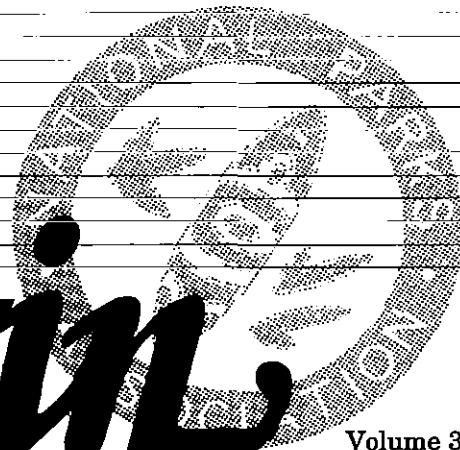
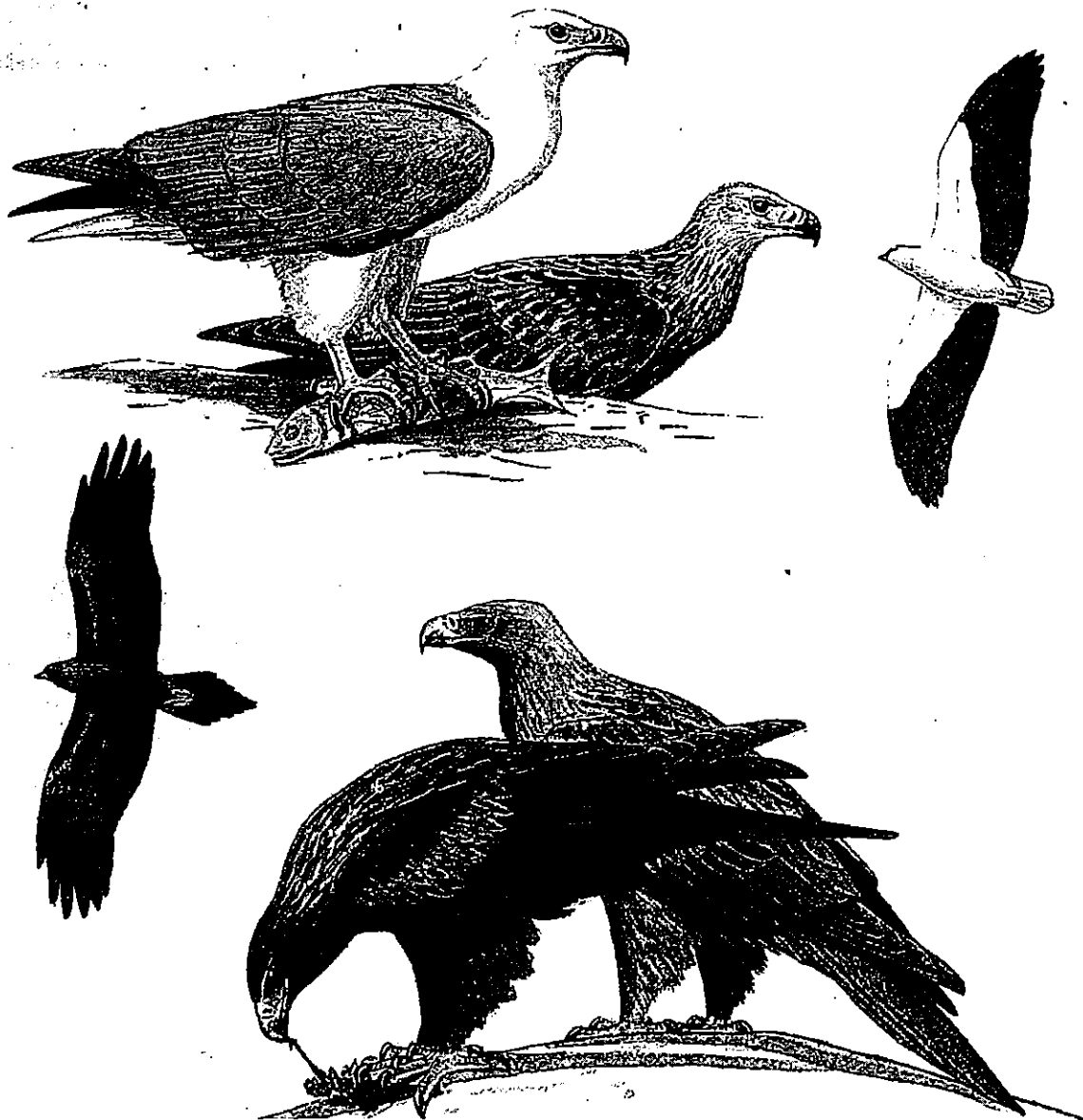


# NPA Bulletin



Volume 31 number 1  
March 1994

NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION FACTS IN CONTOUR



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Bird book launched

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Arid Lands Botanic Garden

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**Cover: Nicolas Day**  
**Picture: a page from the NPA's**  
*Field Guide to the Birds of the*  
**ACT**

### 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

*President* Beverley Hammond 288 6577(h)  
*Vice-president* Dianne Thompson 288 6084(h);  
 244 6483(w)  
*Immediate Past President* Les Pyke 281 2982(h)  
*Secretary* Len Haskew 281 4268(h)  
*Treasurer* Mike Smith 286 2984(h); 248 3624(w)

#### Subcommittee conveners

*Environment vacant (volunteer needed)*  
*Outings* Michael Kelly 241 2330(h)  
*Namadgi* 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)

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

Concession: half above rates

For new subscriptions joining between:

1 January and 31 March—half specified rate

1 April and 30 June—annual subscription

#### Membership 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

**Telephone/Fax:** (06) 282 5813

**Address:** PO Box 1940, Woden ACT 2606.

#### Contribute to your *Bulletin*

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

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

#### Deadline for June issue: 1 May, 1994.

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# President's foreword

The many NPA members and friends of Alastair Morrison who attended the launch of *A Field Guide to the Birds of the ACT* voted it a great success. If you weren't able to be present, this *Bulletin* highlights the event. Sales have been wonderful. Thank you to all who helped both before and on the day. The paintings will be displayed at several general meetings, so do come along and see them.

We are currently mounting a photographic display about NPA activities at public libraries around Canberra. Next time you are at the library, have a look for the materials and encourage others to read the literature and join our Association.

Several NPA representatives are on the joint ACT Tourism Commission and Conservation and Wildlife Service committee developing the ecotourism policy for the ACT. If you have ideas to contribute to our submission, please contact Stephen Forst of the Namadgi Subcommittee.

We are pleased to note the return to Canberra of long-time member Stephen Johnston who is currently president of the Australian National Parks Council. He has already been on outings with us and has become involved in the Environment Subcommittee. A report from the ANPC is in this *Bulletin*.

**Beverley Hammond**



*Beverley speaks at the launch of Field Guide to the Birds of the ACT. Photo by Len Haskew*

## Where the forest meets the sky

The Blackman sought his summer food  
and refuge from the heat,  
while the Whiteman saw a rugged land  
with which he had to compete.  
Peace settles on the forest once more  
no stock whip or settler's axe.  
Only the footfalls of passers by  
the residents' ears to catch.

Granite tors and alpine ash  
for centuries have stood their watch,  
while summer fire and winter snow  
in turn trace nature's plot.  
This place needs no special care  
if man would just let it be.  
This place of magic and wonder,  
this place called Namadgi.

**Martin Chalk**

The big white bird shows its sulphur crest,  
while the gang gang sits and croaks.  
Glossy leaves catch a watery sun  
which is easy on the eye.  
Such beauty fairly charges the soul  
in all but the hardest folks.  
Up here in the cool, clear air  
where the forest meets the sky.



# The Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden at Port Augusta

It is more than ten years since I first publicly launched the proposal to develop an Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden at Port Augusta. The need for such a development was really obvious to me following a six month Churchill Fellowship study tour of ornamental horticulture in arid regions of several countries where I observed many Australian plants being grown for a wide range of uses. We still have a great deal to learn about our rich and varied arid zone flora and, in fact, new species of plants are still being discovered.

### The concept

The concept is to establish a world standard arid lands botanic garden, featuring plants from as many regions of arid Australia as possible, for study, research and display, thereby helping to conserve Australia's unique arid lands flora. It is expected that the garden will become an important centre of education at all levels and that an advisory and extension service will be provided for residents, communities and developments in arid Australia. It is proposed, also, to exchange and sell information, plant material and seed worldwide.

Additional benefits of the development include the creation of a tourism venue of major importance with considerable impact on tourism locally and with the creation of jobs. The garden will also be a venue to display, demonstrate and use technology appropriate to arid Australia—perhaps solar and wind power, water harvesting and conservation techniques, desalination and appropriate building design, to mention a few.

### The site

The site set aside for the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden is an area of approximately 300 hectares at Port Augusta West. It is undulating and contains the best remaining pockets of natural vegetation close to the city and has a range of soil types. The site boundaries are Spencer Gulf, the Whyalla railway, the Old Tarcoola Road and a housing subdivision.

The great advantage of the site is its accessibility, with all the services and facilities of a regional city adjacent. The site commands impressive views over the headwaters of the Spencer Gulf to the Flinders Ranges and north-west to the Tent Hills, which provides a fine setting and has a real outback feeling. The adjacent urban area is not dominant and is hidden from view from most of the site which slopes away to the north and east. There are areas of woodlands dominated by *Acacia papyrocarpa* (western Myall) and *Myoporum platycarpum* (sugarwood), and areas of shrub lands dominated by *Acacia ligulata* (umbrella bush) and extensive chenopod shrub lands. The coastal strip provides added interest with coastal samphires and *Avicennia marina* (mangrove).

The site is Crown Land which at present is leased to the Port Augusta City Council under annual licence. There are sites of Aboriginal interest and a site of major interest in the European history of Australia, Flinders Red Cliff, which was climbed by the well known explorer Matthew Flinders during his exploration of the southern coast of Australia in 1802 and from which he took sightings of prominent peaks and landmarks.

Problems at the site include rabbits, rubbish and some pest plants, and these are being progressively dealt with. Besides the advantage of accessibility, the site

is almost frost-free because of the influence of Spencer Gulf, making it possible to grow some species from the arid tropics as well, unlike centres away from the coast where winter frosts can be severe.

### Publicity and promotion

Since first proposing the development of the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden in 1981 there has been widespread publicity, promotion and lobbying of governments to obtain funding for development. In 1983 the South Australian government established a working party chaired by Dr Brian Morley, director of the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide, to thoroughly investigate the proposal. This report commented in favour of the development.

