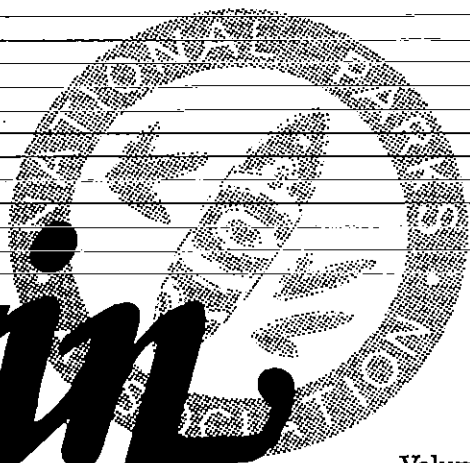


NPA Bulletin



Volume 38 number 4
December 2001

NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION (ACT) INCORPORATED



Insurance for association members

Gudgenby homestead submission

NPA on snowshoes



CONTENTS

NPA takes out public liability insurance 3
Max Lawrence

Interim Namadgi Advisory Board 4
Syd Comfort

Association news 4

New Committee members 5

Tree planting in Namadgi 6
Reg Alder

Gudgenby Homestead proposal
 "totally inappropriate" 7
Robyn Barker

NPA on snowshoes – Guthega to
 The Paralyser and Mount Perisher 8
Brian Slee

Environment Sub-committee report October 2001 9
Robyn Barker & Tom Heinsohn

Summer orchids in Murramarang National Park ... 10
Jean Egan

A driver reviver to help save the Monga Forest 11
Len Haskew

Gudgenby Bush Regeneration Group 12
Eleanor Stodart

Ferals v natives: A question of "rights"! 13
Len Haskew

Parish maps tell settlement story 14
Reg Alder

Greenhouse – your house 15
Adrienne Nicholson

Celebrating 40 years 15
Len Haskew

Parkwatch 16
Len Haskew

Book review 18
Graham Scully

Local environment news 18

Meetings and Calendar of events 19

National Parks Association (ACT) Incorporated Inaugurated 1960

Aims and objectives of the Association

- Promotion of national parks and of measures for the protection of fauna and flora, scenery, natural features and cultural heritage in the Australian Capital Territory and elsewhere, and the reservation of specific areas.
- Interest in the provision of appropriate outdoor recreation areas.
- Stimulation of interest in, and appreciation and enjoyment of, such natural phenomena and cultural heritage by organised field outings, meetings or any other means.
- Cooperation with organisations and persons having similar interests and objectives.
- Promotion of, and education for, conservation, and the planning of landuse to achieve conservation.

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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.

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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	<i>Bulletin</i> 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 March issue: 1 February 2002.

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

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Cover photo: On his 30th annual October NPA wildflower walk around Black Mountain, George Chippendale emphasises a point of identification with his magnifying glass. There was an attendance of 65 on a glorious day with many species of flower in full bloom. Photo Reg Alder

NPA takes out public liability insurance

The NPA of the ACT has at last joined the Confederation of NSW Bushwalking Clubs and now as a member of confederation has access to the public liability insurance cover that organisation and other peak state bodies have negotiated with Jardine Sport and Leisure, insurance brokers. This brings NPA into line with the two other main ACT bushwalking clubs – Canberra Bushwalking Club and the Family Bushwalkers.

Membership of confederation means that NPA will be associated with the major NSW (and ACT) clubs in the provision of information on bushwalking, camping and other recreational activities; the maintenance of a search and rescue unit under the charter of the relevant state volunteer rescue organisation; and the promotion of goodwill and social intercourse amongst the bushwalking fraternity. In addition, confederation has a conservation ethic very much in line with NPA's own stated aims and objectives. One of its main constituent organisations is our (big) sister organisation the NPA of NSW.

The insurance cover available through confederation means that NPA, its walks leaders, and all associated with its outings program will now have public liability cover against legal actions that may be brought against them alleging negligence or breach of duty of care arising from injuries sustained or property damaged or destroyed during the course of NPA sanctioned outings. This includes actions brought by our own members against other members or the association. The policy of course includes various conditions and limitations, but the overall maximum underwriter's liability for a single occurrence is \$10 million. Non-members are covered for up to three outings each during the year.

NPA membership of confederation has long been a bone of contention within the association and the most recent resurrection of the discussion became bogged down in an unsuccessful attempt to negotiate a single policy that would meet all of our insurance needs. The resolution

of this issue, at least as far as cover for outings is concerned, originated with a motion from the Outings Sub-committee which was endorsed by the NPA Management Committee. NPA's application for membership (and insurance) was subsequently accepted by confederation at its October meeting.

NPA has paid for membership for the current 2001–02 financial year out of general funds. We have paid on the basis of 200 walking members, \$2.50 per person membership, and \$2.50 insurance premium – a total of \$1000. For the next full financial year (2002–03) it has been agreed that funding should be on a 'user pays' basis. This means NPA members will be asked on their membership renewal forms whether they will be going on more than three outings during the year, and if the answer is yes they will be asked to pay the additional cost (currently \$5.50 for a full year). In addition, members will also be given the option of taking out non-compulsory personal accident cover through confederation (currently \$2.50).

Having insurance cover involves some procedures and obligations that will be new to us. It is a requirement that non-members (ie, people who are not paid-up walking members) sign a declaration before each walk. NPA of NSW, and now ourselves, have decided that this form should in fact be signed by all people participating in each walk. The declaration is as follows:

In participating in this activity of the NPA, I am aware that this may **expose me to risks** that could lead to injury, illness, death, or to loss of or damage to my property. To minimize these risks, I have endeavoured to ensure that: this activity is **within my capabilities** and; that I am **carrying food, water, and equipment** appropriate for the activity. I have advised the activity leader if I am taking **any medication** or have any physical or other limitation that might affect my participation in the activity. I will make every effort to remain with the rest of the party during the activity. **My signature**

below indicates that I have read, understood, and accept these requirements.

In addition to their signature, walkers will be asked to supply their name, phone number, car registration, and membership status. Leaders are required to ensure that all participants complete and sign the form prior to the commencement of the outing, and afterwards they are required to forward the completed forms to the Outings Convenor. This process came into effect immediately our membership was accepted by confederation.

In addition to the protection provided by insurance to all participants in our Outings Program, membership of confederation and involvement by our members in the search and rescue and leadership development activities of confederation can only but help NPA provide a more competent and secure environment for our program to operate. I believe we have an excellent record to date, but the world is becoming more litigious and there are pressures for more regulation along the lines of accreditation requirements for leaders. We are a voluntary non-profit organisation, but we need to maintain improving standards for our members and unfortunately this costs.

Max Lawrence

Convenor, Outings Sub-committee

THE PRESIDENT AND COMMITTEE

extend to all members
best wishes for
Christmas and New Year
and invite everyone to attend
the Christmas Party on
Sunday 9 December
at Nil Desperandum.
Details are in the Outings
Program

Interim Namadgi Advisory Board

The Namadgi National Park management agreement signed in May makes provision for the involvement of Aboriginal representatives in the management of the park through the formation of an Interim Namadgi Advisory Board. The following appointments have been made to this board:

Aboriginal representatives:

Agnes Shea These three were signatories of the May agreement and nominated themselves to
Valda Connors sit on the board.

Fred Monaghan }
Matilda House } Nominated by Nurri Williams who was a signatory to the May agreement
Roslyn Brown } Nominated by the above members in accordance with agreed interim arrangements.

Other members:

Dr Sue Briggs A senior research scientist from the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service located in the CSIRO Sustainable Systems Unit in Canberra, brings scientific experience to the board.

Dr Mike Pearson Director of Heritage Consulting Pty Ltd, formerly Deputy Executive Director of the Australian Heritage Commission and historian with the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service brings heritage experience to the board.

Di Thompson A former vice-president and well known member of the ACT NPA and an active member of other conservation organisations, represents the interests of non-government bodies.

Geoff Wells Manager, Environment Planning and Legislation Unit in Environment ACT and member of the Murrumbidgee River Catchment Management Board represents the ACT Conservator.

A further position on the board to represent eco-tourist interests is currently vacant.

Co-chairmanship of the board has been adopted, Matilda House presently holding one of these positions, the other being vacant. The board is supported by a secretariat drawn from Environment ACT headed by Terence Uren, and assisted by other Environment ACT staff as needed.

The board has held two meetings and is in the process of becoming familiar with current issues particularly cultural matters including that of the employment of indigenous rangers.

Syd Comfort

Association news

New general meetings venue

Commencing with the February meeting, the association's general meetings will be held in the Uniting Church Hall, Weston. This change has been necessary because Forestry House is no longer available to us.

The Uniting Church Weston is located in Parkinson Street Weston, between the Irish Club and Cooleman Court next to the Child Care Centre. There is plenty of parking in front of and adjacent to the church. Meeting time of 8 pm remains unchanged.

Bulletin Working Group

The following association members have formed the working group which has been responsible for the production and distribution of the *Bulletin* during the year: Reg Alder, Margaret Aston, Martin Chalk,

Muriel Edwards, Len Haskew, Clive Hurlstone, Judy Kelly, Betty Lewis, Fiona Macdonald Brand, Adrienne Nicholson, Barbara Slotemaker de Bruine, Eleanor Stodart and Graeme Wicks. Max Lawrence has produced the outings program and Neville and Maxine Esau have printed the postage labels. In addition, other members have been involved with the post out. Of course there would be no *Bulletin* without contributors. To all these members I would like to extend a "well done": to other members an invitation to become part of the team for 2002.

Syd Comfort Convenor

New email address for NPA

The association's email address is now:
npaact@bigpond.com

New position of Membership Officer

NPA Committee member Jacqui Cole has prepared a wide-ranging management strategy concerning membership of the association which was discussed at the October meeting of the association's Management Committee. Following this she has accepted the position of Membership Officer and in this role will aim to promote membership of the association and to ensure that there is good communication between members, both new and old, and the Committee. She is keen to hear from members on any matters affecting the NPA and would welcome calls or emails. Her contact details are set out inside the front cover.

continued on page 5

New Committee members

Robyn Barker and Janet Neale were elected to the NPA Committee at the August annual general meeting, and Tom Heinsohn was subsequently co-opted to the Committee. The following paragraphs introduce Robyn, Janet and Tom to members.



