



NPA *Bulletin*

Volume 48 Number 3 September 2011

National Parks Association of the Australian Capital Territory Inc



**Ginninderra Falls
NP proposed**



**Scrivener Hill
looking better**



**New NPA
Life Members**



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

CONTENTS

President's Report to the AGM2 <i>Rod Griffiths</i>	Recollections of Canberra, the mountains and Namadgi.....16 <i>Stephen Johnston</i>
Another good year for the NPA.....4 <i>Max Lawrence</i>	Book review <i>The world of Tidbinbilla</i>17 <i>Fiona MacDonald Brand</i>
Housing scheme could help national park proposal.....6 <i>Graeme Barrow</i>	Book review: <i>A string of pearls</i>18 <i>Martin Chalk</i>
World Environment Day on Scrivener Hill.....7 <i>Syd Comfort</i>	Bushwalk reports: Boboyan regeneration area19 <i>Brian Slee</i>
Vale Les Pyke.....8 <i>Syd Comfort</i> <i>Geoff and Den Robin</i>	June long weekend in the Budawangs19 <i>Cynthia Breheny</i>
Thomas Fishlock and his stockyards.....10 <i>Babette Scougall</i>	PARKWATCH20-21 <i>Selected by Hazel Rath</i>
Greenland and Iceland12 <i>Esther Gallant</i>	NPA notices22
The 'Friends of Glenburn' have been busy13 <i>Col McAlister</i>	Meeting and speaker information23
Tracking Orange Hawkweed14 <i>Dianne Thompson</i>	NPA information and contacts23

President's Report to the AGM

2010–11 was another year of activity for the NPA ACT and pleasingly there were a number of success stories. The NPA ACT's final celebration of its 50th anniversary occurred when our flagship publication *Namadgi — A National Park for the National Capital* was launched by the Minister for the Environment in April. This is a glorious book that truly celebrates the wonder of the ACT's national park — a very fitting culmination indeed to the NPA ACT's golden anniversary year.

A busy round of submissions to government

Representations and submissions to government on matters of policy and conservation of the ACT's precious natural and environmental assets are almost certainly one of the most important ways in which NPA ACT can promote its aims and objectives. We have again been very busy on this front. During the year the NPA ACT formally responded to requests for comment on:

- the ACT 2011 Budget,
- the *Planning the Eastern Broadacre Area* inquiry,
- the review of the Nature Conservation Act; and
- the Commissioner for Sustainability and Environment's report on the feasibility of a new northern national park in the ACT.

In addition, NPA was part of the Community Reference Group for the draft *Plan of Management for Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve*; we provided input into the *Master Plan for Jerrabomberra Wetlands*; and some of us appeared before one of the ACT Legislative Assembly's Standing Committees dealing with the 2011 ACT Budget.

Helping with these activities has been the reconvened

Environment Sub-committee and my thanks go to its members for their efforts.

Issues keep arising ...

A number of issues arose late in 2010–11. First was a proposal to scrap the Gang-gang logo so proudly worn by the ACT's park rangers. The NPA ACT and its members played a key role in ensuring that the logo continues to be worn by park rangers. Second was a proposal to make redundant a number of key Parks, Conservation and Land staff, with consequent adverse implications for the quality and level of staffing and management of our precious conservation parks and reserves. NPA ACT representations helped overturn this decision, but the fight for more and better resources in this area, not less, will be an ongoing one for the Association.

Getting out there

The NPA ACT's walks program always astounds me with the diversity of the activities and the enthusiasm of the walks leaders. This year was no different. Walks form a key activity of the NPA ACT and are a vital means of attracting new members. Well done to convenor Mike Smith and his fellow members of the Outings Sub-committee and the walks leaders. If you are interested in becoming involved, remember that the NPA ACT will contribute to the cost of first aid courses for its walks leaders.



(continued next page)

President's Report to the AGM (continued from page 2)

Another important component of the NPA ACT's activities is its works program. Very ably coordinated by Martin Chalk, the work parties have taken on a range of tasks during the year. I can only think that feral pines must shake right down to their roots when they hear that an NPA ACT work party is approaching.

Maintaining the public profile

A key decision made this year was to maintain the full-colour NPA *Bulletin*. The *Bulletin* is a wonderful publication and a great ambassador for the activities of the NPA ACT. Max Lawrence's editorship has been a key contributor to the quality of the *Bulletin* and he has been ably supported by Adrienne Nicholson and Ed Highley. Hazel Rath has continued to enhance the publication with her contributions to the PARKWATCH segment.

The media profile of the NPA ACT has been maintained during the year with its members contributing letters to the editors of various ACT and NSW newspapers and journals, most notably the *Canberra Times*. NPA and its members have also been represented on ABC radio and WIN TV, and have also been regularly quoted or referred to in regard to environmental issues in the *Canberra Times* and the *Chronicle*.

Keeping up our affiliations

NPA ACT has worked very hard to

support the wider conservation and environment movement. Members of our Committee are active on peak organisations the Conservation Council of the ACT and the National Parks Australia Council. In fact our immediate Past President Christine Goonrey has been President of both, and remains President of NPAC. Thank you Christine.

The NPA ACT has played a key role in the establishment of a Friends of Glenburn group established to care for the historical heritage features remaining on the Kowen plateau of north eastern ACT. Special mention goes to the drive of Col McAlister in guiding this. The protection of the heritage of the Glenburn precinct will become even more relevant as the city of Canberra encroaches on this area of the ACT.

The NPA ACT and its members have also continued to be involved with the Gudgenby Bush Regeneration Group, and we support the Canberra group campaigning for a new NSW national park based on Ginninderra Falls and the Murrumbidgee River.

Big plans for the coming year

The coming year promises to be a busy one as well. The NPA ACT will:

- Continue to campaign for the establishment of a new national park for the ACT based on protecting and raising the profile of the ACT's lowland grassy woodlands. This will build on the media coverage received earlier in 2011 and on the findings of

the Commissioner for Sustainability and Environment's previously mentioned report

- Work towards achieving a single conservation agency in the ACT bureaucracy
- Push for an outdoor recreation strategy for the ACT
- Fight for the maintenance and enhancement of the resources for the management of the ACT's natural environment
- Develop a proposal for an NPA ACT funded scholarship
- Be actively involved in reducing the effects of Canberra's new suburbs on the natural environment
- Reprint its Bird book and publish updated versions of its Bird book and its Frogs and Reptile book.

All of this work relies heavily on the efforts of the NPA ACT's members. In particular, I would like to thank the 2010–11 office bearers and committee, the convenors and members of the Publications, Outings and Environment sub-committees and the workers in the office, all of whom have helped guide the NPA ACT through 2010–11. Also thanks to Adrienne Nicholson and Clive Hurlstone for your work on General Meeting nights.

Rod Griffiths

Red Spot

Subscriptions for 2011–12 are now overdue.

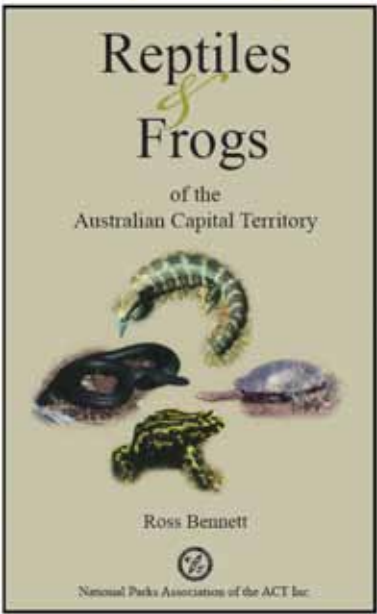
If there is a **Red Spot** on your *Bulletin* address sheet and at the foot of this box, the association's records show your current subscription has not been received.

Your renewal form is enclosed.

Please check.



STOP PRESS – new version of sought-after NPA book



The NPA Publications Sub-committee has been hard at work to get the long out-of-print *Reptiles & Frogs of the Australian Capital Territory* back into print. The author, Ross Bennett, has added two species (including photos) and has updated some of the text. Sabine Friedrich's incredible computing skills enabled her to digitise the 1997 version of the book and reassemble text, photos and the original graphics by designer Mariana Rollgejser in the InDesign software (which, unfortunately, wasn't available for use in 1997, when now archaic printing processes were still the only means to publish books). The process is at the last editing and spell-check stage which means that printing is not far off. The new book will fill a long-felt void for keen naturalists and nature observers. Watch this space!

Another good year for the NPA

Following on from all the excitement of our Golden Anniversary Year in 2010, members attending the 2011 Annual General Meeting on 18 August were told what they already knew — NPA had another very good year. The many details of NPA's achievements are spelled out in President Rod Griffiths's report elsewhere in this *Bulletin*.

Familiar faces, and new blood

President Rod and his committee in fact were judged to have done so well that they were re-elected, with only two committee members — Mike Bremers and Mike Huson — opting to take a break, and two others — Mike Smith and Judy Kelly — returning from 'sabbatical'. In addition we had an injection of new blood with the recruitment of new member Bernard Morvell to the committee. A very warm welcome to Bernard, and welcome back to Mike and Judy. We will miss the other two Mikes, and hope that they will maintain close links with NPA, and perhaps one day they too will return from sabbatical. Our office holders remain the same as last year — Rod Griffiths President, Sonja Lenz Secretary, and Chris Emery Treasurer. The position of Vice President remains vacant, as it did last year. Thanks very much to David Large, who once again did an excellent job as returning officer for the election. Full details of the new Committee are shown on page 23.

Very healthy finances

In his Treasurer's report Chris Emery noted that NPA made a surplus of nearly \$32 000 during the year, more than double that of the previous year. This was mainly the result of good sales of the Namadgi book. Net assets are around \$157 000, a third of which comprises inventory, mainly books. Chris was thanked by acclamation for his excellent work since taking over the role of Treasurer at the beginning of the year. Warm thanks were also extended to Malcolm Prentice FCPA for his work as Honorary Auditor, and Mr Prentice was again asked to undertake the role in 2011–12.