In 1984 The Friends of the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden, Port Augusta Inc. was formed. This support group has vigorously promoted the project ever since with letters, petitions to governments, circulars and pamphlets, displays, media contacts, provision of guest speakers for numerous groups and providing guided tours. Membership has remained steady at around 200, mainly within Australia but some overseas. Social functions with appropriate guest speakers and site visits are arranged for members and a newsletter keeps them up to date with progress. The Friends have raised more than \$50 000 to date, all of which has been spent on or is committed to the project. It is appropriate to acknowledge the tremendous amount of work undertaken by our foundation secretary, Pauline Schiller, who has recently retired from this position, and Wally her husband and Friends foundation treasurer, who died in December 1990. Between them they gave 14 years of dedicated, untiring service

which is largely the reason for the Friends' success.

[The following is a summary of the rest of John's article.]

The project has received funding from a variety of sources, including the South Australian government, Port Augusta City Council, the Bicentennial Authority and the Western Mining Corporation. Work has begun on infrastructure, rabbit-proof fencing, clearing and removal of rubbish, eradication of pests, mapping and a flora survey.

A landscape architect from Canberra was contracted to undertake the formulation of a detailed master plan for the gardens, to be submitted by early 1992. Important aspects of his proposals include the growing of only Australian native arid zone plants, and that a building style and design appropriate to the site be used with rammed earth as the construction material. The garden will be developed at least in part as an eco-park, where aspects of the environment in addition to plants be featured, showing the interrelationships between them. A very large walk-through aviary divided into various sections featuring vegetation types and species of birds which would normally be found in them may be included. With such a large site there is room for the garden, a research and seed production area, zones of natural vegetation and buffer and screening plantings in appropriate areas. A trailer train stopping at various locations is proposed to allow easy and quick access to all of the large garden.

[Editor's note: The master plan was submitted in 1992 and work is now being carried out. Most of the work involves infrastructure: roads, paths and buildings. Not much planting has been done yet. The project is still awaiting \$300 000 promised to it by Bob Hawke! The Western Mining Corporation contributes significantly to the project.]

**John Zwar**

## Obituary: Norma Price

NPA members were saddened to hear of the death of Norma Price, a member since 1967. She will be remembered for her cheerfulness, her compassion, her generosity, and for her enthusiasm for her many interests: travel, gardening, painting, photography, walking, skiing and work with several community organisations. She greatly enjoyed the natural environment. Many people have lost a good friend.

Below is reproduced a letter she wrote to the *Bulletin* about the Arid Lands Botanic Garden at Port Augusta.

*In September last year I had much pleasure in attending the opening of a well-designed board walk in the Arid Lands Botanic Garden at Port Augusta, South Australia. It is a unique project in this country on 200 hectares adjacent to the Spencer Gulf. It was first proposed in 1981 by John Zwar who was educated in Adelaide, spent two years in Leigh Creek, SA greening that mining area and township, then one year as Director of the Botanic Gardens in Lae, Papua New Guinea before he moved to Port Augusta where he did a wonderful job greening that*

*town. In 1987 he took a position with Western Mining Corporation in Roxby Downs to plan the greening of the new township and the results are fantastic. He is a foundation member and President of the Friends of the Arid Lands Botanic Gardens. A Churchill Fellowship enabled John to spend five months studying arid lands horticulture in South America, USA, South and South-West Africa and Israel, and he has furthered his studies in England and India. John was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in 1989.*

## More mid-week walks

Just how and when it happened isn't clear, but somehow during the past few years NPA walks have become increasingly grueling with distances longer, mountains steeper, pace faster and fellow walkers younger. Somewhere along the line a half-day stroll became more appealing than panting up Coree or slipping down Tidbinbilla Peak in the snow.

Accordingly, a new informal program of weekday outings is proposed on a trial basis commencing on Wednesday 20 April and continuing on the third Wednesday of each month.

Walks will be mainly in the 1A category, some local and some a bit further afield. Leaders will nominate their own walk, meeting time and meeting place—some could offer birdwatching outings using our great new *Field Guide*.

A coordinator will liaise with leaders about ten days beforehand to plan each outing so that only a short advance commitment needs to be made. Intending walkers can ring the coordinator, provisionally Phyl Goddard, on 254 8279 one

week or less in advance of the day for details of the next outing. If unsuccessful the NPA office should be contacted.

Six or so leaders have already been press-ganged into service but the more the better to maintain flexibility and to enable a replacement to be found if a leader has to cancel at the last minute. More volunteers would be welcome.

Leaders are, of course, still required for mid-week walks in the Outings Program. This new arrangement would in no way impinge on that program but is seen as an adjunct to it, to provide the more contemplative among us (read 'those who stop frequently to admire the view—I refuse to say 'older' or 'less vigorous') to continue to 'repair the soul' in the bush, to enjoy each other's company and to enlist shorter-walks leaders who previously felt unable to commit themselves to a date months ahead.

Will it work, though? I don't know. Shall we give it a try?

**Phyl Goddard**

# Shall we Abdul?

The present-day bushwalker never needs to ask this question when cocooned in an all-enveloping single-person tent and cooking solitarily in front of it on a Trangia. A good deal of the camaraderie of the camp is lost.

A Paddy three-man walled tent when pegged out with one side just below horizontal and the wall pulled out to its limit could comfortably sleep four across it. A tent pitched in this fashion was known to be abduled. Food parties were made up from tent groups and the custom was for the menu and cooking to be shared. Quite a saving in space and weight if carefully planned.

Before the customs and the word disappear from bushwalking lore, the following article by Dorothy Lawry in *The Bushwalker* of 1941 describes the origin of the verb 'to abdul', and bushwalking customs at that time.

'They folded their tents like the Arabs  
And silently stole away.'

Any dignified Arab in burnous and flowing robes would probably be politely incredulous at the suggestion that there are any points of similarity between himself and the bushwalkers who wander round the Sydney district clad in shirts and shorts. Doubtless he would also be puzzled to find that amongst the bushwalkers 'abdul' is a verb. Some of the younger members of the fraternity have recently been trying to find out how it came into use and Wal Roots, a past president of the New South Wales Federation of Bush Walking Clubs, has supplied this explanation.

Some years ago Wal and his wife spent a weekend at the country house of their friends the Brewers, *Happy-daze*, Hat Hill, Blackheath. This is a house of great individuality with rooms of various shapes and each with its own name. One room is called 'Abdul's Tent' and the visitor does not need to ask why. He immediately has a vision of an Arab's tent. A week or two later the Roots walked over to Era

and found Peter Page camped there with one side of his 'A' tent raised to the level of the ridge. When they caught sight of the tent both stopped and, turning to each other, exclaimed 'Abdul's tent!'

The term was apt and it stuck.

The earliest bushwalkers used whatever gear they could buy or make and they all had 'cottage' tents with one end closed. Those who slept in the tents did so with their feet to the doors! The others invariably spread their ground-sheets and slept by the campfire—except when it rained.

When I joined the Sydney Bush Walkers in 1929 I had a homemade copy of a tent bought in England which was similar to those used by members of the Camping Club of Great Britain and Ireland. It had several features that were new to the bushwalkers, but the most important was that it could be opened at both ends. Soon many walkers were altering their tents to improve the ventilation. About 1930 Paddy Pallin started

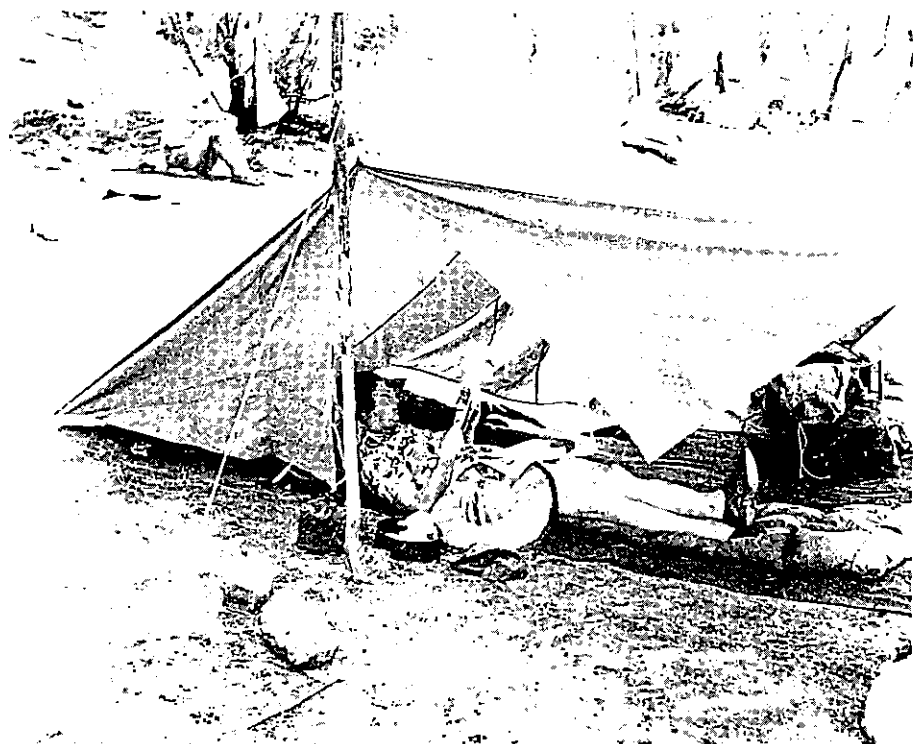
his business of providing camping gear for walkers and nearly all the tents he made to order were 'A' or 'wall' tents opening at both ends. More and more bushwalkers took to sleeping in their tents, particularly during that year when we had over 20 wet weekends in succession.

Probably it was at Era that tents were first 'abduled', for there they are left up all day on Sundays while the owners surf or play on the beach. A tent without a fly becomes unbearably hot when the sun shines on it for long but an 'abduled' tent provides a cool shade in which to lunch.

Throughout the drought years the practice of abduelling has become firmly established and even in mid-summer many bushwalkers now sleep in 'abduled' tents. The verb has become an integral part of our vocabulary.

