraltar Rocks area. Explore 'Gibilla' and 'Gibagai' granite overhangs (Lyle's names). Very suitable for beginners. 60 km drive (\$12 per car).

1 April - Wednesday Walk (1/2/A)**Boboyan Trail**

Ref:Rendezvous Cr 1:25,000

Leader: Frank Clements

231 7005h

Meet Kambah Village shops 8.30 am. Walk along the fire trail (which was the old Boboyan Road) through the pine forest; visit Frank's (own) hut and other places of interest. A gentle, flat walk for as long as the party wants. 100 km drive (\$20 per car).

4-5 April - Weekend Pack Walk (3/D/E/F)**Upper Woila Creek/Big Badja Hill Ref: Badja 1:25,000****Leader: Mike Smith**

286 2984h 248 3624w

Contact leader by Wednesday. A walk from Pike's Saddle over Big Badja Hill and down to Woila Creek along unnamed water course which alternates between constricted gorges and grassy banks. A long hard climb of 1,000 metres next day back to cars after leaving Woila Creek. 200km drive (\$40 per car).

4 April - Saturday Day Trip (1/A)**Sketching Outing**

Ref: ACT 1:100,000

Leader: Ken Johnson

248 5979h

Meet Kingston Railway Station 9 am. Not come and see my 'etchings,' but come and do your own. Try your artistic representations of the valleys and landscapes close to home. Participants must bring their own equipment (eg paints, markers, pencils, water colours and paper). If at all in doubt phone Ken beforehand. 50 km drive (\$10 per car).

8 April - Wednesday Walk (2/A/B/C)**Rendezvous Creek Ref: Rendezvous Creek 1:25,000****Leader: Les Pyke**

281 2982h

Meet Kambah Village shops 9 am. Scenic 15 km walk up from Orroral Valley to, and down Rendezvous Creek to Boboyan Road. One 300m climb. Car shuffle. 100 km drive (\$20 per car).

11 April - Saturday Walk (2/A)**Blue Bell Swamp**

Ref: Tinderry 1:25,000

Leader: Les Pyke

281 2982h

Meet Canberra Railway Station 9 am. A scenic historical

walk along trail from near Tinderry Station to swamp. Total distance 10 to 12 km. The trail climbs 150m. 115 drive (\$23 per car).

12 April - Sunday Walk (2/D)**Tidbinbilla Skyline**

Ref: ACT 1:100,000

Leader: Frank Clements

231 7005h

Meet at the gate into Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve at 8.45 am. A 15km walk from Fishing Gap along the Tidbinbilla Ridge to Tidbinbilla Mounain and The Pimple. Total climb of 800m in stages. Short car shuffle involved. Not for beginners. 70 km drive (\$14 per car).

17-20 April - Easter Car Camp**Mallacoota**

Ref: Vicmap

Leader: Barbara de Bruine

258 3531h 259 2642w

Contact leader before Tuesday. Numbers limited. Plan to camp on the spare block adjacent to Barbara's house. Toilet facilities will be available and water from taps, otherwise people are expected to be self-sufficient. Explore lake, beaches, rivers, forests, estuaries, and participate in crafts festival. 720km drive (\$104 per car).

17-20 April - Possible Easter Pack Walk**Namadi National Park**

Ref: ACT 1:100,000

Yaouk, Rendezvous Cr 1:25,000

Leader: Phil Bubb

248 6769h 266 5128w

Contact leader by Tuesday. Start at Boboyan Forest, walk over the Gudgenby Divide to camp on Sam's Creek. Climb Mt Kelly and follow ridge to Scabby Range, descend to old fire trail and Yaouk Gap and along Lone Pine Fire Trail to Oldfields Hut. Depending on weather walk to Bimberi Divide from Murray's Gap to Leura Gap. Camp above Cotter Flats. Walk out to Orroral Valley - short car shuffle. This route depends on weather conditions and availability of leader. Drive 100 kms (\$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.

National Park plan

which forecasts a growth to only 43 215. Such increases will presumably entail expansion of areas used for downhill ski-runs requiring removal of trees and modification of the landscape, an unsound management practice from the point of view of ESD. This appears to be a case of 'provision of basic services for tourists generating a momentum to upgrade those services further...which can lead to the area being subject to greater and more acute environmental impacts which then extend throughout the park'.

The NPA considers the relaxation of the policy on development of artificial recreational facilities undesirable; recreation in national parks should be based on the special natural features of the parks and not on man-made features which are readily available in other places—making them available in the national park will result in larger numbers of visitors whose interest in the park features is minor but whose environmental impact can be just as great as any other visitor, thus raising

the environmental risk without any unique experiential benefit.

The NPA noted that whilst the draft amendments do place responsibility on head lessees and others for waste control and disposal, the provisions are in our opinion not strong enough. Any approval for further development to increase bed numbers must be preceded by augmentation or construction of water, sewage and waste management systems to a high environmental standard to reflect the environmental sensitivity of these areas as habitat water catchment. From the proposed amendments, it is not clear that the standards to be set for effluent will be of the highest level and NPA considers all systems should as far as possible be upgraded or built to tertiary treatment level.

The New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service is to withdraw from direct responsibility for performing certain services (waste disposal and monitoring of river and effluent quality) and transfer the onus to the lessees; there may be concern here that

standards of service may decline and there needs to be provision in the plan for rigorous supervision by the service of the work of lessees in these areas.

The NPA agrees with ESD draft report on tourism when it notes:

Alpine areas, like semi-arid and arid lands, may not have the same power of recovery from the impacts of human visitation that generally characterises ecosystems in milder climates. The slow recovery time also means that it will be quite difficult to rehabilitate degraded sites and for this reason a cautious approach to development in these areas should be taken.

For this reason NPA strongly opposes the proposed increase in the number of overnight beds; if however, this policy is decided upon, then the NPA would like to see stronger controls over the nature of the development and stronger requirements to ensure environmental degradation is prevented, notably as this refers to waste and pollution control.

