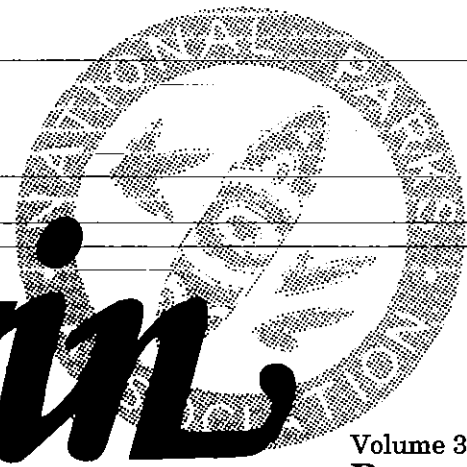


# NPA Bulletin



Volume 30 number 4  
December 1993

NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION FACT INCORPORATED



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Cloudseeding in the Snowy Mountains  
Great South West Walk

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## Cover

**Photo: Babette Scougall**

View through the window of Broken Dam hut in Kosciusko National Park.

## 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 6483(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</i>	Steven Forst 274 8426(w); 251 6817(h)

### Other committee members

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

### Subscription rates (1 July to 30 June)

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Concession: half above rates

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1 January and 31 March—half specified rate

1 April and 30 June—annual subscription

### Membership inquiries welcome

Please phone Charmian Crimmins at the NPA office.

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

10 am to 2 pm Mondays

9 am to 2 pm Tuesdays and Thursdays

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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 March issue: 1 February, 1994.

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# President's Foreword

By the time members read this *Bulletin* the committee hopes all will have received personal invitations to the launching of the *Field Guide to Birds of the Australian Capital Territory*. Long-term member Alastair Morrison has made a generous donation to the National Parks Association for this publication. We plan to feature the guide and the people involved in its production in our *March Bulletin*. In the meantime please help promote its sale. It will be available from those outlets which sell our *Tree Guide*. If you have time to assist with its distribution to our outlets, please register with Charmian during office hours (282 5813) or telephone me (288 6577) or Les Pyke (281 2982) at home. The committee would like to thank Les for the liaison work he has done for this project

on behalf of our Association.

Anne Taylor has worked part-time for NPA (ACT) as a research and administrative assistant for the past four years. She has attended subcommittee meetings, has prepared letters and submissions on our behalf and has represented our Association at meetings with government agencies and other conservation organisations. Anne has advised us that as both of her children will be at school next year, she plans to return to university studies. I wish to record the Association's thanks to Anne for her valuable assistance often called for at short notice. During her time with us she has developed a wide knowledge of local environmental issues and has formed a valuable network of helpful contacts. We wish her well in her studies.



The position will be advertised in the New Year but if any members are interested please contact me for details.

Best wishes for Christmas and may 1994 bring you much pleasure in the enjoyment of our wonderful environment.

**Beverley Hammond**



*The annual Black Mountain flower and tree identification outing continues to prove popular to old and new NPA members. This year was no exception for George Chippendale, who has led this outing for over 20 years, since taking over from Nancy Burbidge. Photo: Reg Alder*

# Wetland conservation and restoration

Ducks Unlimited has been seen by some as an organisation concerned with the rights of duck hunters and shooters and at the same time as an organisation fostering the aims of duck rescuers. However, as its enthusiastic and eloquent ACT chapter chairman, Tony Sharley, told those present at our general meeting of 16 September, it is

neither of those things. Rather, Ducks Unlimited is a private non-profit conservation organisation engaged in securing the future of Australian water fowl and other aquatic life by restoration, creation, conservation and management of wetlands. And, indeed, one of the strengths of Ducks Unlimited must be its proven

ability to bring disparate community groups together to focus on waterbird habitats. Ducks Unlimited began in the USA in 1937 in an effort to restore populations of waterfowl which had been decimated in the 'dust bowl' 1930s. The organisation quickly spread to Canada, Mexico, New Zealand and Europe. Ducks Unlimited was constituted in Australia in 1991. Its plans are to select and implement important wetland projects to enhance and secure habitats for Australian waterfowl and other wetland species.

Tony grew up in the Riverland area of South Australia and his boyhood interest in the Murray River has developed into a professional interest in wetlands in general. Tony is one of those fortunate people whose work is also his hobby. He has an abiding interest in wetlands which he characterises as 'the kidneys of the river system'.

Tony screened a most interesting set of slides which gave dramatic emphasis to the thesis that the Murray River wetlands are becoming very degraded due to river regulation, over-irrigation, over-grazing, the depredations of feral animals, excess nutrient discharge and drainage dispersal from irrigation channels.

However, Tony's attitude was not pessimistic and he spoke of the Banrock Swamp Project where Ducks Unlimited, together with a number of partners (government, corporate and private), are well on the way to achieving an integrated wetland habitat restoration program.

Tony concluded his interesting address by answering members' questions.

If you would like to know more about Ducks Unlimited Australia Pty Ltd, the Head Office address is PO Box 266, Barmera, 5345.

**Len Haskew**



*Track at the foot of Tabletop Mountain, Kosciusko National Park.  
Photo: Babette Scougall.*

## A place for all seasons



*Nadgee: photograph of Wally Newton's flat taken in 1955. Buildings have been removed and it is now a camping area and car park. In the photo members of the Caloola Club are preparing for a walk to Cape Howe. Photo: Fiona MacDonald Brand*

Whatever the season, Nadgee always charms you. The summer heat makes the beaches and rivers most attractive, especially shady pools near the old Nadgee homestead site—once the home of the Palmer family who farmed until the mid-thirties and then grazed the area until the native reserve was declared in the late fifties.

Autumn and winter are times to walk to Mt Nadgee to gain an overall picture of the reserve; to walk the whole coastline from the Merrica River to the sea caves at the northern end of Wally Newtons beach where Wally once lived and farmed the flat behind the beach; to continue along above cliff walls and along beaches with huge shell middens in the dunes, displaying what a rich harvest was gathered by the Bidawal people over 40 000 years; at last, to walk along the sandhills which form Cape Howe and advance inland

along the border which divides Victoria from NSW.

You may like to camp at the Bunyip Hole, a transient pond behind the dunes and listen to the thud of the waves on the beach and rock platform.

Spring is the time to roam over the heathland, marvelling at the great variety of flowers. Apart from the large shrubs like banksia, hakea and boronia, there are correas, red, pink and white epacris, iris, orchids and daisies.

Birds abound—honeyeaters feeding among the shrubs, black cockatoos feeding on hakea fruits and ground parrots feeding and nesting on the heath. Between Imprensa and Endeavour Moors lies Nadgee Lake (the Palmers called it Salt Lake). To camp beside Nadgee Lake and watch a flock of swans feeding and gliding as the image of Howe Hill is reflected in the still waters, is a

memorable event. At dusk a wild dog may silently run past the camp on the white sand ringing the lake where the swans quietly toll all night long.

However, Nadgee can also display less tranquil moods. Wild storms can batter the camper—as happened one Easter to an NPA group. Keep clear of the sandhills when winds blow strongly and the tides are always a consideration when river mouth crossings have to be made. A flooding river or incoming tide may mean a change of plan and route for the walker.

From the domain of the eagles and falcons along the 100 metre high cliff line to the eucalyptus forest of the hills and mountain range behind the heath, there is scenery, beauty and isolation to please the walker, naturalist and camper at any season of the year.

**Fiona MacDonald Brand**

# Working in the Budawangs

For some years the Association has been sending work parties into the Budawangs to do track restoration work under the supervision of officers of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service. The motive is simple. For many years the feet of our members have pounded the tracks on day walks and longer backpack walks in this magnificent scenic country. Our restoration work is compensating for our own use although, of course, there are many other users. Also there have been other organisations doing restoration work.

The Association's work has been undertaken at places over some 14 kilometres of the track from the Wog Wog entrance on the road between Mongarlowe and the Braidwood-Nowra Road. The works cover the setting of 'muses' (sliced logs as steps), the laying of baffles (logs at an angle across the track) to divert water run-off and combat erosion, plank tracks in particularly marshy areas, drainage gutters, and the closing of some tracks and substituting with new tracks.

The furthest working point is in the valley past the Canowie Brook valley. That is where we were



*Above: Budawangs work party, from left: Val Oliver, Annette Smith, David Henry, Tim Walsh, Frank Clements, Richard Green (NSW NPWS), Len Haskew, Mike Smith, Sonja Lenz, John Tassie. Kneeling from left: Kevin McCuen, Clyde Green. Photos: Les Pyke*



working over the weekend of 4-5 September. The operation followed what has become a traditional practice. The NSW authorities dropped materials close to the work site by helicopter while we back-packed in carrying some tools and camped in a beautifully spacious and dry rock shelter with its own water supply in the form of a clear pool created from heavy drips from the cliffs above.

We worked the Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, putting in 56 metres of plank track with 200 rek screws and installing 49 baffles. This involved much

*Left: Installing baffles in the Budawangs.*



*Above: Our cosy rock shelter.*

*Below: Making a plank track in the Budawang.*

carrying from the helicopter dumps, sawing and drilling. Of course by the time we arrived back, at the cars late Sunday afternoon we all knew what we had been doing. Warm showers for fatigued muscles were the order for that evening.

Our leader for that weekend was Mike Smith, our treasurer, in liaison with Richard Green of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service. Should you go on one of these work parties? A resounding 'yes' if you meet any of the following criteria: a desire to enhance a spectacular environment; if you wish to feel a sense of achievement; if you are bored with a weekend in suburbia; or if you derive pleasure from pain.