**Reg Alder**

*January 1994*



*By the Nepean River at the 1940 Reunion Camp of SBW, enjoying the comfort of a shady, well ventilated, abduled A tent. Photo by Reg Alder*

# Conservation through sustainable use of wildlife

Guest speaker for the Association's general meeting on 20 October 1993 was Hank Jenkins, Assistant Program Director, Sustainable Use of Wildlife, Asian-Pacific Region of IUCN (The World Conservation Union). A wildlife biologist with 20 years in wildlife management, Hank spoke on the sustainable use of wildlife for resource conservation outside protected areas.

He spoke forthrightly on a controversial subject to a group of people he knew were working to protect wildlife from any form of exploitation. And while much of what he said left some of us in a dilemma, he provided us with a topic that will stimulate discussion for some time to come.

He put forward the point of view that the traditional approach to conservation—of setting aside land as national parks and reserves—is not enough to conserve the world's wildlife. As we cannot go on creating more and more national parks with the population growing at an ever-increasing rate, other approaches to conservation now have to be tried. He believes we must diversify our present land practices and accept that much of our wildlife can be conserved by using it as a renewable resource, that is, farm it.

For example, in Australia unsustainable agricultural practices of 50–60 years ago are still being applied. Unproductive (in the agricultural sense) bushland will all soon go if we continue with these past practices. Why not leave the bushland and allow the farmer to cull wild kangaroos to supplement income from his sheep and cattle grazing? Not only will the remaining bushland be saved but other wildlife living in it as well. Perhaps once people on the land see native wildlife as a valuable commercial asset, they will also allow parts of their properties to regenerate.

At present sale of kangaroo meat for human consumption is allowed

in only two states, yet we have the anomaly of harvesting kangaroos to feed cats and dogs while at the same time spending resources on controlling the alarming growth in feral cat and dog populations.

The use of native wildlife as an economic commodity would also help curtail the illegal export and the cruel and often destructive packaging of smuggled animals. Levels of harvest would, of course, have to be strictly controlled and the numbers kept low enough to keep prices high. For example, at present a pair of black cockatoos can bring in \$25 000.

'Wildlife agriculture', as some proponents call it, has already been introduced overseas. In Zimbabwe, all wildlife is considered a renewable resource and ownership of it devolved to the people. They control the numbers allowed to be taken off for meat consumption and for safari trade. Concessionaires now have to pay top price for game. In the Bayou Swamps of Louisiana the locals get commercial returns from the sale of crayfish, frogs, alligators and ten other species. In West China native sheep are being bred for the trophy hunting trade. Here tourists pay top prices for each 'trophy' they bag and the previously impoverished peasants now have an income.

There are increasing numbers of failures using old approaches to conservation. In the Solomon Islands the government relocated people living near a rainforest gully they wished to have preserved. This angered the forcibly relocated people who torched the rainforest. Similarly in Indonesia, whole villages were moved to create a national park. The villagers, now living on the outskirts of the new park, are poaching from it.

A forum of wildlife agriculture has already been introduced in the Northern Territory. Crocodile products for the international market—meat, skins, as well as tourism—valued at over \$20 million were produced in 1992. Other

species of Australian wildlife, much of which is in great demand overseas (birds and lizards for example) could also be used as exportable products.

Hank believes that properly managed projects for the sustainable use of our wildlife will enhance the conservation of wildlife populations and their ecosystems.

What do you think?

**Babette Scougall**

## Annual subscription rates

In accordance with the NPA constitution, at the February General Meeting our Treasurer raised committee concerns about NPA's current financial situation.

Funds raised from membership dues and grants should cover day-to-day running costs but are not currently doing so. Such costs include publication of the Nulletin, salaries of two part-time employees, rent of office space, stationery, postage and telephone, and purchase and maintenance of office equipment.

Membership dues have not been increased for many years and the amount of money received from grants has decreased. Money from publications such as the bird and tree guides is used for projects such as our current commitment to the Australian National Parks Council report on the environmental effect of tourist accommodation in alpine areas, including Namadgi.

The February meeting agreed that as from 1 July 1994 annual subscription rates for NPA will be:

Household members	\$25
Single members	\$20
Concessions	\$10
Bulletin only	\$15

## Parkwatch

### Parks for peace

While peace continues precariously in Central America, one promising development is the recent emergence of parks whose borders and management responsibilities are shared by two or more countries. Costa Rica and Panama jointly manage a 2.5 million acre biosphere reserve spanning their borders, called 'La Amistad', the Spanish word for friendship. Costa Rica and Nicaragua share the Si-A-Paz [Yes-to-peace] park that stretches along their borders. El Trifinio is a 3.2 million acre mountainous area that spans the borders of Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras.

*Our Planet*, United Nations Environment Program, Vol. 5, No. 5, 1993

### Logging compensation

The reason given by the state government for the continued logging of the old growth forests of the south-east, despite its commitment, under the National Forest Policy, not to log old growth forests, is that logging employment must be maintained. The Goss government, recognising the conservation value of Fraser Island, is spending \$38 million over three and a half years as a growth and development package for that region. Since this program was implemented, it has created 200 new jobs in the region during the first year. All 67 workers who were retrenched as a result of the cessation of logging have been able to find alternative work. An Economic Impact Assessment carried out by Griffith University notes that 107 private sector jobs have been created or secured as a result of the program.

In contrast, NSW, which is pleased to spend \$3 billion dollars on spectator sports, refused to spend anything on saving the

species-rich south-east forests.

*The Colong Bulletin*, The Colong Foundation for Wilderness, November 1993

### The status of wilderness in NSW

Wilderness areas are the only remaining substantial remnants of the natural environment. All are affected by some form of development, but they are the best we have left.

Severe habitat modification and fragmentation have resulted in the known extinction of twenty mammal species, three bird, one lizard and several frog species. One hundred and seventeen species of vascular plants have also become extinct. Many remnant wildlife populations live precariously in an increasingly isolated wilderness archipelago.

The 1993 Wilderness Red Index reports that the past two years have seen a continued steady erosion of wilderness in NSW, in spite of the passage of the Wilderness Act in 1987.

*Wilderness 1993 Red Index*, The Colong Foundation for Wilderness, October 1993

### Culgoa Floodplains National Park

The new 30 000-hectare Culgoa Floodplains National Park is about 150 kilometres south-west of St George and part of the extensive alluvial floodplains of the Culgoa River. The park contains 13 of Queensland's ecosystems, nine of which are being protected in a national park for the first time.

The nine new ecosystem types being protected are: low open forest of gidgee, grassy woodland of black box, woodland of bow-yakka, shrubby woodland of poplar box/mulga, woodland of coolibah/lignum understorey, woodland of poplar box/mulga/black cypress/sandalwood, low

woodland of mulga/poplar box/forest gum, low woodland of mulga/poplar box/turkey bush, and tall open shrubland of acacia victoriee.

*NPA News*, NPAQ, Vol. 64, No. 1

### GEF-funded survey finds new animal

Until last year, the Vu Quang ox was an animal unknown to science. It was discovered and identified as an animal unknown to the outside world during a wildlife survey by the Worldwide Fund for Nature last year. The animal lives in the Vu Quang National Park in mountainous Ha Tinh Province. Wildlife officials warn that urgent action is needed to protect this long-horned bovid from extinction through hunting and poaching. Its numbers are not known, but are thought to be very small.

*Our Planet*, United Nations Environment Program, Vol. 5, No. 5, 1993

### Conserving woodlands

A network of reserves comprising cemeteries, stock routes, railway easements and roadside verges is being established to help manage and rehabilitate remnant patches of box woodlands in NSW. The network's success will depend on the cooperation of Landcare groups, the Rural Lands Protection Board and local councils, according to CSIRO Division of Plant Industry scientist Dr Suzanne Prober.

Prober says a 'reserve' of woodland remnants can be achieved by linking sites together with the agreement of tenure-holders. The separately owned sites can then be managed under common guidelines.

This management system has several advantages. It will recognise high quality sites otherwise too small to be considered for reservation; encourage integrated management; have a better



chance of attracting funding; enable the future inclusion of other sites and raise awareness among local communities.

*ECOS, CSIRO, Summer 1993/94*

## It's crude!

Visitors to the Penguin Reserve at Phillip Island could be viewing a new attraction in 1994—crude oil supertankers—if Mobil and Shell get their way. Both are behind a proposal to bring in 150 000-tonne crude oil supertankers to a new oil terminal to be built at Crib Point.

The crude oil terminal is expected to attract an average of more than one supertanker a week before the end of the decade. At risk is the unique ecology of Western Port Bay which includes a \$10 million commercial fishing industry, \$50 million Penguin Parade and internationally significant migratory bird wetlands

protected under RAMSAR [an international treaty for the protection of migratory birds].

Current oil response technology is simply not capable of containing a major crude oil spill in Western Port Bay with its fast flowing currents, sensitive mangroves and seagrass shorelines.

*Park Watch, VNPA, December 1993*

## Helping to save Vietnam's biodiversity

Vietnam's environment is becoming as scarred as its recent history. Massive deforestation has led to soil erosion, followed by floods and drought. Vast areas of barren land have resulted from a hungry population's attempts to expand agriculture on to unsuitable and degraded forest lands.

Coastal ecosystems have been destroyed simply through the pressure of human numbers.

For its size, Vietnam has a remarkable diversity of animals and plants that are endemic to the country, or found only in small numbers in Vietnam and one or two of its neighbours in South-east Asia.

To protect this diversity, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) has stepped in with financial and technical support. GEF funds will help the Vietnamese government build institutions and train personnel to reverse the loss of Vietnam's forests and biodiversity. This US \$3 million project began in November 1992 and runs for five years.

*Our Planet, United Nations Environment Program, Vol. 5, No. 5, 1993*

## Field Guide to the Birds of the ACT

This pocket guide enables the less experienced bird-watcher to identify birds in the ACT environment. Every species recorded at least three times in the last ten years has been included.

Canberra birdwatcher and author, **McComas Taylor**, writes a brief description of birds in the field and notes key features of behaviour and common bird calls.

Renowned bird painter, **Nicolas Day**, illustrates the different plumages of male, female and young of bird species.

A system of icons indicates habitats, times for expected sightings and status in the ACT. Several good birdwatching locations are described.

Members price \$12

Postage \$1.50

or buy at a meeting or from the Chifley office.