Naming

A strong element in the development of humans has been language to enable communication and to get information. Thus naming parts of the land lived in by a group has been important. The lack of names makes it harder to describe a journey and the final destination. So it is not surprising that NPA members and others have felt that the unnamed outstanding features of Namadgi National Park should be officially named and thus placed on maps of the ACT.

This Association has officially proposed that a central peak which forms a triangle with two adjacent peaks, Namadgi and Mt Kelly, be named Mt Burbidge after one of the founders in 1960 of the NPA and a great worker for the declaration of a national park.

The ACT Parks and Conserva-

tion Policy has five criteria for the naming of geographic features and the name Burbidge fulfils the fifth criteria, that is, 'Names of prominent persons in the area developed'.

Dr Nancy Burbidge DSc AM became the first president of the National Parks Association of the ACT in 1961. She was still president in 1963 when the proposal for a Mt Kelly National Park was submitted to the Minister for the Interior. Her slogan a 'National Park for the National Capital' became the driving force for the association for 17 years until Gudgenby Nature Reserve (Namadgi National Park) was declared.

continued on page 14

*Mount Burbidge from Boboyan Forest carpark.
Photo: Fiona MacDonald Brand.*



Parkwatch

Helensburgh expansion plans dropped

The upper catchment of the Hacking River, which flows through the Royal National Park, is to be conserved following a decision by Wollongong City Council not to proceed with urban development at Helensburgh.

Wollongong City Council has voted against the recommendations of its Planning Department to rezone as urban, rural lands surrounding Helensburgh; the vegetated rural land in the catchment has now been recommended for zoning as 'Environmental Protection'.

*National Parks Journal,
July-August 1991*

Tully damming

The Wet Tropics Community Consultative Committee representing a diverse range of local community interests—Aborigines, canegrowers, local authorities, mining, scientists, conservationists, tour

operators et cetera, recently made their first recommendations to the Wet Tropics Management Authority.

The committee unanimously 'opposes the construction of the Tully-Millstream hydroelectric scheme firstly on the basis that the project is not compatible with the principles and the values of the listed area, and secondly on the basis that the necessity for such an intrusion into the listed area has not been demonstrated.'

Opposition to the Tully plan, to drown a significant part of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area in north Queensland, is mounting with calls from all sections of the community to scrap the \$800 million scheme and introduce energy conservation measures instead.

Wilderness, September 1991

Otway Ranges

The Otway forests of south west Victoria are home to the largest cool temperate rainforest community on mainland Australia and are the last substantial mainland habitat of the tiger quoll.

The Victorian government has just released its ten year plan for the area which proposes the management activities for over 100 000 hectares of public land and forest.

The Proposed Otway Forest Management Plan will allow logging in nationally significant rainforest areas, majestic old forests and sensitive water catchments.

Wilderness, September 1991

Walk of shame in Royal NP

Illawarra and Southern Sydney Branches of the National Parks Association of NSW have combined to try to extract \$3 million from the state government for restoration and reconstruction of the coastal walking track in the Royal National Park.

The coastal walking track is a public disgrace; unmaintained and with massive sheet and gully erosion. Gully erosion is three metres deep in some places and sheet erosion is 50 metres wide.

*National Parks Journal,
September-October 1991*

Naming

continued from page 13

Nancy did not live to see her dream fulfilled but she never doubted that it would occur.

Dr Burbidge was one of Australia's leading botanists, studying grasses of the northwestern areas of Western Australia and the northern and southern tablelands of NSW and publishing three volumes about the native grasses of these areas. In 1946 she was appointed Curator of the Herbarium in the Division of Plant Industry in the CSIRO, Canberra. The Herbarium became an educational centre for Australian flora. She published many scientific papers including 'Wattles of the ACT' and 'Eucalypts', both illustrated by herself. Eventually she devoted herself full time to the develop-

ment of a new 'Flora Australia' which became the first publication since last century.

She was a great lover of the Australian bush and enjoyed introducing people to it by leading many excursions and patiently pointing out the many features which to the untrained eye would have gone unnoticed. Her enthusiasm in promoting submissions, resulted in the Molonglo Gorge Reserve and Gibraltar Falls Reserve being declared.

Many generations of people owe and will owe thanks to Dr Burbidge for her foresight in environmental matters, her willingness to share her knowledge of the flora of Australia and her ability to enthuse others to continue the

struggle to protect the natural areas of the ACT.

So let's hope that the unnamed prominent 1720m peak (map reference Rendezvous Ck 1:25 000, 714 461) in Namadgi National Park becomes officially Mt Burbidge, a lovely sight whether viewed from afar from the Boboyan forest car park, or at closer quarters as you walk up Middle Creek or from Bogong Gap closer at hand.

Fiona MacDonald Brand

Crabs or rabbits?

**General meeting
Thursday 20 February**

Cultural heritage of the Australian alps

A symposium on the cultural heritage of the Australian alps was convened in October by John Feint of the Australian Alps Liaison Committee Cultural Resources Working Group with the aim of assembling people with professional or private knowledge of both the good and the bad achievements of human beings in this region, and thereby stimulating interest in its history. About 150 delegates attended the symposium which was held in Jindabyne.

Twenty-three papers were presented, each nominally of 40 minutes including comment, some being on a regional scale and others much more circumscribed, for example, on the one hand Mulvaney—The Alpine Cultural Heritage in Perspective, and on the other hand Turner—A Short History of Logging between Adamina and Kiandra. They dealt mainly with Aboriginal and European occupation but natural resources, recreation and natural features were also covered. Of special interest to us was a paper by Matthew Higgins on the pastoral heritage of Namadgi National Park, extending to other heritage matters and to Kosciusko National Park.

There is really little point in giving a summary of the proceedings because the papers are in typescript and are to be issued as they were presented. They should be available about April 1992.

