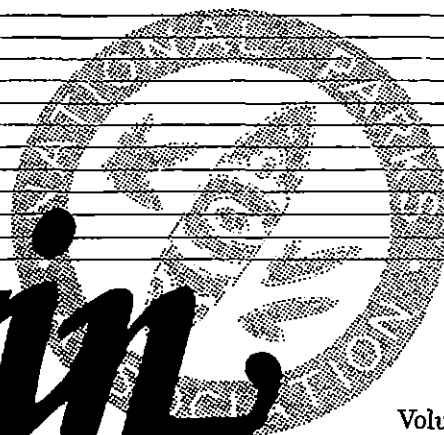


# NPA Bulletin



Volume 34 number 1  
March 1997

NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION (ACT) INCORPORATED



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**Orroral Homestead Opening**

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**Boboyan Pines Progress**

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**Mountain Bike Agreement**

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### National Parks Association (ACT) Incorporated Inaugurated 1960

#### Aims and objectives of the Association

- Promotion of national parks and of measures for the protection of fauna and flora, scenery, natural features and cultural heritage 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 and cultural heritage by organised field outings, meetings or any other means.
- Cooperation with organisations and persons having similar interests and objectives.
- Promotion of, and education for, conservation, and the planning of landuse to achieve conservation.

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<i>Vice-president</i>	Clive Hurlstone 288 7592(h); 246 5516(w)
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#### Membership inquiries welcome

Please phone the NPA office.

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#### Contribute to your *Bulletin*

Contributions of articles (news, descriptions 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 Syd Comfort Convenor, Bulletin Working Group, on (06) 286 2578.

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

#### Deadline for June issue: 1 May 1997.

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## President's foreword

The Christmas/New Year period is often thought of as the summer break, but not by the NPA executive, and particularly not this year. We knew in advance that January would be a time of concentrated work on our submission on the Draft Management Plan for Canberra Nature Park, but we have also found ourselves spending many hours directly defending Canberra Nature Park's primary management objective to conserve the natural environment against a proposal to run a major national sporting event in it.

The ability of the executive to work as a team has meant that we have successfully maintained representation at meetings with Minister Gary Humphries and staff of the Parks and Conservation Service during a period when individuals are coming and going on holiday.

Stephen Johnston discusses the implications of holding a major national sporting event in Canberra Nature Park on page 4. Preparation of the combined submission from NPA and the Conservation Council on the Draft Management Plan for Canberra Nature Park is proceeding according to schedule and should have been completed well before you read this.

For many NPA members removal of the Boboyan pines has been a

dream that kept sliding off into the future. I am happy to report that felling has begun. As I write this, work is still proceeding on the road works needed to take out the logs from the western side, and logging has begun in the east. The two logging trucks immediately became an obvious feature on the Boboyan road as they make several journeys each day, but it will take time before the clearing of the pines becomes apparent from the road. Where clearing has begun, in the Hospital Creek plantation, it has revealed a scattering of small eucalypts. In normal forest operations these would be cleared as well, but ACT Forests is taking care to retain as many as possible so that the main work required to rehabilitate this area will be removal of pine regeneration.

Our choice of venue for the Christmas Party kept Max Lawrence busy guiding people in and out, particularly as so many people came! I thank him for his efforts, and I also thank Matthew Higgins for his guided tour of several cultural features, and Robin Miller and Frank Clements for running the auction, and of course I thank all the donors. The auction realised over \$300 and was well worthwhile, I think, for its entertainment value as well as for the money raised.

I am pleased to report that NPA is in a much more fortunate position regarding government grants than we had dared to hope. We have received \$5000 from the Federal Government as part of its Grants to Voluntary Conservation Organisations program to assist with administration costs, an increase of \$300 over the previous year. Administration of the ACT Government grant program has changed from calendar year to financial year, leaving an odd six months. Environment grants have been awarded on a pro rata basis according to grants awarded in the preceding calendar year, so for the next six months we have the same rate of funding from this source as we received last year. Heritage grants have been awarded in response to applications for the six months, and we have received one for work on a study of the effects of lichen on Aboriginal art in Namadgi.

Although the situation regarding government grants is better than we had expected we still need to look carefully at our expenses. One major expense is the Bulletin and Syd Comfort's work over the summer has shown that it is possible to cut costs while improving content! Thank you Syd.

**Eleanor Stodart**

## President's report 1995-96

*The final paragraph of the annual report was omitted from the December Bulletin. It appears below.*

Voluntary contributions of time and effort by members and the annual membership fees have provided a firm base for all the above activities which are so crucial to the implementation of our aims. This base has been extended significantly by the award of several government

grants. \$4700 received through the Federal Government's program of Grants to Voluntary Conservation Organisations has provided valuable assistance towards the cost of running the office. Grants received from the ACT Government via its Environment Grants program have assisted with the production of the Bulletin, through a grant of \$4000, and enabled us to pay the Research Assistant through

a grant of \$11000. We also received significant funds directly from our members as a result of an appeal in June. This support has meant that NPA has seen a very active year in 1995-6 both in services provided to members, such as the outings program, and to the wider community through our submissions on management of public lands and through Bulletin articles.

**Eleanor Stodart**

## Mountain bikes, management plans and 'best practice'

The Environment Sub-committee has spent considerable time in the last year examining the management planning process for ACT conservation reserves.

To some, this might appear to be an indulgence in theory, the pre-occupation of "armchair conservationists".

But the debate over the proposed route for the National Mountain Bike Championships highlighted the necessity for having clear, prescriptive management plans that give primacy to conservation. It has also served to focus on some of the key issues for the draft management plan for Canberra Nature Park (CNP).

The NPA has worked in collaboration with the Conservation Council of the South-East Region and Canberra to produce a detailed submission of more than 50 pages on the draft plan. Most of the hard work has been done by Ray Polglaze, NPA's research officer, drawing on comments made at an afternoon seminar organised by the NPA last October and during two lengthy meetings of a working party that went through the draft plan line by line.

A summary of the submission will be published in the next Bulletin. Its main relevance to the mountain bike championships lies in its recommendation for clear zoning of CNP, based on conservation values of various areas within the park. This broadly accords with the draft plan's suggestions, but departs from them in calling for the establishment of a Conservation Zone A which would cover areas of particularly high conservation value in the Park and carry restrictions on certain recreational activities, including large-scale events such as orienteering and mountain bike riding.

Whilst we did not delineate the proposed boundaries of Conservation Zone A, they would almost certainly embrace large parts of Black Mountain and Mt Majura, two areas that a report by the National Capital Planning Authority (NCPA) has recognised as being sites of regional

significance. Both were proposed for the mountain bike championships.

The proposed route down Black Mountain was ruled out by the Government, but only after considerable pressure from the NPA, Conservation Council and Aranda Parkcare Group. While we can be thankful that the Government recognised the inappropriateness of this proposal, it is still a major concern that it was seriously considered in the first place. The potential for erosion of Black Mountain's shallow soils on the steep slopes was recognised 25 years ago in the Department of the Capital Territory draft management plan. Ironically the first part of the proposed route would have criss-crossed probably the most eroded track in the reserve - on the northern ridge - where mountain bikes are now not supposed to be ridden.

But over and above the specific impact of the bikes and spectators, the area was entirely inappropriate because of its high conservation value within CNP. And that principle underlay the objection by the NPA and Conservation Council to the use of the west face of Mt Majura.

While Parks and Conservation staff apparently believed the race would not have significant impact on the proposed route, the fact remained that, like Black Mountain, the woodland community through which the proposed route was to run has considerable ecological value. The NCPA Sites of Significance report describes this community on the Ainslie-Majura Range as "the largest remaining in the ACT which could be considered representative of the original ecological type".

While national parks and nature reserves have always accommodated a range of recreational pursuits, it has long been recognised - not least by the CNP draft management plan - that restrictions must be placed on certain activities in certain areas. As the draft plan says: "The presence of dogs and some recreational activities (e.g. horse and bicycle riding) are not

appropriate within some units, or some areas within units because of the unit's location, terrain or conservation values, because of conflict with other designated uses, or the availability of alternative venues" (page 11).

If the ACT Government was to consider recreational or development proposals only in terms of their specific impacts on particular areas, then the door would be wide open for major compromise of the integrity of our parks and reserves. It has been the approach long favoured by the "wise use" proponents who believe that exploitative industries such as mining, quarrying and logging should be permitted in conservation areas as long as they are conducted in "a sensitive manner".

The proper approach is to firstly consider all proposals in the broad context of the management priorities in the management plan for the park or reserve as a whole, which must reflect those in the ACT Land (Planning and Environment) Act. At this stage some will fail the test and should be rejected. If they pass the test they should then be considered against the zoning prescriptions for the area where the recreation or development is proposed. Only if they pass that test should they be finally assessed according to the specific impact they might have.

This, to use the jargon, is the essence of environmental "best practice". The alternative, to simply treat each proposal as it arises on its apparent merits without firstly giving full consideration to the broader management values and requirements, is short-sighted ad hocery. To help guard against it, good prescriptive management plans that consistently recognise the number one legislative objective for nature reserves and national parks - to conserve the natural environment - are absolutely essential.

