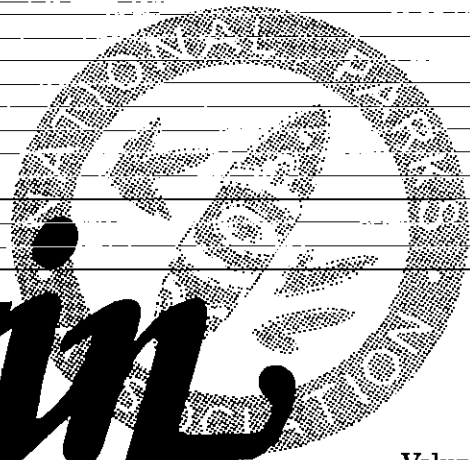


# NPA Bulletin



Volume 38 number 2  
June 2001

**NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION ACT INCORPORATED**



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**Annual general meeting**

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**Namadgi National Park agreement**

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**Walking in northern Kosciuszko**

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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.

**Office-bearers, committee and convenors**

*President* Clive Hurlstone 6288 7592(h);  
040 778 3422(w)  
*Vice President* David Large 6291 4830(h)  
*Immediate*  
*Past President* Eleanor Stodart 6281 5004(h)  
*Secretary* Len Haskew 6281 4268(h)  
*Treasurer* Mike Smith 6286 2984(h)

**Committee members**

Steven Forst 6251 6817(h) 6279 1326(w)  
Judy Kelly 6253 1859(h)  
Timothy Walsh 6285 1112(h)  
Eleanor Stodart 6281 5004(h)  
Max Lawrence 6288 1370(h)  
Neville Esau 6286 4176(h)  
Jacqui Cole 6241 9984(h)

**Convenors**

*Environment Sub-committee* David Large 6291 4830(h)  
*Outings Sub-committee* Max Lawrence 6288 1370(h)  
*Bulletin Working Group* Syd Comfort 6286 2578(h)

The NPA (ACT) office is located in MacLaurin Crescent, Chifley, next to the preschool. It is staffed by volunteers but, at present, not on a regular basis. Callers may leave phone or email messages at any time and they will be attended to. Mail from the post office box is cleared daily.

**Telephone/Fax:** (02) 6282 5813  
**Email:** npaact@asiaonline.net.au  
**Address:** PO Box 1940, Woden ACT 2606

**Membership**

New members are welcome and should enquire through the NPA office.

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

Household members \$40      Single members \$35  
Corporate members \$30      *Bulletin* only \$30  
Concession \$25

For new subscriptions joining between:

1 January and 31 March – half specified rate  
1 April and 30 June – annual subscription

**NPA Bulletin**

Contributions of articles, line drawings and photographs including colour prints are welcome and should be lodged with the office or Syd Comfort (02) 6286 2578.

**Deadline for September issue: 1 August 2001.**

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

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*Cover photo: Mike and Babette negotiating the Queanbeyan River during Mike Smith's Compo Canyon walk. Photo Max Lawrence*

# Annual general meeting

8.00pm Thursday 16 August 2001  
Forestry House, Yarralumla

Business set down for the AGM includes the President's report on progress during the year just concluding, presentation of the annual financial statements, and election of a new committee to steer us through the coming year.

All office-bearer and committee positions become vacant at the AGM so that members may be elected to the following positions: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Immediate Past President (ex-officio), and up to eight other members. Several 'veteran'

committee members have indicated that they will not be seeking re-election.

Membership of committees is both stimulating and rewarding, and offers you the opportunity to make a significant and personal contribution to conservation and the national parks movement.

Come along, have your say, get involved, and help us make a real difference in advancing the things that really matter to us. We would be pleased to discuss with you, and to arrange a nomination, if you are a volunteer. Please phone Clive (6288 7592), or Len (6281 4268), or leave a message on our answering

machine (6282 5813) for more information.

We are fortunate to have Judith Webster as the guest speaker at the AGM. Judy has made many presentations at NPA meetings and they are always interesting, informative and well received. Recently Judy has spent a lot of time walking the southern end of the Alpine Walking Track, so will entertain us with anecdotes and slides about the Track.

See you there.

**Len Haskew**  
Secretary

## A busy three months for the Environment Sub-committee

The past three months have been busy, with members of the Sub-committee completing submissions on implementation plans for Murrumbidgee River Corridor, Canberra Nature Park and Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve. A significant response to the Nature Based Tourism Strategy was forwarded to Environment ACT which, in particular, detailed our concern about the proposal to utilise Gudgenby Homestead as an accommodation facility. In this regard, we are surprised to see in the recent ACT Budget further expenditures proposed prior to there being a preliminary assessment plan developed. We are continuing to make representations about this issue.

We were concerned, also, about the manner in which the ACT Government, without notice, signed an agreement with the indigenous community for the joint management of Namadgi National Park. A further report on this issue is contained in this *Bulletin*. We had started work on developing our input to the Second Namadgi National Park Management Plan and our work will have to take account of

these changed arrangements. This submission will probably be the most significant document we produce in the second half of this year. Anyone wishing to assist in research will be made very welcome. Please contact me if you can help.

A major worry is the orchestrated and concerted activities of people opposed to the declaration of Southern NSW Wilderness areas.

You may have seen or heard about the calling of public meetings by local (NSW) political figures who take the opportunity to denigrate the work done by the NSW NPWS. This opposition is driven by populist sentiments and has no scientific base. We will need to monitor this activity closely and respond where appropriate.

**David Large**



*Group of hearing-impaired walkers who accompanied Mike Smith's NPA walk to Compo Canyon. Photo Max Lawrence*

# Namadgi National Park agreement

On April 30 an agreement between the Australian Capital Territory and two ACT native title claim groups concerning the management of Namadgi National Park, was signed in Canberra. The Chief Minister, Gary Humphries, signed for the territory and Nurri Arnold Williams and Agnes Shea signed for the Aboriginal parties. Another native title claim group did not sign this agreement. In this article I have attempted to summarise the main terms of the agreement, and in a further article Eleanor Stodart makes a commentary on it with particular reference to the NPA. The summary has been made under the three headings of general matters, long term management and interim arrangements.

## General

The agreement recognises that Aboriginal Australians have had an historical association with the ACT region which has been constrained in the last two centuries to the detriment of Aboriginal people. The parties make this agreement in a spirit of reconciliation.

There are two undetermined native title claims over the ACT before the courts and, although this agreement involves matters other than native title, the parties believe that the agreement will lead to resolution of these native title claims.

The Parties are the Australian Capital Territory and Aboriginal Parties. The agreement is not an agreement about native title but is made under section 86F of the *Native Title Act 1993* of the Commonwealth, and the parties have negotiated this agreement with a view to the withdrawal under that section, of the native title determination application. It is agreed that additional native title claim groups who are not initial signatories to this agreement may become Parties at a later date.

## Long term management

The instrument to be used to involve the Aboriginal parties in the management of Namadgi National Park is termed the Namadgi Special Aboriginal Lease. The territory offers to grant a Namadgi Special Aboriginal Lease (NSAL) over Namadgi National Park subject to all native title claims being determined or withdrawn. The Aboriginal parties will be incorporated as a statutory corporation and legislation will be developed to establish the NSAL. The NSAL will not be a lease within the meaning of the *Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991* but will be subject to negotiation to incorporate the following rights and privileges:

- acknowledgement of the Aboriginal parties as people with an historical association with the area;
- participation of the Aboriginal parties in the management of the park;
- consultation on specific Aboriginal cultural issues; and consultation on development of amendments to legislation impacting on the park.

The management arrangement to be negotiated will be on the basis of the establishment of a statutory board of management with responsibility for preparing and overseeing the implementation of a Plan of Management for the park. The board will have six Aboriginal members elected by the Aboriginal parties, and six non-Aboriginal members. There will be a process of public consultation on the detail of the NSAL.

Once there is an incorporated body representing the Aboriginal parties, the territory will consult with the management committee of that body on specific cultural issues and on the nomination of representatives of the regional Aboriginal people to attend official functions.

## Interim arrangements

Upon withdrawal by the Aboriginal Parties to this agreement of their native title claims, and until the NSAL commences, the territory agrees to implement interim arrangements for the involvement of the Aboriginal parties in the management of Namadgi National Park. (For the NSAL to be granted it is required that all native title claims be withdrawn or determined.)

An Interim Namadgi Advisory Board will be established comprising 10 members, five Aboriginal (representing the Aboriginal parties) and five non-Aboriginal, appointed by the Minister. This board must be consulted in the preparation of the draft plan of management for Namadgi National Park and in relation to any decision about consenting to particular activities in the park under section 56 of the *Nature Conservation Act 1980*. Section 56 prohibits a number of activities in a reserved area without the written consent of the Conservator, including:

- driving a vehicle off a designated road;
- camping except in a permitted area;
- erecting a building or other structure;
- supplying goods and services and using a firearm, bow and arrow or animal trap.

Where the territory wishes to consult on specific cultural issues or to extend invitations to representatives of the regional Aboriginal people to attend official functions it will do so through the Aboriginal Parties.

Syd Comfort

## Email address

The association's email address is now:  
[npaact@asiaonline.net.au](mailto:npaact@asiaonline.net.au)

# NPA briefed on Namadgi management plan

Things had gone very quiet regarding the Native Title claims to large sections of the ACT, mainly Namadgi National Park, and so the announcement in *The Canberra Times* on Sunday April 29 that an agreement had been signed by Chief Minister, Gary Humphries, and elders of the Ngannawal people seemed to come as a bolt out of the blue.

The claims were lodged before the Native Title Tribunal in October 1996 by Nurri Arnold Williams (AG 6001 of 1998) and in July 1997 by Phillip Edward Carrol (AG 6002 of 1998). NPA applied and was accepted as an interested party by the tribunal and had meetings with its representative. NPA also commissioned a report that was to explore the options for the joint management of Namadgi National Park. This report by Dermot Smyth, titled "Nourishing Namadgi", was received in mid '98. It compared the different models of joint management already in place around Australia and was distributed by NPA to anyone interested, including the ACT Government and the three different groups of Ngun(n)awal people. In 1999, in a spirit of reconciliation, the Government announced the offer of a lease of Namadgi with joint management if the different parties could come to agreement, and a genealogical study was undertaken, but agreement seemed just as far away.