Life memberships for the Smith Family

Mike and Annette Smith were elected Honorary Life Members of NPA ACT at the 2011 AGM. In presenting Mike and

Annette with their awards President Rod Griffiths commented especially on the excellent contributions they had made to NPA both individually and jointly as a team. In this regard the awards follow the example set last year by the award of life memberships to Kevin McCue and Sonja Lenz. NPA is indeed fortunate to have two such worthy teams.

Mike and Annette have been stalwarts of the NPA virtually since the very first day they joined in the mid 1980s — half of the NPA's lifetime ago. Together they have been involved in many aspects of the association's operations, not only participating in work parties, for example in the Budawangs, but also organising bushwalks and presenting slide shows to general meetings of NPA. As a team they also took on the task of transcribing and editing the oral history interviews of notable association identities, a task that led to the recent completion and archival of this important project originally undertaken for the 40th anniversary of the association.

Individually, the citations for Mike and Annette are equally impressive.

Mike the man of action

Mike was NPA ACT Treasurer for the eleven years from 1990 to 2001. No other person has undertaken this demanding role for anything like the term covered by Mike, and indeed it is likely that his record may never be broken. He is currently Outings Convenor, a position he has held since 2006 — five years and still counting. Both Mike and Annette have been very active participants in the NPA walks program over many years, and Mike especially has been one of the most

prolific walks leaders in the history of NPA. His outings have ranged from tough pack walks to gentle strolls in the park, and have greatly enriched the menu of outings enjoyed by members and their families.

Mike has also been a very energetic and willing worker in a wide range of other NPA activities. Without exception he has always been among the first to volunteer his services when something needs to be done. Examples include helping with office moves, running the barbie at NPA picnics, transporting and setting up of NPA displays, and arranging the storage of NPA books and assets at various times. He also wrote up a large amount of text for the walks section of NPA's Namadgi book. Not all of his material was actually used, but the scope and breadth of the material supplied by Mike provided a rich choice for the working group in putting the final text for the book together.

Annette the organiser

Over the past twenty or so years, Annette has been an important point of contact for organising and managing NPA events. Her organising skills and experience are impressive and she successfully helped negotiate the venue and catering of all three NPA symposia in 2006, 2008 and 2010. She also volunteered as front house manager for symposium registration and book sales and made sure that all monies were properly accounted for. Without her help these fora would not have been the great success they were.

Annette was a committee member from 2007 to 2010 and had extremely valuable input to the committee's activities in that time. Her organising

(continued next page)



New association Life Members, Mike and Annette Smith, with President Rod Griffiths at the AGM. Photo Sabine Friedrich

Another good year for the NPA *(continued from page 4)*



Annette and Mike Smith at the NPA Symposium dinner, May 2010. Photo Max Lawrence

skills make Annette a sought-after participant in various working groups, most notably in the lead up to the 50th anniversary celebrations in 2010. Her contributions included the Members' Reception where she played a key part in the organising committee. She also had a strong involvement in the 50th Anniversary *Bulletin* and, with Judy Kelly, tirelessly trawled through NPA's many documents archived at the Canberra Heritage Library. The results of this thorough research helped put together NPA's history in a very readable form for all the membership to enjoy and learn from.

In 2007 she took on the role of office coordinator and is still working in that capacity. She organises the volunteer roster, provides training for new volunteers and advises the committee on changes necessary to improve office procedures. The result is a smooth-running office, much to the NPA secretary's delight and for the good of all members. Her many suggestions have

made the office tasks easier to complete and the office helpers more efficient.

And on to the Red Centre ...

Having already chaired a very productive AGM our indefatigable President Rod carried on to give us a most interesting and entertaining presentation with

wonderful photos on "Off the Larapinta: four mountains in the Western MacDonnell Ranges of NT". Rod recently visited Mounts Zeil (highest west of the Great Divide), Razorback, Sonder and Giles as well as parts of the increasingly popular Larapinta Trail. His presentation was illustrated with wonderful photos of this amazing landscape as well as detailed shots of the flowers, trees and other vegetation (especially spinifex), all flourishing after excellent rains. He gave a vivid account of arid country walking including the lows: the endlessly undulating nature of seemingly flat country, carrying water by the gallon, mice invasions, the steel-like nature of spinifex needles and being sussed out by dingoes. He also covered the highs: the superb views, the prolific birdlife and the fascinating rivers and mountain ranges of this inspiring country.

The meeting formally closed at 10:00pm. The President encouraged all to stay on and enjoy the supper provided by members, and Adrienne Nicholson's aromatic gluhwein. Nearly all did, and a good time was had by all.

Max Lawrence



Mount Sonder viewed from the Pound Walk. Ormiston campground is in the right foreground.

NPA Christmas Party

Sunday 11 December
Namadgi Visitor Centre
11:30 am

See notice page 22, or *Burning Issues* for last-minute details.



Housing scheme could help national park proposal

A scheme for a new residential development adjoining West Belconnen, which came out of the blue from the Riverview Group property developers in July, may in fact help in the push for a national park centred on Ginninderra Falls, and encompassing the gorges of Ginninderra Creek and the Murrumbidgee River. Likewise, it has given a sense of urgency to a view that the natural wonders of these places and their biodiversity and other assets must be protected.

The national park proposal is being fostered by a community group known as the Murrumbidgee–Ginninderra Gorges



National Park Working Group, which has expanded its interests beyond concerns over water quality in the lower Ginninderra Creek area, the state of a dump in West Belconnen and proposed electricity developments.

According to the *Canberra Times* of 26 July 2011, the housing proposal envisages the building of ‘thousands of houses on agricultural land that straddles the ACT–NSW border just outside West Belconnen’. However, my understanding is that the development, as proposed, would not extend into NSW, but that freehold land owned by the Riverview Group could be contributed to any future joint housing venture there. The idea is to start the housing development of 4 500 lots in 2013 and to reach the ACT–NSW border by 2024.

If the housing proposal up to the border comes to fruition, recreational opportunities for all these thousands of new residents will undoubtedly have to be provided, with the Murrumbidgee River and Ginninderra Creek obvious targets, thus strengthening the case for a national park.

The development proposal is just that at present, at least publicly, and on this evidence much work remains to be done including negotiations with interested parties such as other landowners, the ACT and NSW governments and the Yass Valley Council. Maybe the Commonwealth itself will have to be involved. For all that, it is pleasing that what is envisaged includes a protective buffer zone along the eastern side of the Murrumbidgee and up to Ginninderra Creek, totalling around 345ha. This zone would be controlled by a trust, funded in large part by the development, according to the developers.

The Ginninderra Falls are on private property in NSW and have been closed to the public since 2004 after having been a popular destination for many thousands of Canberra residents and visitors. To have the falls reopened is one of the aims of the working group, preferably as part of the new national park. However, it is acknowledged that the park proposal could take some years of negotiation and planning, whereas the falls could be reopened much earlier as an essential first step.

A document outlining the reasons for a national park has been prepared by the working group and made available at

Upper and Lower Ginninderra Falls in 1993. Photos Max Lawrence

The way it was ...

In his article ‘Ginninderra falls should be reopened’ in the December 2010 *NPA Bulletin* Graeme Barrow noted that the falls had been closed for seven years because of insurance issues that had forced the owners to shut the gates. The year before this occurred 13 000 visitors had seen the falls and walked the tracks.

Tim the Yowie Man, in his regular column in the *Panorama* section of the *Canberra Times* (Saturday August 20, p47), included the following:

This column’s recent call for old photos and memories of Belconnen’s Ginninderra Falls resulted in an avalanche of images making their way into my inbox.

It seems that the 1980s really were the heyday for the closed nature park. Bill Hall of Page sent in an image of a misty lower falls taken in the 1980s. “The place was full with water dragons and the noise of tumbling and crashing water was pounding my ears,” recalls Bill, who adds, “and as for making the place a national park, you certainly have my vote!”

Meanwhile, Nigel and Trisha Moth of Cook recall many a summer swimming at the lower falls in the early 1980s. “It was a wonderful place for families – our grandkids have never been there, but fingers crossed it will open to the public again, preferably as a national park,” they say.

*Meanwhile Jean Geue submitted an image of a flowering *Crocea exalata* ‘Ginninderra falls’ which is conspicuous in winter by its pretty pink star-shaped flowers. The gorge below the falls is the only place it can be found occurring naturally in the Canberra region.*

discussions with representatives of the Yass Valley Council and politicians, and at a community meeting organised by the Belconnen Community Council. The group will outline its proposal again at a Canberra-wide community gathering hosted by Member for Ginninderra, Meredith Hunter, in the ACT Legislative Assembly’s reception room, South Building, London Circuit, Civic, on Monday 31 October 2011, from 5.30 to 7.30 pm. All are welcome.

Graeme Barrow

World Environment Day on Scrivener Hill

An article in the September 2010 *Bulletin* described the replanting of Scrivener Hill, O'Malley, by the Isaacs Ridge/Mount Mugga Park Care Group in April last year. The hill is an area of neglected urban open space in the heights of O'Malley. The group planted it with some 400 eucalypts together with intermediate shrubs. It had presented a challenging situation for regeneration as it was heavily infested with weeds and rabbits, in places steep and rocky, and at the time of planting hard and dry. The planting was well thought through, carefully carried out and benefited from last year's good rains. By winter of this year the area presented a promising picture of healthy trees and shrubs pushing beyond the tops of their tree guards with very few failed seedlings to be seen. The thoroughness of the planting and good rainfall underpinned this progress but continued monitoring and care provided by the Park Care Group also made a significant contribution.