**Stephen Johnston**  
*Convenor, Environment  
Sub-committee*

# Boboyan Pine Plantation

Work has now begun on clearing pines from the Boboyan Pine Plantation, in preparation for later revegetation of the area. This will be a big and costly job, extending over many years, and the ACT Parks & Conservation Service recently briefed the media and others interested in the project.

The NPA has made several submissions to the P & CS on the project over the years, and thus it was fitting that the recent publicity (Canberra Times, Friday 31 January) included a photo of our President sitting triumphantly on some of the first pine logs to be cut down. In December, upgrading of roads in the plantation area began, and between January and April this year, pines immediately west of Hospital Creek will be harvested. As felling operations are expected to occur over 'only a few years', because of commercial constraints on the contractor (ACT Forests), it is important that revegetation of the area with native species begin as soon as possible, to minimise erosion and silting of surrounding streams immediately after the felling operations.

To this end, efforts have been made during the initial felling of pines to leave eucalypts which were growing among the pines; and a contractor



*Boboyan Pines logging in progress. Photo by Eleanor Stodart*

will also be working during the first half of 1997 to collect more seed of native species, for later distribution in the area. Nearly 150 kg of seeds, mainly of *Eucalyptus pauciflora* and *Eucalyptus rubida*, have already been collected. Revegetation of the area presents some challenges, because it is in a cold location, that has about 140 frost days each year. This will inhibit seed germination and the growth of native seedlings.

In addition, continuing work may be necessary to eliminate the growth of pine seedlings, which are less troubled by cold. Ann Connolly (207 2900) is in charge of the Boboyan project, and she would welcome further questions about the project - and particularly offers to join volunteer groups to assist with the revegetation.

**Robin Miller**

*Convenor, Namadgi Sub-committee*

## Vale John Rowland

Association member, John Rowland AO, died in Canberra on 31 December 1996.

John Rowland had a distinguished career of 40 years in the diplomatic service and was an author and poet of standing. He also had a strong commitment to the environment and to social issues and this found expression in his involvement in a wide range of public causes and local organisations. He successfully chaired the Antarctic Conference in Canberra in 1983 and subsequently delivered papers related to that

continent. He was the founding secretary of the Coastwatchers and from 1984 to 1988 was president of the Conservation Council of the South East Region and Canberra. He was active in Greenpeace and participated in the Mental Health Network for the ACT, his writings and letters in connection with the latter cause appearing in the Canberra Times as recently as December 1996. One of his lesser known activities was in support of the community groups located in the old buildings in Childers Street

where, as a member of ROCKS (Residents of Childers and Kingsley Streets), in an unassuming and effective way, he provided leadership and initiative directed towards the establishment of this area as a permanent location for community groups. John Rowland, through his sensitivity, his unselfish application of his talents and his dedication to public issues has made a great contribution to the Canberra community and on a wider scene, to the nation.

**Syd Comfort**

# WORK PARTY

## Tennent Homestead work party



*Alan Rae and Col Mac Alister at Tennent Homestead work party. Photo by Len Haskeu*



*Work parties can be "laid back" affairs. Photo by Len Haskeu*

It is probably true to say that Tennent Homestead was accidentally "rediscovered" by a party of NPA members who were on a walk led by Phil Gatenby. They were reasonably sure that the complex of buildings had to be in the then recently declared new extension to Namadgi National Park and a check with the map confirmed that this was the case. The Homestead complex is made up of a very interesting collection of buildings all in various stages of disrepair. Indeed, the pise building is in an advanced state of deterioration with barely a complete wall still standing.

To many members it is a complex well worth conserving because it is a fine example of "vernacular" construction. The various lessees

used whatever was at hand for construction purposes and they were obviously well aware of the merits of recycling. (In the 1950's, for instance, a pine clad cottage from suburban O'Connor was trucked in and used as living quarters). Because construction methods and materials were somewhat "ad hoc" conserving the complex presents a host of problems and the Conservation Plan recommends that the buildings should be allowed to "decay graciously".

However, those of us who think that the complex has fairly significant heritage value believe that although decay is inevitable it should not only be gracious but also as slow as possible. I feel sure too, that the Kosciusko Huts Association has similar feelings.

NPA members have participated in several work parties at Tennent, and work undertaken has included removing white ants, attempting to cover the exposed pise walls, digging drains and resheeting the garage with something a little less environmentally unfriendly than asbestos sheeting.

On 23 and 24 November, 1996 another work party was held and I believe that it was one of the most fruitful as it helped bring the complex to such a standard that the Parks and Conservation Service will soon be able to take Ranger-guided visitors there.

When we arrived on the Saturday, Ranger Geoff Young presented us with what appeared to be a most formidable list of tasks. However, he also had all the equipment needed

## Beginners pack walk

30 November 1996 - 1 December 1996

to undertake the various jobs and under the watchful eyes of Master Carpenter, Syd Comfort, and Master Plumber, Allan Rae, all the apprentices worked with a will and by Sunday afternoon all the jobs that Geoff had listed for us were ticked off. The bulk of the work was on the woolshed which was looking considerably worse for wear, and although it wouldn't be wise to hold a woolshed dance in it most parts are considerably more stable and secure. The 1950's cottage was also secured, restumped in places and guttering and downpipes made good. While all this was going on Eleanor Stodart resurrected the yards around the sheep dip and Olive Buckman removed a mountain of rubbish from under the woolshed.

Apart from the derelict pise structure the buildings are reasonably stabilised, but there is still a lot of work to be done. The most urgent of these tasks is also at the woolshed. At some time a large part of the slab and corrugated iron that makes up the walls was removed from one side and consequently the building is open to both the weather and the entry of animals - (and neither of these will do much good for the floor that we put so much work into). In the very near future I feel that we should assist the Parks and Conservation Service to appropriately fill in this gaping hole. As well as the usual offerings of brawn this job may also require a decent helping of carpentry skills and the Association would be more than pleased to hear from anybody who would be willing to assist with this undertaking.

You will be interested to hear that while Stephen Johnstone was sweeping out the 1950's cottage he found an old envelope addressed to Doug Thomson and bearing a pre-decimal currency stamp!

**Len Haskew**

In the survey of members conducted last year, a number of responses expressed interest in a pack walk for beginners. The Walks Committee agreed to conduct such an event and I volunteered to lead the walk.

The route selected was from the Smokers Trail car park down to the Orroral River (overnight) and on to the Orroral Gate the next day. This meant easy walking along a fire trail and an old 4WD track. Importantly, it was only about 9-10 kilometres a day and generally tended down, thus avoiding steep climbs. It is an interesting walk, with good views, alpine forest, granite tors, wildflowers, frost hollows, kangaroos and other fauna, and examples of European settlement.

Seven of us started from the car park and walked on at a relaxed pace with ample stops for lunch and breaks. We arrived at the Orroral River campsite in mid-afternoon. There we were joined by Gary, our driver, who took his bus to Orroral Gate and walked up the Cotter Hut fire trail to the campsite, and Alan, who had to work during the day, but joined us about 8.00pm.

Some members of the party were day walkers who were wanting to try pack walking, other had pack walked many years ago (Scouts, etc.) and wanted to have the experience again. There were some who hadn't done either but were keen to start. Everyone had provided their own gear (some hired) and neither I, nor the Committee had to lend anything - although we had offered to do so in the walk notice.

It was very windy when we arrived at the campsite but we were able to find sheltered spots in the clearings using the trees and shrubs as windbreaks. We had a convivial evening discussing many topics and went to bed after 9.00pm. Up early the next morning and a stroll down the valley among the many mobs of kangaroos, reaching the bus in time to get home for lunch.

Overall the walk was rated a success and everyone said they would take part again. I thought it went well and would be happy to repeat the event.

**David Large**

*(There is another walk like this in the current program - Ed)*

## Update on oral history project

Last year, the Association decided that it would be useful to gather information on the history of the NPA through interviews and written accounts from past office bearers. To date, Ian Currie, Bill Watson, Charles Hill and Robert Story have been interviewed and Kevin Frawley has provided a detailed statement. Others have agreed to be interviewed but some would like their memories helped by reference to minutes taken at committee meetings.

It is expected that interviewing will continue throughout this year, building up the Association's records so that perhaps one day a book will be written about the history of the ACT NPA and its influence on the environmental movement in Australia.

**Fiona MacDonald Brand**

# Party, Party, Party....

NPA Xmas party 1996



*Fiona Brand decorating the Christmas Tree at Nil Desperandum.  
Photo by Len Haskeu*

This was a very happy and **busy** event - I hardly had time to greet old friends and say hello to new faces!

The venue for the Association's annual Christmas party was Nil Desperandum - an old homestead in the Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve. Access is through private property. The homestead is not currently open to the public so it was with a feeling of curiosity and sense of privilege that we assembled at 3, 4 or 5pm, outside the Nature Reserve Gates,

to be led in convoys to our hidden refuge!

John and I arrived rather early for the 4pm 'shift' but found the waiting a social event as cars pulled up and old friends tumbled out. At the appointed hour committee members Max Lawrence and Len Haskeu arrived to escort us on the trail to Nil Desperandum. Initially the road climbed through dry paddocks with a number of gates having to be unlocked and relocked. We then entered the Reserve through a back

gate and suddenly were in the cool, sun dappled environment of tall forest with lush understorey; a feeling of refreshment enfolded us.