Robyn Barker.

Robyn Barker

Robyn Barker was born in Lithgow, NSW in 1971. A keen interest in bushwalking was developed on her parent's property at Newnes, NSW, near Gardens of Stone and Wollemi National Parks. Since then she has lived in Bathurst and Wagga Wagga before coming to Canberra in 1991. Studies in arts at Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga, and the ANU led to work in the field of museum collection management at Parliament House and the Australian War Memorial. Her number one passion is exploring the Australian High Country with her partner. Love of the Australian bush has awakened concerns for its protection from ongoing threats.



Tom Heinsohn.

Tom Heinsohn

Tom Heinsohn was born in Smithton, Tasmania in 1961, but spent much of his childhood growing up in North Queensland. A love of nature was passed on by his zoologist father and outdoors-loving mother. A concern for the preservation of Australia's last wild places was strengthened by a friendship with the late Milo Dunphy with whom Tom made a number of memorable bushwalks. Tom has a Master of Science in biogeography, a BA (Hons) in archaeology and has recently completed work as a founding curator at the National Museum of Australia. He is currently working on a PhD with the Department of Archaeology and Natural History at the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies at the ANU. Tom's interests include nature and culture

in the Southwest Pacific and he has conducted a series of expeditions to parts of Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and northern Australia. One of his great loves, however, is the Australian Alps much of which he has explored with his partner Robyn.



Janet Neale on Mount Morgan.

Janet Neale

Janet Neale has been a member of the NPA for two years, and says that during that time she has had some great experiences on the track. She has attended most monthly meetings and has been constantly interested in the dynamics of the association and the informative talks. Janet decided this year to become a Committee member to put "a little something back into the organisation that has given me so much". She says: "Come and introduce yourself to me at the Christmas party. I'll be the one with the bells on ..."

Association news – continued from page 4

ACT heritage legislation reform

Earlier this year the ACT Government released a discussion paper on proposals to reform heritage registration and protection and invited submissions on the proposed legislative reform. The NPA made a comprehensive response to these proposals concentrating on issues related to the national park and nature reserves and other public

land. Thirty three submissions were lodged on the proposals and at the end of August the Government introduced the Heritage Bill 2001 incorporating its reforms. The Bill was not passed by the Assembly but following the elections it is expected that it will be presented to the new Government for its consideration. The direction of reform in this important area will be a matter for the new Government.

Syd Comfort

NPA display

We need a few coloured photographs on particular subjects for the new display we are preparing. The subjects most needed are:

- recent NPA outings, particularly to national parks outside ACT, or of mountains looking mountainous; and
- damage in national parks done by feral horses, feral pigs or vehicles.

Eleanor Stodart

Tree planting in Namadgi

In the early 1980s, the bitumen surfacing of the Adaminaby Road was extended southward from Glendale, and an area just north of the former Information Centre (the present picnic area and toilet) was used as a depot for road-making equipment and the storage of materials.

When the road making was finished, the depot area was bare, compacted and contaminated with road base, fuel, lubricants and bitumen. Hardly an ideal location to plant trees. However, the NPA put forward a proposal to plant native trees and so rejuvenate the area. With approval gained, seed was gathered locally (to preserve the gene pool and so increase viability), germinated in trays and when sufficiently robust transferred to milk cartons. These were distributed to members to care for them until the autumn planting.

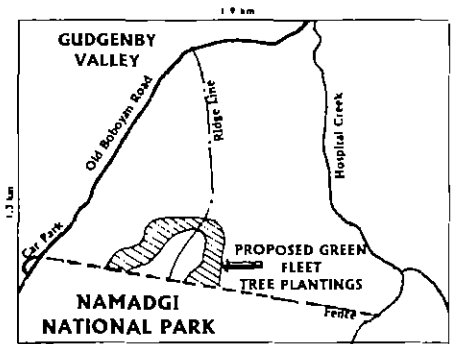
Four varieties of trees were selected: snow gum (*E. pauciflora*), black sallee (*E. stellulata*), apple box (*E. bridgesiana*) and candlebark (*E. rubida*). In May and June 1983, 468 seedlings were planted randomly in copses in the furrows ripped by the parks service. They were given protection from rabbits and

kangaroos by wire mesh enclosures set in old motor tyres. Rabbits were supposed to be deterred by the odour of the tyres.

By September 1988, the cumulative loss was 47.5 per cent. Examining the site recently, a count shows approximately 100 trees still surviving: some reasonably mature but a large number just surviving from their root stock, ground hugging with multiple stems. The rip lines can barely be distinguished, natural soil movements having filled the depressions and reduced the mounds.

This work at Glendale can be related to the work undertaken for Greenfleet near the Yankee Hat carpark. (Greenfleet is a program supported by sponsors and motorists to compensate for car emissions by the planting of trees.) Greenfleet expected to have available more seedlings than would be needed for the Gudgenby regeneration area, so an additional area in Namadgi was selected for planting.

In anticipation of these trees being available for planting this spring, a 6ha area, 300m above the Gudgenby-Yankee Hat car park was ripped in readiness. The map shows this area and its relationship to the grazed



area of Gudgenby. The ripped area has a boundary perimeter of approximately 2km.

It has now been decided not to plant the ripped area and the ripped lines will be back-filled and consolidated. As the soil disturbance will provide a readymade seed bed for briars, thistles and other weeds, a close watch will need to be kept for germination, and early remedial action taken.

Reg Alder

Update on Greenfleet tree planting

Plans for scout and community groups to plant 50 000 Greenfleet seedlings over the weekend of 6-7 October were given prominence in the local media but in the event only about 17 000 seedlings were planted and the remainder have been held in their tubes near Franks Hut. The ACT Parks and Conservation Service reports that it is intended to plant the remaining seedlings by contract, possibly with some Green Corps involvement.

The service also advises that the area to the east of the Yankee Hat carpark, which had been ripped, will not be planted. The area will be rehabilitated by rolling with a rubber-tired tractor to compress the rip lines thus minimising the possibility of weed infestation. The area will be monitored closely for any weed activity.

SFC



Part of the area in the Gudgenby Valley ripped for the proposed Green Fleet tree planting project. Photo Reg Alder

Gudgenby Homestead proposal “totally inappropriate”

The NPA strongly believes that, if it were accepted, a proposal for the upgrading of waste water treatment and the commercial development at Gudgenby Homestead in Namadgi National Park would have “significant adverse environmental impacts on the immediate site and the park in the short and long term”.

An NPA submission to the ACT Government states that the proposal is “totally inappropriate for the Park”.

The submission was prepared by the Environment Sub-committee in August 2001 in response to the “Gudgenby Homestead Upgrading Of Waste Water Treatment Preliminary Assessment” (PA).

“A development and marketing paradigm rather than one of wise management, sustainability and restraint form the basis of the PA,” it says. “There is virtually no consideration of the impacts of artificially pumping more and more people into fragile areas. There is no consideration of the effect on significant natural and cultural places in the area as listed on various heritage lists regarding various development proposals.”

The submission says the PA omits the true meaning and objectives of the Mountain and Bushlands Land Use Policies as stated in the Territory Plan, and ignores the fact that many significant natural and cultural places within the park are listed for special and stringent protection on the ACT’s Heritage Places Register, Australian Heritage Commission’s Register of the National Estate and the National Trust’s Register of Classified Places.

The association’s preferred option, given the need to preserve the homestead, is for it to be used as a ranger residence.

This would provide a much-needed ranger presence in the southern end of the park and protect the house and other cultural sites from vandalism and other illegal activities such as night shooting. It would also protect the historical integrity of the homestead site while making it accessible to parties, such as the Kosciuszko Huts Association, with special interests and expertise in

conserving and maintaining heritage structures.

The NPA submission points out that that Namadgi National Park contains a rich diversity of natural and cultural resources and is of high conservation value.

The area is dominated by high mountains, many crowned by massive granite outcrops and plateaus separated by small upland flats in saddles leading down heavily forested slopes to deep frost hollow valleys. A wide range of vegetation habitats are represented, including wet sclerophyll forest, sub-alpine woodland, montane savannah woodland, montane and sub-alpine heath, herbfields, sphagnum bogs and swamps, subalpine grasslands, wet forest gullies and dry tussock grass.

The park’s vegetation habitats provide a range of faunal habitats for species such as the Corroboree Frog (*Pseudophryne corroboree*), Alpine Water Skink (*Eulamprus kosciuskoi*), Tan-Backed Rock Skink (*Egernia species*) and the Kosciusko Metallic Cockroach (*Polyzosteria virridisima*). A number of rare and uncommon plant and animal species occur in some of the park’s more unusual habitats.

The park’s physical connection to important protected lands such as Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve, Bimberi Nature Reserve, Scabby Nature Reserve and Kosciuszko National Park enhance the Park’s natural environment. All of these, together with Namadgi National Park, Brindabella National Park and the Victoria Alpine Parks, are part of the Australian Alps National Parks.

The PA ignores the fact that the Gudgenby area is important in the historic record of former Aboriginal occupation and the widespread occurrence of Aboriginal sites. The Gudgenby area including its natural and cultural features must have and continues to have considerable traditional significance to Aboriginal people. Archaeological dates from the region indicate that some sites are the last sign of at least 21 000 years of Aboriginal occupation.

Namadgi National Park contains a rich diversity of cultural resources. The Australian Heritage Commission and the National Trust has determined that the park has Aboriginal cultural values of national estate significance. It has identified at least 50 sites. They include occupation, rock paintings, stone arrangements and quarry sites. Many other sites have been reported and recorded in the area and are yet to be assessed to determine their significance.

The Territory Plan’s ACT Heritage Places Register recognises seven rock art sites in Namadgi National Park. It also recognises European cultural heritage sites, including huts, brumby yards and the ACT/NSW border survey markers.

The association’s submission says an overall concern is one of sustainability and the prevention of impacts on our fragile national parks and reserves. “One of the principal roles of national parks, for example, is to preserve remnants of Australia’s ancient landscapes,” it says. “This includes native vegetation and wildlife, as well as ancient Aboriginal cultural landscapes. Something that makes national parks special and different to the urban environment is that they are in a substantially undeveloped state. Great care should be taken not to apply an inappropriate development paradigm that threatens those special values.”

