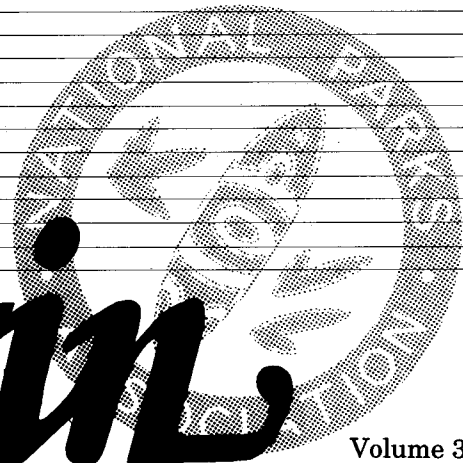


NPA Bulletin



Volume 30 number 3
September 1993

NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION (ACT) INCORPORATED



Antarctica: a dream come true

The future of water in the ACT

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Cover

Photo: Olive Buckman

Gentoo penguin feeding twin chicks at Paradise Bay, Antarctica.

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.
- Cooperation 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

<i>President</i>	Beverley Hammond 288 6577(h)
<i>Vice-president</i>	Dianne Thompson 288 6084(h); 244 7558(w)
<i>Immediate Past President</i>	Les Pyke 281 2982(h)
<i>Secretary</i>	Len Haskew 281 4268(h)
<i>Treasurer</i>	Mike Smith 286 2984(h); 248 3624(w)

Subcommittee conveners

<i>Environment vacant (volunteer needed)</i>	
<i>Outings</i>	Michael Kelly 241 2330(h)
<i>Namadgi vacant (volunteer needed)</i>	

Other committee members

Clive Hurlstone	288 7592(h); 246 5516(w)
Doreen Wilson	288 5215(h)

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Membership inquiries welcome

Please phone Charmian Crimmins at the NPA office.

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Contribute to your *Bulletin*

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

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

Deadline for December issue: 1 November, 1993.

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President's Foreword

At the end of June we welcomed Charmian Crimmins as the new NPA Office Secretary. Charmian is settling in to our Chifley office quickly, learning her way through the filing system and library holdings, coming to grips with the computer programs in use and learning about our timetable of meetings. Do call in to see her when the office is open, it will make the task more interesting if she knows our members.

Laraine Frawley was farewelled after nine years of faithful work for NPA. She was responsible for setting up our office and through the years has built up a good rapport with members and other organisations. We wish her well in her position with the Conservation Council.

Thank you to all of our *Bulletin* contributors. This is an important document.

Beverley Hammond



Commissioner for the Environment

Eminent scientist, Dr Joe Baker, has taken up the position as the ACT's first Commissioner for the Environment.

Dr Baker will provide independent evaluation of the effectiveness of ACT environmental management by government agencies. He will produce an annual State of the Environment Report for the ACT and special reports on significant environmental issues affecting the ACT. He is also our environmental ombudsman, empowered to investigate community complaints about

general government environmental management and specific environmental issues.

The appointment was announced with the introduction of the Commissioner for the Environment legislation. The legislation is intended to give the ACT more comprehensive protection for the environment and greater government accountability to the community. The ACT is the first state or territory with such a thorough legal framework for environmental protection, although Victoria does have a Commissioner for the Environment, with more limited powers.

Dr Baker is extraordinarily well qualified for the task. A marine biologist of international standing and former Director of the Australian Institute of Marine Science in Townsville, Dr Baker's concerns for many years have extended well into the hinterland. His career has centred on scientific research and environmental issues, ranging from protection of mangrove swamps and old growth forests to the management of Australia's world heritage areas and landcare. He was a member of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority 1975-1988, Chairman of the Australian Heritage Commission in 1985 (when the Commission listed the Lemnathyme and other native

forests in Tasmania), Trustee of the World Wildlife Fund (Australia) 1979-1987 and President of the Australian Museum Trust 1978-1984. He is a member of several UNESCO committees and is presently Chairman of the Community Rainforest Reforestation Program Management Committee (jointly funded by the Federal and Queensland Governments) and Chairman of the National Landcare Advisory Committee (appointed by the Minister for Primary Industries and Energy, Simon Crean).

Dr Baker recently came to live in the ACT and has set up the Commissioner for the Environment Office in Civic. Our Association has written to the Minister for the Environment, Bill Wood, welcoming Dr Baker's appointment.

Den Robin



Dr Joe Baker

Red dot

NB: If there is a red dot on your mailing label this is your last *Bulletin* and you need to renew your subscription.

LETTERS

Unusual blaze

Late last year I was walking in the Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve on the lower slopes of the Tidbinbilla Range when I happened across a peppermint tree upon which was inscribed an unusual blaze. The tree is located 1500 metres south-east of Tidbinbilla Peak at grid reference 717757 (Tidbinbilla 1:25000 map). Given the governmental character of the inscription and its proximity to the trig station on Tidbinbilla Peak, it is tempting to imagine that its origins are in the early survey activities conducted in the area.



Old blaze 1500 metres south-east of Tidbinbilla Peak.

Upon presenting my finding to the park ranger, she was unable to help me to identify the blaze. Indeed she was unaware of its existence. As the area has been a nature reserve for a number of years, the feature could be of reasonable age.

I think that the background to this feature would be of interest to all those who walk in, and are otherwise associated with, Canberra's bushland. Accordingly, I am calling on the collective knowledge of NPA members to try and shed a little light on the puzzle of this old(?) mark.

Martin Chalk

Austrian-Scottish connection

I was most interested in Judy Webster's European travel article, especially the last section (June 1993). Did Judy—or any reader—wonder why a small Austrian town should invite a Scottish Regiment to help celebrate their 800th birthday?

If so, I can provide the answer. Austria (like Germany) was divided into four 'zones of occupation' till the early 60s. As an honorary officer, attached to the army and responsible for welfare and off-duty hours of some 300 National Service boys, I lived in Spittal am Drau in 1952-53. When the West Yorks Regiment left, the Queen's own (Cameron) Highlanders arrived. I will never forget the amazement of the locals, who had turned out in full force to see them march from the rail station to the barracks.

Most had never seen kilts before, and the boys received the endearing nickname of 'men in skirts'. In spite of many high jinks—having the freedom of a delightful small town after being confined behind barbed wire during the cold war in Egypt—they were MOST popular, as when 'Beating the Retreat' in the main street for special occasions.

For me, it was one of the happiest periods of my life, especially taking them climbing at the weekends—to 'tire them out and keep them out of mischief', as the colonel put it when he asked if I was interested. It did me old heart good to read that their time there had been remembered.

Olive Buckman

Unbalanced article

On 15 April I attended the NPA General Meeting and listened to Mr Aldred's discussion of logging practices in the Badja State Forest. I found his presentation to be enlightening. In particular, his policies towards sustainable, selective logging of old growth forests were good news to those with both conservation and the greater national wealth at heart.

Although some members seemed less convinced, I believe he was well received. Furthermore, I note that

his offer to demonstrate his policies at first hand has been taken up in the next Outings Program.

Having provided this background, I would like to observe that the article 'Why Protect the Deua?' on page 16 of the current *Bulletin* is less than balanced. This article is borrowed from *The Wilderness Society* and clearly has a message to send—it is not about balanced argument and discussion. One could be forgiven for believing that the foresters are raping the Deua; quite a contrary view to that put by Mr Aldred.

The juxtaposition of Beverley Hammond's synopsis of Mr Aldred's presentation does little to redress the situation, as Beverley's theme is specifically about plantations, not forest management in general.

Whilst each of us has a point of view and is entitled to express it, I believe editorial articles presented in the *Bulletin* need to show balance if the credibility of the NPA is to be maintained.

Martin Chalk

The Bulletin publishes almost all items presented to it but does not attempt to impose balance on any particular article.—Editor

New Members

Simone Disney—Farrer

Judy Olmer—Kingston

Max and Marie Lawrence—
Warramanga

Andrew Chalklen—Turner

Susanne Middlewood and
John Fuary—Dickson

Jeff Blamey and Jeanette
Mills—Griffith

Sue Matthews—Florey

Fleur Davies—Forrest

John Herrick—Pearce

Julie Englund—Chapman

Elizabeth and James
Gralton—Garran

Allan Brownson—
Palmerston

Cec Harris—Ainslie

Robert Briggs—Lyons

Award scheme introduces young people to bush

Next time you're walking in Namadgi National Park you might come across a party of 20 young people camping near a hut. Chances are it will be an expedition of the ACT Division of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme.

The scheme is designed to complement academic education by stimulating qualities of self reliance, community responsibility, preservation, initiative and self improvement. At the June meeting of the Association, the expedition officer of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme, David Warnes, described the activities of participants, particularly in relation to national parks.

The scheme is open to members of organisations and individuals between the ages of 14 and 25. It has three awards—bronze, silver and gold—for those over 14, 15 and 16 respectively. Each award is divided into four sections—community service, expeditions, skill development and physical recreation. The participant has to complete a certain number of hours in each pursuit to gain an award.

In the ACT there are about 3000 participants in the awards, mainly coming to the scheme through schools. About 75 per cent of the participants are girls. About 600 young people join the scheme each year.

This means there are large numbers of young people roaming Canberra looking for some sort of community service they can provide. David suggested the National Parks Association could have some ideas for outdoor service. It could also be a

good way to let young people find out about the Association.

David described the expeditionary activities which he supervises. Before going out into the bush the young people are trained in navigational techniques, bushcraft, what they need to take and bushwalking ethics—keeping to tracks, cleaning up campsites, minimum use of fires. Though the parties are often large they try to reduce their impact by camping in places that can handle larger numbers. This often means around huts, where there may be toilets, or in cleared areas.

The ACT Parks and Conservation Service has suggested that the lower Naas corridor on the eastern side of Namadgi National Park is more suitable for mass bushwalks than some of the wilder areas of western and southern Namadgi. Recently a party of 53 set out from Shanahan's Mountain and camped at Horse Gully Hut.

Accompanying David were two of the more senior expeditioners, Becky and Kirsten from Canberra Girls' Grammar School. They described their growing interest in and appreciation of the bush following their participation in the award scheme. Becky had been on a trip to Mariah Island National Park in Tasmania where she and other award seekers had done track clearing and historic building maintenance.

The ACT Division of the scheme relies on grants from the Community Development Fund, donations, sponsorship of activities and equipment hire.

Roger Green

Technology and the map maker's art

At our General Meeting of 20 April 1993 those present were able to hear an extremely interesting address from Frank Blanchfield, Client Manager for the Australian Surveying and Land Information Group's (AUSLIG) ACT/NSW regional office.

As Frank's slides showed, he began work as a surveyor, complete with theodolite and field notebook, but now he is quite at home with computers and satellite technology.

Frank pointed out that AUSLIG is now a commercial enterprise and that the organisation's main interests are at the high technology end of surveying and mapping.

Because AUSLIG is now 'commercially' driven there are many benefits for the consumer. Frank illustrated this point with some magnificent maps of Antarctica generated principally by satellite data. These maps are produced to the Antarctic Division's specifications and are available as required. Of interest to NPA members in particular is that digital technology means that maps can now be updated both cost-effectively and continuously with the result that we will have access to more accurate maps even though they may be a little more expensive.

Frank had both anecdotes and slides showing how both electronics and computerisation have resulted in a complete change of techniques in mapping and commented that cartographers are a dying race.

As AUSLIG's maps are now being produced to satisfy client needs, some members present wondered what the possibility would be of having those especially good walking spots taken off the corners of four maps and amalgamated on one map. Frank's feeling was that perhaps we wouldn't be able to afford this luxury but he did show us a handheld computer that for \$1500 would fix a walker's position accurately to within at least 100 metres and that would also assist with navigation.

Len Haskew

Mountain huts and heritage

Centre for Continuing Education: spring course.

Coordinator: Dean Turner. Lectures November 2, 4, 9 and 11.

Field trip: November 13-16. Phone Pamela Montgomery on 249 3856.