The homestead sits snugly in a small clearing and here refreshment of another kind was provided and we were soon nibbling and sipping. Matthew Higgins, a well-known local historian, looked appropriately bushmanlike and droll as he lounged against a verandah support and gave us an interesting and succinct history of the homestead. Barely had we digested this when we were off to see the sights, having been cautioned to be alert for snakes underfoot!

The first stop was an old eucalyptus still, where Matthew explained how this enterprise had operated for a time. Not far from this we visited a small dam which had



*Mathew Higgins addressing members at Nil Desperandum.  
Photo by Barbara Comfort*



been created to provide the former residents with a pleasant summer swimming hole. The concrete plug had been pulled so there was no chance of being tempted for a quick dip but Clive Hurlstone, who had been a visitor to the homestead in the days of its occupation, assured us it had been a delightful spot.

Next we continued through grass and briars to a large paddock which had once produced an annual crop of oats for the homestead horses and now produced a crop of sneezing, eye-rubbing hayfever sufferers!!

Finally, our historical treasure hunt took us through thick bush to a well concealed plantation - what could this secret crop be? Well, it was all quite legal - it was enormous camellia, azalea and rhododendron bushes whose dark, glossy foliage gleamed with robust health. The homestead had been resumed before a scheme to market mature plants reached fulfilment.

The procession now ambled back to the homestead, chattering idly - attention relaxed and unfocussed. Reg Alder let out an exclamation



*Robin Miller conducting the Christmas auction. Photo by Clive Hurlstone*

and executed some fancy footwork when he encountered a snake.

Phew! that had all been most interesting and now we were ready to relax and tuck into our picnics but wait, an important event was about to commence - an auction of items donated by generous members; the proceeds to the coffers of the Association. The fare being auctioned included plants, wine, home-made jams, some beautiful handcraft and the red hot special - a sketch of the homestead, deftly

drawn on the spot by talented NPA member Chris de Bruine.

President Eleanor Stodart explained the rules for the auction. Other talents were now revealed as auctioneers, Robin Miller and Frank Clements, finding the initial bidding a little sluggish, engaged in some extravagant and colourful patter to incite a more reckless response from the crowd. They were aided from an unexpected quarter when youthful voices called out "five" and "nine"- Andrew and Peter Gatenby (aged 9 and 4 respectively) had entered into the spirit of things and enlivened the bidding considerably - business became brisk and entertaining!

That excitement over, those with any stamina left went charging up into the ranges with Matthew on another historical foray - this time to visit the site of an old koala enclosure.

At dusk the last convoy assembled to be 'let out' from Nil Desperandum after a most happy time together. Thank you, Matthew, for the historical talk and tours and thank you, committee members and helpers for organising such a varied and successful afternoon.

**Judith Webster**



*Old eucalyptus still at Nil Desperandum. Photo by Barbara Comfort*

# Orroral Homestead – fifteen years of NPA involvement

Heritage Week, 1997, will have more than its usual significance for both NPA and its members. On Saturday 19 April Environment Minister Garry Humphries will give his official "blessing" to the successful completion of the restoration and stabilisation of Orroral Homestead. This project has occupied the thoughts, time and effort of successive Presidents of the Association and a vast number of members since the early 80's.

The Orroral Valley was one of the first areas to be settled south of Canberra. It is difficult to be absolutely precise about the history of the Homestead as official records leave some puzzling gaps and the spelling of the property name and its early occupants varies considerably. NPA members were very active in researching the history of the homestead, particularly the members of the sub committee convened by Elizabeth Thompson in 1982. Subsequently Den Robin put a great deal of time into recording the results of this research.

From this information and later research, it appears that Charles McKeahnie acquired the site in 1849 and built the present building sometime during the 1860's from timber milled near the site. The house was occupied until 1950 and from then on suffered considerable damage from being used as a storage facility for both hay and junk and also from being accessible to grazing stock and roaming wildlife. (The task of one of the early work parties was removing that hay!) During this period the separate kitchen building collapsed and much of the material it contained was removed.

In 1981 President, Ross Carlton, writing in the December Bulletin, spoke of the tragedy it would be if the remaining building was allowed to slowly collapse also. He wrote,

"much of the physical evidence of our history has been lost and more will be lost in the future. In many places replicas are being built to replace colonial buildings." He went on to say that "restoration of the main building would be an excellent long term project for the Association."

Endless hours of member effort were put into a successful application for an ACT Heritage Committee Grant and the Orroral Homestead Conservation Project was launched with "an energetic work party" on Sunday 10 October 1982. Some 30 people attended, including members and their families, architecture students from the then Canberra College of Advanced Education along with their lecturer Peter Corkery and architect Rick Butt. Also present were archaeologist Jonathan Winston-Gregson and prehistorian Valerie Chapman. This work party cleaned the homestead and tidied the site.

Subsequent Bulletins speak of enthusiastic volunteers who "spent a very enjoyable day at work." Ross Carlton noted in one Bulletin that, "Although the project is proceeding a little more slowly than expected (due to factors outside our control - certainly not from any lack of enthusiasm on the part of members) it is proving a great source of satisfaction to many and will continue to do so for some time." Progress, which seemed so promising at the beginning of the venture was delayed, in Ross's view, principally by seemingly endless studies by consultants. There is mention of archaeological studies, conservation plans and the like which frustrated many members. Indeed, in December, 1991 Bob Story wrote in the Bulletin that the Orroral Homestead project was a "dead weight that had been hanging around our neck for ten years." This

comment followed up Reg Alder's article "A Decade of Neglect" in the previous Bulletin. Almost immediately following the publication of these articles President Beverley Hammond was able to write, "An enthusiastic Ranger has been given the responsibility for the homestead project," and she went on to ask interested people to register their willingness to assist.

Subsequent to this invitation, I was asked to convene the work parties for Orroral and I was immediately impressed by the enthusiasm and skills of so many of our members. There was no need for any "arm twisting" - members were extremely generous with both their time and energy. It is always difficult to single out particular individuals when so many volunteered so willingly but I believe that the Association must be particularly grateful to Reg Alder not only for his willingness to attend all work parties, but also for his knowledge, skills and ingenuity (and his willingness to provide a veritable hardware store of tools.) Fiona Brand was another stalwart from the beginning and Frank Clements, Syd Comfort, Les Pyke and Beverley Hammond were "perennial" participants. Some work parties were conducted in conjunction with the Kosciusko Huts Association and representatives from the Canberra Bushwalkers also assisted. NPA used some of the grant money to employ a stone mason to reconstruct the old kitchen chimney and to stabilise the chimneys and end walls of the main building. Again it is almost impossible to list all the tasks the Association undertook, but the following list is a sample: replacing rotten timber and flooring, plastering internal walls, glazing doors and windows, removing soil, digging drains, replacing gable

# NPA outings program *continued*

March 1997 – June 1997

25 May Sunday daywalk 2A/B  
Long Point Ref: Caoura 1:25 000  
Leader: Col McAlister Phone: 288 4171

Meet at the netball centre just past the Dickson traffic lights on Northbourne Ave at 8.00am. Drive to Long Point near Marulan, then walk down a track into the gorge of the Shoalhaven. Excellent views of the river on the way down, lunch on a sandy beach, and then a long haul out. 250 kms, \$50 per car.

31 May Saturday daywalk 2A/B  
Southern Namadgi chimneys Ref: Colinton, Bredbo 1:25 000  
Leader: Martin Chalk Phone: 268 4864 (w), 292 3502 (h)

Meet at Kambah Village shops at 9.00am. Walk from Mt Clear campground to Potters and Chalkers chimneys, with possible side trip to the Long Flat. Return through open woodland and Horse Gully Hut fire trail. 130 kms, \$26 per car.

1 June Sunday daywalk 3A  
Booroomba Rocks, Bushfold Flats Ref: Williamsdale 1:25 000  
Leader: Col McAlister Phone 2884171

Meet at Kambah Village shops at 8.30am. Follow the Alpine Track from Booroomba Rocks carpark to Bushfold flats, visiting Read's and Russ's huts. Time and energy permitting, side trip to Booroomba Rocks for those interested. 60 kms, \$12 per car.

7 – 9 June long weekend packwalk 1D/F  
Snowball Ref: Snowball 1:25 000  
Leaders: Eric and Pat Pickering Phone: 286 2128

From the Pikes Saddle/Dampier Trig fire trail we shall explore the upper reaches of the Shoalhaven River. This does not appear difficult. Possible side trips to Wambagga Swamp and Deua Peak. For details contact leaders before 30 May. 350 kms, \$70 per car.

7 – 9 June long weekend car camp  
Bournda National Park Ref: Wolumla 1:25 000  
Leaders: Mick and Joan Kelly Phone: 241 2330

Coast and forest walks and bird watching. A great place. Please contact leaders well ahead for details and bookings. 400 kms, \$80 per car, plus camping fees.