As with most symposia, and particularly where the papers are distributed, the value was less in gaining detailed information and more in making and renewing acquaintance with people who have similar interests. There are several reasons for this, of which nearly all are the direct concern of the speakers and not the organisers, rough patches that a few pointers on public speaking could smooth away.

Firstly, some of those presenting papers read them word for word,

and only Alistair Cooke would get away with that. A pat on the back for Andy Spate who presented a paper on behalf of Neville Gare, and a similar pat for Neville himself who not only gave Andy what one might call a colloquial summary but also a free rein to speak to us as he saw fit.

Secondly, speakers are liable to move away from the microphone or to speak to their slides instead of to the audience and this breaks the bond between them. Questions and comments were mostly to the point and brief, but there were some rough patches there too.

Thirdly, to listen to as many as five talks on end is demanding, however well presented they may be. I found my attention straying at the end of each session, and feel that the number of papers could with advantage have been cut by a third or so and more time given to questions and comment. Fortunately there were other opportunities for informal get-togethers: a 20-minute break for tea in mid-morning and another in the afternoon; and first thing in the morning while people were registering. An hour for lunch also provided time for talking, as did the symposium dinner, and a spacious common room contributed to informal and useful chit chat.

The common room housed exhibits that were evidence of much hard work from those who pre-

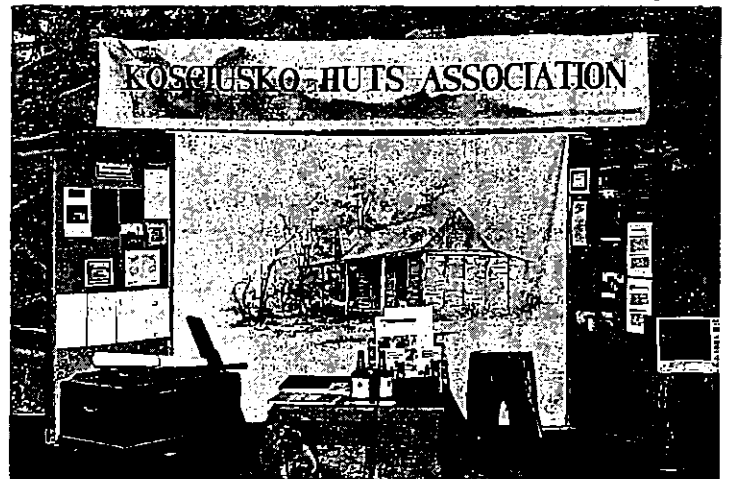
pared and set them up—tools, a video of Kosciusko Huts Association activities, books on sale, and pictures and photographs outstanding in artistry or interest and often in both. Reg Alder's photo of the KHA exhibit has relevance to Namadgi as well as to the Kosciusko National Park—to be specific, to the dead weight that has been hanging round our necks for ten years, the Orroral homestead project. The KHA has expressed interest in joint restoration with the Namadgi National Park authorities and us. We will wait and see.

The prepared talks ended mid-afternoon of the second day, followed by separate workshops on matters influencing the alpine region—introduced animals and plants, tristate management, the effects of tourism, and the costs of heritage protection. Cultural aspects were defined as those of aesthetic, social, historic, or scientific value, and were accepted as an integral part of the environment. Workshop reports and recommendations took up the rest of the afternoon.

It was strongly evident that delegates considered that the alps should be treated as one entity regardless of state boundaries, with complementary research and with compatible records, management, policies, and dealings with

continued on page 16

Kosciusko Huts Association display at the symposium on Cultural heritage of the Australian alps.



EXERCISE

continued from page 15

the public, but it was nevertheless recognised that the diverse character of the alps should be maintained.

Although the present condition of the heritage should be established and recorded, it was agreed that it involved continuity and change and should not be cut off at some arbitrary date—old crafts should be kept alive. Other subjects dealt with included the cooperative management of natural and cultural features and the training of staff accordingly, some control over tour operators, considerations of subjectivity and of cultural values mutually at odds, and Aboriginal influence.

One serious matter which was touched upon in the presented papers but which seems to have been omitted from the workshop discussions is official and private vandalism, possibly because of the extreme difficulty in countering it. I heard only one expression of disquiet about an equally serious matter—development—and that was from the floor. How long can we expect to maintain for recreation a region that could support dozens of smiling villages and hundreds of terraced agricultural fields?

That evening was given over to informal talks centred round seven people with extensive knowledge and experience of the region, so that, as the program puts it 'a little of the fascinating oral history of the surrounding region may be experienced and enjoyed'.

On the last day delegates separated into two groups. One visited Currango and the other the Lockers' farm and museum in Happy Valley, followed by a walk round a heritage track at Kiandra and a tour through Yarrangobilly House and one of the caves.

A second pat on the back is merited—to John Feint and his helpers for their excellent organisation and for so ably accomplishing what they had aimed to do. I for one am hoping that the apartheid so long applied to cultural features in our national parks is at last beginning to crumble.

Bob Story



What do these boots say about Frank Clements' gait? Where has he been walking? Are they his boots? Photo taken near Tantangara Mountain by Reg Alder.

Footcare for bushwalkers

A collection of old boots and shoes provided the initial focus for the October General Meeting. Richard Lee, of the ACT Podiatry and Sports Podiatry Centre, used these and a selection of coloured slides to illustrate his talk on the way our feet function and on the importance of wearing good shoes or boots. So throw out those broken-down or substandard shoes and do the right thing by your feet and thereby your entire body.

The foot is a very complex structure with all twenty six bones being mobile. Muscles and tendons keep the bones in their correct position and provide elasticity. A balance with all parts of the leg is important. If one part of this system is malfunctioning other parts of the body must compensate—usually the spine or neck. Three types of foot have been identified:

- pronated: the foot rolls inward (most common for problems)
- neutral: a straight line can be

drawn through the ankle and up the leg

- supinated: the foot rolls to the outside.

Look at your shoes to see which feet you have!