ACT endangered species

The *Nature Conservation Act 1980* is the primary legislation for the protection and handling of native plants and animals in the ACT. The government has produced a draft Nature Conservation (Amendment) Bill 1993 which amends the Nature Conservation Act.

The primary objective of the draft Bill is to provide for the identification and protection of threatened native plants and animals and ecological communities of the ACT. Wildlife is considered to be threatened when extinction is foreseen if the circumstances threatening its well-being in the wild continue to prevail.

It is proposed that a listing process be established. Listing would comprise firstly, assessment of the conservation status of nominated species and ecological communities. The conservation status of a species or community is an indication of its ability to survive, flourish and evolve

in the wild throughout its natural range. Secondly, where the conservation status of a species or community is determined to be one of 'threatened', then it would be formally recognised as such by ministerial declaration.

A management response would follow declaration of a species or community. The Bill requires that conservation proposals be developed for each declared species or community. Species declared as endangered, that is, in immediate danger of extinction, would have extra protective provisions applied.

A similar approach would apply to the identification, declaration and management of threatening processes. Threatening processes are typically human-induced. Examples may include the effects of a pest plant or animal species, or degradation/destruction of habitat.

It is proposed that longer term issues be addressed by developing

a nature conservation strategy for the ACT. The strategy would contain proposals for ensuring the continuing survival in the wild of the native flora and fauna of the ACT. Particular attention would be given to the management of potentially threatening processes and the development of community programs for the promotion of nature conservation in the ACT.

If you would like to submit comments, contact: The Director, ACT Parks and Conservation Service. Attention: Flora and Fauna Officer, PO Box 1119, Tuggeranong ACT 2901.

The deadline for submissions is early September. Late submissions will probably be accepted.

The above information is an excerpt from a government document outlining the draft Bill.

Anne Forsythe

Heritage week walk

'Botanists, Brumbies and Brindabella Skiers' was a bushwalk hosted jointly by the Kosciusko Huts Association and the National Parks Association (ACT) during Heritage Week. Held on Sunday 2 May, the walk visited a range of heritage sites in the Brindabellas. At Mt Franklin we had a good look at the 1938 vintage Mt Franklin Chalet and were told of the building's colourful history by Canberra Alpine Club member Bert Bennett. After walking over some of the former ski runs the group moved on to Mt Ginini where two brumby trap-yards were located. Yours truly provided some historical information on the yards and explained how they were used. Lunchtime saw the group at Pryor's Hut. Here Professor Lindsay Pryor, after whom the hut is named, explained the history of the Alpine Botanic

Garden in connection with which the hut was built in 1952. We then visited the actual site of the former garden and Lindsay recalled more fascinating memories. A handful of brave adventurers then made the ascent of Mt Gingera while there was still light. Thanks to Bert and Lindsay and to Namadgi rangers Brett McNamara and Richard Phelps who provided transport for Lindsay and his wife Nan, the day was both a very enjoyable and very enlightening experience in a beautiful part of Namadgi National Park. Over 25 people participated in the outing.

Matthew Higgins

Lindsay Pryor (centre) explains the Alpine Botanic Garden to the group of Heritage Week walkers.



A frog he will a'woeing stay

A frog had everyone hopping with excitement in conservation circles recently.

The nationally endangered Spotted Tree Frog *Litoria spenceri* has been discovered in Namadgi National Park on the Cotter River upstream of Bendora Reservoir.

The story of the frog's discovery seemed to capture everyone's imagination. The May meeting of the Environment and Conservation Consultative Committee was rearranged to include a fascinating briefing from ecologist Dr Will Osborne. The Minister, Bill Wood MLA, put out a media release. The media responded enthusiastically to the news.

The Spotted Tree Frog is considered to be one of Australia's most endangered frog species and occurs only along rocky unpolluted

potential impacts on the species in this region.

Tree frogs are distinguished by pads on their toes. Two other types of frog—Lesueur's Frog (*Litoria Lesueurii*) and the Leaf Green Tree Frog (*Litoria phyllochroa*) are sometimes found in streams with the Spotted Tree Frog. However *Litoria spenceri* can be identified as follows:

Size: Adults may be up to 4.5cm long

Upper surface: Extremely variable; brown to grey or olive green with irregular darker mottling; often warty. Note that individual colour varies in intensity with temperature and temperament changes.

Belly: White to pale yellow and distinctly granular

Underside of leg: Distinctly orange

Ear opening: Not obvious



rivers in mountainous terrain. It has been found previously at a few sites in the eastern highlands of Victoria and one other site near Mt Kosciusko.

Little is known about its breeding or habitat requirements. Bill Wood said the discovery in the ACT contributed significantly to the conservation of the threatened species by providing another opportunity to protect a breeding location. He said further surveys would be conducted to assess the status of the population and to consider the existing and

Fingers: Broad with large adhesive pads

Valued in its own right, the Spotted Tree Frog is also a symbol of hope for the environment. There is still the chance to save rare species if we can protect their habitat.

Remember, all frogs are protected and must not be taken from their natural habitats. If you do sight a Spotted Tree Frog, please contact Will Osborne at the ACT Parks and Conservation Service.

Den Robin

Library additions list

Orroral Valley—Recreational Development Preliminary Assessment, ACT Landscape Public Works Dept 1993

The Territory Plan Response to Public Submissions on General Issues (six publications), ACT Planning Authority 1992

Feral Animal Information Kit, ANPWS 1992

Old World Fruit Bats—an Action Plan For Their Conservation, SP Micklenburgh, AM Hutson, PA Racey 1992

Tropical Biodiversity, Indonesian Foundation for the Advancement of Biological Sciences 1992

Protected Areas and Demographic Change: Planning for the Future a Working Report Of Workshop 1.6, 4th World Congress on National Parks & Protected Areas 1992

Biological Diversity, Its Future Conservation in Australia, Dept of Environment, Sport & Territories 1993

Development of a Future Water Supply Strategy for the ACT, ACTEW 1993

Environmental Economics, Sustainable Development and Successful Economies, Michael Jacobs 1993

Methods for Analysing Development and Conservation Issues: The Resource Assessment Commission's Experience, David Palmer 1992

**Meet the
ACT Commissioner
for the Environment**

**Thursday 18 November
8 pm, Room 11
Griffin Centre**

From the conservation media

Elephant group transcends politics

The African Elephant Specialist Group (AESG) convened a meeting at Victoria Falls [in November, 1992]. 'The AESG meeting achieved particular progress with regard to scientific and technical input,' says the new AESG Programme Officer. 'This was a refreshing change from previous meetings marked by political controversy.'

The meeting began with presentations on elephant biology, conservation and management, including updates on elephant numbers and conservation status in Southern Africa, Eastern Africa and West/Central Africa. After a number of plenary presentations, the meeting divided into working groups to discuss technical matters related to ground and aerial surveys and elephant-habitat interactions.

IUCN Bulletin, 1/93

Rainforest Conservation

Designed to conserve the only substantial remains of tropical rainforest in North America—approximately two million hectares in the humid tropics of southern Chiapas—the Selva Lacandona program has mobilised the attention of people and governments in Mexico and elsewhere. An additional and complementary objective of the program is to support the economic development of the more than 200 000 principally indigenous peoples living around the Montes Azules Reserve, an area vulnerable to extraction activities (of wild animals, plants and precious woods), contamination from the neighbouring use of pesticides, and conversion by settlers to agricultural uses.

During the past 100 years, the area around the Montes Azules Reserve has been extensively logged for valuable tropical hardwoods, especially mahogany and Spanish cedar, and, in the last 20 years, has seen its population more than double as new settlements have been established. The

reserve includes a relatively untouched area of primary growth forest of about 250 000 hectares, which is important for its great biodiversity of animal and plant species. Ecologically, it is a continuation of the great forests of the Peten in Guatemala.

The team identified three main factors threatening the Montes Azules Reserve: increasing population around the reserve due to migration and rapid internal population growth; a current pattern of economic development based on costly forms of land use, such as cattle; and a lack of any natural barriers in most areas.

Environment Bulletin, Newsletter of the World Bank, Vol. 5, No. 2, 1993

NP 13 Shirley

This new national park in Central Queensland conserving vegetation once common in the brigalow belt has been declared a national park. This new 32 607 hectare national park is 220 kilometres north of Aramac and complements the existing Thistlebank National Park.

Many of the provincial land types not contained in Thistlebank are represented in the new park. The park conserves extensive areas of diverse vegetation including gidgee low woodlands, blackwood low woodlands, woodlands of White's ironbark and Mitchell grass downs.

NPA News, (NPAQ), June 1993

Mozambique: old ties, new beginnings

Mozambique's National Directorate of Forestry and Wildlife (DNFFB) has been a member of IUCN since 1969, and is one of the oldest government members in the Southern African region. Until recently, the civil war prevented IUCN from becoming actively involved in Mozambique. With the cessation of hostilities, however, a fresh partnership is beginning to evolve, and in December 1992 ROSA was asked to help with the development of DNFFB's wildlife conservation program.

The program is especially important because wildlife is a resource of enormous potential in the economic recovery of Mozambique. Besides attracting tourists, the country's wildlife represents vital food security for some five million people.

DNFFB is responsible for the management of 86 906 square kilometres of protected areas representing 10.8 per cent of the area of Mozambique. This is a massive responsibility for an institution with minimal funding, staff and infrastructure, and with little information at hand about wildlife resources—the consequences of some twenty years of war.

The Union's assistance in 1992/93 has focused on the development of a portfolio of seven priority projects for the conservation, management and utilisation of wildlife resources. They include a program for field staff training and demobilisation of troops for wildlife management, surveys to assess the current status of protected areas, technical assistance to wildlife legislation, and integrated conservation and rural development.

IUCN Bulletin, 1/93

Albania's environmental problems

As Albania embarks on a fundamental transition from a centrally planned economic system to a market-oriented one, it must focus on key priority environmental issues and problems in order to develop an environmentally benign development strategy as part of Albania's overall plan for economic transition.

During Phase 1 of the Environmental Strategy Study, the objectives were to (1) assess the general environmental situation of the country (2) identify major sources of pollution and environmental degradation (3) assess the adverse effects of pollution on human health and environmental quality (4) identify priority issues to be addressed under Phase 2. The second phase will concentrate on the prepara-

tion of environmental laws and regulations; institutional strengthening for the Committee for Environmental Protection and Preservation; watershed management in the Shkumbin River Basin; and natural resources management.

Environment Bulletin, Newsletter of the World Bank, Vol. 5, No. 2, 1993

Tree Planting

Greening Australia has received a grant of \$17 000 for work to protect the future of native woodland tree species by making seed collections and establishing native tree seed orchards in selected locations on rural land within the ACT. There are few remaining healthy stands of native trees in the ACT which are still actively regenerating. Good quality seed from these species will become increasingly scarce, jeopardising future revegetation programs which seek to use local seed sources. The project will identify and map existing stands before seed collections are made. The collected seed will then be used to grow seed orchards which will, where possible, be located close to the parent stands.

Broadcast, (Greening Australia) June/July 1993

New marine program

In October, scientists, park managers, conservationists, government officials and resource users from throughout Central America gathered on the island of Roatan, Honduras, at a workshop on priorities for coastal zone management.

The meeting laid the foundations for a program for conservation and sustainable development of the marine and coastal zones of Central America, with a special focus on tourism and protected areas, says Carlos de Paco, Marine Conservation Coordinator for IUCN's Regional Office for Central America. 'One reason Roatan was chosen as the site was that it offers a clear example of the conflicts associated with spontaneous economic development and the resulting deterioration of natural resources.

Workshop recommendations will form the basis for a marine and

coastal program for the entire region. One positive effect has already been realised: the meeting led to a request for an environmental impact assessment which has already begun, and a formal request for IUCN's involvement in a possible strategy for conservation and environmentally sound development in the Bay Islands.'

IUCN Bulletin, 1/93

Gardens of Stone NP

Ms Clover Moore MP will shortly table legislation before Parliament which would, if supported, make an 18 030 hectare Gardens of Stone National Park over what is currently Crown land. The area merits protection as part of the proposed Blue Mountains World Heritage listing. No freehold or perpetual leasehold land will be affected.