Following the announcement of April 29, NPA asked for a briefing on the agreement. The agreement had been developed by the Chief Minister's Department but now that it has been signed, Environment ACT is looking after its implementation.

So, on Tuesday May 14 Clive Hurlstone, David Large and I, with representatives from the Conservation Council, had a meeting with Liz Fowler, now



*Phil Gatenby below Mount Burbidge. Photo Martin Chalk.*

Director of Environment ACT, and Terence Uren, of Environment Planning and Legislation, Environment ACT, who will be looking after the day-to-day implementation of the agreement.

We expressed concern that we had not been kept informed that progress was being made on an agreement, especially since we had been accepted by the Native Title Tribunal as an interested party. Our concern will need to be taken up with the Chief Minister's Department, but we were told that a condition of the mediation process was strict confidentiality, and that an aim had been to have the agreement signed before the meeting of the tribunal on May 4 when claims could be withdrawn allowing further progress towards implementing the agreement.

The agreement is now a public document. Excerpts from the agreement are printed on page 4 of this *Bulletin*, but the whole text is available at [www.act.gov.au/government/department/cmd/](http://www.act.gov.au/government/department/cmd/)

[com liaison/Indigenous/ATSIagreement.html](http://www.act.gov.au/government/department/cmd/com liaison/Indigenous/ATSIagreement.html). The agreement took effect on May 4, when the Aboriginal signatories withdrew their native title claim (AG 6001 of 1998).

An interim advisory board, made up of five Aboriginal representatives as defined in the agreement and five others, is to be set up. The five others to be appointed will be representative of relevant scientific expertise, heritage expertise, ecotourism, nongovernment conservation and the Conservator, but they will be appointed as individuals rather than as representatives of their field or organisation. Members of the advisory board will receive a fee but arrangements for that will not start till after the Remunerations Tribunal meets in August.

The agreement proposes that this board should be followed by the setting up of a Special Aboriginal Lease and a management board, but neither the lease nor the board can be established while the second claim (AG 6002 of 1998) remains unsettled. Don Bell has decided to proceed with the claim rather than sign the agreement. Therefore the advisory board will continue to operate until the claim is withdrawn or determined.

**Eleanor Stodart**

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

*to be held on*

**Thursday 16th August**

**at 8pm**

*at*

**Forestry House, Banks Street,**

**YARRALUMLA**

# Managing the southern region

"Managing the Southern Region" was the title of Dr Tony Fleming's address to the well-attended April general meeting of the association. Tony is currently Director of the Southern Region of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and is well known to many members as he has had a long association with our area. Tony has been a Director of the Conservation Council, a candidate for the ACT Assembly and a Ministerial Adviser. Now with NSW NPWS he is responsible for the management of 1800 sq km of parks extending from just south of Wollongong to the Victorian border and across to Holbrook and Cowra in the west.

Tony joined NSW NPWS at the time of a very significant restructure. The service was extensively decentralised with the object of making management more aware of local issues, providing local communities with a much more accessible point of contact, and dispelling community concerns that decisions were being made by an executive remote from the regions. The NPWS structure is now made up of four regional field directorates and four corporate directorates. The field directorates have their main centres at Grafton, Parramatta, Dubbo and Queanbeyan. Together, they incorporate 19 regions, made up of more than 50 areas, with offices and work depots strategically located to meet the needs of the community and to efficiently manage protected areas.

The Southern Region, headquartered in Queanbeyan, comprises four areas, Nowra (managed by Dianne Garrod), Merimbula, Jindabyne and Tumut. The region not only has a large number of national parks and reserves, but also many off-reserve conservation areas presently covered by local government and regional environmental plans. Tony has set up a division for the management of these off-reserve areas. The challenge to the service is to initiate a culture of critical management to ensure that

these valuable conservation areas are managed properly and efficiently. The Southern Region also has a Resorts Division to oversee the management of resorts in Kosciuszko National Park.

The Southern Region Comprehensive Regional Assessment (CRA) process has resulted in 320 000 hectares of new parks being added to the system. Many of these additions were formerly state forests with an entirely different management routine. Among some very significant additions are:

- Brindabella National Park – this addition closed a 'gap' between the ACT border and KNP.
- Woomargama National Park – (near Albury) the first park of this nature in the western section of the region.
- Buckenbowra/Monga National Park – this addition has added to the concept of a continuous belt of national parks along the escarpment.
- Murramarang National Park extensions and the Coastal Lakes National Parks (eg Meroo NP) are significant additions as they not only preserve valuable conservation areas, but also provide links from the coast to the escarpment. Tony recommended that we should become acquainted with these additions.

Some of the new additions pose many management challenges to the service. Previously they were managed as state forests with the many logging roads providing almost unlimited access to unrestricted camping areas. Now that they have been included in the national parks estate community expectations regarding access and use may have to be changed. This is a major public relations exercise for the service. Tony is pleased that the new areas comprise good representative eco-systems and are valuable additions to the areas managed by the Southern Region. West of the escarpment the new additions are sometimes small and scattered and consequently landholders are being encouraged to

assist with the provision of corridors. This is another management challenge and Tony believes that it will probably be a lengthy process but he is optimistic about the outcomes.

At present approximately 45 per cent of the area administered by the Southern Region is declared wilderness under the provisions of the NSW Wilderness Act, 1987 and so meets the criteria of naturalness, size and the ability to provide solitude and self-reliant recreation. The Southern Region CRA identifies a host of areas in the existing Parks or new areas that meet these criteria and thus have the option of being declared a wilderness. Wilderness declaration is a contentious issue – community views tend to be polarised, especially when traditional access is altered or prohibited, eg in Brindabella NP traditional four-wheel drive and horse riding routes could be closed. And not only would those who formerly enjoyed such access feel disadvantaged, but also another outcome could be increased use of other areas for such activities. In the Southern Region a total of 200 845 hectares have been found to satisfy the criteria for wilderness. It is up to the Government to decide which, if any, of these areas it will formally declare wilderness. The service is now seeking community views on the values of the identified areas, and their suitability for wilderness declaration. Tony urged interested people to make a submission.

The NSW Government commissioned a review by Mr Bret Walker SC following recommendations by the Coroner's report into the 1997 Thredbo landslide. The Walker Report made four key recommendations, all of which were accepted by the Government. These key recommendations are:

- to retain the ski resorts within Kosciuszko National Park, under the management of NPWS;

*continued on page 7*

# Walking in northern Kosciuszko

The very northern end of Kosciuszko, north of the Snowy Mountains Highway, is excellent walking country. Most of the sub-alpine peaks are easy to access and provide good views over extensive frost hollow plains like Long, Boggy and Nungar. By climbing to the summits of hills like Tantangara (1745m), Nungar (1710m), Nattung (1618m) and Michelago (1580m), you

get a good feel for the surrounding country with views to Tabletop, Jagungal and the Main Range in the south, the Bogong Peaks to the west, the Brindabellas in the north and Scabby and Yaouk-Bill Ranges to the east. You can also see some major intrusions on the landscape like dams and powerlines, and the damaging effects of illegal 4WD trails and feral animals like brumbies and pigs.



*Mount Nungar*



*Tantangara Mountain*

Photos and text by  
Robyn Barker

## Managing the southern region – continued from page 6

- to develop a Regional Environmental Plan to apply to the ski resorts;
- the Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning to be the consent authority for future major developments. These will be those over the value of approximately \$2 million, while the NPWS would remain the consent authority for minor developments; and
- responsibility for the Alpine Way and the Kosciuszko Road to be transferred from the NPWS to the Road Traffic Authority.

The report concluded that NPWS should retain responsibility for the ski resort villages due to their location within the park and due to their highly specialised purpose and use.

Tony is confident that planning and management will continue to emphasise conservation.

He also told us that the Government had made a decision to increase the number of beds at Perisher and that negotiations are under way to build a village centre. Tony is confident that this can be done successfully.

At the conclusion of his presentation Tony accepted questions from the audience. Questioning was very vigorous and pointed. Some concern was expressed about ski resort development but the main thrust of the questioning concerned horses within Kosciuszko National Park – both domestic and feral, with horse riding coming in for a major “caning”. Tony answered all questions thoroughly, cheerfully and politely. From both his answers and address I gained the impression that Tony was not only

on top of his job but also deeply committed to the conservation ethic. He also pointed out that the Act under which national parks are established provides for the parks to meet a recreational function as well as a conservation function. It is a statutory requirement on the service to facilitate both components. Tony also has the extremely difficult task of ensuring that the park's neighbours are satisfied with park management, and reiterated that the decentralisation of NPWS's administration was a strategy put in place to help achieve this aim.

The enthusiastic applause that carried Clive's vote of thanks indicated our appreciation of Tony's address and his obvious commitment.

**Len Haskew**

# Funding Gudgenby regeneration

In March, Eleanor Stodart, as President of the Gudgenby Bush Regeneration Group, wrote to the Minister for Urban Services, Mr Brendan Smyth, conveying some concerns about future support for the project. As readers are probably aware, the task is to regenerate to native species some 350 hectares of Namadgi previously planted to pines. Whilst acknowledging the progress made so far Eleanor drew attention to the need for funds, in particular for:

- felling of pines as ACT Forests appear unwilling to do this from their own resources;
- burning of slash as this has proved valuable for germination and weed control;
- spraying of weeds which are beyond manual control; and supervision by a dedicated Parks staff member for at least part of each year.

The text of the Minister's reply dated 26 April 2001 is reproduced below.

Dear Eleanor

Thank you for your letter received 19 March 2001 regarding the future of the Gudgenby Bush Regeneration Project.

I acknowledge your concerns regarding the continued funding of this project and wish to advise that the government is strongly committed to supporting the project and ensuring that appropriate outcomes are achieved.

I am advised that ACT Forests will continue felling operations in the near future and it is expected that felling of the remaining pine trees will take place over the next two years.

Where necessary a project officer may be appointed to manage elements of the project including slashing, burning and weed control.

I applaud the efforts of the Gudgenby Bush Regeneration Group, which has significantly contributed to the success of this project. It is encouraging to note that partnerships between government and community groups can result in such positive outcomes.

Thank you for raising your concerns with me. I trust I have been of some-assistance.