More importantly, look at the backview of heels and legs of children under six years of age. If the feet or one foot rolls inwards or outwards, take the child to a podiatrist now whilst remedial action can be undertaken. After that age the podiatrist can custom build an *orthotic* device to place in shoes. The steps involved are the making of a plaster cast of the foot, computer analysis to determine the correction necessary, and the making of an insole with postings front and back.

Points when buying walking shoes or boots:

- shock absorption is important so note the thickness and quality of the soles
- check that the boot bends at the right place, that is where your

foot bends not in the middle of the arch which should have a strong shaft to support the foot

- go for lightness of weight
- look for a good lining—Goretex is waterproof
- leather uppers give support and control
- boots protect the ankles for solid bushwalking
- you get what you pay for—it is worth paying the extra for good products
- Julius Caesar discovered that heels of 15mm to 25mm make the feet function better, as the load is taken off the spine.

Now try them on

- wear the socks you will be wearing. Remember that two pairs sometimes cause friction, especially on the balls of the feet
- look at the grip of the heel
- see if your toes move freely without any pressure on them
- check that the shoe is well-shaped where it ties and is tight enough for good pressure. Your feet must be held back in the shoe or boot, as friction arises when the foot slips around
- if your feet are different lengths, be prepared to pack the front of one shoe with sponge rubber
- if your feet are different widths, try a thicker sock on the narrower.

Try these remedies

- have an orthotic made
- try SPENCO insoles; they are made from a good anti-shock material
- use BIOFRESH aluminium-free anti perspirant and deodorant roll-on (an Australian product)
- rub methylated spirits between the toes
- pack on some vaseline to reduce friction.

Do yourself a favour—wear the right boots or shoes.

Beverley Hammond

Track work in Morton NP

As many people are aware, the NPA has had a long-standing commitment to a track maintenance program on the western side of the Morton National Park. Various aspects of the workparties have been reported upon in past *Bulletins* over the last two years, but I thought a summary of our achievements would be appropriate at this juncture.

Timeframe

- NPA wrote to the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and spoke with Graham Warboys over May–June 1989 about the damage, erosion and generally degraded states of the Wog Wog to Corang Peak sections of the track in the Morton National Park. The NPA offered its assistance with track work and maintenance in that area.
- Following acceptance of the offer of voluntary labour the first reconnaissance was undertaken early in spring 1989 of the route Wog Wog to Corang Peak.
- From this evolved the planning and implementation of the first work party at Wog Wog. We have completed a further three workparties since on the weekends detailed below:
 - 2–3 October 1989
 - 28–29 October 1989
 - 25–26 August 1990
 - 7–8 September 1991
- As many will know our work has been varied but heavily geared to track drainage operations, that is, laying cheeses (short logs) and long logs, building a corduroy, making gutters and drains, placing stepping stones, rock walk-ways and bridge building, pruning, regeneration work, and rerouting

whole sections of track, and so on.

- Raw materials which could not be obtained naturally on site, have been transported by NPWS helicopter where possible, otherwise by NPA person-power, wheelbarrow and stretcher.
- In addition to the actual workparties, there have been several weekend reconnaissance trips over the period. Generally a number of NPA representatives attend together with the NPWS ranger.

Estimate of person-hours commitment to the project by NPA

Reconnaissance:
6 days x 3 NPA members 18

NPA preparation for work party
4 workparties x 4 days 16

Work parties in the field
2 days x 14 people = 28
2 days x 24 people = 48
2 days x 20 people = 40
2 days x 21 people = 42

158

TOTAL 192 DAYS

This is substantial evidence of the long-term commitment and hard work of a large number of NPA members and some non-members as well. The Association has provided direct assistance with petrol costs for each work party. It has generally been a lot of hard work, but fun. However, the marked improvement of the track is testimony to the worthwhile nature of the work. We have been amazed to return a year later to witness the considerable regeneration of small plants and grasses in areas that were previously a quagmire. Our work has served several purposes in preventing the widening and use of alternate routes and with that further damage to plant communities, but primarily by keeping walkers to one dry route it

continued on page 18

Track work in Morton NP

continued from page 17

prevents a multitude of other problems.

We have all gained a personal sense of satisfaction for a job well done, and have also received very positive feedback from other walkers and the NPWS. Recently Graham Warboys (SE Region manager) walked from Wog Wog to Yadboro (over a three day period) with Alan Norman, Senior Ranger—Nowra (and our contact for the workparties) to inspect the track maintenance work carried out by volunteers from several walking clubs. He was most impressed.

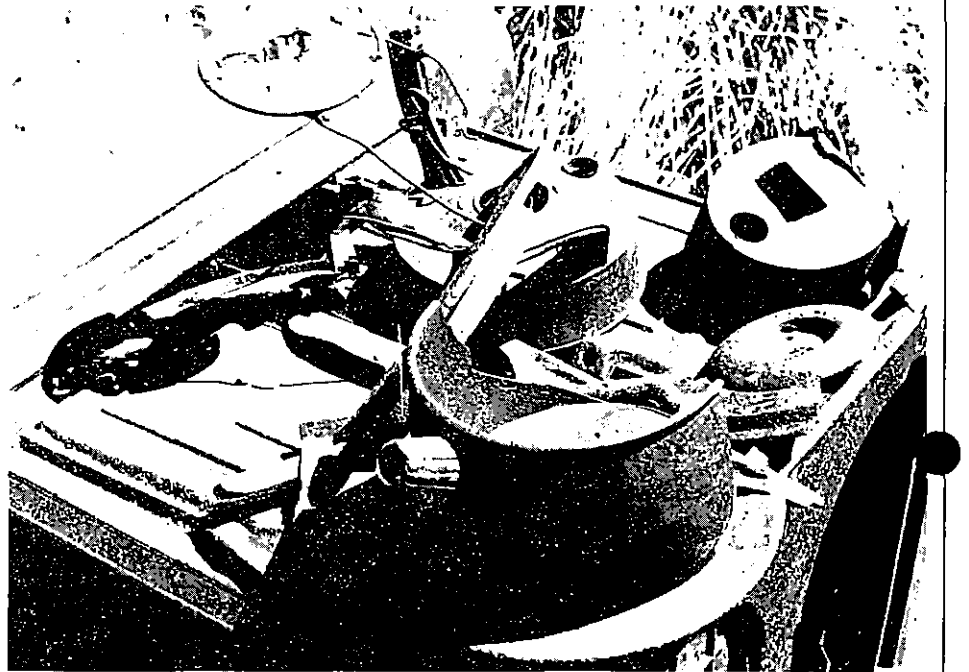
The workparties have also widened our horizons. Some of us have even gained new skills. We have attracted and continue to attract a few young people, some come because they need the experience for a course, others because they were coerced by 'mothers', or for company for friends, whatever...but there are spinoffs for the Association and the conservation movement in having them on a work party.