Minister Corbell unveils new signage

The planting of the hill has now been marked by the erection by the Territory and Municipal Services Group of an explanatory sign sited near the entry gate from Callemonda Rise, this being unveiled by the Minister for the Environment, Simon Corbell, on Sunday 5 June, World Environment Day. The morning broke cool, overcast and foggy but by the time the function got under way blue sky and a warming sun had taken over. In opening the proceedings, Steve Welch from the Southern ACT

Catchment Group drew attention to the potential of the site and described the extent to which neglect had allowed invasion by all manner of weeds. He strongly supported the work done through replanting as progress towards regaining the natural values of the area and recognised the support to the project provided by a government grant and by private donations.

Park Care Group's work recognised

The Minister congratulated the Park Care Group on its initiative and energy in carrying through the project and recognised the work of all who had made a contribution to its success. He paid particular tribute to Michael Parker and Ted Fleming who have also devoted so much time over many years to the rehabilitation of the neighbouring nature reserves. The Minister was pleased to recognise the community benefits flowing from this undertaking. Speaking for the Scrivener Hill Regeneration Group, Sue Vidler outlined the various steps in the project and thanked the many people and organisations contributing to its progress with particular mention of the work of Conservation Volunteers Australia. Sue thanked the Minister for his attendance and for unveiling the sign then invited him to join all those present in a stroll through the regeneration area.



Ted Fleming with the new sign in front of plantings on Scrivener Hill. Photo Syd Comfort

stand it there are as yet no firm plans for this area.

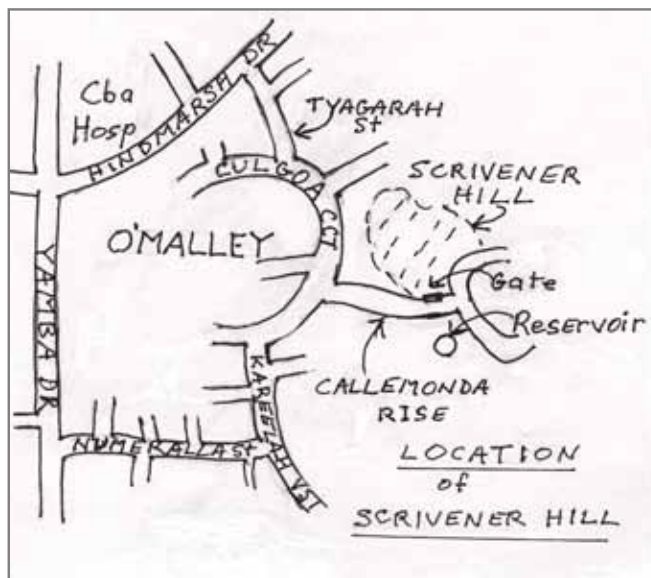
Bigger area brings bigger responsibility

While Scrivener Hill is urban open space rather than a nature reserve, the local Park Care Group continues its work on the Isaacs Ridge and Mugga Mugga Nature Reserves at a time when these reserves have been significantly enhanced. The eastern boundary of the Isaacs Ridge reserve used to follow the ridge line, with areas to the east of this being rural leases and fenced off from the reserve. Recent changes to this boundary have incorporated most of these leases into the reserve and the fence along the ridge has been removed. This has brought into the reserve a very substantial area much of which is significant woodland with valuable native habitats. Thus, the reserve now runs to the east as far as Mugga Lane except for one remaining rural lease used for horse agistment. Within this area, a recent planting (about 5 hectares) of drooping she-oaks has been established as part of a wider scheme to support the habitat of the glossy black cockatoo. Both the extension of the reserve and the casuarina planting are welcome developments and increase the value of the reserves, but for members of the Isaacs Ridge/Mugga Mugga Park Care Group this is a very substantial increase in their area of responsibility.

Syd Comfort

Much still to be done

Although much has been achieved towards the rehabilitation of Scrivener Hill it is still early days, as the plantings have some distance to go before establishment, and need monitoring and protection from weeds and grazing. The area planted was limited to the more protected parts of the hill, the remaining exposed areas being still heavily infested with weeds such as thistle and horehound. As I under-



Vale Les Pyke

It was with much sadness, but with a good store of happy memories, that a very large contingent of NPA members turned out for the memorial service for Les Pyke, who died on 5 July. Les and his wife Margaret have been members and good friends of the NPA for many years, with Les being a former NPA President.

Syd Comfort and Geoff and Den Robin remember Les as follows:

A member for all seasons

Les Pyke was introduced to the National Parks Association by Reg Alder when they were members of the same walking and travelling tour of New Zealand in the mid 1970s. Les and Margaret joined the association soon after that.

Although born in Victoria, Les spent his formative years in Tasmania and always identified strongly with that state. By today's standards those early years were not easy but Les led a varied outdoor life enjoying camping, fishing and spending time on family farms. His affinity with the bush and outdoors was reinforced by a period spent with forest survey parties in the north-west of the state. This period provided the source of many camp-fire yarns told in later years. After university and a number of years with the Tasmanian Public Service, Les, now married to Margaret, moved to Canberra in 1960 to begin a long and successful career in the Commonwealth Public Service.

In his early time in the NPA, Les's interests were centred on bushwalking generally and overnight backpacking in particular. He found ready and capable mentors amongst the association members and readily acknowledged their influence on him. Les became more involved, leading walks and joining the Outings Committee. He was very thorough in carrying out these duties, qualifying in first aid, planning carefully and informing himself about the areas of the walks and of the capabilities of the groups. At the same time he was most companionable and ready with yarns and diversions such as appearing wearing yet another silly hat. He was very good with any youngsters in the party with some lighthearted leg-pulling. Les had something of a reputation for new-fangled gear and a mischievous delight in noting the failings of others in this regard: an early Paddy Pallin japara tent of mine earned some wry comments. But

he also had his wins: Len Haskew recalls an occasion when well into a walk Les produced a camp oven and provided damper all round.

Les had a knack for showing good sense at the right time and for consideration for other people. With a group walking in to meet Di Thompson and Ian Haynes at the end of a long walk it was Les who suggested taking in some cakes and other treats. He was right — very welcome indeed! Field projects also interested Les — Orroral and Tennent homesteads, Budawangs and Yerrabi Track work and tree planting at Glendale with Bob Story and Charles Hill.

Les joined the NPA Committee in 1988 as Treasurer and was elected President for 1990–91. He brought to this position his characteristic thoroughness and capacity to support other committee and association members. He was heavily involved with the development of the ACT Bird Guide and production of the revised edition of the ACT Tree Guide. Les was very supportive of Kevin Frawley's timely report on the conservation of remnant woodlands and native grasslands and was gratified to preside over its launch by the then ACT Chief Minister, the late Trevor Kaine. Keen to encourage the recruitment of new members to the association and the committee, Les supported Adrienne Nicholson in her work with events and exhibitions directed towards raising the image of the association. Always interested to explore issues relevant to the association, Les made a number of very thoughtful contributions to the *NPA Bulletin*.

Although not seeking further committee membership after completing his term as Past President in 1994, Les continued to be a backbone member of the NPA where his generous personality and balanced views contributed to debate and strengthened the community of the association. In recent years, though constrained by ill health, he maintained a strong interest in the Association and continued to attend functions and general meetings and enjoy the fellowship of the NPA.

His passing on 5 July was a loss felt by us all and we extend our condolences to Margaret and all members of the extended family.

Syd Comfort



Les Pyke – a personal reminiscence

Les Pyke, our friend of thirty years, was a man of many interests and insights. He was a mentor, a shrewd observer, a raconteur, a bushwalker and a gentleman.

When our children were young, so they could learn to sail, he sold us for a song the Mirror dinghy he had built some years earlier for his own family. The colours of the little boat, which he called *Marmalade*, were safety yellow and safety orange — typical of the care and detail he put into everything. He was amused when the kids named the trailer *Toast*.

Les was a Tasmanian, one of a number of people of great talent who were attracted to the mainland following the tradition of some fine Tasmanian-born Commonwealth public servants. He never lost his love of this island state and his stories of his youth and his ancestors helped introduce us to our future home. His first university was UTas and, through his tales of his undergraduate days there, he gave Den many innovative hints about how to juggle study and career. He enjoyed discussing Aboriginal issues and culture, which he studied himself at ANU. He encouraged and inspired.

Les had relatives up Bicheno way. One day, yarning to Geoff about his grandfather, he told of the beautiful rugs in the old home. 'You'd better not tell Den,' he confided, 'they were wombats'. He was not only a conservationist — he understood them.

Les was a great gadget man. As both families lived in Hughes we would often meet him on our morning walk on Red Hill. Les would be listening to a Walkman, catching up on the news, and perhaps also testing out some new

(continued next page)

Vale Les Pyke *(continued from page 8)*

bushwalking equipment. He was fascinated by technology like pedometers and GPSs. Indeed, the first pedometer we saw belonged to Les.

On a walk in the Budawangs one summer with Les, Margaret and son Andrew, we were bush-bashing north of Styles Creek when he lamented the fact that on his previous visit, a year earlier, he had lost a pedometer. Geoff who was walking behind called his attention: 'Hey! Les, what's this thing?' 'Bugger me. It's my pedometer', he replied.

On another expedition in the Budawangs, with Milo Dunphy and friends, Les and Milo spent hours exchanging facts, figures and points of detail on a huge variety of subjects in that easy, companionable way of his. He had a knack of discussing issues of moment without causing the slightest ripple. Many wonderful campfire experiences, sometimes with song, come to mind.

Raised in the southern latitudes where weather dictates the need for careful preparedness, Les was always equipped for all challenges and eventualities. He had a contingency for every plan. At the end of one particularly arduous day in the bush, he told Den that he had really enjoyed it because it made him feel as if he was in the SAS.

Les and Margaret visited family and friends in Tasmania last December. We were thrilled that they found time to



Les and Margaret at the NPA Christmas Party at Nil Desperandum in 2001.

