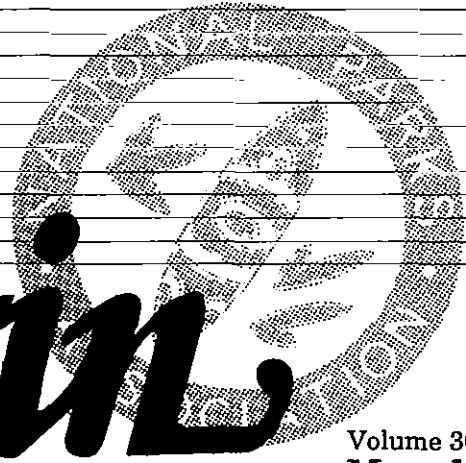


NPA Bulletin



Volume 30 number 1
March 1993

NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION (ACT) INCORPORATED



'The best view on the planet'

Exotic plants invasion

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Cover

Photo: Fiona McDonald Brand
Mount Morgan (see story on page 19)

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

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<i>Vice-President</i>	Dianne Thompson 288 6084(h); 244 7549(w)
<i>Immediate Past President</i>	Les Pyke 281 2982(h)
<i>Secretary</i>	Len Haskew 281 4268(h)
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Membership enquiries welcome

Please phone Laraine Frawley at the NPA office.

The NPA (ACT) office is located in Maclaurin Cres. Chifley. Office hours are:

10am to 2pm Mondays

9am to 2pm Tuesdays and Thursdays

Telephone: (06) 282 5813

Address: PO Box 40 Chifley ACT 2606.

Contribute to your *Bulletin*

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

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

Deadline for June issue: 1 May, 1993.

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President's foreword

The National Parks Association office is moving!

It is with some regret that the committee, with the endorsement of members at NPA's November meeting, has decided to move to alternative accommodation. We have had an office with minimal costs in the old university buildings since 1984. Prior to this time, all business was conducted from members' homes and our library was held in a mobile cupboard in our meeting room at the Griffin Centre. The opening of the office coincided with the appointment of an office secretary, made possible by grants from the Community Development Fund.

The community groups in the area, many concerned with environmental issues, formed an association for the Redevelopment of Childers and Kingsley Streets (ROCKS) which NPA joined.

In 1992 the area became Territory property and is zoned as a community facility. A ROCKS management committee meets monthly and has recently been active in developing plans for redeveloping the site. We hope to maintain our association with this committee and to be part of the future project.

In the meantime, squatters in the Childers Street hall and the room adjacent to our own office have caused some concern. A maintenance issue continues as ageing services and deteriorating buildings have been further damaged by vandals. Archival material stored in our office is at risk, although our archives group is proposing to seek storage for some of this at the National Library. If you have called at the office recently you must have been aware of the cramped conditions and need for additional space.

So we are moving.

Our new office, in the former baby health clinic at Chifley, is brighter, larger, more accessible, in pleasant surroundings and lighter at night. The preschool is behind us, so it will be busy at times, but there is parking on the street and in a small parking area.



*The president in Austria
Photo by Judith Webster*

There will be room for a table and chair in the old waiting room for the use of members and others who request access to some of our materials for study purposes.

Unfortunately, we do anticipate a small rise in membership fees to cover the rent.

The NPA committee invites all members to join us for an official opening ceremony on 21 April at 5.30pm in the new NPA office, Maclaurin Crescent, Chifley. Please note our new postal address and telephone number in your address books.

Beverley Hammond

NPA has moved

From Monday 1 February 1993, the NPA office will be situated in the old baby health clinic, Maclaurin Crescent, Chifley.

Our new postal address is:

PO Box 40

Chifley, ACT, 2606.

Telephone number is

(06) 282 5813.

Our office hours will remain the same:

Mondays 10 am to 2 pm,

Tuesdays and Thursdays
9am to 2pm.



Guidelines for contributors

Here are some suggestions for contributions to the *Bulletin*:

- reports on activities of the Association (submissions to governments, walks, special events)
- newsy articles about parks, planning or conservation in the ACT and south-eastern New South Wales
- short reports on travels to national parks or other natural areas in other parts of Australia or overseas, highlighting management issues that could be of relevance to parks near Canberra

- non-technical articles on research into relevant botany, zoology and wildlife management
- reviews of books on any of the above topics
- short poems
- black and white photographs illustrating any of the above (well-lit colour prints are usually acceptable).

Anyone thinking of contributing to *NPA Bulletin* is welcome to discuss ideas with the editor, Roger Green, telephone (06) 247 0059.

Willows have their place

Dear Sir,

I am writing in response to two items on willows published in the two previous issues of the *NPA Bulletin*. Fiona MacDonald Brand asked the question, 'Should they [the willows] stay or should they go?' (September 1992); Timothy Crosbie Walsh stated that 'from a conservation point, the willow must go!' (December 1992). So, how? And when? As well as, why?

Do we introduce a disease to kill them, and risk its getting out of control? Do we leave the dead willows standing or drag them down? Once the willows are removed, what stops the banks from eroding away? Do we plant native trees to replace them? Do we wait until the root systems of these replacement trees are mature before the willows are removed? Indeed, will they grow with the willows still in place? I've asked questions all over the place and no-one seems to have the answers. Yet conservationists say that willows must go—an easy instant answer and one that sounds a little like an environmental version of 'ethnic cleansing' to me. Will it stop with willows? Why not include the poplars and the cypresses too, indeed everything the pioneers planted in their landscapes to make themselves feel comfortable in what must have been, to them, an alien and often hostile land? There must be a more thoughtful answer, one sensitive to *all* the issues.

It is true that in some places the willow growth has become so thick that it is stopping the flow of the water. These trees will have to be removed, and soon. It will be interesting to see how it's done and how much damage is caused to surrounding areas. We've already seen what damage moving rocks from one spot to another can do! When Timothy said, 'the willows must go', in my mind's eye I saw armies of tractors and bulldozers down every valley in Namadgi tearing out the offending willows. And at what cost!

It is also true that willows have



Rowley's Hut—one site of the willow controversy.

Photo by Reg Alder

replaced much of our native vegetation along watercourses, but it is equally true that they have replaced the native trees as homes for birds and animals. Where will the birds nest once all the willows have gone? It has been suggested to me that, because native trees take so long to grow, it would be preferable to pull out the willows and replace them with quick-growing native understory plants. This, apparently, would stop the banks from eroding. But where are the safe nesting places? And does not replacing overseas exotics with Australian natives that are just as exotic to the area in question sound a bit screwy to you?

Until fairly recent times, willow trees have been regarded by farming people as valuable—for shade, for aesthetic reasons and as a

drought crop. Governments encouraged landholders to plant them to stabilise banks. The easy-to-grow willow was valued at £1, while a mile of new fencing was a mere £30.

Attitudes, of course, change with time, but we don't have to be extreme. Some of those willows now have historical value. In any case, why does the environment always have to win at the expense of cultural heritage? In an area grazed for generations but now a national park, surely both natural and cultural values are integral to the whole, and both should be conserved. Remove all willows and you've altered significantly that landscape. Why devalue it in this way? Little historical research has been done in Namadgi. Very old trees, especially those that make up a complete cultural landscape,

should remain unless they are an immediate problem. Historians and archaeologists have a right to research complete landscapes. Later generations have a right to see cultural landscapes as a whole just as much as they have the right to experience wilderness. Descendants of the pioneering families also have rights. Just because their inheritance was taken from them when the area was selected for the site of the national capital, doesn't mean that every trace of their ancestors' endeavours has to be obliterated. Too much of their built history has already been removed.

Anyway, which species of willow are we talking about when we say 'all must go'? The two most common in Namadgi are the white willow (*Salix alba*) and the weeping willow (*Salix babylonica*). The white willow was introduced in the 1880s and has spread rapidly. The weeping willow, on the other hand, was introduced very early in European settlement and hasn't spread much at all. Perhaps the two species should be treated as two separate problems. Indeed, is the weeping willow a problem at all? It seems to me that the real problem is that we've removed the cattle that used to keep willows at least partly under control by regular cropping and neglected to introduce other controls.

Of course, not all willows are caught up in the river systems. Some grow in total isolation and are not spreading, for example, next to a waterhole/swamp behind Rowley's hut in the Orroral valley.

To clear Namadgi of all willows must mean we are doing it to protect the Murrumbidgee, into which Namadgi watercourses flow. But it is obvious that it's not really Namadgi trees that create the Murrumbidgee willow problem. In fact, the present state of the Murrumbidgee's banks would make a farce of the inevitable devastation that will be the result of ripping out all of Namadgi's willows.

I believe the willow-caused blockages in Namadgi have

already been identified. They should be dealt with. I think it's also time to call in the experts to identify the willows that are historically significant and to assess the condition of the creek/river downstream from each. And take it from there.

Babette Barber Scougall

Be even more prepared

Dear Sir,

In the December issue there was an excellent article by Olive Buckman *Be prepared—walkers' responsibilities*. I would like to add a couple of points.

People go bushwalking by themselves (not a recommended practice, but it is still a free country), or in groups of two or more. For the safety conscious, the minimum number is four, especially if the walk involves venturing into rough or remote terrain. There are at least two reasons for this.

(1) If someone has an accident and is disabled, one person can stay with the injured party and the other two go for help. The four should agree on the location of the injured party and carefully note it on a map. The two going for help can talk to one another, discuss navigation and the location of the car(s) and where to get help. A person on their own can easily become disoriented and even frightened if inexperienced.

(2) The injured party may be able to walk with assistance. The other three can take turns in assisting—two people supporting the injured party and the third navigating and finding the best route through 'the bush'. I remember one occasion where a person who sprained an ankle on Mt Lincoln was carried most of the way to the Smokers Trail carpark on a make-shift seat.

In regard to clothing I believe it is important to carry a waterproof parka on all walks. (Perhaps I have this view because I do a lot of pack walking). Weather forecasts are not always reliable. In areas like the Budawangs, the coast, the Brindabellas, the Blue Mountains, in fact most of our walking areas,

and especially the Kosciusko National Park, one should be prepared for rain at all times. Some years ago Pat and I went on a great summer walk led by Ian Haynes—Hannels Spur to Charlottes Pass. The first day was hot and we wore shorts and light shirts. Part of the second day was in white-out blizzard conditions, and we wore thermals, woolen shirt, pullover, longjohns, parkas, overpants, gloves and anything else we could find.

Eric Pickering

Is Wonboyn wilderness?

Dear Sir,

In an article entitled *Wilderness assessments* in the last issue of the *Bulletin*, a statement was made that Wonboyn Beach (in the northern end of Nadgee Nature Reserve) was considered 'to be the only large beach in NSW which can be managed as wilderness'.

The truth is the beach is within easy reach of everyone who visits Wonboyn, which is a mere 3km from the beach. Cabins and camp sites are available there, and it has been popular with fisherfolk and family groups for years. A well-used dirt road leads direct to Greenglade at the southern end of the beach—my little Corolla had no difficulty negotiating it, even after rain. There's also a sand track running the full length of the beach. Boating parties also have access. You call this wilderness? Even if the park service erected a barrier across the road at the boundary of the Nadgee reserve, the walk to the beach would only be about 1km. Nadgee reserve contains some wonderful beaches with true wilderness potential, but Wonboyn Beach is not one of them, at least not without closing the township of Wonboyn. Is this what is being suggested?

Over the years NPA of the ACT has earned a reputation for being a serious, responsible group, not given to exaggerated or misleading statements. With statements

continued on next page

Is Wonboyn wilderness? *continued*

such as the one quoted above, however, our organisation's credibility is at risk.

Who wrote the article, anyway, and why was no name attached? I'm assuming the statement represents one member's wishful thinking but, the way it was presented, it reads like an official statement. In my opinion, authorship of all items in the *Bulletin* should be shown.

Babette Scougall

Note from the Editor:

Unsigned items in the *Bulletin* are usually short notices or reports written by members of the editorial team at Green Words. Articles by members or statements of opinion are usually signed.