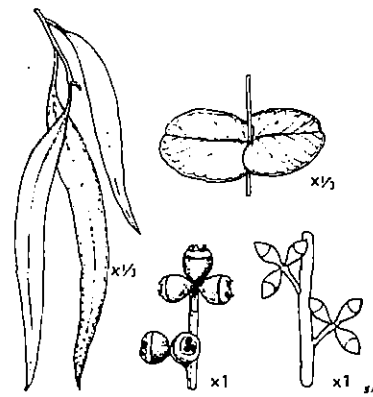
Yours sincerely

Brendan Smyth MLA

26 April 2001

Candlebark 4

*Eucalyptus rubida*



**OCCURRENCE:** Mainly on drier and lower slopes; extends down to edges of grassy plains, also into taller forests at high altitudes. Native to and planted in city area. Examples along Majura Rd N of airport. Also NSW, Vic, Qld, SA.

**FORM:** Small irregular tree 10-15 m on poor sites; straighter, tall (to 25 m) in forests; large and spreading in woodlands.

**BARK:** Smooth, creamy white, usually tinged red in late summer. Often rough at base and in strips, sometimes extensive, on trunk.

**LEAVES. ADULT:** Stalked, alternate; lanceolate, grey-green and dull. **JUVENILE:** Stalkless, opposite, round and very glaucous, may be wider than long, with a notched end.

**BUDS:** Axillary 3-flowered umbels, glaucous. Flowers Nov-Feb.

**FRUIT:** Stalkless, cup-shaped with flat or slightly domed top, protruding valves, 5-7 mm diam.

**NOTES:** Similar to *E. dalympheana* and *E. viminalis*. Distinguish by drier habitat, dull grey-green adult leaves, very glaucous juvenile leaves.

*Eucalyptus rubida* (Candlebark) has germinated well from seed broadcast during Gudgenby regeneration.. This description is taken from the NPA's publication, Field Guide to the Native Trees of the ACT.

## Vale

It is with deep regret that we record the death of association member Ken Johnson who passed away on Saturday, April 14. Ken was a draughtsman and artist of talent who was always willing to give of his time and expertise and did so for the NPA on many occasions. He was also a passionate walker with a very strong feeling for the Budawangs. In the early 80s, together with NPA life members Sheila Kruse and Olive Buckman, he was involved in a Health Department sponsored move to interest the general Canberra public in recreational walking. The success of their efforts flowed down to the Walking For Pleasure we know today. Members of the association extend their sympathy to Ken's widow, Jo, and other members of the family.

Syd Comfort



# Legal eagles for the environment

Melissa Honner, solicitor with the ACT Environmental Defender's Office, (EDO) was the guest speaker at our March general meeting. Her talk gave members an outline of the history of the EDO network, its funding and activities.

The Environmental Defender's Office (ACT) Inc. is one of a network of community legal centres across Australia which specialise in environmental law. The first EDO was established in Sydney in 1985. This Office was followed later by the opening of offices in Brisbane and Melbourne. In more recent years, following a Commonwealth Government commitment in May 1995 to fund a national network of environmental lawyers, the other states and territories have established their offices to complete the EDO network across Australia.

The EDO (ACT) was established in 1995. It is an independent community legal centre specialising in environmental law. The ACT EDO was operational by mid-1996 and has since had a productive history which has included holding environmental law workshops and seminars, successfully suggesting constructive changes to important legislation such as the Land (Planning and Environment Act), writing detailed submissions on Government proposals, eg the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, giving presentations to schools and community groups and publishing a quarterly newsletter, *EDO Talk*.

EDOs are funded by the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department under the Community Environmental Legal Program. A recent Government decision has prevented EDOs from using these funds to assist clients in environmental litigation-related activities. Nevertheless, the EDO encourages clients potentially involved in litigation-related activities or other environmental law matters to contact the EDO all the same, in order that the EDO can assess whether assistance can be provided or whether there may be

Environmental Law  
Fact Sheet 5

## Management of Public Lands

A significant part of the ACT (54%) is reserved as Public Land, which creates specific management obligations for government agencies.


**What is Public Land?**  
Public Land is reserved through the Territory Plan (see Fact Sheet 2) for one or more of these purposes:

- (A) a wilderness area;
- (B) a national park, eg. *Namadgi National Park*
- (C) a nature reserve, eg. *Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve*
- (D) a special purpose reserve, eg. *parts of the Murrumbidgee River Corridor*
- (E) an urban open space, eg. *urban parks and sportsgrounds*
- (F) a cemetery or burial ground;
- (G) a lake, eg. *Lake Tuggeranong* or
- (H) a sport and recreation reserve, eg. *Mawson Oval*

**How is Public Land Managed?**  
The *Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991* (the *Land Act*) and the *Nature Conservation Act 1980* provide for the management of Public Land.

The *Nature Conservation Act* provides for a *Conservator of Flora and Fauna* (the *Conservator*) and the *ACT Parks and Conservation Service* (the *Service*). The *Conservator* and the *Service* are given powers to regulate activities on Public Land, which is reserved for conservation purposes. The *Conservator* also has obligations to prepare a *Nature Conservation Strategy and Action Plans* for threatened species, which all have implications for the management of Public Land.

Management Plans typically deal with such issues as: protection of natural resources, including native plants and animals; protection of cultural resources, such as heritage places, visitor use; and control of pest plants and animals. They may address the involvement of *Parkcare* and *Landcare* groups in management of Public Land.

Environmental Defenders Office (ACT) Inc. 

that results from an inability to access legal services in relation to matters affecting the natural and built environment.

- To educate members of the community about the processes established by and rights under environmental laws.

- To undertake activities that will promote access to the legal system for persons seeking to protect the environment.

- The office provides free, initial advice on environmental law to members of the public.

EDO services to the ACT and

regional community include:

other means available to assist clients. Moreover, the EDO (ACT) is currently exploring other possible avenues of funding to assist in litigation-related activities, such as donations and market cost-recovery. At present the local EDO receives \$35 000 annually from the Federal Government. This is sufficient to employ Melissa three days a week and an office assistant one day per week. A grant from Environment ACT produces the newsletter. Funding in other states seems to more generous as NSW, for example, has five full-time solicitors.

The objects of the Environmental Defender's Office (ACT) are:

- To operate a community legal aid service to provide legal services on environmental and related matters to persons who cannot otherwise afford or obtain such services.
- To relieve the suffering, distress, helplessness and disempowerment

- Assisting the community to participate in environmental decision-making.
- Providing legal advice and assistance to people seeking to protect the environment;
- Presenting environmental law seminars for the community and interested professions;
- Providing community legal information, such as printed materials, fact sheets, etc;
- Researching public interest matters in environmental law;
- Promoting laws and law reforms that help protect the environment;
- Assisting the community to participate in environmental decision-making.

*continued on page 13*

# NPA reports on implementation plans

Following enquiries by Legislative Assembly Standing Committees into the Management Plans for the Murrumbidgee River Corridor and Canberra Nature Park, Environment ACT agreed to prepare Implementation Plans for reserve areas, each based on the relevant Management Plan, but setting out more specific information. The Implementation Plans were to include tasks to be performed, target dates and performance measures for the annual work programs, output statements and performance indicators. As part of the 1999-2000 Environment Grants Program, the NPA undertook to produce a report which examines how well the Implementation Plans produced to date supply detail on current management actions and budgets in parks and reserves.

The report, which was submitted to Environment ACT in mid-March, incorporated input from the Conservation Council of the South East Region and Canberra and used the results of a telephone survey of park care groups affected by the Implementation Plans. The body of the 14-page report provides supporting material for nine key points which are outlined below.

## Key points

1. Environment ACT has prepared Implementation Plans (IPs) for Canberra Nature Park, Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve, Murrumbidgee River Corridor, and the Nature Conservation Strategy but all, with the exception of the last, are well behind schedule. The approach to the IPs has varied with the result that there are three different models. Differences in the style of the Management Plans also contribute to the inconsistency of the IP models.
2. As intended, the Implementation Plans contain more planning detail than do the Management Plans but they have failed to pick up all the comments made in submissions on the Management Plans which, in Environment

ACT's response, were considered appropriate to the IPs rather than to the Management Plans.

3. Environment ACT has indicated that there is a need for still more planning. This is reflected in the commitment to specific reserve strategies for Canberra Nature Park, and site and function management strategies for Tidbinbilla. The reserve specific plans for the Canberra Nature Park in particular, need to have a strong practical focus and to be worked out in consultation with the relevant park care groups.
4. Management Plans for the Murrumbidgee River Corridor and Tidbinbilla stated that the Implementation Plans would indicate tasks to be performed, target dates and performance measures. The IPs vary considerably in how well they achieve these goals. Only the IP for the Nature Conservation Strategy has satisfactory targets. The structure of the River Corridor IP looks effective, but in practice the descriptions are not always target or performance oriented. The Tidbinbilla IP sets target dates for some actions or stages of actions while the Canberra Nature Park IP has very few targets or performance measures.
5. The Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Urban Services requested that the IPs indicate budgets. No budget is shown in the Nature Conservation Strategy IP while the IPs for Tidbinbilla and the Canberra Nature Park indicate funds available for functional areas in broad terms. The River Corridor IP has quite detailed budget figures, with an important distinction made between funds allocated to discretionary and non-discretionary items.
6. The degree to which IPs indicate priorities between actions varies. The Nature Conservation Strategy and River Corridor plans have a scoring system to give some

rational and defensible basis for allocating priorities between actions where resources are limited (for allocating funds within budgets and perhaps for indicating budget needs). Tidbinbilla and Canberra Nature Park IPs use the broad priority rating given in the Management Plans.

7. The value of the IPs as a framework for reporting also varies, with the Nature Conservation Strategy IP being most effective, then the River Corridor and Tidbinbilla, with the Canberra Nature Park being least effective.
8. The Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Urban Services requested that the IPs be public documents. However they have been made available to a limited extent only.
9. Future directions for the IP process. The preparation of IPs, rather than being just time consuming should save time later as well prepared IPs will aid efficiency in directing resources, and will also make reporting more efficient. Adoption of a three year cycle of planning, as is being used for the Nature Conservation Strategy, could increase cost efficiency. Similarly, increased efficiencies will come with incorporating the plans and reporting process into the normal annual reporting process, as planned. Experience in preparing IPs should ensure that any future Management Plans (such as Namadgi) will be written in such a way as to simplify the preparation of IPs. The Murrumbidgee River Corridor IP would make the best model for IPs which are based on a Management Plan, with wording of projects better addressing the need for reporting, and with targets for each year clearly expressed. Separating out the continuing actions from actions of a more project oriented nature could make the setting of targets much easier.