Claims that this proposal covers extensive coal reserves are not accurate. Only about 4000 hectares are affected by a marginally economic coal resource.

The principal feature of the proposal is its pagoda landscapes. Pagodas are intricately laminated sandstone formations reminiscent of ancient cities, forts, towers and castles. Beneath these formations are caves, mazes, moist forest glades and sometimes slot canyons.

The Colong Bulletin, May 1993

First meeting of African Rhino Group

The first meeting of the new African Rhino Specialist Group (ARSG) was held at Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe in November, 1992. Attended by 18 ARSG members and several invited specialists, its primary aims were to review the status and trends of the rhino populations in Africa and to identify priority projects.

Information provided by the delegates indicated that black rhino numbers had declined to only 2500, mainly due to continuing heavy poaching in Zimbabwe. The population sizes of the southern and northern white rhinos had, however, both increased by 3 per cent over the previous year to 5800 and 31, respectively.

The meeting identified the key populations of black and white

rhinos in Africa (those considered to be most important for the survival of the various subspecies), as well as those projects requiring international funding.

IUCN Bulletin, 1/93

Zimbabwe

Most of Zimbabwe's finest wilderness and wildlife areas, and many of its most valuable natural resources, lie in the Zambezi basin in the north of the country. The Zambezi Society was created in 1982 by a group of people who felt that the region's aesthetic and ecological values merited the creation of a separate conservation agency.

The Society opposed a hydroelectric project that would have destroyed the ecological heart of the Middle Zambezi Valley, as several less damaging alternatives were available; and was instrumental in gaining World Heritage status for this area. Later, the Society was successful in promoting environmentally friendly methods of oil exploration in the Zambezi Valley. Deeply concerned over catastrophic losses of black rhino in the region, it has been locating funds and equipment for an emergency de-horning operation that seems to be working to reduce poaching.

IUCN Bulletin, 1/93

Wilderness

The Wilderness (Private Property) Amendment Bill introduced into Parliament by Bruce Jeffery (National Party) was supported by the government but narrowly defeated by just one vote. Clearly the aim of the Bill was to render it impossible for environmental organisations to nominate wilderness. If carried, the Bill would have set nominators the impossible task of obtaining permission from all landowners affected before making the nomination. This would have effectively sterilised the nomination process provided in the Wilderness Act. The fact that all government members voted for the Bill clearly indicates their opposition to wilderness preservation.

The Colong Bulletin, May 1993

COMMITTEES

Namadgi work parties

Two well supported work parties undertook quite different tasks in June. A large group worked on the new alpine track on the slopes of Mount Tennent (see page 20) and a smaller group joined Kosciusko Hut Association members and Namadgi Park staff to erect some temporary protection over the rise section of the Tennent Homestead. Readers may recall that a territory heritage grant has been provided to develop a conservation plan for this homestead; now a contract has been arranged for this work to be done so that the conservation plan should be available by November.

Progress on restoration of the Orroral Homestead has been disappointingly slow so far this year. A

Namadgi Park ranger, Craig Richardson, has now assumed responsibility for coordinating work on the homestead and has agreed to an NPA work party for Saturday 21 August. The Orroral Woolshed is located between the homestead and the Orroral Road but needs stabilisation to conserve it and make it safe for public viewing. Work on the woolshed had been planned for this year but some unforeseen problems have arisen so that work has been delayed. We are keen to assist in the completion of work on both the homestead and the woolshed as they are key elements in the planned development of the Orroral area as a major focus for the public to access and enjoy Namadgi.

A matter of interest for all of us with a feeling for Namadgi is the possible impact of any flow-on from the Mabo decision. The Association has developed some guidelines on Aboriginal involvement in national parks which were published in the *March Bulletin*. We will continue to monitor how these issues might affect Namadgi.

The Namadgi subcommittee is open to all members of the Association. The convenor would be pleased to hear from anyone interested in becoming involved in any way.

Syd Comfort
Convenor Namadgi
subcommittee

Environment subcommittee attacks issues

What makes a lot of noise every fourth Thursday evening in the month, has a load of fun and perhaps does some good? The Association environment subcommittee of course!

Many local and national issues have been dealt with in recent months. A few examples follow:

- A proposal by the Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electricity Authority to resume experiments in Kosciusko National Park into the effectiveness of cloud-seeding to increase precipitation. A draft EIS has been issued and comments will be submitted by the Association.
- Correspondence has been exchanged with various NSW Ministers concerning a proposal to convert Crown Leases in the Braidwood area to freehold. These affect the Morton and Budawang National Parks. The proposal has been delayed and the National Parks and Wildlife

Service appears to be involved in more appropriate consultation with the Lands Authority than was to be the case.

- The Association has been pursuing with Austel, the Government's telecommunications authority, the increasing placement of telecommunications towers in protected areas, including national parks. We see this as a very worrying trend.
- The effects of the Mabo High Court decision on national parks was a matter for discussion in the subcommittee long before it became such a heated public issue. We helped draft a policy for the Australian National Parks Council and are continuing to attempt to bring a balanced view to the issue.
- A submission was prepared for ACTEW's Water Strategy for the ACT. We are pleased to see that a number of the ideas we expressed are being included by

ACTEW in their public consultation process.

- That hardy perennial Jervis Bay remains on our agenda. We continue to worry that there is little real political interest in preserving the area's unique and magnificent environment.
- The ramifications of so-called 'eco-tourism' on the environment and national parks in particular have been discussed frequently and certain measures are being taken to ensure our views are known.
- 'Our Bush Capital—Protecting and Managing the National Capital's Open Spaces', a report prepared by the Joint Committee on the National Capital has been studied and comments prepared in association with the Namadgi subcommittee.

Once again, all members, both old and new are invited to contact the convenor if they wish to participate.

Timothy Walsh

Environment and Conservation Consultative Committee

The committee continues to provide a community perspective to the ACT Government on environment issues.

Yankee Hat car park

The car park, which was part of works to improve access to the Yankee Hat rock shelter paintings, became the centre of considerable controversy because of the manner of its construction and siting. Rocks had been removed from the surrounding area to form the car park perimeter causing considerable disturbance and potential damage to Aboriginal sites of significance. The design and siting were unsympathetic to the landscape.

A working group was set up to advise the service on the removal of the car park, rehabilitation of the area and selection of an alternative site. Work has been completed on the new car park which is situated near the Boboyan pines.

Rural lease policy

A draft policy aimed at improving management of rural leases was released in February. It proposes improving security of tenure and requires the development of a property management agreement and an environmental audit of leases. The committee endorsed the need for policy and guidelines to ensure productive land management and

secure tenure while achieving the goal of ecologically sustainable development. The principle of an environmental audit was supported and it was seen as essential that the department assist in its preparation. The draft requires further development to produce a complete policy and the various elements of the policy need to be integrated into an action plan. The department is continuing to develop the policy.

Orroral woolshed

Work on the woolshed has not proceeded due to arsenic contamination of the soil surrounding the sheepdip. Money for the project has been transferred to the London Bridge Homestead. The service has undertaken to provide the committee with a briefing on the implications of the contamination for the management of the site, and the future of rehabilitation works.

Feral plants and animals enquiry

The ACT Legislative Assembly's Standing Committee on Conservation Heritage and the Environment held an enquiry into the effects that feral plants and animals have on the natural environment of the ACT. The committee's submission focused on the need for the enquiry to give impe-

tus and guidance to feral plant and animal management and control programs in the ACT and region. In particular the adoption of a feral plant and animal policy, and in line with this policy a feral plant and animal management plan for the ACT were recommended, so that all management and control programs will form part of a coherent regional strategy.

2020 vision statement

The committee prepared a submission to the Canberra in the Year 2020 Study titled "A Vision for the ACT Environment in 2020". The submission includes a set of broad principles for the state of the environment and its management and a number of themes for achieving this.

Forward program

Issues which the committee will be dealing with in the future are:

- Development of a recreational fishing policy for the ACT.
- Furthering of the Alps Agreement.
- Examining draft legislation: Proposed Nature Conservation (Amendment) Bill; and Integrated Environment Protection Legislation.

Anne Taylor

Fourth National Wilderness Conference

The Colong Foundation for Wilderness will sponsor this year's conference with the agreement and support of the Australian Conservation Foundation.

It will be held in Sydney from 8-10 October 1993.

Anyone interested should write to:

Fourth National Wilderness Conference, Colong Foundation for Wilderness
88 Cumberland Street, Sydney NSW 2000

The future of water

The NPA has been pursuing its interest in the planning of the ACT's water supply on two fronts. Representatives from ACTEW have given an informative talk (see article opposite) and comments have been submitted to ACTEW on its publication *The Water Future of the ACT: a Community Discussion Document on the Major Issues*.

The submission commented in detail on the document, going through it section by section. Subjects covered included water conservation, pricing policies, financial incentives, future sources of supply and water re-use.

NPA stressed that environmental protection is a value that it would like ACTEW to consider when planning for the long-term future. With this in mind, it was stated that the option of delaying a new dam for an extra ten years is a minimal approach. ACTEW should state how the ACT community can avoid any

new dams. Gully and river valley ecosystems are diverse and important. The NPA believes that another water storage dam in the ACT would lead to a further, and unacceptable, loss of important aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. ACTEW should extend its developing environmental awareness and responsibility to conserving terrestrial ecosystems as well as aquatic ecosystems. If a dam does become necessary, ACTEW must select the least ecologically destructive site available, and complete detailed ecological surveys of prospective sites before decisions are made. These surveys should be started immediately if the required ecological detail is to be achieved.

Education and information campaigns are a viable option for managing demand for water. Water conservation via an understanding and cooperative community is probably the most effective way to

limit demand. Use of regular mail-outs with water rates and electricity bills (for rented houses) to distribute information, well targeted programs for schools, radio interviews, talk-back radio and press advertisements must be effective in the long term.

As for pricing policies, the NPA submission pointed out inconsistencies such as the continuance of a rebate for institutions, as this does not encourage conservative use. User pays should cover all users. Financial incentives, especially encouraging use of water-efficient appliances, is a good approach, as it is an opportunity for people to take positive action.

The use of 'grey water', effluent and stormwater was regarded as being less efficient than reducing the amount of water used in the first place.

Environment subcommittee

The leech upon Bill's pole

Billy Burford is his name, the one
that takes the pics

Of rocks and leaves, of trees and
sky, and sometimes even sticks!
But none at all of people—he
doesn't like their form.

"No bods will mar my pictures
when I have a lovely dawn."

He often takes his camera and
joins us in our walking, and tails
behind,

His camera clicks, with us up front
all talking, about this and that,
and our next camp, of one we
had one year.

Our Bill turned up, with tent and
stove, and loads of camera gear.

We went upon a walk one day
down deep and glorious burn,
Creeks beside us all the way, lots
of lovely fern, soggy underfoot,
slippery here and there,
A rushing river, craggy rocks,
dainty maidenhair.

We stopped for lunch and lit a fire
to give ourselves some heat.

Took off our boots, wrung out our
socks, and then we saw our feet,
Our Bill leapt up and raced
around and gave a mighty cry,
"Leeches, leeches ugh!" he yelled,
"They're bleeding me quite dry."

It's true, oh yuk the horrid things,
they crept into our socks.

No matter where we tried to sit
they were there all on the rocks,
and trees and ugh, even in our hair!
So back we raced into our camp
and stripped ourselves all bare.
We got them off and changed our
clothes and felt again once whole.

But Bill let out a mighty yell, and
pointed to his pole (tent).
And there a leech, a seeking blood
out on a feeding prowl.

We looked at Bill, his face went
red, he gave an angry growl.

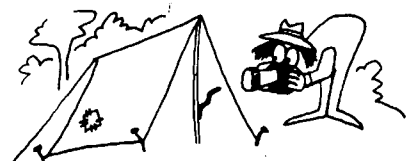
But instead of killing, as we
thought, he grabbed his camera
gear,

Set up his tripod, framed the
leech, aperture on near,
Concentration, furrowed brow,
he framed its ugly head, but evil
thoughts were pouring out.