**14 June Saturday special event**  
**Yerrabi Track Tenth Anniversary**  
**Leader: Reg Alder**

**1A**  
**Ref: Yaouk 1:25 000**  
**Phone: 254 2240**

Come and enjoy a birthday walk along our Yerrabi Track to the 1489 metre Boboyan Trig. The walk is only 4 kms, and the 150 metre climb is rewarded by panoramic views of all the main features of Namadgi National Park – a great spot for a picnic lunch with your fellow NPA members. Meet at the Kambah Village shops at 10am, or if this does not suit, find your own way out. The Yerrabi Track carpark is on the right hand side of the Tharwa-Adaminaby road, 8 kms past the end of the bitumen at Gudgenby. 120 kms, \$24 per car.

**15 June Sunday daywalk**

**2A/B/C/D**

**Time travel in southern Namadgi** Refs: Yaouk, Shannons Flat 1:25 000  
**Leader: Martin Chalk** Phone: 268 4864 (w), 292 3502 (h)

Meet at Kambah Village shops at 8.30am. Visit Brayshaw's Hut, Waterhole Hut, and Westermans Homestead. Will also look at border survey markers and old yards and fences. An opportunity to revisit these historic sites in a winter setting. 150 kms, \$30 per car.

**18 June daywalk**

**Wednesday walk**

**Leader: Max Lawrence**

**Phone: 288 1370**

The June edition of our series of monthly mid-week walks. Phone leader for details, which will be determined nearer the date.

**21 June Saturday daywalk**

**2A/B/D**

**Mt Coree and Devils Peak**

**Ref: Cotter Dam 1:25 000**

**Leader: Matthew Higgins**

**Phone: 247 7285**

Crunch frost in the northern Brindabellas this winter. We'll climb Coree from Blundell's Arboretum, then walk to Coree Flats, climb Devil's Peak, then return to Blundells. Some history, a good deal of great native forest, excellent views from both peaks. Steep climbs, about 14 kms. Book with leader, numbers limited. 90 kms, \$18 per car.

# NPA outings program

March 1997 – June 1997

## 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.

## Points to note

Please help keep our outings program alive by volunteering to lead outings. New leaders are welcome. The outings covenor is happy to suggest locations suitable for a walk if you do not have something in mind yourself. Feel free to send in suggestions for outings to the association's office as soon as you think of them, with a suggested date.

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 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.

## 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



8 March Saturday daywalk  
Stockyard Creek  
Leader: Matthew Higgins

IA/D  
Ref: Corin Dam 1:25 000  
Phone: 247 7265

A pretty relaxed (but sometimes steep) walk to one of our more remote arboreta in the Brindabellas. From the Mt Ginini car park we'll follow the track to the arboretum and have plenty of time to explore the stands of conifers, many dating from the 1940s. Then we'll go on to the ruin of Stockyard Creek Hut, once used by foresters and brumby runners. Book with leader, numbers limited. 120 kms, \$24 per car.

9 March Sunday daywalk

3A

The Long Flat

Ref: ACT 1:100 000

Leader: Steven Forst

Phone: 251 6817 (h), 279 1326 (w)

Meet at 8.30am at the Kambah Village shops. A fairly easy return walk from the Mt Clear campground along a fire trail for lunch at the southernmost gate in the ACT. The walk passes through some former grazing country and open forest before entering Long Flat, which is a sizable frost hollow alongside the Clear Range. Total walking distance around 15 kms, and there are no steep climbs. 130 kms, \$26 per car.

8-9 March weekend packwalk

3C/D/E

Mounts Scabby and Kelly

Refs: Rendezvous Creek 1:25 000

and Yaouk 1:25 000

Phone: 254 3094

Leader: Phil Gatenby

Contact leader by Wednesday 5 March. Walk from the Boboyan Pines to Sams Creek and Mt Scabby. Climb Mt Kelly on the second day and return via Bogong Gap. A climb of over 800 metres on the first day (not for the unfit or beginners). 100 kms, \$20 per car.

8 – 9 March weekend canoe trip

Durras Lake

Leader: Kevin Frawley

Phone: 282 2973 (h), 299 3995 (w)

Easy paddling on a selection of Durras Lake and nearby lakes on the South Coast, north of Batemans Bay over two days, camping at a nearby caravan park. Birdlife and serenity are the main attractions. Suit beginners. BYO canoe or hire. Phone leader for details. Cost per car \$100.

15-17 March long weekend car camp

2A/B/C/D

Kiandra area

Refs: Ravine 1:25 000, Cabramurra 1:25 000

Leader: Len Haskew

Phone: 281 4268

Car camp at the very pleasant Three Mile Dam reserve. Day walks to suit the party to find indications of previous mining activity, to explore sub-alpine topography, to visit the Yarrangobilly escarpment and photograph some of the best snowgums in KNP. Phone leader for details. 350 kms, \$70 per car.

15 – 17 March long weekend canoe trip

East Gippsland waterways

Leader: Chris Bellamy

Phone: 249 7167 (h)

Croajingalong National Park just over the border in East Gippsland is just 4 hours drive from Canberra. Using the lovely campsite on the Thurra River as a base, paddle on the Thurra, Mueller and Cann Rivers through pristine temperate rainforest, over 3 days. Lots of wildlife to enjoy, as well as lots of swimming spots to try. Hire or BYO canoes. Contact leader before Wednesday 12 March. Cost per car \$250.

17 March Canberra Day

ACT Alive

Lawns opposite Old Parliament House

Coordinators: Eleanor Stodart 281 5004

Clive Hurlstone 288 7592 (h), 246 5516 (w)

We are asking members to help the NPA by calling in to our tent and spending up to a couple of hours answering questions about the Association and its aims, and about the display. You will also have the opportunity to see the other interesting stalls at this popular exhibition.

19 March daywalk

Wednesday walk

Leader: David Large

Phone: 291 4830

The March edition of our series of monthly mid-week walks. Phone leader for details, which will be determined nearer the date.

22-23 March weekend packwalk

2A/C/D

Rock Flats

Ref: Corin Dam, Rendezvous Creek 1:25 000

Leader: David Large

Phone: 291 4830

Joint NPA/FBI walk. Phone leader for details/bookings. From Orroral gate follow fire trail to turnoff to Split Rock/Cotter Rocks, then on to Rock Flats for overnight camp. Sunday down to Rendezvous Creek and out to Nursery Swamp car park. Total climb about 600m. Short car shuffle. This walk was described by Martin Chalk in Wild No 54. 80 kms, \$16 per car.

23 March Sunday daywalk

3B/E/F

Stockyard Spur, Cotter River

Ref: Corin Dam 1:25 000

Leader: Mike Smith

Phone: 286 2984

Meet at Kambah Village shops at 7.30 am. Start at Corin Dam and climb to Stockyard Spur. Follow Stockyard Spur north and drop off down to Cotter River at a convenient point. Rock hop (maybe wet feet) back to Corin Dam. Exploratory for the leader - could be difficult along the river. Not for the inexperienced. 120 kms, \$24 per car.

28 – 31 March four day Easter packwalk

3D/E/F

Wadbilliga National Park

Ref: Powrie 1:25 000

Leader: Stephen Johnston

Phone: 254 3738

A rugged circuit up Wadbilliga River, climb Mt Wadbilliga, and return along Queens Pound River. All offtrack with superb river scenery and a remarkable range of vegetation. Phone leader for bookings/enquiries before 21 March. 400 kms, \$80 per car.

5 – 6 April weekend packwalk

2A/E

Shoalhaven River lookouts

Ref: Caoura 1:25 000

Leader: Mike Smith

Phone: 286 2984

Contact leader by Wednesday for details. Starting at Long Point Lookout, descend 600m to a campsite next to the Shoalhaven River in the vicinity of McCallums Selection. Follow river downstream to spur leading up to Badgerys Lookout. Several river crossings involved. Short car shuffle. 250 kms, \$50 per car.

6 April Sunday daywalk 3A  
Grooves and paintings Refs: Rendezvous Creek 1:25 000  
and Yaouk 1:25 000  
Leader: Frank Clements Phone: 231 7005

Meet at Kambah Village shops at 8.30am. A 16 km walk mainly across the Gudgenby paddocks to the axe grinding grooves on Middle Creek, and then around the ridge to the Rendezvous Creek rock paintings. Return across the paddocks. 100 kms, \$20 per car.

7 - 18 April ten day walk  
The Great South West Walking Track  
Contact: Syd Comfort Phone: 286 2578

This track runs along the coast and rivers of Western Victoria between Nelson and Portland. Reports that this is a splendid walk have stirred Syd Comfort to organise a ten day walk there in autumn. If you are interested in joining the party, please contact Syd at the above number.

12 - 13 April weekend packwalk 2A/B/C  
Blue Gum Creek Refs: Corin Dam 1:25 000,  
Williamsdale 1:25 000  
Leader: Stephen Johnston Phone: 254 3738

Walk down the Booroomba Creek section of the Alpine Track to camp by Blue Gum Creek. Two optional offtrack walks to Falcons Hill at the southern end of Booroomba property, or the hill east of Booroomba Rocks. Alternatively, take an easy stroll through Bushfold Flats. Ring leader for bookings/enquiries before Easter. 60 kms, \$12 per car.