For some, its been the first time in the Budawangs, and that has whet their appetites for the future. We have all enjoyed our contact with staff from the NPWS, especially Alan Norman who has been with us on every work party. We've learnt a lot from him, and I'm sure he gets his share from us

The Budawang and Morton National Parks are great places and NPA members use them frequently. The need for the workparties in the Budawangs as we know them may be lessening, in that future work could be more maintenance rather than major construction oriented. But who knows what the future holds? We certainly have gained skills and knowledge that can be used to advantage in a number of other circumstances, and have enjoyed ourselves (immeasurably?) in the process.

Di Thompson

Econuts versus



A piece of machinery near Boltons Hut. Photo: Len Haskew.

In a number of ways I have been fortunate in living in an era where there have been great changes both in technology and the attitude of people to the environment. Perhaps the change in attitudes to and meaning of the environment has been equally as great as technology, for when I was young if someone mentioned environment it meant nothing more than the area which surrounded us and in which we lived. Environment has been the buzz word over the past couple of decades with environmental impact statements and ecologically sustainable development being the prime considerations when any project involving the use of or interference with natural resources is considered.

As the environmental movement developed, there came the extreme view that national parks had to be or appear to be wilderness. But what is wilderness? There are almost as many definitions of wilderness as there are words in the dictionary and because few areas fully conform to any definition it demonstrates the difficulty of satisfying the demands of the wide range of opinions as to what should be removed, retained or

preserved in national parks.

The 1970s were the years of the dedication of national parks and with them the concept that the only thing to be preserved was the natural environment and all traces of human intrusion were to be removed if economically feasible. In these years there was a phase of destruction, a large proportion of the huts in Kosciusko National Park were to be razed to the ground and all activities on leases were to be terminated, regardless of the immediate consequences of the proliferation of introduced plants.

In our own Gudgenby Nature Reserve, leases were terminated, homes, outbuildings and woolsheds were removed and the ground cleared up to remove all traces of the previous settlement. There is no doubt that the buildings could have been a management problem to maintain them from vandalism and that the easiest solution was removal. Not even an interpretative sign remains to remind park visitors of the past history of our early settlers.

When does a structure commence to have an historical significance? Is the Orroral homestead

culture vultures

built in the 1880s any more significant to future generations than the present Gudgenby homestead, the first hut built for rangers on the site of the wantonly demolished Cotter homestead in the Upper Cotter, or the Orroral tracking station—a significant example of technology in the 1960s? All were built about 30 years ago and have historical and architectural significance, yet all are threatened. A decision has to be made on a two year old report on Gudgenby, the Cotter hut is on a now expired five year reprieve and money has been allocated in this year's budget to demolish Orroral tracking station. Now that the first flush of dedication has passed it is time to reflect upon what the national park has been dedicated for and on how it is to be managed, used and preserved. I am pleased to see that these issues are now being addressed with increasing frequency.

The Silver Jubilee Conference of the National Parks Association in 1985 on Australia's Alpine Areas—Management for Conservation provided the genesis for the foundation of the Australian Alps National Parks Co-operative Agreement and from it developed the Australian Alps National Parks Liaison Committee. This committee with the Australian Academy of Science hosted the First Fenner Conference in 1988 to consider The Scientific Significance of the Australian Alps. One section of the conference considered the natural and cultural values of the alps, but as 'cultural' has a significance to the subject under discussion, the section only devoted itself to the intellectual aspects of the natural values of various mammals, meteorological aspects and fire regimes.

In 1990 the Australian Academy of the Humanities held a symposium on The Humanities and the Australian Environment. Many of the various participants discussed what is meant by the environment and wilderness and the changing

significance of their meanings. Sir Ninian Stephen suggested that 'until just a few years ago the Australian environment would have suggested no more than the social and cultural and perhaps geographical surroundings of Australia and Australians. But quite suddenly, as these things are measured, its primary meaning has changed in a dramatic, albeit, subtle way. The environment is still that which surrounds us but its meaning has expanded in response to our expanded perception and enhanced understanding of the significance of certain of those surroundings which mankind so long took so very much for granted'.

This was followed by W.S. Ramson's paper on how in 50-year segments words and meanings have changed which register our perceptions and utilisations of the Australian environment. Rhys Jones had a very informative paper on Aboriginal Perceptions of the Natural World which with reading will bring a wider understanding of Aboriginal sites and the spiritual significance of them to Aboriginals. Other papers put forth argument on what is the value of wilderness and that everything we do is part of nature even though it might be destruction. This is obviously not correct and a middle ground must be sought.

Further papers raised the question: What is conservation? An example quotes how in Victoria a military camp was established in 1886, it subsequently became a prisoner of war camp, a venereal diseases hospital and later the land was extensively cleared and grazed. In 1948 the local progress association proposed that this little park of 20 acres be left as a memorial reserve in honour of old soldiers. This was never followed up. In 1975 this island of remnant and regenerating vegetation was being valued in a different way. An ecological survey was carried out and a decade later was named as a sanctuary for nature conservation. In the process some large pine

trees, evidence of the early settlement, were removed. The author of the survey has written a book about the history but park administrators admitted 'there is a very conscious policy not to acknowledge history and they were quite terrified of the power of pictorial evidence that would show cleared paddocks, pegged out with military teepees'.