A concentration of recreational activities encouraged by commercial development in the Gudgenby Valley and hinterland would compromise the integrity of the wilderness area immediately to the west. This would place rare and delicate subalpine habitats under increased threat of being accidentally disturbed or destroyed by increasing numbers of visitors attracted to the area. Increased access to the Gudgenby Valley and Bimberi Wilderness including the summits of Mounts Kelly, Namadgi, Burbidge, Scabby, Sentry Box and Gudgenby should not be encouraged. The PA does not adequately address the effects of

continued on page 13

NPA on snowshoes – Guthega to The Paralyser and Mount Perisher

NPA on snowshoes – Guthega to The Paralyser and Mount Perisher

The first (so it is claimed) NPA snowshoe walk was held on Sunday 29 July 2001. I made the arrangements and Steve Hill and Martin Chalk managed to convince themselves it was a good idea. A nasty low pressure system was still infuriating NSW coastal waters on the gloomy and windy morning that we departed Canberra. A day under the doona looked a better option.

What a difference 2½ hours made. We drove into a mostly empty Guthega carpark at 9 am under blue skies, the chill air invigorated by a slight breeze. Our path lay along the top road through the village and down to Blue Cow Creek. Crossing this provided the only hazard of the day: icy rocks. Once across the adjacent Old Farm Creek, we climbed the ridge to the summit of The Paralyser. It was only at the top of the first rise (1700m) that there was sufficient snow to don snowshoes. The snow was still hard from overnight freeze.

But conditions got better. The snow cover was soon complete, compact and easily traversed. Shoeing techniques, easily learnt, were readily mastered on the softening surface. As we climbed, magnificent views of the Main Range, from Kosciuszko to Tate, emerged, framed by ice-crusting snowgums. Signs of elation crept upon us.



Descending Mount Perisher, with Martin Chalk followed by Steve Hill. Photo Brian Slee

Having reached The Paralyser trig (1980m), the original destination, in about two hours, it was decided to descend to Old Farm Creek saddle for lunch and to extend the walk to Mount Perisher (2054m). This was duly scaled, with views to Charlotte Pass adding to the panorama. Brilliant orange/red snowgums were passed on the way. From the summit, Perisher Ski Field could be seen to the north and east. On our side of the mountain, three snowshoers: on the other, a full carpark and thousands of downhillers.

On skis we would have rushed down New Farm Creek and been back at Guthega in 20 minutes. However, what lay ahead of us

plodders was a stroll down a gentle slope to the ridge running between New and Old Farm Creeks, through delightful groves of snowgums and snow-capped boulders. The afternoon was crisply cool, with full winter sun. The Paralyser and

continued on page 9

Types of snowshoes

The earliest types were wooden slabs. The natives of North America developed shoes with strong, but light, wooden frames within which structures of leather and twine were woven (“tennis racquets”). The frame and webbing bore the weight while allowing the feet some freedom when stepping. The longer type of shoe, more than 1.5m, was used on open, flat country. Shorter “bear paws”, for use in rough country, are now made with metal, extendable, frames.

The Australian designed Yowie is a short, strong plastic paddle – the underside is patterned, and has metal cleats, to maintain grip. The foot is not manoeuvrable within the structure. They cost about \$170, a lot cheaper than skis. Snowshoes have been popularised by snowboarders. Yowies were used on the NPA walk. Ski poles were used for balance but may be discarded.

Merits of snowshoes

Sliding on skis is the fastest and most efficient means of transport on snow for an otherwise unaided person, particularly when descending or traversing. Skis also distribute weight more widely than short snowshoes. However, climbing can be easier and more direct on snowshoes. They are lighter and less cumbersome to carry than skis. Moreover, snowshoes are better in trees, on broken ground and when carrying packs. Braking on skis can be awkward, making the risk of injury significantly greater. Snowshoes lack buzz but are especially useful for “bushwalking in the snow” where the experience of being in a chosen environment is more important than passing it by.

Environment Sub-committee report October 2001

The Sub-committee has been very busy over the past few months preparing submissions, writing letters and articles, working on projects, making site inspections and keeping across a variety of issues. The most important item on our agenda was preparing a submission in response to proposed commercial development at Gudgenby Homestead in Namadgi National Park. Sub-committee members held two meetings on the issue, resulting in a comprehensive submission document. This submission was recently sent to the major political parties in Canberra asking for their position on the issue. So far, we have received a positive response from the Greens, Democrats and Labor parties who all oppose commercial development at the site.

NPA members may have noticed the scar on the Brindabella Range

particularly after snow, which was a result of the Transgrid clearing. The Sub-committee prepared a submission on the clearings in Namadgi and Brindabella National Parks and is awaiting the results of an inquiry. A submission on the Heritage Assessment Discussion paper was also prepared. All submissions and responses can be viewed on request.

The presence of feral horses in Kosciuszko National Park is an ongoing concern for the Sub-committee. The recently released Third English Report supports the removal of horses by vehicles and hand. A concern is that these methods can themselves have damaging effects on the environment, and will not necessarily solve the problem of feral horses in the park. Some NPA members are attending a field trip to KNP to discuss this and other

issues with Dr Tony Fleming, Director NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service Southern Directorate.

Other issues that have arisen over the last few months include the re-routing of the Nursery Swamp track. The new track was inspected by Sub-committee members who are satisfied that the new route is satisfactory and necessary. It is important for the NPA to monitor any new track developments. Tree planting programs in the Gudgenby Valley are also being monitored. On the urban front, the Sub-committee continues to keep track of the situation regarding the Gungahlin Drive extension. The status of these and other issues such as Gudgenby Homestead will not be known until after the ACT elections.

**Robyn Barker &
Tom Heinsohn**

NPA on snowshoes – Guthega to The Paralyser and Mount Perisher – *continued from page 8*



*Martin Chalk (left) and Steve Hill
on the ridge between New Farm
Creek and Old Farm Creek.*

Photo Brian Slee

Guthega Valley came to dominate the view. Things kept getting better. We prolonged the descent; it was such a pleasure. Skiers are losers in places like this.

After following the ridge and recrossing Blue Cow Creek, Guthega was reached at 4 pm. Walk distance



Martin Chalk and the south slope of Mount Perisher. Photo Brian Slee

was approximately 11km. After a break at Jindabyne, we arrived in Canberra soon after 7 pm. It is

hoped to include a similar excursion in the 2002 NPA outings program.

Brian Slee

Summer orchids in Murramarang National Park



Cryptostylis subulata.

During the summer months thousands of Canberrans pack their cars, hook trailers or caravans to the back, or a tent on top (some even organise to stay in places that have real roofs) and head to the South Coast. And it is no wonder, as the South Coast has superb beaches providing a range of activities for the very young to the elderly. However, for my family it's the forests fringing the coastline that provide the most pleasure. Here one can walk all day and seldom see another person and, to add to the enjoyment, orchids abound.

The beautiful *Cryptostylis* genus, known as the Tongue Orchid, has no representatives in the ACT, but in the Murramarang National Park I have found three of the four NSW species. The entire genus is relatively tall, with *Cryptostylis subulata's* flowering stem growing up to 80cm. *C. subulata* is also the first to flower. I have recorded it flowering from October to late February, but December to early January seems to be its optimum flowering time. *C. erecta* is the next to flower, from November to March, but is in abundance through January. *C. leptochila* is a smaller and shy species that flowers mainly in January.

Another genus of tall orchids common at the coast is *Dipodium*,



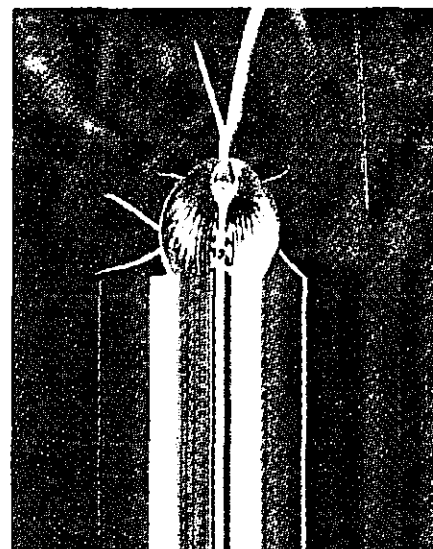
Cymbidium suave.

commonly known as Hyacinth Orchids. These are usually in flower during January; a close look will reveal that the markings on the ones that are flowering early in the month are rounded, deep pink spots while the later flowering ones have blotches rather than spots. In fact they are two distinct species, *D. punctatum* and *D. variegatum* respectively. Readers will no doubt be familiar with this genus, found on any trip to the Brindabellas in the summer months.

Two coastal orchids common also in the ACT are *Spiranthes australis* or Ladies Tresses, which favours damp habitats, and the widespread, tiny green Onion Orchid, *Microtis unifolia*.

A less common but quite spectacular orchid is *Prasophyllum flavum* or Yellow Leek Orchid. Standing up to 90cm tall, with yellow sweetly scented flowers, it is a joy to find. However these are really December flowering, and by mid-January are usually past their best.

Cymbidium suave, sometimes known as the Snake Orchid, also flowers in December at the South Coast but most years the flowers are still there till the middle of January. This orchid is epiphytic so is usually found fairly high in trees, although occasionally they will grow



Cryptostylis erecta.

conveniently low down for better observation. A magnificent specimen is growing quite high up on a tree, about 200 metres up the forest track from the day carpark at Pretty Beach.

Another December flowering orchid is the Slender Beard Orchid, *Calochilus gracillimus*. However, I have recorded it flowering in mid-January. This plant is not dissimilar in appearance to *C. robertsonii*, common in the ACT, but it is later flowering and has a longer beard.

Most of the orchids mentioned in this article are fairly common and quite accessible. Our favourite walk when visiting the near South Coast starts from the Pretty Beach day carpark and follows the marked track into the forest. All these orchids have been found within 2km of the carpark.

Happy hunting!

For further reading I suggest Anthony Bishop's *Field Guide to the Orchids of New South Wales and Victoria*, 2nd edition, UNSW Press, or *A Field Guide to the Native Orchids of Southern Australia*, by David and Barbara Jones, Bloomings Books. Both these books are available from the National Botanic Gardens shop.