The part of the article in question was a summary of a submission made by the Association and, I think, accurately presents the views put in that submission. The article was written by Anne Forsythe who subedits the

Bulletin. Anyone wishing to have an input to Association submissions is welcome to attend subcommittee meetings (see back page for details).

Of course, the *Bulletin* also welcomes expressions of members' opinion, the more vigorous the better.

Respect original names

Dear Sir,

I have often noticed in Canberra bushwalking literature and bulletins a confusion or ignorance over the appropriate name to give to the various granite outcrops in the ACT that are increasingly becoming popular bushwalking destinations, especially those in the Orroral region. It may be of interest to know that most of the granite outcrops that dot the ACT landscape have been visited, appreciated and climbed by

Canberra rockclimbers for 30 years or more. As a result, many of these outcrops have received names, especially those that adorn the Orroral Ridge. Names such as The Cloisters, The Belfry, Legoland, Trojan Wall, Sentinel Rock, Roman Walls, The Battlements, Thunder Bluff, Phantom Buttress, Silhouette Slabs and White Horse Rocks, to name a few, span a period of local exploration and interest from the early 1960s to the late 1980s. Such names certainly pre-date labels such as The Spinnaker. I believe these names should be respected by the new generation of bushwalkers. Those that are interested in pursuing this may wish to have a good look through the rockclimbing guide, *ACT Granite*, published in 1989, which has some excellent maps as well as advice on how to reach these areas.

Adam Blizzard Henderson

NPA submission to Jervis Bay paper

In November 1992, research officer Anne Taylor submitted a response on behalf of the NPA to the discussion paper *Jervis Bay Our Heritage Our Future*, a regional environment plan for the area around Jervis Bay. In this response, the NPA stated its support for much of what is presented in the discussion paper, while suggesting alterations and additions and urging the government to move swiftly to implement the plan.

The following points are only some of the many suggested by the NPA paper.

- All areas of land identified in the study area as 'natural areas of intrinsic value' should be reserved as part of Stage 3 Jervis Bay National Park.
- The waters of the bay should be declared an aquatic reserve.
- A total catchment management

plan should be prepared and implemented.

- Links with adjacent natural areas through the system of identified habitat corridors should be maintained.
- Proposals for urban expansion should be based on adequate community consultation, including with state and national community organisations.
- The principles of ecologically sustainable development must be considered when determining the optimum population for the area. Tourism must also be considered in this context.
- Urban run-off should be minimised, and land disposal options for sewage should be investigated.
- Commercial fishing licences within the bay should be terminated as they come up for renewal, as the area is an important fish nursery.

- Replanting of degraded areas should be done with local species only.
- Bombardment of areas identified as having natural and cultural significance is unsustainable and should be stopped immediately.
- The Department of Defence rationale for the relocation of the armaments depot to Jervis Bay has been shown to be seriously flawed. An alternative site must be found.
- The bay should be declared a nuclear free zone.
- Consideration should be given to the recommendations of the Ecologically Sustainable Development Committee on Tourism when developing a tourism strategy for Jervis Bay. Tourism facilities should be low-key and sympathetic to the environment.

Environment subcommittee tackles ideas

Barnett Cocks' statement that a 'committee is a cul-de-sac down which ideas are lured and then quietly strangled' can definitely not be used to describe the work of the Environment Subcommittee! The daunting array of topics this happy band of warriors for conservation tackles continues to astound.

Matters considered recently include the Lower Molonglo Water Quality Control Centre and its effect on the Pink-tailed Legless Lizard, the Jervis Bay Regional Plan discussion paper, the north Watson study, the effect of the national trail on national parks, the future of Tuggeranong Homestead, Aboriginal involvement in national parks (especially in south-eastern Australia), the effect of tourism on the environment, the Austel National Telecom Code, coastal protection and ecologically sustainable development.

Amongst the government reports to be considered in 1993 are *The Australian Environment and Tourism Report* by the Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Recreation and the Arts, *A Draft Policy for Commonwealth Responsibilities in the Coastal Zone* (DASET), the *National Strategy for ESD*, and the NSW Legislative Council's report on *Coastal Planning and Management Processes*.

The Prime Minister's Environment Statement on 21 December 1992 has exciting implications for nature conservation and will be studied closely by the subcommittee. Some of the main features of particular interest to the NPA include:

- the government's decision to ratify the International Convention on Biological Diversity following consultation with the states and territories
- the allocation of \$2.25 million to develop and implement consistent world heritage management systems
- an extra \$2.9 million to the Endangered Species Program

and an extra \$8 million for the control of weeds and feral animals

- an extra \$4.45 million over the next four years to boost the Save the Bush program
- the establishment of a comprehensive system of protected areas.

This will involve a survey of all major ecosystems. The Commonwealth Government will provide \$16.85 million over the next four years:

- to continue and expand existing Commonwealth and state programs for the development and implementation of a bio-regional approach to the identification of protected areas
- to complete the National Wilderness Inventory by 1993 and to ensure its maintenance as one of several key indicators in the development of the reserve system
- to promote and encourage state and territory co-operation in surveying and protecting publicly owned old growth forests and wilderness by 1995. Such forests on private land should be reserved by 1998. In the interim, the Commonwealth Government will alert states and territories to the commitment to avoid activities that may significantly affect areas of old growth forest and wilderness likely to be of high conservation value
- to assist agencies in identifying rivers in near pristine condition and to encourage protection and proper management of their total catchments, following up on past work by the Australian Heritage Commission and some states
- to provide incentives for state and territory co-operation in progressively developing a comprehensive system of protected areas, to be completed no later than 2000
- to develop and apply nationally consistent principles for the management of reserves in

accordance with internationally accepted classifications and standards.

Other matters dealt with in the Prime Minister's statement include state of the environment reporting, the Murray-Darling Basin and country towns' water supply, the healthy cities program, marine and coastal protection, research into climate change and the greenhouse effect, energy efficiency, government support for conservation organisations, tropical forests and proposed World Heritage nominations for Australian fossil sites.

The subcommittee will be liaising with the Namadgi subcommittee in monitoring the implementation of these commitments as they affect the ACT and in specific ACT matters such as the ACT Government's recently released discussion paper on rural leases. Copies of the full statement by Mr Keating can be obtained by telephoning 274 1221 or (008) 803772.

Call me on 274 1465(w) or 285 1112(h) if you'd like to participate in the subcommittee's activities. We meet monthly.

Timothy Walsh



*Climbing at Namadgi
Photo by Roger Green*

'The best view on the planet'

Yalwal to Quiera via Ettrema Gorge

January 23 to 26

Maps:

Yalwal, Touga 1:25000, Moss Vale 1:100000, Nowra Forestry Commission Map

This was a joint NPA/Canberra Bushwalking Club walk. The participants were Jenny Atton, Kevin Gill, David Hall, Keith Johns, Sonia Lenz, Kevin McCue, Brian Palm, Pat and Eric Pickering (leaders), Den and Geoff Robin, Helen Semler, Mike Smith and Denis Wright. Of the 14, seven had joint NPA/CBC membership and six had NPA membership.

We left Canberra in cloudy weather on Friday afternoon with a not too promising weather forecast for our four-day walk. Two cars departed at 4pm to set up the first part of a lengthy car shuffle. Passengers were deposited at the Touga road turn-off beyond Nerriga on the Braidwood-Nowra road. The two drivers drove to Quiera Clearing, parked one car there and then returned to the Touga turn-off, just in time to meet the other three cars, which had left Canberra at 5pm. By this time (7.30pm), gentle rain had started. The intrepid 14 piled into the four cars and drove for another hour or so beyond Sassafras, turning north along the Yarramunmun firetrail. We made camp along a deserted side track, some beside the road and others 200 metres further on, near a cliff-top overlooking Danjera Creek. It rained steadily all night. One camp-site was virtually flooded. Pat and I talked about our options during the night—basically cancel the walk, continue as planned, or modify.

Saturday morning was much the same weather-wise, still overcast and some drizzle. Much to my surprise the party was in good spirits and keen to continue. We breakfasted, packed our wet tents and flies and drove the remaining seven kilometres to the walk start (grid reference 604-268). *En-route*

the four cars managed to get through three or four potential bogs. They were parked beside the fire trail (would they be there when we returned four days later?).

Our epic trip commenced at 9.30am Saturday; we wore parkas as protection from the wet undergrowth. Before long we were following a rainforest creek which was to take us through the cliff-line 250 metres above Danjera Creek. We pushed our way through lush, thick, rainforest vegetation with slippery fallen logs and lawyer vine searching for an old overgrown and barely distinguishable timber trail. The trail is not marked on the map but we knew it was there and that it contoured for several kilometres around the base of the cliffs. I stopped briefly to study the map and our next move, when Brian pointed out that we were in fact standing on the trail!

We followed the trail and rested briefly in one of a number of open, shady, forest glades with some majestic, mature turpentine trees. We noted a number of turpentine stumps which had been sawn and harvested sometime in the past. I would guess that the harvesting had taken place in the 1960-70 era. Further on there were tall cabbage tree palms and fan palms growing. The vegetation on our overgrown track was up to ten feet tall and included young trees and a great deal of prostanthera.

We followed the trail north for two kilometres to the base of Misson Point, the end-point of a narrow, cliff-surrounded peninsula, the western-most extension of the Yalwal Plateau. Some of us climbed a 20 metre boulder up the hill towards Misson Point which gave good views of Danjera Dam and our route. An open spur took us swiftly down 250 metres to an early lunch near the junction of Danjera and Hell Hole Creeks. It was a really beautiful spot with grassy banks of emerald green, mown short presumably by kangaroos (or less romantically by cows

from nearby grazing leases). The weather had improved and we took advantage of this and the pebbly creek-bed to spread out and dry our tents, flies and wet clothes. This was a very satisfying time—the trip had started and the weather had improved—what more could we wish for.

After lunch we climbed the 300-metre Fletchers Spur to the base of an un-named plateau about two-square kilometres in size, and surrounded by cliffs. By now it was quite hot and humid—very debilitating—my shirt was sopping wet. Brian had found an easy pass through the cliff-line to the top of the plateau. Most of the party took the opportunity of using this pass to gain some really superb views of Misson Point, Yalwal to the north and the Danjera valley to the south. It looked really rugged. We rejoined the rest of the party resting in the shade.

The day's climbing was over but the day was not finished. It seemed to take an inordinate amount of time to sidle around the base of this island mountain to Morley saddle, the low-point of the ridge separating Danjera and Bundundah Creeks. According to my forestry map, this ridge is also the border between vacant and reserved Crown land through which we had been walking and Morton National Park. After a brief rest we followed an old bridle trail which took us down the mis-named Atkinson Spur to a beautiful campsite. The correct name is Atkins Spur after Jenny Atkins.

Our campsite was on what used to be Jenny Atkins' selection just south of the junction of Bundundah and Selection creeks. It is fronted by a beautiful pool about the size of two Olympic pools laid end to end. James Henry Sturgiss in *The Man from the Misty Mountains* spins an amusing tale about Jenny and how she protected her two daughters from the Yalwal Don Juans. We swam in the large pool where Jenny is reputed to have caught

fish by stunning them with sticks of dynamite. The bridle trail we had used is almost certainly the one which the Atkins would have used on their fairly frequent visits to Yalwal some eight kilometres away. Yalwal was a gold mining town between 1870 and 1939 when it was destroyed by bushfires and never rebuilt. Peak activity was in the 1880–1900 era after which it declined. Most of the site of the old town is now beneath Danjera Dam which was opened in 1972 to serve Nowra. The area is now used for recreational purposes and some limited cattle grazing.