*Doreen Wilson setting up the bird book display for the launch*

## New Members

(3 February 1994)

Jed Bartlett & Dianne Archer	Gordon
Ruth Dardesman	Yarralumala
Beverley Carroll	Melba
Paul & Mary Mlakar	Ainslie
H Sandlands & D Crawford	Condor
Adrian Page	Oxley
Steve Wood	Hughes
Tony & Helen Beard	Turner

## Environment Subcommittee activities

Ecotourism seems to be the current favourite with governments at the Commonwealth and state and territory level at the moment and so the subcommittee, which has been considering the concept for a couple of years, is participating in the deliberations presently taking place. The subcommittee has submitted comments on the Commonwealth Department of Tourism's draft National Tourism Strategy. The Association is now working with the ACT Parks and Conservation Service and the ACT Tourist Commission to draft an ecotourism policy for the ACT. Related to this is the work the subcommittee has commenced with the NPAs of Victoria and NSW to initiate a comparative assessment of environmental management standards in Australia's alpine areas. This arose from a motion passed at the Australian National Parks Council's AGM in Melbourne which was followed up by a meeting of the three NPAs held at Thredbo in December 1993, attended by Di and Ben Thompson and Tim Walsh. The aim of the project is to collate existing and compile additional information on alpine resort management in Australia. Concern about current management practices and the future development and use of alpine areas is widespread. The NPA(ACT) committee has agreed to support this project financially and in kind. It is being coordinated by the VNPA under the auspices of the ANPC.

The subcommittee is currently preparing submissions on the wilderness proposals announced by the NSW government before Christmas and the NSW Cabinet Committee Inquiry on Bush Fire Management and Control.

It is interesting to note that:

- of the 154 fires reported burning in NSW during the recent crisis 30 were burning in national parks;
- at least 90 per cent of national park fires were started through negligence or arson.
- In the past four years we had 942 fires in national parks, 64

of which left park boundaries and 341 of which came from neighbouring lands into parks.

- Despite severe fire weather conditions which caused the recent fires, no houses were lost adjacent to the Royal National Park or next to national parks on the NSW north coast. Thousands of houses were at risk in these areas.
- Despite being the worst fire season in 50 years in NSW only three fires occurred in existing or proposed wilderness areas. All three were very small fires and none were considered a threat to life and property by the Bushfire Services.
- In the four years between 1982 and 1986, 36 000 hectares in national parks were involved in hazard reduction burning. In the four years between 1989 and 1993, 81 000 hectares were involved in hazard reduction burning. To say that the Parks Service has not carried out hazard reduction burning is clearly nonsense.

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service fire management program is one of the most sophisticated, ecologically based and credible programs in Australia. It takes account of the latent scientific research that shows that fuel reduction burns within large tracts of bushland will not prevent the intensity of fires on its perimeters. The amount of preventative work carried out on the perimeters of the property/bushland interface, not the extent burnt, is important. It is interesting to note that research in Kosciusko National Park has shown that fire hazard increases with more frequent burns as *Bos-siaea foliosa* takes over from snow grasses, resulting in hotter fires. In addition broad-scale hazard reduction burning in forested areas may result in an increase in fires.

It is extremely doubtful that fire trails in remote bush areas

do anything other than open the region up to illegal access with the heightened risk of arson and proven results of land degradation and weed infestation. They are of very little use in fighting fires in other than semi-rural areas.

The recent bushfires in NSW have been used by anti-wilderness elements to attack the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the conservation movement with false accusations of irresponsibility over fire management. When looked at rationally, the accusations are at best wrong and at worst mischievous.

Those issues that seem to go on and on, such as Jervis Bay and the south-east forests, appear on our agenda month after month to very little effect. Governments continue to lack the courage to deal with them decisively once and for all for the good of this generation and the next, let alone the good of the environment! Nevertheless we hammer away.

Members continue to support the work done in such forums as the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment's Peak Conservation Organisations meetings, the Australian National Committee for IUCN—the World Conservation Union— and the ACT's Environment and Conservation Consultative Committee. We also work closely with ANPC's executive officer, Nicci Esau.

The work of the Environment Subcommittee, so vital to the health of the Association, is carried out by a small band of busy members. Our national parks and reserves are under threat as perhaps never before. Commercial interests and destructive recreational users and their allies (ironically those who have played no part in the long struggle to create our national park system) threaten us at every opportunity. If you would like to participate in the subcommittee's monthly meetings and/or research and lobbying activities, give me a call on 285 1112. We need more doers!

**Timothy Walsh**

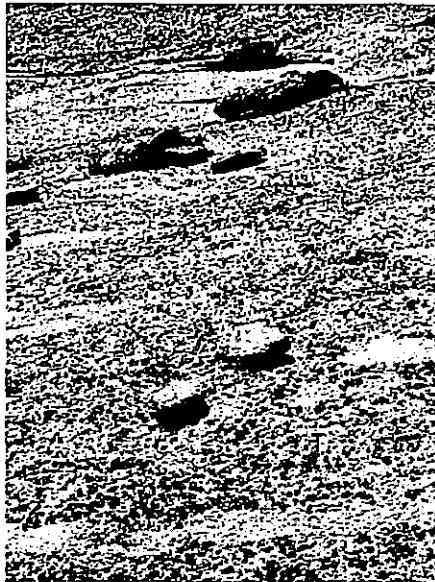
## National Ecotourism Strategy

Members of the Environment Subcommittee took a break from Christmas shopping to fight the good cause, sending in a submission, the last for 1993, to the Commonwealth Department of Tourism on the draft National Ecotourism Strategy.

Their paper began by pointing out, yet again, the inadequacies of the public consultation procedures—the lack of time in which to reply and the timing; Christmas imposes different demands on most members of the public.

The National Ecotourism Strategy is disappointing. According to the Environment Subcommittee, commitment to the implementation of the National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development is obviously lacking. Sustainability, as used in the strategy, should mean 'ecological sustainability'; this is the preferred term to reflect the need to protect the environment from activities such as visitor use and should be used throughout. An operation could, for example, be apparently economically sustainable (that is, capable of making a profit over many years) while slowly using up the capital on which it depends, that is, the environment.

The submission points out that, as adequate funding is not generally available for the basic management of protected areas, an additional requirement to provide for ecotourism activity may not be able to be met. For this reason it is essential that there be effective mechanisms for transfer of funding between the tourism industry and government to allow land managers to meet management costs—that is, user pays. Natural areas as venues for ecotourism are not a *free* or infinite resource; funds are required for management and protection. Valuing such resources, and applying costs to cover the impact of industry use, should be a fundamental aim of any ecotourism strategy. Any charges levied on industry operators must be realistically based on the value of the resource.



*Example of snow-moved stones,  
Mt Namadgi.*

*Photo by Matthew Higgins*

'Carrying capacity' is identified throughout the strategy as a kind of magic means of protecting natural areas from overuse. However, this is a concept that requires more information in most cases, and much more research and monitoring before it becomes a real solution. Baseline studies are critical to managing natural areas for change in the long term.

As for self-regulation, the submission suggests that a system of incentives and disincentives needs to be put in place for this industry before any faith can be put in self-regulation of its members.

Wilderness and more remote natural areas are valuable *because* they are not developed. 'Sameness' is not a feature that average ecotourists seek. The concentration in the strategy on facilities assumes that the 'average' ecotourist is more interested in facilities than activities—it may be that the ecotourist is looking for experiences rather than creature comforts; development may be redundant.

The NPA submission strongly makes the point that support or encouragement of the tourist industry, at the expense of the environmental quality it depends on, would be fatal.

## Australian National Parks Council:

### 20th Annual Conference

The 1993 Annual Conference was held in Melbourne in October. Our delegates were Neville Esau and Timothy Walsh, whilst Nicki Esau attended as Executive Officer. Fifteen delegates from Victoria, Western Australia, New South Wales, Queensland, Northern Territory and South Australia were present. New office-bearers were elected for 1994: president, Stephen Johnston; treasurer, Neville Esau; secretary, Anne Reeves.

The report is available to those interested at our NPA office in Chifley. Motions passed related to:

- Aboriginal land rights and national parks policy
- Location of east coast armaments complex
- National Forest Policy
- Definitions of national parks and nature reserves
- Macquarie Marshes Nature Reserve
- Ecotourism
- Protected areas program
- Alpine resort management (A working party was set up with NSW, Victoria and ACT with ANPC support to further this issue. A consultant will be employed to prepare a detailed report).
- Marine and coastal reserves
- Mining in national parks.

The NPA(ACT) committee thanks our delegates for the time spent on our behalf both in attending this conference and in doing the preparatory and follow-up work.

**Beverley Hammond**

## Bird book launched

*The Association's major project of recent months, Field Guide to the Birds of the ACT, was launched at Forestry House, Yarralumla, on 15 December, by the ACT Minister for the Environment, Mr Bill Wood.*

*Following are the texts of some of the speeches given at the launch and biographies of those behind the book—illustrator Nicolas Day, author McComas Taylor and funder Alastair Morrison.*

*For more about the launch, see the President's Foreword on page 3.*

*Unless otherwise stated, all photos on the next four pages were taken by Len Haskew.*

## Nicolas Day

Nicolas Day's family migrated to Australia when he was ten. Although his artistic talent was not recognised at high school, he has become one of our most respected bird artists. After working for three years at the Melbourne Zoo, Nicolas began painting in December 1976. He acknowledges the selfless help given by artists from whom he sought advice; Charles McCubbin, Ninon Phillips and Peter Trusler. During the 1970s and early '80s, membership of the Wildlife Art Society of Australia was invaluable.

Nicolas prefers to observe and sketch birds in the field, but this is not always possible, particularly for rare birds. Using as a base his knowledge of anatomy and bird behaviour, Nicolas fleshes out this profile with observation from several sources: birds in the field or captive birds, museum skins or fresh dead birds, photographs, texts and other artists' work.

Background material such as plants are treated similarly and 35 mm photos of habitats are used.

Nicolas usually makes field sketches in German HB or B pencils as these convey most tones as



well as detail, are good for shading and do not smudge too badly—a constant danger in the field. He prefers clutch pencils, which protect the lead when not in use and are of a consistent length, to wood-shafted pencils. Coloured pencils are sometimes used.

He uses a variety of French sketch blocks: small ones for wet or windy days, tinted ones in sunlight to avoid the dazzling reflections of white paper.

Nicolas usually paints where conditions are more controlled. Most final artwork is done with watercolour although he uses gouache or oils from time to time.

For field work Nicolas uses binoculars of 8 x 30 power as well as a tripod-mounted spotting scope of variable power.