"I'll kill the sucker dead."
He took the shot, then mighty yell,
his tripod swinging high,
He brought it down upon that
leech and squashed it like a fly.

Bill shows his pics throughout the
year to friends both young and ole,
But the one they really want to
see, is the leech upon Bill's pole!

Ann Tedder



Water supply in the ACT

The cost of water, both in financial and environmental terms, to ACT residents is high and rising. This was graphically illustrated at the July General Meeting when the NPA had as its guests Kerry Reynolds and Rod Usback from ACT Electricity and Water (ACTEW).

As can be expected from a responsible public utility in the 1990s, ACTEW is concerned with the environmental consequences of its operations. To this end it released in 1992 its first Electricity and Water Environment Plan. This detailed ACTEW's strategies, goals and performance standards and invited comment on these from the ACT community. This document covers such topics as ACTEW's corporate philosophy, key environmental initiatives, the need for community consultation, the standard of service to be aimed for, water conservation and the need to provide for environmental sustainability and public health.

Following the release of this plan, ACTEW embarked on a community consultation process to prepare a strategy for the ACT for the next 50 years. This was initiated by the preparation by the CSIRO of a community discussion document on the major issues for the water future of the ACT. ACTEW felt it was important to obtain an independent and thought-provoking view on the future of water in the ACT.

The speakers gave examples of some startling facts presented in this discussion paper. For instance, at the present rate of consumption and population growth, the ACT will need a new dam by 2005 at a cost of \$100 million.

Over two-thirds of the ACT's treated water is consumed by domestic residences. The government is the next biggest user at 16%. Fifty-five per cent of domestic use is outside the house, 52% being used to water gardens. If the community doesn't reduce its use of water and population projections are borne out, six new dams will be needed by the ACT next century. The impact

on those areas so loved by NPA members can readily be imagined.

Despite vigorous publicity programs in the last few years, ACT residents have done little to reduce their individual consumption of water. The mechanisms that appear likely to work in the future are user pays prices and restrictions on use.

The speakers outlined a series of measures that can and must be taken by the community if the need for a new dam is to be postponed. These include the greater use of native and low water plants in our parks and gardens, use of water saving devices and appliances, water restrictions at certain times of the day and, in certain seasons, the use of residential water tanks, the use of 'grey' water, storm and ground water.

The question of a pricing policy for the supply of water to the ACT community has been explained by Professor Max Neutze of the ANU in a paper commissioned by ACTEW. Professor Neutze argues that there is a need to make greater use of pricing of water in the ACT for economic, financial and environmental reasons. He argues that water should be priced at about what it costs to supply and for us to use it. He points out that the financial losses made on the supply of water in the ACT are greater than for any other large Australian city and that the ACT budget just cannot afford to continue to subsidise the supply of water.

Professor Neutze feels that the price of water should reflect the additional cost of the water that people use. He suggests that ACTEW:

- move over a few years to charging for all water used, keeping only as much of a fixed charge as is necessary to balance the accounts;
- increase the price to reflect environmental costs and to remove the fixed charge;
- reduce fixed charges for sewerage and raise a major part of sewerage revenue from a charge on dis-

charge to the sewer, assessed on the basis of winter water use by residential consumers and most commercial users, and metered discharge by others;

- increase the price of water during the months when consumption is high and reduce it during months when it is low;
- transfer some of the capital costs developers now have to pay for off-site capital facilities for water supply to an increase in the price of water. (Note this would be a modest change and could proceed as soon as the necessary cost assessments had been completed.)
- develop and announce a package of restrictions and pricing measures which would be adopted to save water in time of drought, and which would be triggered by particular levels of water in the storages. Announce also that in future water planning for the ACT would accept that there would be some shortages in periods of severe drought.

The ACTEW speakers gave a vivid demonstration of the stark choices currently before the ACT community in regard to their water supply. Either we modify our use of water and pay the proper price for its supply, or we face having to fund a series of new dams next century with devastating financial and environmental consequences.

The excellent presentation by Messrs Reynolds and Usback showed the very intense and thoughtful work being done by ACTEW. The ACT community must continue to participate in this process and 'own' the result.

[A full set of the papers issued by ACTEW to date on this issue are available in the NPA Library. It is a matter of continuing interest to the environment subcommittee who have played a significant role in the community consultation process to date.]

Timothy Walsh

Dreams come true— Antarctica at last

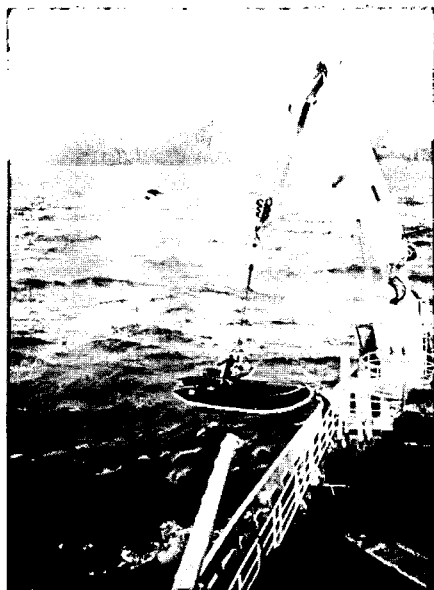
There are other places in the world where nature stuns, amazes, or utterly dominates man's achievements, but there are few places where all these forces combine. Antarctica is a continent that continually humbles man and, not least, man's greed.

—HRH Prince Edward,
in the forward to Wild Ice

The Antarctic had little appeal during the larger part of my life living in UK, Germany, Austria and Egypt, but in my 30 years in Australia, the urge grew and grew—to see the last great unspoilt wilderness, where the air is so clear it distorts distances, and everywhere is so pristine that a blowing, rustling toffee paper would spoil the perfect peace and beauty.

Literally selling the family jewels, I booked through Worldventure (PO Box 54, Mosman, NSW 2088) for a trip led by my friend Warwick Deacock, for early January 1993—not the area Aussies think about, south of us with bases and 'civilisation'—but for the Antarctic Peninsula.

This meant flying to South America—to Tierra del Fuego



Day 4—Lowering a Zodiac near Elephant Island.



Olive Buckman going ashore. Photo: Warwick Deacock

(Argentina) with 13 days on a Russian ship. Arriving in Ushuaia, southernmost city in the world, looking delightful under snow-capped mountains, I boarded my new home.

Our leader was Greg Mortimer—geochemist, Aussie climber with many 'firsts' in Nepal and Antarctic explorations. Co-leader Colin Monteath had been with NZ Antarctic service in many capacities. He made the first descent into the crater of Erebus, and assisted with the air disaster rescue there. Margaret Werner (whom I met years ago on Booroomba rocks!) had climbing and Antarctic expeditions behind her—a delightful personality.

Day 1, we sailed down the Beagle Canal, pilot ahead, to leave land and head into Drake Passage, 700 kilometres of notorious wild water. We were lucky with a smooth crossing and by the second day, knew Antarctica was ahead by a change in the wind, drop in temperature, albatross overhead, movement of the waves and the sight of whales and icebergs.

Icebergs were everywhere—huge tabular ones from the Weddell Sea

to the south. They were a great joy the whole trip—a riot of colour from pristine white through turquoises to blues. Shapes were never the same—peaks, folds, pinnacles, corrugations, flutes, holes—everything imaginable, worn by wind, sun and sea action.

Day 4, we woke anchored off Elephant Island, easternmost of the South Shetland Islands, to a dull, grey, chilly morning, but Antarctica at last! A Zodiac was lowered by crane and Greg bobbed ashore only to find the surf far too high to land—a great set-back, as we would have stood on a very historical spot.

Shackleton, in his 1914–16 expedition, and his men landed there after being caught in pack ice for 281 days, and finally taking to sea to land on Elephant Island 485 days after leaving the UK. The leader and some men rowed off, finally making South America, finding financial assistance, and returning to rescue 22 men—all in a ghastly condition after 105 days—but never giving up hope. Not a man was lost.

Day 5 and we were off Livingston Island, largest of the Shetlands.

Chugging ashore, we put our first foot on Antarctic soil, delighted by our first penguins which were mainly chinstrap—the black line under their chins making their heads look like a policeman's helmet. (There are three main species on the peninsula.) Skuas were a menace, *huge* birds swooping down at our heads. They are the scavengers of the Antarctic, clearing carcasses, but also predators of birds' eggs and chicks.

Sailing around the south end of the island, we landed again at Hannah Point in Walker Bay. Here, among the rocks, were gentoo penguins, clearly marked by the white triangles above their eyes. Among them was a macaroni, named after the yellow feathers on its head. All penguins go ashore in spring and rebuild their nests. The female lays two eggs, then goes to sea while the male incubates them. They then alternate between collecting krill and plankton at sea, and feeding the chicks. They have thousands of fine feathers per square inch, for warmth at sea.

Sleepy seals were everywhere—mainly crabeater and Weddell—and they seemed to like to lie with their heads on another's tail! They would open their eyes and say, 'Take your photos if you must and let me go back to sleep,' followed by a grunt.

Day 6 and we had crossed Bransfield Strait during the night, heading to Trinity Island, which had peaks to 1830 metres. Anchoring in Mikkelson Bay, it was off to cruise around the vast glacier coming down from the peaks. Around us were hundreds of penguins swimming with a porpoise-like action, making a kaleidoscope of colour: black backs, white fronts and red beaks.

The *huge* face of the glacier, with pressure from above, leant forward and was also undercut from wave action. It is from these thousands of glaciers that thousands more huge icebergs fall.

Around 9.30 pm the Zodiacs took us ashore at Cuverville Island in bright sunshine. Being mid-summer, a sort of greyness between about 1 am and 4 am was the only night. Zodiacing around the island



Day 5—Seal pups at Hannah Point.

was unforgettable for the fantastically shaped icebergs, many with seals atop, their colours and reflections making it all an evening I shall never forget.

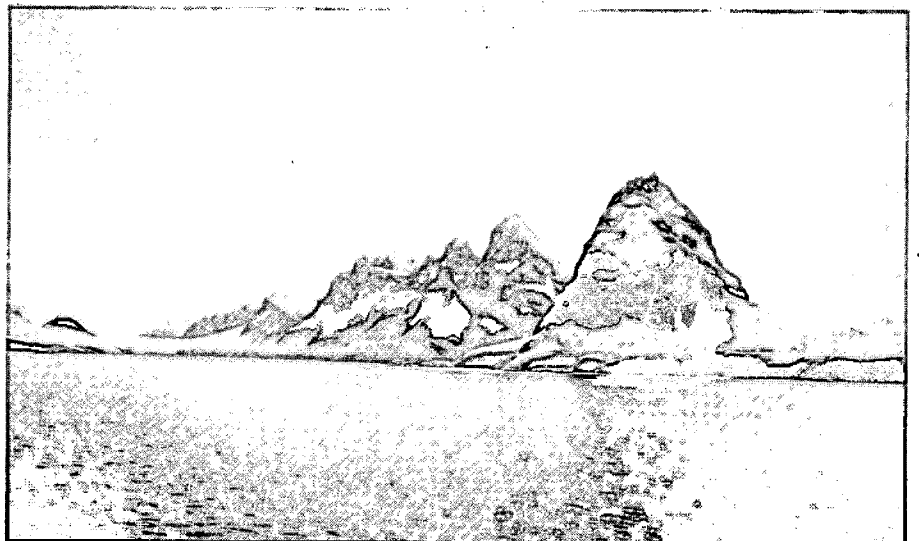
Ashore was a team from Cambridge University studying the effects of tourism. I was told they felt that 5000 tourists a year was not too many; I wish I could agree.

Slowly we moved south: it was all out of this world—the deep blue sea packed with icebergs, a forest of sculpture and colour. About two-thirds down, we had to turn, while there was still room

before the pack ice caught us. Like all fairytale journeys, the return trip took on equal magnificence and grandeur.

Heading north, recrossing Bismarck Strait, we anchored in Port Lockroy. In glorious sunshine, the iceberg-strewn bay was a magnificent sight, with a 180 degree curving wall of ice behind, on the west of Wiencke Island, once a vast glacier. A range of snow-capped granite peaks towered in the background.