This example raises a number of issues about the conflict between preserving natural and cultural heritage. We have in our own Namadgi National Park the example of a pine arboretum in the Upper Cotter being cut down in the name of wilderness purity. When the Boboyan pine forest is harvested should a small copse be left to bring to mind a previous use? Should the forest huts also be demolished to remove all traces of what had been a pine forest? And what about the sites of the previous examples in the park I have quoted: Gudgenby homestead, Orroral tracking station and Cotter hut.

A book on the symposium, edited by Professor D.J. Mulvaney, is available from the Australian Academy of the Humanities, University House, ANU, for \$14.95. It should be required reading for all involved in environmental debates.

In October of this year a symposium on The Cultural Heritage of the Australian Alps was organised by the Australian Alps National Parks Liaison Committee and it provided many papers on a wide-ranging spread of subjects on the impact of human culture in our alps, the value of this part of our heritage and the need for its preservation.

The publication of the papers resulting from this symposium should be awaited with interest for, in conjunction with those from the humanities symposium, they will provide the incentive for a more balanced viewpoint towards the retention of our European heritage in national parks.

Reg Alder

Bimberi trig

Mountains are there to be climbed and mostly they are climbed because they are there and this is often given the reason for climbing the most difficult and highest. Apart from the challenge and physical effort to get to the top, what else is achieved? There is the thrill of reaching the summit, to realise that it is not a false one and the strain of climbing is relieved by the exhilaration of the expansive views of range after range rolling away to a limitless horizon.

The summit, if it is a prominent peak, is nearly always surmounted by a pile of stones which supports a pole and vanes from which sightings are made by surveyors in establishing the datum required for the map makers. To climb the mountain is usually not enough and most clamber up the pile of stones and some even higher up the pole to record their pencilled achievement on the vanes of the station.

Bimberi at 1912.8 metres—the highest peak on the border of the ACT—is still a popular mountain to climb even though locked gates make it a longer slog to reach its base. Popular approaches for the ascent are from the locked gate at Ginini, from the Blue Waterholes side of Leura Gap and from Murray Gap, approached either from the Cotter or Oldfields hut.

The station on Bimberi was erected in 1877 by surveyor Edward H. Taylor who approached it from his camp at Tidbinbilla. It took him three days to complete the task.

In his report to the Surveyor-General in Sydney he wrote on the 11th of April 1877 that he had been to Coree to find that the pile and vane to be 'all right'. From Coree he recognised Bimberi at a bearing of 172, he then proceeded to Bimberi to sight Mt Tennent at 51 15, Pallerang at 61, Tinderry Peak at 84 30, Mt Clear at 122 and Mt Coree at 352.

His report continues "I will now proceed to erect a 1st class station upon Bimberi. I shall have to pack

from here to the mountains (about 17 miles) and to clear a pack track through some dense scrub on the falls to the Cotter River. If you will please send me particulars about the most southerly and westerly point required I think I could go from here by an old road leading past Coree and thence to Peppercorn Hill. If you decide to have a 1st class station at Coree, I could do it on my way back again as I shall have to pass near the foot of it. The point at Mt Clear, or farther west towards Bobeyan, I think, I could get to, from Colinton best, and after fixing that, I could finish at Tindery (sic)".

On the 19th April 1877 he reported finishing erecting a 1st class station at Bimberi and that the best way to get to Bimberi from Lanyon is by Barrumba Station (by dray road) 6 miles, thence by pack track to Mr McKeachnie's Orroral Station 14 miles, thence to Bimberi about 12 miles. He believed that the above rout (sic) is over a smoother and less scrubby country than the way he went from Tidbinbilla. On the 21st April he added a postscript to say that "Instructions had not yet arrived, concerning the point required towards Peppercorn Hill and as the nearest Post Office to Coree is over 20 miles distant he would wait on Monday (23rd inst) at Queanbeyan for a telegram and if necessary until Tuesday morning for a letter". He continues "My party will arrive at Coree today, but the dray is here to take out cement, vanes, fodder etc for the two stations by a better road via Canbarra and Urayarra (sic)".

The reports are written in very clear copperplate handwriting on paper nearly the size of the present A3 sheets. One can imagine the scene, camp table and stool, ink bottles, steel pointed pens and blotting paper.

A new mast was erected in 1953, the old vanes being discarded among the rocks of the summit.

From 1877 it took another 25 years for the station on Bimberi to be discovered by recreational bushwalkers, or at least until then to record their names on the vanes. Yesterday's graffiti is today's history. Cecil Luton, from the Adaminaby side of the family, was the first on August 2nd 1902. Did he ski up or was it a bad year for snow? He climbed it again on the 31st January 1915. Some other earlier signatures recorded are: Russell Zweck 17-11-10; S ?allashang, Mcquoid St, Queanbeyan, April 18, 1911; F F Gull Michelago, Oct 1914; H Affaon, McQuoid St Queanbeyan, 16-12-19. Names of early settlers without dates are H L Cochrim, H E Oldfield and G I Maxwell. The first record of the Royal Military College is of C H McClelland on 23-3-1919 to be followed by a number around the early 1920s when it must have been a part of a training exercise. Tom Gregory from Cotter Hut recorded his name on 16 January 1955. Bushwalking clubs left theirs in 1948 and 1953. In all about 87 names were recorded until 1964 when interest seems to have been lost on the discarded vanes of the first trig station.

Reg Alder

Cecil Luton
August 2^o 1902

*The signature of
Cecil Luton of
Adaminaby on
Bimberi Trig.
Photo: Reg Alder.*

Annual report 1990-91

The onward momentum of environmental issues, of which national parks are a part, and the results of self government for the ACT ensured a very busy year for the Association.