Photos Max Lawrence

come down to Woodbridge on the d'Entrecasteaux Channel. Our children, gathered for Christmas with their offspring, were also genuinely delighted, remembering the couples' many kindnesses. We probably all understood it was likely to be Les's last visit, for he was able without drama to give an impressive account of his health issues. Yet it was a happy time, with the same old Les acutely analysing current affairs,

telling anecdotes and gently chuckling at wry observations.

As we miss Les, our thoughts are with his wonderful wife, Margaret, and their family.

Geoff and Den Robin

Black Mountain spring wildflowers

The annual spring wildflower ramble on Black Mountain has become an institution, now run jointly by several organisations.

This is an easy guided walk with four leaders (Laurie Adams, Isobel Crawford, Jean Geue and Peter Ormay) who can find and identify the numerous wildflowers on Black Mountain in spring.

Saturday 15 October. 9:30am sharp to 12:00 noon.

Meet at the Belconnen Way entry to the reserve; look for balloons, small carpark just before Gunhalin Drive Extension (ex Caswell Drive) turnoff.



Bring your friends, especially those who are new to plant identification

BYO morning tea, hat, sunblock, water and stout shoes.

Contact Jean Geue
on
6251 1601.



Thomas Fishlock and his stockyards

There seems to be some mystery about why the stockyards in Orroral Valley are known as the Fishlock yards, who built them and when, and the exact location of the other, older, Fishlock Yards.

The present-day Fishlock yards are in the open flats next to the river in the western end of the Orroral Valley. These stockyards appear to be 20th-century built, yet the only Fishlock connected to this area is a Thomas Fishlock who worked for the De Salis family of Cuppacumbalong, and he died in 1880. So he couldn't have built these stockyards. So why are they called Fishlock yards?

Thomas Fishlock, prisoner no. 32/2257

This Thomas Fishlock arrived in Australia on 15 October 1832 on the convict ship *Planter*, as prisoner no. 32/2257, along with 200 other male prisoners. He was then 21 years old, single and Protestant, and had been employed as a bargeman in England, probably working on the major canal linking London and Bristol. He'd been tried for housebreaking on 3 March 1832 at the Wiltshire Assizes in Salisbury, where he was sentenced to life imprisonment, later commuted to transportation to the Colony of New South Wales.

To the 'Maneroo Plains'

On arrival in Sydney, he was assigned to work for W.P. Palmer of Parramatta, who soon after sent him up to a pastoral run his family had recently occupied in the

newly opened high mountain runs on the Maneroo Plains. Unfortunately for Palmer (and a Dr Gibson), they had unwittingly chosen the highest and most mountainous stations, toward the western end of what was then called the Maneroo.

Peril in High Country grazing

Thomas Fishlock was there when a large number of cattle, including 300 belonging to Palmer, were killed by a heavy, unexpected snowstorm that started on 25 July 1834 and continued for three weeks. Up to 14 feet of snow was experienced, burying the cattle in groups. The men taking care of the stock were also snowed in and ran out of food before the weather improved. They would have perished but for friendly Aboriginals who guided them to the Tumut settlement for supplies. These earliest of the mountain graziers learned the hard way that the high mountain plains could not be used as safe cattle runs all year round.

A free man on the Charnwood Run

In the 1837 General Return of Convicts, Fishlock was recorded as still being at Maneroo, but his master was now noted as G.F. Palmer. In 1848, however, he was living on the Charnwood Run (after which the Canberra suburb is named), owned by Henry Hall, and by then he was no longer a convict. His conditional pardon had been granted on 31 July 1847, on the proviso that he did not

return to either Britain or Ireland. From then on he was free to find employment anywhere he wished in the colony.

Life at Cuppacumbalong

When exactly he started working for the De Salis family of Cuppacumbalong is unknown, but he was with them for a long time, and that is where he died. Fortunately for us, George De Salis kept detailed diaries between 1869 and 1886 in which makes many mentions of Fishlock, 'Old Fishlock', 'Fishey', Tom and 'Old Tom'. Adrienne Bradley (nee De Salis) kindly searched the diaries for me, for mentions of Fishlock. He was employed as a general farmhand doing all types of work, including as a horsebreaker, stockman, boundary rider and fencer, until 1876 at which time he was given lighter duties. It was in September 1874 that he accompanied members of the De Salis family up into the mountains, to show them the boundaries of the Cooleman Run, which Leopold De Salis had acquired in 1872. The knowledge Fishlock had gained during his years of enforced labour in the isolation and rawness of the remote mountain regions would have proved useful to the De Salis's grazing enterprises. He may have taken them up via the Cotter Gap. This is certainly the route that he used when moving stock, as this is where the early Fishlock yards are said to be. Is it possible that he pioneered the stock route along the Orroral Valley, up through Cotter Gap and on to Cooleman Plains?

Thomas Fishlock, 'landowner'

During his time working for Leopold De Salis he selected six conditional purchases of about 40 acres each — blocks 35, 36, 37, 53, 54 and 55 — each of them in Sawpit Gully in the Parish of Tharwa, and situated on the south-east slopes of Castle Hill (that is, none of them in the Orroral Valley near the stockyards). He lived in a hut on block 35 and his farm was known as Spring Station. However, it is doubtful that he ever owned this land outright. Within a few years of purchase he forfeited his claim to the

(continued on page 11)

Fishlock Stockyards in the Orroral Valley as they were in December 1992. Joan Goodrum in the foreground is looking for Aboriginal artefacts. Photo by Babette Scougall



Thomas Fishlock and his stockyards *(continued)*

blocks by not meeting all required conditions of purchase. They were then taken up by Leopold De Salis. It is generally believed that Fishlock acted as a proxy for his boss.

A partiality for the bottle

A big flaw in his character showed while working at Cuppacumbalong. He had become a heavy drinker. George De Salis's diaries make many references to this: 'he came home drunk', 'was rather drunk', 'got drunk after a funeral', 'came this morning very drunk', 'was dreadfully drunk', 'was very seedy'. Drinking may even have been the cause of his death. On 28 January 1879, he went to Queanbeyan and, while in the stables there, his horse knocked him down and trampled on his head, cutting him badly. Fishlock was drunk. But worse was to come. Exactly one year later, also in Queanbeyan and after a week-long spree with a man called Keir, he became ill. Instead of returning home to his Spring Station he went to a neighbour's house (Mrs White's on Tidbinbilla Road) where he died at noon on 7 January 1880. He was buried on Saturday 10 January in the Cuppacumbalong Cemetery. A large number of locals attended the funeral, and Mr De Salis read the burial service. George De Salis commented in his diary that day that a 'more honest man there never could have been since we have known him'.

This little known pioneer of the district was a colourful character with an interesting history. The description of him given in the convict records adds to

the picture. He was five foot, five and three-quarter inches tall, with a ruddy, fresh complexion. He had brown hair, hazel eyes, upper front teeth that were prominent, a nose that was large and thick, and a scar on his left cheek. He was also decorated with many tattoos; for example, a fish, fiddle, drum and drumstick, woman, sun, 1829, S.A.D., and a girl's name, Mary A. (perhaps someone he left behind in England). He even had his own name 'Thomas Fishlock' tattooed on him, which meant that, had he ever tried to abscond while a convict, he would have been very easily identified. There must be many more unnamed ex-convicts who pioneered the Namadgi district, with similar interesting stories.

The Fishlock yards, new and old

But back to the stockyards. None of the above explains why his name is attached to the present-day stockyards, although it is possible that there were earlier yards at that site, and it was Fishlock who built those earlier ones. Gordon Gregory whose family lived in the Orroral Valley from 1940 to 1964 said that his family didn't build them, that the yards were already there and were always called Fishlock yards. Probably they were rebuilt [or re-modelled] when the Bootes family or Andy Cunningham owned the property earlier in the century. As Thomas Fishlock worked in these mountains for nearly 50 years, coming to know the region far better than most, perhaps it is appropriate that his name should live on by having it attached to later yards that he could never even

know. At least he hasn't been completely forgotten.

But we still haven't found the OLD stockyards that Fishlock did build and used on many occasions. Reg Alder brought them to our attention in his articles in the June and December 1994 issues of the *NPA Bulletin*. They are described as being about where the track to Cotter Gap descends to Sawpit Creek. Reg took the description of the yards at Cotter Gap from G.G. Jefferis' book *Around Australia's Capital*, written in 1931. The Old Yards consisted of only a few rotten timbers when Jefferis went past them back then, so nothing would remain of them now. Usually when yards were used for overnight stops only, they were very rudimentary. However, Jefferis also gives a detailed description (and a coloured painting) of the large granite boulder next to the stockyards. The only way to identify the site now is by finding this massive granite boulder of 30 feet in height and 100 feet in length with the face of a fish on the overhang at one end. He claimed that three or four people could camp under the overhang.

Mike Smith with other NPA bushwalkers has already searched for the site of these Old Fishlock Yards at two different sites near the Cotter Gap with negative results. Maybe one day soon the huge granite boulder will be found. From the description, it sounds as if it would make a good campsite for an easy pack walk.

Babette Scougall



This sketch accompanied an article about Fishlock Yards by Reg Alder in the June 1994 NPA Bulletin, Vol 31 No 2.

At Fishlock Yards. Sketch by Ken Johnson from the watercolour by Jefferis and Whelan (1931)

Greenland and Iceland



Tasiilaq Village and Church



Kulusuk Hotel



Boat Trip to Glacier



The guest speaker at our May 2011 general meeting was globe-trotting fellow member Esther Gallant. Esther's travel presentations are always eagerly anticipated, and this time no less than fifty people turned up for the show. They were not disappointed.