Eleanor Stodart



NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION (ACT) INCORPORATED

## NPA outings program

June – September 2001

### Outings guide

Walk gradings	Terrain grading
Distance grading (per day)	A – Road, firetrail track
1 – up to 10km	B – Open forest
2 – 10km to 15km	C – Light scrub
3 – 15km to 20km	D – Patches of thick scrub, regrowth
4 – above 20km	E – Rock scrambling
	F – Exploratory

- Day walks carry lunch, drinks and protective clothing.  
Pack walks two or more days, carry all food and camping requirements. CONTACT LEADER BY WEDNESDAY OR AS INDICATED IN PROGRAM.  
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 convenor 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 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, to the nearest dollar, of THIRTY cents per kilometre DIVIDED BY THE NUMBER OF OCCUPANTS in the car, including the driver, be offered to the driver by each passenger accepting transport. Drive and walk distances quoted in the program are approximate distances for return journeys.



#### 16 June Saturday daywalk

The Long Flat

Leader: Martin Chalk

3A/B

Maps: Colinton, Bredbo 1:25 000

Phone: 6268 4864(w), 6292 3502(h)

Meet at Kambah Village shops at 8.00am. The walk will start at the Mt Clear campground. We will travel south along Grassy Creek to the NSW border, and then follow it along to the most southerly point of the ACT. We will return along the Long Flat and generally follow the old farm track back to base. A walk through some rural history of the ACT. 160kms, \$48 per car.

#### 18 – 21 June midweek packwalk

Winter on Namadgi Peaks – Gudgenby and Sentry Box

Leader: Graham Scully

2A/C/D/E

Maps: Rendezvous Creek, Yaouk 1:25 000

Phone: 6230 3352

Starting at the locked gate at the southern end of the Old Bobeyan Road we spend the first day leisurely visiting a number of historic sites in the Naas Creek valley, setting up camp below Mt Gudgenby. On Tuesday we climb Gudgenby and return to camp. The next day we move to a new camp and climb Sentry Box. A light dusting of snow has been

arranged for both peaks. On the final day we return to our cars via a very old track, where two people buried at Bobeyan were killed in a dray accident long ago. In the event of bad weather we'll stay in the valleys and visit huts. In any case warm clothing for day and night is essential. Phone leader for details and bookings, numbers limited. 160kms, \$48 per car.

**24 June Sunday daywalk**  
**Red Rocks on the Murrumbidgee**  
Leader: Steve Hill  
1A/C/E  
Map: Tuggeranong 1:25 000  
Phone: 6231 9186

A relatively easy walk, mainly on track, but involving a little rock scrambling along the Murrumbidgee Corridor from the confluence of Tuggeranong Creek to Red Rocks. We might divert to 'the canyon' along the way (some more mild rock scrambling). This is one of the most scenic stretches of the river and, if we are quiet, we will be overwhelmed by a huge variety of native birds and kangaroos. Meet at the Urambi Hills carpark near the corner of Athllon and Learmonth Drives at 10.00am for a pleasant day. No vehicle costs.

**27 June Wednesday daywalk**  
**Parliamentary Triangle**  
Leader: Ken Free  
1A  
Map: Canberra Street Directory  
Phone: 6295 8894

A cultural walk! Meet in the carpark of the Australian Archives at East Block at 9.00am. We will take a leisurely stroll to old Parliament House to take in the Portrait Gallery. From there, depending on the interests of participants, we have a choice of the National gallery, the High Court, the National Library and the Regatta Point Exhibition. Time permitting, there is also the opportunity to visit the new National Museum of Australia. A walk designed to soak up some winter sunshine, pleasant lake foreshore views and a little bit of culture. A few dollars will be needed for places that have an entry fee (exhibitions) and for cappucinos.

**July 1 Sunday daywalk**  
**Mt Sentry Box**  
Leader: Max Lawrence  
2C/D/E  
Ref: Yaouk 1:25 000  
Phone: 6288 1370

Meet at the Kambah Village shops at 8.00am. 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, \$54 per car.

**2 - 18 July carcamping and daywalking**  
**escape**  
**Warrumbungles and Mt Kaputar National Parks**  
Leader: Graham Scully  
Phone: 6230 3352

Another chance for those of you who missed last November's great trip, or for those who just want a couple of weeks in some great country away from the Canberra winter. A car camping and day walking combination to these two spectacular national parks. The itinerary (flexible) is to drive up on 2 July, daywalk in the Warrumbungles on 3, 4 and 5 July, drive to Mt Kaputar on 6 July, daywalk 7, 8 and 9 July, and return home on 10 July. Join us for one section only if you don't have time for both.

For the Warrumbungles stage we will be staying at the property of fellow NPA members Jim and Helen Stevens, a short distance from the park boundary. They will welcome us to their excellent camping facilities, which include flushing toilet and hot shower!

Good warm clothing for day and night is essential. Phone leader for details and bookings. Up to 1400kms, \$420 per car.

**8 July Sunday daywalk**  
**Pierces Trig**  
Leader: Steve Hill  
3A/C/E  
Map: Tidbinbilla 1:25 000  
Phone: 6231 9186

A chance to rise above the fog to visit the northern end of the Tidbinbilla range. There may even be some snow scenes to enjoy. Pierces Trig offers some of the best views of Canberra and environs to be seen. We follow the steady climb of the Mounbrain creek Fire Trail to the trig and, if we are quiet, we will see lyre birds in action. We return to the car park largely the same way, but will divert to climb up the northern side of the Camels Hump for some spectacular views, mainly to the south. The walk is on track, except for some mild bushbashing to the camels Hump, and an easy rock scramble down the southern side to return to the fire trail. Meet at Kambah Village shops carpark at 8.30am. 60kms, \$18 per car.

**14 July Saturday work party**  
**Gudgenby Bush Regeneration Group**  
Contact: Eleanor Stodart, Syd Comfort  
Phone: 6281 5004 (Eleanor), 6286 2578 (Syd)

Meet at Namadgi Visitor Centre Tharwa at 9.15am, or Yankee Hat carpark at 10.00am. Weeding, wilding removal or other work for rehabilitation of the Boboyan pines area. Tools will be provided.

**15 July Sunday daywalk**  
**Mt Nungar**  
Leader: Max Lawrence  
1B  
Map: Tantangara 1:25 000  
Phone: 6288 1370

Mt Nungar is a notable peak just to the east of the road into Tantangara Dam from the Snowy Mountains Highway. After a steady 400 metre climb through open bush we should be in the snow, and weather permitting, enjoying some great winter mountain scenery. This is not a difficult walk, but arrangements will depend on road and weather conditions at the time. Ring leader for bookings and details. 300 kms, \$90 per car.

**21 July Saturday daywalk**  
**Deadmans Hill**  
Leader: Rob Forster  
2A  
Maps: Corin Dam, Williamsdale 1:25 000  
Phone: 6249 8546

Meet at Kambah Village shops at 8.30am. Starting from Honeysuckle carpark a very pleasant walk through new section of the Alpine Walking Track to Booroomba Rocks carpark, then on old firetrail to Deadmans Hill for lunch and view. Return same route. 80kms, \$24 per car.

**25 July daywalk**  
**Wednesday walk**  
Leader: Col McAlister  
Phone: 6288 4171

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

**28 July Saturday daywalk**  
**Orroral Circuit**  
Leader: Steven Forst  
2A  
Map: Rendezvous Creek 1:25 000  
Phone: 6251 6817(h)

A walk from Orroral Campground up the track to Orroral Homestead and the tracking station site and beyond, returning on the other side of the river. Meet at Kambah Village shops at 8.30am. 70kms, \$21 per car.

### 29 July Sunday daywalk/shuffle

A winter walk on snow shoes to the Paralyser

Leader: Brian Slee

1B (in snow)

Map: Mt Kosciuszko 1:50 000

Phone: 6281 0719(h)

Our first snowshoe walk. Need to be fit, but snowshoe experience not necessary. Snowshoes (worn with ordinary boots) can be hired from Jurciewicz (Fyshwick) and Wilderness and/or Paddy Pallin (Jindabyne). From Guthega climb on to the Paralyser from Farm Creek and follow ridge to trig point and beyond. Superb views of Main Range and Perisher. Early start (to secure parking) and early finish. Book early with leader, bearing in mind that walk will be dependent on favourable weather outlook. 430kms, \$129 per car, plus \$15 for vehicle without permit.

### 5 August Sunday daywalk

Honeysuckle to Visitors Centre

Leader: Barbara Edgar

3A

Maps: Corin Dam, Williamsdale 1:25 000

Phone: 6230 5685

Meet at Kambah Village shops at 8.30am. Walk from the Honeysuckle carpark back to the Namadgi Visitors Centre along the Alpine Walking Track, including the new section between the Honeysuckle and Booroomba Rocks carparks. Nearly all downhill with the notable exception of a stiff climb from Bushfold up to the Tennent ridge. Car shuffle. 80kms, \$24 per car.

### 11 August Saturday work party

Gudgenby Bush Regeneration Group

Contact: Eleanor Stodart, Syd Comfort

Phone: 6281 5004 (Eleanor), 6286 2578

(Syd)

Meet at Namadgi Visitor Centre Tharwa at 9.15am, or Yankee Hat carpark at 10.00am. Weeding, wilding removal or other work for rehabilitation of the Boboyan pines area. Tools will be provided.

### 12 August Sunday daywalk

Honeysuckle Creek area

Leader: Mike Smith

2 B/C

Reference: Corin Dam 1:25 000

Phone: 6286 2984

Meet at Kambah Village shops at 8.30am. Starting from Apollo Road about 2 Km before the tracking station, a climb of some 400 metres will take us to the ridge running to the SW and ending at spot height 1364 metres. From here we will walk down the un-named flats (portion 23) for lunch. Return to cars will be via Spinnaker Rocks and the firetrail. 60 kms, \$18 per car.