Jean Egan

NPA Bulletin

NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION (ACT) INCORPORATED

NPA outings program

December 2001 – March 2002

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.

9 December (Sunday) NPA Christmas Party

Contact: Max Lawrence
Phone: 6288 1370

Our Christmas party this year will again be at Nil Desperandum in Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve. Because of access problems

(a number of locked gates through private property) it will be necessary to form car convoys starting from the carpark at the Tidbinbilla Visitors Centre. Convoys will leave at 11am and 12 noon sharp, so don't be late or you'll miss out. A continuous shuttle will work for departures, so within some limits you'll be able to leave pretty much when you want to. Bring a picnic lunch and refreshments, and let's celebrate Christmas together. Also, don't forget to bring along donations of gear and goodies for our fun-raising auction!

16 December Sunday daywalk
Snowy Mountains wildflowers

Leader: Brian Slee

2A/C

Map: Mt Kosciuszko 1:50 000

Phone: 6281 0719

Depart Kambah Village 6.30am. Park at Charlotte Pass. Proceed initially via Blue Lake track and then south, across Club Lake Creek to Kunama Hutte site. After inspecting ruins of lodge and ski tow, stop for morning tea at nearby waterfall. Continuing west, cross Northcote Pass and descend to Lake Albina for lunch, inspecting eyebrights, buttercups and

anemones on the way. Return via Mt Lee. Great views. Several steep climbs. Afternoon tea Jindabyne. Book with leader as numbers limited and weather check essential. 430kms, \$129 per car plus \$15 for cars without permit.

Late December packwalk

Rivers and Rainforests

Leaders: Pat and Eric Pickering

1C/D/E/F

Phone 6286 2128 for details and bookings

The intention is to spend 4 – 5 days between Christmas and New Year in an area such as Ettrema or the Shoalhaven – probably the former this year – walking, scrambling and swimming. Traditionally we return to Canberra on New Years Day (after an early celebration on New Years Eve). Precise dates and location of the walk are negotiable.

January one week packwalk

Cape Conran to Mallacoota

Leader: Graham Scully

Phone: 6230 3352

Graham is at the planning stages (dates yet to be finalised) of this walk using "Walking the Wilderness Coast" as a guide. The total trip will take around eight days, two for transport there and back, and six days walking. At some future time he plans to do the section from Mallacoota to Lake Wonboyn. Graham invites expressions of interest from fit walkers able to carry pack and food for six days. Numbers must be limited to a total of eight, so get in early.

6 January 2002 Sunday daywalk

Kowen Forest – historical sites and

Molonglo Gorge

Leader: Col McAlister

2A/B

Map: Bungendore 1:25 000

Phone: 6288 4171

Visit sites such as Glenburn homestead, Colverwell graves and Colliers homestead. Then a walk down Molonglo River to Blue Tiles and Molonglo Gorge. Short car shuffle. Meet at Canberra Railway Station Kingston at 8.30am. 40kms, \$12 per car.

13 January Sunday daywalk

Tate West Ridge

Leader: Brian Slee

3A/C

Map: Mt Kosciuszko 1:50 000

Phone: 6281 0719

Depart Kambah Village 6.30am. Park at Guthega and walk north up Guthega Ridge toward the Rolling Ground. Cross Windy Creek north of Conssett Stephen Pass and continue up to Tate West Ridge. Visit a number of rocky outcrops along the broad ridge, stopping for lunch at a daisy meadow along the way. Views north to Jagungal and Dicky Cooper Bogong and west to Geehi Reservoir. Amazing panorama from Mt Tate to Watsons Crags to the south. A couple of steepish climbs. Afternoon tea Jindabyne. Contact leader in advance in case weather affects plans. 430kms, \$129 per car plus \$15 for vehicles without permit.

19 – 20 January weekend packwalk

Four Mile Hut

Leader: Steven Forst

2A/B

Map: Mt Selwyn Ski Touring Map

Phone: 6251 6817(ah), 6219 5236(w)

An easy packwalk mainly on firetrails from Kiandra to Four Mile Hut, camping near the hut. Explore the area without packs in the afternoon. Next day return to Kiandra via different route. 400kms, \$120 per car.

20 January Sunday daywalk

Murrumbidgee Corridor / Lower

Molonglo Nature Reserve

Leader: Adrienne Nicholson

1A/C

Map: ACT 1:100 000, Umburra 1:25 000

Phone: 6281 6381

An easy day exploring the area around the confluence of the Molonglo and Murrumbidgee Rivers. Meet at Shepherds Lookout off Stockdill Drive Holt at 9.00am. If day is hot, opportunities to explore the water closely (ie swim). 0kms, \$0 per car.

23 January daywalk

Wednesday walk

Leader: Col McAlister

Phone: 6288 4171

The first 2002 edition of our monthly midweek walks. Phone leader for details, which will be determined nearer the date.

27 January Sunday daywalk

Snowy Mountains – The Sentinel, Mt

Twynam, Headley Tarn

Leader: Steve Hill

3A/C/E

Map: Mount Kosciuszko 1:50 000

Phone: 6231 9186

This walk requires two rolls of film to catch the views and flowers, and will proceed only if the weather is good. We drive to Charlottes Pass carpark (two and a half hours) and follow the Main range track to the Blue Lake lookout. We climb over the Main Range and descend to visit The Sentinel for stunning views. Then we trek to Mt Twynam (2196m, third highest) for more views and lunch. We descend via Little Twynam down the magnificent Crummer Spur past Headley Tarn back to the cars. The walk will require good fitness, is mainly off track, and will involve regular climbs including some rock scrambling. It brings with it an early start and late return to Canberra, but the sights are supremely rewarding. Ring Steve Hill by Friday evening to register and for details of the meeting place. 400kms, \$120 per car.

30 January daywalk

Wednesday walk

Leader: Ken Free

Phone: 6295 8894

NPA has two midweek walks this month. Phone leader for details.

2 February Saturday evening/night walk

Grassy Creek area

Leader: Martin Chalk

2A/B/C

Map: Yaouk 1:25 000

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

Leave Canberra around 4pm and return around 10.30pm. Experience a walk in the valleys of southern Namadgi in the gloaming. Eat your self-catered dinner in the setting sun and return to the vehicles by torchlight. This area is familiar to many of us, but offers a different experience when darkness denies the full use of your eyesight. Phone leader for details. 170kms, \$50 per car.

9 February 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.

10 February Sunday daywalk
Snowy Mountains – Two Ramsheads
Leader: Steve Hill
3A/C/E

Map: Mount Kosciuszko 1:50 000
Phone: 6231 9186

A day of fabulous views. This will proceed only if the weather is good. We drive to Thredbo (two and a half hours) and catch the chair to the top of Crackenback. We trek direct to Ramshead (2190m, fourth highest) for superb views south of the Snowies. We stroll along the main range and climb North Ramshead for more delightful views. The walk will require good fitness, is offtrack, and will involve some short steep climbs. It brings with it an early start and late return to Canberra, but the sights and flowers are absolutely worth it. Ring leader by Thursday evening to register and for details of the meeting place. 400kms, \$120 per car, plus chairlift.

17 February Sunday daywalk
Brindabella Range Ramble
Leader: Steven Forst
2A

Map: ACT 1:100 000; Cotter Dam, Tidbinbilla 1:25 000
Phone: 6251 6817(ab)

Meet in the carpark off Uriarra Road near the Cotter Road at 8.30am. A firetrail walk through tall shady forest between the Cotter River and the Brindabella Road. Nestled in a southeast facing valley this moist temperate/alpine eucalypt forest provides for pleasant walking even in summer. 80kms, \$24 per car.

18 February
Last day for Coolendel bookings (see March long weekend)

23 February Saturday daywalk
Monga National Park
Leader: Len Haskew
2A

Maps: Monga, Araluen 1:25 000
Phone: 6281 4268

Walk with *The Friends of the Mongarlowe River* to look at some of the diversity of vegetation in this beautiful area. We will see fern glades, old growth forest and stands of centuries old pinkwoods. Meet at Canberra Railway Station Kingston at 8.00am. 250kms, \$75 per car, plus the usual donation to the *Friends*.

27 February Wednesday daywalk
Mts Majura and Ainslie
Leader: Rob Forster
2A/B

Map: Canberra Street Directory
Phone: 6249 8546

Meet at 9.00am at the Antill Street Hackett access to Canberra Nature Park (just past the last house). Walk up trail to Mt Majura then along the ridgeline to Mt Ainslie. Return via a lower route to cars. Total climb 290m.

2 March Saturday daywalk
Mt Domain
Leader: Rob Forster
2A

Map: Tidbinbilla 1:25 000
Phone: 6249 8546

Meet at Kambah Village shops at 8.30am. Drive to Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve, walk up firetrail to Fishing Gap, then steep track to summit of Mt Domain for great views. 60kms, \$18 per car.

3 March Sunday daywalk
Mt Murray
Leader: Pat Miethke
3A/C/E

Map: Rendezvous Creek 1:25 000
Phone: 6241 2798(ab)

This is a fairly long day but should be feasible and worth the effort to visit such a remote peak on the ACT/NSW border. We will drive to Yaouk (1180m) and set off up the Lone Pine Firetrail, with the emphasis on the 'up'. Near the Mt Morgan turn-off (1570m) there is a long ridge which rises gradually towards Mt Murray (1840m). Murray has two peaks close together, both with great views. One involves some rock scrambling to get on top. The walk involves about 4km and 390m climb along the firetrail, and a further 4km and 270km climb along the ridge to the top of Murray,

16km total. Meet at Kambah Village shops at 7.00am. 200kms, \$60 per car.

9 March 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.

10 March Sunday daywalk
Goulburn history walks
Leader: Col McAlister
2A

Map: Goulburn walking trails pamphlets
Phone: 6288 4171

We will walk the Goulburn Heritage Trail and Wollondilly Trail or Governor Macquarie Trail. These are pleasant walks around Goulburn to take in some local history. Plenty of time for coffee and cakes. Meet at 8.30am at the netball centre carpark, just past the Dickson traffic lights on Northbourne Avenue. 200kms, \$60 per car.