## McComas Taylor

McComas Taylor's interest in birds goes back almost as far as he can remember. He was no older than four or five when his mother first taught him the names of the species in their home garden. He recalls being put to bed in the early evenings while the blackbirds were singing outside. In spite of this species' exotic status, McComas still derives special pleasure from its song, particularly when sharing it with his own children.

McComas began to study birds when he came to Canberra from Melbourne fifteen years ago. He worked with the Canberra Ornithologists Group on bird surveys of Lake Burley Griffin, the Murrumbidgee River, and then the entire ACT during the *Bird Atlas* project.



During the three years of *Atlas* fieldwork, he first visited many of the birdwatching locations mentioned in the *Field Guide*. McComas is one of the lucky few who have been able to shape their

hobby into a profession.

McComas first experienced the need for a comprehensive, local field guide when he began birdwatching in the ACT. For many years he has worked with newcomers to birdwatching through the Centre for Continuing Education. He has helped them struggle through the seven hundred species in the national field guides to identify common local birds. This has continually reinforced the need for a compact local reference.

When Alastair Morrison first floated the idea of this publication, McComas leapt at the opportunity. Without Alastair's generous support, a project of this sort could not be economically viable. McComas hopes this book, which is Alastair's gift to the people of Canberra, will inspire or inform an enthusiasm for birds in anyone who picks it up.

## Alastair Morrison



Photo by Reg Alder

Alastair Morrison was born to have an interest in birds. It has been his consuming hobby in a professional and later amateur role all of his life. An early photograph, with his two brothers and Nanny, shows he alone is clutching a wooden duck, in an era when he might have been expected to be holding a teddy bear.

The Morrison family moved to England from Peking in 1919. His Australian father died a year later when Alastair was only four years old. He was orphaned in 1923 and, with his brothers Ian and Colin, placed in the guardianship of an elderly cousin. Several of his father's friends acted as trustees and the Nanny, who had been recruited in Peking when Ian, the eldest, was born, had the responsibility of day-to-day care.

Convalescence from a tonsillectomy at the age of ten brought him to his father's bird books and his thoughts of keeping birds. He started a live collection that was maintained for the period that he lived in England.

Whilst at a public school at Malvern, he had two aviaries to look after. He joined both the Avicultural Society and the British Ornithologists Union. Travel also became an interest. With his brothers he took part in walking

tours in France and Holland. Preparatory to going to Cambridge University, four months were spent in France studying the language and travelling.

At Cambridge he read economics and geography. During a vacation in the Scilly Islands in 1935, plans were made to visit northern Norway. This included a visit to Spitzbergen and a trek through Swedish Lapland. In 1936 with a friend he visited Central Spain to photograph the black vulture. An egg from a deserted nest was brought back and presented to the Keeper of Birds in the Natural History Museum. It was from this meeting he learned that material was wanted from Iceland. A grant made this possible and, from the material and information collected, for his degree he submitted a thesis on the eider duck in north-east Iceland.

Alastair obtained another grant to visit the Central Andean tableland of Peru. Here he walked, mostly at high altitudes of up to 16 000 feet, seeking rare birds which were shot, skinned and preserved for packing and shipment to England. He also collected live birds. Not the least of his adventures was when, over a difference of opinion with his Quechua Indian assistant, the incident nearly led to his getting shot. Fortunately the matter was settled peaceably.

The trip was rewarding financially and Chile was next visited. Attempts to trap bronze-winged ducks, which had never been imported to Europe, were unsuccessful. However, a collection of live waterfowl, mostly kelp geese, together with skins made the trip a profitable one.

On a return visit to Peru, Alastair walked further south in the Andes. He had not been long in Peru when he heard that war had been declared in Europe. Nothing more could be done but to volunteer his services.

An invitation from his brother Ian to visit him in Shanghai meant meeting his brother Colin in Hong Kong where Colin was

working as a government cadet. Peru had not been without its problems for, besides having earlier a badly infected knee, he brought to Shanghai a difficult stomach infection. Alastair travelled to Peking for convalescence. Here he met Hedda, who had come to Peking in 1933 to manage the photographic business of Hartungs.

In Peking he was given a position in the British Embassy as cypher officer. He was still in Peking when the Pacific war broke out. Diplomatic exchanges were made in August 1942. Alastair worked for a while in Calcutta, but after a short time resigned to join the Indian army.

The transition from war to peace took place whilst he was stationed in Malaya.

While visiting Peking, Alastair married Hedda. Alastair sought demobilisation in England, but soon took up the position as Colonial Service Cadet in Sarawak. Here he and Hedda remained for nearly 20 years. Alastair remained as State Information Officer, Sarawak, during the establishment of Malaysia.

Alastair and Hedda came to Australia in 1967. He rapidly became absorbed in local activities, joining several organisations involved in environmental matters, including the Canberra Ornithologists Group and our own organisation. He has been a regular contributor to the *Bulletin*; Hedda provided photographs both for the *Bulletin* and our displays. He took part in surveys of the Kowen Forest area for the *ACT Bird Atlas*.

Because of Alastair's wishes, his assistance to individuals and organisations has received little publicity. His generous support in the publication of *A Field Guide to Birds of the ACT* and its continuing financial benefit to the Association will be a lasting record of his beneficence.

**Reg Alder**

## Speech by Alastair Morrison

I am glad that I have been able to help the NPA to produce this little *Field Guide*.

I joined the NPA shortly after I came to Canberra and I think it is a most valuable ACT community organisation. It has done a great deal of good work in many fields and one of the things that has impressed me was the *Field Guide to the Native Trees of the ACT*. The thought did cross my mind a number of times that it would be nice to have a similar guide for the birds. At the same time I must admit that for many years I have harboured the ambition to have a bird book in my own name. Since I have lived in the ACT for longer than anywhere else in my life, the ACT seemed a reasonable place to focus on. However, with increasing antiquity I came to appreciate and to be motivated by two considerations. One was my lack of competence to undertake such a book. I am sure my old atlassing partner Bryan Fitzgerald would attest to that. The other was the principle which has guided me through most of my life: never do anything myself that I could possibly get someone else to do for me, especially if that someone could be relied on to do it much better.

With this sound principle in mind I approached my friend McComas Taylor and asked him if he would undertake the job and to my great joy he agreed to do so. McComas, as is well known to you here, is a very versatile man with a wide range of interests and skills. He was the organiser of the *Bird Atlas of the ACT* which is an admirable publication. But it was still a big job for him to undertake the *Field Guide* in addition to his many other activities. These include doing a job at the ANU, keeping up his studies in Chinese, producing moon charts to help the public study the heavens, learning Tibetan, trying to eradicate noxious weeds on Mount Ainslie and being a model husband and father of three. But take it on he did. I am most grateful—the project really took off.

### Parks ation )



It was essential that the *Field Guide* should be well illustrated. We were very fortunate that McComas was able to obtain the services of Nicolas Day, who produced all the plates for the work. Nicolas is a very modest man but he is in fact a wildlife artist of world class. His paintings of birds are really first rate and you can see from looking at the paintings that he really knows his birds. Only someone who has spent much time watching and looking at birds can paint them in natural poses. I am very grateful to Nicolas and I think you will agree that his paintings are of very high quality.

So having obtained an author and an artist, I was able to put the proposal to the NPA which readily agreed to act as publisher.

But that is not the end of the story. The production of a guide like this involves a lot of other people and the *Field Guide* has been very much a team effort to which a number of people made valuable contributions.

The design work was by Mariana Rollgejser who had been the

designer of the *ACT Bird Atlas*. Her work was very thorough and she did an excellent job in preparing the *Field Guide* for publication and interpreting the many innovative ideas that McComas brought to the work. Mariana's work is notable for its elegance.

As a matter of fact we were a little uncertain whether another important commitment of Mariana would make it difficult for her to produce the *Field Guide*. There was some question as to whether the *Field Guide* or Mariana's baby would appear first. In the event Mariana's baby won by a short head.

Andrew Tatnell, who is a highly qualified ACT bird observer, very kindly went through the work at an early stage and produced very valuable comments and suggestions. He and his wife Kim also provided some of the photographs. Other photographs were produced by Alan and Peter Fox.

In addition to this effort, the colour work had to be skilfully prepared for printing. This was undertaken by the firm of Scantech in Adelaide through their local repre-



sentative, Carla Respondek. It was done very quickly and efficiently.

Finally Phil Abbott of Goanna Print took the whole job over, got it ready for production and did the printing. Phil took a great deal of personal interest in the *Field Guide*, an interest which went far beyond the normal bounds of business responsibility. I am most grateful to him.

So that produced the work which, I hope you will agree, measures up to a good standard. Although I am not a leading authority on ACT birds I do know a lot about bird books which I have collected all my life. I believe that this book is of very high quality. I think it will set a benchmark which other guides may seek to emulate but which they will not be able to improve upon.

I do have one small disclaimer. If you turn to page 70 of the *Field Guide* you will find that the call note of the spotted pardalote has been rendered, and rendered very accurately, as Paul Keating, Paul Keating. Well I wish to make it clear that the *Field Guide* is devoid of political bias. Though it has occurred to me that the ALP might like to take up the suggestion that they adopt the spotted pardalote as their party bird. I am sure that McComas' ingenuity would enable him to suggest suitable party birds for the Liberals, Country Party and Democrats.

Well, I don't have any more to say except to express the hope that this little *Field Guide* will encourage people in the ACT, and also in that large area of the high country that has similar bird life, to love and take an interest in birds. This interest has been something which has helped sustain me throughout my whole life. I hope that the *Field Guide* may help others to enjoy the same interest.

Finally I would like to thank Mr Bill Wood for finding time from his many other activities and portfolios to come here today to launch the book.

## Ministerial speech



Bill Wood and Beverley Hammond at the launch

The book is going to be a best seller and you have heard the reasons for that. It is a source of considerable pride to us all living in Canberra; it is still a relatively small city, though growing, yet there is such an enormous range of talent, and that is essential in such a quality production. We have people of national and international abilities in this area.

The dedication of Alastair in the first place is wonderful and the NPA has been carrying on the good fight for thirty years or so. It really should be the Namadgi National Parks Association, they have been doing a marvellous job. This is their third major venture after the *Mountain Slopes and Plains* and the *Field Guide* for the trees and it won't be the last. [NPA also published *Rambles around Canberra* in 1977.]

I can see that there is so much dedication and activity, the activity that you see a lot of today to get a small volume together. It is a truly enormous, cooperative effort—it has been truly outstanding.