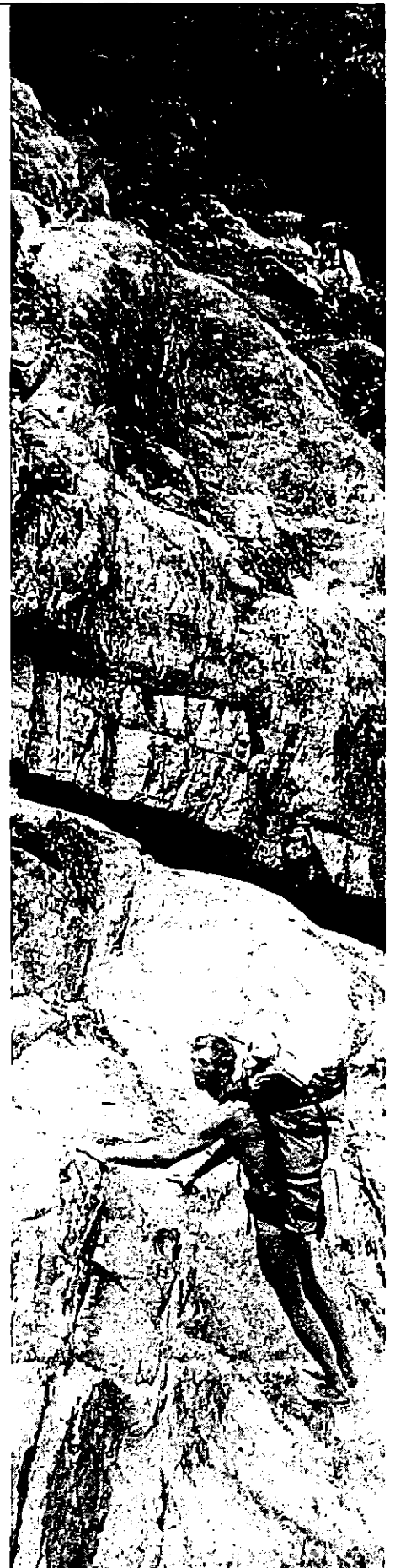
Sunday morning we were up and away early to avoid climbing in the heat of the day. We made good time up the 300 metre Twelve Apostles Spur, a spur with glades of shady trees in some places and dense thickets of burrawangs in others. It has some healthy looking stinging nettles too! Once again the weather was very warm and humid. Standing on a huge boulder at the top of the spur we had excellent views of the spectacular Bundundah Creek Valley across to Morley Saddle and yesterday's route. The Twelve Apostles are free-standing monoliths—pieces of broken cliff-line—standing in dense patches of ferns. This is a really beautiful place. Two hundred metres further on we found Packhorse Pass. As the name implies, it is a ramp which provides easy access over the last 20 metres of climb to the plateau (Colleys Plateau). It is quite likely that in the early days the route from Yalwal to Nerriga and hence Goulburn, Taralga and Queanbeyan was via Jenny Atkins' selection and Packhorse Pass and then south across the Ettrema Plateau.

We donned our scrub pants as protection against the prickly hakea and took a north-west bearing to an old trail. This provided a welcome relief from scrub. We all admired the avenue of white-flowering melaleuca trees and the red bottlebrush flowers (*callistemon*). On the track were occasional patches of Christmas bells (*blandfordia*) and flannel flowers (*actinotus*). We followed this track in a westerly direction for two kilome-

tres, pushed through the scrub briefly and came onto a cliff-ledge overlooking Cinch Creek and Ettrema Gorge. The view is truly breath-taking, one of the best on the planet. The cliff-line runs to the north and south in a sheer drop of 70–80 metres, before developing into steep spurs, secondary cliffs and gullies which end eventually in Ettrema Gorge some 400 metres below. Below us Cinch Creek, with the spectacular Perryman Falls, cascaded and tumbled down to Ettrema Creek. To the north, rising from the Ettrema Creek-bed is a spectacular, steep, rocky knoll which provides a spur leading to the mighty Possibility Point. We had lunch on the cliff-top to give everyone time to take in the beauty of this place. A small group took a side trip to Possibility Point about a kilometre away. The point juts out into Ettrema Gorge and at its extremity is only a couple of metres wide. It is a great viewing platform. To the north you can see the steep-sided gorge for seven or more kilometres, and to the south as far as Hamlet's Crown some five kilometres away. An approaching storm hastened our return. It was brief but authoritative. The group waiting at Dog Leg Creek reported that the rain had approached them horizontally and then swept upwards over the cliff-tops!

Possibility Point was named by Paddy Pallin before his epic crossing of Ettrema Gorge in 1952. He had regarded the point as a possible route into the gorge. He had also named Cinch Creek because he thought it would be an easy alternative route. When he actually arrived there he was disappointed with both options—both seemed impossible without climbing gear. His party had then ventured north near our lunch spot. One of the party, Paul Howard, found an amazing route through the cliff-line shown on the map as Paul's Pass. This is the route we took. It starts near Dog Leg Creek and involves traversing a ledge, in

*Kevin Gill climbing waterfall,
Myall Creek.
Photo by Eric Pickering.*



'The best view on the planet' *continued*

one place very narrow and then dropping into a crack. Here a huge chunk of cliff-face has moved about half a metre away from the rest of the cliff. Earth and leaves have built up in this gap to form a ramp. Once inside the crack it is a simple matter of walking down the steep ramp, literally inside the cliff, and scrambling over a few boulders to the base of the cliff.

We scrambled down the steep spur below the cliff to Cinch Creek, negotiating one or two muddy rock slides on our bottoms. At Cinch Creek we enjoyed a well-earned swim in a beautiful swimming hole with a waterfall at one end. By 7pm we were setting up camp near the Ettrema-Tullyangela Creek junction.

The next day was a pleasant relaxed 12 kilometre walk upstream along Ettrema Creek admiring the scenery, the rugged cliff-line, swimming and diving in the beautiful pools. The weather was kind, mainly overcast but warm enough for swimming. Brian had gone ahead to do a side-trip up Jones Creek. We met him at the junction in the shadow of Thomsons Cliff (named after Pat's grandfather): Brian had been up to the waterfall above the abandoned mine. We boiled the billy

before completing the final two kilometres to our campsite just short of Myall Creek.

I have walked or rather climbed Myall Creek many times and each time it is an experience to be savoured. We all enjoyed the challenges of Myall—walking the ledge around the top of the first waterfall, climbing the cascades, swimming in the large pool with the 25 metre waterfall, climbing the three-metre wall at the final waterfall, walking the 30-metre log bridge into a side creek, crawling through a cave and finally climbing two chimneys to the plateau. We arrived at Quiera Clearing at 2pm where my car had been placed four days earlier. It took almost three hours to unscramble the car shuffle.

We met at the Loaded Dog at Taralga to say our farewells. The party was in good spirits: the first two days had been fairly hard, the third day relaxing and the final day, challenging but short. We had walked about 40 kilometres. Everyone had experienced challenge, a wilderness experience, enjoyment and companionship. What a pity we separate just when we are getting to know one and other.

Eric and Pat Pickering



*David Hall and Pat Pickering descending into crack.
Photo by Di Thompson.*

Save Royal National Park

There is a danger that the decision to protect the lands around Helensburgh in the Hacking River catchment will be deferred, leaving the area open to large scale development of up to 4000 houses and some factories. This would degrade the Royal National Park and contribute to the loss of species such as the sooty owl and the yellow-bellied glider.

Please write a submission to Wollongong City Council, using some or all of the following points.

- The Royal National Park needs protection from water pollution caused by urban expansion.
 - Rainforest should not be cleared for pollution ponds which do not work.
 - Wildlife corridors should be preserved to ensure the survival of large native mammals.
 - The urban expansion plans rely upon an experimental pollution control technology which is of doubtful effectiveness.
 - The detrimental effects of domestic animals on native wildlife may be increased by urban expansion.
 - The number of native animals killed on roads within the park would be increased if the local population is increased.
 - Aboriginal sites of significance in the area should be protected and preserved.
 - Environmental planning priorities for the Hacking River catchment should be such as to ensure the protection of Australia's oldest national park.
- The title of your submission should be: Submission in support of Draft Environmental Plan No. 91/16—Helensburgh Area. Address the submission to:
Mr Rod Oxley
General Manager/Town Clerk
Wollongong City Council
Locked Bag 8821
South Coast Mail Centre NSW 2121
Wollongong City Council
Reference: T340/6/1

Exotic plants invasion

Canberrans are all aware of the spread of cotoneaster, briars, St John's wort, Cootamundra wattle, blackberries and other weeds in our local area. Members who attended the November NPA meeting were aghast to hear about the environmental devastation being caused by introduced plants throughout our continent.

Dr Stella Humphries, an ecologist with CSIRO Division of Wildlife and Ecology, graphically illustrated the national pattern of exotic plant invasions in Australian ecosystems.

A research team of Dr Humphries and Dr Richard Groves of CSIRO with Dr David Mitchell of the Murray-Darling Freshwater Research Centre gathered details on the threat to our native fauna and flora in a wide range of ecosystems including inland and coastal wetlands, rivers, lakes, mudflats, rainforest, grasslands and seashores.

Rubber vine (*Cryptostegia grandiflora*) introduced as an ornamental plant from Madagascar in the 1870s, smothers trees and other vegetation. This vigorous climbing plant has spread in Queensland throughout the river systems of southern Cape York and along the coast towards Bundaberg in an area of 350 000km². As yet no progress has been made with biological control although a rust is soon to be released. Herbicide control is uneconomic because of vast areas and difficult terrain, and cutting back is hampered by extensive root systems which reshoot.

Mimosa pigra is causing devastation over some 800km² and is posing major management problems for Kakadu National Park. It is fast-growing and produces many seeds which float across floodplains and in rivers of tropical coastal areas. This woody, prickly plant grows in dense stands six metres tall. Long-term biological controls are being sought with some success being achieved by the stem boring larvae of the moth *Neurostrota guniella* in reducing seed



Athel pine changing the course of the Finke River in central Australia.
Photo by Stella Humphries.

numbers.

(In his Statement on the Environment, the Prime Minister promised additional funding of \$5 million over three years for work on the control of *Mimosa pigra* including mechanical and chemical control and further research into biological control. He also announced that a National Weeds Strategy is being developed.)

Two semi-aquatic grasses from the Caribbean *Hymenachne amplexicaulis* and *Echinochloa polystachia* are seen as potential threats. These have been promoted as pasture plants in the tropics, but researchers express concern that they will choke wetland systems and destroy bird habitats—as has happened with an established grass *Brachiaria mutica*.

The watercourses of central Australia, such as the Finke River, are threatened by *Tamarix aphylla*. Introduced as a shade tree, it is now seen to be changing river flow and sedimentation regimes, salinising the soil, displacing native vegetation and interfering with the animal communities that depend on it.

The tropical vine from India, *Thunbergia grandiflora*, has escaped from gardens and threatens lowland rainforests in

Queensland. It smothers trees up to 15 metres high and is destroying 0.6 hectares of forest per year.

Other plants seen as a problem in southern Australia are the bridal creeper *Myrsiphyllum asparagoides*, bitou bush, lantana, broom, blackberry—and off the Tasmanian coast the kelp *Undaria pinnatifida*.

Eradication programs raise many issues:

- we need legislative controls on the import of ornamental plants with comprehensive screening and quarantine processes
- conflict between conservation and agricultural and pastoral values must be resolved
- plant nurseries must be persuaded to stop selling potentially problem species
- early intervention in weed outbreaks is essential
- clearing of small areas may be wasteful of funds if reinvasion is likely to occur
- removal by herbicide treatment may leave bare ground susceptible to new weed infestations—revegetation programs must be in place
- herbicide application is expensive for private landholders.

Dr Humphries stressed the need for a national, co-ordinated attack on the weed problem.

Beverley Hammond

Aboriginal or European?

Last year Joan Goodrum, one of our members with an interest in archaeology, brought to notice some unexplained piles of stones between and on larger rocks on the spur leading down to Bogong creek from the Yankee Hat car-park. Similar piles in other areas have been attributed to be Aboriginal route markers. It is perhaps no coincidence that these stones lead towards Namadgi where lines of stones were identified in the mid-'70s as being ceremonial and of Aboriginal origin.