**Les Pyke**



## Marketing strategy for national parks

The ACT Government plans to develop a marketing strategy for Namadgi National Park and nature reserves in the ACT. This will involve the updating of management plans.

The government has stated its commitment to detailed consultation with the community.

The NPA has written to Rosemary Follett to indicate its eagerness to be fully involved in this process and has pointed out that, if we were invited at an early stage rather than at the last minute, the outcomes achieved would have wider community support.

## *From the conservation media*

### **Biological control**

Shire councils, state agriculture departments, community groups and landowners are working with CSIRO to speed the biological control of pasture and environmental weeds in south-eastern Australia. They have organised networks to distribute and monitor insects bred by CSIRO to control weeds such as Scotch thistle, St John's wort and bitou bush.

*ECOS*, Spring 1993, CSIRO

### **Native grasses**

Native grasses are becoming popular as a low-cost, attractive alternative to mown turf in public landscapes, but seed supplies are low, and much remains to be learned about their establishment and management.

Trials conducted by the team at CSIRO's Division of Plant Industry have shown native grasses to be ideal for low-maintenance and low-management applications. They grow slowly, become established without nutrient addition and are comparatively drought-hardy if mulched at sowing. For these reasons they may require less mowing, water and fertiliser, than introduced turf grasses.

*ECOS*, Spring 1993, CSIRO

### **Mining legislation**

A mining Bill introduced to state parliament last month could be disastrous. It will remove all exploration from the planning process including digging large pits and wide trenches and bulldozing of tracks—anything in the name of exploration. It affects private land and 50% of public land (80% of Victoria). There will be no effective public input for all exploration and possibly some mining.

The proposed environmental safeguards for exploration are extremely limited and likely to be ineffective. There will be no assessment unless bulk sampling

and road-making are proposed and then only an in-house assessment if required by the Minister for Energy and Minerals.

Whilst protection of historic, bushland and some other reserves will be improved, areas such as flora reserves will still lack reliable protection. Only national and state parks and wilderness areas will be totally protected. Areas in state forest will be virtually open slather.

*VNPA Newsletter*, October 1993

### **Fragmented landscapes**

Remnants are often the only place where some species of native animals dependent on native vegetation can exist. Yet few remnants can continue as functioning ecosystems because fragmentation causes physical changes to the remnants. This makes survival impossible for many species.

Recent work by CSIRO suggests that fragments may experience different solar radiation, wind and water regimes to continuously vegetated regions. These altered physical conditions can degrade the remnants, changing their species composition and physical structure, especially at the edges.

*ECOS*, Spring 1993, CSIRO

### **Diamantina Gates NP**

The 470 000 hectare former Diamantina Lakes pastoral holding 300 kilometres west of Longreach has been purchased by the government for national park purposes.

The national park, which straddles the Diamantina River, includes the diverse landscapes of the Channel Country, including its old naturally eroded hills and ranges, its wide, braided river channel systems and the edge of Mitchell Grass Downs. Until recently, very little of these extensive areas with distinctive semi-arid plant and animal life were

included in national parks.

This national park contains 26 ecosystem types, 11 of which have never before been protected in Channel Country. The new national park contains many vegetation types including low open woodlands of coolabah, river red gum, mineritichie and gidgee, large alluvial plains and channels with seasonal sparse grasslands and herblands, swamps with bluebush and lignum, Mitchell Grass tussock plains, shrublands on residual hills and ranges, and spinifex and canegrass dunefields. Tree species including lancewood, mountain yapunyah, Normanton box and myall gidgee are at the limits of their ranges in the park.

*NPA News*, Journal of NAPQ, September 1993

### **Queensland budget**

The Department of Environment and Heritage has received a record budget allocation of \$142.6 million—a 10% increase on 1992/93. Importantly, \$4.6 million has been received for national park acquisition, which will take the current total of protected areas closer to the government's target of 4%.

*NPA News*, Journal of NAPQ, October 1993

### **Koala reserve**

A management team comprising landholders, community groups and researchers will be appointed to oversee Queensland's first coordinated conservation area—the Koala Bushland Coordinated Conservation Area in south-east Queensland. This particular area will protect one of south-east Queensland's most important wildlife habitats, including one of the nation's most concentrated koala populations estimated to be more than 1000 koalas.

*NPA News*, Journal of NAPQ, September 1993



## Iron gates: endangered species

The proposed Iron Gates development at Evans Head on the far north coast is becoming a test case for third party proceedings involving the Endangered Fauna (Interim Protection) Act.

The Iron Gates site has been identified by wildlife experts as a significant habitat for a number of endangered species, particularly the koala, but also including the Brush-tailed Phascogale, Grass Owl, White-eared Monarch, Queensland Blossom Bat, Ground Parrot, Glossy Black Cockatoo, Planigale and a number of bat species.

The current proceedings are the fourth undertaken by environment groups to save this area, which also contains littoral rainforest, Aboriginal sites and wetlands on pristine estuary frontage, from inappropriate development. The situation is described as 'desperate'.

*Threatened species alert,*  
Threatened species network,  
August 1993

## Alpine resort expansion

Expansion plans for almost all Victorian alpine resorts have been uncovered by recent VNPA research indicating that the Alpine Resorts Commission proposes expanding the unplanned mish-mash of developments that blot our alpine landscape into national parks and areas of high conservation significance.

Baw Baw National Park, Falls Creek and Mt Hotham would be affected.

*VNPA Newsletter,* September 1993

## Green jobs program

Environmentalists have joined forces with unionists in a new push to create green jobs for Australians. The ACF and the ACTU have forged a new partnership in the Green Jobs in Industry

Program, targeting Australia's greatest social and economic problem—unemployment. The Commonwealth Government has provided strong support and funding.

Green jobs are defined as those which benefit the environment, or at least reduce the negative impacts which would otherwise have occurred. Whether in industry, or the public or community sectors, most jobs can be changed in major and minor ways to cause less environmental damage.

The program reflects two imperatives for the conservation movement in the 1990s: the need to integrate environmental protection into the mainstream of the economy, and to develop new alliances with industry, unions and the community sector in order to achieve common objectives.

*Habitat,* magazine of the Australian Conservation Foundation,  
August 1993

## Green jobs

**Ribloc:** This Adelaide-based pipe manufacturer started using recycled milk bottles as one of its raw materials in 1992. Employment increased to 30 after the launch of the recycled pipes.

**Revolve:** Revolve began in 1987 as a local initiative to salvage useful materials from the rubbish dumped at the Canberra tip. Revolve's workforce has grown from an initial two to the current 28 people, salvaging and selling from two sites. Based on Revolve's success, a Tasmanian cooperative, Resource, is looking to set up a similar venture in Hobart.

**Clean power:** When acid rain began killing their forests in the early 1980s, the Germans began demanding tough anti-pollution regulations on power generation plants. Emissions were cut by 90% by 1990, and Germany is now selling the technology and equipment to the rest of the world.

*Habitat,* magazine of the Australian Conservation Foundation,  
August 1993

## Penan update

In March this year the Penan people of Sarawak, Malaysia, began yet another blockade to protest the continued logging of their rainforest home. Five months later the blockade remains firm, despite several attempts by the police to have it dismantled.

About 1000 Penan men, women and children from 21 long houses set up the blockade in March at the Upper Selaan River. The protesters are determined to stop the Samling Timber Company from operating on their land. This is the Penan's third attempt to halt the destruction of the rainforest and the dispossession of its inhabitants. The area represents the last remaining primary forest upon which the Penan depend.

A week into the blockade 20 military and paramilitary personnel arrived and forcefully dismantled the wooden barricade. Its immediate re-erection prompted the arrival of 50 fully armed soldiers and police a few days later, threatening that 1000 army personnel would be brought in. Five months later, the Penan insist that they will stay until their demands are met. Key organisers of the action are said to be currently in hiding from the police.

*Habitat,* magazine of the Australian Conservation Foundation,  
August 1993

## Plantations

The Federal Minister for Resources, Michael Lee, announced on 15 July 1993 funding of \$3.7 million under the government's Farm Forestry Program to boost forest plantation development in Australia. The program is a key Commonwealth plantation initiative within the National Forest Policy Statement. The program is aimed at promoting commercial wood production on cleared agricultural land so as to provide an additional, reliable, high quality wood resource for regional industries. 'A vigorous plantation industry is essential to the development of a sustainable

future for our forest industries,' Mr Lee said. 'Plantations have the potential to provide a wide range of commercial and environmental benefits to the whole community.'

A series of farm forestry demonstration sites is to be established across Australia by a wide range of state agencies and community groups, including Greening Australia. These will primarily be in areas with the greatest potential for commercial wood production. Extension, training and support for farmers contemplating farm forestry is also an important element of the program.

*Broadcast*, newsletter of Greening Australia, August/September 1993

## Chief ranger for Alps

The VNPA has achieved a significant victory with the agreement by the Minister for Conservation and Environment to have one chief ranger for the Alpine National Park.

The Association has been the major driving force behind this initiative, which we believe will help ensure uniform management of the park. Under the old arrangement, responsibility for the park was split between no fewer than five regions, which inevitably led to inconsistent management.

With the establishment of a National Parks Service and the government's commitment to on-ground management accountability, this was an idea whose time had come. It is an important step towards better management of the Alpine National Park.

*VNPA Newsletter*, August 1993

## South-east NSW farm forestry project

A grant of \$244 000 will support a project based in the Bega-Eden-Bombala area of south-east NSW. The joint project will investigate the development of an integrated and sustainable farm forestry industry in that region. It seeks to generate increased levels of farm revegetation and catchment

protection, as well as to foster community attitudes supporting a sustainable industry based on farm forestry.