13 April Sunday daywalk 1A or 2A  
Wee Jasper Nature Reserve Ref: Wee Jasper, Couragago 1:25 000  
H&H guidebook, brochures  
Leader: Max Lawrence Phone: 288 1370

Meet at corner of Eucumbene Drive and Cotter Road at 8.30am. We will take the scenic drive to Wee Jasper via Uriarra, Mountain Creek and Sawyers Gully roads. Our easy walk will start from the village, and follow the Hume and Hovell Track over the steepish ridge in Wee Jasper Nature Reserve to James Fitzpatrick Trackhead. Optional side trip to waterfall on Mt Wee Jasper. Options for return to the village include back the way we came, or back via the road (including by car if you wish!). 150 kms, \$30 per car.

16 April daywalk  
Wednesday walk  
Leader: Mike Smith Phone: 286 2984

The April edition of our series of monthly mid-week walks. Phone leader for details, which will be determined nearer the date.

19 April Saturday special event  
Official opening of Orroral Homestead restorations  
Contact: Max Lawrence Phone: 288 1370

Help NPA and the Parks and Conservation Service celebrate this important occasion. Meet at the homestead at 10.00am for the official opening by the Minister at 10.30am. Bring a picnic lunch and stay on to enjoy the rejuvenation of this great heritage asset in our National Park.

20 April Sunday daywalk 2C/D/E  
Sentry Box Ref: Yaouk 1:25 000  
Leader: Max Lawrence Phone 288 1370

Meet at the Kambah Village shops at 8.30am. A steep offtrack climb up the southern side of Sentry Box from the Yaouk road, with time to explore the broad and expansive summit, including Sentry Box Rock. Some rock scrambling, and magnificent views. 180 kms, \$36 per car.

25-27 April long weekend packwalk 2A/B  
Quilties Mountain Ref: CMW Budawangs  
Leader: Steven Forst Phone: 279 1326 (w), 251 6817 (h)

Contact leader by Tuesday for details of two and a half day walk starting Friday (Anzac Day). Easy-medium walk with packs to a base camp on the Endrick River. Visit Quilties Pass, the Bora Ground, and Round Mountain. A late lunch at Braidwood pub on Sunday. 340 kms, \$68 per car.

25 - 27 April long weekend packwalk 1D/E/F  
Tuross River, Jillicambra Mountain Ref: Belowra 1: 25 000  
Leaders: Eric and Pat Pickering Phone: 286 2128

Joint NPA/FBI walk. Take cars to junction of Tuross River and Woila Creek, and walk up the Tuross to a delightful campsite. Second day option of taking the 800 metre climb to Jillicambra Mountain with its splendid rock formations and views, or just enjoying the beautiful Tuross. Contact leaders before 18 April for details. Approx. 400 kms, \$80 per car.

28 April to 2 May car camp  
Monday to Friday car camp  
Leader: Gary Schneider Phone: 254 9801

Joint NPA/FBI trip. Gary has a minibus capable of carrying up to 12 people, plus a trailer for camping gear. He would like to hear from anyone interested in a camping trip to one of the NSW National Parks, avoiding the busy weekends. Which Park will depend on the interest expressed, but might be Morton, Murrumbidgee, Wadbilliga, South East, Eurobodalla, Jervis Bay, etc. For bookings/details phone Gary before 23 April. Shared cost will be calculated on the basis of up to 500 kms, plus camping fees.

3 - 4 May weekend packwalk 2A  
Reedy Creek Refs: Colinton, Michalego 1:25 000  
Leader: David Large Phone: 291 4830

An easy pack walk designed especially (but not exclusively) for first-time packwalkers. The walk will start at either Mt Clear campground or Caloola Farm, and follow the Naas River along fire trails to its junction with Reedy Creek, where we will camp. Transport arrangements and costs to be advised. Phone leader early for details.

4 May Sunday daywalk 2A/D/F  
"The Ridge" Ref: Rendezvous Creek 1:25 000  
Leader: Mick Kelly Phone: 241 2330

Meet at Kambah Village shops at 8.30am. A chance to explore 'The Ridge' on the northern side of Nursery Swamp. From the Nursery Swamp track traverse out along ridge line to spot heights 1267 and 1248. Return to cars along southern side of Nursery Swamp. Walk is mainly exploratory - be prepared for thick scrub, etc. 80 kms, \$60 per car.

10 May Saturday daywalk 4A/E  
The Castle Ref: CMW Budawangs, Corang 1:25 000  
Leaders: Phil and Leonie Bubb Phone: 248 6769

Phone leaders early for details. This is a long and steep climb of 750 metres up the famous landmark of the Southern Budawangs, involving some rock scrambling. Not for the unfit, or for those with no head for heights. The reward is some of the best views to be found anywhere. To ensure an early start leaders propose to drive down and camp at Yalboro on Friday evening. 350 kms, \$70 per car.

11 May Sunday daywalk 3A/B  
Mts Ainslie and Majura Ref: Canberra, Hall 1:25 000  
Leader: Stephen Johnston Phone: 254 3738

A figure eight circuit starting and finishing at the War Memorial, visiting historic Mt Ainslie quarry, Ainslie and Majura summits and ridge, and the superb woodlands of Majura horse paddocks and Campbell Park. Meet behind the War Memorial carpark at 8.30am.

17 May Saturday daywalk 2A/D/E  
Yankee Hat (1447) Ref: Rendezvous Creek 1:25 000  
Leader: Mick Kelly Phone: 241 2330

Meet at Kambah Village shops at 8.30am. From the Middle Creek side, climb Yankee Hat for fine views of surrounding countryside. Expect some thick scrub, and some rocky outcrops to traverse. Total climb of about 450 metres. If time permits will take in rock paintings on return leg. 100 kms, \$20 per car.

18 May Sunday daywalk 2A/B/D  
Following Moutat over Ginini and Gingera Ref: Corin Dam 1:25 000  
Leader: Matthew Higgins Phone: 247 7285

This walk follows the ACT-NSW border, locating some of the border markers installed by Harry Moutat's party in 1914. Also two brumby yards will be seen. Beautiful snowgum forests, rocky outcrops, and some excellent views. About 15 kms walking, much of it offtrack, some steep climbs. Book with leader, numbers limited. 140 kms, \$28 per car.

21 May day walk  
Wednesday walk  
Leader: Col McAlister Phone: 288 4171

The May edition of our series of monthly mid-week walks. Phone leader for details, which will be determined nearer the date.

24 - 25 May weekend packwalk 4A/C/E  
Mt Tarn Ref: CMW Budawangs, Corang 1:25 000  
Leader: Phil Gatenby Phone: 254 3094

Contact leader by Wednesday 21 May. A long walk partly on tracks from the Wog Wog entrance to the Budawangs. Spend Saturday night on top of Mt Tarn weather permitting. Some rock scrambling will be involved. 250 kms, \$50 per car.



*Orroral Homestead after the restoration. Note the restored stone kitchen chimney and the replaced gable timbers and replastered chimney on the homestead itself. Photo by Graeme Wicks*

timbers, regrouting stonework and attention to gutterings. As well, many members were involved in parts of the chimney restoration when the Association employed the stone mason. Our grant was finally acquitted when we assisted the Parks and Conservation Service to employ a contractor to plaster the two house chimneys.

The appointment of Peter Hann to the position of Manager of Namadgi certainly hastened the completion of the project. Peter shared our enthusiasm for Orroral and did all he could to assist us. We must all be grateful for his commitment as well as the commitment and assistance of his Rangers and park workers. Special mention should be made of Craig Richardson who was so often "the meat in the sandwich" between

the Association's expectations and the requirements and priorities of the Parks Service. The collaboration between the two organisations required by this project has brought further significant benefits. I believe we have all gained a greater appreciation of each other's point of view, have learnt a lot from each other and have also developed quite significant friendships.

The Parks Service, well supported by NPA stalwarts, recently completed the two major outstanding tasks - the securing of doors and windows and the provision of adequate underground drainage. Ross Carlton's vision has been realised: - The Homestead sits well in the landscape, its architectural and historical significance, preserved for the time being, at

least. The National Parks Association can be justifiably proud of its efforts.

I am sure that all members who participated in any way with the restoration will be most anxious to attend the "grand opening" ceremony. And I hope everyone else comes along to see what has been achieved mainly through voluntary labour. The reminiscences that those volunteers will undoubtedly swap, will add another dimension to the formal proceedings! Write Saturday 19 April in large letters in your diary and on the fridge door.

(All quotations in this article are from a relevant Bulletin. My thanks to Reg Alder who did most of the research).

**Len Haskew**

# ACT PLAN

## The ACT Strategic Plan 1996

In November 1995, the Commonwealth and ACT Governments formed a joint task force to prepare an ACT strategic plan which would set out policies and principles to guide change and to establish priorities for the future of Canberra. The plan evolved during 1996 through the publication of an information paper, the preparation of relevant studies and the undertaking of public consultation.

The Strategy, published in December 1996 (without, however, the endorsement of the Commonwealth Government), is a statement of the ACT Government's strategic direction for Canberra. It differs from earlier plans with an emphasis on economic factors rather than physical structure.