### 19 August Sunday daywalk

Upper Rendezvous Creek

Leader: Ken Free

2A/C

Map: Rendezvous Creek 1:25 000

Phone: 6295 8894

Meet at Kambah Village at 8.30am. From Nursery Swamp carpark in Orroral Valley we walk on track to Nursery Creek, and then across a low saddle to Rendezvous Creek. We then proceed off track upstream to some very pleasant flats. Return by same route. 80kms, \$24 per car.

### 22 August daywalk

Wednesday walk

Leader: Ken Free

Phone: 6295 8894

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

### 23 – 27 August packwalk

Kowmung River

Leaders: Max Lawrence and Wayne Veide

3A/C/E/F

Maps: Kanangra, Yerranderie 1:25 000

Phone: 6288 1370 (Max), 02 6553 4351

(Wayne, at Wingham)

A three day packwalk and a day's driving at either end. On day 1 an 850m descent over 16kms on the Uni Rover Trail to the Kowmung. Day 2 is a 10km walk along the river to the junction with Christys Creek, with a possible visit to Church Creek caves along the way. Day 3 is an 800m ascent over 14kms up the Colboyd Ridge back to Kanangra. A tough walk in rugged and steep country, but the scenery should make it all worthwhile. Numbers limited, phone leader early to ensure a booking. Approx 800kms, \$240 per car.

### 25 August Saturday daywalk

Long Point

Leader: Steven Forst

2A/B

Map: Caoura 1:25 000

Phone: 6251 6817

Meet at the netball centre just past the Dickson traffic lights on Northbourne Avenue at 8.00am. Drive to Long Point near Marulan, then walk down a track into the Shoalhaven Gorge. Excellent views of the river on the way down. Lunch on a sandy beach. A long haul back up to the cars. 250kms, \$75 per car.

### 26 August Sunday daywalk

The Pimple

Leader: Steve Hill

3A/C/E

Map: Tidbinbilla 1:25 000

Phone: 6231 9186

A day of fabulous views and a huge variety of life (including rare vegetation) on a quite rugged mountain range right at our door step. We climb to Snowy Corner from the top of the Lyrebird Trail, and then to Tidbinbilla Mountain for a 360 degree view. On to The Pimple for great views into the rugged Corter Valley. Home via Tidbinbilla Peak and Mountain Creek Fire Trail. The walk is mainly off track. There is no serious bushbashing, but it is a long day with lots of climbing, so you need to be fit. Meet at Kambah Village shops carpark at 8.30am. 60kms, \$18 per car.

### 29 August daywalk

Wednesday walk

Leader: Mike Smith

Phone: 6286 2984

NPA has two midweek walks this month. Phone leader for details, which will be determined nearer the date.

### 1 September Saturday daywalk

Parliamentary Gardens and Calthorpes House

Leader: Col McAlister

1A

Map: Canberra Street Directory

Phone: 6288 4171

A pleasant stroll from Garran over Red Hill saddle to the gardens of Old Parliament House, where we will be taken on a guided tour. Return via gardens at new Parliament House and a guided tour of Calthorpe's House. Meet at end of Brereton Street Garran at 8.30am. 0kms, \$0 per car. Fees at Old Parliament House and Calthorpe's House.

### 8 September Saturday work party

Gudgenby Bush Regeneration Group

Contact: Eleanor Stodart, Syd Comfort

Phone: 6281 5004 (Eleanor), 6286 2578

(Syd)

Meet at Namadgi Visitor Centre Tharwa at 9.15am, or Yankee Hat carpark at 10.00am. Weeding, wilding removal or other work for rehabilitation of the Boboyan pines area. Tools will be provided.

9 September Sunday daywalk  
Mt Gingera and Brumby Flat  
Leader: Steve Hill  
3A/E

Map: Corin Dam 1:25 000  
Phone: 6231 9186

A chance to visit Mt Gingera with a difference. We start with the usual walk from Ginini carpark to the southern Gingera summit (1857) and its great views. Then we drop down a short way to a beautiful, secluded alpine frosty hollow to the west called Brumby Flat. We visit some ancient snow gums and then find our way to a quite spectacular viewpoint just below the northern summit (1847), before we drop down to Priors Hut. The walk is partly offtrack, but no serious bushbashing is involved. Meet in the carpark off Uriarra Road near its junction with the Cotter Road at 8.30am. 150kms, \$45 per car.

15 – 16 September weekend packwalk  
Coronet Peak

Leader: Phil Gatenby  
3A/C/D/E

Maps: Coronet Peak, Rendezvous Creek  
1:25 000

Phone: 6254 3094

Although not as high as many of the nearby peaks there are great views from the top of Coronet Peak. The walk to the peak starts and finishes in the the Orroral Valley. It will also involve exploring some of the other sights of the upper Cotter valley. For bookings contact leader by Wednesday 12 September. 85kms, \$25 per car.

16 September 2001 Sunday daywalk  
Bungonia Tops

Leader: Col McAlister  
1A/B

Map: Caoura 1:25 000  
Phone: 6288 4171

An easy loop walk taking in the three main lookouts with breathtaking views (Bungonia Lookdown, Jerrara Lookout and Adams Lookout). A side trip to view Bungonia Gorge and the Shoalhaven Gorge from Mt Ayre. Time and energy permitting, an optional side trip towards Jerrara Falls and Bungonia Falls. Meet at 8.00am at the Netball Centre carpark, Northbourne Avenue Lyneham. 220kms, \$72 per car (including \$6 park entry fee).

22 – 23 September weekend carcamp  
The Rock and Galore Hill

Leader: Col McAlister  
1A

Phone: 6288 4171

On Saturday morning drive to The Rock via Wagga Wagga, and climb 'the rock' (about 365m above the surrounding plains) in the afternoon. Drive on to Lockhart where we will spend the night at the caravan park or other accommodation. On Sunday morning climb Galore Hill (215m above the plains) and return to Canberra in the afternoon, perhaps by a different route. Opportunity for other visits such as Monte Cristo homestead at Junee, Bradmans birthplace at Cootamundra, and the motor museum at Binalong. Phone leader for details and bookings before 9 September. Approx 650kms, \$195 per car.

29 September – 1 October long weeked  
packwalk

Mt Talaterang

Leader: Steven Forst  
2/C/D/E

Reference: CMW Budawangs

Phone: 251 6817 (h)

Contact leader by Wednesday 26 September. After a long drive with stops at Fitzroy Falls and Cambewarra Mountain, an easy two and a half hour walk to camp at the top of Ngaityung Falls – a spectacular spot with views into Pigeon House Gorge. Next day walk to Mt Talaterang with daypacks, returning to campsite. Return to Canberra Monday. 400 kms, \$120 per car.

## Better than a country mile

While looking for the Jack Lovelock Track outside Fairlie in New Zealand's South Island recently I heard an expression new to me.

I called at a farmhouse to inquire whether I was getting close to the signposted track and was told by a cheerful woman that while she didn't know how far it was in kilometres, it was "three paddocks up".

She was dead right too.

Graeme Barrow

## Outings car travel

The May walks meeting discussed the rate of suggested donation to drivers of cars offering transport for association outings. Noting the continuing rise in the cost of fuel it was agreed that the suggested rate should be raised to 30 cents per kilometre. The formula by which this amount is divided by the number in the car (including the driver) to determine the individual donation, has been retained.



# An urban pioneer

"An urban pioneer" is the name given to me in the National Museum of Australia display concerning my home building during the 1940s at North Epping.

William Chorley, who owned an exclusive menswear shop near Wynyard, Sydney, bought the whole of the present suburb of Cheltenham which had been subdivided into 10-acre blocks. It was known as the Chorley Estate. A covenant placed on each block excluded the building of shops, hotels, etc and stipulated the design and use of building materials during development.

By the 1930s all of the land except for one block had been sold and further subdivided. This remaining block had been retained at 10 acres because a high cliff prevented the building of an access road.

It was suggested to me in 1943 that this bush block of 10 acres, with a creek frontage of 1000 feet, would be a good buy at £95 if I could somehow make it accessible. There was a poultry farm above the block and I managed to persuade the owner to sell me an unused corner with a street frontage for £35.

I selected a house site on a flat rock outcrop with shallow soil and cleared the low scrub from it, but the real task was to build a 900ft road. This involved gathering 600 cubic yards of soil and rock from the house site to build it. The first wheelbarrow load over a cliff, which only dusted the ground, showed the enormity of the task.

To cut travel time, I built an iron shack 16ft x 12ft and lived in it for five years with only a water supply from the farm above. From this I built the road, a rock-walled garage and a cavity brick house of 12½ squares.

It was nearly all in vain. The Cumberland County Council launched their Master Plan in 1948 for the future development of Sydney and put it on public display for three months. I made an early check and found the purpose of my block unchanged. A friend called later to say my block had been "Green



*An urban pioneer – National Museum of Australia. Photo Reg Alder*

Belted"! A change had been made during the course of the exhibition – this meant my house could not be built. From letters to the Premier I learned that prior to the master plan becoming law, building could progress provided plans had been approved and building completed up to floor level. Hastily acquired bricks allowed this requirement to be met and after a delay of 12 months awaiting brickyard bricks the real construction started.

A move away from Sydney for five years meant that my dream house had to be sold but not before another battle with the bureaucracy to allow a subdivision to be made. On this block I subsequently built another house, again mainly by my own efforts.

Let me dispel any ideas that I used the chain saw to clearfell my 10 acres. Because of the rock slabs, only marginal clearing was required around each house: the saw was used to cut firewood from dead or fallen timber. Sixty years of observation have shown the bush on the block is now denser and higher than when I first saw it. Weed control is good through leaving leaf litter on the ground. In one area flannel flowers have bloomed continuously over the years. Unfortunately privet carried down the creek has heavily infested its banks and the large pool in which I once swam is now silted and badly contaminated.

**Reg Alder**

# Violent times on Milford Sound

What proved to be a wild experience on Milford Sound in New Zealand's Fiordland recently was far removed from the publicity pictures of rippling waters and mountains sharp and clean against a deep blue sky. Instead the waters were grey and choppy, clouds hung low, rain pelted down, and screaming gusts of wind buffeted our cruise boat, the *Milford Wanderer*.