The Gudgenby valley may be likened to a focal point where Aboriginals gathered on their way for their annual Bogong moth feasts, ceremonial or trading occasions. The area is particularly suitable as a gathering place because of the flat valley floor, desirable camping with food availability and from all points comparatively easy access because of breaks in the ranges surrounding the site. From the valley both Namadgi and Sentry Box mountains, both with ceremonial sites, can be seen. There are also the Yankee Hat, Rendezvous creek and Nursery Swamp rock shelter art sites as well as evidence of a number of sites of tools and toolmaking activities. Elizabeth McKeahnne, born in 1844, distinctly remembered as a young girl seeing 500 'blacks' camped near her home at Gudgenby.

The cairns of rocks located vary from a single rock placed on a prominent larger rock to arrangements laid out flat on a comparatively level surface of a large boulder to piles of stones between adjacent rocks or laid out flat on the ground in rectangular patterns around a large boulder. One group located by Fiona Brand, is of a rectangular shape of a size that would cover a body and as Aboriginals were known to bury their dead in this fashion it could be a burial site.

There is also a line of stones some 90 metres in length made up of single stones some three to four



*The phantasmagoric image of a deeply weathered granite boulder located on the ridge below the Yankee Hat car park.
Photo by Reg Alder.*

metres apart to larger piled stones as the group approaches Gudgenby river. There is a bend in the line of stones and investigation of a 1900 era parish map of property boundaries shows that it does not follow a boundary line.

Also in the area are a number of weathered granite boulders which distinctly resemble human heads, one in particular is like a skull with huge sunken eye sockets. Two others are easily recognisable as heads. The line of stones previously described leads to an easy river crossing and to one of the heads. There are also a number of rock outcrops which without much imagination can be likened to a number of animal creatures. If these have any mythological significance it will never be known.

In the 1920s, the Gudgenby property was overrun with rabbits and two gangs of ten men each

were employed in digging them out. Their methods were said to have been to remove loose rocks from around larger rocks to make it easier to dig out the burrows. These would be piled in heaps. Another method was to encircle the rock with a cord net. The net would be held down by rocks placed on the top of the larger rock. Wire netting tubes, large enough to just accommodate a rabbit were also formed and placed at the entrances of burrows. By various methods the rabbits would be forced from their burrows and caught in the wire netting. Evidence of these methods can still be seen. Wire netting was also used to permanently encircle a large boulder to prevent new burrowing and to capture encircled rabbits. Evidence of this activity can be seen in adjoining areas.

Over the past couple of years, axe-grinding grooves have been located on Middle creek at the boundary of the old scrub lease and freehold lease boundary and at the top of the cascades as the creek drops to the Gudgenby plain. Other groups have also been located between the junction of Middle creek to the Gudgenby river and the Gudgenby homestead. As these are near the water, it may be said that they have been formed by natural means, but since they are of the classical, sharp-ended, elliptical shape, there can be little doubt as to their origin, mainly because of the requirement of the large number of Aboriginals in the area to form and hone up their axes.

During late 1992, the Heritage unit of the Parks and Conservation Service contracted two archaeologists to report on the possible Aboriginal relationships to these stone arrangements. Association members gave them some assistance with information and accompanying them in locating stone arrangements. Their report is awaited with interest.

Unless an individual can be

Outings program

April to June 1993



Outings guide

Day walks carry lunch, drinks and protective clothing.
Pack walks two or more days, carry all food and camping requirements. CONTACT LEADER BY WEDNESDAY.

Car camps facilities often limited or non-existent. Vehicles taken to site can be used for camping. BOOK EARLY WITH LEADER.

Other activities include nature rambles, environmental and field guide studies and ski tours.

Walks gradings

Distance grading (per day)

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

Terrain grading

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

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

April 6 Tuesday Meeting
Outings Sub-committee
7.30 pm 1 Fitzmaurice St. Kaleen Tel: 2412330 (h)
Meeting to plan the outings program for July to September. Phone Mick Kelly (any time after receipt of your *Bulletin* will make my job easier) if unable to attend but willing to offer a walk, car camp, ski trip etc.

April 17 Saturday Walk 1/A
The Pinnacle Ref: Canberra UBD Map F18
Leader: Phyl Goddard Tel: 2548279(h)
Meet at entrance on Springvale Drive Weetangera north of the De Salis St intersection at 2pm. Easy walk (swampy in places) of about 2 hrs with beautiful views and some original red stringy bark woodlands. Bring afternoon tea and binoculars.

April 18 Sunday Walk 2/C/D
Yankee Hat (North Peak) Ref: Rendezvous Ck Yaouk 1:25000
Leader: Jack Smart Tel: 2492191 (w)2488171 (h)
Meet at Kambah Village Shops at 8 am. Commencing at Boboyan Pines car park climb to top via saddle for commanding views of surrounding peaks. Steep descent on return. Expect some heavy regrowth and rocky areas including boulders. (100 kms \$20 per car).

April 17/18 Pack Walk 1/A/B
Mt. Talaterang Ref: CMW Budawangs
Leader: Steven Forst Tel: 2748426 (w)2516817 (h)
Contact leader by the Wednesday for details. After a long drive an easy packwalk of 2.5 hrs over flat terrain to a campsite at the top of Nyanga Falls. (no sleepwalkers please). Then a solid daywalk up Mt. Talaterang and back. Some scrub. (500 Km \$100 per car)

April 21 NPA New Office Warming
New NPA Office Chifley
Leader: Beverley Hammond Tel: 2886577(h)
Come along to the new NPA office in Maclaurin Crescent Chifley from 5.30 pm for inspection and lots of chat. Please bring a plate of savouries. Wine & juice provided.

April 24 Saturday Walk 2/A/C
Alpine Track Extension Ref: Williamsdale 1:25000
Leader: Syd Comfort Tel: 2862578 (h)
Meet at Kambah Village Shops at 8.30 am. Follow extension of Alpine Track from Booroomba Rocks to Namadgi Visitors Centre, over newly surveyed track. Car shuffle required. (50 Kms \$10 per car)

25 April Sunday Walk 2/A/B
Orroral Valley Ramble Ref: Rendezvous Ck 1:25000
Leader: Steven Forst Tel: 2748426(w) 2516817(h)
Meet at Kambah Village shops at 8.15 am. A wander up along the Orroral River and valley visiting the Orroral Homestead the remains of the tracking station before wandering back down the other side of the river. Depending upon party an attempt may be made on the pinnacle sticking out into the valley. (100 Kms \$20 per car)

April 24/25 Canoe Trip
Clyde River Ref: Batemans Bay & Ulladulla 1:100000
Tel: 2497167 (h)
Leader: Chris Bellamy
Phone leader by the previous Wednesday for details. Paddle from Broomah on easy white water to Shallow Crossing and then on flat water to Nelligen. Route may vary with tide and water levels. Suitable for fit beginners. (300Kms \$60 per car)

April 29 Thursday Heritage Week Walk 1/A
Square Rock Ref: ACT 1:100000
Corin Dam 1:25000
Tel: 2488774(h)
Leader: Olive Buckman
Meet at the Square Rock Trail car park located on the right hand side of the Corin Dam Rd (Smokers Gap on the 1:25000) about 1Km West of the Corin Forest Ski Facility at 9.30 am. A pleasant walk (plus historical commentary) on tracks through a variety of scenery to a fascinating rock formation with extensive views. An inside outside rock scramble is optional. Total climb 270 metres ideal for beginners and families. (80 kms \$16 per car)

May 2 Sunday Walk 1/A/C
Googong Reservoir Ref: Captains Flat 1:25000
Leader: Mike Smith Tel: 2862984 (h)2483624 (w)
Meet at Canberra Railway Station at 8 am. A walk from the car-park at the Southern end of Googong Reservoir past London Bridge, old homestead, Curly falls and then across the Queanbeyan River to Compo Canyon. Return to cars by similar route. Old footwear for crossing river advocated. (50 kms \$10 per car)

May 2 Sunday Heritage Week Walk (Joint NPA/KHA) 2/A
Botanists, Brumbies & Brindabella Skiers Ref: ACT 1:100000
Tel: 2477285 (h)
Leader: Matthew Higgins
Essential to book early with leader as numbers are limited. Visit the Mt. Franklin Ski Lodge and associated ski runs, Canberra ski Club Member Bert Bennett will talk on history of the Chalet. Visit brumby yards before going on to Pryors Hut where, Professor Lindsay Pryor will talk on the history of the Alpine Botanic Garden. (130 Kms \$26 per car)

May 1/2 Pack Walk 3/A/B
Meryla State Forest Ref: Bundanoon
Leader: Len Haskew Tel: 2814268 (h)
Contact leader by Wednesday for details. A pleasant walk mainly on trails through forest to a colonial farming site. A side trip without packs along the old Meryla Rd that was constructed in 1896 (suitable for beginners) (350kms \$70 per car)

May 8 Saturday Walk 1/A
Mt Rogers Ref: Canberra St Map
Leader: Gary Schneider Tel: 2549801(h)
Meet at Charnwood Shops car park at 2 pm. A local walk on trail on Mt Rogers for fine views of surrounding and distant countryside. About 8 kms.

May 9 Sunday Walk 2/A/D/E
Gigerline Gorge Ref: Williamsdale 1:25000

Leader: Syd Comfort Tel: 2862578 (h)
Meet at Kambah village Shops at 8.30 am. A walk of about 12 Kms along the Murrumbidgee from near Smith Rd through gorge to Angle Crossing. Car shuffle required (40Kms \$8 per car)

May 8/9 Weekend at Thredbo
Thredbo (in comfort)

Leader: Phil Bubb Tel: 2758029 (w) 2486769 (h)
In order to establish numbers for this stay in lodge accommodation at Thredbo please contact leader EARLY. Optional day walks to Dead Horse Gap and on the Main Range. Leave Canberra on Friday evening. (400 Kms \$80 per car)

May 8/9 Pack Walk 2/A/B
Mt. Clear Ref: ACT 1:100000

Leader: Marty French Tel: 2642477 (w) 2583528 (h)
Phone leader by the Wednesday for details. A walk from the Mt Clear camping ground via Long Flat to Mt Clear and on to Horse Gully Hut for return along the Naas Valley fire trail. Good views of the Naas River valley and surrounding countryside. Total climb about 600m. (140Kms \$28 per car)

May 12 Wednesday Walk 1/A/C
Booroomba Rocks ACT: 1:100000

Leader: Olive Buckman Tel: 2488774 (h)
Contact leader for meeting place and time. A pleasant 9 kms walk on fire trails and tracks to view of Canberra, then to high point for 360° views. Climb 300 metres (65 kms \$13 per car)

May 15 Saturday Bush Dance
Yarralumla Woolshed

Leader: Beverley Hammond Tel: 2886577(h)
Commencing at 8 pm, join with other outdoor and walking groups in a bush dance to raise funds for the Wilderness Society, music provided by Woolies Home Band. A light supper will be served. Tickets available from the Wilderness Society in Garena Place Civic, \$10 and \$6 concessions.