I like Alastair's comment about political parties adopting birds. When I flipped through to find page 70, the peaceful dove was coincidentally the first name I saw. I don't know what party that may be attached to, but let me give you a little more detail of the spotted pardalote: active, canopy-feeding bird. Well, I don't know whether Paul Keating is particularly tiny, but active he is, the voice, a single, double or treble, high-pitched, piped note. But whether that is reflective of somebody or some party, I will leave to your imagination. But certainly the idea is an interesting one. I may take it further.

Everything has been said about this book; it really is the result of an unique, special, combination of people. I congratulate you all for it. I am delighted to launch it. In keeping with the cooperative effort I have \$1000 of orders for the book here, Beverley. (These are available at Tidbinbilla and Namadgi Visitors Centres).

**Bill Wood**

*ACT Minister for the Environment*

## Parks and people of Malaysia

*...a land of contradiction and luxuriant beauty. Its forests are among the oldest on Earth...and the human history of Malaysia's eastern states—Sabah and Sarawak seems like a romantic adventure with headhunters, pirates and White Rajahs...*

Such were the descriptive lines which tempted John and me to join InterNATIONAL PARKtours holiday which visited both Peninsular Malaysia and Malaysian eastern states on the island of Borneo.

Our travels fell into this pattern: a brief stay in a city where we visited museums and the local markets, and then we were off (travelling light with a large day pack) for a two or three day expedition to a national park in the region. The transport included domestic air flights, minibus, longboats, express boats and four-wheel-drive vehicles.

### Taman Negara

(which translated simply means national park)

This park comprises 4343 square kilometres and is situated partly in Pahang State, partly in Kelantan State and partly in Trengganu State in Peninsular Malaysia. Situated 4° to 5° from the equator, the temperatures hardly vary at all—about 26° in the day, 22° at night and with a regular humidity of over 90 per cent.

The park is bounded on the south-east by the Tembeling River and the park headquarters are accessible by river—this was our introduction to longboat travel and we loved it—revelling in the cool breeze which gave relief from the heat and humidity! The longboat held about 15 people and had a 40 horsepower outboard motor.

We found the park headquarters to be an upmarket complex of comfortable chalets, high class restaurant, interpretive centre, library and store, set amid attractive landscaped gardens. There was also a fairly basic hostel whilst a canteen and local houseboat res-



*Longboat travel on Tembeling River. Photo by Judith Webster*

taurants offered cheaper eating alternatives.

The park store imposed a hefty, refundable deposit (about 40 per cent) on all fruit drink boxes and plastic bottles which worked very well for litter control. At other parks, where bins were provided along the tracks, the macaques (small monkeys) raided these and strewed the litter all around, creating an unsightly mess.

Most of the walks we did were gentle half-day excursions but there were a couple of longer ones and a challenging, strenuous climb up Mt Kinabalu later in the trip.

On our very first jungle trail we were excited to **hear** the famous hornbills making a loud honking noise high in the treetops but the dense canopy prevented us from glimpsing them and it was another week or so before we actually **saw** some hornbills!

The next afternoon we travelled further upstream in a much smaller longboat, negotiating seven sets of rapids, to stay in a low-key resort. Here wildlife sightings included a racket-tailed drongo and colourful (black, white and russet) Prevost's squirrels. At night the jungle noises dominated our senses—an incredible din made by nocturnal birds, animals, insects and frogs. Several times I

woke believing it to be a dawn chorus but discovered the deep, dark night persisted!

Back at park headquarters on our third day at Taman Negara, one other in our group, Evelyn, and myself walked for one and a half hours to a hide. On the way we passed the temporary thatched shelters of the Orang Asli, indigenous Malaysian semi-nomadic people, who still wander the park, occasionally seeking work at the park headquarters when a bad season prevents them from living off the land.

The observation hide we visited was built on stilts about five metres off the floor of the forest and positioned close to a natural salt lick where animals come to drink the water and eat the chemically impregnated soil. Evelyn and I were equipped for our overnight stay with bed linen, packed dinner and strong torches (all arranged at park headquarters). In the hide we found eight bunks and a bench seat opposite a narrow slit-like window with a sill, convenient for resting binoculars and torch while trying to spot animals!

We arrived before dusk to begin our patient vigil with five young people sharing the hide. It was extremely hot and sticky (hitherto we had been spoilt with air conditioning or ceiling fans). Someone



had brought mosquito coils which kept the mosquitos at bay, though generally we didn't find them a particular nuisance during our holiday—they can be worse in our back garden in Canberra!

We arranged to take turns to watch for animals. Quite early a civit came prowling around the salt lick and later we had a better



*Geoff, the tour's leader, John Webster and Evelyn protected by a mighty rainforest tree.  
Photo by Judith Webster*

view of one which came scavenging in a small rubbish area just behind the hide. This was a magnificent Malay civit—about three times the size of a domestic cat. Its coat was black and it had a spotted belly and striped chest. Our greatest thrill (and we were very fortunate to see this) was when a tapir arrived. This animal is about the size of a small cow. Its fore-quarters are black and its hind-quarters white and it has a long snout a bit like an elephant.

Elated with this sighting, Evelyn and I left the hide early next morning. It was actually before dawn so that thunder rumbles overhead and animal rustlings near the track made us slightly jumpy but we were lured on by the thought of a refreshing shower and the sumptuous buffet breakfast at park headquarters restaurant—both to be fitted in before our scheduled departure from Taman Negara at 8.15 am!

**Judith Webster**

## Jerrabomberra

Nineteen people, most of them armed with binoculars and copies of NPA's *Field Guide to the Birds of the ACT*, turned up on a hot Saturday, 29 January for the outing at Jerrabomberra Wetlands.

Kelly's Swamp was viewed from around the hides near the car park and the group then crossed Dairy Road to the sewage ponds where permission to visit had previously been obtained.

The group included Jenny Bounds and Bruce Lindenmayer of Canberra Ornithologists Group, whose expertise was greatly appreciated. Their telescope defined intimate and colourful details of birds that binoculars cannot match. The highlight of the day, and a particular coup, was when Jenny identified a marsh sandpiper on Kelly's Swamp, a bird not illustrated in the Field Guide but listed at the back under 'Rarities'. Other birds of interest were: royal spoonbills, Australasian shoveler, pink-eared duck,

hardhead, black-shouldered kite, red-kneed dotterel, cisticola and latham's snipe. Red warblers did not live up to their reputation; they were neither 'highly vocal' nor 'secretive' on this occasion.

We are fortunate indeed to have Latham's snipe on these wetlands because its habitat is protected under a treaty with Japan concerning waders migrating between the two countries. It is to be hoped that this treaty will secure the protection of this area no matter how desperately successive governments seek 'in-fill' in the future. The Field Guide describes this snipe as 'difficult to observe' but one stood for us on top of an easily visible clump for about ten minutes while we all had a good look through the telescope.

In all 31 species of birds were observed along with a couple of hares romping on the grassland.

**Phyl Goddard**

## Conservation Council

The Conservation Council of the South East Region and Canberra is an organisation with 43 member groups which have interests in conservation or environment protection in our region.

Currently Jacqui Rees is the president; Rodney Falconer has completed his term as director; there is an Executive Committee; member groups are represented by 77 councillors who meet quarterly; whilst Laraine Frawley works in the office in the Childers Street complex. The new director is Craig Darlington, who was previously with the Trades and Labour Council in Brisbane.

Beverley Hammond and Anne Taylor have been NPA's representatives for the past two years but as Anne has retired, a new councillor is required.

Some of the matters dealt with at the end of 1993 were:

1. *Planning*—North Watson, Acton Peninsula, Gungahlin Town Centre, urban renewal, Save our City, the Sydney-Canberra Corridor.
2. *Other Urban Matters*—transport in ACT and the region, landscaping, recycling, CCSE-RAC housing.
3. *Rural Issues*—Landcare, serrated tussock, Yass district, cemetery plant studies, cloud seeding, forests, Mulligan's Flat, Kowen forest, endangered species, ferals.
4. Funding for CCSERAC

A newsletter *Sustainable Times* is available from CCSERAC, phone 247 7808 at 50 cents a copy.

# Journey across Russia

It was late June and the first aim was to see the midnight sun. After arriving in Stockholm, an overnight train trip followed by ferry, we arrived at North Cape (Norway) and confirmed that the sun did not set all night as it stayed at a low angle. However, the persistent fog made sure that it was dark enough 24 hours a day.

Continuing on by bus and train to Finland, where the last glimpse of the West was to be seen, we took the last modern train from Helsinki to St Petersburg. By the 10th July we were in Moscow and ready to join a commercial trek in the Caucasus following a route which was to take our party around Mt Elbrus.

The Caucasus mountains lie in the south of western Russia, effectively dividing Georgia from the republics to the north. They run in a north-west to south-east direction between the Black and Caspian Seas and are part of Europe, forming a barrier between Europe and Asia Minor.

The Caucasus are the highest mountains in Europe; Mt Elbrus is 18 481 feet and compares with the Alps. There are dramatic snow peaks, glaciers, alpine pastures and forests. It is a fine walking country, being less developed than many other European ranges. There are also impressive river gorges rising sheer for some hundred feet of coloured rock. On the south side of the range are some lovely forests and impressive jagged rock formations and still isolated communities.

This area was one of the last to be properly subjugated to Moscow's rule and the history of the wars here is fascinating. Cossacks and Russian regiments fought epic guerilla skirmishes over the years and deep in the mountains people can be found still living a very traditional life.

After a moderate flight from Moscow to our starting point in Mineral'nyje Vody we received one small cup of mineral water. The porters who carried our bags were



*A common catch during summer in rivers of Kamchatka.  
Photo by Damien Browne*

not men hired in the local area, but were mostly from Moscow on a summer vacation, some being scientists or technicians, and were all members of a mountaineering club. The first few nights we stayed in lodges, thereafter it was camping in tents.

A lot of wildflowers could be seen along the way and, apart from feral horses in the mountains, there was an abundance of 'susliks' all over the hillside. Susliks are small mammals a bit like a squirrel but without a bushy tail.

On the 16th July we reached the Irakhitsyrt Plateau. There was a small resort area where the Narzan spring water was diverted to run into special pools. The locals come here regularly and take the waters to heal various ailments.

Some of us found it to be nothing more than stinging, carbonated, rusty water that even stains your clothes and running at a chilly temperature of 22°C.