Early in the last war, the Brits built a base there, fearing the Panama Canal might be blocked



Day 7—Wiencke Island from Gerlache Strait.

TRIPS



Day 7—Port Lockroy, Wiencke Island, gentoo penguin colony.

to shipping. Once ashore, we almost lost breath at the seemingly untouched, magnificent scenery. Ice cliffs, gigantic glaciers, mountain ranges, plus penguins in their thousands on the rocks. Climbing over boulders, we gained a grandstand view to the bay. Photographic sessions over, the Zodiacs toured the bay: icebergs with sleepy seals, the sun casting a golden glow on their backs; petrel, albatross and gulls overhead; and penguins swimming around us.

Day 8 and we were back on the mainland, anchored off a bay south of the Arctowski Peninsula on the Danco coast. One glance all around, and we could see how Paradise Bay got its name—a protected harbour surrounded by ice cliffs, glaciers, and snow-capped mountains, with sea-strewn ice-

bergs in the foreground. Landing at Almirante Brown, an abandoned Argentinean station where, so the story goes, it was left with only one man on duty. Loneliness got to him, he packed a bag, set fire to the buildings, and radioed to be picked up.

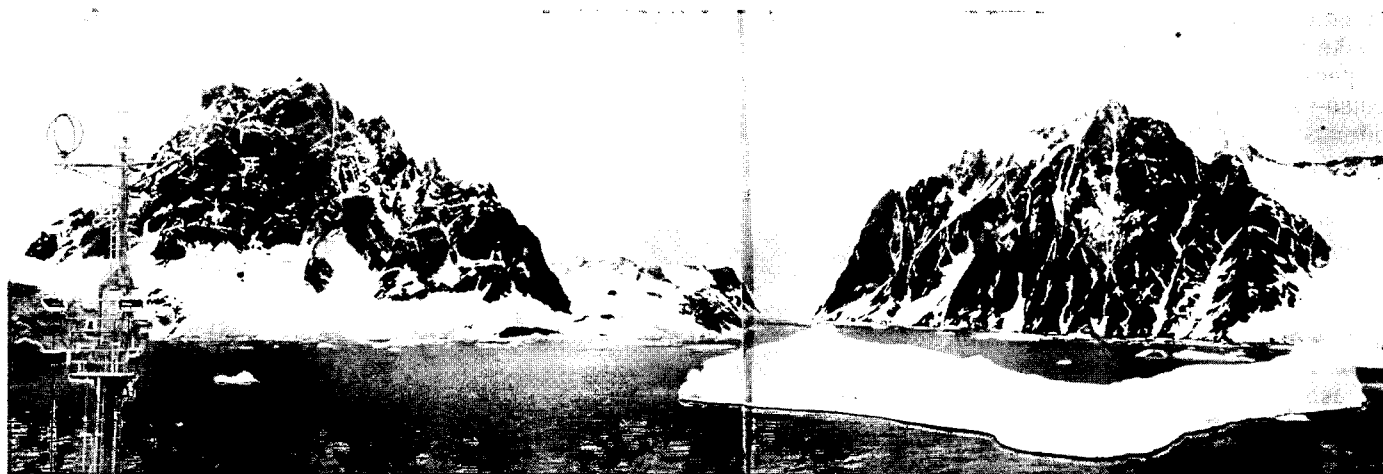
Here, we plodded up the steep hill behind the station for the views. When not in thigh-deep snow, we were on lichen-covered rocks (yes, Antarctica has *some* grasses, lichens and mosses, many endemic). The view down to the bay was worth the effort, and I did a 'first' for me in sledging down on my back, rucksack on my front.

In nearby Glacier Bay, we saw a glacier some 60 metres high and 250 metres long, the top sculptured with crenellations, vertical gashes and flutes, while deep arches at sea level gave an overall

picture of the front of an elongated castle. The peace and beauty was overwhelming, as we switched off engines and drifted through the ice-strewn sea, with magnificent reflections. The only noises were a sort of thunder as avalanches fell, somewhere, from time to time, and a crunching as the Zodiacs drifted through the ice.

After lunch we visited an abandoned Chilean station taken over by hundreds of gentoo penguins. They seemed completely oblivious of us, as long as we kept to *their* height, and sat still. That evening we watched whales from the ship: humpback and crabeaters, both able to dive to a great depth, by collapsing their lungs, thus shunting oxygen to vital organs.

Day 9, and overnight we had moved northwards to anchor off Deception Island. Having an



Day 7—Entrance, Lemaire Channel (mainland left).

interest in volcanoes, this was a highlight for me, as it is the only active volcanic area in Antarctica apart from Mt Erebus. The island, almost a complete 9 kilometre circle, was once thousands of feet higher than now. Many, many years ago it blew in the centre, leaving a doughnut shape, with the sea in the centre. There is a very narrow opening into the 8 kilometre wide caldera—a natural harbour. The ship anchored in Whalers Bay, once a Norwegian station about 1910–30. A British survey base was built nearby in 1944 and lasted till destroyed by volcanic action in 1967. The main part of *that* volcano erupted at a Chilean base to the north, now only a tangled mass of twisted metal from severe fires. The men fled to the British base, destroyed more by earth movement, and all were rescued by helicopter.

Whalers Bay is now one mass of upturned petrol tanks, lopsided dilapidated buildings, half-buried piles of whalebones, broken crates and equipment.

Walking the length of the beach, I climbed the lava to Neptune's Window where volcanic action had blown a *huge* hole in the island's outer rocky coast back in the 1920s. During lunch we moved to Pendulum Cove, where the temperature of the water 5 centime-

tres down can reach 50 degrees Celsius. Here, although never a keen swimmer, I lay in the water—while the braver swam—and along with others played the fool a little.

Leaving the inner island we sailed the outer west shore to Baily Head, a magnificent, memorable area. From our landing spot, *huge* 'pancake' rocks of yellow and green rose on our left. Ahead and to the right stretched a vast beach with thousands of penguins, while behind, the hills were packed tight with rookeries. Add to this, a river coming down from the hills at the left and out to sea by the rocks, plus the whole area being alive with movement. I sat 'talking' to a chinstrap family a metre away, penguins passing to and fro, one putting a stone on my boot, others stealing stones from their neighbours' nests. I was reminded of a quote from Bernard Stonehouse: 'I often had the impression that, to penguins, man is just another penguin—different, less predictable, occasionally violent, but tolerable company when he sits still and minds his own business.'

Day 10 and we visited Esperanz, an Argentinean research base (1950) at Hope Bay on the tip of the peninsula. That night we started our sail back to civilisation, and on the evening of day 12

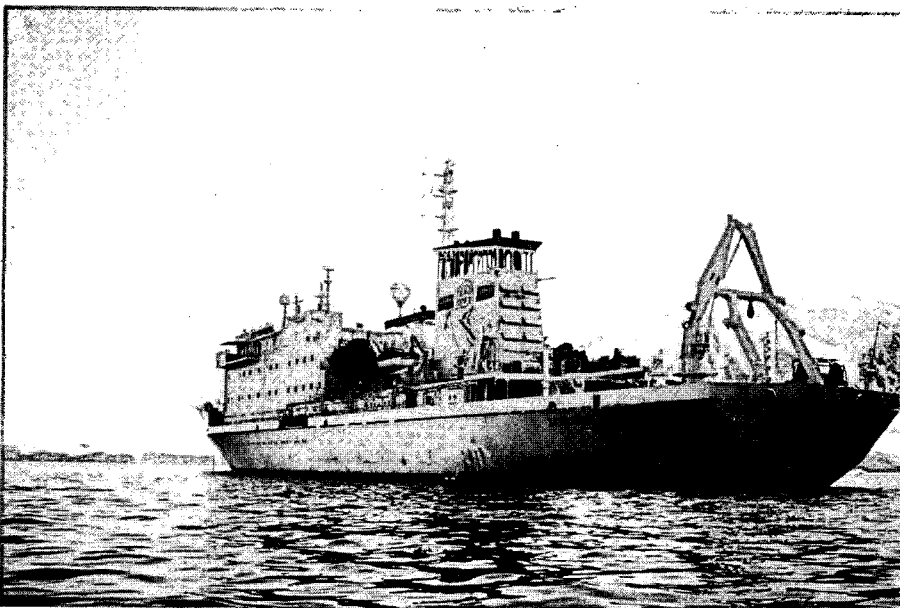


Chinstrap penguins.
Photos: Olive Buckman

we were back in Ushuaia, the wonderful never-to-be-forgotten days behind us. I can only sum up the whole memorable experience by saying that if I was given one last wish in a long, interesting, colourful life, it would be to return to Antarctica.

I will be happy to share my memorable experiences with groups via slide talks, or individuals via slides, photos, or video (not of my making!)

Olive Buckman



Day 8—Akademic Sergei Vavilov in Paradise Bay.

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- home
- garden
- pets?

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for house sitting.

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Sue City canoe trip in the Kosciusko National Park

Sue City is a lovely camp site in the KNP that I have always enjoyed visiting. During each of the last two summers I have led a canoe trip to Sue City and both attracted a lot of fellow paddlers. This account is based on those two trips. I might put the trip on again next summer if there is enough interest.

Sue City is an isolated campsite and lies at the southern end of Talbingo Reservoir in south-eastern NSW. Talbingo Reservoir is one of the larger water storages in the Snowy Mountains Scheme. Fed by the Tumut and Yarrangobilly Rivers, Talbingo Reservoir was formed by a dam across the northern end of a deep and rugged valley carved out by these two rivers over the last hundred million years or so. Unlike most water storages, the deep nature of this valley makes for sheltered waters, just ideal for canoeing. The next reservoir below, Blowering, whilst more open is similar and was used by Ken Warby in his attempts on the world water speed records using a jet powered craft. For those relying on paddles, Talbingo is the more impressive and sheltered of these two reservoirs in the

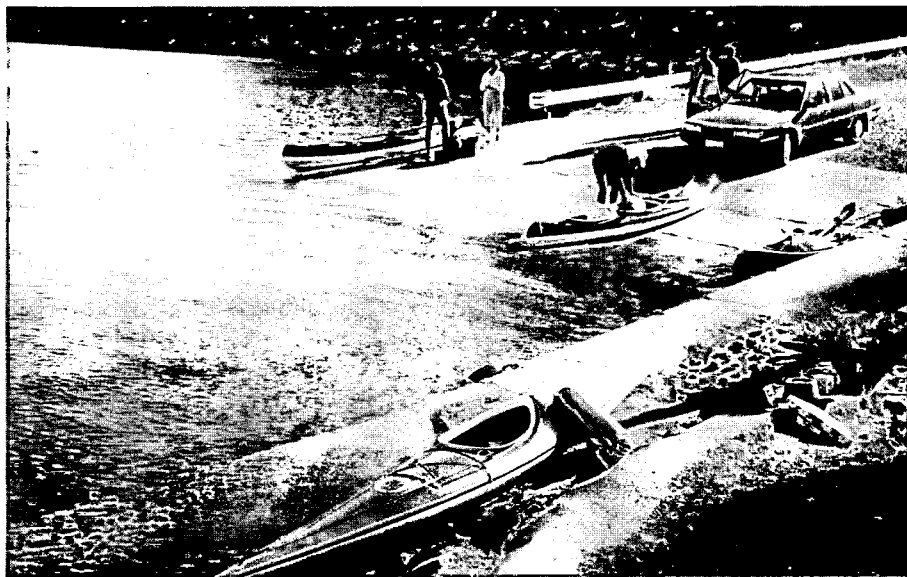
Tumut Valley. Ultimately they push large quantities of water into the narrow Tumut River just north of Tumut township and this last section of the Tumut attracts many canoeing parties seeking to ride the strong currents right down to Gundagai.

Talbingo township, just off the Snowy Mountains Highway, is the access point at the northern end. Talbingo township has several shops and a very attractive caravan park. One used to be able to hire canoes in Talbingo but today Tumut has the nearest canoe hire operator. The actual launching spot is on the eastern side of the dam wall which is about 4 kilometres south of Talbingo township where there is an excellent ramp and an extensive car park.