May 16 Sunday Walk 2/C/D
Glinni Falls Ref: Tiddinbilla 1:25000

Leader: Mike Smith Tel: 2483624(w) 2862985(h)
Meet at corner of Eucumbene Drive and Cotter Road at 8 am. Walk from Mt Franklin to the 180 m high falls and return. A demanding and constant 550m descent/ascent through fallen timber (120kms \$24 per car)

May 15/16 Pack 2/A/C/D
Rock Flats Ref: Rendezvous Ck 1:25000

Leader: Jack Smart Tel: 2492191(w) 2488171(h)

Meet at Kambah Village Shops at 8 am. From Nursery Swamp car park in Orroral Valley mainly by track across to Rendezvous Creek camping high on the creek around MR 726530. Next morning walk up to Rock Flats (with day packs) return via same route to cars. (90 kms \$18 per car)

May 23 Sunday Walk 4/A/C
Naas Creek Ref: Yaouk 1:25000

Leader: Frank Clements Tel: 2317005 (h)
Meet at Kambah village shops at 8.30 am. Pleasant walk (except for 2Kms along creek) fire trails with no steep climbs from Boboyan pine forest to Naas Ck and return. (100 Kms \$20 per car)

May 22/23 Pack Walk 2/A/C/D
Sentry Box Mountain & Sentry Box Rock

Leader: Mick Kelly Ref: YAOUK 1:25000
Tel: 2756119(w) 2412330(h)
Contact leader by Wednesday for details. Walk along Naas Creek inspect Boboyan Homestead (ruins) and Lone Pine (ruins). Camp on Sheep Station Creek, climb Sentry Box early on Sunday (without pack) for a mid afternoon return to cars. (140 kms \$28 per car)

May 30 Sunday Walk 1/B
Brandy Flat Hut Ref: Michelago 1:25000

Leader: Marty French Tel: 2583528 (h) 2756119 (w)
Meet at Kambah Village shops at 8.30 am. Walk from Glendale along fire trail to Brandy Flat Hut and onwards to Boboyan Rd. Fine views of both the Billy and Booths Ranges, total distance about 12 Kms. Car shuffle required. (90Kms \$18 per car)

May 29/30 Pack Walk 2/A/C/D
Burrungubugge/Brassy Gap Ref: Khancoban, Eucumbene, Mt Kosciusko, Berridale 1:50000

Leader: Di Thompson Tel: 2447550(w) 2886084(h)
Contact leader by Wednesday for details. Walk north along the Burrungubugge River Valley, Brassy Gap & Gungahlin River. Visit huts and ruins and take in great mountain scenery and sparkling streams. (500 kms \$100 per car + park entrance fee)

June 6 Sunday Walk 2/A/C/D
Mt Coree Ref: Corin Dam 1:25000

Leader: Len Haskew Tel: 2814268 (h)
Meet corner Eucumbene Drive and Cotter Road at 8 am. Walk from Blundells Flat via fire trails and scrub to the summit of Mt Coree. Return via Two Sticks Rd and fire trails. (120 kms \$24 per car)

June 5/6 Pack Walk 2/D
Kybean Range Ref: Puen Buen Yowrie 1:25000

Leader: Martin Wardrop Tel: 2734966 (h) 2531284 (w)
Contact leader by the Wednesday for details. Cars are parked at MR 285744 (Yowrie), walk through a mixture of forest, open casuarina and rocky tops along the top of the Kybean Range before camping on the upper Tuross River. The following day the route goes through open casuarina heath to Kydra Peak before returning to cars along fire trail. (320 Kms \$64 per car)

June 9 Wednesday Walk 1/A
Hospital Creek Waterfall Ref: YAOUK 1:25000

Leader: Beverley Hammond Tel: 2886577(h)
Meet at Kambah Village Shop 9.30 am. Walk on trails from Boboyan pines to Hospital creek and return across open paddocks and

trails. (100 kms \$20 per car)

June 12/13/14 Pack Walk 2/A/B
Quilties Mtn CMW Budawang

Leader: Steven Forst Tel: 2748426 (w) 2516817 (h)
An easy to medium walk in the vicinity of Quilties Mtn. A 2.5 day walk with visits to Styles Pass, the Bora Ground and Round Mtn. (300Km \$60 per car)

June 19 Saturday
Namadgi work party

Leader/Contact: Syd Comfort Tel: 2862578
Tentative date for work party. Actual work type to be finalised with ranger Namadgi

June 20 Sunday Walk 2/C/D
Exploratory Walk Ref: Corin Dam 1:25000

Leader: Mick Kelly Tel: 2412330 (h) 2756119 (w)
Meet at Kambah Village Shops at 8.30 am. Exploratory walk in the area to the SE and S of the Honeysuckle Tracking Station Site. Climb of about 400m involved. Return via the Orroral/Honeysuckle Ck. fire trail to vehicles. (70 kms \$14 per car)

June 24 Thursday Walk 1/A
Molonglo Gorge Ref: ACT 1:100000

Leader: Olive Buckman Tel: 2488774 (h)
Meet at the first BBQ (picnic area) on the right (riverside) on Morshead Dr. after the main gate to Duntroon Military College at 10 am. A 6 Km return walk on tracks with some rocks and a short climb. (30 Kms \$6 per car)

26 June Saturday Walk 2/A/B
Long Point Ref: Caoura 1:25000

Leader: Steven Forst Tel: 2748426 (w) 2516817 (h)
Meet just past the Dickson traffic lights on Northbourne Ave at 8.15 am. A walk down Long Point to the Shoalhaven River near Tallong. A long walk down with excellent views of the river for lunch on a sandy beach before the long haul back out. (250 Kms \$50 per car) Tallong. A long walk down with excellent views of the river for lunch on a sandy beach before the long haul back out. (250 Kms \$50 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.

located to state categorically that he or she placed that pile of stones just so, there will always be a doubt as to their origin and the reasons for their location. Would rabbiters gather and place stones in a neat heap or just throw them out of the way, leave them in narrow crevices between adjoining rocks to provide further problems or lay them out flat on a larger rock with some beyond easy

reach? Discussing these probabilities with others, there is the natural inclination to favour that they would be dispersed rather than collected. Nets would only need a few random stones to hold them secure around the periphery of the boulder.

Who laid these stones and why will always be a matter of conjecture and remain an enigma. One thing is certain, however: they

should not be moved for any purpose since they are part of either our Aboriginal or European heritage and if not they are part of the natural landscape, protected by the Land (Planning and Environment) Act and the Namadgi Management Plan against any disturbance.

Reg Alder

Aboriginal involvement in NPs

The last meeting of the Australian National Parks Council in October 1992 considered the issue of Aboriginal ownership and management of national parks.

As with the other major ANPC agenda issues, our environment subcommittee was called upon to advise on our Association's attitude. Members were not inclined to support a rather restrictive motion going before the council, but could do no more than endorse a general statement of principle in the absence of a policy of our own.

This prompted the subcommittee to start developing an NPA (ACT) policy for its own area of interest, that is, parks and reserves in the ACT and south-eastern region.

A working group was formed, consisting of Jenny Atten, Neville Esau, Tim Walsh, Di Thompson, Joan Goodrum, Fiona Brand, Jane O'Donoghue, Graham Guttridge, Anne Taylor and Den Robin, representing the environment and Namadgi subcommittees.

We have come up with the following draft policy statement and now put it to the wider membership for comment.

Aboriginal involvement in national parks and reserves—policy statement

The National Parks Association of the ACT has been considering the question of Aboriginal involvement in the ownership and management of national parks.

The Association considers that non-indigenous Australians have

obligations towards Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and acknowledges the importance of land to the maintenance of Aboriginal culture and traditions. It recognises the value of Aboriginal understanding of natural ecosystems and processes.

The Association also believes that land, including national parks, should be cared for in an ecologically sustainable manner.

NPA (ACT) is familiar with the models of Uluru and Kakadu in the Northern Territory where Aboriginal-owned land has been leased back by the traditional owners for management as national parks, and moves in other states to establish similar arrangements.

However, our prime interest is in the issue as it affects the parks and reserves of south-eastern Australia, in particular those in the ACT.

NPA (ACT) supports the following principles:

- The purpose of national parks is the conservation in perpetuity of their natural and cultural values.
- The importance of land in Aboriginal culture should be recognised and similarly, the significance of Aboriginal cultural heritage to some national parks.
- Aboriginal participation in management of national parks should be encouraged in a way which is consistent with the preservation of the natural attributes of the park.
- Aboriginal people should be involved in the interpretation of

natural and cultural features, especially where the features are art, ceremonial, occupational or other significant Aboriginal sites.

- Aboriginal people should be encouraged to take a role in the research, monitoring and protection of native species, particularly those that are rare or endangered.
- There should be ongoing consultation with Aboriginal people about the identification, declaration and management of land for nature conservation purposes.
- Aboriginal people living a traditional lifestyle have a right to hunt, fish and gather food for subsistence or cultural purposes. Where these activities take place in national parks or other designated conservation areas, they should be made explicit in appropriate plans of management.

As well as helping us in participation in national forums, a policy along these lines should prove useful when the Association is asked for advice from the ACT Government or surrounding park management authorities. In preparing submissions, it will be useful to have a set of guidelines to ensure consistency.

It will also help us if we ever have to deal with a saga of the nature of the Yankee Hat car park again!

If you have any comments, please contact Den Robin on 281 4837 (h) or get in touch with a member of the NPA General Committee. We would value your comment.

Travellers' Tales part III

England/Denmark

22 July to 1 September

On our return to the south of England, John and I had different itineraries. John flew back to Australia, taking advantage of his round-the-world ticket to stop over in Canada and Kuai and also to enjoy a few warm weeks in Cairns. I spent about a month visiting friends and relations who showed me around and went out of their way to arrange some walking excursions.

A few highlights of historic or walking interest included a visit to a cousin in Cornwall who lives in a delightful old farmhouse, parts of which are 600 years old! On arrival it was like being transported back in time to see this lovely old building with its cobbled forecourt where fowl and geese scratch around.

During the restoration and renovation of this old farmhouse, my cousin and his wife made some interesting discoveries. One of these was the original open hearth and an ancient cloam oven, hidden behind a newer, Victorian fireplace; another was that they had squatters (perhaps 'hangers on' might be a more accurate description) in the loft—bats. These are a protected species in Britain so once a year a local 'Batman' pays the farmhouse a visit to check on the welfare of the bats.

A visit to another cousin, this time in a small village in Cambridgeshire, surprisingly reminded me of Canberra. Perhaps I was beginning to feel some pangs of homesickness! Their house is in an attractive new estate with a

mixture of single and two storey houses with unhedged open gardens, located close to a man-made lake (Grafham Water reservoir). This small lake boasts a sailing club and has a bicycle path running around the foreshore. All this, together with the openness of the countryside, now pale gold

miles to Lattimer. It was a peaceful walk by this gentle river away from the noise of motorway and railways. We stopped for a pub lunch at the Bedford Arms at Chenies. It was a hot afternoon and later when we crossed the river, we passed an artist at her easel painting a group of placid brown and white cows who stood either languidly in the stream or the riverside pasture. With a quick click I too captured the scene; my medium being photography and my caption for that shot, 'A dreamy pastoral afternoon in the fullness of summer'.

In that same general area, a walking friend from way back had devised an energetic program for me during my brief stay with her. We climbed Coombe Hill and from there I looked down on well defined and complicated pattern of a cross and circles which had flattened a wheat crop. Every year in Europe these mysterious 'corn circles' appear overnight.

They cause much speculation! Are they caused by UFOs making visitations; by an atmospheric phenomenon, or by local larrikins? Like the Loch Ness Monster, while the puzzle remains so does the interest.

Leaving Britain, I spent about five days in Denmark visiting a friend. I wasn't able to fit in much walking, apart from the regular tourist beat, but took time off to sit on a park bench (in Copenhagen) under a large tree scribbling my journal. I was disturbed by a loud drilling sound in the tree above and looked up to



*Thatched cottage in Sussex, UK
Photo by Judith Webster.*

with ripening wheat, seemed reminiscent of Lake Burley Griffin—blue and sparkling on a summer's day with blonde-bleached grass!

In Sussex my aunt's enthusiasm for her local countryside over-rode her arthritic problem and we enjoyed a short pleasant stroll along an English country lane where there were pretty thatched cottages and views across the harvest-ripe Downs under a warm blue sky.

Another walk I enjoyed was in Buckinghamshire commencing at Chorley Wood Common and following the River Chess about five

see a noisy and industrious woodpecker!

The next stage of my journey was an overnight train trip to Salzburg in Austria where I rendezvoused with Beverley Hammond, our current NPA president.

Austria 2 to 19 September

Beverley and I spent the first few days looking around some of Salzburg's historic buildings; the early baroque cathedral, consecrated in 1628, and the Hohenburg Fortress. We did a conducted tour around the latter—the interior of the Fortress, as it appears today, dates primarily from the construction carried out under Archbishop Leonhard von Keutschach (1495 to 1519), and his coat of arms with the turnip are found all over the place.