*Broadcast*, newsletter of Greening Australia, August/September 1993

## Trees up front

Greening Australia is proud to announce an 'In kind' assistance for revegetation projects, aimed at smaller projects being developed by new revegetation groups of enthusiastic individuals.

Trees up front will link the resources of volunteer and home-based seedling propagators, potential sponsors and project volunteers, with the advisory and service provision capacity of Greening Australia, to provide assistance to small scale demonstration revegetation projects in key areas.

There is an emerging interest from volunteers in growing trees at home for use in projects in rural or urban areas. This is a great way for people who don't own or have access to rural land to contribute to the protection and repair of our environment.

*Broadcast*, newsletter of Greening Australia, October/November 1993

## Elephant and rhinoceros conservation

Poaching of rhinoceroses continues in Africa and Asia, in addition to habitat destruction, putting further at risk populations already at low levels. Because of this, UNEP has agreed to extend its African Elephant Conservation Facility to include the African and Asian rhinoceros in addition to the Asian elephant. The conservation facility will coordinate conservation strategies and action plans, as well as assist with conservation problems for elephants and rhinoceroses, secure financial resources and ensure governmental commitment to protecting these species.

*Our Planet*, the magazine of the United Nations Environment Programme, Vol 5, No 4 1993

## Environment Subcommittee

The lengths to which members of the NPA's Environment Subcommittee will go to spread the conservation ethic know no bounds—literally! Our envoy to Central Asia, Dianne Thompson, has recently returned from a fact-finding mission to Kyrgyzstan.

On a more modest level Neville Esau, Nicki Esau and Timothy Walsh attended the Australian National Parks Council Annual Conference in Melbourne in October; Les Pyke visited Cape York and got bitten by a dog (sic); and Nicki Esau took part in the Peak Conservation Councils Workshop in Sydney in September.

Some of the national and local issues dealt with by the subcommittee recently include:

- the Snowy Mountains Hydroelectric Authority's proposal to enhance precipitation in Kosciusko National Park. Peter Barrer and Jenny Atton prepared a detailed submission for the Environmental Impact Statement.
- Peter Barrer and Kevin Frawley attended the University of Canberra's Grasslands Workshop in September
- Nicki Esau coordinated a submission to the Department of Tourism's National Eco-Tourism Strategy
- Anne Taylor prepared a submission to the responsible Commonwealth Ministers on the report of the Joint Committee on the National Capital—'Our Bush Capital'
- letters were written to state and Commonwealth ministers supporting the purchase of the Yadboro property for inclusion in the Moreton National Park.

Two further items should be noted:

- the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) is coordinating a campaign to support the Commonwealth Government's commitment to establish a

comprehensive national system of protected areas which is both representative and ecologically viable by the year 2000. The NPA (ACT) in turn is considering ways in which it can participate in this program to ensure adequate reserves in the ACT and our region.

- the subcommittee is undertaking a review of its own activities and methods to prepare a strategy to focus more clearly its aims and expected outcomes. For instance, should we be concentrating on local or national issues? Should direct action rather than endless letter-writing to politicians be adopted? How closely does our work tie in with the objectives of the NPA? What sort of balance should we strike between being a catalyst for action or change, an environmental watchdog and a voluntary work force? How can the NPA be a more effective conservation force in the ACT and in the south-east region of Australia?

We plan to draw up a strategy for the subcommittee for submission, comment and endorsement by the NPA's Management Committee. Should NPA members want to contribute to this process, contact the acting convenor.

**Timothy Walsh**  
285 1112(h)  
274 1465(w)

### New members

Tony Gibb	Hackett
Cecelia Skene	Dickson
Robert Wright	Canberra
Felix Schmid	Downer
Rae Else-Mitchell	Deakin
Pam Sharp	Swinger Hill
Kathy Saw	Farrer
Kim Sergeant	Kambah
Janet Druce	Fraser
Andrew Pike	Conder

## Cloudseeding: anathema to conservationists

Does 'SPEP' mean anything to you? It is the latest issue to cause a flurry amongst conservationists, especially those in the south-east, and more particularly those on the NPA Environment Subcommittee.

The Commonwealth Environment Protection Agency has recently released a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) describing the Snowy Precipitation Enhancement Project (SPEP), to which the Environment Subcommittee gave a detailed response.

The Snowy Precipitation Enhancement Project is an experiment, undertaken by the Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Authority, to increase the amount of snow falling over the Snowy Mountains, and hence over Kosciusko National Park. If successful, the dams in the mountains would hold more water as a result of the increased precipitation, and the hydro-electric authority would be able to generate more electricity. The authority argues that this is more environmentally sound than building another coal-fired power station to meet our increasing energy needs.

This is how the precipitation would be increased. About ten to twenty machines, the size of a small truck, would be positioned on the western slopes of the mountains in wintertime. When a storm approaches, the machines would fire silver iodide into the clouds where it would form into crystals. As the clouds move eastwards and meet the higher mountains, the crystals would precipitate as snow. The machines would be operated by remote control and removed in the summertime.

The Environment Subcommittee came up with the goods yet again when it produced a well-considered response dealing with general issues such as nature conservation and the principle of creating a precedent, and specific issues such as monitoring ecological impacts, monitoring fallout at the generator sites, the release of silver and indium into the envi-

ronment and its effects, and possible long-term consequences.

The subcommittee's assessment of the draft EIS states in no uncertain terms the NPA's opposition to the proposed cloudseeding experiment, and 'identifies critical inadequacies in the identification of potentially negative impacts of the experiment, as well as of monitoring and safeguards. The net conclusion reached is that the unintended negative consequences of the SPEP have not been assessed, that some negative consequences are likely to be highly significant and that there is a significant possibility that the consequences of the SPEP, once started, could not be stopped.'

The NPA's assessment points out that even the draft EIS acknowledges that the proposal would impinge unfavourably on wilderness values, and that it is inconsistent with the objectives in the Kosciusko National Park's Plan of Management. As the national park is subjected to a great deal of human disturbance, this is an even more compelling reason to avoid further disturbance such as that proposed by the SPEP.

The subcommittee's response also pointed out that the expected economic benefits, as outlined in the draft EIS, are 'at least several orders of magnitude too small to be taken seriously as a motive for threatening the conservation function' of Kosciusko National Park.

As well, the subcommittee voices a more general concern of many conservation organisations: that of the process by which an environmental impact statement is carried out. This concern rests on the fact that an EIS 'is prepared by or on behalf of a proponent, that its purpose is to present the best possible case for a proposal, that any argument advocating a proposed action must emphasise or exaggerate the possible or expected benefits arising from the proposed action and ignore or discount the possible or expected losses.'

## The Orroral homestead complex

In the March 1992 issue of the *Bulletin*, a 1931 photograph of the Orroral homestead and all of its outbuildings was published. This photograph originally appeared in a manuscript titled *A Journey Around the ACT* by Jefferis and Whelan. It consisted of three separate photographs joined to produce a panoramic view of the complex. This is again reproduced in a shortened version in photograph (1).

The joining of the images of the two outer photographs did not line up with their essential companion elements in the central photograph. For instance the roof of the kitchen (C) was out of alignment at its junction with the chimney and the two images of the shed (D) did not produce a straight line. Building (A) is the homestead and (C) the schoolhouse.

I decided, with the objective of ascertaining where the missing

buildings were, to take photographs from a position where the original photographs might have been taken. The line of the verandah post and window edge (inset G) provided a datum line from which the position of the camera might be determined. Extending a builder's line from the window to just touch the verandah post gave the necessary information to pick the actual possible location of the camera. This was done by walking



*Above: Panoramic view of the Orroral homestead complex photographed in 1931.*

*Below: Reconstructed view of the homestead complex with adjustments made to the individual segments of the 1931 photograph to align buildings to their horizontal elements and position them under ridgeline knolls.*

*Photos and photocopies: Reg Alder*



# Outings program

January to March 1994



## 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.

**15 January Saturday walk** 2/A/B  
**Mt Ginini** Ref: ACT 1:100000  
(I've seen 'em come and I've seen 'em go')  
**Leader: Matthew Higgins** Phone: 247 7285  
Skiers, foresters, air traffic controllers and brumby runners have all played a part in the history of Mt Ginini. Several sites (some demolished, some extant) reflect these themes in the mountain's past and will be visited during this leisurely but steep bushwalk. Included will be a 1943 brumby yard ruin in Bimberi Nature Reserve discovered during the 1993 Namadgi brumby project. This outing will be a joint KHA/NPA trip. Please contact Matthew Higgins on the above number for bookings. 160 kms \$32 per car.

**22 January Saturday walk** 2/A  
**Kambah to Cotter River** Ref: ACT 1:100000  
**Leader: Murray Dow** Phone 257 4971  
Meet at the corner of Eucumbene Drive and Cotter Road at 9am. A walk of some 14 kms along a track following the Murrumbidgee Corridor. Bring water, long trousers/gaiters also recommended. Car shuttle required. 40 kms \$8 per car.

**27 January Thursday**  
**Outings Committee Meeting**  
**Outings Convenor: Mick Kelly**  
Meet at 1 Fitzmaurice Street Kaleen at 7.30pm to prepare outings program for April to June. If unable to attend but willing to lead an outing please contact Mick Kelly at home on 241 2330.