Sue City, an old Snowy construction camp site, lies at the southern end of Talbingo. Just a few relics remain of this old Kaiser Constructions camp site. The American Kaiser Company brought the latest in things American to this site in the early 1950s, including what was claimed to be Australia's first supermarket! Today the currawongs have Sue City mostly to themselves apart from

the weekend fishermen who like to launch from this end now that a sealed road links Sue City with nearby Cabramurra.

Paddling from the dam wall to Sue City it is about 22 kilometres. On leaving the dam wall, the sheer sides of the valley make for only a few landing spots for the first 5 kilometres. With recent rain, an impressive waterfall soon appears on the eastern side formed by Lansers Creek. More massive valleys appear from 5 kilometres on seeking to distract the paddler from their southerly course. Apart from northerly winds, the valley is windless and superb reflections can be seen in the usually clear, still waters. A strong northerly wind however can have one's kayak on a southerly course on the plane if you are lucky; a



(above) Eastern water dragon enjoying the sun in KNP.

(left) Morning launch from Talbingo Dam wall ramp on a bright and sunny day.

Photos: Chris Bellany

north-bound paddler would not be so lucky.

Just before reaching the junction with the Yarrangobilly River a good landing spot appears on a headland on the western side. A worthwhile side trip here is a 5 kilometres each way trip to where the white water starts on the Yarrangobilly. Some good camping spots can be found here too on some of the rare, flat banks along the reservoir. Just before the white water begins one paddles through a steep rocky gorge. For those with the time to do so, an old abandoned mine and a pub lurk behind the blackberry bushes lining the river now. Unfortunately the last beers were poured last century so you will have to bring your own.

Having returned to the junction, the paddler continues south heading for Sue City. About 2 kilometres south of the junction is the Conaro rest area. This makes an

ideal camping area. Whilst only able to take a limited number of people, it has picnic tables, toilets, a beautiful view, catches the morning sun and is not accessible by road, which makes for a quiet and peaceful evening.

Sue City is some 4 kilometres on. During a weekday Sue City is a lovely spot to stop at; however it can get crowded on weekends with fishermen, cars and the like. South of Sue City one can paddle into some easy white water. Camping outside the official camping area at Sue City is not recommended as a large release from dams higher in the Snowy scheme could make for a damp awakening during the night. Elsewhere on the reservoir the water level never varies.

Returning northwards from Sue City or Conaro about 8 am or so, can be a surreal experience for the paddler. Puffs of morning mist normally waft across the water. So

one may paddle across a glistening, still surface tracking the bubbles of the wake of the boat ahead passing into and out of wafting morning mist. Looking north one may be rewarded by flashes of sunlight off the paddles of that boat far ahead seemingly suspended between sky and water.

On the last 7 kilometres before the dam wall the paddler looks towards the now visible dam wall and presses on. Unfortunately for some the vista seems to get ever further away and then one comes round the last false headland and there is the launching ramp beckoning. Before loading the boat onto the car a swim before leaving is well worthwhile as the water is not as cold as reservoirs often are, particularly those in the Kosciusko National Park in which Talbingo reservoir is located.

Chris Bellamy

Relocation of car park in Gudgenby valley

It is now in the annals of NPA history, the events of last year when a car park appeared on the prominent ridge in the Gudgenby valley at the head of the track which leads to the Aboriginal paintings site. The car park was ringed by boulders removed from the rock clusters which are a scenic feature of that part of the valley, and also contain possible Aboriginal stone arrangements and graves.

A protest led by the Conservation Council was strongly supported by the NPA. A relocation of the car park was promised and the replacement of the boulders as close as possible to their original positions.

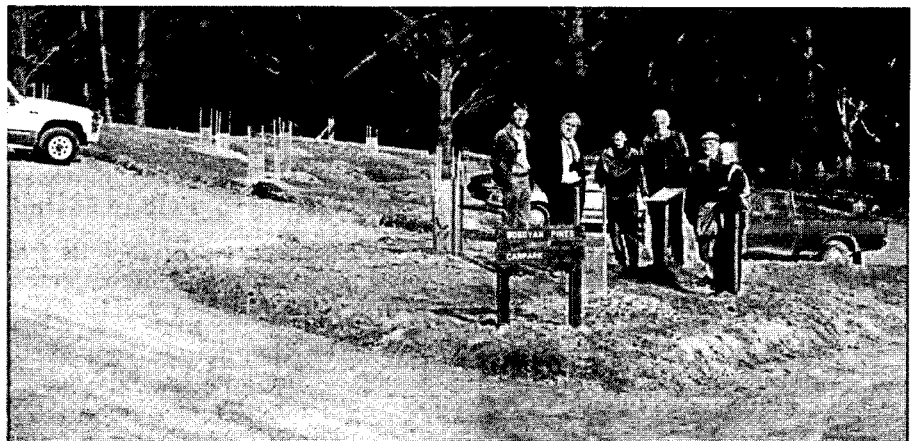
The boulders are now back in their clusters and the car park has been removed. The old car park site at the edge of the pines has been redesigned and made to hold cars and buses (see diagram). This site will eventually be shaded by native trees and shrubs.

A committee of four with representatives from the Conservation Council and NPA has met with ACT Parks and Conservation Service representatives to discuss these events and is glad to see a satisfactory conclusion to the 15 months saga.

Fiona MacDonald Brand

(below) Members of the NPA, Conservation Council and parks service met at the relocated Yankee Hat car park (on the site of the old Boboyan road car park at the pine forest) to inspect the completed car park and to survey the route of the walking track to the shelter painting site.

Photo: Reg Alder



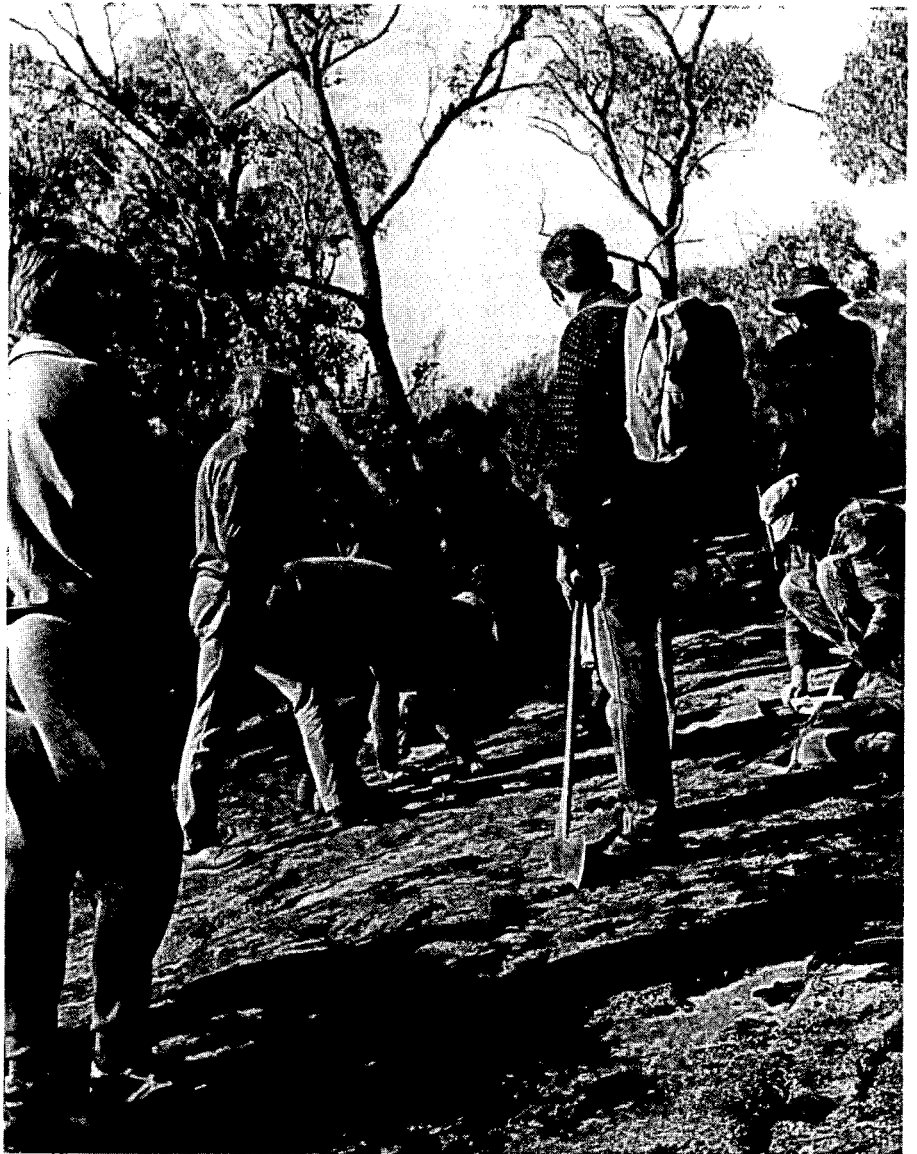
Mt Tennent work party

One sunny, cold Saturday in June a work party led by Syd Comfort worked on a section of the new track on Mt Tennent. We walked from the visitors centre onto the mountain, carrying suitable tools for track-making and cutting back shrubs. We were divided into four groups and given a section to work upon. At lunchtime we all met on a rocky outcrop which gave lovely views over the valley. A lyrebird serenaded us as we sat and ate. It continued its song at intervals all afternoon.

All afternoon we worked, placing small logs across the new track to prevent erosion. We also blocked off and covered old tracks so that future walkers would see clearly the path to follow.

It was a very satisfying day for all who attended and we were given 10/10 for our work by the NPWS ranger who worked alongside us.

Fiona MacDonald Brand



(above) NPA work party leader, Syd Comfort addresses the troops.



(left) Mt Tennent work party—NPA members.
Photos: Fiona MacDonald Brand

Request: TENT

Have you a 4m x 4m cottage tent lying dusty in your garage? Your committee has been discussing purchasing such a tent for outdoor displays. Please phone the office on 282 5813 or Beverley on 288 6577 if you have a tent to sell or donate.

Management of Relict Lowland Grasslands

— Conference and workshop —

Canberra, Friday 24 and Saturday 25 September 1993

The conference will include a field trip and two workshops: 'Aims of conservation' and 'Management case studies' and a public seminar on the Saturday afternoon.

Further details from Sarah Sharp, Wildlife Research Unit, ACT Parks and Conservation Service, PO Box 1119, Tuggeranong, ACT, 2901. Phone 207 2125.

Tennent homestead

Just when we thought we knew all the buildings in Namadgi National Park, some more have been acquired. Two years ago Namadgi's boundaries were extended in two areas—near Mount Tennent and in the northern Brindabellas. The Mount Tennent extension, we have now discovered, includes (only just!) a farmhouse complex of several buildings. Three years ago a party of walkers led by Phil Gatenby visited the homestead; in July last year one of that party, Di Thompson, returned to the site with husband Gary, Beverley Hammond and Babette Scougall and this trip aroused awareness of the possibility of the place now being inside the park. That the buildings are in Namadgi has now been verified.

The group of structures is of quite some interest, particularly because it includes a pisé building, the only such building within Namadgi. There is also a shearing shed within the group of five or so structures, thus doubling the park's number of woolsheds, and there is a dip at the shed too (as at the Orroral shed, although this one is metal and not concrete as are the Orroral and other Namadgi dips).

So far, the following historical information on the site has been collected, although there is still much more to discover and the data that we do have may need some correction in time.

At the turn of the century the property was held by brothers Jack and Bob Dunne and their sister Annie (all unmarried). Just when they acquired the place is not yet known, nor do we yet know when their pisé building, the adjoining slab building (now minus its slabs) and the shearing shed were built. It is possible that they were built for the Dunnes sometime late last century, but we don't yet know for sure (they may have been built for an earlier owner). Who built these buildings? It is known that last century two South Americans, Messrs Rodriguez and Ponsi, played an important role in developing pisé building techniques in the area. Then in the 1870s George Hatcliffe

and George Green arrived and they quite probably learned about pisé building from these two men; Hatcliffe and Green built pisé buildings in the Tidbinbilla area. So here are four possible builders of the pisé structure in question, but we can't yet be sure.