### The Shape We're In

In the past, Canberra's growth and development have largely been driven by three factors, namely, the establishment of the national capital, population growth, and substantial public investment. Now the situation has changed. While the national capital will continue to evolve, Canberra is now firmly established as the seat of government of the Commonwealth; population growth has slowed and is likely to remain at a low level, and public investment has been dramatically reduced. Public sector expenditure has been restrained, economic growth has slowed, unemployment has risen and there is a significant gap between the costs of ACT Government facilities and services, and available revenue - the so-called affordability gap. The ACT is exposed to a possible significant economic decline with the potential for a fall in environmental standards, lifestyle and prosperity.

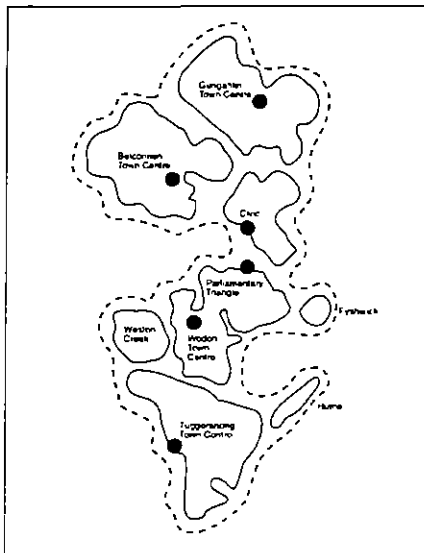
### A Sustainable Future

A viable and sustainable future will depend on an efficient and competitive economic base, prudent

management of public finances and a commitment to maintaining agreed social, cultural and environmental standards. The primacy of addressing economic issues is accepted for if this is not successful, the other elements may not be sustainable.

### Economic Strategy

Strong economic growth requires growth of demand from outside the local region and will be generated by the entrepreneurial activities of the region's businesses. There is a need to diversify and expand the economic base so that it is less dependent on Commonwealth activity but builds on Canberra's strengths and its existing national and regional roles.



*The ACT's Urban Envelope. From Canberra: A Capital Future.*

Economic growth should be driven by a partnership between government and private enterprise in which private enterprise should be primarily responsible for investment, employment and innovation and the ACT Government should provide an environment in which business can flourish, and should facilitate the physical and social infrastructure to support economic growth. The ACT Government

should be the leader in charting a new economic direction for the ACT with the Commonwealth Government remaining a key stakeholder.

An important part of the Strategy is to move the image of Canberra from that of an isolated community dominated by the Commonwealth bureaucracy to that of a place where business is welcome. The Strategy examines industry areas in the ACT appropriate for development.

There will be a need for the ACT public fiscal position to be addressed on the same terms as the other States. The termination of transitional arrangements associated with the move to self government, the impact of Commonwealth restructuring and the need to finance future infrastructure are amongst matters to be faced.

### Social Equity

The Strategy sets as its objective the promotion of fair access to housing and services essential to maintaining a decent lifestyle, and accepts the principles of a charter developed by the Commonwealth for the provision of government services which incorporates the principles of access, equity, communication, responsiveness, effectiveness, efficiency and accountability.

There will be a need to monitor Canberra's population to identify changes in requirements, and because of resource constraints, it will be necessary to examine innovative approaches to financing which should include exploring partnership approaches with the private sector and the community.

### Ecological Integrity

The objective is seen as the delivering of a safe, livable environment and a clean and healthy natural environment. The Strategy sees the ACT Government as responsible for setting an example in sound management practice and for considering ecologically sustainable



development issues in government initiatives. Community consultation and cooperation with other jurisdictions are important components of the Strategy.

In this area, the Strategy includes a number of specific measures, some being the continuation of existing programs such as support of Landcare and Parkcare, while others introduce changes such as the introduction of new legislation to reform environmental management in the ACT and the integration of environmental planning with the Urban Development Program.

### **Regional Partnership Strategy**

The Strategy points out the need to recognise and develop the role of the ACT within south eastern NSW and, in partnership with governments in the region, seeks to maximise the opportunities for sustainable growth and effective resource management. Increased collaboration with the 17 shire and city councils in the region is planned which would involve coordinated work on projects that would benefit the region.

### **Canberra's Physical Structure**

Within the 10-15 year time frame of the Strategy, all demand for urban growth is expected to be met within the current urban envelope. Demand for residential development is expected to emphasise locations close to major centres and transport routes. However, the resultant residential intensification will be pursued in a manner that recognises the special urban amenity of some areas. Because of the reduced need for a land bank for urban development, the terms of many rural leases will be extended to provide incentives for better land care practices.

To provide greater certainty about the future, early action is proposed to confirm or abandon proposed road corridors. John Dedman Parkway is identified as the first major road to

be built. Canberra's city core, and subsequently the town centres, will be transformed in an enterprising and multi use way providing opportunities for businesses to locate in them.

The Strategy confirms the principles of the National Capital Open Space System and proposes that:

- the costs of maintenance of nature reserves may be eased by encouraging the development of commercial resort and tourist activities within them.
- the Open Space concept may be extended by incorporating new areas in locations related to urban expansion, such as Jerrabomberra Creek, and
- public open space should be managed and developed on the basis of whole-of-life costings and in a manner consistent with the essential "landscape" character of the established areas.

Beyond the 10-15 years time frame, the next development area is likely to be Jerrabomberra/Symonston, provided land capability and environmental impact studies are favourable.

### **Implementation**

A central aspect of implementing the Strategy is the establishment of a partnership between governments, business, national institutions and the community and to this end, the Strategy identifies a number of mechanisms to facilitate collaboration. For priority actions set out in the report, an Action Plan is being drawn up which will place responsibility for each action with an ACT Government department and set out target dates and reporting procedures. This will be a public document.

There was a deal of public comment about the Strategy when it was released before Christmas but much more argument can be expected in coming weeks. The Strategy is yet to be debated in the

Legislative Assembly and the Commonwealth has yet to declare its position on the report. In the meantime, the Strategy is being reflected in ACT Government actions. Examples of this are the current consideration of the John Dedman Parkway and the establishment of a task force to review rural land management.

*Canberra: A Capital Future.* Published by the ACT Government, December 1996, 98 pages. Available from ACT Shopfronts.

Syd Comfort

## PARKWATCH

### **Deep forests within and without Japan tour**

Japan with only 2% of the world's population is the greatest consumer of imported timber. Over 90% of Australia's woodchips go to Japan, the average Japanese person being unaware that much of the paper they are using originates from Australia's old growth forests. The Rainforest Information Centre in Canberra wishes to strengthen links with individuals and groups in Japan on the subject of global forests and sees this as an ideal campaign for the Wilderness Society to link with.

At the end of the day the bottom line in protecting the world's remaining wilderness and the entire planet itself is in drastically reducing consumption. At the end of this month, Anja Light and Lima Kimura will be visiting Japan with the "Deep Forest Within and Without tour" which will carry this message as its central theme.

ACTWild, Summer 1996.

## Around Ginini

*Colin McAlister's December walk to Mt Gingera "the easy way" included a walk through places of interest at Mt Ginini guided by Ian McLeod. Ian had recently accompanied Matthew Higgins in his search in this area for the original border survey marks. Here is Ian's description of features at Ginini. - Editor*

The cleared strip running up Mt Ginini from the carpark was a ski run cleared by the RMC Ski Club in the early 1950s. The site of the RMC ski lodge is about three quarters of the way up this run, with a magnificent view to the east and south east. A group of Canberra Alpine Club skiers built a small hut here in the late 1940s. The RMC Ski Club bought it and the lease in 1951 and in the next two years put up buildings able to accommodate more than 30 people. However, the authorities were concerned about the health implications of the site, which was in the Cotter water supply catchment. Also, time and vandalism took their toll, and the

buildings were removed in 1969, leaving the levelled area where they had been and some stunted pine and apple trees.

An old brumby yard a few hundred metres along a former ski run on the southern side of Mt Ginini is unusual in two ways. Instead of the usual saplings, it is made of fencing wire and wire netting, forming an enclosure 4 or 5 metres square. It is also a salt yard. An opening about a metre wide was left in the enclosure; this could be closed by a gate - in this case, wire netting rolled up around a short log and fastened above the opening. Salt was left in the yard. When a brumby, attracted by the salt, entered the yard, a trip rope released the gate. Not as exciting as trying to run brumbies into a wing yard, but less risky for the men and their horses.

From the yard, a rough track, worn by use, goes along the ACT border down the southern side of Mt Ginini. Several hundred metres down it is a border marker placed by the border surveyors in 1915. A

short galvanised steel pipe filled with concrete with a nail or bolt embedded in it marks the survey station. A 'lockspit', a line of rocks a metre or two long on each side of the pipe indicates the direction to the adjoining survey points. The distance between survey points depended on the terrain; generally it was between 100 and 200 metres, but some are as close as 50 metres and a few are over 400 metres apart.

Historian Matthew Higgins has recently completed a heritage project to find and document the border markers from Mount Coree (the start of the survey) to the Boboyan Road. Unfortunately, many of the markers were destroyed when a firebreak was bulldozed along the northern part of the border. Near most of the survey points a tree was marked 'CT' above a broad arrow above the identifying number of the survey point. As the survey was done 80 years ago, most of these trees have disappeared, but Matthew rediscovered several, some with the mark still in very good condition.