Australian Capital Territory

Land legislation

The heaviest task performed during the year by a small group over many hours was the preparation of a submission to the Chief Minister on the draft land use and planning legislation for the ACT. This draft legislation was presented to the public in the form of five bills of some complexity. The issues raised included the extent to which discretion is available in the exercise of powers provided in the Bills, the requirements for public consultation, environmental and heritage issues and matters affecting national parks and nature reserves. The submission was lodged during the term of the Alliance Government. Up to the time of writing this report there has been no move by the ACT Government to bring the final form of legislation into the Legislative Assembly.

Remnant woodland and native grassland

Another big effort during the year was the Association's publication of its 'Report on the Conservation of Remnant Woodland and Native Grassland in the ACT'. The report was prepared by Dr Kevin Frawley reporting to a special committee. It is one of the most timely strategic documents prepared by the Association as it was circulated widely at the political level and in governmental advisory and planning circles at a time when the new Territory Plan was being prepared for the ACT. The Association was pleased and honoured to have its report publicly launched for Heritage Week by the then Chief Minister, Mr Trevor Kaine.

Rural leases

The report was used as a basis for the preparation and lodgement of a submission to a Legislative Assembly Inquiry into Environment Aspects of Rural Leases. Representatives of the Association appeared before that Inquiry.

Namadgi National Park

With regard to Namadgi National Park, the Association has been busy monitoring the situation on a number of fronts. We had discussions with the Director of the Environment and Conservation Bureau in May on many topics. Important points of note are that the surveys for all the extensions to Namadgi have been completed and the gazettals have just been made. These extensions are Mount Tennent and surrounds in the Punch Bowl Creek-White Horse Flat area, and to the ACT border in the Blue Range-Condor Creek area. It is the stated intention of the authorities to put forward management strategies for all the extensions. The ACT Government has just decided that domestic grazing will not be reintroduced to the Gudgenby area and that the immediate surroundings of Gudgenby Homestead will remain much as they are.

Representations were made during the year for the removal of the vandalised and dangerous ruins of the Orroral and Honey-suckle Tracking Stations except for some minimal foundation relics and an historical exhibition to be located elsewhere.

Field work parties were frustrated in resuming the renovation of the historic Orroral Homestead because of delay in the authorities completing archaeological work. Meanwhile a firestack has just collapsed and the Association and the Kosciusko Huts Association are investigating as to remedial work.

The Association will continue to take up matters which it considers to be important. These include the

conclusion of adequate management plans and strategies, tracks policy, the removal of damaged pines and the rehabilitation of former pine growing lands. The Association has been assured that on-going removal of pine saplings by our volunteer work parties is needed and appreciated.

Murrumbidgee and Molonglo corridors

The ACT Government met our request to have gazetted the Murrumbidgee River Corridor Reserves. The Association had an important input to the Corridor policy and management regime a few years ago and it was satisfying to see the whole matter formally completed by the gazettal. On 21 July the Association held an interpretive tour along part of the Molonglo River Corridor with the objective of formulating some policy suggestions on future management of that Corridor. It was particularly pleasing to have with us on the tour Mr Bill Wood, the Minister for the Environment, Land and Planning.

Seminars

Other ACT activities included the attendances of representatives by invitation to seminars on Territorial planning issues, the re-vegetation of the Murrumbidgee Catchment Area, and on the question of light rail and associated urban villages in Canberra.

New booklet

The Association has started consideration of the question of producing a booklet for non-botanists on the wild flowers and native grasses in the ACT.

ROCKS

During the year the Association continued its participation in the project 'Renewal of Childers and Kingsley Streets' (ROCKS) with other interested organisations. In

continued on page 22

Annual report 1990-91

continued from page 21

July ROCKS representatives met with the Minister for Education, Environment, Planning and the Arts, Mr Bill Wood, who showed interest in the idea of maintaining the area for cultural and community use. As a result of the meeting ROCKS is preparing a statement of principles and proposals to forward to the Minister as a guide to planning and development of the area.

Outside the ACT

The Association, under its Constitution, is entitled to pursue its aims and objects outside the ACT.

Ski 2000

During the year the Association lodged a submission to the NSW Ski Resort Planner on their discussion paper *Ski 2000*. That paper promoted expansion plans for the various ski resorts in Kosciusko National Park. Our view is that recreation in national parks should be based on the natural features of the parks, not on artificially made features. The latter, if they have to be developed, should be outside the Park.

Mining in national parks

The Association also made a submission to the Industry Commission on that body's draft report 'Mining and Minerals Processing in Australia'. It was the Association's view that the report did not give proper weight to environmental and national park protection and that adoption of its conclusions could lead to exploration and mining in national parks.

Jervis Bay

A very important matter which took the attention of the Association was the need for adequate protection of the Jervis Bay area. Both the Commonwealth and NSW Governments have publicly declared their support for a marine national park but have

remained short on details and action. There have been no public signs of actually bringing about such a park. The Association's view is that a marine national park can only be viable if there is a substantial land component to it with a proper management plan for that land to protect the water from urban run-off and unnecessary sewage discharge. The Shoalhaven area is rapidly growing in population with heavy commercial and real estate development in the NSW part of Jervis Bay. Complicating this is the non-decision, so far, to not locate the naval armaments depot at Jervis Bay. Such a location would bring with it not only safety hazards for the local population but presumably more port facilities and shipping traffic. It is believed the issue is to come before Federal Cabinet.

During the year the Association was represented at a meeting convened by the NSW Planning Department and the Shoalhaven City Council to consider planning issues. This led to the Association lodging a comprehensive submission on a NSW planning issues paper. The submission, which was the result of a high degree of skilled and professional input from our members, solidly put the case for a marine national park of both land and water components. In addition the Association lodged submissions to the Commonwealth on their Jervis Bay Territory Draft Management Strategy Plan and against a military exercise in environmentally sensitive areas which was stopped short.

The Association, in conjunction with other conservation bodies, will continue to monitor the Jervis Bay scene with a view to making representations where appropriate. The Jervis Bay Territory alone is now attracting visitors at the rate of about 900,000 annually.