Dunnes held the property until some time during the 1910–1920 period (during which it became leasehold). After their departure the property was unoccupied until 1931 when Bob Thomson and his wife Catherine (nee McIntyre) acquired it. Bob (born in Australia of Scottish parents about 1870) and Catherine had previously lived near Queanbeyan, at Naas and at Riverview and had a very large family, though by the time they moved into the Dunne place only one son, Doug, was still living at home. The pisé section only had two rooms, so another of the sons, Arnie, built an extension onto it.

Over time the buildings deteriorated. The slabs started falling out of the walls of the slab part of the homestead in the 1940s (today three of this building's four walls are entirely open; the fourth is clad with fibro). Catherine died, and a few years later in about 1953 Bob died. Doug continued to live on the property alone. Owing to the advancing deterioration of the homestead, Doug needed better quarters, so during the 1950s a pine-clad cottage from suburban O'Connor was bought and with the aid of brother-in-law Ted Tong and brother Bill Thomson the building was trucked (in one piece) to the property and placed on foundations. A verandah was then added. Doug lived in this cottage until his death in 1964 or 1966; his death marked the end of full-time occupation of the homestead.

At the end of the 1960s Doug's sister Barbara Tong bought the lease and from then until the lease was acquired by the government in about 1984, the property was worked by Barbara's sons Laurie and Bill, who only stayed in the house periodically during stockwork. The orchard at the site was planted by Barbara and husband

Ted Tong, while the fibro garage was erected by Ted and son Bill. Vandalism of the buildings (usually by children) was a problem for the Tongs during later years.

Bob Thomson originally sheared his sheep with blades, and it was only in the late 1940s that Doug invested in a Lister diesel two-stand shearing plant. The shearing shed was quite small and in the 1970s it was expanded to about three times its original size (the original size of the shed can still be determined at the site). The Tongs did their shearing with electrically powered equipment.

It was during the 1970s too that the dip was constructed. Previously, hand-spraying of the sheep had been sufficient, but then lice-infested sheep came onto a neighbouring property and the only way that the Tongs could overcome the infection was to fully immerse their sheep in a dip (dipping has for some time been virtually obsolete in rural Australia). Owing to the rock at the site, a trench sufficiently deep could not be dug so a metal dip, with its sides well up above ground level, was purpose-built. Now the dip has rusted out and has subsided back into the trench.

As for the name of the complex, we know that in correspondence Doug Thomson referred to his home as 'Tennent'. Today, standing at the foot of Mount Tennent, and surrounded by fine old kurrajong trees, the homestead is in a state of advanced decay. The roof of the pisé section (originally shingled, as is evident from the battens, but later clad with corrugated iron) is partly gone, and the wind sails through the former slab-walled section. The shearing shed is looking a little tired too (there are white ants), though the pine cottage isn't too bad. A lot of work is needed if the more significant parts of Thomson's homestead are going to be conserved.

Information provided by Laurie Tong, Barbara Tong, Una West, Hugh Read and Bert Sheedy is much appreciated.

Matthew Higgins

A diviner at work

Readers of the *Bulletin* may be interested in some account of the divining techniques being practised and developed by our energetic member Reg Alder. I think that most people who have seen something of these techniques will be impressed. Unless, of course, they have a vested interest in not being impressed!

There is nothing novel about divining. It has been practised ever since the dawn of time, principally for the location of water supplies. There is an extensive literature on the subject.

Reg first became involved in 1951 while working at the Garden Island

dockyard. His immediate boss, having heard an account of divining, decided to put it to the test. He equipped Reg and a colleague with a length of bronze wire and told them to walk over an area in the dockyard with the wire held in front of them and to report any movement in the wire. The boss, but not his subordinates, knew there was a water main in the middle of the area. Both Reg and his colleague experienced movement in the wire when they walked over the main. It was a simple matter to determine the line of the subterranean pipe.

Reg's revival of interest has been sparked off by our member Fiona

Brand's discovery of what she took to be an Aboriginal grave on a small hill in Namadgi where a number of rocks had been neatly piled together near the top at the base of the summit outcrop. It is known that local Aboriginal tribes buried their dead. The discovery did not, however, gain universal acceptance. A counter argument was advanced that the find was no grave but instead the work of remarkably neat and orderly rabbit exterminators! And there the matter rests.

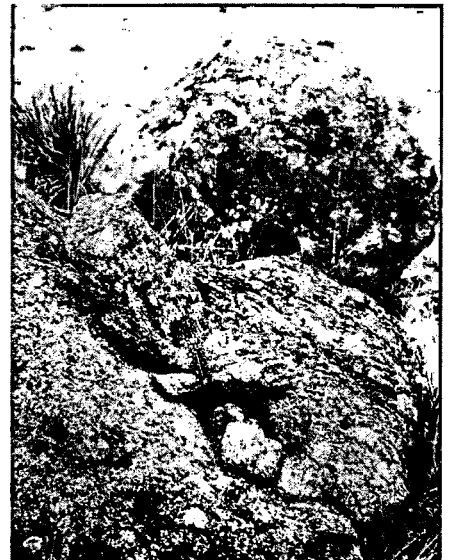
What the divining technique does is to respond to disturbance anomalies on or near the surface



(left) Fiona Brand standing at the site of the grave near Rustin's house, Middle Creek where baby Sutcliffe was buried about 1920-21. The site was located by divining the area.

(below) A typical rock arrangement in the Gudgenby valley around which divining shows indications of burial sites. It is most unlikely that a person engaged in digging out rabbits would waste his time arranging rocks in this manner or risk a hernia by lifting the large upper stone to the position it occupies.

Photos: Reg Alder



of the ground. Reg uses one, or sometime two, U-shaped lengths of wire grasped in the centre of the U. He holds the wire level, pointing forwards and held close to the body. On reaching an anomaly and when almost immediately above it the wire, if held in the right hand, will swing to the left. If held in the left hand it will swing to the right. If wires are held in both hands they both swing outwards. If crossing an area of disturbance the wires will respond on each side of the anomaly. Consequently it is possible to delineate the area of disturbance.

Using this technique to examine Fiona's find revealed a discrete, grave-shaped disturbance. Another 43 such anomalies were located in the vicinity. More such anomalies have been located near similar outcrops elsewhere in Namadgi.

Whether these anomalies are in fact graves is not yet proven. This could be difficult. Because of the acid nature of the granitic soils in the locality, human remains would disappear after a period of time. But it is known that local Aborigines buried their dead. And over the millennia of Aboriginal existence in Australia large numbers of Aborigines would have been buried and it would not be surprising if many grave sites could still be located today. Comparative chemical analysis or profile studies of core samples taken from anomalies and from undisturbed ground might perhaps provide some useful answers.

Reg has employed the technique in the long disused Weetangera cemetery. The sites of known graves were readily picked up by the technique. More importantly, it located and delineated several graves no longer visible on the surface. A trustee of the cemetery knew of their existence but he did not tell Reg precisely where they were.

On a recent visit to his sister in Kansas, Reg was able to follow and delineate sections of the Oregon Trail and a number of long since disappeared graves and building sites. He was assisted by his nephew who enjoys the same talent for divining.

As well as grave sites, the technique will also establish both recent and very old tracks, fence lines, post holes and the exact ground plans of old buildings. It can pick up surface objects, even a five cent coin left on the carpet.

An important feature of the technique is that it differentiates between undisturbed rocks and stones and those which have been moved. The significance of this in assessing whether stones or rocks are naturally or artificially positioned will be obvious.

Its use in tracing drain pipes has long been recognised. Reg found that in America specially made stainless steel divining rods are sold in plumbing supply stores for US\$25 each. The rods used by Reg are made from old coat hangers! He learned of the U-shape from a paper on Russian archaeology.

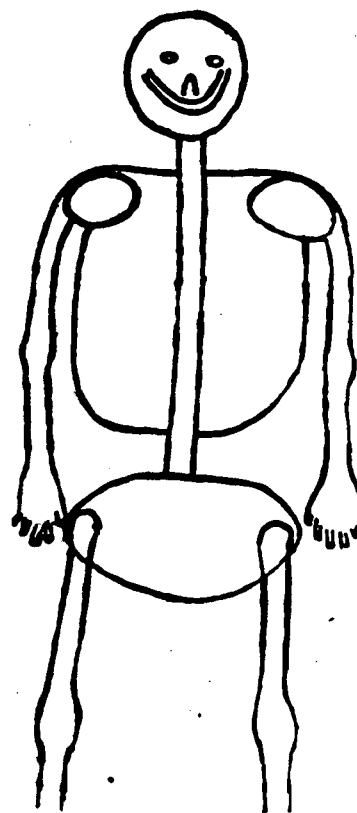
As one much interested in Asian affairs, I have been struck by the possibility of using the technique for locating plastic mines. These have caused enormous loss and suffering in Cambodia and Afghanistan but do not respond to normal mine detectors. The trouble is that the divining rods respond when the diviner is almost immediately above the ground disturbance sought. Unless some means could be found for getting a response when the ground disturbance is well ahead of the body, the technique would obviously be very dangerous.

The scientific explanation for divining is apparently still unknown. It is not a rare phenomenon though many people do not have the ability. Its potential uses in national parks are clearly considerable in locating evidence of human occupation and establishing the nature of long disappeared tracks and buildings. It would seem that more remains to be done to prove the full applicability of the technique and no doubt the idea will, along the way, encounter plenty of scepticism. But sceptic BEWARE! You too may have been endowed by the Almighty with the gift and ability for divining!

Alastair Morrison

Is there a body?

Gudgenby valley stone arrangement sites



Shadow image of the grave at Site 12 at the foot of a rock outcrop in the Gudgenby valley produced by a pendulum method of divining. The outline was drawn on a piece of paper placed over the grave and marks made every 2-5 cms as the skeleton was traversed.

Because of the long period since interment it is unlikely that any bones are in the grave and the indications are from their decomposed remains. Allowing for scatter, the scale closely followed the outline of a human skeleton.

The person was not without feet but the paper used was not long enough.

Reg Alder

Calendar

SEPTEMBER

- Thursday 9 Namadgi subcommittee, phone Beverley Hammond, 288 6577
Thursday 23 Environment subcommittee, phone Tim Walsh, 274 1465(w)

OCTOBER

- Thursday 7 Committee meeting 7.30 pm, 21 Hyndes Cr Holder, Beverley Hammond, 288 6577
Thursday 14 Namadgi subcommittee, phone Beverley Hammond, 288 6577
Thursday 28 Environment subcommittee, phone Tim Walsh, 274 1465(w)

NOVEMBER

- Monday 1 Deadline for December *Bulletin*
Thursday 4 Committee meeting 7.30 pm, 21 Hyndes Cr Holder, Beverley Hammond, 288 6577
Thursday 11 Namadgi subcommittee, phone Beverley Hammond, 288 6577
Thursday 25 Environment subcommittee, phone Tim Walsh, 274 1465(w)

DECEMBER

- Thursday 2 Committee meeting 7.30 pm, 21 Hyndes Cr Holder, Beverley Hammond, 288 6577
Thursday 9 Namadgi subcommittee, phone Beverley Hammond, 288 6577

NPA Bulletin

National Parks Association of the ACT
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SURFACE
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AUSTRALIA

General meetings

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

Thursday 16 September: Ducks Unlimited

Tony Sharley will address wetlands and river management issues and the role of Ducks Unlimited (Australia).

Thursday 20 October: Wildlife conservation

Hank Jenkins, from the Australian Nature Conservation Agency (formerly Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service), will discuss the sustainable use of wildlife for resource conservation outside protected areas.

Thursday 18 November: The Commissioner for the Environment

Joe Baker will speak on his role as Commissioner for the Environment in the ACT and his thoughts on the ways he and NPA can work together.

December—No meeting.

NPA Christmas Party

Sunday 12 December 3 pm, Orroral Valley Picnic Area. Drinks, cheese and cake provided. Bring your own tea.