**29 January Saturday morning Bird Watching**  
**Jerrabomberra Wetlands** Ref: Canberra UBD  
**Leader: Phyl Goddard** Phone: 254 8279 h  
Bring your new "Field Guide to the Birds of the ACT" and some binoculars if possible for a few hours of bird-watching. Meet at 8.30am in the car park near Kelly's Swamp on Dairy Flat Road, Fyshwick.

**30 January Sunday Canoe Trip**  
**Murrumbidgee River** Ref: Brindabella 1:100000  
**Leaders: Chris Bellamy** Phone: 249 7167 h  
**Jill Roberts** 249 1030 h  
Contact leader by Wednesday for details. Lazy day trip starting from above "Cavan", Paddle to Taemus Bridge Beach. Lots of opportunities to swim and enjoy the sandy beaches. Good introductory trip for beginners. BYO canoe or hire in ACT. 180 kms \$45 per car.

**30 January Sunday Walk** 1/C/E  
**Billy Billy Rocks** Ref: Corin 1:25000  
**Leader: Mick Kelly** Phone: 241 2330  
Meet at Kambah Village shops at 8am. A sometimes scrubby walk to outstanding rock features overlooking Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve. Suitable for beginners. 60 kms \$12 per car.

**5 February Saturday Walk** 2/A/C/D  
**The Pimple** Ref: Tidbinbilla 1:25000  
**Leader: Murray Dow** Phone: 257 4371 h  
Meet at Kambah Village shops at 8am. A walk partially on fire trail, tracks and through scrub taking in The Camel Ridge, the Pimple and Tidbinbilla Mountain (examine stand of Tingiringi Gum). Glorious views, 700m climb involved. 70 kms \$14 per car.

**9 February Wednesday Midweek Walk** 1/A  
**Yerrabi** Ref: ACT 1:100000  
**Leader: Herbert Robey** Phone: 258 5073 h  
Meet at Kambah Village at 10am. Boboyan Trig offers 360o views of the Brindabella Ranges. Interesting geological features, 1 1/2 hour walk 100 kms \$20 per car.

**12/13 February Pack Walk** 2/A/C/F  
**Gungartan/Kerries/Brassy Range**  
**Leader: Mick Kelly** Phone: 241 2330 h  
Departure from Canberra on the Friday afternoon. Camp at Disappointment Spur Hut Friday night. Saturday traverse Gungartan area and visit Tin Hut. Come prepared for low impact camping, good gear etc. no fires. This itinerary is subject to change. Please contact the leader by the previous Monday. 450 kms \$90 per car plus park entry.

**20 February Sunday Stroll**  
**National Botanic Gardens**  
**Canberra Street Directory**  
**Leader: Doreen Wilson** Phone: 288 5215  
Meet at the National Botanic Gardens visitors centre at 9.30am. A walk around the gardens visiting areas not normally open to the public. Morning tea in the scrub. Bring binoculars to view the bird life.

**20 February Sunday Walk** 3/A  
**Upper Brindabella Range Ramble** Ref: ACT 1:100000  
**Leader: Steven Forst** Phone: 251 6817 w, 274 8426 h  
Meet at the corner of Eucumbene Drive and the Cotter Road at 8.30am. A walk mainly on fire trails in the tall forest above the Cotter just off the Brindabella road with some good views in places. A short car shuffle will be arranged to avoid a climb back to the starting point. 80 kms drive \$16 per car.

**19/20 February Canoe Trip**  
**Clyde River** Batemans Bay 1:100000  
**Leader: Chris Bellamy** Phone: 249 7167  
Contact leader by previous Wednesday. Ride the morning incoming tide from Nelligen up to Shoalhaven Crossing and camp there overnight. Dawn start on Sunday to ride the outgoing tide back to Nelligen. Canoe based camping. BYO canoe or hire in the ACT. Suit fit beginners. 280 kms \$70 per car.

**19/20 February Pack Walk** 1/A  
**Goodradigbee River (Wee Jasper)** Ref: ACT 1/100000  
**Leader: Fiona Brand** Phone: 247 9538 h  
Contact leader by the Wednesday for details. A relaxing and easy weekend on the Goodradigbee near Micalong Creek. Great campsite with swimming available. 160 kms \$32 per car.

**26 February Saturday morning Bird Watching**  
**Campbell Park** Ref: Canberra UBD  
**Leader: Beverley Hammond** Phone: 288 6577 h  
Another opportunity to become familiar with the "Field Guide to the Birds of the ACT". Meet at 8.30am in the farthest carpark behind the Campbell Park offices, on the eastern slopes of Mount Ainslie. Turn up Northcott Drive from Fairbairn Avenue, Campbell.

**27 February Sunday Walk** 3/A/C/D  
**The Camel/Tidbinbilla/Mt Domain**  
**Ref: Tidbinbilla 1:25000**  
**Leader: Marty French** Phone: 258 3525 h  
Meet at Kambah Village shops at 8.15am. A walk partially on fire trails, tracks and through light scrub, taking in the Camel Ridge, Tidbinbilla Peak and Mountain, Mount Domain and descending to join the Fishing Gap fire trail for return to cars. Car shuffle required. 70 kms \$14 per car.

**5/6 March Weekend Car Camp**  
**Kiandra Area**  
**Ref: Yarrangobilly & Tantangara 1:100000**  
**Leader: Len Haskew** Phone: 281 4268 h  
Camp at 3 Mile Dam. Visit historic sites in Kiandra area on the Saturday. On Sunday visit Yarrangobilly Caves for walks caves inspection or relaxing swim in thermal pool. Contact leader by the previous Wednesday. 400 kms \$80 per car.

**9 March Wednesday Midweek Walk** 2A  
**Square Rock** Ref: Corin 1:25000  
**Leader: Herbert Robey** Phone: 258 5073 h  
Meet at Kambah Village shops 9.30am. Views of the Brindabella Ranges and back to Canberra. There is a short uphill climb at the beginning of the walk. Bring a pack lunch. Approximately 4 hour round trip 60 kms \$ 20 per car.

**12 March Saturday Namadgi Work Party**  
**Namadgi** Ref: ACT 1:100000  
**Leader: Syd Comfort** Phone: 286 2578 h  
Meet at Kambah Village shops at 8.30am, but please check with leader beforehand. Probably briar extraction near Yankee Hat (previous work deferred by rain) but could be track work. 120 kms \$24 per car.

**18 March Sunday Walk** 2/A/B/D  
**Bullen Range**  
**Ref: Tidbinbilla & Tuggeranong 1:25000**  
**Leader: Syd Comfort** Phone: 286 2578 h  
Meet at the corner of Eucumbene Drive and Cotter Road at 8.30am. From the rear of the Tidbinbilla Tracking Station cross southern section of Bullen Range to reach Murrumbidgee River near Red Rocks Gorge. Partly exploratory with some steep climbs. 70 kms \$14 per car.

**11/12/13 March Canoe Trip**  
**Barmah Forest & Murray River**  
**Ref: Mathoura & Tuppall 1:100000**  
**Leader: Kevin Frawley** Phone: 282 2973 h 299 3995  
Launch at or below Tocumwal, heading for Picnic Point and Barmah. Enjoy camping from canoes on the best of the Murray on lovely sandy beaches in red gum forests en route. Paddlers should enjoy fast moving water. Suit fit beginners. BYO own canoe or hire local canoes or Kayaks from Echuca. Ring Kevin on the above number before previous weekend for further details. 1200 kms \$300 per car.

**19/20/21 March (Canberra Day) Pack Walk** 2/A/B  
**Budawangs Ramble** Ref: CMW Budawangs  
**Leader: Steven Forst** Phone: 251 6817 h 274 8426 w  
Contact leader by Wednesday. An easy 3 day walk in the Budawangs. The Itinerary is yet to be decided so ring early and we may be able to visit your favourite spot or the one you have always wanted to try.

**21 March Monday ACT Alive**  
**Lawns in front of Old Parliament House**  
**Contact: Doreen Wilson** Phone: 288 5215 h  
Volunteers required to man the NPA tent for the closing event of Canberra Week. Short stints, great way to meet possible new members, groups and happenings to visit as well. Ring Doreen at least 2 weeks prior to event.

**27 March Sunday Walk** 2/A/B  
**Brandy Flat**  
**Ref: ACT 1:100000 Rendezvous Creek 1:25000**  
**Leader: Marty French** Phone: 258 3525 h  
Meet at Kambah Village shops at 8am. A 15 km walk commencing at Caloola Farm and ending at Glendale crossing via Brandy Flat Hut. Mainly on fire trails. A car shuffle is required. 90 kms \$18 per car.

**27 March Sunday Walk** 2/B/E  
**Lower Molonglo Gorge** Ref: ACT 1:100000  
**Leader: Steven Forst** Phone: 251 6817 h 274 8426 w  
Meet at the gates of the Lower Molonglo Water Quality Control Centre at 8.30am. A walk down into the Lower Molonglo Gorge to see why this area is now receiving special attention. On the walk will be members of the Namadgi Sub-committee who visited the area recently with Rangers and experts from Parks and Conservation and who will hopefully fill you in on some of its wonders.

**1/2/3/4 April Easter Pack Walk** 2/A/C  
**Woila/Duea NP** Ref: Snowball and Badja 1:25000  
**Leader: Eric Pickering** Phone: 286 2128 h  
Contact the leader by Wednesday 23 March as numbers may need to be limited. Some firetrail walking, some rough scrub and scrambling also involved. We will establish a base camp and do side walks to Mother Woila, Tabletop and other exciting places. 320 km, \$64 per car.