Dozens of waterfalls cascaded down mountainsides and one, Bowen Falls, was a gigantic white bulge. The whole violent scene was a spectacular sight and although I missed seeing the famous Mitre Peak, it was still a dramatic outing to relish.

Our skipper decided to abort the 2½-hour journey after about 45 minutes when he considered the conditions too dangerous to continue. Clinging to a deck rail and thinking that if I relaxed my grip I'd be whirled instantly into the sound, I simultaneously agreed with him while regretting we could not go on.

I had heard of the phenomenon of waterfalls heading uphill, but on Milford Sound that day I witnessed it with my own eyes. The gusts were so fierce that several falls were truncated, their mass being flung backwards.

Earlier, on a bus trip from Te Anau, the stepping-off point for Milford Sound, the downpour had created scores of remarkable waterfalls either side of the Homer Tunnel, some snake thin, others metres wide. This spectacle must occur often because the Milford Sound region is drenched by 7m of rain a year. But when the rain stops, the thundering cataracts dry up within an hour – according to our coach driver.

I had stopped at Te Anau on my way to Stewart Island to experience Milford Sound and also Doubtful Sound. It was with relief that the weather improved and the three-stage trip to Doubtful Sound next day could occur in calm conditions. First, there is an hour-long journey down beautiful Lake Manapouri to

West Arm, followed by a bus trip through cool temperate rainforest to Deep Cove where the third stage, the actual cruise, begins.

On the way to Deep Cove, the bus detours to take visitors down a spooky 2km tunnel, hacked out of granite, into the heart of the Manapouri electric power scheme deep inside a mountain. Years ago there was a public outcry over a plan to raise Lake Manapouri by 30m for extra power generation and this protest is reckoned as marking the birth of the conservation movement in New Zealand.

The flooding would have destroyed lakeside forests and pristine islands (Manapouri has 33 of them), but luckily the plan was abandoned. This was after Parliament received a petition with 265 000 signatures protesting against the plan, and it had become an election issue.

I found Doubtful Sound to be a lovely fiord. Mountains rose steeply from the water's edge, their flanks thick with native bush. Bright sunlight, penetrating cloud, created shafts of gold across the slopes. Unlike the previous day at Milford, the waters of the sound were placid. There's a resident pod of dolphins and in keeping with the balmy conditions they cavorted joyfully, leaping and twisting as if staging a display for our special benefit.

Towards the end of the three-hour cruise, the boat's engines were cut and we drifted in silence except for the splash of waterfalls and the lapping of water against the hull. Looking out at water, forest and mountain I thought that this scene, quiet and serene, must have been unchanged for centuries and wondered what the New Zealand Maori and then the first European explorers must have thought of it.

My reverie, which was verging on the spiritual, was shattered from down below by the sudden raucous bellowing of "C'mon Aussie, c'mon!" I gazed shamefaced at the deck as my fellow passengers mumbled and tittered. Dreamy meditation broken, our skipper restarted the catamaran

and we chugged back to Deep Cove.

Foveaux Strait, which separates Stewart Island from the South Island, is not for the faint-hearted when the weather is foul. But fortunately conditions were tranquil as we – backpackers, tourists and locals – dashed across in another catamaran, the 35km-journey from Bluff taking about an hour.

I thought the vista of gentle seas and timbered islands even more beautiful than the Bay of Islands in New Zealand's north. My stay was brief, just two days, but in that time I was able to make two 10km walks through rainforest and drier bush while enjoying gorgeous coastal views of bays and islands.

Best of all was a kiwi-spotting expedition by torchlight, initially by boat followed by a saunter through the bush and a silent walk up and down Ocean Beach on which kiwis forage. Only two Stewart Island kiwis, brown and small, the female larger than the male, were seen, but the total experience, ghostly in the darkness of early night, was one to savour.

Kiwis have no human predators on Stewart Island where 20 000 birds are said to exist. The same cannot be said for the sooty shearwater or muttonbird, which nests on what are known as the Titi Islands. Maoris have eaten muttonbirds for centuries and this traditional industry remains protected. In a "good season" 200 000 to 300 000 birds are harvested, but it is claimed that numbers are "seemingly unaffected" by this extraordinary kill. How can this be?

**Graeme Barrow**





## WILDLIFE AT THE PROM.

NPA walk

March 2001

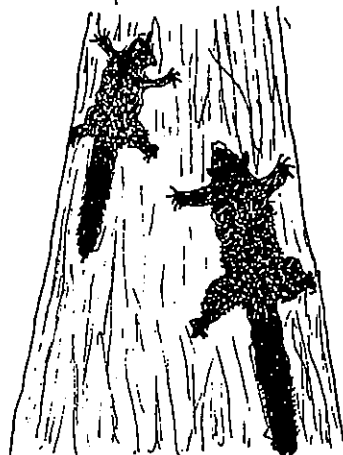
The first four days.

Day 1. - to Sealers Cove  
Camped under tall trees surrounded by ferns



Superb blue wrens hopped all around us catching insects. One school group.

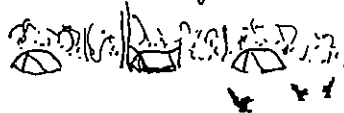
Brush-tail possum entered Eleanor's tent. Only left when hit.



Mother with young as seen through tent flap - she's already teaching her offspring to steal campers' food!

Day 2 - to Little Waterloo Bay  
More wrens.

Even more teenagers.



Day 3 - to Roaring Meigs via Lighthouse

Excellent viewing rock on way had leeches lying in wait.



Large school group just beat us into Roaring Meigs. Had to camp down near the creek. Rained.

Small brown mammal ate hole in Kathy's tent then chewed another to get out (with food).

Larger mammal (water rat) after Ross's food.



Scrub wrens darted amongst our feet picking up crumbs, and chased each other across the campsite.

Day 4 - to Oberon Bay

The closer we got the more bull ants we saw on the track. Some black, some brown.

Nothing else to do but camp amongst them. Live + let live!



Teenagers everywhere, too. The ants went to bed at dark but the teenagers played hide + seek + smoked in the bushes. European wasps appeared in the morning. E.S.

## Canberra Alive 2001

Canberra Alive this year was held on the later date of Sunday, March 19 and in Glebe Park rather than on the lawns in front of Old Parliament House. The National Parks Association was there bringing itself before the Canberra public once more. The President would like to extend his thanks to the members who gave their time to staff the NPA booth.

### Updating NPA's display

At ACT Alive this year it was quite clear that our display is in urgent need of updating.

I have undertaken to form a working group to do this, but we will also need new photos of wildlife, landscape and cultural heritage in Namadgi, and NPA activities. Could anyone who has suitable photos, or would like to take some, please contact me on 6281 5004.

Eleanor Stodart

### Production of the Bulletin

Greenwords, now Green Words and Images, has been involved with the production of this publication since the firm was founded by Roger Green over 12 years ago. In April the ownership changed hands and is now with Paul and Kathie Hely. Roger will continue an involvement with the firm and NPA will remain a customer.

## Legal eagles for the environment - continued from page 9

The EDO's overall work is directed by an elected committee consisting of concerned environmentalists, lawyers and other professional and interested persons. The Committee meets bimonthly. From the committee, a small and dedicated team forms the executive, which meets fortnightly to consider day-to-day issues. The Chair of the Committee is Sally Petherbridge.

Volunteers assist Melissa with the administration of the office and with legal research as required and under her supervision. They also undertake important tasks such as staffing stalls to promote the EDO at community events, accompanying Melissa to

community events to explain environmental issues of concern, writing papers, submissions and articles, rallying the Friends of EDO, producing a quarterly newsletter, organising meetings and planning days and other important matters. Volunteers are always welcome!

The ACT EDO has produced an *Environmental Law for Citizens Handbook*, and recently launched a booklet of *Environmental Law Fact Sheets* which cover a wide range of topics to assist citizens, conservation groups and regulatory authorities. (Melissa left copies of these *Fact Sheets* with NPA).

If you ever have wondered how to:

- Object to a development application;
- Contribute to environmental assessment processes;
- Apply to the Heritage Council to have a place listed on the Register;
- Contribute to nature conservation;
- Or perhaps you may be just worried about the pollution from your neighbor's barbecue;
- then you might like to contact Melissa on 6247 9420 (an answering machine is there when the office is closed) or by email [edoact@effect.net.au](mailto:edoact@effect.net.au).

Len Haskew

# Protecting and insuring your camping gear

*This article is copied from the September, 2000 edition of Parkwatch, the journal of the Victorian National Parks Association. Recent experiences of some of our members and the reporting of similar experiences in journals such as The Sydney Bushwalker and in threats on the internet news group, aus bushwalking suggest that thefts from and damage to cars is becoming more prevalent. The VNPA article was written by Justine Block, Social Activities Coordinator on the BWAG Committee, and offers practical advice on minimising theft from your vehicle.*

*The article is reprinted with the permission of VNPA.*

John and Ruth Stirling recently planned a 7 day camping trip in Kanangra-Boyd National Park, NSW. The day before leaving they were parked in Manly. Their car window was smashed and their camping gear, worth \$3000, was stolen. One of the pitfalls of spending a day or several days in the bush is the security of the car you leave behind. However, there are simple steps you can take to minimise the risk of break in. And if you are not so lucky, you can also take steps to ensure you are doing all you can to claim on insurance.

## What to do to prevent theft

### Make sure you secure your car.

At Wilson's Prom, Park Rangers constantly run security checks of the car parks in the area. While not common, Sandy Brown, Park Ranger at Wilsons Prom, has seen a variety of break-ins including smashed windows and picked locks. "But believe it or not", says Sandy, "lots of people leave vehicles unlocked and windows open." So make sure that you double check your car is locked before heading off on your walk.

### Don't leave any valuables in the car.

If possible, do not leave anything of value inside the car, glove box, or boot. If you have to leave gear in the car, make sure it is kept out of sight. Some people leave the glove box open with no valuables inside and hide valuables under the car seats. Craig Gillard, Sergeant at Halls Gap police station, says, "Seeing gear is an invitation. People leave cameras, CDs, backpacks in the car and someone just has to punch a window and grab it."