On 20th July we reached a small village near the Ullukam Valley where the locals brought out their homemade cheese and yoghurt

and sold us hand-knitted mohair and wool jumpers which they make during the cold winter days.

The next day we walked on snow, getting very close to Mt Elbrus itself. The highest peak we reached was 3360 metres above sea level. On the descent we crossed the small Azan Glacier and basalt cliffs on the southwestern slopes of Elbrus.

The last day was an easy walk down to the Bakson Valley where the bus met us to take us to the lodge, thus ending our ten-day trek.

Another week was spent in Moscow visiting Lenin and sight-seeing in general.

The next part of the trip was to take the Trans Siberian train across Russia. We boarded the electric train in Moscow and we were to break our journey at Irkutsk.

The train journey was quite an experience, never to be repeated. We managed to get a two-sleeper cabin in a standard economy class train. It had about 30 carriages attached to two powerful electric locomotives. There were no shower facilities for the five-day trip but we managed it anyway in a basin at the 'Staff Only' wash room. Most people brought their own food for the train journey since the buffet car had very plain meals. However, during short stops, take-away food was readily available sold by locals on platforms in their baskets; hot potatoes with dill was a specialty.

There was little to do on the train apart from reading, talking to other Russians who were going to their dachas (holiday houses), or standing in the hallway watching a monotonous view of pine and birch forest with the occasional village pass by.

On the 7th of August we arrived at Irkutsk, a gateway city to the Lake Baikal. The next day we found our way to this lake which is the world's deepest lake, over 1.6 kilometres to the bottom and 636 kilometres long. It can be very clear in spots with visibility up to



*Acid lake within a volcano crater, Kamatchka. Photo by Damien Browne*

40 metres. Here we managed to find a quiet spot on the shore to camp for a few days. We could hear a few fish jumping in the water.

The next three days on the Trans Siberian was another new experience. This time we got a better train on 'soft class', but somehow got double booked and shared a carriage with a group of Italians. The scenery got more interesting as we followed the edges of the Baikal Lake, then the countryside got more rugged. Farmers could still be seen harvesting hay manually and piling it up in stacks by hand.

No other excitement, apart from being attacked by a group of drunks who forced their way onto the train while stopping for train maintenance (when all the Italians went to the buffet car) and the odd pick-pocket on a crowded bus in Khabanovsk who stole Boris's non-refundable/replaceable airline ticket, as well as missing the plane itself. When finally fixed up with a new flight to Petropavlovsk, we arrived at the main city in Kamchatka.

Kamchatka Peninsula is a world of contrasting snow and warmth, glaciers and luxuriant vegetation.

It is a mountainous country with 29 active and more than 300 extinct volcanoes, with hundreds of hot springs, crystal clear lakes, streams and rivers.

Within the next few days we took a helicopter ride over the chain of volcanoes that rim the Pacific Ocean. Mt Klyuchevsky is the highest peak, being 4750 metres. We stopped in the valley for lunch and went down to see the geysers. The unusual shape of the geyser Ada was fascinating as it contained two deep vents within one large crater. Standing nearby we could hear mysterious noises from these vents. All geysers naturally come on and off on a timed schedule. Activities varied between a few seconds and a few hours, steaming up to 300 metres high with eruptions of 20-30 metres.

For the next five days it was the raft trip with two local guides down Bystnaya River, although there were no rapids. This wide river was flowing quite fast, about 3-4 kilometres per hour, passing the luxuriant exotic flora and fauna, including lush green scrub with clouds of sand flies. When we went ashore to camp and pick blueberries, we found the fauna

partly consisted of grizzly sized brown bears. We saw four in total on the banks of the river with one cub as close as 15 metres before it took off. It is a common practice to follow bear progress when walking through the thick scrub (it is flattened out by them) and to even stumble on them while they sleep or rest—quite a surprise! It got fairly warm during the day in the rafts but the water was still too cold to touch. Along the way we met up with two Russians on their hunting and fishing trip. They showed us how to catch big salmon and firebelly trout.

From then on our meals consisted mostly of fried red salmon and caviar. As we floated down the river we could clearly see groups of salmon swimming upstream to spawn. If we only had had a net we could have scooped the lot in.

Our wilderness trip ended on 26th August, then we flew out of Petropavlovsk to Nigatta followed by Japan's bullet train to Tokyo, a modern world with high tech invention, before coming home to Canberra early in September.

**Damien Browne**



*The Caucasus Ranges.  
Photo by Damien Browne*

## Calendar

### MARCH

- Thursday 3 Committee meeting 7.30pm, 21 Hyndes Cr Holder, Beverley Hammond, 288 6577  
Thursday 10 Namadgi subcommittee 7.30pm, 27 Aston Cres, Cook, Steven Forst, 274 8426 (w), 251 6817(h)  
Thursday 24 Environment subcommittee, venue to be arranged

### APRIL

- Thursday 7 Committee meeting 7.30pm, 21 Hyndes Cres, Holder, Beverley Hammond, 288 6577 (h)  
Thursday 14 Namadgi Subcommittee 7.30pm, 27 Aston Cres, Cook, Steven Forst, 274 8426 (w), 251 6817 (h)  
Thursday 26 Environment Subcommittee 7.45pm, 43 Fitchett St, Garran, Tim Walsh, 285 1112 (h)

### MAY

- Thursday 5 Committee meeting 7.30pm, 21 Hyndes Cres, Holder, Beverley Hammond, 288 6577 (h)  
Thursday 12 Namadgi Subcommittee 7.45pm, 27 Aston Cres, Cook, Steven Forst, 274 8426 (w), 251 6817 (h)  
Thursday 26 Environment Subcommittee 7.45pm, 43 Fitchett St, Garran, Tim Walsh, 285 1112 (h)

### JUNE

- Thursday 2 Committee meeting 7.30pm, 21 Hyndes Cres, Holder, Beverley Hammond, 288 6577 (h)  
Thursday 9 Namadgi Subcommittee 7.45pm, 27 Aston Cres, Cook, Steven Forst, 274 8426 (w), 251 6817 (h)  
Thursday 23 Environment Subcommittee 7.45pm, 43 Fitchett St, Garran, Tim Walsh, 285 1112 (h)

## 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 17 March: 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.

### Thursday 21 April: Mining and the environment

Dr Don McMichael CBE, Director, Australian Minerals and Energy Environment Foundation, will deliver an address on the role of the foundation.

### Thursday 19 May: Aboriginal involvement in parks and reserves

A representative from the Aboriginal Programs section of the Australian Nature Conservation Agency will address the meeting on the above topic.

### Thursday 16 June: ACT Bushfire Council

Peter Lucas-Smith, Director, ACT Bushfire Council, will speak to us about the role and functions of the ACT Bushfire Council.

# Outings program

April to June 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.

**Third Wednesday of every month** Mainly 1/A  
Contact Phyl Goddard on 254 8279 for details of a walk, or bird walk using our *Field Guide to the Birds of the ACT*, on the third Wednesday of the month. Contact should be made up to one week before each outing. See *Bulletin* for further details.

**6 April Wednesday**  
**Outings Committee Meeting**  
**Outings Convenor: Mick Kelly**  
Meet at 1 Fitzmaurice Street Kaleen at 7.30 pm to plan outings for the period July to September.

**9 April Saturday Walk** 1/A  
**Murrumbidgee River** Ref: ACT 1:100 000  
**Leader: Margaret Aston** Phone: 288 7563 (h)  
Meet at the corner of Eucumbene Drive and the Cotter Road at 9 am. An easy walk of 8 km through lightly timbered private property following Bulgar Creek. Lunch at the Murrumbidgee River. Lots of horses and maybe a wallaby or two. Suitable for beginners and families. 16 kms \$4 per car.

**9-10 April Pack Walk** 2B/C/E/F  
**Blue Gum Creek Area** Ref: Williamsdale & Corin  
Dam 1:25 000  
**Leader: Stephen Johnston** Phone: 254 3738 (h)

An off-track exploratory walk in a varied pocket of wilderness with five recorded sites of natural significance. Some steep climbs to Blue Gum Peak and adjacent high points for excellent views, camping overnight beside Blue Gum Creek. 110 kms \$22 per car.

**10 April Sunday Walk** 2/A/D/E  
**Tinderry Twin (North) Peak**

Ref: Tinderry 1:25 000  
Michelago 1:25 000  
**Leader: David Hall** Phone: 292 5262 (h)/280 6250 (w)  
Meet at Kambah Village shops at 8.30 am. Total climb for the day will be 770 metres, mostly on Mt Allen (steady steep climb) and West Tinderry fire trails, final 2 kms to peak is through bush where some rock scrambling will be required. 120 kms \$24 per car.

**16 April Saturday Afternoon Walk** 1/A  
**Mt Arawang** Ref: ACT 1:100 000  
**Leader: Margaret Aston** Phone: 288 7563 (h)  
Meet at the top end of Kathner Street Chapman at 1 pm. A gentle 6 km walk along Coleman Ridge and up Mt Arawang. Bring binoculars and a nibble.

**16-17 April Pack Walk** 2 C/D/E  
**Mt Scabby** Ref: Yaouk 1:25 000  
**Leader: Mick Kelly** Phone: 241 2330  
Phone leader by the previous Wednesday. A walk to the source of the Cotter River on Mt Scabby. Leave Canberra on the Friday afternoon. Park cars at Boboyan Pines. Route will be via Gudgenby saddle to Sams River Fire Trail. 100 kms \$20 per car.

**Heritage Week**  
**17 April Sunday**  
**Botanists, Brumbies & Brindabella Skiers**  
**Leader: Matthew Higgins** Phone: 247 7285  
A Heritage Week bushwalk for people with some walking experience, organised jointly by Kosciusko Huts Association and the National Parks Association. We will visit Mt Franklin Chalet and associated ski runs (a former skier will talk on Franklin's history), see two brumby trapyards on Mt Ginini, then go on to Pryor's Hut where Professor Lindsay Pryor will talk on forestry experiences during the 1930s. Contact Matthew Higgins for bookings on (06) 247 7285. Numbers are limited.

**Tuesday 19 April 1994, Namadgi sites and sounds**  
National Trust office, Geils Court, Deakin, 8 pm. \$5 entry includes supper. Bookings: 281 0711  
This slide and tape presentation by Matthew Higgins is a fascinating insight into Namadgi's diverse European cultural heritage and captures some of the bush humour of the region. Photos of early huts, brumby yards and other sites are accompanied by extracts from oral history interviews.