(15), 16, 17, 18, (19) March long weekend carcamp

Coolendel (camping by the Shoalhaven River)

Leader: Len Haskew
Map: Burrier 1:25 000
Phone: 6281 4268

Coolendel is a private camping area with modern amenities on the Shoalhaven 30kms west of Nowra. The property has a 2.5km river frontage for swimming and rapids for canoeing and liloing. There are many opportunities for half or one day hikes of all degrees of difficulty, and there are old gold mine sites about an hour's walk away. For the more intrepid(?) canoe trips from Tallowa Dam to Coolendel can be arranged. Please contact Len by 18 February so that bookings can be made. 550kms, \$165 per car. Camping fees apply at Coolendel.

16-18 March long weekend packwalk

The Vines and Beyond

Leader: Steven Forst

2A (pack), 3B/C/E (day)

Map: CMW Budawang

Phone: 6251 6817(ah), 6219 5236(w)

A walk to explore areas beyond the Vines. The first day is an easy packwalk to a campsite in the Vines area between the Endrick River and Quilts Mountain. A daywalk the next day to explore one of several interesting areas in the vicinity depending on weather and party for lunch, returning to the Vines camp. Walk out Monday. Please contact leader by preceding Wednesday. 340kms, \$100 per car.

16-18 March long weekend packwalk

Brogo River

Leaders: Pat and Eric Pickering

1C/D/E/F

Maps: Yowrie and Puen Buen 1:25 000

Phone: 6286 2128 for details and bookings

A hard walk in the upper reaches of the Brogo, on the edge of the tableland east of Cooma. A different area from last years walk but still a long descent of 900m (and return) to the Brogo River with wading, possible compulsory swims and rock scrambling. For experienced walkers. Solitude guaranteed.

24 March Sunday daywalk

Mulligans Flat

Leader: Matthew Higgins

1A/B/C

Map: Canberra Street Directory

Phone: 6247 7285

A chance to explore some of the Flat's history (school site, 1880s road, 1911 border markers) and the area's renowned natural values including part of the Bird Walk. The walk is fairly easy and leisurely, with good views. About 10kms, some off track. Book with leader, numbers limited.

Stephen Johnston marries

News has filtered through from the West that association stalwart Stephen Johnston was married in Perth on 6 October 2001 to Bernadette Wright. A further proof, if one was needed, of the wisdom of the adage, "Go west, young man". Stephen and his bride have the congratulations and best wishes of members of the association.

Great Books from *your* NPA
An ideal gift for someone special
this *Christmas*

"Field Guide to the Birds of the ACT"
\$12.50 to NPA members

"Field Guide to the Native Trees of the ACT"
\$5.00 to NPA members

"Reptiles & Frogs of the ACT"
\$12.00 to NPA members

Contact Janet Neale after 5.30pm on 6258 2397(h)/
email janetneale@hotmail.com to place your order

Better still - come and look at the books
and make your purchase at the
NPA Christmas Party

SNOWGUM ADVENTURE

Monday 10 December

SNOWGUM ADVENTURE of 9 Lonsdale Street Braddon will be holding their usual Christmas Discount Night for outdoor clubs on Monday 10 December. All members of NPA and their families are welcome to attend between 5.30pm and 9.00pm. A minimum discount of 20% applies on all camping and outdoors gear on the night.

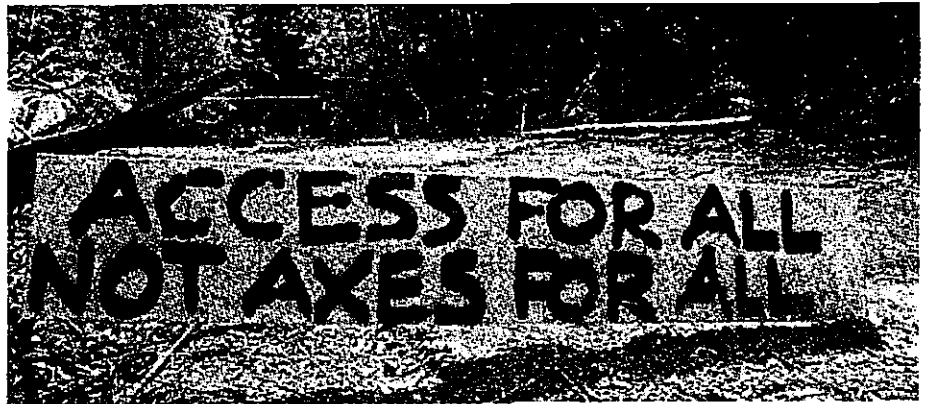


A driver reviver to help save the Monga Forest

On Saturday 13 October a group of 20 or so Friends of the Mongarlowe River set up a driver-reviver at the top of the Clyde. Tea, coffee and a great selection of home-made cakes were on offer, and in addition motorists who took advantage of their hospitality were offered literature to read on the significance of the old-growth forest and the folly of the charcoal plant proposed for Mogo. They were also invited to sign petitions addressed to Bob Carr to halt the logging and abandon the charcoal plant proposal. Fact sheets and/or a form letter to forward to the Premier and his Minister for the Environment were available. I don't know whether it was only the "converted" who were attracted by the colourful signage and placards, but everyone who pulled up seemed to be most supportive.

Some months ago when the Regional Forest Assessment was completed conservationists were delighted to hear that the former Monga State Forest was to be protected as a national park – none more so, I would think, than the Friends of the Mongarlowe River who had campaigned long and hard for just such an outcome. As is so often the case though "the devil was in the detail". In the final analysis about 20 per cent of the area was to be retained by State Forests for logging. This area is virtually surrounded by the national park and, in effect, destroys the integrity of the protected area. Botanical and wildlife experts have stressed the importance of a continuous corridor of habitat along the coastal escarpment to ensure the survival of threatened species. This corridor is now severely compromised.

State Forests made the decision to log the area immediately and were deaf to the reasoning of groups such as the Friends. Logging roads were upgraded immediately and preparations for logging hastily put in place. During the roadwork operations the pristine creeks



Sign erected at locked gate. Photo Len Haskew

forming the catchment of the Mongarlowe River ran red with mud and silt. So much so, in fact, that the Environmental Protection Agency enforced some stream protection measures. Concerned protestors attempted to slow the progress of the bulldozers but the police were called in and protestors were asked to leave or were arrested. And so logging commenced.

It is now impossible for the public to monitor what is happening in the logging area or in adjacent portions of the national park. Logging roads have locked gates where they meet River Road and draconian notices inform visitors that unauthorised entry carries an on-the-spot fine penalty of up to \$2200, which can be imposed by either the police or forestry officers. Access to Monga National Park is also prohibited at the boundary on River Road. An expedient (?) collapse of the culvert has resulted in a Road Closed sign being erected and I gather from the Friends who have walked in, that several other culverts/bridges on River Road are also broken. The immediate question that comes to mind is what is the reason for this apparent need for lack of scrutiny?

I don't know why State Forests found it to be so urgently necessary to log the area. There are several significant and beautiful areas of rainforest within the compartments being logged. It is claimed that logging proscriptions will protect these areas but no account has been

taken of the effects of opening up the surrounding eucalypt canopy, soil disturbance and the results of post-logging burns. Nor does there seem to be any concern about the massive soil disturbance from the logging machinery and the detrimental effect this will have on the cleanliness and purity of the waters of the Mongarlowe, one NSW's most pristine rivers.

The Friends are also very concerned about the proposed charcoal plant which is to be built about 3km south of Mogo. Quite rightly, local residents are concerned that this plant will generate noise, odour, greenhouse gasses and noxious waste (about which even company officials can give no precise details), as well as considerable water usage. (Once again, the company is rather vague and their estimates range from 20 to 50 megalitres per year. Heavy traffic in the area will increase dramatically – one estimate is 70 trucks per day! And, of course, the Friends fear that the timber will mostly come from the south-eastern forests.

The Friends plan more driver-revivers over the next few months. They are planning to set them up on Friday afternoons at the top of the Clyde. So if you making a trip to the coast for the weekend, drop in and have some fresh coffee and something to eat and learn the latest about their campaigns.

Len Haskew

Gudgenby Bush Regeneration Group

Another good spring with regular rains and a need for further infill in the Hospital Creek area have meant that our spring work parties have concentrated on planting.

The top photograph, taken at the October work party, clearly shows that regeneration from the original seeding has not been successful on the slopes near Hospital Creek. In other areas logs are largely obscured by seedlings up to two metres tall. As well as planting mixed seedlings in amongst the logs, we planted *Eucalyptus stellulata* (black sallee) along the western margin of the swamp.

The November work party saw this planting continued, but we also planted about 700 of the 50 000 Greenfleet seedlings using their very efficient technique. The seedlings are small and a special plunger is used to make the hole. Some water crystals are poured down the tube before the seedling



Peter Neimanis and Graham Eddy planting Greenfleet seedlings.

Photos Eleanor Stodart

is dropped in, the soil pressed down, and a carton placed around the seedling for protection. Even though seedlings are small, the first Greenfleet planting had 70 per cent

success rate after a year, and we are hoping things will go at least as well this year. The weather has been kind to us so far.

Eleanor Stodart

Senior musical chairs

NPA outings range from tiger walks to more gentle strolls. Margaret Aston's walk along Coleman Ridge on 21 October was a shorter walk than most and attracted some of our older members, who are here enjoying a short break. Our next break was amongst hundreds of bulbine lillies just coming into flower, and later still we were entertained by a pair of black shouldered kites performing aerobatics.

Eleanor Stodart



Ferals v natives: A question of "rights"!

It would seem today that the conservation of natural resources is almost always seen as a threat to the self-interest of individuals. The desire to protect biodiversity in national parks is being met with increased opposition and reserved areas are at risk of alienation for commercial or individual profit. The weak environmental philosophy that governs the Kosciuszko ski-fields and allows beds to be seen as currency is proof enough of this attitude. The philosophy is based on the premise that commercially based recreation and tourism are legitimate activities within national parks. In an attempt to legitimise this outlook the concept of "equity" is often raised and this encourages some very strange bedfellows for park administrators.

So, if a conservationist were to ask a park administrator: *Do feral animals have a place in a national park?* instead of the answer being an unequivocal *No*, the current answer would be *Perhaps*.