**1/2/3/4 April (Easter) Canoe Trip**  
**Mallacoota Inlet** Ref: Mallacoota 1:100000  
**Leader: Chris Bellamy** Phone: 249 7167 h  
Contact leader by the previous weekend. Enjoy several scenic day trips paddling from Mallacoota Inlet caravan park to Sandy Point, up the Wallargarough River or even Gypsy Point (pub) for afternoon drinks. Suit beginners. BYO canoe or hire. 800 kms \$200 per car.

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## 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



*Left: The position of the present collapsed outbuilding relative to the shearing shed from a position where the photographer would have stood in 1931.*

*Right: An end view of the homestead and kitchen chimney from the position where a photographer would have needed to have stood to position the present collapsed outbuilding in a location where outbuilding (E) was in 1931.*



along the line until the shearing shed and the kitchen chimney aligned themselves under the knolls of the ridge behind. Cognisance needed to be taken also from the picture quality of the fact that the camera was most probably a Box Brownie or a folding camera. Both types had viewfinders which required the camera to be held at chest level, so the modern eye-level camera was lowered so that the shearing shed (F) just appeared over the rising ground in front of it.

It was then noticed that the outbuilding (E) did not appear as in the 1931 photograph, that is, between the buildings (E) and (F), but well in front of the shearing

shed (F). Photograph (3) shows in enlargement the position in which this collapsed building appeared. To place the building (E) in the position of the original photograph required the camera to be moved well to the west to near a large tree. A view of the homestead and kitchen chimney from this point is reproduced in photograph (4). It then became obvious that the 1931 photographs could not have been taken from this point.

A print was made of the ridge behind with the present buildings and the old photograph segments cut and overlaid so that the ridge line elements of them matched the recent photograph. In doing so the shed (D) was shortened and the

perspective came to be as reproduced in photograph (2).

The outbuilding (E) in the photographs is not very plain, but it appears to be in a state of collapse and it appears that a new building was subsequently erected to the right of it. This has now collapsed and, as it would now be approaching 60 years old, this could be possible. There also appear to have been changes in the door openings of the shearing shed (F).

Are there any old photographs available that might justify these assumptions, since the lens of the original camera may have had aberrations which could cause distortion of scale?

**Reg Alder**

## Brumby running in Namadgi

The end of July saw the completion of 'Brumby running in Namadgi', a project which was looking at the history of brumby running in our ACT national park. Funded by the National Estate Grants Program and sponsored by the National Trust, the project aimed to both reveal the story behind this distinctive mountain activity and to locate the surviving brumby trapyard sites.

Part 1 of the project report looks at the place of horses and brumby running in Australian history and folklore, then it surveys in detail the people who ran the Namadgi brumbies, the areas involved, the methods used and the uses made of the caught horses.

Part 2 is an inventory of trapyard sites. Several dozen yards are known to have existed in the Namadgi area, yet only 14 could be located today; the high loss rate caused by fire, natural decay and deliberate destruction was a disappointing feature of what was otherwise a fascinating exercise, although the losses do give heightened significance to the remaining intact yards. The report also includes comments on the cultural significance of the yards and makes some recommendations on their future conservation. In addition to site photos and sketch plans, the report includes a valuable collection of historical photographs dating back to the early 1930s.

Members interested in this aspect of high country history and cultural heritage may like to know that copies of the report are held at the National Trust office in Deakin, the ACT Heritage Unit office in Tuggeranong, and in due course a copy will be in the library of the Australian Heritage Commission in Barton. There is a possibility of the report being published as a small monograph, or alternatively, material from the report may appear in article form in the March 1994 issue of the *Canberra Historical Journal*.

**Matthew Higgins**

## The Great South West Walk

Participants: Enid Brooker, Doug Gillies, David Hall, Pat and Eric Pickering, John Thwaite from 18 to 28 October 1993

This walk between Portland and Nelson in south-west Victoria had fascinated me since I read about it in the November 1983 issue of *WILD*. The Portland Parks authority provided track notes and the Portland police arranged safe parking for the cars. We contacted Mrs Gwen Bennett, secretary of The Friends of the Great South West Walk, who offered and kindly arranged transport to the start of the walk. Thank you, Gwen and Friends.

On 17 October Gordon Page, one of The Friends, met us at the Portland Police Station at 8.15 pm and transported us some 60 kilometres to Moleside camp. On the way Gordon gave me tide charts for the coastal section of our walk and provided some helpful advice. We set up camp in the dark with steady rain falling.

Next morning we woke to find ourselves in a rather beautiful grassy place on a bend in the majestic Glenelg River. The river was much wider and deeper than I had expected. Pit toilets and water from a side creek were available.



*David Hall above the Glenelg River near Nelson.*

The first three days of the walk were along the river which rises in the Grampians, winds its way west, briefly curving in and out of South Australia, and reaching the sea at Nelson. It is fortunate that this section of the river and its surrounds are protected by national park status. It was rather beautiful and peaceful walking alongside the river.

There were many wild flowers in a variety of colours—purple (glycine), red (kennedia, epacris impressa), pink (boronia, black-eyed susies), yellow (wattle, daisies), cream (epacris), white (tea-trees) and a host of other varieties. The forest is mainly stringy-bark, with thickets of grass trees (*Xanthorrhoea*) with their tall four-metre woody stems covered with white flowers. Occasionally the track takes interesting diversions into the bush away from the river—the Eagle Hawk and Bullocky's Tracks are examples of these.

En route to Nelson we camped at the Post and Rail Camp and at Pattersons. Pit toilets and water from a water tank fed by the toilet roof were available. These facilities were to be a feature of all but two of our camp-sites. There are several other camps and landings in this section, presumably used by canoeists and those in other watercraft.

At Pritchard's landing we met Mr Kelly, a park's officer. He was the only person we saw on this section of the walk. He told us some interesting things. The river is tidal for over 70 kilometres upstream—as far inland as

*The freshwater spring by the ocean. Photos: Eric Pickering.*





Dartmoor where Major Thomas Mitchell started his voyage in 1836. There had been about 70 huts along the river, largely for recreational use. Following the declaration of the Lower Glenelg National Park in 1969 and a 15 year phase-out period nearly all the huts were removed. The only huts remaining are those at Pattersons which I understand have been retained for historical reasons. Pattersons was a canoe camp established in the 1920s by the Pattersons of Warrock Station for their family and staff.

As we approached Nelson, the white limestone cliffs of the Glenelg River Gorge became much more evident and the water seemed deeper. We could imagine how Mitchell felt in 1836 as his party rowed towards the mouth of the river hoping to find a natural harbour. His hopes would have been soaring at this point of the journey. Unfortunately the estuary proved to be quite unsuitable as a harbour. The track followed the cliff-edge, providing splendid river views. There were wild flowers in abundance, notably a very attractive variety of grevillea. Here and there we caught sight of emus and an emu chick. Closer to Nelson were a few boat houses.

We arrived in Nelson mid-afternoon after three days and 50 kilometres of walking. Nelson is a village with a store/post office, a hotel and accommodation. We collected the food for the second part of the walk which we had posted to the Nelson Post Office a week earlier.

Next morning we set off down the road to the sand dunes and the Discovery Bay Coastal Park. The walk over the next seven days included a mixture of beach, dune and cliff walking and an excursion into the Mount Richmond National Park.

## Beaches

The beaches are wide, backed by dunes and pounded by an unrelenting sea. The surf was enormous. The huge waves reared up, curled over and disintegrated into a white foam. The wind would catch them at the crest sending sheets of fine spray several metres

into the air and travelling in unison with the breaking waves. We noticed several fast flowing rips. These factors and the reasonably cool conditions were enough to set aside any thoughts of serious swimming or surfing.

Discovery Bay has 60 kilometres of beach broken only by the rugged Cape Montesquieu headland. We walked 35 kilometres along the beach and did not see another soul. There were enormous pieces of thick, leathery seaweed, some interesting sea-birds—gulls, terns, dotterels and oystercatchers—and, in places, plenty of flotsam and jetsam.

The camp-sites on the beach sections of the walk are tucked away in the shelter of dunes. The White Sands, Lake Mombeong and the Swan Lake Camps are situated near fresh-water lakes in the Discovery Bay hinterland. The beautiful Trewalla Camp overlooks Bridgewater Bay.

Lieutenant James Grant of H.M. Brig *Lady Nelson* was the first European to see this coastline on December 3, 1800. The Frenchman, Baudin, aboard *Le Geographe*, was next in 1802. He is responsible for the French place names in the area and Grant for some of the British names. Grant noted many fires along the bay suggesting the presence of Aborigines. He also noted that there was

flat land behind the beaches covered with brush and tall timber. Settlement of the area did not commence until the 1830s when pioneers such as former sealers, Dutton and Henty, entered the area. Crown Surveyor, J Tyers, arrived in 1839 to establish the South Australian border—an exercise finally resolved in 1914 by the Privy Council!

## Dunes

The dunes of today are possibly little different from those seen by Grant, Baudin, Tyers and the early pioneers. The south-westerlies are still ferocious and unrelenting; the land is a little more vulnerable because of clearing, attempts to drain coastal swamps, over-grazing and erosion. There have been problems with 'dune drift' which has sometimes threatened to drown the lakes and hinterland farming land. Marram grass introduced by Baron von Mueller in the 1880s has been used effectively in some places to stabilise the dunes.

I found the dunes fascinating. Some dunes, particularly the ones a kilometre or so inland, are thickly vegetated with masses of impenetrable scrub. Beautiful green 'curtains' of a species of rambling succulent hang from any convenient bush or tree branch.