**Thursday 21 April 1994, Skis on the Brindabellas**  
National Trust office, Geils Court, Deakin, 8 pm, \$5 entry includes supper. Bookings: 281 0711  
Mt Franklin Chalet is the oldest club-built ski lodge in mainland Australia. This entertaining slide and tape presentation by Matthew Higgins looks at the history of Mt Franklin and the other ski sites in the beautiful Brindabella Range. An extensive collection of historical and recent photos is accompanied by extracts from interviews with skiers of the 1930s and 1950s.

**20 April Wednesday Walk**  
See March *Bulletin* for details. Phone Phyl Goddard 254 8279 during the week before the walk.

**22-25 April Canoe Trip**  
**Murray River and** Ref: Mathoura 1:100 000  
**Barmah Forest** Tuppac 1:100 000  
**Leader: Kevin Frawley** Ph: 282 2973 (h) 299 3995 (w)  
**Chris Bellamy** Phone: 249 7167 (h)  
Launch at or below Tocumwal, heading for Picnic Point and Barmah. Enjoy camping from canoes on the best of the Murray, lovely sandy beaches in red gum forests en route. Lots of birds. Paddlers should enjoy fast moving water, suit fit beginners. BYO canoe or hire from Echuca. Combined NPA/CBC trip. Ring Chris Bellamy or Kevin Frawley before the previous weekend. 1200 kms \$300 per car.

**23 April Saturday Walk**  
**Some Sites of the South**  
**Leader: Matthew Higgins** Phone: 247 7285  
A Heritage Week bushwalk for people with some walking experience, organised jointly by the Kosciusko Huts Association and the National Parks Association. The south-east corner of Namadgi, a beautiful area of valley and bush, was once home to

many pastoral families. This walk will visit remnants of some of their homes and see other reminders of grazing days. Contact Matthew Higgins for bookings on (06) 247 7285. Numbers are limited.

**23-24-25 April (Anzac Day) Pack Walk** 2B/C/E  
**Mts Namaadgi, Burbidge & Kelly** Ref: Rendezvous Creek 1:25 000

**Leader: Stephen Johnston** Phone: 254 3738 (h)  
A walk into the rugged heart of Namaadgi National Park via Nursery Swamp, camping at Creamy Flats then climb the three mountains on Sunday returning via Cotter Gap on Monday. Low impact camping in the Cotter catchment area, so strictly stoves only, no fires. 110 kms \$22 per car.

**1 May Sunday Walk** 2/B/C/D  
**Honeysuckle Creek Area** Ref: Corin Dam 1:25 000  
**Leader: Mick Kelly** Phone: 241 2330 (h)  
Meet at Kambah Village shops at 8.30 am. A climb of some 400 metres from Apollo Road to point 1364 metres. Walk through light scrub and forest to unnamed flats before proceeding back to cars via Spinnaker Rocks. 70 kms \$14 per car.

**8 May Sunday Walk** 3/A/D  
**Corang Peak** Ref: Corang 1:25 000  
**Leader: Mike Smith** Phone: 286 2984 (h) 248 3624 (w)  
Meet at Queanbeyan Swimming Pool car park at 7.30 am. Note early start. A walk in the Budawangs from the Wog Wog entrance to the Corang Peak which has 360 degree views. Side trip to Admiration Point for lunch (scrub bashing). Return by same route. 250 km drive \$50 per car.

**14-15 May Pack Walk** 2/A/C  
**Mt Twynham, Mt Tate** Ref: Mt Kosciuszko 1:50 000  
**Leader: Di Thompson** Phone: 288 6084 (h) 244 6483 (w)  
From Guthega explore the basin below Twynham and Anton, maybe view Blue Lake on the Saturday. Fuel stoves and strong tents, the area is very exposed. Return via Mt Tate and Gills Knob. Please contact leader by the Wednesday. 480 kms \$96 per car plus park entry.

**14-15 May Canoe Trip**  
**Kangaroo Valley/ Tallowa Dam** Ref: Moss Vale 1:100 000  
**Leader: Kevin Frawley** Phone: 299 3995 (w)  
**Val** Phone: 282 2973 (h)  
Easy flatwater weekend trip and introduction to canoeing. Launching from Tallowa Dam in Kangaroo Valley, paddle on the Shoalhaven arm of the lake to Fossickers Flat and camp overnight, returning next day. Superb scenery and wildlife to be enjoyed. Local canoe hire or BYO. Contact Kevin Frawley or Val before previous weekend.

**15 May Sunday Walk** 1/A  
**Lake George** Ref: ACT 1:100 000  
**Leader: Margaret Aston** Phone: 288 7563 (h)  
Meet at the Coast Road junction at Bungendore at 9.30 am. An easy walk along the Lake Road with lots of bird watching, and

then a climb up the hills for distant views. Bring lunch, binoculars and a copy of the NPA *Field Guide to the Birds of the ACT*. 80 kms \$16 per car.

**15 May Sunday Walk** 3A/E  
**Mt Gingera via Stockyard Spur** Ref: Corin Dam 1:25 000

**Leader: Stephen Johnston** Phone: 254 3738 (h)  
A challenging 800 metre climb for fit walkers only, from the Corin Dam car park to the top of Mt Gingera. The first 500 metres are unrelentingly steep but the rewards of changing vegetation and good views are plenty. Meet at Kambah Village shops at 7.30 am.

**18 May Wednesday Walk**  
See March *Bulletin* for details. Phone Phyl Goddard 254 8279 during the week before the walk.

**21 May Saturday Afternoon Walk** 1/A  
**Mt Majura** Ref: ACT 1:100 000  
**Leader: Margaret Aston** Phone: 288 7563 (h)  
Meet at the eastern side of Antill Street where it intersects with Phillip Avenue Hackett at 1 pm. Climb Mt Majura on the walking trail. Bring binoculars and a nibble.

**21-22 May Pack Walk** 4/A  
**Mt Clear to Caloola Farm** Ref: Colinton 1:250 000  
**Michelago 1:250 000**  
**Leader: David Hall** Phone: 292 5262 (h) 280 6250 (w)

Walk mostly by the Naas River on fire trail. A car shuffle will be required. Ring leader by 19 May. Although this is a long walk (25 kms) it may suit fit beginners. Caloola Farm Cars 70 kms \$14 per car, Mt Clear cars 140 kms \$28 per car.

**28 May Day Walk** 2/A  
**Two Sticks Road** Ref: ACT 1:100 000  
**Leader: Steven Forst** Phone 251 6817 (h) 274 8426 (w)  
Meet at the corner of Eucumbene Drive and the Cotter Road at 8.30 am for a walk along the top of the Brindabellas. Views of Canberra and to the west. 100 km drive.

**29 May Sunday Walk** 2/A/C  
**Cotter River** Ref: ACT 1:100 000  
**Leader: Dugald Munro** Phone: 231 8776  
Meet at the corner of Eucumbene Drive and Cotter Road at 8.30 am. Climb Fishing Gap fire trail at Tidbinbilla and descend to the Cotter River. Some steep stretches but worth it for the views. 60 km drive \$12 per car.

**5 June Sunday Walk** 3/A  
**Hume and Hovell Track** Ref: Brindabella 1:100 000  
**- Wee Jasper**  
**Leader: Mike Smith** Phone: 286 2984 (h) 248 3624 (w)  
Meet at corner of Eucumbene Drive and Cotter Road at 8 am. Walk the Hume and Hovell Track from Fitzpatrick trackhead at Wee Jasper to the Logbridge Creek campsite via Mt Wee Jasper with climb of 600m. 130 km \$26 per car.

**11-12-13 June Car Camp**  
**Bournda** Ref: Wolumla 1:25 000  
**Leader: Syd Comfort** Phone 286 2578 (h)  
Coast and forest walks and bird watching. A great place. Contact leader by Tuesday 7 June. 400 km drive \$80 per car.

**11-12-13 June Long Weekend Pack Walk** 2/A/B  
**Quilties Mountain** Ref: CMW Budawangs  
**Leader: Steven Forst** Phone: 251 6817 (h) 274 8426 (w)  
Contact leader by Wednesday for details of this 2 1/2 day walk with a late lunch at Braidwood Pub on Monday. An easy-medium pack walk to a base camp on the Endric River. Visit Styles Pass, the Bora Ground and Round Mountain. 340 km drive.

**15 June Wednesday Walk**  
See March *Bulletin* for details. Phone Phyl Goddard 254 8279 during the week before the walk.

**19 June Sunday Drive** 1/A  
**History Sites** Ref: Canberra  
**Leader: Doreen Wilson** Phone: 288 5215 (h)  
History tour from Theodore axe grinding grooves to Farrer's gravesite and more in between. Drive and short walks. Bring lunch. Meet 9 am Kambah shops. Approx 35 kms \$7 per car.

**25-26 June Pack Walk** 4/A/D/E  
**Mt Sentry Box** Ref: Yaouk 1:25 000  
**Leader: David Hall** Phone: 292 5262 (h) 280 6250 (w)

We will climb up to Sentry Box either Saturday afternoon after making camp, or first thing Sunday. The approach to our camp site is from Boboyan Road car park via Sams River Fire Trail. Contact leader by 23 June. 140 kms \$28 per car.

**26 June Sunday Walk** 2/A/C  
**Bull's Flat Creek/Pheasants Hill** Ref: Yaouk 1:25 000  
**Leader: Frank Clements** Phone: 231 7005  
Meet at Kambah Village shops at 8.30 am. A pleasant walk of 10 km to Bull's Flat Creek via Pheasant Hill. Half through light/medium scrub, half fire trail. 150 km drive \$30 per car.

## Points to note

New faces to lead, new places to go. Please help keep our outings program alive by volunteering to lead a walk occasionally.

All persons joining an outing of the National Parks Association of the ACT do so as volunteers in all respects and as such accept sole responsibility for any injury howsoever incurred and the National Parks Association of the ACT, its office bearers and appointed leaders are absolved from any liability in respect of any injury or damage suffered whilst engaged in any such outing.

The committee suggests a donation of TWENTY cents per kilometre DIVIDED BY THE NUMBER OF OCCUPANTS in the car, including the driver, (to the nearest dollar) be offered to the driver by each passenger accepting transport. Drive and walk distances quoted in the program are approximate distances for return journeys.