**Ian McLeod**

## Plant regeneration at Googong Dam

It was interesting to be involved with the Friends of Googong Dam and Ranger, David Whitfield, in potting up very small native plants which have been raised from seeds collected in the dam area.

David is most enthusiastic about the scheme which grows plants to help regenerate the previously grazed, degraded land. Also, there are enough plants to give to other groups in Queanbeyan for planting along the waterways and in other areas. Needless to say, a good native scrub cover of the land would prevent soil erosion and siltation of the dam.

It was a case of many hands make light work when five of us potted up about 250 seedlings in two hours, one morning in December.

**Fiona MacDonald Brand**

*The potting sheds, ranger station, Googong Dam.*

*Photo by Reg Alder*



## Bob Carr: you ought'a be congratulated – for now

Bob Carr has made a good start on the world class forest reserve system he promised for NSW. The wilderness part of the decision and the creation of the Dunphy Wilderness Fund are outstanding.

So is the temporary logging ban, pending final environmental and economic assessments over three quarters of a million hectares of old growth, rainforest remnants, endangered species habitat and other high conservation forest areas most likely needed for a reserve system.

But many conservationists are deeply worried that the decision is fatally flawed by promising long term timber supply at levels which are not sustainable on current information. These reserve security promises can only be met by logging the reserve moratorium areas, immediately in some cases. After the announcements, both industry and the unions vowed to reclaim the moratorium areas.

Long term timber supply agreements must have a review clause to permit adjustment on conservation information and the

actual resources available, otherwise the decision is probably a sham, and will haunt Bob Carr's Government.

There are other major concerns about elements of the decision which NPA and other conservation groups have taken up with the Government.

Bob Carr should certainly be congratulated, for now, but stay tuned - the forest countdown campaign has a long way to go.

National Parks Journal of NSW,  
December 1966

## Hands off the prom!

Storey Hall was filled to overflowing on Sunday 1 December with more than 800 people of all ages and walks of life voting unanimously that the developments for the Prom. in draft plans released by the national Parks Service be abandoned...

The proposals to which the VNPA objects are:

- 150 bed 3-star fully serviced licensed "lodge" (read hotel) at Tidal River for commercial operation.
- 45 bed serviced "guided walker

accommodation" lodge in a remote area of Tidal River for commercial operation.

- A walking circuit incorporating new tracks from Waterloo Bay to the Lighthouse and from the Lighthouse to Oberon Bay "commercially serviced" by four "commercial huts" (or alternatively tent camps) at Horne Point, Home Cove, Halfway Hut and Oberon Bay.
- A decision regarding the lighthouse track to await "finalisation of management

arrangements for the Lighthouse" including "adequate access. The VNPA says this track should not be extended and should remain for walkers only.

- The concept of "intense development" in a greatly expanded area of Tidal river.

People Caring for Nature. Vol 15  
No 11 December, 1966.

*The Victorian Government has recently withdrawn some of these proposals – Editor*

### Bulletin Working Group

Since 1989, the Bulletin has been produced for the Association by Greenwords but now, changed circumstances, mainly financial, have caused the committee to look at alternatives. A Bulletin Working Group, made up of NPA members, has been formed and was involved in publishing this issue although Greenwords still undertook layout and preparation for printing. In the light of this experience, the procedures for publishing future issues will be re-examined.

The work of members in the production of this issue has been very valuable but if any other members would like to become involved in any capacity, I would be pleased to hear from them.

**Syd Comfort**

*Convenor, Bulletin Working Group*

## Ministers sign new Alps agreement

On 28 November 1996, the Commonwealth, Victorian, New South Wales and Capital Territory Environment Ministers re-affirmed their commitment to co-operative management in the Australian Alps national parks by re-signing the Memorandum of Understanding 10 years after the original agreement was made. The agreement now includes the recently declared Brindabella National Park, the most northerly of the Alps parks. A Strategic Plan covering the three years to 1999 was also released.

## Feral pig management in Namadgi National Park

Pigs first arrived in the ACT via a truck accident (so the story goes) near the southern border in 1959. They had spread to "Bobeyan" the following year. In 1964, they were seen in the Gudgenby area and in the Orroral valley in 1967. By the mid 1970s they had reached the Cotter valley.

The genesis of the current pig control program at Namadgi was in work done by CSIRO in the 1970s and 80s when a variety of research projects were carried out and data was collected from a large number of radio-collared animals. The scenario driving the research was an attempt to eliminate an hypothetical outbreak of foot and mouth disease. The technique killed 91% of the collared pigs. A helicopter was used to access remote areas and the kill was increased to 96-99%.

The Namadgi park-wide control program commenced in 1987 and has been carried out annually, in May, except for 1990. The program utilises the large network of fire trails within the park to distribute bait. The bait is soaked wheat used in 1kg portions. Free feeds (unpoisoned baits) are dropped at 100m intervals along the trails. The location of each bait is marked with paint sprayed on to the trail. The baits are checked daily for around two weeks.

If a free feed has been taken by a pig (which can be determined by tracks, etc.) a poison bait is laid and covered with leaf litter. The poison used is warfarin (active ingredient in Ratsak) which is an anticoagulant. Poison baits are replaced three times, as 3kg of poisoned wheat constitutes a lethal dose. At the end of the program all remaining poison baits are collected for safe disposal. A helicopter has

been used in conjunction with the trail baiting program to gain greater coverage in some areas of the park but this component was not completed last year.

The scope of the program can be gauged from figures for 1996. A total of nearly 3,400 free feeds were placed. Around 1,500 poison baits were taken giving a very rough estimate of 500 pigs poisoned.

The program as it currently runs is very successful. Jim Hone from the University of Canberra has been monitoring pig numbers by means of an index since 1985. He monitors a series of plots at regular intervals and notes the presence of pig rootings (pigs regularly rip up the ground when they feed) and pig dung. His results show a marked decline in both of these indices. The percentage of plots containing rooting and dung prior to commencing the program were 20-30% and 3-6% respectively. These have been reduced to less than 10% for rooting and 2% for dung.

These results suggest that we are reducing the number of pigs within the park. So...why do we control pigs? What sorts of impacts are they having? The impacts include:

- disturbance of the soil which may allow weeds to establish;
- selective grazing - eating the same plant species until it disappears;
- competition with native species for resources;
- reducing water quality through wallowing and removal of plant cover;
- predation on small animals and ground nesting birds and
- social impacts including negative impacts on visitors and "positive" impacts on pig hunters.

However, it is very important to recognise that there is a lack of detailed knowledge of the effects of

pigs in the Australian environment.

The basic objectives for the pig control program at Namadgi are to:

- maintain the levels of environmental impact caused by pigs and to support research which identifies and quantifies these impacts;
- maintain low rates of pig emigration to neighbouring properties;
- maintain low frequency of pig sightings by visitors and;
- maintain low attractiveness of Namadgi to pig hunters.

The pig program is entering an adaptation phase. Options for change include discontinuing the use of a helicopter, using a different bait, utilising bait stations rather than free feeding along trails, and reducing the frequency of the full program. The park is adopting an experimental management approach to the pig program which involves making small changes gradually and monitoring their effects. With this we hope to not only maintain a strong pig control program but to improve its efficiency.

**Craig Richardson**

*Ranger, Namadgi National Park*

### ACT ALIVE

Monday 17 March on  
Lawns of Old Parliament House  
Refer to Outings Program for  
details.

### Orroral Homestead

Official Opening  
Saturday April 19  
Refer to Outings Program for  
details. Don't miss it!

## Midweek walks resumed



In October, Colin McAlister led the first of a new series of midweek walks by taking us on a gentle walk at Mulligans Flat. From the north west side of the Gundaroo Road we walked towards One Tree Hill for extensive views back over Canberra. We located an early survey marker and those with a taste for fungal fruits came away with something in the daypack.

In November, David Large led a group along the fire trail from Smokers Gap to the Orroral River crossing. This was a warm day but very pleasant in the dappled shade and provided a close encounter with a pair of black cockatoos. By popular request, Mike Smith took the December walk to Compo Canyon and managed to find an interesting way to cross the Queanbeyan River.

I'm looking forward to some more midweek interludes in '97.

Syd Comfort

*Crossing the Queanbeyan River on Mike Smith's midweek walk. Photo by Max Lawrence*

## Farewell Diane Garrood

The ACT Parks and Conservation Service lost one of its most experienced and dedicated officers when Diane Garrood resigned late last year to take up a position with the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Diane had been with Parks and Conservation for about 10 years and rose to become Manager of Nature Conservation Services.

She began her career as a ranger at Jervis Bay and is returning to the south coast as Nowra District Superintendent. The District includes Morton, Budawang, Budderoo and Macquarie Pass National Parks on the eastern escarpment, Bungonia State Recreation Area further inland and Murramarang on the coast.

The NPA general meeting on 21 November last year unanimously passed the following motion: "That NPA expresses its deep appreciation to Diane Garrood for her long service to ACT parks and reserves, her

willingness to meet with us anywhere and anytime, and her fundamental appreciation of the primary role of nature conservation in our parks and reserves".