*Pat Pickering in the dunes.*



# TRIPS

Wild flowers were abundant—the beautiful noonflower (*carpobrotus*) and the vividly purple daisy (*brachycome*) were two very spectacular varieties. Without the track maintained by the Friends of the GSWW, progress in these areas would have been slow and difficult. The inland track from White Sands to Lake Mombeong was an example of this. The last kilometre of this section is a memorable walk along the shores of the picturesque and tranquil Lake Mombeong.

Other dunes have little vegetation but contain evidence of Aboriginal presence: shell middens, chert mining and tools. It is likely that similar evidence has been engulfed by shifting sands possibly to be revealed at some future time. At the base level of these dunes is a peat-like material, appearing also on the beach, which may belong to a former wetland. These dunes also contain relics of a former forest.

Yet another variation on the dune theme occurred between the beach and Swan Lake Camp. The two kilometre stretch from the beach to the camp was stunning. We could have been in the Sahara Desert! There were so many dunes with almost no vegetation. The dunes were huge, rising to 40 or 50 metres, and the area vast. Some are used for the strictly controlled sport of dune buggy driving.

## Mount Richmond National Park

As a break from the beach and dune walking and to avoid the soft sands of Descartes Bay we made a diversion inland to Mount Richmond. Part of this section of the walk took us near farmland and pine plantations before entering the park. The park is renowned for its wild flowers; we were not disappointed, flowers were everywhere. The mountain is the remains of a volcano covered by sand blown up from Discovery Bay. It is now a habitat for some 450 species of native plants. The route out of the park took us to Tarragal Camp then across some fields and stiles. It was enough to cause an out-



*Descartes Bay*

burst of 'On Ilklemoor Baht'at' from Enid and David. At Bridgewater Lakes, normally a very attractive area, we experienced a violent storm, a fitting welcome for our return to the coast and the cliffs.

*Cliffs:* There were two main areas of cliffs to be walked: Cape Duquesne and Capes Bridgewater and Nelson at either end of the beautiful Bridgewater Bay. Some cliff areas were stony with no vegetation except for a few tough old shrubs growing horizontally. Other cliff-tops were covered with low-growing shrubs in flower and pockets of mallee.

We had a surprise at the Blowholes. It was 8.30 am on 26 October 1993 and in the distance we could see a ranger scurrying towards the cliff-top. When we got close to him we could see that he was busy varnishing the wood surrounds of a plaque mounted on a stand. It was a memorial to the *Marie*, a three-masted wooden barque of 400 tons, and the *Jane*, a three-masted schooner of 208 tons. The ships were wrecked nearby in 1851 and 1863 respectively. The plaque was to be draped with the Belgian flag and unveiled at 10.00 am that very morning by the Belgian Ambassador. The Belgium Embassy tells me that the ship was en route

from Antwerp to Sydney via Adelaide with 25 passengers including the Belgian Consul and nine personal staff. They all perished. (Belgium had representation in Australia as early as 1837!)

Another interesting place was the so-called Petrified Forest—sandstone monuments to a former forest. We noted evidence of this forest over the full 60 kilometres of Discovery Bay but the best examples of the former trees are in the area near the blowholes. The generally accepted theory is that drifting calcareous sand dunes covered forests of *melaleuca lanceolata*. Water percolated through the sand and formed a hard crust around the trees, a process helped by chemicals leaching out from the rotting trees. Subsequent erosion has revealed sandstone casts representing over-sized replicas of the trees. On the cliffs of Cape Duquesne approaching the Springs Camp, we experienced the full might of a southerly buster. We were subjected to buffeting by the wind estimated at 120 kilometres per hour. Pat could scarcely keep her feet. The Springs is arguably the most exposed and wind-swept camp-site in Australia but we managed to find a relatively calm camp a little farther inland.

We set off to inspect the Springs. There are several natural springs



*Sculpture in erosion.*

along this part of the coast. The reason for their existence is simple enough. The cliffs are of limestone underlain in places with impervious basalt. Ground water seeps through the limestone to the basalt which happens to be tilting seawards. We clambered down the cliff via a convenient ramp to inspect this particular spring. Beautiful fresh water was gushing from a hole in the limestone a few metres above sea level. Behind us the sea was in a fury, pounding the rocks with all its might. We felt as if some of the waves would surely come and take us. From the seaward side it was obvious that the ramp we had walked down was man-made. Early settlers built it for cattle when other sources of water failed.

At Cape Bridgewater we admired dolphins and seals showing off their swimming and diving skills in the water below us. Some swallows swooped close by and showed their considerable aerobatic talents in the strong wind. We made our way down to the beach-side village of Bridgewater tucked in the sheltered western end of the beautiful Bridgewater Bay. We found the kiosk shown on the map and had a welcome break from our dehydrated diet of the past week before moving on to Trewalla Camp. Trewalla Camp was

possibly the most attractive campsite on the walk. It is sheltered and surrounded by lush vegetation and wild flowers. There are steps leading to a wooden deck where we would sit with our mugs of tea and enjoy views of the ocean.

## The final two days

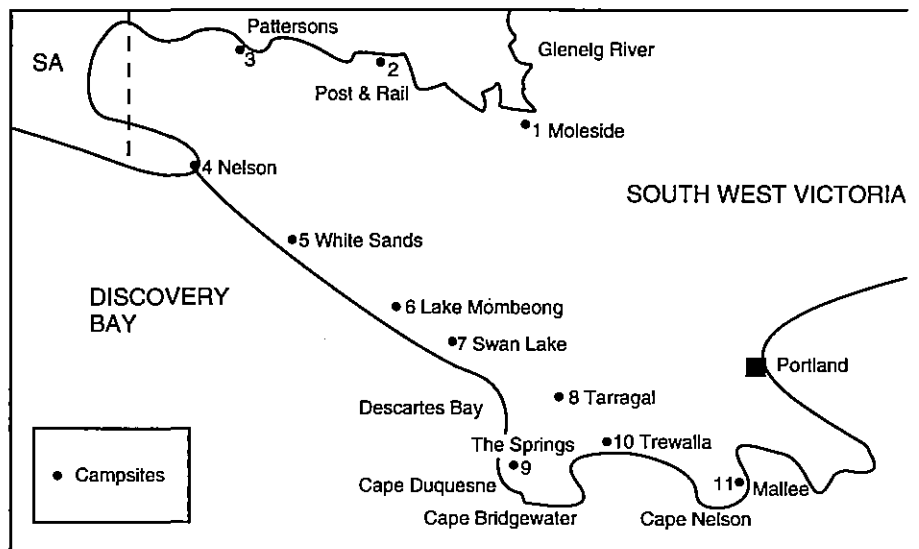
In the final two days we walked the beach of Bridgewater Bay and the cliffs of Cape Nelson where there is a lighthouse. It was windy but fine for our final night at Mallee Camp. In the morning we set out on the final 16 kilometres

of walking. After a few kilometres it began to rain and the wind grew stronger. On the exposed cliffs it was bitterly cold. We walked faster and faster to keep warm.

At about 11.30 am we staggered wet and cold into the Portland Information Centre. We were glad to change into warm, dry clothes. The walk started and finished in rain but we were happy and content having completed our eleven-day, 175-kilometre walk. We thoroughly enjoyed the experience of walking in this beautiful part of Australia. The terrain is varied and full of interest. There are beautiful views of river, lakes, beach, cliffs and dunes. Wild flowers are abundant and there are many geological and archaeological surprises. The walking is easy thanks to the development of the track by the Portland High School and community groups in 1983 and continuing track maintenance by the Friends of the Great South West Walk.

We averaged 16 kilometres a day with plenty of time for viewing, photography and investigating and were in camp by 3.00-3.30 pm each day. This area is not remote in the same sense as Kakadu or the Kimberley but there is that wonderful experience of wilderness. The sub-title used by the Portland people is most appropriate—*A Walk on the Wild Side*.

**Eric Pickering**



## Mootwingee—treasure house

The warning was dire: even with moderate rain the outback dirt or gravel roads on which I wanted to drive become impassable and I could be stranded for days.

That was enough for me. I had but a short time to spend in Broken Hill and wanted to use at least two days visiting the isolated Mootwingee National Park and its more accessible counterpart, Kinchega. So I gave up the self-drive idea and took tour buses.

If staying in Broken Hill, you need to put aside at least a day to visit each park because both are over 100 kilometres away, but in opposite directions—Mootwingee is 130 kilometres to the north-east and Kinchega 110 kilometres to the south-east.

Mootwingee has striking examples of Aboriginal culture and is the more stimulating of the two parks. I found a day there was not long enough, although in travelling on the bus (fare \$65) it was unfortunate that time was wasted on activities that didn't interest me or some other passengers.

On the other hand, I had not realised that to visit the Mootwingee Historical Site of Aboriginal etchings and paintings you must be accompanied by an authorised person. Luckily our guide, affable and helpful, did have that authorisation, otherwise the visit would have been an exercise in frustration.

For me and other visitors eager to know more, the most tantalising of Mootwingee's cultural treasure was the outlines of many hands stencilled on the walls of overhangs or caves within easy walking distance of a visitors' centre at the historic site.

All of the dozens of outlines I saw were of the left hand, compounding the mystery.

One writer, John Gerritsen, has speculated that the hands were 'signatures' denoting ownership of, or affinity with, tribal or totemic territory. It appears they were made by the artists using their mouths to spray paint between fingers and palm.

In making these and other artworks (for want of a better term) the Aborigines used red and yellow ochre, gypsum, potch or pipeclay, and the colour black derived from wood burned in their campfires.