### Park in designated areas.

If possible, park in designated camping areas. During busy times at Wilsons Prom, such as weekends, there are more people around and security checks are done several times a day. Sandy Brown and his colleagues not only check the security of cars but also make sure that everyone has a legitimate day pass. For areas that don't have allocated car parks, ask for advice at the local Parks Victoria office or police station. For instance, Craig Gillard recommends that campers park opposite the police residence in Halls Gap.

### Do not leave notes for fellow walkers on your car.

If friends are meeting you for your walk, don't leave notes on your windscreen giving details of your plans. Sandy Brown says "this provides a great opportunity for the less than honest person." There are times, however, when you are required to fill out your plans in an Intentions Book. Gill Anderson, Park Ranger, Alpine National Park, Bright says that is not necessary to leave your registration number in the intentions book if you are concerned about security. "However," she says, "it is vital that you still leave your name and contact details. You can then leave your registration number with a person who will be contacted in case of an emergency."

## What to do if you are robbed

You have done all the right things, but your car is still robbed. What do you do next? The first thing is to check if there is any evidence around or in the car that the police can use to investigate the break in. Craig Gillard of the Hall Gap police says, "if possible, drive to your nearest police station and point out any evidence that may be in the car or let the police know of any evidence about the scene of the crime." Be careful not to touch any potential fingerprints on the windows or the interior of the car. If you have a camera, take a photograph of any damage to the car. This will help in claiming insurance. It is also essential to obtain a police report if you are making a claim. In Victoria, you must attend the police station in person to get a police report.

Ruth and John Stirling did all the right things. Their car was securely locked. Their valuables were out of sight behind a blind pulled across their gear in their station wagon. They were parked in a well-lit area in Manly when the robbery occurred and they contacted the police after the robbery. The gear that was stolen included their tent, pack, clothing, navigation equipment, comprehensive first aid kit, sleeping bags and stove. Their next step was to contact their insurance company.

## What to do to insure your gear

Insurance policies to cover belongings outside the home range widely depending on the company you are insured with. Before leaving for any trip it is worthwhile following these steps:

*continued on page 15*

# On climbing mountains

In his classic book *The Spirit of the Hills* published in 1933, Frank S. Smythe, the British climber, devotes a whole chapter to the physical aspects of climbing. For Smythe the word 'hills' covers the lowest in Britain to the highest in the Himalayas.

He contends that physical power does not make a good climber unless it is supported by the mental capacity to endure the physical strain caused by the extreme effort, altitude and hot or cold conditions. There have been many examples of ordinary, weak persons performing outstanding feats of endurance and it would appear that one is able consciously or subconsciously to transmute nervous energy into physical energy.

Our mountains, though not as high as the Himalayan massifs, are of a steepness and roughness which when coupled with extremes of temperature can make severe demands on the fittest. Even on comparatively low Kosciuszko it is not unknown for persons to succumb to the effects of altitude on the first couple of days before becoming acclimatised.

One thing common to both physical and mental energy is rhythm. Nothing is less conducive

to a successful climb than making the body climb without rhythm. Jerky movements, sudden bursts of speed, gasping lungs, frequent stops and a variable output of energy can denote a variable rhythm. On this score alone an otherwise strong person may fail when put to the test.

Rhythm does not necessarily imply slowness, but at the same time few can move both quickly and rhythmically because the quicker movements are, the more difficult it is to make them conform to a rhythm. It is better to go slowly and to keep going than to go fast or rest at intervals.

The question is often asked "what makes a good climber?" and the answer is expected to include abstinence from smoking and alcohol allied to a rigorous training schedule. It is fallacious to suppose that work in which the first requirements are the right mentality, stamina, rhythm and skill, will be greatly assisted by abstinence. Moderation in all things is the only training worthwhile for mountaineering. To be able to run a hundred yards, a mile or 10 miles in good time does not in the least qualify a person physically to climb a mountain.

Nevertheless, a person needs to be fit within limits. If one's breath cannot be held for half a minute or the pulse is abnormally high it is possibly safe

to say that the person would not be as good as one who is normal in both of these respects.

Another curious fallacy is that mountaineers should be broad and brawny. Developing muscles may result in an increase of physical strength but a product of physical culture may be, more often than not, pitiful spectacle on a difficult climb. The fact that one person is physically stronger than another counts for little once on a mountain. Endurance is the most important quality and is usually dependent on the power-weight ratio. In this, a lighter person, on average, is capable of more energy over a longer period per pound of body weight than someone heavier. Lightness and lissomness are of greater value in mountains than heaviness and muscular strength.

When the body is fit and the nerves and muscles are able to ensure that the demands made on them are being met, climbing to the top of a mountain becomes a great joy. Tiredness from such an experience is a sensation of happiness, goodwill and satisfaction with life.

(Extensively abridged and with slight additions)

**Reg Alder**

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## Protecting and insuring your camping gear - *continued from page 14*

### **Call your insurance company before you leave home.**

Ask for details on your insurance policies in relation to property outside the home. They may be covered either by car insurance or contents insurance. Often car policies will include damage or theft for items that are fixed in the car such as car stereos, broken windows and so on. Belongings that are not part of the car are usually covered by contents insurance. Your gear may be covered under a standard contents policy but most often you will need

to pay for "Extras" cover. Make sure that your Extras cover includes camping gear as some companies only insure valuables such as jewellery, cameras and electronic equipment.

### **Make a detailed checklist of all your belongings.**

It is often difficult to remember exactly what gear you have. It is useful to make a detailed list of your belongings. In the case of a robbery, insurance claims are more easily verified if you have a record of gear that has been stolen.

### **Keep receipts and take photographs of all your gear.**

This might sound laborious but it only needs to be done once and filed. This level of preparation helps make claims on insurance policies much easier.

Ruth and John heeded the precautions and prepared well before they left home. While this did not prevent the robbery, it helped in resolving the difficulties they experienced after the event.

**Justine Block**

# PARKWATCH

## **Environmental flow saves waterbirds**

Up to 4000 breeding waterbirds were the target of an environmental release of 340 000 megalitres (about two-thirds the volume of Sydney Harbour) from Hume Dam on the Murray River in December and January. The release is the largest dedicated environmental flow in Australia's history. About a dozen species of egret, cormorant, herons and others started building their nests in redgum trees in the internationally recognised Barmah-Millewa Forest following the largest flood in ten years in spring last year.

The flood was the best for waterbirds since the 1970s. For the first time in a quarter of a century, four species of egrets were breeding in the forest. However dams and extractions for irrigation upstream threatened to cause river levels to fall before the chicks had fledged, and the environmental release was used to ensure the breeding event was a success. However, the environmental release from Hume Dam at Albury was probably too cold for breeding for listed threatened native fish species such as silver perch and catfish. ACF is campaigning for the construction of off-take towers that will allow warm surface water rather than cooler bottom water to be released from the Hume Dam.

*habitat, February 2001*

## **Wild life sacrificed to ferals**

The cessation of killing horses in the Guy Fawkes National Park means that their numbers will increase once more, destroying native flora and depriving native fauna of sustenance. The damage to the river flats of the Macleay Gorges, caused by cattle and brumbies, was described in our last bulletin. If the policy of not destroying feral animals is extended to pigs, wild dogs, foxes, rabbits and other pests, few native animals will be seen in national parks. It is of course quite in order for landowners to kill these animals on their own properties.

A reverse policy has been adopted in W.A. In the NPA (ACT) December newsletter, Stephen Johnston reports that, as a result of extensive aerial fox baiting, there has been such a marked recovery of native species that three endangered species – the bettong, the quenda and the tammar wallaby – have been removed from the threatened register.

*The Colong Bulletin, January 2001*

## **Large scale housing unlikely in Jerrabomberra Valley**

The ACT Government has ruled out the likelihood of future large scale residential development in the Jerrabomberra Valley.

Originally earmarked as the next Town to be developed after Gunghalin, the Jerrabomberra Valley was found to be home to several threatened species and communities including the earless dragon, the legless lizard, yellow box, red gum, and natural temperate grassland.

'More than 475 hectares of land at Jerrabomberra Valley will be reserved for the threatened species,' said Tony Adams from PALM. 'A further 415 hectares has been identified as having high conservation values, which means any development would have to be low impact and compatible with conservation needs. Development would be possible, subject to normal planning processes, on a further 460 hectares.'

Future uses possible at Jerrabomberra could include community uses, broadacre institutional and commercial activities telecommunications and aviation facilities, some tourist facilities and low impact agriculture such as grazing.

*PALM, Summer 2001*

## **New reserves on the Comboyne and Landsdowne escarpments**

Prior to the recent Lower North East Regional Forest Agreement, the Manning Region – centred on Taree on the Mid North Coast of NSW – was particularly poorly endowed with nature conservation reserves,

existing national parks and nature reserves barely covering 2% of the land area. With the enactment of the Forestry and National Park Estate Act 1998, a number of new national parks and nature reserves were established in the region, bringing the proportion in reserves to a more respectable 10%.

Among the new additions are four natural gems that dominate the spectacular escarpment fringing the Comboyne Plateau and the nearby Landsdowne Valley. The four are Coorabakh National Park, Killabakh Nature Reserve, Coxcomb NR and Goonook NR. These reserves have all been long-standing NPA proposals.

The four reserves in part protect a landscape that is visually stimulating and has regional scenic significance. The landscape mainly consists of a steeply dissected sedimentary escarpment interspersed with numerous volcanic plugs and associated trachyte flows. The upper escarpment is fringed by a fertile basalt plateau, while lower down plunging ridgelines and low rounded hills dissipate into a subdued landscape of alluvial terraces

The dramatic landscape – when combined with a high and relatively dependable rainfall, a range of soil types, variable aspect and altitude – provides diverse habitat for many rare and often threatened native plants and animals.

As a result of numerous surveys and assessments, at least twelve mammals, four birds, one reptile and three amphibians listed in the schedules of the Threatened Species Conservation Act are known to occur within the four reserves. At least three additional threatened species – two mammals, one bird and one amphibian – are likely to be present.

*National Parks Journal, February 2001*

## **Draft master plan for QPWS**

The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service is preparing a Master Plan to guide management of protected areas, including national parks, over the next 20 years. The Master Plan will identify vital issues affecting Queensland's national parks and provide guidelines for managing them.