This is not just a NSW trend as we have seen with the feral horse problem in Kosciuszko and Guy Fawkes, but it extends to other states as well.

On 20 October this year the ABC's *Landline* program included a segment on feral horses in Coffin Bay National Park on the west coast of South Australia's Eyre Peninsula. This area was declared a national park in the early 70s. It encompasses about 30 000ha of diverse habitat, is home to about 150 bird species, 11 mammals and an unknown number of amphibious species. The park's creation posed a challenge to management as it was mainly land that had been degraded by farming practices and feral animals, including horses, cattle,

wild dogs, foxes and cats. Eradication programs were put in place for all but one of these introduced pests – horses.

Ross Allen from National Parks and Wildlife, SA was interviewed on *Landline* and recognised that the eradication of feral animals is one of the founding principles of the state's national parks. Yet the service has entered into an agreement with the Pony Preservation Society (PPS) to maintain a "managed" herd within the park. The PPS argued that the Coffin Bay ponies were a feature of the peninsula and popular with the area's horse fraternity. The ponies' future was threatened by Parks and Wildlife's "pest control" program and the PPS successfully lobbied for a managed herd to remain within the park. A formal agreement was signed in the early 90s which allows for a herd of 20 mares and their foals and one stallion. The ponies belong to the park but are sold to the PPS, which in turn sells off excess stock at annual auction.

The service claims that the ponies in their present numbers have minimal impact on the environment, but the area they graze was once sheoak woodland that is showing few, if any, signs of rehabilitation. The Service doesn't blame the ponies – rather it is the fault of a burgeoning kangaroo population. And 2000 roos have been culled recently. The increase in the roo population is blamed on the opening up of waterholes. What the parks spokesman didn't explain on *Landline* was why these waterholes were opened up. Obviously the local kangaroos didn't need them so it seems reasonable to assume that they were rejuvenated for the horses' needs.

A community group dedicated to the preservation of native species – "Ark on Eyre" – maintains that the ponies don't belong in the park. They propose that the ponies be removed to some SA Water land adjacent to the Coffin Bay township where their "natural beauty" would be accessible to all, instead of being at the end of a 2–3 hour 4WD track. Not on says PPS – "Relocation shouldn't be an issue for these horses as they're in a managed capacity."

A draft management plan for the Park was put forward in 1999 and at least two ministerial advisory committees have examined both the draft and community submissions. These documents have all gone to the Minister but there has been no decision has been made.

In the meantime the ponies continue to exist in the national park.

Conservationists must continue to lobby to eliminate all undesirable practices in park management. So far as the management of feral species is concerned it seems reasonable to demand:

- that legislation unambiguously state the prime purpose of a national park – the protection of biological diversity and ecological integrity;
- that no concessions be allowed to impair the prime objective of nature conservation; and
- that management proceeds according to the results of independent scientific research and monitoring.

If meeting such criteria was obligatory for management the only answer to the question *Is there a place for feral animals in national parks?* could only be an unequivocal *No!*

Len Haskew

Gudgenby Homestead proposal "totally inappropriate" *continued from page 7*

commercial development and increased access on these significant natural heritage places.

A commercial development at Gudgenby Homestead and concentration of visitors and recreational activities in the Gudgenby Valley and hinterland would place Aboriginal sites under increased threat of being accidentally disturbed or destroyed.

Commercial operations and activities would endanger Aboriginal sites and compromise the historical integrity of the area.

"The proposal for commercial development at Gudgenby Homestead, if it were to be accepted, would set a dangerous precedent of commercial developments right in the heart of Namadgi National Park" the submission says.

"A serious question that must be asked is, if the Namadgi Visitor Centre was placed at the edge of the park near Tharwa for reasons of environmental and cultural sensitivity, then why should a commercial development be allowed in the heart of the park?"

Robyn Barker

Parish maps tell settlement story

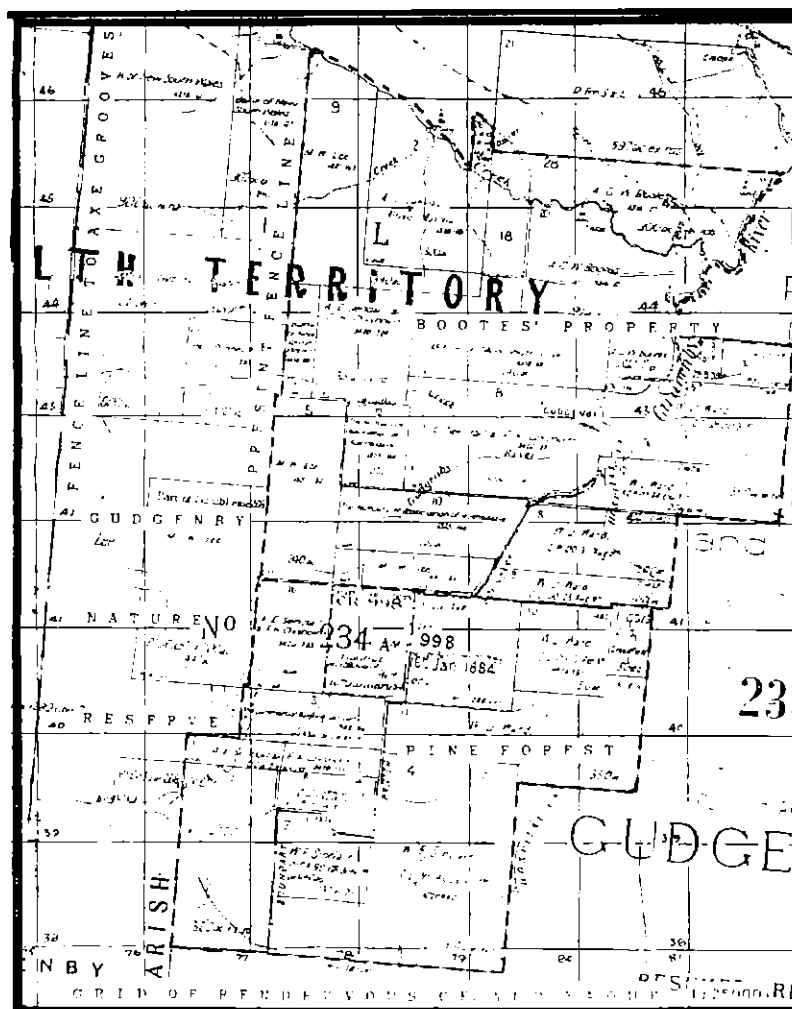
New South Wales is divided into 141 counties which are further divided into smaller areas called parishes. These have a greater degree of stability than do local government, electoral and regional areas where political whim can cause frequent changes.

There are over 7000 parish map sheets and because of name duplication it is essential to quote the county as well as the parish name. Each parish is divided into portions which vary in size according to the degree of occupation in that part of the state. In a town or village, portions are shown in a more detailed scale in sections or allotments. On ordinary parish maps the portions will show the area, survey catalogue numbers and in most instances grantees' names. Parish maps in most instances still show imperial measurements. The parish map does not go beyond the issue of the crown grant; subdivisions occurring after the grant are recorded on deposited plans at the Lands Titles Office. The mortgagee will appear as grantee if there was a mortgage issued at the time of the grant. The grantee may not have been the original selector who held the land under lease.

Some years ago when the Gudgenby Nature Reserve was declared, I acquired parish maps covering the valley floor areas of the reserve. On applying the boundaries of one to the other it became apparent that whereas diagrammatically the sizes of portions may have been accurate, the locations of natural features varied in position from one map to the other.

I overlaid the maps to give the best fit and so built up a composite sheet to show the relationships of the Naas, Gudgenby and the Orroral valley portions. The next problem was to relate the parish maps to the modern 1:25000 scale maps of Corin Dam, Rendezvous Creek and Yaouk.

On the map, I have drawn a grid of an appropriate scale which may



A collage of c1900 parish maps showing the names of grantees and boundaries of their properties. Superimposed are the boundaries of the Bootes property and the pine forest which were excluded from the Gudgenby Nature Reserve at the time of its declaration.

be related to the parish map. It readily becomes apparent how closely sub-divided the Gudgenby valley has been. Some present fences still follow the old boundaries. For example, the main continuous western fence can be easily picked up from the minor changes of its direction, as can the boundary fence in the scrub on the way down to the Middle Creek axe grinding grooves.

One thing readily apparent is the large number of portions owned by individuals or as mortgagees and the struggle it must have been to eke out an existence on such small holdings. This situation made it easier for those with a stronger financial background to eventually and progressively gather the

portions into a single property. According to the maps, the Bootes property of the last century was made up from 30 portions held by 12 owners.

When the large families of that era are considered, together with employees looking after stock, tree clearing and rabbit trapping, the valley could have supported a large number of people.

In my early bushwalking days the topographical detail on parish maps, in the absence of more detailed maps, was often used to provide basic exploratory routes. The detail of the meanderings of creeks and rivers was quite good, but there were large areas of blank spaces between rivers and catchment boundaries.

Reg Alder

Greenhouse – your house

Chris Mackenzie Davey has brought a background of landscape architecture and horticulture to his present position of ACT Facilitator for Cool Communities. At the September meeting of the association, Chris explained what this project is about.

The Cool Communities project aims to reduce household greenhouse gas emissions; it works with community and local government groups to reach householders, “a group notoriously difficult to change”.

While our planet needs some greenhouse effect to maintain life-supporting conditions, too much greenhouse gas emission will result in abnormal warming. Current scientific opinion accepts that a 3 to 5 degree Celsius increase will develop over the next 50 years from current energy use worldwide; 0.6 to 2.5 degrees for Australia. For comparison, during the last Ice Age, temperatures were about 4 degrees lower than currently.

A general temperature rise globally will cause increased evaporation – wetter summers and autumns, drier winters and springs – and more extreme weather events locally, including doubling of days over 35 degrees, halving of frost

days, more spring droughts, rain heavier and more frequent. Impacts on habitats such as in national parks) will include increased water runoff, changes in species composition, greater weed and pest problems (because of the adaptability of these species), a threat to conserved alpine vegetation and an increased fire risk.