Gerritsen says that perhaps only sixty to eighty members of the Wilyakli tribe of semi nomads would have occupied Mootwingee at any one time. Rockholes filled with water, and food obtained from plants and animals, sustained these Aboriginal people for hundreds of generations, perhaps 25 000 to 30 000 years. They are said to have gathered at Mootwingee for the last time around 1850.

A familiar wretched story of deprivation of land, denudation of vegetation by cattle and sheep, starvation and disease destroyed the Wilyaklis and their culture.

But at Mootwingee they left behind a rich storehouse of artefacts, middens, campsites, container trees, stone mounds, cave paintings and rock engravings. These engravings, some of which I saw on another short walk, can be found on slabs of smooth rock or the walls of gorges. The blows of stone hammers delineated the actual images (kangaroos, emus, boomerangs among them) with the artists pecking out patterns within these outlines.

Mootwingee is dissected by the Bynguano range of sandstone clad in mulga and contains many 'beautiful gorges' according to a National Parks and Wildlife Service information sheet. I support this description from what I was able to see, although it does not tally with that of the explorer Wills who in 1860 dismissed the area as one of 'gloomy gullies'. Perhaps he was depressed or had a premonition that he would not survive his expedition with Burke.

Visitors wanting to travel by themselves to Mootwingee should be aware that apart from the warning about the roads which are okay when dry, there is no fuel or food available at Mootwingee. The park does have a large camping area with gas and wood-fired

barbecues, showers, loos and limited water.

Apart from strolls within the historic site, separate trails can be walked in the park with the longest occupying about two hours. There are a couple of drives with one following the route taken by old-time wagons and coaches between Broken Hill and White Cliffs. Ruins of the Rockholes Hotel and what are said to be spectacular rock formations can be seen. These piles contain examples of Aboriginal art although to reach one of them you have to walk about three kilometres.

The other national park, Kinchega, is based on a former pastoral property of the same name and the Menindee chain of freshwater lakes. Spectral drowned trees (wedgetail eagle nests were obvious on a number of them) make for a distressing scene. Water levels are controlled by the Water Resources Commission which, when I was there, was looking at a proposal to drain a large part of one lake, Cawndilla. This lake, like Menindee Lake itself, is a breeding ground for common and rare waterbirds.

Scores of pelicans were clustered around the lake edges or feeding in its waters when I saw Cawndilla, which was quite low.

At its peak Kinchega Station used to run 143 000 sheep and its shearing shed of river red gum and corrugated iron is now being restored. It's worth a visit, especially if you get a buzz out of the equipment and machinery used by graziers. Groups (and presumably individuals) can book accommodation (communal showers, kitchen) near the shearing shed and as well there are numerous camping sites within the park.

Our tour guide (the outing cost \$65) took a roundabout route to Kinchega and again spent time on sight-seeing which did not excite the active. So Kinchega may well have features I missed. For all that I would gladly visit Mootwingee again, but not Kinchega.

**Graeme Barrow**

## Ode to Dawa Nuru

(our trek cook in Nepal)

The tents all sit there side by side, a snore comes from within.  
 A hat is left on toilet tent—a very mortal sin!  
 The washy water comes around, we wash our sleepy face,  
 and rush up to the mess tent to grab our special place.  
 'Oh no! Not porridge more,' they cry. 'Now where's our steak and eggs?  
 We walked a lot just yesterday, need food to fill our legs  
 to carry on tomorrow. Please see what you can do.'  
 But Nuru answers gravely, 'This porridge is for you.  
 Tomorrow I will kill a yak and make a lovely feast.  
 You can have it for your breakfast if I can catch the beast.'

So early up they splashed their face and tumbled out of beds.  
 They raced up to the mess tent and scratched their woolly heads  
 when they saw the empty table looking very poor.  
 They gazed at Nuru in disgust, 'Now tell us what's the score?'  
 And sadly Nuru shook his head, 'The beast he ran away.  
 I'm sorry folks, your lovely stew will have to wait a day.'

With groans and grumbles they sat down and wondered what they'd eat.  
 And while they're all in doom and gloom, Pauline leapt to her feet.  
 'Don't despair, we've got our biks, our lovely glucose malts.'  
 But Nuru comes with steaming dish, the conversation halts.  
 All necks crane forward to peer within, what delight have we to eat?  
 He's really now excelled himself. It's curried duckies feet!  
 Although we've never tried them, I see the plates licked clean,  
 and everybody's smacking lips. They all seem really keen.  
 I really think he did us proud, we had some lovely food.  
 So here's three cheers for Nuru, we think he's pretty 'gude'.

**Ann Tedder**

## Field Guide to the Birds of the ACT

This pocket guide, published by NPA (ACT), aims to enable the less experienced birdwatcher to identify any bird in the ACT and environs. Its publication has been made possible by a generous donation and much assistance from an NPA member, Alastair Morrison. Every bird species recorded at least three times in the past ten years has been included.

Well-known Canberra birdwatcher and writer, McComas Taylor, wrote most of the brief descriptions in the field and noted key features of behaviour and common vocalisations. Renowned artist, Nicolas Day, painted male, female and young forms because many birds display marked differences in plumage. A system of icons indicates habitats, time of year to expect sightings and status in the ACT. Several good birdwatching localities are described.

*Field Guide to the Birds of the ACT* is available from the NPA office in Chifley and at NPA meetings at a members' price of \$12.00. Retail outlets are selling the guide for \$14.95.

## President's report 1992-93

Members of the National Parks Association (ACT) had a busy year in seeking to fulfil Association aims of promotion of national parks, protection of our environment and education for nature conservation.

Changes were made to the NPA (ACT) constitution to meet requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act 1991*. Amendments were accepted at the March meeting in a special resolution. Changes were procedural only and did not affect aims and meanings of clauses in our former constitution.

After nine years of office accommodation in the Childers Street complex we moved to larger, brighter premises in Chifley. We now have space for our archive material, our growing library and for small meetings. We welcomed a new secretary in July; Charmian Crimmins has settled in to our routines and is handling office inquiries cheerfully and competently. Laraine Frawley was farewelled after nine years of faithful work and was wished good fortune in her new employment.

Membership numbers remain similar to last year. The outgoing committee has moved to reconvene the Marketing Subcommittee which will promote our Association more widely, hoping to attract new members to become involved in activities.

The financial position remains satisfactory with donations, grants from the Community Development Fund for office administration and the *Bulletin* and book sales supplementing our membership fees. We continue to employ an office secretary 14 hours per week, a research assistant on a needs basis and the *Bulletin* editor. Unfortunately, our new office accommodation is not rent-free and some funds were also spent in upgrading security of the building. A fax machine has been added to the assets. Membership rates remain unchanged. Thanks are due to our treasurer, Mike Smith, for his untiring contribution to NPA's operation.

### Namadgi Subcommittee

#### Namadgi National Park

Our local national park continues to receive special attention and a close relationship with the ACT Parks and Conservation Service is maintained. The location and construction of the car park for access to Yankee Hat paintings became an issue which was raised with the ACT Minister for the Environment.

Departmental representatives responded by calling meetings with concerned environmental groups and finally forming a committee to plan relocation of the carpark and restoration of the previous site. NPA (ACT) had three representatives on this committee; their contribution to meetings, inspections and reports was much appreciated. We continue to make representations for a toilet to meet the needs of growing numbers of visitors.

Work on the Orroral Homestead and environs proceeds slowly. The discovery of arsenic in the vicinity of the woolshed stopped a government project to conserve that building and complete work on the house. NPA work parties continue and we hope soon to expend the last of our 1982 Heritage Grant on resurfacing of the internal stone walls.

Members joined ACT Parks and Conservation personnel in determining the route of the final stage of the Tri-state Alpine Walking Track from Booroomba Rocks to the Namadgi Visitors Centre. An NPA work party completed the last section of the track down Mt Tennent.

NPA joined with the National Trust and the Kosciusko Huts Association in a joint submission for funds to preserve the Tennent pise homestead. A contract for a conservation plan has been let.

The Namadgi Subcommittee also dealt with a report on Aboriginal involvement in Gudgenby, a proposed recreational development in

the Orroral Valley, the old tracking station sites and interpretive signs for the park. The convenor, Syd Comfort, has worked tirelessly for our Association in providing valuable input at meetings, in meeting with parks officers, in writing and contributing to submissions and in providing background information from his interest in ACT land-related issues.

#### Feral plants and animals

The NPA (ACT) submission argued for a coordinated approach to the problem, proposing protection of non-affected areas, identification of vulnerable sites, investigation of all aspects of control measures, education programs and cooperation with NSW authorities.

#### Rural leases

We emphasised the need for protection and conservation through appropriate management strategies of remnant woodland and native grasslands.

Other submissions included those made on the North Watson development, the Lower Molonglo Water Quality Control Centre, the ACTEW Environment Plan and the Tuggeranong Homestead.

### Environment Subcommittee

#### Snowy Precipitation Enhancement Project

Our submission on the draft environmental impact statement expressed great concern about this proposal. We highlighted the threat to fauna and flora conservation in Kosciusko National Park and the disregard for the wilderness values of the area, as well as questioning the economic benefits to be achieved.

#### Jervis Bay

In responding to a discussion paper, points made related to the call for an aquatic reserve, habitat corridors, tourism, urban run-off,

the armaments depot and the replanting of degraded areas.

## Wilderness assessment

Letters were sent to several NSW parliamentarians expressing support for the creation of ten proposed wilderness areas, in particular Deua, Nadgee and Goodradigbee.