Budawangs—renewal of paths

During the year the Association continued to provide volunteer working parties for restoration work in the Budawangs.

Other matters

Financial

The Treasurer will be reporting separately on the financial result. The points I wish to note here are that there was evidence of increasing membership over the latter months of the year. Subscriptions in advance at 30 June 1991 were up on the corresponding amounts in 1990 and 1989. Donations were higher, indicating support for what we are trying to do. On the expenditure side the main point to make is that the cost of producing the important remnant woodland/grassland study was \$3,735 which took what would otherwise have been a surplus. In addition, inventories increased by some \$5,600, largely the effect of drawing down cash to produce the reprint of the *Field Guide to Native Trees*. Funding by grants from the ACT Government continued during the year and I believe that we are producing good results with the help of those funds.

Life membership

Dr Kevin Frawley, a Past President, was elected to Life Membership for his meritorious work for the Association.

Australian National Parks Council

The Association continued to be a member of the Council, our two representatives being Neville Esau, who is President of the Council and a member of our Committee, and Kevin Frawley. In addition the Association helps the Council by letting the Council's Executive Officer use our office facilities on a cost refunding basis.

Other

The Association held two exhibits during the year, continued to produce a quality *Bulletin* which I believe is well received, and continued to be represented on the Conservation Council and the Environment Centre. Membership

of the Association is estimated to be in the vicinity of 700 individuals.

Appreciation

I thank in particular the other Office Bearers and Committee Members for their support during the year. My thanks extend to the staff, Laraine Frawley and Anne Taylor, to members who worked so hard in the sub-committees, to the Editor of the *Bulletin* and its contributors, and to outings leaders. Also there are others who helped in various ways and my thanks go to them.

During the year Judith Webster resigned as Secretary prior to going overseas and Adrienne Nicholson kindly agreed to fill that position until tonight. I, the Committee, and I am sure Association members generally, thank them both for their services. Thanks also go to Committee members who have either resigned or will not be standing tonight—Jill Roberts, Doreen Wilson and Phil Bubb. The time they put in on behalf of the Association is greatly appreciated.

Conclusion

I am not sure what the future holds for us as environmental issues can flare quickly but I like to think that the hump of work load has passed, at least in the ACT, as the new land legislation and pending Territory Plan eventually bed down. In any case I believe the time has come for the Association to sell itself better. We offer a far wider front of activities than other conservation organisations. To date nearly all our resources have been devoted to reacting to policy issues and little else. The time has now come I believe for a reassessment of priorities with a view to increasing our membership and better selling of our publications, and perhaps a bit on the social side. I commend this approach to the incoming Committee.

Les Pyke

Bushwalking register

A bushwalking register has been installed at the front gate of the Namadgi Visitor Centre. The register replaces the one at the former Glendale visitor centre site.

Other registers at popular Namadgi trackheads, for example Nursery Swamp and Orroral fire trail, remain in place (see Namadgi Map and Guide for all locations).

The bushwalking register at the new visitor centre can be used for destinations not covered by a more localised register. It is located near the after hours display at the front gate of the Visitor Centre.

Mallacoota

Victoria's best kept secret! Need a break? Enjoy fishing, golf, beach rambles, bush walking, sailing, relaxing? Then a mud brick cottage within walking distance of all that should fill the bill. This cottage sleeps four to six in ski lodge style and backs on to the golf course. Reasonable rates. Contact Barbara de Bruine (06) 258 3531.

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) 2571063 before 2pm on Monday, Tuesday or Thursday, or Roger Green on 247 0059.

Going On Leave/Holidays??

Need someone to care for your...

- ** home?
- ** garden?
- ** pets?



I'm available as a reliable
HOUSITTER from
March 1992

NO CHARGES

Professional female with excellent
references.

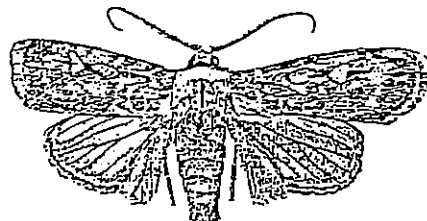
Phone: MARDIE TROTH
(w) 252 1527

Subscribe to BOGONG

Quarterly Environmental
Magazine of the
Canberra and South East
Region Environment Centre

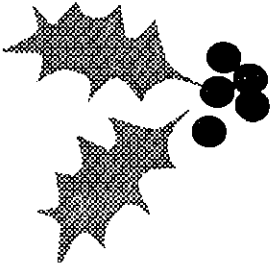
Rates only \$12/year

If you want to know about what is
going on in your environment

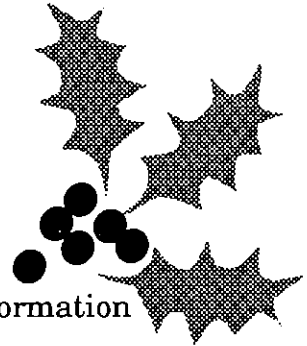


Write to
Bogong
GPO Box 1875
Canberra City 2601

NPA Christmas party



Sunday 15 December 1991
Orroral Valley picnic ground
Starts 3pm
Members and friends welcome



Contact Beverley Hammond on 288 6577(h) for more information

NPA Bulletin

National Parks Association of the ACT
GPO Box 457 Canberra 2601

Registered Publication No. NBH0857

**SURFACE
MAIL**

**POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA**

General meetings

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

Thursday 20 February

Crabs or rabbits

The assistant manager of the Endangered Species Unit, Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service, John Hicks, will talk about aspects of management and conservation on two of Australia's island territories—Christmas Island and Philip Island (near Norfolk Island).

Thursday 19 March

Namadgi: huts, homesteads and cultural heritage

President of the Kosciusko Huts Association, Graham Scully, and Huts maintenance officer (Namadgi), Maurice Sexton, will present and outline of the KHA's current and future plans in Namadgi. Their presentation will be illustrated by slides of a variety of Namadgi's cultural features.