A visit to another historic building was incidental to attending a concert of music by Mozart and Dvorak—it was given in a large room known as the marble Hall in the Mirabell Palace. Mozart himself had performed, with his father and sister, in that room.

In addition to the historical and cultural wonders, Beverley and I ventured out of Salzburg on our own excursion by train, taxi, cable car and foot to see a natural wonder—a famous Ice Cave. At the start of the cave tour, I tentatively asked the young, German-speaking guide if he was able to give a few comments in English. Certainly, he said, and asked us to stay at the front of the large group for our special translation of his guide patter. He then distributed lamps to about every tenth person beginning with me. These were miners' lamps with a naked flame. He instructed us to hold our lamps to one side so that we would not burn the 'backside' (his English bore an American influence here as he used a more colourful expression!) of the person in front and, he hastened to point out, he was directly in front of me!!

The caves were very interesting; there were beautiful ice formations and grottos which he enhanced by lighting them with bright magnesium strips and there



*Painted scenes on house in Mittenwald, Germany
Photo by Beverley Hammond.*

was a massive wall of ice which we climbed over by way of a staircase and later we went through a tunnel in the ice.

From Salzburg we travelled by train and bus to the Leutasch valley in the Tyrol. The village is a string of hamlets and we found good accommodation in one of these, Aue. The Austrian Tyrol has a picture-book prettiness. The mountains rise abruptly from the floors of the long, flat valleys and give an impression of being much higher than they actually are. The sides of the mountains are clad in beech and fir forest but the tops are bare and craggy. Pale, chalky blue streams rush along the alleys between tall pines and lush green meadows where the tinkle of cow bells falls gently on the ear. Villages of chalet-type houses adorned with colourful window boxes cluster around little chapels with quaint onion-shaped spires.

A vast network of well-maintained tracks offers plenty of walking. Along these tracks the Austrians stride out briskly in their smart walking attire of knee breeches worn with long socks (often red) and sturdy boots, a red and white checked shirt and jaunty hat. Many carry a walking stick decorated with badges of walking achievements.

Armed with some information on

walks around Leutasch we had brought with us, and a local walking guide/map package, we explored the area.

A couple of our walks took all day. For one of these we gained height quickly by taking a chair lift and then wended our way down well marked tracks through the woods back to the valley. We followed a path that skirted the ponds and small lake of a trout farm and noted there was a restaurant associated with the trout farm. Later in the week we returned to try out the fare and sat outside by the peaceful ponds on a cool breezy evening, savouring fresh grilled trout garnished with almonds.

The most strenuous walk we did took about eight hours and involved a long climb up the Puittal valley. As soon as we emerged from the forest onto an alpine meadow, we had great views of rugged mountains. On that particular walk we saw three gemse (chamois) and heard the short, sharp, whistle-like call of marmots.

One day we travelled a short distance by bus over the border into Germany to visit Mittenwald, a town famous for the decorative scenes painted on many of its

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Travellers' Tales part III *continued*

buildings. This town was an important trading centre for a time during the 1400s and 1500s. In the 1600s it enjoyed a revival when a local violin maker brought a new industry and fame to the town. The violin-making tradition continued for several hundred years and there is an interesting violin museum in Mittenwald.

We had bought a railway pass and decided to travel to a completely different part of the country for the next part of our holiday. We picked out a spot on the map where there were several lakes and set off by rail to Spittal. Here we sought advice from someone in the railway information office to recommend a small lake-

side place to stay and set off by bus for Seeboden. Due to our inability to speak German, the bus driver misunderstood or forgot us, and we overshot the town and alighted at the end of the route, in Millstat. We liked what we saw and were not unhappy with this mistake!

This area of Austria is known as Carinthia. Millstat has a very old church which used to be part of a monastery complex. A series of concerts was being given in the church and we went to one of these and also to a folk concert in the Congress Hall.

The town was situated right on the lake, with opportunities for swimming and ferry trips. In addi-

tion to doing some walks on our own, we joined in a guided one we saw advertised. This enabled us to get to the high country much quicker because transport was pooled to drive to the Millstatter hut to commence the walk. Beverley and I had spent three hours plodding up a steep track to that same hut the previous day! Unfortunately, the hills were shrouded with low cloud so we didn't get the hoped-for view! The hills around Millstat were not as high or rugged as in the Tyrol. The names of all the peaks ended with ...nock. This is the local word for dumpling and describes their characteristic appearance.

Judith Webster

Establishing the Association's archives

A few months ago, I was approached by the secretary of a voluntary organisation in which I was involved some years ago, asking if I held any documents or material from that period as it was needed in connection with the association's approaching 25th anniversary. As might be expected, I could provide very little and my memory wasn't much help either. The request for information was prompted by the situation that practically all earlier records of the organisation—minutes, newsletters, correspondence—had been lost in the changeover of office-bearers during the years. Such a situation represents a loss both to that organisation and to the community.

Fortunately, the National Parks Association has a quite extensive collection of documents relating to the Association's activities since its formation. However, up till now, these holdings have not been brought together in an archival form. As a first step in achieving

this, archivist Sheila Kruse has completed a detailed listing of the documents she has been able to locate. Towards the end of last year, a group of interested members met to address the many issues involved in forming an archival collection.

A primary task of the group is to draft an archival policy for submission to the Association's General Committee. This policy should state the purposes which the archives serve both within the Association and in the wider community. The document should establish the framework within which the archives program operates, set out the authority and responsibilities of those involved, and communicate to all members of the Association a clear understanding of their archives.

There are many practical questions to answer, such as: where and how to store documents; what rules should apply to retention of varying types of documents; should back-up copies of key documents be held; how can the

archives be accessed? We hope to see progress in these matters in our February meeting.

A further matter is of concern at this stage. Are there any documents that should be included in the archives but are now held by individuals? Perhaps some members still hold Association papers on which they have been working at some stage but not returned to file. Although our records are good, they are not complete and any member who can locate relevant documents which are held privately would be doing the Association a great service by bringing the papers to the office or talking to Sheila Kruse about them (phone her on 248 6104).

Syd Comfort

Australians are 'greener'

A recent national poll commissioned by the federal government and conducted by Australian National Opinion Poll has found that, while unemployment clearly overshadows the environment as a current issue, Australians believe that the environment is the most important long-term issue. The extensive attitude research analysis involved 2700 face-to-face interviews Australia-wide and 33 group discussions held in urban and provincial centres.

ANOP found that the community has become markedly 'greener' in the last five years and, while the fervour has dissipated, concern about the environment is genuine and deep-seated. It concluded that the environment now occupies 'a permanent place on the national agenda'.

Conservation News, November 1992, Volume 24, No. 4

Thousands write in: 'Save wilderness'

The people of NSW have shown the Fahey government just how much they want to protect wilderness after the National Parks and Wildlife Service was inundated with submissions late last year.

At least 20 000 submissions poured in over a four-month period from private, public and community groups and individuals, with the vast majority urging the government to place ten wilderness areas around NSW into national parks for permanent protection.

Wilderness Society campaigner, Tom McLoughlin, said those calling for protection outnumbered pro-development submissions by four to one.

The areas nominated were Deua, Goodradigbee, Nadgee, Kanangra-Boyd, Mann, Lost World, Binghi, Guy Fawkes, Oxley and Washpool. The Fahey cabinet has not announced when it will make a final decision on the declarations, but it is expected to be early this year.

Wilderness, Vol. 4, No. 1

Resource Security Bill trounced

A draft Resource Security Bill which would have been disastrous for NSW native forests has been unanimously rejected by state parliament. The draft legislation was part of the Natural Resources Package rejected in toto by a special legislative committee.

The committee, in its report to parliament, referred to various inadequacies of the package, including promotion of species extinction, lack of accountability and public participation, and a likely increase in confrontation once it was implemented.

Wilderness Society campaigner, Tom McLoughlin, said: 'This is a great victory for the NSW movement as a whole and highlights how powerful and effective we can be as a united voice.'

Wilderness, Vol. 4, No. 1

Yarrowlumla Shire plans recreation corridors

Plans are being developed for a network of trails or corridors throughout the shire which will eventually link in with the national network of recreational trails, for example, the national equestrian trail and the Hume and Hovell walking track. The plan is worthy of support for its potential to protect remnant vegetation and to provide corridors which will have multiple benefits for both recreation and nature conservation.

Broadcast (the bi-monthly newsletter of Greening Australia) December 92/January 93

FC jumps the queue on protection

At least one wilderness area recently nominated for protection under the Wilderness Act is being logged by the Forestry Commission in violation of a government agreement.

The eyewitness account came from Wilderness Society member

Peter Woof after a visit to the Deua wilderness area 40 kilometres west of Moruya in November last year. He discovered trees being bulldozed and removed within the Dampier State Forest. Deua is now threatened by logging on its eastern and western sides. The Wilderness Society has sent details of the logging activity to Mr Hartcher [NSW Environment Minister], demanding that he order the Forestry Commission to stand by the agreement not to log in nominated wilderness areas. Mr Hartcher said he is making enquiries.

Wilderness, Vol. 4, No. 1

Rainforest imports may fuel genocide

Logging of the traditional rainforest homelands of indigenous peoples in Borneo may be in contravention of international law. Wilderness Society Armidale spokesperson, Marty Branagan, said the Kayan and Dayak peoples particularly are at great risk of genocide from the activities of Chinese and Japanese logging companies, the Malaysian government regime and the world's rainforest consumers.

Mr Branagan said logging activity which forces people off their land may be in contravention of both the Nuremberg Principle and the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, both of which Australia has signed. Our federal government has the power, as yet unused, to act if it feels these laws are being contravened, for example, by banning rainforest timber imports from Sarawak.

Wilderness, Vol. 4, No. 1

ACT Rural Lessees Treeplanting Project

The ACT Community Treeplanting Fund has made funds available through Greening Australia for tree projects by ACT leaseholders. There has been a lot of interest from leaseholders in

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Treeplanting

continued

this project and so far there are nine definite participants.

The projects will include direct seeding and planting tubestock for a range of different purposes including: re-establishment of trees where dieback is becoming a severe problem, windbreaks, drying out wet ground, and bird habitats where blackberries have been removed as part of a noxious weeds control program.

Broadcast (the bi-monthly newsletter of Greening Australia) December 92/January 93

Crown lands go west

The Colong Foundation has been advised that the government is about to dispose of environmentally sensitive Crown Leases. The moratorium on conversion to freehold of Crown Lease blocks covered by native vegetation, including those which form parts of proposed national park, nature reserve or wilderness areas, is set to collapse. The agreement for the lifting of the moratorium between the key government authorities, the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Department of Conservation and Land Management, is in draft.

The Colong Bulletin, November 1992

Early settlement in Kiandra

Using information given by Graeme Warboys of the ANPWS, a group of Kosciusko Huts Association members recently rediscovered what may well be evidence of the very earliest site in Kiandra, relatively undisturbed. Negotiations are taking place with the ANU Department of Archaeology which may volunteer to do a site recording map.

Kosciusko Huts Association Newsletter, No. 79, Summer 1992

Opening of the Jersey Lookout

On Saturday, 28 November at Fitzroy Falls, the Premier opened Jersey Lookout, recently completed by the NPWS. This magnifi-

cent lookout is on the Western Rim, a few hundred metres from the Visitor Centre. The falls are seen from here in their full beauty.

NPA (NSW) Berrima Branch Newsletter, December 1992

Parkland additions for south coast

The Department of Planning has purchased two south coast properties for eventual addition to Mimosa Rocks and Bournda National Parks. The lands are located between Bermagui and Merimbula.

The major property, Hidden Valley, is 105 hectares adjoining the northern boundary of Mimosa Rocks National Park. During holiday periods Mimosa Rocks National Park is heavily overused. The acquisition will allow park visitors a choice of beaches, and will assist in conserving the high natural values of the park.