Accompanied by a spectacular slide presentation, Esther told us about her visit the previous Canberra winter to the icy islands of Greenland and Iceland in the North Atlantic. We learnt of their differing histories and geographies — both were settled by the Danish Vikings over a thousand years ago (centuries before Christopher Columbus was even a twinkle in his dad's eye), but the early settlers in Greenland eventually disappeared, probably early victims of changing climate. Today Greenland's population is around 56 000, most of whom are Inuit. Iceland retains close ties to Denmark and has a population of around 320 000, a bit less than that of Canberra. Greenland is the world's biggest island, with an area bigger than Queensland but smaller than Western Australia. Volcanic Iceland is a bit bigger than Tasmania.

Esther's photos on this page were mainly taken in Greenland, but there is one of her white water rafting in Iceland — in summer, but it still looks coold!

The 'Friends of Glenburn' have been busy

The small group of concerned members of the National Parks Association of the ACT and the Kosciuszko Huts Association, who formed the 'Friends of Glenburn' towards the end of 2010, has been very busy.

Heritage grant applied for

First, it arranged with the Molonglo Catchment Group to submit an application for a heritage grant from the ACT Government to undertake protection and conservation work at five sites in the Glenburn/Burbong historic precinct; the Colverwell graves, Glenburn homestead, Collier's homestead ruins and Collier's and Curley's orchards, Coppin's homestead ruins and the Glenburn hay shed.

The grant application is for almost \$14 200 to undertake works estimated to cost, in total, a bit over \$28 000. Much of the total cost will be met through voluntary labour to be organised by the Friends.

Work parties undertaken and planned

Second, it carried out two work parties in the precinct.

In May 2011, some 115 metres of wire netting was attached to the bottom of the security fence at Glenburn homestead to rabbit proof the homestead site.

In July 2011, some 25 litres of linseed oil was applied to the post and rail fence at the Colverwell graves. This is a primer before the timber surfaces



can be treated with a special preservative. Some blackberries were also removed at the graves and at Glenburn homestead. The exposed canes will be poisoned in spring.

The next work party is scheduled for Sunday 2 October 2011.

If you are interested in joining work parties please contact Michael Goonrey on 6231 8395 or email mjgoonrey@grapevine.com.au.

Symposium paper presented

Third, a paper, *The Kowen Plateau: protection and conservation in the Glenburn/Burbong historic precinct. Some recent successes and the dreams of the Friends of Glenburn*, was presented at a symposium at the Australian National University on

23 July 2011. The paper is available in PDF format on the NPA website at www.npaact.org.au.

Regular progress notes to be issued

Fourth, it has been decided to issue from time to time an electronic note providing up-to-date information on the Friends activities.

If you are interested in receiving the notes please contact Graham Scully on 6250 3352 or email scullymob@southernphone.com.au

Col McAlister

Photos. Above. Graham Scully working on protection of the chimney of the slab section of Glenburn Homestead.

Below. Babette Scougall and Brian Slee extending the wire netting fence for protection against rabbits.

Photos Max Lawrence

Seeking early photographs

The Friends of Glenburn would like to put together a set of early photos of settler families and the historic structures in the Glenburn/Burbong area.

The settler families include the Colverwells, the Colliers, the Edmonds, the Gallaghers, the Horrocks, the McNerneys, the Harmans, the Coppins and the MacDonalds.

The structures include the Colverwell graves, Glenburn homestead, Collier's homestead, Coppins homestead, Argyle homestead, Glenburn shearing shed complex, Glenburn sheep yards and dip, Kowen School, Glenburn hay and machinery shed, Glenburn hay shed and the Charcoal Kilns.

If you can help, or know of someone who may be able to, please contact Graham Scully
Tel 6250 3352 or Email scullymob@southernphone.com.au.



Tracking Orange Hawkweed

Orange Hawkweed (*Hieracium aurantiacum*), an invasive, environmental weed

At NPA's June 2011 general meeting, our guest speaker was Jo Caldwell, NSW NPWS Project Officer for the Orange Hawkweed program in Kosciuszko National Park. Jo gave our members a highly alarming insight into the threat posed by this most invasive of weeds, especially to alpine and sub alpine ecosystems, and the importance of tracking down where the weed is and taking corrective action. In this article, Di Thompson tells us about her experience as a volunteer in the search for the dreaded weed.

During the first week of the 2011 New Year, I packed my Kosciuszko walking gear (for wet, cold, hot and windy conditions) and travelled to the small town of Khancoban, to take up the call by NPWS for volunteers to search for the extremely invasive Orange Hawkweed.

Jo Caldwell, the NPWS Orange Hawkweed Project Officer, produced a flyer that describes what the weed looks like.

Orange hawkweed is a perennial that grows up to 400 mm high and has bright orange flowers and hairy stems and leaves. Each flowering shoot consists of 5–30 flower heads, 10–20 mm in diameter ... The leaves are 100–150 mm long, dark green on the upper surface and light green underneath, forming in rosettes close



Jo Caldwell at one of the study plots for Orange Hawkweed in KNP.

to the ground. The stems contain milky sap and are covered in short stiff hairs. The plants are capable of flowering, seeding and reflowering within 10–12 days.

Almost a decade ago, in 2002–03, researchers in the Bureau of Rural Sciences had identified Orange Hawkweed as one of a number of major 'agricultural sleeper weeds in Australia'. It had been found in Kosciuszko National Park (KNP). As many of you remember, in 2003 intense wildfires swept through large parts of Victoria, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory. The resulting bloom and recovery of native species has been spectacular, despite the ongoing effects of a 10-year drought. To my knowledge no species was lost.

Discovery in, and threat to, Kosciuszko National Park

However, in 2004, park workers identified a small outbreak of Orange Hawkweed adjacent to the Round Mountain Fire Trail in Kosciuszko National Park. It has been monitored and treated ever since, but the rationale behind its arrival and potential spread has been recently retested, and appears to be at odds with the earlier hypothesis. No blame, no shame is intended, all persons were on new ground, and it was a great credit to NPWS staff that it was even identified, treated and monitored from that time.

Currently 'Orange hawkweed is on the Alert List for Environmental Weeds, a list of 28 non-native plants that threaten biodiversity and cause other environmental damage. Although only in the early stages of establishment, these weeds have the potential to seriously degrade Australia's ecosystems.' (Department of the Environment and Heritage and the CRC for Australian Weed Management).

'Orange hawkweed is a potential threat in the alpine country and the temperate tablelands of eastern Australia. It was probably introduced to Tasmania as a garden plant early in the 20th century but was not recorded in mainland Australia until much later. Hawkweeds are extremely invasive overseas; ten species have already become weed problems in New Zealand and several hundred species are known worldwide.' Hawkweeds have the potential to change the biomass of large regions. By 1991 in the South Island of

(continued next page)



WANTED ORANGE HAWKWEED!

(*Hieracium aurantiacum*)

Also known as Fox-and-cubs, Tawny Hawkweed or the Devils Paintbrush

New Zealand Hawkweed covered 500,000 ha (Kompas and Chu 2010). Twenty years on the problem is immense.

'In alpine areas orange hawkweed can outcompete native plants and disturb local ecosystems. It fills the spaces between grass tussocks that are necessary for the regeneration and survival of native species.' (DEH and CRC for AWM).

Identifying and treating infestations

Jo Caldwell, with the support of NPWS and DECCW managers, has instigated a program for identifying and treating sites. My little group of three volunteers from Kosciuszko Huts Association, found eight additional sites. The next week another team identified another eight sites. Last week a huge site measuring approx.



200 m by 50 m was found further down the side of Fifteen Mile Ridge, where I was credited with finding a site. Obviously, this is just the beginning of what will be a long program. Jo is GPSing all sites, and recording numerical and other scientific data, to enable a full report on the spread, geographical trajectories and various control methods.

Summer is an optimal time for identification, as Orange Hawkweed is in flower. Some people are better than others at identifying the plant, but all agree a crop of bright orange flowers is much easier to see. The volunteers search in the Round Mountain/Fifteen Mile Spur area, through swamps, up and down slopes, through regrowth, and sometimes across open terrain with spectacular views to Jagungal.

There is much yet to be identified, and a sound scientifically based report on work to date will assist NPWS and governments across Australia on how best to control this potentially extremely damaging threat.

How it got here and what to do if you find it

My hypothesis, on a very limited four days in the field, is that Orange Hawkweed has been in KNP for some time. It may have been brought into one of the hydro camps as a hardy, bright flowering plant. The mathematics of epidemics shows that a catalytic event is often the trigger for change from a relatively dormant state to that of exponential growth or epidemic outbreak. Overwhelmingly, my group's sightings were on or close to disturbed sites, fire trails, roads, quarries,

temporary towns/camps, even an airstrip. All areas had been subject to intense burns in the 2003 fires.

The call to NPA members and others is to learn what Orange Hawkweed looks like and be able to identify it and GPS its location. **Do not** pick the flower or try to pull up the plant. Contact: Jo Caldwell, Project Officer Orange Hawkweed, NPWS Khancoban, NSW. Phone: 02 6076 9373, Mobile: 0428 103 800.

Dianne Thompson
Member, Southern Ranges
Region Advisory Committee

25 January 2011

Photos by Di Thompson

References

David C. Cunningham, Gemma Woldendorp, Mellissa B. Burgess and Simon C. Barry 2003. *Prioritising sleeper weeds for eradication: selection of species based on potential impacts on agriculture and feasibility of eradication*, Bureau of Rural Sciences, Commonwealth of Australia.

The Department of the Environment and Heritage and the CRC for Australian Weed Management, *Orange hawkweed (Hieracium aurantiacum) weed management guide*. Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities.

Tom Kompas and Long Chu 2010. *A Rule of Thumb for Controlling Invasive Weeds: An Application to Hawkweed in Australia*, Environmental Economics Research Hub Research Reports 1070, Environmental Economics Research Hub, Crawford School, Australian National University.

NPA Art Week at Gudgenby Cottage — 10 to 18 September

Some members of NPA ACT will be staying at the Gudgenby Cottage during the week 10 to 18 September.