Meanwhile, another officer who has had a lot of contact with the NPA, Greg Hayes, has returned to Parks and Conservation after serving as District Manager Tumut with the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service for 14 months.



*Peter Hann, Dianne Garrood and Craig Richardson at Diane's farewell function. Photo by Len Haskew*

# BOOKS

## Book review

*Moth hunters of the Australian Capital Territory: Aboriginal traditional life in the Canberra region*, by Josephine Flood, self-published, November 1996. (price \$12.00)

As described by the author, Jo Flood, former Director of the Aboriginal Environment Branch of the Australian Heritage Commission, this booklet "gives a short description of traditional Aboriginal life in the south-eastern highlands or southern uplands of Australia". The text is a revised version of a short account she prepared in the 1980s for the then Department of Aboriginal Affairs, but never published.

Only 44 pages long, this booklet tells of Aboriginal life before European settlement and of the disastrous effects of white contact. Though short, it is packed with information, the subject headings ranging from languages and social organisation, to food quest, burial customs, clothing and habitation and on to contact history and

Aboriginal communities of the ACT today. It is claimed to be the most up to date account of Aboriginal traditional life and sites in the Canberra region, and is a very welcome addition to the history of the region.

According to the author, Canberra lay at the junction of three tribal territories: The Ngunawal of the Southern Tablelands, the Ngarigo of the Monaro Tablelands and Snowy Mountains, and the Walgalu of the Tumut Valley and high country east to the Murrumbidgee. The population in the area was never very numerous and was quickly reduced by the effects of European settlement, especially contagious diseases, from 1820s onwards. By the end of the nineteenth century the last tribal people of both the Ngunawal and the Walgalu had died, and by 1914 the last of the Ngarigo. Radiocarbon dating of a rock shelter at Birrigai in the Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve revealed that the site had been used as a camping place for 21,000 years.

There seems to be a general

paucity of information/photographs on these local Aboriginals. It will be interesting to see how much space is allowed for them in our Canberra Cultural Centre which is being quietly set up in the North Building in Civic at the moment or in the much mooted National Museum on whichever site it's finally built.

I have one complaint about this book, it has neither an index nor a list of contents. When I was trying to pick up a quick quote for this review, I found I had to go back through the book page by page. A contents page listing headings and their page numbers would have been a great help.

A short, easy-to-read book, *Moth Hunters of the ACT* is a must for anyone interested in the cultural heritage of the Namadgi National Park and nearby regions. Take a copy with you on your next packwalk up into the hills.

(Available from Wal and Joan Costanzo, 7 Ebden St, Ainslie, ACT 2602 (tel. 06 248 6146) or from ANU Co-Op Bookshop.

**Babette Scougall**

## PARKWATCH

### Beecroft bombardment

Despite its efforts to preserve the Beecroft Peninsula, ACF's Shoalhaven Branch was horrified to learn of the proposal to expand military activities there with the "Operation of Australian Defence Force Aerial Target System" in December, 1997. Beecroft Peninsula will be the site for the launch of rocket-boosted vertical take-off planes (drones) towing targets for missiles fired from ships at sea. The hot rocket casings present a serious fire risk to vegetation already suffering frequent fires associated with Defence activities.

There are various plans for the recovery of the drones. One involves parachuting the drones back to land in the heath habitat of the threatened ground parrot. In another it would plunge into the waters of Jervis Bay off Long Beach, an area of seagrass beds. Where possible towed targets would be recovered from the waters near Beecroft Peninsula.

The plans to extend military operations pose a significant environmental threat to the area.

Habitat, Vol 24 No 6 December 1996

### New Members as at 1 February 1997

John and Clare Lord and family	Fadden
Christine Owen	Ainslie
Dan and Carol Dawes	Macquarie
Helena Havu	Pearce
David Haskew	Tuross Head
Paul Dagleish and Jo-Anne Clancy	Rivett
Simon Millar	Kingston
Tony and Fiona Coles	Garran
Edward Fleming	O'Malley
Helen O'Brien	Curtin

## Best bushwalks in Kosciusko National Park

*Best bushwalks in Kosciusko National Park* by Harry Hill, Kangaroo Press 95pp \$14.95

Harry Hill, who is well known to many NPA members as guide, teller of bush yarns and campfire cook, has walked extensively in Australia, as well as New Zealand, Switzerland, Canada, USA, and Britain, firmly believes that walking in Kosciusko National Park is at least the equal of any other of these scenic places, and he has written this book to encourage Australians to see and appreciate what is in their own country. He has chosen to concentrate on the northern section of the Park (the less visited section). Most of the walks are accessible from the Snowy Mountains Highway and other well surfaced roads, and indeed could be attempted as day excursions from Canberra. On the other hand most walks begin close to population centres where accommodation is available and several could be undertaken from a base camp. All are day walks ranging from a couple of easy hours to full day excursions of 18 kilometres or so with some steep and rocky ups and downs. Harry guides walkers along fire trails, foot pads, across tussocky meadows, through stands of magnificent snowgums, along creeks and through gorges. Every walk has a major focal point which could be a magnificent view or a site of historic interest. In addition, Harry enlivens the walk with discussions of wildlife, vegetation, regional information and, most interestingly, personal anecdotes.

All the described walks begin with a note about the appropriate topographical map, as well as what walkers will see and cover, and so it is very easy to make an informed choice as to which walks should be undertaken. All walk descriptions are accompanied by two maps; a detailed "mud map" showing the

route and salient reference points and a (not to scale) sketch map showing the general topography of the area. Then follow two descriptions of the walk - a longer general description of what is seen, what is historically significant, some personal anecdotes and other matters of interesting detail, and shorter more concise detailed directions referring to numbers and other information on the mud-map. Some of Harry's descriptions are a little idiosyncratic but with the combinations of instructions walkers should have little, if any, difficulty reaching their destination (or returning to their cars). Anyone who has used Harry's excellent walking guide to the Hume and Hovell Track will realise that his instructions and descriptions are really very user-friendly.

Altogether Harry describes 18 of his favourite walks and the book is enriched with 26 colour photographs as well as 37 maps. There is information on base camp sites and road access points as well

as addresses and contact phone numbers for a variety of convenient accommodation.

Harry's enthusiasm for, and his appreciation of the area is evident right throughout the book and this makes for a good read. I am sure though that he would be most disappointed if the book didn't inspire the armchair walker to don boots and T-shirt and tackle some of the described walks.

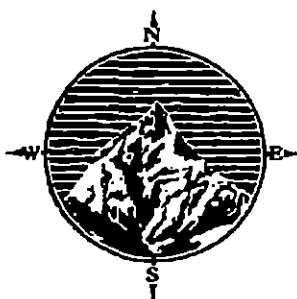
Len Haskew

### Cottage to let

Mallacoota - Mud brick cottage available. Sleeps 6-8. Adjacent bush/beach. Easy to walk to town. Abundant birdlife and wildlife. Ideal base camp for coastal walks. Reasonable rates. Contact Barbara or Chris de Bruine (06) 258 6478(w) (06) 258 3531(h).

## HIMALAYAN

Holidays



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# Calendar

Event	March	April	May	June
Bulletin Working Group Meeting		Tues 1		
Committee Meeting	Thurs 6	Thurs 3	Thurs 1	Thurs 5
Namadgi Sub-committee meeting	Tues 25*		Thurs 8	Thurs 26*
ACT Alive	Mon 17			
General Meeting	Thurs 20	Thurs 17	Thurs 15	Thurs 19
Orroral Homestead Opening		Sat 19		
Environment Sub-committee meeting	Tues 25*	Tues 22	Thur 22	Thurs 26*

\* Joint Namadgi and Environment meeting

## Further Details

Committee Meetings - Eleanor Stodart 281 5004 (h)

Namadgi Sub-committee - Robin Miller 281 5314 (h)

Environment Sub-committee - Stephen Johnston 254 3738 (h)

ACT Alive - refer to Outings Program

Orroral Official Opening - refer to Outings Program

Bulletin Working Group - Syd Comfort 286 2578 (h)

## NPA Bulletin

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## General meetings

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

**Thursday 20 March: Land of fire and ice.** Judy Webster will share with us her experiences of trekking in Iceland.

**Thursday 17 April: New additions.** A representative from the southern zone of the NSW NP&WS will tell us about the new national parks that have been declared in the area near us. He will discuss conservation problems and what the service has achieved.

**Thursday 15 May: Karakoram and the Western Himalayas.** Eleanor Stodart will talk about trekking up the Baltoro Glacier to view K2, the world's second highest mountain, and trekking in North India among greener mountains.

**Thursday 19 June: A Pinch of time: a naturalist's musings.** We all think about time; how we do so in relation to environmental matters both creates and resolves problems. An Australian natural history exploration, both light-hearted and serious, specifically designed for the NPA by Ian Fraser. Ian is a local naturalist, author, broadcaster and educator.

**Thursday 17 July: Tidbinbilla Before the Nature Reserve.** Local author and historian, Matthew Higgins, will speak on the life and times of the settlers at Tidbinbilla early this century.