As one fifth of Australia’s emissions come from households, the actions of individuals now can have a significant effect. There are a number of areas where householders can take action to reduce their energy usage, thereby reducing emissions from power generation. These include the following:

- Heat loss. Installation of insulation in houses can reduce heat loss. Approximately 35 per cent of house heating is lost through the roof and 25 per cent through the walls. Insulation can also be inserted under timber floors. Improved seals around windows and doors can control draughts.
- Hot water use. The following steps can be taken to reduce the usage of hot water: use cold water for washing machines install low flow shower heads cut unnecessary hot water tap use (note mixer taps particularly)

consider gas water heating, particularly “instant” heating which heats water only as it is used solar water heating – Cool Communities is trying to reach plumbers, as hot water systems are often replaced under more or less emergency conditions!

- Energy use: Recommendations include low energy light bulbs signing up for “green electricity” factoring in energy efficiency ratings in decisions when replacing appliances.
- Other ways by which reductions in emissions can be made are: reducing landfill waste undertaking home composting considering transport options – walking, cycling, public transport and the type of car used when a car is really necessary.

Chris provided a questionnaire for us to check just how Cool our own households were. The results were **not** spectacularly good, but showed a possible correlation between the age of a house and its likely efficiency. The “coolest” house was four years old and built with efficiency in mind.

Cool Communities advice is available at the Canberra Environment Centre on Thursdays.

Adrienne Nicholson

Celebrating 40 years

The Canberra Bushwalking Club is celebrating its 40th anniversary. Our association sends the CBC our warmest congratulations. The two organisations worked hard together to realise NPA’s dream of a “National Park for the National Capital”. In their 40th Anniversary Special Magazine, Alan Vidler and Dan Beuchler record a walk to Mount Kelly with local politicians John Knight and John Haslem. Much lobbying went on and Alan and Dan’s article concludes: “When the Namadgi National Park was created in 1978 a couple of experienced NPA campaigners

opined that our trip had brought forward the event by at least 18 months.”

As well as producing a special magazine (giving an excellent history of the club) to mark the occasion, a photographic exhibition was mounted at the Botanic Gardens. High quality historic and current photographs giving a great overview of the club and its varied activities were appreciated by all who saw the exhibition. Perhaps the photos were overshadowed a little by a display of someone’s “rations” for a week on the Alpine Track. This “lightweight” exhibit seemed to

capture the imagination of everyone I knew who attended!

I also learnt from a reading of the magazine that Eleanor Stodart drew the club’s emblem – the corroboree frog.

It would seem that the old saying “40 years young” certainly applies to the Canberra Bushwalking Club, and we are sure that they will continue to be a high profile bushwalking and conservation organisation for many more years to come.

Len Haskew

PARKWATCH

Something fishy at Tharwa

Populations of the threatened Trout Cod and Macquarie Perch in the ACT are set to increase thanks to rock walls constructed on the Murrumbidgee River between Tharwa and Point Hut crossing

The Federal Governments Natural Heritage Trust contributed \$250,000 towards the project, which involves constructing the walls and anchoring them to the riverbank.

Project officer Mark Lintermans said the Tharwa stretch of the Murrumbidgee was chosen because it was in the most serious condition, with large swathes of sand silting up the river and blocking fish access. The river at Tharwa has an average depth of only 30-40cm with sand smothering the previously deep holes in the river.

"The walls increase the river's ability to wash away sand build-up creating a series of holes or 'stepping stones' with deeper water," Mark said.

"We've also excavated sand out of the river and put in logs to create cover for fish, and water creatures like the Murray River crayfish.

Removing the blockages will give fish access to good habitat upstream and downstream."

Natural Heritage, Spring 2001

Havoc in the air as mischief flies south for summer

The bogong migration is one of the greatest mass movements of insects on Earth, as billions of moths travel more than 1,000 kilometres for a summer hibernation on the summits of Australia's tallest mountains.

But a new study has revealed it is also a frightening long-distance migration of arsenic, which the moths consume in plants from farmland in NSW and Queensland, and bring to the Snowy Mountains.

The moths have been coming to the mountains for thousands of years and were once the main course in Aboriginal summer feasts.

The insects, which arrive from the lowlands with up to 65 per cent of their body weight as fat, are eaten

in their millions by native animals such as mountain pygmy possums.

At the start of the year, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service wildlife ecologist Ken Green noticed that outside the caves where the bogongs hibernate during summer (or aestivate), the grass and vegetation was dead.

Heavy rains had washed millions of dead bogongs out of their crevices, and tests revealed high levels of arsenic in the dead moths and vegetation.

Dr Green said in a new scientific paper that the moths do not feed during their stay in the mountains, so the arsenic must have been consumed where the larvae feed.

Arsenic has been used in the past in pesticides, insecticides and cattle and sheep dips.

"The distances between the larval sites inland and the aestivation sites in the mountains is up to 1,000 kilometres," Dr Green said in his paper.

"This finding constitutes yet another example of long-distance transport of pollutants, but one that is unusual in that an insect is the transporting agent," he said. "The results indicate long distance transport of sub-lethal quantities of arsenic which are then concentrated to damaging levels by the millions of moths at aestivation sites."

Dr Green said he hopes to study the impact of the arsenic on the food chain this season.

The Sydney Morning Herald, October 20, 2001.

Government steps in to protect historic track

On September 4th, Environment Minister Bob Debus announced the NPWS would enter talks with graziers in the Kanimbla Valley about buying a parcel of land through which the historic Six Foot Track runs. Responding to an urgent plea from the Colong Foundation, Mr Debus said he was keen to preserve the track for the use of recreational walkers.

Acquisition of the development site would protect the water quality

of the Little River, as well as ensure the track remained for walkers, instead of being converted into a road for motor vehicles. The site should be purchased by either the Department of Land and Water Conservation who manage the Track or the Sydney Catchment Authority to protect the Warragamba catchment.

The Colong Bulletin, September 2001

Things are getting desperate, by gum

So valuable and scarce are sources of native seeds – up to \$9,000 a kilogram for good blue gum – some landholders are illegally importing stock from eucalypt plantations in India and Africa, the head of Greening Australia says.

The chief executive of Greening Australia, Mr Mark Thomas, said one of the greatest obstacles to the repair of the Australian continent was the growing shortage of good indigenous seed stock. "There is a business opportunity for farmers here; if they want to talk to us we will help them set up."

Mr Thomas estimated that the national demand for seed was about 54,000 kilograms a year, but with just one new Commonwealth initiative in the Murray-Darling Basin alone this figure was expected to triple.

"We are running into seed supply problems already, and we are just at the beginning of decades of large-scale revegetation," Mr Thomas said

In frustration, he said, farmers wanting to revegetate their land were turning to whatever seed they could lay their hands on, and sometimes that meant obtaining material from trees grown in other States or even from plantations in the Third World.

The problem is that such material is of dubious quality and does not have the genetic variability of locally grown native plants. Local stock grows more vigorously and is better adapted to its environment, and wildlife has evolved with it.

Mr Owen Whitaker of Greening

Australia, said, "If you put a dollar value on seeds they are absolute gold."

The Sydney Morning Herald, September 8-9, 2001.

North Watson – 5 acres declared as urban open space

5 acres in Watson containing mature Yellow Box and Red Gum trees have been declared urban open space through a variation to the Territory Plan. This is in addition to the 18 hectares of high quality woodland added to Majura Nature Reserve. The ACT Flora and Fauna Committee had conducted an extensive assessment of the ecological values of the 5 acres. Brendan Smyth said that, "Identifying this land at North Watson as Urban Open Space has been chosen as an appropriate means of conserving trees, and still allowing some sympathetic residential development on other parts of the site".

EDO – Talk, April – May, 2001

New national park leading the way to biodiversity

South Australia's first new national park in eight years has been established thanks to \$822,000 funding from the Natural Heritage Trust.

The 1200,000-hectare Gawler Ranges National Park lies 350km north west of Adelaide, and for the first time conserves arid shrublands and hummock grasslands in the region.

Gawler Ranges National Park lies amid volcanic rock hills thought to be 1500 million years old, some of which are 400 metres above sea level. The rock hills and sweeping valleys contain 210 known plant species and 120 bird species, among them at least 21 rare and threatened species including the inland thorn-bill, thick-billed grass wren, yellow-footed rock wallaby, Penalty knob-tailed gecko, southern hairy-nosed wombat, pink cockatoo, and malleefowl.

Land for the park was purchased under the Natural Heritage Trust's National Reserve System Program that is establishing and managing

new protected areas of ecological significance. By working with public and private landholders, including Indigenous Australians, the program is safeguarding a comprehensive and representative sample of all of Australia's ecosystems.

Natural Heritage, Autumn, 2001.

HSI protects Queensland bush

HSI's "Million Acres" campaign has secured protection for huge areas of endangered bush in Queensland – home to many species of animals and plants.

In April 2001 Senator Robert Hill listed blue grasslands, brigalow woodlands and semi evergreen vine thickets from the Brigalow Belt of Queensland and north NSW as "endangered ecological communities" on the Federal *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, 1999*. Senator Hill also listed springs from the Great Artesian Basin as endangered. These were all the direct result of nominations HSI submitted as part of our Million Acres program.

Numerous threatened flora species can be found in the blue grasslands, while the endangered Black Striped Wallaby, the Greater Long Eared Bat and the Glossy Black Cockatoo, among other fauna species, make their home in the Brigalow Acacia harpophylla woodlands and semi evergreen vine thickets. These important wildlife habitats have been drastically reduced by broad scale vegetation clearing, overgrazed and/or heavily impacted by weed invasion. HSI is calling on the Federal Government to ensure that the new legal protection over these habitats is strictly enforced and that sufficient resources are given to programs that will bring about their recovery.

Humane Society International, July, 2001.

Success in the fight against feral cats

Macquarie Island was settled in the early 1800s by sealers who introduced exotic species such as cats and rabbits that are still a major problem today.

An integrated pest management program focussing on the eradication of feral cats was started in 1997 thanks to an initial grant of \$148,000 from the Natural Heritage Trust's National Feral Animal Control Program. Since then the Trust has contributed a further \$883,000 to the project

As a direct benefit of the eradication program, breeding of the Grey Petrel has occurred for the first time in more than 100 years. The last Grey Petrel eggs were discovered on the island in the 1890s.