Members can indulge their more creative sides through sketching, painting, craftwork, writing, photography, or other artistic endeavours. Explore Namadgi from this handy base in the Gudgenby Valley; make full use of available daytime; share warm, comfortable and convivial

evenings — an inspirational 'home' with all mod cons.

Visit or join in for one day or several, (a couple of bed-nights may still be available).

For information contact **Christine Goonrey** on cgoonrey@grapevine.com.au or 6231 8395, or **Adrienne Nicholson** on 6281 6381



Recollections of Canberra, the mountains and Namadgi

Stephen Johnston is a much loved 'expatriate' member of NPA ACT who now lives in Perth. He has been a member for over 30 years, but has only actually lived in Canberra for seven. During his time here in the 1990s Stephen was a very active member of the Committee, and a keen participant in the walks program. Before coming here to live he was a former president of our sister association the VNPA. For another wonderfully nostalgic article by Stephen see the March 2010 Anniversary Bulletin.

I well recall my first trip to Canberra from the NSW coast in May 1968. The first surprise was going over the crest of the Clyde Mountain and breaking out through the Spotted Gum forest onto the relatively treeless plateau around Braidwood. The second surprise was finding that Australia's national capital was such a small town, albeit in the early stages of huge growth. And the third surprise was that the Australian Capital Territory had so many mountains. Like, I suspect, many tourists I imagined that the ACT would be a dull, flat plain occupied mainly by a city of equally dull government buildings. As we drove down to Cooma in the family Wolseley for what was then the almost obligatory Pioneer bus tour of the Snowy Mountains Scheme, I was struck by the long mountain range that paralleled the highway. But there was no shading on our BP touring map to indicate any mountains — the ACT was just a green blob.

I discover the 'Lowlands, mountain slopes and ridges'

One month less than 10 years later I returned to Canberra for a few weeks as a young journalist to work in the press gallery for the Melbourne afternoon newspaper, *The Herald*. My childhood memories of the place were so fleeting that this visit was like a first exploration of the city and even more so of the surrounding countryside. With a 1:100,000 map and four books — the first two NPA publications, *Mountain Slopes and Plains* and Allan Mortlock and Gillian O'Loughlin's *Rambles Around Canberra*; the first edition of Graeme Barrow's *Family Bushwalks in and Around Canberra*; and the Canberra Bushwalking Club's *Bushwalking Near*

Canberra, I crammed in as much exploration as I could in three weekends before returning to Melbourne. *Mountains, Slopes and Plains* provided the greatest revelations. At last I was able to find out what was in that green blob on the tourist map: three kinds of country, as chapter one is titled 'Lowlands, mountain slopes and ridges'. I also discovered a great range of fauna and flora.

Herefords on the Smokers Flat trail

My first venture into what is now Namadgi National Park was inspired by a walk description in *Rambles Around Canberra* — a 6.5 kilometre walk to Smokers Flat. I must have been expecting that the 'sets of frost pocket meadows' would be somewhat bigger than they are because I followed Smokers trail straight past them, until after a full morning's walk and a longish descent, I came onto the northern end of the Orroral Valley. It was of course the same wonderful valley vista that one sees today. But two things stick in my mind that you no longer see there — a number of fat Hereford cattle staring at me as they munched on the long grass and, just visible to the south, the white spots of the Orroral Space Tracking Station. After the long climb back out of the valley and at last finding Smokers Flat, I got back to my car and then drove on to Corin Dam. This opened up a view I shall never forget — south across the water and up to that great broad dome of Mt Bimberi, dotted with snow. For a keen bushwalker it was such a tantalising sight but I wondered whether I would ever get the opportunity to get up there. Fortunately, *The Herald* sent me back to Canberra in August for a 12-month stint and my explorations of the ACT mountains then began in earnest.

Birth of the Gudgenby Nature Reserve

Soon after returning to Canberra I was researching for an article about a nature reserve called Gudgenby. An initial inquiry to the Department of Capital Territory's public relations office brought a referral to the secretary of NPA, Sheila Kruse. I was told she would show me a copy of a comprehensive report on the area, the 1976 Margules report, or to



Stephen Johnston celebrating the NPA's efforts on the Yerrabi Track.

give it its full title *Proposed Gudgenby National Park: Land Use Study* by Margules & Devenson Pty Ltd. Sheila generously lent me a copy to help with the article and also gave me a membership form for the NPA. While the article was never written I did join the NPA and the proposal became a reality when Gudgenby Nature Reserve was declared in April 1979. I read every page of the Margules report. Indeed, I still recall one of its opening descriptions of the Gudgenby area as 'an eroded batholithic uplift'. Such a sterile description, I thought, for such a magnificent area.

Namadgi book triggers treasured memories

That is certainly not a criticism one could make of *Namadgi — A National Park for the National Capital*, which David Large and Tim Walsh very kindly sent me recently. My 11 years of separation from Namadgi on the other side of Australia suddenly disappeared as I opened their parcel and began poring over each page.

I could hear again the crunching snow underfoot under the brilliant blue

(continued next page)

Recollections of Canberra, the mountains and Namadgins *(continued)*

sky as I looked at the page 7 photo of Stockyard Spur — one of my favourite walks from Corin Dam to the Gingera summit. I could feel again the rough lichen-speckled granite as I looked at the border marker photo on page 11 on Scabby Range, and smell the damp forest along the creeks, places like Snowy Flat Creek on page 11 and Middle Creek on page 15. Turning the pages I came to those lovely summer flowers like the Derwent Speedwells, Mountain Gentians, Sunrays and Bulbine Lilies that I tried not to trample during NPA packwalks. And I almost felt like stroking that deep olive green of the Black Sallee trunk on page 17 or touching the squiggles on the white-trunked eucalypt on the same page. Then I revelled in all of those mountain views including my first view of Mt Bimberri from Corin Dam on page 73, and the southern wilderness area from Mt Namadgi on pages 80 and 81.

Apart from all the familiar sights there were some new ones, including what for me is possibly the most remarkable photo in the book — Camels Hump on page 13 under snow, on what looks to be a very bleak mid-winter day. So different from the times I walked to the top on some hot summer days. I was

always a little surprised that Camels Hump seemed to get little mention in the guide books despite the prominence of its peak on Canberra's western skyline, so unusual among the generally rounded ridgelines of the ACT, and the dramatic view from the top of the western face of Tidbinbilla plunging into the Cotter Valley.

While the 1983 fires left many dead white Snow Gum stags, the photo on page 29 looking up to Split Rock over the regenerating forest reminded me how much more intense were the fires 20 years later. And the third unfamiliar sight on page 70 was the very different shade of green on the bottom of the Gudgenby Valley, not the dark shade of the radiata pines I recall, so ridiculously out of place, but the mixed local species that mark the fruits of the labours of so many NPA members over the past 13 years. I wonder as I look at that photo whether any of those trees come from seeds I pushed into the soil on that first Saturday working bee on July 11 1998. What a fantastic project it has been, showing what a relatively small group of people can achieve with some inspiration, hard work and some sound professional foundations that former NPA research officer Nicki Taws

provided in her prospective report on the Gudgenby Pines regeneration.

While the jarrah-marri forest-covered Darling escarpment just outside Perth where I now live is a lovely area, it pales by comparison with the variation and grandeur of Namadgi. When I have felt the need for reminders of my favourite mountain area I have looked at a framed photo by the late Reg Alder of Mts Namadgi and Burbidge from the Gudgenby Valley that appeared on the cover of the March 2000 40th Anniversary Edition of the *NPA Bulletin*. Now to supplement that I will be able to have a larger nostalgic dose from this wonderful book, *Namadgi — A National Park for the National Capital*.

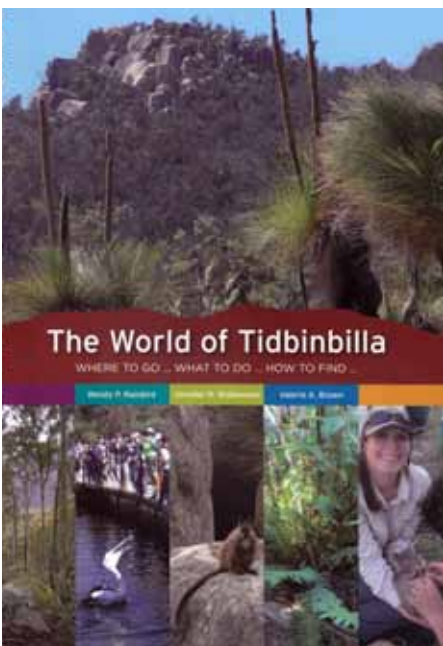
Stephen Johnston

Book review

The World of Tidbinbilla: Where to go ... What to do ... How to Find

Editors Wendy P. Rainbird, Jennifer R. Widdowson and Valerie A Brown
Southern ACT Catchment Group

160 pages



The Coordinator of the Southern ACT Catchment Group, Steve Welch, writes in the foreword to this book:

The multiplicity of roles that Tidbinbilla fulfils has often given rise to debate over whether it is a zoo, a centre for endangered animals, a research facility or a national park. To me, with the inclusion of Birrigai and Jedbinbilla, Tidbinbilla is all of these and more.

The editors have arranged the book into five sections:

1. Where to go
2. What to do
3. How to find animals
4. How to find plants and rocks
5. People in Tidbinbilla.

Each section is divided into chapters. Section 5, for example, has six chapters covering the long Aboriginal history and sites; European settlement; memories and stories of those who have lived there; bushfire experiences; Aboriginal and European pioneer dwelling sites including Birrigai and the visitor centre;

and planning for the future. There is no real coverage of the steps leading to the establishment of the reserve in the early 1960s, including the roles played by protagonists, who included NPA's own Dr Nancy Burbidge.