Outings program

October to December 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.

Please note that Mick Kelly's pack walk to Mt Namadgi time for 25/26 September (previous program) will now be held on 18/19 September. Departure from Canberra late afternoon FRIDAY 17. Exploratory segment also included.

2/3/4 October Car Camp
Womboyne Anglers Resort Ref: Narrabarba 1:25000
Leader: Babette Scougall Phone: 248 7008 h

Contact leader by Wednesday 29/9, earlier if van or cabin required. Resort is a commercial caravan park and cabin site by Womboyne Lake. Explore the Northern end of Nadgee Nature Reserve, beach, lake and river walks. Fish, swim, watch birds and other wildlife...or just relax. 640 kms.

9/10 October Car Camp 2/A/E
The Castle Ref: CBW Sketch Map of Budawangs

Leader: Mick Kelly Phone: 241 2330 h

Please contact leader by the Wednesday, numbers limited. My intention is to car camp on the Yadboro River on the Friday night for an early 8am start for trek to The Castle (day packs). Walk up is onerous with a total climb of about 850 metres. Not recommended for beginners or those who can't handle heights, rock scrambling also involved. If time permits a quick trip to Monolith Valley also on agenda. Sunday we may take in Mt. Pigeon House. 300 kms \$60 per car.

13 October Wednesday
Outings Committee Meeting
Outings Convenor: Mick Kelly

Meet at 1 Fitzmaurice St Kaleen at 730pm. to prepare outings program for January to April. All are welcome. If unable to attend but willing to lead an outing please contact Mick Kelly on 2412330 h.

14 October Thursday walk 2/A
Booroomba Rocks Ref: ACT 1:100000
Leader: Olive Buckman Phone: 248 8774 h

Please phone leader for details of meeting place and time. A pleasant walk on fire trails and track to Canberra view point, then some rock scrambling and scrub to the highest point of this vast granite outcrop, fine 360 degree views. Return through light scrub to fire trail. 100 kms \$20 per car.

16/31 October pack walk 3/A
Victoria's Great SW Walking Track Ref: Nelson and Portland 1:100000

Leader: Eric and Pat Pickering Phone: 286 2128 h
A walk in Victoria's Nelson /Portland area with just a touch of SA. Mainly in the Glenelg/ Discovery Bay/ Richmond NP's. Walk the limestone gorges of the Glenelg River (possible side trips to caves); experience the 60 km beach of Discovery Bay; and enjoy the rugged headlands of Capes Montesqueiu, Duquesne, Bridgwater and Nelson. Contact Eric or Pat for more detail etc ASAP.

16 October Saturday walk 2/B/C
Booroomba Rocks area Ref: Corin 1:25000
Leader: Murray Dow Phone: 257 4371 h
Meet leader at Kambah Village shops at 9am. Starting at the Booroomba Rocks car park a short walk to view occurrences of Euc.Triplex, previously only known on the slopes of Mt. Lincoln (Blue Gum Hill). 60 kms \$12 per car.

16 October Saturday Work party
Namadgi Work Party Phone: 286 2578 h
Leader: Syd Comfort
Please ring organiser for details of work and other arrangements. Party will tackle either further track work in the Tennent area or weed eradication in the Yankee Hat area.

17 October Sunday walk 2/A/D
Bullen Range Ref: Tidbinbilla Tuggeranong 1:25000
Leader: Syd Comfort Phone: 286 2578 h

Meet leader at the corner of Eucumbene Drv and Cotter Rd at 830am. From Flints crossing along the southern part of Bullen Range and on to the Murrumbidgee River. Partly on tracks with some steep pinches and scrub. 45 kms \$9 per car.

17 October Spring Fling
Botanic Gardens Phone: 288 5215 h
Contact: Doreen Wilson

Volunteers required to man the NPA display tent in Botanic Gardens on Sunday 17 October. Get to talk with lots of people; also an opportunity to view areas of botanical interest not usually opened to public. Please phone Doreen at least 2 weeks prior to above date.

20 October Wednesday walk 1/A/C
Mt. Gibraltar Ref: Tidbinbilla 1:25000
Leader: Beverley Hammond Phone: 288 6577 h
Meet leader at the corner of Eucumbene Drv and Cotter Rd at 930am. Climb steeply up firetrail from Tidbinbilla Visitors Centre to Mt Gibraltar for spectacular views. Return through the bush for a total walk of 6kms. 60 kms \$12 per car.

23 October Saturday walk 1/A
Black Mtn Nature Ramble Ref: Canberra Street Map
Leader: George Chippendale Phone: 281 2454 h
Meet at the Belconnen Way entrance to Black Mtn reserve (several 100 metres to the East of Caswell Drive) at 930am. A morning ramble to see the birds and flowers. Suitable for those aged 4 to 80. Bring your morning tea, camera, binoculars etc. Finish midday.

24 October Sunday walk 2/A/C
Middle Orroral Valley Ref: Corin Dam 1:25000
Leader: Mike Smith Phone: 286 2984 h 248 3624 w
Meet at Kambah Village shops at 830am. A walk from the Orroral gate along Cotter Hut Rd until saddle at the weather station. Climb to unnamed peak 1339m for lunch and exploration. Continue on to Sawpit Creek and return along valley track via Rowleys Hut. total climb 400m. 100 kms \$20 per car.

30 October Saturday (forestry outing)**Tallaganda State Forest.****Leader: Tom Aldred****Contact for outing: Mick Kelly****Phone: 241 2330 h**

This outing timed for 31 July previous program was cancelled due to the weather etc. Details are the same as printed in our July to September Outings Program

30/31 October Canoe trip**Easy whitewater canoe trip****Leader: Chris Bellamy**

Paddle through easy whitewater on either the Shoalhaven or Deua rivers, enjoy wildlife, scenery and the fun in your own or hired canoe. Camp out on Saturday night. A good introduction for beginners to easy whitewater. Please ring leader by the previous Wednesday. 300kms \$75 per car.

Ref: Braidwood**Araluen 1:100000****Phone: 249 7167 h****2 November Tuesday walk****Michelago Ck****Leader: Margaret Roseby**

Meet in the carpark of Tuggeranong Swimming Pool (just across from swimming pool) at 9:30am. Stroll down creek bed of (Michelago Ck) past old mining relics to boil the billy on the banks of the 'Bidgee. 140kms \$28 per car.

1/A**Ref: 1:25000****Phone: 288 3679 h****6 November Saturday walk****Mt. McKeahine****Leader: Murray Dow**

Meet leader at Kambah Village shops at 8am. Starting from Corin Rd where it crosses Kangaroo Ck. Walk through open forest and interesting rock formations and view the Spinning Gums on Mt. McKeahine. Not for beginners. 70kms \$14 per car.

3/B/C/D**Ref: Corin 1:25000****Phone: 257 4731 h****6/7/8 November Pack walk****Cotter Gap and beyond****Leader: Beverley Hammond**

Contact the leader by the Wednesday for details. Walk 9 Kms from Orroral Valley gate up the firetrail and along track to Cotter Gap for camp. Without packs visit the magnificent Cotter Rocks and Cotter Hut. Return on the Sunday or Monday depending on your work situation. 100kms \$20 per car.

1/A/B**Ref: ACT 1:100000****Phone: 288 6577 h****13/14 November Pack walk****Mt. Kelly****Leader: Frank Clements**

Contact leader by the Wednesday for details. A pack walk to Mt. Kelly the old way, via Gudenby Saddle, Naas Ck, and Sam's Ck. Alternative return routes available. 100kms \$20 per car.

4/A/D**Ref: Yaouk and****Rendezvous Ck 1:25000****Phone: 231 7005 h****13/14 November Car camp****Wombeyan Caves****Leader: Len Haskew**

Contact leader by the Wednesday for details. Camp with bower birds and wallabies. Pleasant strolls along nature trails to views or waterfall. Explore a cave or two. 300kms \$60 per car.

1/A**Ref: Richlands 1:25000****Phone: 2814268 h****18 November Thursday walk****Red Rocks Murrumbidgee****Leader: Olive Buckman**

Phone leader for details of meeting place and time. A different approach via the Urambi Hills. We will have lunch at the gorge; swimming available weather permitting. Total distance about 8kms

Ref: Canberra street map**Phone: 248 8774 h****20 November Saturday walk****Bungonia Gorge and Falls****Leader: Mike Smith**

Meet at Southwell Park and corner of Northbourne Ave at 8am. Hard descent 400m to the Bungonia gorge via the steep "efflux" route. Explore the gorge then follow Bungonia creek upstream towards Bungonia and Jerrera Falls. Rock scrambling required to get to the falls but the less adventurous could stay and swim at pool and cascade before the rock blockup. Retrace steps to return. 250 kms \$50 per car.

2/C/E/F**Ref: Caoura 1:25000****Phone: 286 2984 h 248 3624 w****20/21 November Pack walk****Kiandra area****Leader: Steven Forst**

Please contact leader by the Wednesday for details. A walk from Kiandra goldfields to Four Mile Hut and possibly Broken Dam Hut exploring the tributaries of Four Mile Ck. 350 kms 470 per car.

3/A/B**Ref: Tantangara &****Y/Billy 1:100000****Phone: 251 6817 h 274 8426 w****28 November Sunday walk****Upper Orroral Valley****Leader: Reg Alder**

Meet at Kambah Village shops at 830am. A 16 km walk up the fire trail to the peak at 1339m and down to Sawpit Ck returning via the Valley. 100kms 20 per car.

3/A**Ref: Corin Dam 1:25000****Ph. 254 2240 h****27/28 November Pack walk****Tianjara and Yarrayumyum Cks****Leader: Eric and Pat Pickering**

The creeks are located in the Morton NP about half way along the Turpentine to Nowra Rd. I propose to enter Tianjara Ck close to the famous falls for a close up view; then walk downstream to the junction with Yarrayumyum Ck hoping for a reasonable camping site. On Sunday we exit via a convenient spur after a morning side trip with day packs to the headwaters of Yarrayumyum. 350 kms \$70 per car.

1/D/E/F**Ref: Sassafras 1:25000****Phone: 286 2128 h****28 November Sunday****Dawes Island flatwater canoe trip****Leader: Chris Bellamy**

Please phone leader by the Wednesday for details of meeting place and times. Easy day trip, launching from Hume Park on eastern part of Burrunjuck, paddling to Dawes Island for lunch and return, on quiet sheltered waters. Hume Park is a 1 hour drive from Civic. A good introduction for beginners, BYO canoe or hire. 150 kms \$30 per car.

Ref: Yass 1:50000**Phone: 249 7167 h****1 December Wednesday walk****Back O'Bredbo****Leader: Margaret Roseby**

Meet at Kambah Village shops at 9:30am. A 12 km walk from the "Roseby Built" bridge along the Murrumbidgee for views of the Colinton Gorge. Swimming if desired. 200 kms \$40 per car.

1/A**Ref: Colinton 1:25000****Phone: 288 3679 h****5 December Sunday walk****Sentry Box Mtn****Leader: Mick Kelly**

Contact leader for details by the Wednesday. I intend to depart from Naas Ck carpark about 8am, walk along Old Boboyan Rd to climb Sentry Box Mtn and visit Sentry Box Rock. Great views. Depending on time etc may return via Grassy Ck. Total climb 600 m. Not suitable for beginners. 150 kms \$30 per car

4/A/B/E**Ref: Yaouk 1:25000****Phone: 241 2330 h****4/5 December Pack walk****Shoalhaven****Leader: Steven Forst**

A short walk down Long Point to camp on the Shoalhaven River. Optional day walk up into Bun Canyon or just wander by the shores of Lake Louise; possibly a Friday evening start if people interested. 300kms \$60 per car.

2/A/B**Ref: Caoura 1:25000****Phone: 251 6817 h 274 8426 w****12 December Sunday****Xmas Party****Leader: Beverley Hammond**

Meet at the Orroral Valley picnic ground at 3pm for the annual NPA Christmas get together. Members and friends welcome. Bring a picnic tea.

Ref: Rendezvous Ck 1:25000**Phone: 288 6577 h**

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.