The second property, Portion 94 Wallagoot Lake Road, is a 32 hectare area adjoining Bournda National Park and overlooking Wallagoot Lake, the lake entrance and long stretches of the Bournda National Park beaches. Funding for the \$1 700 000 purchases came from the Coastal Lands Acquisition Scheme, consuming most of the scheme's annual allocation of \$2 000 000.

National Parks Journal, December 1992, Vol. 36, No. 6

New alliance to protect environment and heritage

An alliance has been formed between north coast environmentalists and Koori people of the Bundjalung Nation. The Bundjalung Nation is the traditional territory of the Koori people of the far north coast.

A major focus for the Bundjalung Alliance is the NSW Government's Natural Resources Package, which proposes to amend the Heritage Act to remove all protection for environmental heritage and Aboriginal cultural heritage.

National Parks Journal, December 1992, Vol. 36, No. 6

Support for new parks on Georges and Woronora Rivers

A new proposal to link bushland along the Georges and Woronora Rivers with Heathcote National Park has been supported by the Member for Sutherland, Chris Downy.

The proposal seeks to extend the existing Georges River National Park through the Mill and Barden Creek system at West Menai to meet the Heathcote National Park. It also includes a proposed Woronora River Valley National Park.

National Parks Journal, December 1992, Vol. 36, No. 6

Embarrassing forestry poll

The NSW Forestry Commission recently commissioned an opinion poll of visitors to Barrington Tops. The results proved interesting, countering many of the propaganda claims of the timber industry.

Logging does not increase the risk of damage from the greenhouse effect—56 percent disagreed, 34 percent agreed.

Government incentives should be provided for the establishment of private hardwood plantations as a substitute for 'old growth' forests—70 percent agreed, 20 percent disagreed.

Forests which have not been previously logged should remain unlogged, even if it means loss of jobs—51 percent agreed, 38 percent disagreed.

People who would lose their jobs if logging 'old growth' forests were stopped would have to be compensated—56 percent agreed, 31 percent disagreed.

Unlogged native hardwood forests have an intrinsic spiritual value which is destroyed by logging—49 percent agreed, 37 percent disagreed.

Source: Truyard PL in *Wingham EIS 1992*, quoted in *Total Environment Centre Newsletter*, Vol. 11, No. 4, November 1992

Cultural resource management Namadgi 1993

Not long after I started working at Namadgi in August 1992, I realised that the potential projects in cultural resource management were endless!

I am presently developing the framework for a Cultural Resource Management Strategy for the park which will set the priorities and direction for future cultural resource management. I hope to get all interested people involved in the planning, to share ideas and experience when it comes to the programming and implementation of conservation work in the park.

Because the basic stabilisation and protection of the many significant historic sites demands a huge commitment of funding and labour, it can only realistically be achieved in Namadgi with extensive assistance from volunteers. Organisations such as the National Parks Association and Kosciusko Huts Association not only provide interested volunteers and hard labour, but often have expertise and experience in conservation work.

While there are a variety of avenues for obtaining funding for projects and we have recently been

generously assisted, the real problem is always how to make those dollars stretch to meet the requirements for conservation of old buildings. With the use of volunteers and the 'labour of love', we can often work miracles on a tight budget!

A good example is the Orroral woolshed project which will be under way shortly. We have again called on the expertise of Pip Giovanelli to advise and assist with stabilisation work, but to do as much as we can with the limited funding, we will need your help.

Pip has produced a schedule of works which includes: levelling and stumping the frame and floor, repairing yards, drainage, walling, roofing and generally cleaning up the site.

Before any of these works are started, it will be necessary to relocate the relics from the homestead that are presently housed in the woolshed. Anyone interested in being part of a workparty to assist with the sorting out and relocation of the treasures, please contact Len Haskew on 281 4268.

All those who would like to help with the real work, please contact

us and let us know your availability in March and/or April. As we will need the assistance of our gang and machinery, I am reluctant to set a specific date due to the possibility of the fire season still happening.

Another job to be undertaken is stabilising the pise ruin at 'Tennent'; as time wears on, this one becomes more urgent. I am hoping to arrange a workparty for this in March pending the fire season and progress at the woolshed. If you are interested in assisting at 'Tennent', please let us know your availability in March and/or April and we can arrange the most suitable date later.

Namadgi has many wonderful historic and Aboriginal sites, and I look forward to working with the members of the National Parks Association in actively conserving the heritage of the area and planning for the future management of our cultural resources.

You can contact me on (06) 237 5222

Margot Sharp
Senior Ranger
Namadgi National Park

Mount Morgan

In the northern area of the Kosciusko National Park stands the southern-most mountain of the Brindabella Range, Mount Morgan. The Goodradigbee River, as Murray Creek, rises there and flows on down the Brindabella Valley to end eventually in Burrnjuck Dam. How do you get to the mountain? Walking access is via Oldfields homestead and the Lone Pine firetrail, or the Yaouk Valley end of the fire trail, but this involves a steep climb to the saddle. Upon reaching the saddle, a walk across tree-enclosed grassy

areas brings you to the foot of the mountain and a good camp site.

An hour's climb from here gets you to the summit of this very beautiful mountain. Its extensive top is covered with spectacular boulders and rocky areas, twisted snowgums and other alpine vegetation.

Views to Halfmoon Peak, Tantangara Dam, Bimberi and Murray mountains, the Scabby Range and Yaouk Valley are seen in a 360 degree sweep with Mount Jagungal and Tabletop Mountain in the far distance.

This is a spectacular place to be and so it was for the Ngunnawal people who have constructed at least three stone arrangements of lines of small rocks across the flat rock slabs. All are placed in a north-south direction.

Site reports, diagrams and photographs have been placed with the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service so that these sites can be studied and protected.

Fiona MacDonald Brand

Legal protection for Namadgi

From recent articles in the *NPA Bulletin* there appears to be concern among some NPA members over what may be perceived as a lack of statutory protection for Namadgi National Park. In recent issues of the *NPA Bulletin*, articles by Catherine Tighe (March 1992) and Alastair Morrison (June 1992) have commented on this matter. This article proposes to examine whether these concerns are justified.

The legislative vehicle from which Namadgi derives is the *Nature Conservation Ordinance 1980* which was initiated by the Commonwealth Parliament. At that time of its introduction, the Commonwealth had jurisdiction for all local matters in the ACT including of course land management.

In her article, Tighe expressed a view that 'the park is in fact a reserve, as the ordinance makes no provision for parks. It lacks protection under the ordinance as all or part of the Park can be revoked or used for other purposes at any time. There is a need to strengthen the legislation but this has not been resolved yet'. What Tighe wrote was correct but the significance or otherwise of the protection provided at that time was arguable. Just because there was no discrete Act of Parliament involved, it did not necessarily mean that Namadgi lacked statutory protection.

In my view, the selection of an ordinance for this purpose was an appropriate piece of legislation to use in the nature conservation area such as that adopted in the *Nature Conservation Ordinance*. An ordinance has the advantage over an Act because it can be varied by gazettal after any variation has been tabled in the Parliament. This provides a maximum of flexibility in areas where regular variation may be required and those variations need to be implemented quickly. A variation to an Act of Parliament can, however, only be made by legislative amendment which is often time consuming.

The important issue is not what form of legislation is used but rather the quality of that protection it provides and whether that protection can be easily removed. It should be kept in mind that irrespective of what form of legislation is used, what governments have given, they can just as easily take away notwithstanding whether it be an ordinance or an Act of Parliament. Recent excises from national parks in Tasmania and Western Australia provide an excellent example of this.

Namadgi National Park formally came into existence on 3 October 1984, when a notice was published in the *Australian Gazette*. This gazettal, number S 394, declared that pursuant to section 51 of the ordinance, certain public lands had been designated as a reserve area called Namadgi National Park. The original ordinance did not, however, define what a reserve area was. The interpretation (section 4) simply states that a reserved area means an area declared under section 51 to be a reserved area. Section 51 does not clarify this, although reason would indicate that the description given to the land use in the title would dictate this purpose. The ACT Legislative Assembly has since tidied up the definitional anomaly in this area.

The *Nature Conservation Ordinance* was an omnibus provision covering a wide range of nature conservation areas. The ordinance included provisions covering the protection of wildlife, plants and reserved areas including wilderness areas. The various wildlife and plants protected or not protected are covered in schedules attached to the ordinance. The selection of an ordinance for this purpose was therefore, in my view, a logical one. Where the Minister wished to add to the list he or she could simply revoke the earlier schedule and replace it with another. In other words amendment was simple. If an Act of Parliament was involved, any variation to the original Act would

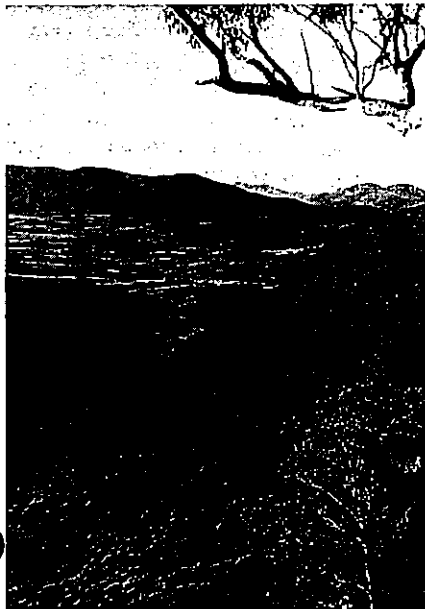
need to be through legislation amendment.

Members may have had more reasons for concern had the whole decision-making process been through the use of an Instrument of Delegation as a number of Commonwealth Acts now use, as an alternative for administrative convenience. The use of an ordinance meant that decisions were subject to scrutiny, had to be tabled and hence had an opportunity for the Parliament to disallow.

As indicated earlier, the ordinance has a number of schedules which list protected wildlife, plants and animals that are not wildlife and hence not protected. As an example, a canary or guinea pig, for the purpose of the ordinance is not wildlife. A galah or budgerigar is, but is exempt from protection and a gang-gang cockatoo is a restricted animal (protected). When the minister wished to add to the list, he or she simply amended the schedule by gazettal to give effect to any change. This was done by revoking the old schedule and proclaiming a new one.

When the ordinance was originally drafted, there was no provision to allow any declaration made under section 51 to be revoked. The only way this could have been achieved was through repeal of the whole ordinance and this action would have had wide ramifications affecting more than Namadgi. It would have meant that statutory protection of all protected birds, animals, fish and plants in the ACT would have been removed if the ordinance was revoked.

In this regard, Namadgi enjoyed a good deal of statutory protection. It was part of a general ordinance covering a range of important conservation matters where the status of the park could only be altered by repealing the ordinance as a whole. This anomaly, however, created another problem. While it was difficult to repeal the ordinance (to abolish



the park) there was no flexibility to allow a government to extend the park's original boundaries if it so wished. This meant that the park could not be extended under the existing legislative framework.

In 1986, the *Nature Conservation Ordinance* was amended to include, among a number of things, the incorporation of a plan of management for the reserved area known as Namadgi National Park.

In 1987 the ordinance was again amended varying section 51. Section 3 in the amendment ordinance amended section 51 of the 1980 ordinance to read, 'The Minister may, by notice published in a gazette revoke a declaration under sub-section 1'.

The effect of this amendment is obvious. If the Minister wished to revoke the 1984 declaration, he or she would simply place a notice in the *Gazette* revoking the previous declaration. This amendment may have led to a conclusion that Namadgi National Park could be abolished at the whim of some minister. While it is open for people to read into any legislative change what they want, it is apparent given subsequent changes to the park boundaries that this amending authority was for the purpose of amending park boundaries.

With the advent of self-government, a range of legislation

that exclusively dealt with matters relating to the administration of the ACT was handed over to the ACT Legislative Assembly. The *Nature Conservation Ordinance 1980* was one of those pieces of legislation. At the same time, the ordinance's status was changed to that of an Act.