The appendixes list the faunal species found in Tidbinbilla, including native mammals, amphibians, fish, reptiles, bats and birds. Also covered are the vegetation zones, flowering plants and trees, lichens, mosses, fungi and ferns.

Besides maps and photographs, there are some very lovely illustrations by Helen Fitzgerald in Section 2, Chapter 2.

This book is suitable for your day backpack and will enrich your visit to this fine area in the mountains to the west of the city of Canberra.

Copies can be obtained from the Tidbinbilla Visitor Centre for \$25 each.

Fiona MacDonald Brand

Book review

A String of Pearls: The South Coast of NSW

Klaus Hueneke

Tabletop Press, Canberra, 2011

132 pp, hard cover, \$45 rrp

Available on-line from

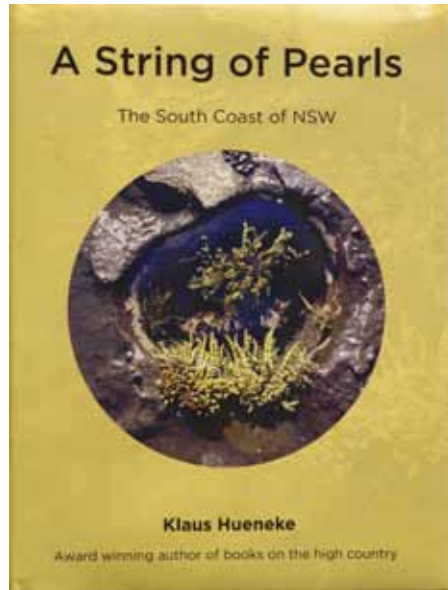
www.tabletoppressbooks.com
and selected booksellers.

Klaus Hueneke is renowned for his many publications that describe the nature and fabric of the high country. This latest offering continues his artistic style that combines beautiful photography with introspective text. Unlike his previous works, this latest book takes the reader to the south-east coast of New South Wales—the Gondwana, Eurobodalla and Sapphire coasts, which have been collectively termed a ‘string of pearls’.

After four pages of introduction and some technical notes, the book dispenses with slabs of text in favour of page-after-page of captivating colour photography. The images capture unusual aspects of the coast as the book’s odyssey moves south from the Shoalhaven to Green Cape. Seascapes, sky scapes, landscapes, historical structures and artefacts, and people leading their lives, are all captured by Klaus’s trusty Rolleicord camera.

The images are not left to do the work alone. Most have extended captions that relate pertinent facts, personal observations and insights, and messages for the reader to contemplate.

Photograph-by-photograph and page-by-page the string of pearls is assembled.



This book works on several levels. At one level, its photography can entertain the casual reader while flicking through its pages. At another, it can inspire the reader to visit this delightful part of the world (although the book is not designed as a travel guide, so individual research would be required). At a more subtle level, the juxtaposition of many of the images conveys a deep appreciation of the balance and harmony to be found in the natural environment— repeated patterns in the sea and sky, order in the chaos of a forest floor, the play of light on rocks or plants — each helps to put us in our place.

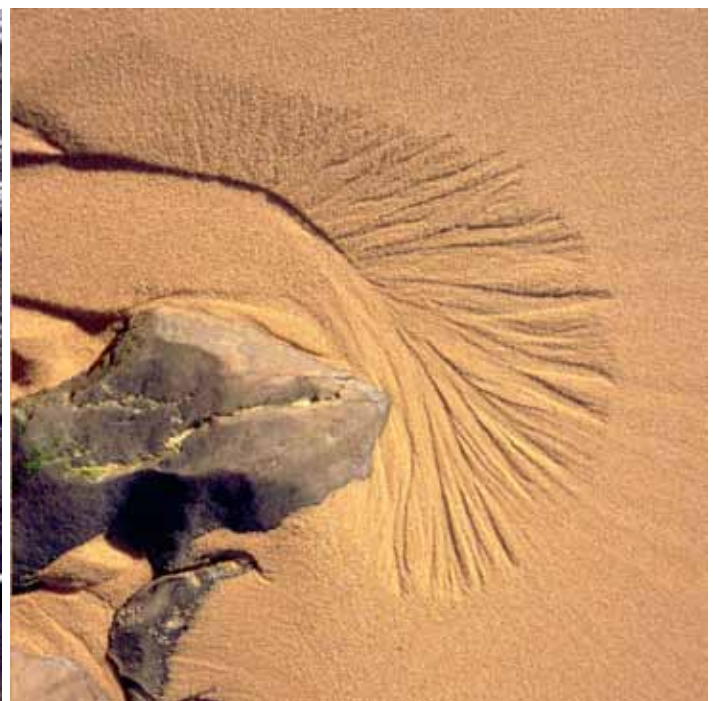
Tempting as it may be to consider the book as a collection of Klaus’s personal photographs, for that is fundamentally

what it is, the last six pages deliver its punch line. Having lured the reader into the charm of the South Coast and given pause for reflection, the last nine images carry a message of conservation. Anti-logging campaigns, road kill, environmental weeds and rubbish are all captured by the camera while the final sentence of the last extended caption delivers a simple message:

Lets look after it as if it were a string of rare, expensive pearls fit for an empress or a queen.

This book has the capacity to give pleasure to anyone who picks it up. It also has the capacity to influence those who view the South Coast as a personal playground to take a more reflective and responsible view of their activities.

Martin Chalk



Bushwalk reports

Boboyan regeneration area

Walk: Boboyan Regeneration Area,
8 May 2011

Participants: (5), Brian Slee (Leader),
Pete Tedder, Ian Warden, Dick
Johnston, Greg Lawrence

Weather: Frost and clear sky at first,
some cloud and cold breeze in
afternoon.

Leader's comments: A mission to
capture or kill the last Boboyan
pine — KILLED!

Missionaries gathered at Kambah
Village and set off in two vehicles soon
after 8:00 am. Too much talking meant
'Road Closed at Tharwa Bridge' signs
went unnoticed before Knoke Avenue,
requiring a tour of Gordon before we
resumed steaming south to Yankee Hat
car park.

Forestry Hut, a plantation workers
lunchroom just beyond the locked gate,
was our first hut stop. From there we
followed the outer boundary track to
Hospital Creek and upstream to Eleanor's
Grove. Natives planted by Gudgenby
Bush Regeneration Group atop the rise
are thriving but empty tree guards are,
sadly, all that remain lower down¹.

The track undulated as we continued
south: juvenile rosellas flocked through
the trees. A delicate blue climber, a

mauve daisy, a eucalypt in blossom, such
was the limited floral display. Brief
glimpses west revealed our afternoon
mountains.

Hospital Creek Hut

Hospital Creek Hut is 200 m from the
track but is now easily found as saplings
were felled to improve vehicle access for
recent work parties. A water tank and
new guttering are obvious improvements
to the hut, apart from its neater
appearance. Nice to chat and laze in the
grass for elevenses.

Frank and Jacks

Once back at the track, the 1½ km
through bush to Frank and Jacks was
meant to be easier than it turned out.
Keeping south of 1218 m peak, we
encountered wattle saplings and, when
we turned north over the ridge, cassinia.
It was a relief to get back to a track,
through a kangaroo hole in a fence.
Blood seeping from four walkers, we
scouted downhill and bathed our wounds
at the hut tank. Lunch, with black
cockatoos.

It got a bit cloudy and windy, cooling
our climb back up the hill. From where,
to use a hackneyed term, the 650 m view

of Gudgenby was awesome. As was the
descent to Bogong Creek, with other
peaks and valleys coming into sight.

Vale *P. radiata*

The return trip was across open plain:
the track leaves Bogong Creek at a
graveyard of felled pines and willows
and it was here, huddled against a
granite boulder, that the otherwise
innocent *Pinus radiata* was hunted down
and murdered. The last of its race,
maybe². On up through a replanted area
and it was obvious what a year's rain
had done for regeneration. Back at the
cars about 3 pm. A 13 km circling of
regenerating forest.

After hot drinks at Michels, Lanyon
Marketplace, we were back at Kambah
before 4:30 pm. Good walk worth
repeating after a few years more growth
in the plantings.

Brian Slee

Notes:

- 1 All redundant tree guards were
removed by GBRG on 14 May.
- 2 Maybe not. GBRG lopped two dozen or
more on 11 June.

June long weekend in the Budawangs

Walk: Folly Point, the Budawangs,
11–13 June 2011

Participants: Steven Forst (Leader),
Peter Anderson-Smith, Rupert
Barnett, Cynthia Breheny, Mike
Bremers, John Kelly and David
Large

Negotiating the 4WD track from
Sassafras to the Morton National Park
involved 3½ km of slippery hills and
boggy patches through eucalypt forest.
Once past the locked gate, we walked
south for a couple of hours across the
undulating plateau drained by the
Endrick and Clyde rivers. Flowering
banksias and a few lambertias provided
colour on our way to Tanderra Camp
where we found space for seven tents
and running water nearby. We spent a
pleasant afternoon walking down the
track to The Vines through forest lit by
weak winter sun. Huge tree stumps had
been left there by logging many decades
ago.

As we emerged from our tents on
Sunday, rain was falling so one of our
group offered to take care of the camp



*Peter Anderson-Smith, Steven Forst and Mike
Bremers consider the wet and slippery route.*

while the remainder left for Folly Point.
Three species of Banksia (*B ericifolia*,
marginata and *integrifolia*) brightened
the bush through which we followed an
overgrown track. Large patches of white
coral fungus evoked a suggestion of
snow on this cold, wet morning. From
Mitchell Lookout we caught glimpses of
distant cliffs through the mist, while a
choir of lyrebirds carolled nearby. One

damp walker returned to camp leaving
five to continue, but dangerously
slippery rock determined our return too,
shortly before reaching Folly Point.

Rain persisted through the night and
into Monday. Further excursions were
abandoned in favour of returning to the
park entrance where we appreciated hot
drinks while the party reconvened.
During the weekend the track to
Sassafras had become a quagmire: the
4WD vehicle powered through but the
conventional vehicle required towing up
one hill and became damaged while
negotiating a flooded section of the
track.