Attention was also paid to the Austel Telecommunication Code, the Coastal Zone Strategy and Crown Land conversions in NSW. Tim Walsh and members of the Environment Subcommittee are to be congratulated for their invaluable input on behalf of our Association members. Our vice-president, Di Thompson, is actively involved with this group.

## Outings

A program of short and long walks, carcamps, ski and canoe trips, work parties and educational outings continues under the leadership of Mick Kelly and those who assist with their ideas at subcommittee meetings. Several new areas have been explored and add to our knowledge of the local region.

## Archives

The establishment of our new office premises allows archival material to be gathered in one place. Recording, sorting and sifting continues with the invaluable assistance of Sheila Kruze.

## General meetings

Monthly meetings at the Griffin Centre enable members to learn more about environment-related issues. Guests spoke on ACTEW strategies, the Forestry Commission activities, exotic plant invasions, feral foxes and biodiversity in national parks. We heard about Greening Australia programs, the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, map-making and the Antarctic. Len Haskew is currently organising our program as part of his duties as secretary. Thank you



*Ken Johnson putting up one of the replacement panes of glass at the NPA work party at Orroral homestead. Photo: Reg Alder*

to Adrienne Nicholson for supper arrangements.

## Bulletin

Our quarterly publication continues to be well received. It informs members about current conservation issues, reports on Association initiatives and activities and is a valuable record of all events relating to the National Parks Association (ACT). The *Bulletin* Subcommittee meets before publication and thanks are due to Phyl Goddard for assistance with proofreading.

## Publications

The *Field Guide to the Native Trees of the ACT* continues to sell well. Discussions on a flora guide continue—a list of plants has been drawn up and a financial analysis has been made by Les Pyke.

## Representation with other organisations

Anne Taylor, our representative on the ACT Environment and Conservation Consultative Committee, keeps subcommittees informed of current issues and provides an avenue for NPA input into committee deliberations. We are fortunate that three other members, Den Robin, Fiona Brand and Kevin Frawley are also on that committee.

Beverley Hammond and Anne Taylor attend meetings of the Conservation Council of the Southeast Region and Canberra; Len Haskew is our representative on the Environment Centre Committee; Doreen Wilson is on the Heritage Week Committee; Babette Scougall represents NPA on the newly formed Cultural Heritage Working Group; Clive Hurlstone maintains our interest in the Childers Street complex; Neville Esau and Kevin Frawley continue as office bearers on the Australian National Parks Council. Nicki Esau has recently been appointed ANPC executive officer and works from our office in Chifley.

Thank you to all members of committees, all *Bulletin* contributors, outings leaders, staff members, workparty participants and those who attend outings and meetings.

We are encouraged by the 'silent' members who, whilst they don't actively participate in Association programs, add their membership backing and financial support which enable the Association to operate. With the continued support of all members, the National Parks Association (ACT) can maintain its valuable contribution to the protection, preservation and enhancement of our environment.

**Beverley Hammond**

President

August 1993

## *Aboriginal Involvement in Parks and Protected Areas*

Edited by Jim Birchead, Terry de Lacy and Laurajane Smith. published by Aboriginal Studies Press, 390pp.

The conference, held in 1991, that gave rise to the set of papers which constitute this book had a very prophetic aim, that is, 'to hopefully...put to rest, at long last, the lingering ghosts of *terra nullius*'. The aim is achieved by examining the clashes and tensions between Euro-Australian notions of 'conservation' and Aboriginal notions of 'country'.

The papers were presented by a wide cross-section of people concerned with the management of national parks and these included not only academics but also bureaucrats, professional consultants, park rangers, Aboriginal project officers, members of land councils and representatives of indigenous cultures in other countries.

The book has seven major themes: Aboriginal Land Management; Economic and Legal Issues; Cultural Site Protection; Models of Aboriginal Involvement; Training and Education; Indigenous Practices in Other Countries; and Aboriginal National Parks.

Perhaps the section on Aboriginal Site Management may have particular relevance for members of our Association. Sharon Sullivan, from the Australian Heritage Commission, points out in her paper that in many instances management systems have sometimes felt that Aboriginal site management was in conflict with or ran counter to their other management responsibilities. Yet, as she says, the integration of the Aboriginal and natural values of a region immensely enriches both its significance and our understanding and appreciation of it. Sullivan is optimistic that cultural resource skills can be readily acquired by park managers who possess good land management skills, because she feels that the principles of cultural and natural resource management are not dissimilar. Sullivan advocates integrating Aboriginal people into the management


regime and, elsewhere in the book, a telling comment is made by David Mowaljarlai from the Gulingi Nangga Aboriginal Corporation, who says 'if government comes in and takes these responsibilities away from us, we will be hurt and shamed, and the land will die'.

In the final paper Terry de Lacy, from Charles Sturt University, endeavours to define a 'truly Australian national park' and he concludes by saying that the greatest potential benefit to be gained from redefining the national park ethic in Australia would be to provide a potent symbol of how we need to respect and care for our country.

I consider this book to be challenging (and informative) reading for all who are interested in our national parks. The recent Mabo decision has caused some degree of concern for conservationists but a reading of a few of the papers presented in this volume will perhaps convince readers that Aboriginal people must have real, rather than token, decision-making power in the management of our national parks.

A copy of this book is in our library at Chifley.

**Len Haskew**



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## Revegetation

*The Outdoor Classroom: some outstanding school-based revegetation projects*

Edited by Malcolm Cox, Graeme Gibson, Janet Oliver for the Australian Association for Environmental Education, AGPS 1993

This book presents seventeen different case studies of school revegetation projects which are much more than planting trees. The studies cover all states and territories and show how revegetation projects can become part of the school curriculum, as well as drawing in a wealth of experience, community help and support. There are projects from primary school through to senior secondary levels focusing on school grounds, community areas and on overcoming land degradation.

If you are considering a revegetation project, this book presents an excellent investment to help guide you through the pitfalls and problems which can arise. The brief for this book required that the projects represented had to be technically sound, practical and likely to encourage behavioural changes towards the long-term caring, conservation and sustainable management of our natural resources. *The Outdoor Classroom* is available at the Government Bookshop or at the Greening Australia office for the modest cost of \$10.00.

(book review from *Broadcast*, the newsletter of Greening Australia, October/November 1993.)

## Publications received by NPA

Members are welcome any time at the NPA office to look through our collection of newsletters from other conservation organisations. A list of the publications received in the last few months follows.

Publisher	Title
Griffin Centre	<i>Gazetteer</i>
Canberra and SE Region Environment Centre	<i>Bogong</i>
VNPA	<i>Newsletter</i>
United Nations Environment Programme	<i>Our Planet</i>
Dept Environment, Sport & Territories	<i>Biolinks</i>
ACF	<i>Conservation News</i>
	<i>Habitat</i>
Office of Multicultural Affairs	<i>Focus</i>
Greening Australia, ACT & SE NSW Inc.	<i>Broadcast</i>
Total Environment Centre	<i>Newsletter</i>
The Wilderness Society ACT	<i>Newsletter</i>
Field Naturalists Association of Canberra	<i>Newsletter</i>
Dept Environment, Land & Planning	<i>Newsletter</i>
Environment Centre & Conservation Council	<i>Sustainable Times</i>
National Trust of Australia, ACT	<i>Trust News</i>
	<i>Annual Report</i>
NPA (NSW) Berrima	<i>Newsletter</i>
VNPA	<i>Parkwatch</i>
NPAQ	<i>NPA News</i>
National Threatened Species Network	<i>Alert</i>
The Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd	<i>The Colong Bulletin</i>
Field Naturalists Association of Canberra Inc	<i>Newsletter</i>
Office of the Status of Women	<i>Oswomen</i>
Canberra & District Historical Society	<i>Newsletter</i>
ACT Council of Cultural Societies Inc	<i>Annual Report</i>
CSIRO	<i>ECOS</i>
Japanese government	<i>Pacific Friend</i>

### Reports received

*Feral animals and invasive plants in the ACT*, Standing Committee on Conservation, Heritage and Environment, 1993

*Exploring for a common ground*, Aboriginal Reconciliation and Australian Mining Industry, 1993

# Calendar

## JANUARY

Thursday 27 Environment subcommittee 7.45 pm, 43 Fitchett St, Garran, Tim Walsh, 274 1465(w)

## FEBRUARY

Tuesday 1 Deadline for March *Bulletin*

Thursday 3 Committee meeting 7.30 pm, 21 Hyndes Cr, Holder, Beverley Hammond, 288 6577

Thursday 10 Namadgi subcommittee 7.30 pm, 27 Aston Cres, Cook, Steven Forst, 274 8426 (w), 251 6817(h)

Thursday 24 Environment subcommittee 7.45 pm, 43 Fitchett St, Garran, Tim Walsh, 274 1465(w)

## MARCH

Thursday 3 Committee meeting 7.30 pm, 21 Hyndes Cr Holder, Beverley Hammond, 288 6577

Thursday 10 Namadgi subcommittee 7.30 pm, 27 Aston Cres, Cook, Steven Forst, 274 8426 (w), 251 6817(h)

Thursday 24 Environment subcommittee, venue to be arranged

## NPA Bulletin

National Parks Association of the ACT  
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## General meetings

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

### NPA Christmas Party

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

### Thursday 17 February 1994: Kangaroo Island

Adrienne Nicholson will share with us her adventures with echidnas on Kangaroo Island.

### Thursday 17 March 1994: The Mallee

Ian Fraser will tell us something of the history, natural history and conservation issues regarding this diverse and beautiful but, sadly, endangered area.