In a special gazette, no 74 of 1991, the Minister for Environment, Land and Planning in the ACT, Bill Wood, revoked the declaration no S394, declaring Namadgi National Park. On the same day, in *Gazette* no 75 of 1991, another declaration under section 51 of the 1980 ordinance was made redefining the boundaries of Namadgi National Park. This declaration extended the existing park boundaries to now include a number of parcels of land mainly in the Tennent and Booth areas.

But this was in the past; there are important changes about to happen in the legislative protection of Namadgi. It is now about to be brought under the protection of the Territory Plan as defined in *Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991*. This Act will bring together all land management in the territory through the management of the Territory Plan.

On 15 January 1992, in *Gazette* no s3 of 1992, the ACT Government notified the introduction of the *Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991 (no 100 of 1991)*. In the same gazette the transitional arrangements were notified in the *Land (Planning and Environment) (Consequential provisions) Act 1991 (no 118 of 1991)*.

The consequential amendment Act affected Namadgi in two ways. It firstly amended the definition of a 'reserved area' in the 1980 ordinance to read:

'Reserved area' means an area of public land reserved under the plan as a wilderness area, national park or nature reserve.

Under the definition, 'plan' had the same meaning as the Territory Plan. The effect of the definitional change meant that Namadgi was finally a national park, in more than name. The land use category of national park was also now recognised by statute in the ACT.

The other important transitional arrangement contained in section 42 of the Act, no. 118 of 1991, covered the administrative arrangement between the passing of the *Land (Environment and Planning) Act 1991* until the date the Territory Plan was approved. The section stated that a declaration under section 51 of the 1980 ordinance (such as Namadgi) remained in force until the Territory Plan commenced.

Once the Territory Plan commences, the *Land (Environment and Planning) Act 1991* will provide the statutory protection for Namadgi. The Act has a range of protection including mechanisms for variations to the plan. These include, in section 19, avenues of public consultation on the variation process.

In my view, Namadgi National Park has always had an adequate statutory basis. The fact that it was called a reserved area did not provide it with any lesser protection than it would have had if there had been a land use of national park in the 1980 ordinance. The use of an ordinance did not reduce this protection.

It is a fact of life that as much as members might wish for it, there will never be a Namadgi National Park Act and it is arguable that even if there were, that it would provide any better protection than that proposed under the Territory Plan and the new legislation.

People will always be concerned that what governments have given with the stroke of a pen they can withdraw through a similar process. This notion ignores the reality that governments and politicians are always accountable to the electorate for their actions. The future legislative protection appears to offer more than adequate protection through sound public consultation and notification provisions which should satisfy most members. Members should take into account that the consultation avenues available are sufficient to provide a significant input into anything that might affect the boundaries or the land use in Namadgi. The *Land*

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Legal protection

continued

(*Planning and Environment*) Act 1991 appears to provide that level of protection.

Before concluding I would like to comment on a point raised by Mr Morrison in his article in the June 1992 NPA *Bulletin*. He commented that Namadgi was a priceless asset but it is under the control of the ACT Legislative assembly and not the national government. There are sound reasons why this is so; namely, the Commonwealth has no Constitutional authority for national parks except where they have legislative authority to do so. National parks in states or self-governing territories are not one of those areas.

Notwithstanding the Constitutional arguments, a stronger case can be made that protection provided by the ACT Legislative Assembly would be better than anything provided by the Commonwealth Parliament. At least local members have a vested interest in improving the local environment and are directly accountable to the electorate in this area. This can only serve Namadgi National Park better because it is our only national park and therefore an important local flagship.

Gary Thompson

**ACT ALIVE
CANBERRA
FESTIVAL 1993
15 MARCH
Monday 10am-5pm
(holiday)**

NPA will have a tent on the lawns outside Old Parliament House. There will be a display of photos, information, new memberships taken.

We are looking for members to staff the stand. If you can help, or if you want more information, please call Doreen Wilson on 288 5215.

Recent publications

Cultural Heritage of the Australian Alps

In September 1988 the Australian Alps National Parks Liaison Committee in association with the Australian Academy of Science hosted the First Fenner Conference on the Environment. The subject of the conference was *The scientific significance of the Australian Alps*. This has now been followed by a symposium on the cultural heritage of the Australian Alps which was held at Jindabyne during October 1991. The symposium was convened by John Feint of the Heritage Unit of the ACT Parks and Conservation Service on behalf of the Australian Alps Liaison Committee.

The proceedings of this 1991 symposium, edited by Babette Scougall of the NPA, have been published and copies are available from the Botanical Bookshop of the Australian National Botanical Gardens and from the bookshops of the ACT Parks and Conservation Service for \$20.

Papers were presented by 24 participants to cover the broad headings of overview of the cultural heritage of the Alps, Aboriginal cultural heritage, European settlement and science, mining and forestry and water resources and recreation.

The papers as presented have been expanded to make a book of 357 pages, which no doubt will be a continuous source of reference for years to come. It presents a balanced overview of the role that both Aboriginal and European cultures played in the development of those parts of the Australian Alps which have now been preserved as national parks in Victoria, NSW and the ACT. In the course of this occupation, whatever changes were made to the environment cannot be redressed and it is a commitment for the present and future generations to preserve what relics remain, to the degree that they can be, before they decay and disappear as all mortal objects do before the forces of nature.

The papers are presented for easy reading and are recommended to all with an interest in culture and to those who may have doubts about the importance of preserving the remains of earlier cultures in our national parks.

Reg Alder

A History of the Blue Labyrinth, Blue Mountains National Park

Author: Bruce Cameron
Published: Springwood Instant Press, Springwood, 1992
Price: \$12 including postage
162 pages, text, photographs, diagrams, maps

The Blue Mountains National Park is an area not frequently visited or walked in by Canberra people, but as it was one of the birthing places of bushwalking as a recreational activity, knowledge of this park is always valuable.

The book, *A History of the Blue Labyrinth*, is an extremely well researched book about the area between Glenbrook and Wentworth Falls, stretching along the rim of the Kedumba Valley to the backwaters of Warragamba Dam and down along the Nepean River to the mouth of Glenbrook Gorge.

The book details 22 000 years of Aboriginal occupation of the area, early and late European activities (including destruction of Aboriginal sites) and the more recent phase of bushwalking and camping.

Bruce Cameron, who has lived and walked in this area since boyhood, is quoted as saying, 'I'm trying to give people an appreciation of the area so they don't continue to ruin and destroy it.'

The book may be purchased for \$12 including postage. Cheques made payable to Bruce Cameron can be sent to:

B. Cameron
'High Tops'
PO Box 98
Glenbrook, NSW 2773

Fiona MacDonald Brand

Bits and pieces

NPA constitution changes

Under the new *Associations Incorporation Act 1991* we are required to amend the NPA constitution to comply with this Act. The registrar of Incorporated Associations provided model rules, and the constitution of the National Parks Association (ACT) has been redrafted to incorporate necessary changes to bring it in line with requirements.

The committee will discuss relevant changes at its meeting on 4 March 1993. These will be brought to the March general meeting and placed before members in a special resolution. The changes are procedural only and do not change the aims or meaning of clauses in the constitution.

Copies of the proposed revised constitution can be obtained from the NPA office in Chifley. Interested members are urged to read these before the March general meeting.

1993 Environment Fair and Saving Energy Expo

Sunday 28 March, 11am to 4pm, Commonwealth Park, Canberra

The Environment Fair is an occasion for environment groups, businesses supplying environmental products or services and others to join together to promote and celebrate the environment. There are lots of interesting stalls, lots of people, lots of entertainment and it is lots of fun. Phone Michael or Chris at the Environment Centre on (06) 248 0885 or (06) 247 3064 for more information.

For sale

Walking boots: Zamberlan Trail Lite (suede/cordura)
Size 9-9.5
Little used—half new price \$70 on
Kevin Frawley 271 2820 (w)
282 2973 (h)

New members

Robert Abell	Hawker
Les Dunn	Barton
David and Gloria Finn	Tuggeranong
Chris Francis	Hawker
Jodie Green and Robert McArthur	Dickson
David Heggie	Curtin
John Langmore	Canberra
Miss B. Lawton	Yarralumla
Gillian Redmond	Farrer
Anne Schubert	Kambah
Mr WB Atkinson	Fraser
Walter Burgstaller	Flynn
Gerald Dodgson	Latham
Pauline Galvin	Waramanga
Helen and Jim Gibson and family	Curtin
Jim and Robyn Stokes and family	Curtin
Margaret Unger	Garran
Beth and Ian Wallace and Maryanne Traill	Hawker
Martin Wardrop	Cook

Obituary

Members who knew Harriet Michell were saddened to hear of her death following a car accident on the Brown Mountain road on New Year's Eve.

She had been an NPA member for over 20 years, and was particularly active in the 1970s, joining in the exploration of Namadgi and the Budawangans.

ANBG training program leads the way

The Herbarium at the Australian National Botanic Gardens has introduced the first internship scheme of its kind to be undertaken in Australia.

Eight tertiary students and graduates are presently gaining valuable work experience and on-the-job training as participants in the Gardens' Botanical Internship Program which continues until the end of February 1993.

In return for contributing work on a number of Herbarium projects, interns are receiving specific intensive training in field, herbarium and botanical techniques. To date, topics have included field collection techniques, plant identification and the use of biological databases.

The internships are part of a growing number of volunteer programs at the gardens where staff have been involved in the past year in the training of the first members of the Friends' Voluntary Guides Service and a range of other unpaid programs.

Conserving biodiversity—threats and solutions

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service will be holding a conference in Sydney on this topic from 29 June to 2 July, 1993. The conference is directed at finding solutions to the crisis we face with the current decline of biodiversity. The aim is to define a framework for action, ranging from practical management in the field to planning and legislative requirements needed to sustain biodiversity into the 21st century. The proceedings of the conference will be published as a book. For more information, contact Lynda Wild, Conference Coordinator, National Parks and Wildlife Service, PO Box 1967, Hurstville, NSW 2220, telephone (02) 585 6417.

Calendar

APRIL

- Thursday 1 Committee meeting, 7.30 pm, 21 Hyndes Cr, Holder. Beverley Hammond, 288 6577(h).
Tuesday 6 Outings sub-committee, 7.30 pm, 1 Fitzmaurice St, Kaleen. Mick Kelly, 241 2330(h).
Thursday 8 Namadgi sub-committee, 7.30 pm, 87 Shackleton Circuit, Mawson. Syd Comfort, 286 2578(h).
Thursday 22 Environment sub-committee, 7.45 pm, 43 Fitchett St, Garran. Tim Walsh, 274 1465(w).

MAY

- Saturday 1 Deadline for June NPA *Bulletin*
Thursday 6 Committee meeting, 7.30 pm, 21 Hyndes Cr, Holder. Beverley Hammond, 288 6577(h).
Thursday 13 Namadgi sub-committee, 7.30 pm, 87 Shackleton Circuit, Mawson. Syd Comfort, 286 2578(h).
Thursday 27 Environment sub-committee, 7.45 pm, 43 Fitchett St, Garran. Tim Walsh, 274 1465(w).

JUNE

- Thursday 3 Committee meeting, 7.30 pm, 21 Hyndes Cr, Holder. Beverley Hammond, 288 6577(h).
Thursday 10 Namadgi sub-committee, 7.30 pm, 87 Shackleton Circuit, Mawson. Syd Comfort, 286 2578(h).
Thursday 27 Environment sub-committee, 7.45 pm, 43 Fitchett St, Garran. Tim Walsh, 274 1465(w).

NPA Bulletin

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General meetings

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

Thursday 15 April: NSW Forestry Commission

Tom Aldred, District Forester, Queanbeyan, will discuss present issues pertaining to Forestry Commission activities in NSW.

Thursday 20 May: Maps and mapping

A representative from the Australian Surveying and Land Information Group will give a presentation on 'Technology and the map-maker's art'.

Thursday 17 June: Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

An expedition officer from the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme will discuss the philosophy behind the awards and how the organisation fosters environmental awareness in participants.