The Plan is one of the most significant initiatives of the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and participating conservation organisations. It should be emphasised that this is not yet government policy, but more of a discussion paper. The release of the Master Plan Discussion Paper gives everyone interested in the future management of Queensland's parks the chance to comment on its content and have a say in shaping the final Master Plan. Already, a committee which includes many representatives of conservation organisations with ideals similar to NPAQ have had input to the Draft. The present Draft is very different from that which was first drafted for consideration.

*Queensland NPA News, February 2001*

### **Can we predict the likely impacts of climate change in the ACT**

Global climate changes in temperature, rainfall and seasonality have many implications. But what will be the local consequences of climate change for a particular region? Can we predict the likely impacts of climate change for the Australian Capital Territory and its surrounds?

Climate change will affect natural ecosystems within conservation reserves in the ACT region. Most past climate changes occurred slowly, allowing plants and animals to adapt to the new environment or move somewhere else. However, if future climate changes occur as rapidly as predicted, species and ecosystems may in some cases fail to adapt, placing further selection pressure on species which are already struggling to cope with habitat fragmentation. Weed problems in many ecosystems may increase.

Disruption to ecosystem services is a growing area of concern. Australia's ecosystem services include a plethora of processes and conditions that enhance our well being. Without these services, our environment, economy and culture would simply not operate. The consequences of climate change as a result of human activity may be negative for ecosystem services.

It is likely that the ACT region will experience an increase in temperature and changes to seasonal patterns of rainfall over the next 50 years due to human induced climate change. These changes will result in an increased probability of climate related events, such as drought, flood, fire, heatwaves and phases of El Nino and the Southern Oscillation.

The potential consequences of global climate change are far-reaching for the ACT region, particularly in combination with other global and regional impacts such as population and development pressure. Acknowledging and discussing these possible impacts are among the first steps to achieving appropriate adaptive planning and risk assessment in the ACT region.

*Climate Change Newsletter, December 2001*

### **Implementation time**

Among the undertakings given by Premier Peter Beattie in the lead up to the election were several of prime interest to NPAQ and included the following:

- Over a five year period, a ten million dollar initiative will showcase Queensland's natural areas by the construction of a path across the State from Cape York to Coolangatta. It was dubbed The Great Walks of Queensland.
- A Forest and Natural Landscape Recreation Strategy for South-East Queensland will be developed to complement the Great Walks initiative. NPAQ welcomes the initiative as one which should provide opportunities for nature-based recreation away from national parks where the special nature of national parks is not central to the recreation.
- Park management funding will be augmented by ten million dollars a year and up to one hundred and forty extra rangers have been promised.
- The Nature Conservation Act will be amended to recognise wilderness areas and guarantee their protection from incompatible activities.

Legislative effect is to be given to management plans to ensure they are reflected in local planning schemes and considered in the assessment of development applications. Statutory recognition will be given to Queensland's responsibility to fulfil its obligations under the World Heritage Convention. NPAQ considers these actions should be high on the government's agenda for the implementation of election undertakings.

- Special action has been flagged to implement management plans in Cape York Peninsula and the Great Sandy Region while finalising submissions to expand the Fraser Island World Heritage Area to incorporate the Great Sandy Region including Cooloola National Park.

*Queensland NPA News, March 2001.*

### **Just a manner of thought**

A common bumper sticker in timber towns is 'The only true wilderness is between a greenie's ears'. At first I thought it was meant to be an insult, but if my mind had the qualities of a wilderness then I would be very happy so it must have some other message.

After some thought the answer was obvious; it is the mission statement for extractive industries. They will not rest until the only true wilderness is just a memory.

*From a Letter to the Editor in Parkwatch, March 2001*

**Compiled by Len Haskeew**

### **Landscape Exhibition**

Member John Tassie and his sister, Anne, have been showing an exhibition of their landscapes in Adelaide, and in August will present them in Canberra.

*Geo*, an exhibition of landscape paintings by Anne Tassie and digitally manipulated landscapes by John Tassie, will be on display at the ANCA Gallery, 1 Rosevear Place, Dickson, from Wednesday 1st to Sunday 12th August 2001. Gallery hours are Wednesday to Sunday 12 to 5pm.

# NSW National Parks Association meets in Canberra

In January I received a phone call from Mike Thompson, a NSW NPA State Councillor, to let me know that the Southern Highlands branch of the NPA was hosting the State Council meeting. This was to be held in Canberra on Saturday March 3. NPAACT committee members were invited to attend.

The meeting was held in the conference room at the Canberra Motor Village, a very pleasant venue. Twenty-three delegates from four state branches and Sydney attended.

The business of the morning comprised two workshops. The first concerned the outcomes of an earlier planning day and actions arising, including a draft five-year strategic plan. The second was on the need to review policy on commercial facilities and operations in national parks.

After the workshops, Dr Tony Fleming, Director of the NSW NPWS Southern Directorate,

addressed the meeting. The topics he covered included:

- the Regional Forestry Agreement within the Southern Directorate;
- the second phase of the Wilderness declaration process;
- the Walker Report; and
- future directions for the Southern Directorate.

Ian Pulsford, from the directorate, was on hand to assist Tony with some of the specific questions.

The meeting resumed after lunch with reports from the State Executive and a special motion of congratulation to State Councillor Andrew Sourry on receiving an OAM.

In items on notice, State Councillors raised a number of issues, ranging from the parks service consulting 4WD organisations to coastal development. Council moved on to reports from NPA committees including the Park Management Committee and the Bio diversity

Committee. This was followed by reports from NPA representatives on the government advisory council and peak councils. The reporting session ended with reports from branches.

The last major item of business was the endorsement of an interim policy on maintaining national park integrity. I spoke briefly on the opportunities for, and the benefits of, more cooperation between NPAACT and NPA NSW.

A barbecue was expertly prepared and cooked by NPA ACT Members Sue Chadwick, Steven Forst and David Large.

Attending the meeting was a great opportunity to hear at first hand how things are done in NSW.

On Sunday morning I led a walk for 11 of the visitors on Black Mountain with some explaining about the Canberra Nature Park system and what makes Black Mountain Reserve so special.

**Clive Hurlstone**



*NPA group in the Blue Gum Forest while on the Grose Valley walk. Photo Max Lawrence*

## Book Review

*National Parks of Australia 2001*, by Alan Fox, New Holland Publishers Pty Ltd.

As is to be expected from Alan Fox, this book contains informative well-written text and beautiful photographs to illustrate the theme.

The introduction gives an overview of the 'island commonwealth' with its long human history and ancient beginning from Gondwana. The author points out that nature conservation began with the Aboriginal people, that the first national park in the world was Royal National Park outside Sydney, and that conservation is now a citizen's movement.

Each state is introduced with a one-page statement, then a selection of the state's national parks is explored with text and photographs. For example, the national parks in New South Wales that are explored are Dorriggo National Park, Lord Howe Island World Heritage Area, Mungo National Park, Myall Lakes National Park, Blue Mountains National Park, Royal National Park and Kosciuszko National Park.

A strip on the first page of each park's chapter, giving important, quickly referenced information is very helpful. The headings in the strip are: Location, Climate, When to go, Access Permits, Equipment, Facilities, Watching Wildlife, Visitor Activities.

A large map of Australia marked with locations of the national parks is included in the book.

The photographs are most stunning, especially the aerial photographs.

The book is great as a present for family members or friends, or to keep on your bookshelf as a reference for your travels into Australia's national parks.

**Fiona MacDonald Brand**



## Calendar

	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Committee meeting	Thu 7	Thu 5	Thu 2	Thu 6
Environment Sub-committee <sup>1</sup>	Thu 14	Thu 12	Thu 9	Thu 13
General meeting	Thu 21	Thu 19		Thu 20
AGM			Thu 16	
Bulletin Working Group <sup>2</sup>	Tue 26			
Gudgenby Regeneration <sup>3</sup>	Sat 9	Sat 14	Sat 11	Sat 8

<sup>1</sup> David Large 6291 4830

<sup>2</sup> Syd Comfort 6286 2578

<sup>3</sup> Yankee Hat carpark 10:00 am, Eleanor Stodart 6281 5004

## General meetings

Our general meetings are held at Forestry House, CSIRO Forestry and Forest Products, Wilf Crane Crescent, off Banks Street, Yarralumla, and the meeting commences at 8:00 pm.

### Thursday 21 June 2001

*Rethinking salinity control in the Murray-Darling Basin*

Dr Baden Williams

The Decade of Landcare has been a tremendous success in raising public awareness of land, water and biological degradation, but logical solutions and their implementation for salinity control have been less than impressive.

Every review of dryland and irrigation salinity since the early 1980s has produced higher and higher estimates of damaged areas and yet more devastating predictions for the future. We have been through a series of "admitting the problem" and "best-bet solution" stages and yet seem to be falling further and further behind in devising successful controls.

It would appear that we are still not recognising and acting upon one or more key aspects to this problem. This talk will challenge a number of scientific, social, and political concepts associated with current salinity control strategies in the Murray-Darling Basin.

### Thursday 19 July 2001

*Over the plains and far away.*

Gary and Di Thompson

A talk on the experiences of a 4-day camel safari in the Lake Eyre area of South Australia in the spring of 2000. The trip involved a step back-in-time and a mini experience of what exploration through the desert areas would have been like in years past – the heat, lack of water and other discomforts.

### Thursday 16 August 2001

Annual General Meeting – Please refer to notice of meeting on page 3.

*Heading north*

Judith Webster

Judith set off with friends from Walhalla in Gippsland in November 1998 to walk the Alpine Track in stages. By May this year at the end of stage 4 she had made it to Dead Horse Gap.

Judith will talk about her walks on the track so far with some observations on how the Alpine Park estate is being managed.

### Thursday 20 September 2001

*Greenhouse – your house*

Chris Mackenzie Davey, the Cool Communities Facilitator for the ACT, will talk about global warming and local consequences, what it means, and what we can do.

### Thursday 18 October 2001

*Charles Weston*

Dr. John Gray has made a definitive study of Charles Weston and will speak about Weston and the early days of conservation and afforestation in the federal capital 1911-1926.

# National Parks Association (ACT)

*New members welcome*



*Neville Esau and Max Lawrence on Mount Burbidge. Photo Martin Chalk*

## **NPA Bulletin**

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