"At this stage four colonies of the endangered Grey Petrel have been discovered, and five chicks hatched last October. We have also discovered another seabird species previously found only on offshore seastacks – the critically-endangered Blue Petrel – is now breeding back on Macquarie Island," project manager Geoff Copson said. *Natural Heritage*, Autumn, 2001.

Men of clay

The Newnes Kaolin company proposes to establish a kaolin mine at Newnes Junction, next to Clarence Colliery.

The mine is in the headwaters of the Wollangambe River catchment near Lithgow, and if approved could compromise the recent government decision to clean up the pollution at the Clarence Colliery.

The 50 hectare proposal maximises the potential environmental impact of the quarry by being located in this sensitive catchment and by seeking to close down the local community of Newnes Junction. The quarry company has already offered to buy up the village.

If developed, the proposed quarry will become a huge hole in the ground that will of course fill up with water. It will need to be regularly pumped out into the national park below, causing a pollution hazard. So much for restoring the Wollangambe River to a pristine state. If this proposal is approved clay may end up in the World Heritage listed Wollemi wilderness.

The Colong Bulletin, July, 2001.

Len Haskew

Book review

Reflections of Ted Taylor "Man of the High Country", edited and published by Judi Hearn.

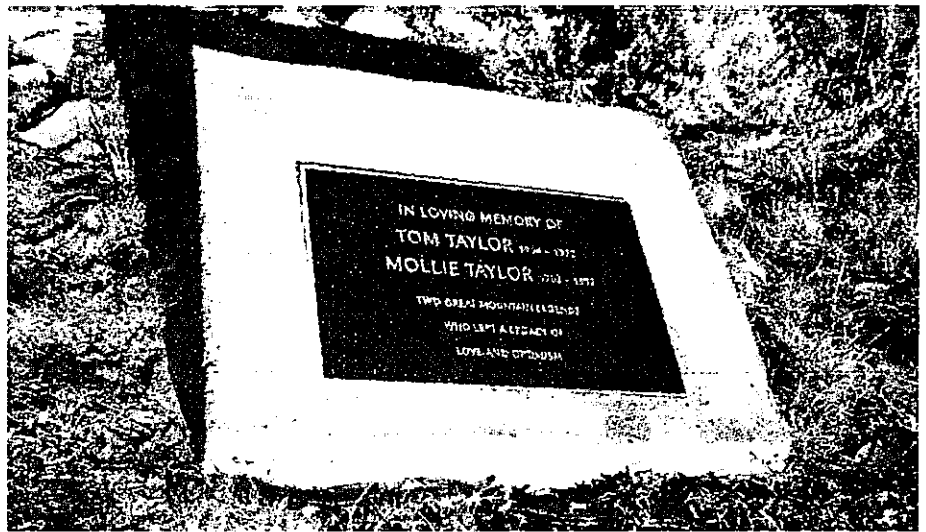
I started reading this book with my usual approach of looking for structure – a table of contents and index – but quickly realised that this book is a very different creature. In fact, it was necessary to mentally sit on a log in front of a fire opposite Ted, and let him talk to me.

Judi Hearn, editor, has been visiting Currango as a guest of Ted and Helen Taylor for several years now and suggested to him that he record some of the tales of his life he had entertained her with. It turned out that his children had asked him to do the same thing, so he had already started talking into a tape recorder. Judi's role was to put some order into his recollections, being careful not to change his wording.

What has emerged is the story of a man of the High Country, a man who is an integral part of the mountains where he grew up, worked as a stockman, ran brumbies, and worked with Major Clews on the Indi.

"We used to fish off our horses, down on the Murrumbidgee, before the dam went in... we used to fish upstream and fish off the horse. The only time you got off was if you couldn't land a big one. Many's the time I got a fish up under the horse's belly and its run around the horses legs and got hooked around the tail."

Much has already been recorded by writers such as Klaus Huenecke



Plaque placed in grounds of Currango by Ted Taylor in memory of his parents. Photo Syd Comfort

in his books *Huts of the High Country* and *The People Book*, (where detailed interviews with Tom and Mollie Taylor are available), and Harry Hill in his books *Old Currango* and *Cooimbil*. Ted's reflections add yet more richness to the history of the many people who struggled to make a living in and around the Tantangara Plain.

When I rang Ted he, like all authors I suspect, reckoned there was much more he could have said. On reflecting on his early life he commented that "each day and each year were much the same", whereas since decimal currency and computers the pace of life has sped up to a point it was difficult to keep up. Despite the hardships, his has been a good life, and he would not change it for the life

experienced by today's young people.

The book is available at Cooma from the Visitors Centre and bookshop, NPWS headquarters Jindabyne, Corryong, Yarrangobilly Caves, and the Tumut Visitors Centre and newsagency. Alternatively, it can be obtained direct from the editor and publisher, Judi Hearn, PO Box 202, Bermagui, NSW 2546.

Perhaps Ted's reflections will inspire some readers to experience Currango and the general area and stay either as guests in the homestead with Ted and Helen, or in one of two cottages in the complex. Booking details are available from The Tumut Region Visitors Centre, phone 02-69477025 or email tumutrvc@npws.nsw.gov.au

Graham Scully

Local environment news

Bitumen sealing of the Boboyan Road

Brian Slee has drawn attention to the proposal by the ACT Government to seal about 2.5km of the Boboyan Road which runs south through the ACT to the NSW border at Shannons Flat. This would extend the sealed section from the Yankee Hat turnoff to the lookout near Hospital Hill. This work is part of a

Federal Government Program and involves expenditure of \$1 400 000 in years 2003-04 and 2004-05.

SFC

2001 ACT Landcare Awards

Landcare Awards, which recognise the efforts of the landcare community, are conducted every two

years in each state and territory with the winners progressing to the national awards in the following year. Two nominations for the 2001 ACT awards will be of particular interest to association members: the Gudgenby Bush Regeneration Group was nominated for the Alcoa Landcare Community Group Award and Eleanor Stodart was nominated

continued on page 19

General Meetings

Please note new venue for General Meetings.

Uniting Church, hall

Parkinson St., Weston, Weston Creek.

Meetings start at 8.00pm.

December 2001 and January 2002 no General Meetings.

Thursday 21st February 2002

The Snowy Mountains – a walker's views

NPA member Steve Hill plans to show some of his slides displaying the beauty of the Snowy's from above the tree line. A mix of summer scenery, flowers and snow scenes. Brian Slee plans to bring some of his magnificent prints for you to view.

Thursday 21st March 2002

Facts, Tracks and Ferals

Dianne Thompson, David Large and Clive Hurlstone.

A four day visit to the Southern and Northern Regions of Kosciusko National Park at the end of October

Calendar

Activity	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Committee meeting	Thu 6	–	Thu 7	Thu 7
Environment Sub-committee ¹	Thu 16	–	Thu 14	Thu 14
General meeting	–	–	Thu 21	Thu 21
Christmas party ²	Sun 9			
Gudgenby Regeneration ³	Sat 8	–	Sat 9	Sat 9

Further details

¹ See page 2 for contacts

² Outings program

³ Yankee Hat carpark 10:00 am; Eleanor Stodart 6281 5004.

last year gave NPA members from the ACT and NSW an opportunity to view and discuss with NPWS staff park management issues. This included, new additions to the reserve system, feral animal control and horse based recreation in northern KNP.

Here about some of the achievements and problems of KNP managers from your intrepid investigators.

Thursday 18th April 2002

When Macropods Attack!

Chris Webb

This talk will explore the dark side of kangaroos, namely their potential to impede the growth and survival of woody seedlings. In addition, it will canvas options for controlling macropod browsing damage, including tree guards, electric fencing and chemical repellents.

Chris carried out the research for the project on which this talk is based in the Boboyan pines bush regeneration area in Namadgi National Park.

Local environment news – continued from page 18

for the National Landcare Program Individual Landcarer Award.

The ACT Awards were presented at a function on September 6 at which the group award was made to the Friends of Aranda Bushland and the individual award to Geoff Butler, both awards being very well earned. Eleanor received a framed certificate of merit and the Gudgenby Bushies were accorded special mention by the Chief Minister, Gary Humphries, when he made the group award. We wish the Friends of Aranda and Geoff Butler good fortune as they face the national awards next year.

Syd Comfort

Environment ACT appointment

Dr Maxine Cooper has been appointed to the position of Executive Director of Environment ACT. Dr Cooper comes to

Environment ACT from the ACT Department of Planning and Land Management.

New minister for parks and conservation

Following the recent ACT elections, Bill Wood has been appointed Minister for Urban Services, which includes responsibility for parks and forests and the environment.

Bill was Minister for the Environment, Land and Planning, and held other portfolios, from June 1991 until March 1995. Some highlights of this time were the adoption of the territory plan and environmental legislation.

Graeme Wicks

Transgrid inquiry deferred.

The NSW Legislative Council has decided to conduct an inquiry into the

recent clearing of areas under powerlines in the Brindabella and Namadgi National Parks. However this inquiry has now been postponed. Transgrid will continue with the restoration work but the examination of the processes of the clearing and development of proposals for the future will be delayed.

Feral horses in Namadgi

At the November general meeting of the association, members who had recently been walking in the Mount Murray area reported that they had seen feral horses in Namadgi. The horses were close to the NSW border in the Jacks Creek area. The meeting expressed grave concern about this, particularly in the light of the actions taken some years ago to remove feral horses from Namadgi.

Great Books from your NPA

An ideal gift for someone special
this *Christmas*

"Field Guide to the Birds of the ACT"

\$12.50 to NPA members

**"Field Guide to the Native Trees of the
ACT"**

\$5.00 to NPA members

"Reptiles & Frogs of the ACT"

\$12.00 to NPA members

Contact Janet Neale after 5.30pm on 6258 2397 (by
email janetn@act.net.au) to place your order

Better still - come and look at the books
and make your purchase at the
NPA Christmas Party

**THE
PRESIDENT
AND
COMMITTEE**
extend to all members
best wishes for
Christmas and New Year
and invite everyone to attend
the Christmas Party on
Sunday 9 December
at Nil Desperandum
Details are in the Outings
Program

NPA Bulletin

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