Thanks to Steven for a memorable
weekend and to Mike for taking his car
which, as it turned out, proved unsuited
to the conditions. I alert leaders of
potential walks in the area to the fact that
the road from Sassafras to the NP gate is
definitely 4WD only.

Cynthia Breheny

PARKWATCH

Ferals galore

Two of the most intractable park management problems in Victoria are the increasing hordes of feral horses and deer in and around the Alpine National Park. Our land managers have been tiptoeing around these issues for decades and, in that time, the whole thing has just become worse. The chief problem, bluntly, is that there is a political side to both issues.

Take the horses. Some people just like them there, and others, rightly, are concerned with cruelty issues in dealing with them. But that isn't a reason to avoid action. According to a 2009 survey across alpine Victoria and NSW, commissioned by the Australian Alps National Parks, feral horse numbers are increasing at a rate of more than 20% a year. If this continues, they will reach a population of around 13–14,000 by 2012, roughly half within Kosciuszko NP and half within Victoria's Alpine NP.

The biggest horse population in Victoria is around the Cobberas region where the damage they are inflicting on wetlands is considerable. Yet for years now, a cash-strapped Parks Victoria has been operating a mere token program there, while concentrating its effort on controlling the small but more visible population on the Bogong High Plains. Clearly, if current resource levels and management techniques have failed, it's time for something new.

Feral horses are now absent from Namadgi NP in the ACT, largely because park staff were prepared to adapt their management when methods failed, and they also followed an education strategy designed to bring the public with them. As a last resort, the remaining horse population was shot, but that was seen to be less cruel than some of the other methods tried.

At least feral horses are clearly feral. Sambar deer are confusingly listed as 'environmentally threatening' under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act, yet protected as a game species under the Wildlife Act. That makes no sense, and has led to gross inaction on a rapidly escalating problem. A recent submission to the Federal Government by the Invasive Species Council says there were estimated to be around 8,000 Sambar deer in Victoria 15 years ago and around 70,000 in 2002. Habitat modelling predicts that the population could climb as high as a million!

There is a clear case for engaging such bodies as the Sporting Shooters Association in this regard, but it's not

just a matter of opening up more territory for the organisations, as the recreational hunter will never make a significant impact on such a large population. One suggestion is to close the Alpine NP to visitors for a month or two each year and really deal with the problem. We need clear and effective strategies to deal with these and other pest plant and animal problems. And, surely, the new 'strategic' Alpine NP management plan is a good place to spell out those strategies.

*Parkwatch (VNPA)
No. 245, (June 2011)*

Saving the Whio

While the importance of protecting the kiwi from extinction is well known throughout New Zealand, the fate of another iconic bird hangs in the balance. Numbers of Whio, or nature blue duck, are dangerously low – fewer than 3,000 are left. Predation by stoats is the main threat.

The Whio is not only unique to NZ but also unique among the world's waterfowl. It is unrelated to any duck elsewhere in the world, and many of its habits are peculiar to the species. Whio are also an important indicator of the health of NZ's waterways.

The Department of Conservation is putting extensive resources into protecting Whio by maintaining predator control programs spanning thousands of hectares of rough back-country bush. A hardy and committed team of Whio Rangers is making progress in slowing the decline of Whio numbers.

*Parkwatch (VNPA)
No. 245, (June 2011)*

Why the Nature Conservation Trust?

The Nature Conservation Trust (NCT) of NSW was established a decade ago to 'outsource' nature conservation to private land owners. It wasn't a new idea. National parks have been producing voluntary conservation covenants for years. What made the NCT different was its revolving fund – an idea so simple one wonders why no one had thought of it before. The revolving fund buys a property, covenants it and then sells it to an individual in the community who is passionate about the environment. The funds from the sale of the property then return to the fund and enable another property to be purchased.

At a really basic level, the NCT is tapping into the desire of ordinary people to take steps themselves to do something

about one of the biggest problems facing our planet, our community and ourselves: the erosion of biodiversity. The NCT Trust is both helping create, as well as feeding into, an emerging market of people interested in taking direct action by owning a high-conservation-value, tree-change lifestyle or weekender bush block, or their own large private national park.

The ability to be able to meet this emerging market with an offering that not only satisfies people's desire to achieve their own objectives but also helps protect our natural heritage is an opportunity that may well see more players enter the market over time. And while the revolving fund enables rural property buyers to undertake nature conservation, NCT conservation agreements enable existing landowners to protect their existing natural assets. In fact, a growing number of farmers with NCT agreements are seeing great improvements to their land when nature conservation forms a part of their land management strategy. It may take another 10 years to build that critical mass of support and commitment to private land conservation, but one thing is for sure – the NCT is pushing hard to make it a reality.

*Nature NSW (formerly NPA Journal)
Vol. 55, No. 3 (winter 2011)*

Did you know?

There are more than 7,000 government-owned protected areas in Australia, covering over 64 million hectares (8% of the continent). About 2,200 protected areas are on privately owned land, but together these make up only 0.5% of the total land that is protected in Australia.

*Nature NSW (formerly NPA Journal)
Vol. 55, No. 3 (winter 2011)*

Oxley Wild Rivers long-distance walk

The NPWS has recently opened a new, long-distance walking track that ventures deep into the heart of Oxley Wild Rivers National Park. This is a track with a difference though – there is no need to carry a tent, as a restored mustering hut awaits weary walkers at the end of each day. The Green Gully Track is a new experience for Oxley Wild Rivers National Park, but it isn't for the faint-hearted.

You need to be fit and experienced bushwalker to do the Green Gully track, as the track is a challenging four days,

(continued next page)

PARKWATCH (continued)

65 km loop walk that takes you deep into Green Gully gorge, and some sections are very steep. About 70% of the track is along old management trails that are easy to follow but there are sections where there is no marked track and you just have to follow a ridge or creek until you see a sign pointing you in the right direction, so you need to be able to find your way in the bush.

The huts that await walkers at the end of each day have been fitted with some basic comforts such as stretcher beds, a pit toilet, rainwater tanks, gas burner ring, basic cutlery, crockery and cooking utensils and an outside picnic table. As an added bonus, your first and optional last night is spent in Cedar Creek Cottage, a three-bedroom house with a fridge, fully equipped kitchen, gas BBQ, hot shower, flushing toilet, bunk beds, lounge chairs, huge veranda and slow combustion fire. As each mustering hut is small, group size is limited to six people.

Bookings are essential to walk on the Green Gully Track. Further information is available at www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/greengully then scroll down to the Green Gully Track section. This web page has booking forms, FAQ's, a few images of the walk and contact details.

*Nature NSW (formerly NPA Journal)
Vol. 55, No. 3 (winter 2011)*

NPA bushwalking — the biggest and the best

Bushwalking and the [NSW] NPA have been tightly aligned since the inception of our organisation in 1957. In essence a group of passionate bushwalkers banded together to establish the NPA as a means of protecting the beautiful areas in which they walked. Since then, the NPA bushwalking program has grown to become the biggest of its type in Australia. In addition to bushwalking, the program now offers cycling, kayaking, canyoning, abseiling, skiing and bush-regeneration activities.

Central to this aim of connecting people to nature, however, is the core activity of bushwalking. Our claim of being the biggest bushwalking program in Australia is due to the fact that we have walks available on every day of the week throughout the year, with numerous walks held over the weekends. Between the bushwalking program and the other activities, NPA is proud to boast around 1,000 activities available to our members each year.

What truly makes NPA stand out from the crowd is the quality of its leaders, and the alignment between the

program and NPA's quest to protect the natural areas in which the program is run. These leaders play the pivotal role in making the NPA program more than just Australia's biggest bushwalking program but also the best in connecting people with the natural environment the program exposes them to.

*Nature NSW (formerly NPA Journal)
Vol. 55, No. 3 (winter 2011)*

Priceless, fire-recovery plots

These 30x30 metre quadrats are much more than a carefully selected series of sites where scientific observations can be made. They are a commitment to an ongoing and growing body of information, precious because, as Dr Margaret Kitchen, Senior Ecologist with ACT Parks, points out, 'Everyone talks about it, but very few do it'. Like most ideas, the fire-recovery plots project is a simple one. Any information on how landscapes behave after fire is virtually a tradable currency among those who want to better understand these dynamic landscapes. Various agencies across the Alps stepped forward in June 1997 for the set-up phase, each one of the 40 plots being carefully selected to make the maximum potential contribution to what will, in time, form an endless river of information. Ignoring state boundaries, the quadrats mark areas of differing communities of vegetation. Factored in was the need for each plot to burn, as the whole point is to see how each behaves immediately after a fire, and then at yearly intervals over the following 5 years. 'It was a big commitment to set it up, and also to go back each year for the data collection, with a minimum of two people in the field, taking three hours to assess each plot as well as time to enter the data at home.'

In 2003, fire swept through almost all of the plots, triggering the planned monitoring process. Teams were quickly on site post-fire to photograph and record as per the protocols set out by the project, and the process was then repeated over the next 5 years. In 2009, with all the data in, Margaret, who is currently custodian of the data and manager of the project, has been working together with Australian National University, tidying things up and checking for consistency. The analysis is currently underway. Like most projects it looks to turn up as many questions as it answers. But, as Margaret explains, the project will achieve what it was intended to: 'It will help inform management of the effects of fire on vegetation, and how frequently they should put fire into a

landscape as a prescribed burn based on how quickly various species are known to recover.'

News from the Alps, Issue 41 (2011)

Thanks to the CMAs

Over the past 10 years staff from Kosciuszko have been working with the Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority staff on an 80 km stretch of the Snowy River to rid it of willows. This job is just about complete and the results are spectacular.

Pam O'Brien is the Area Manager from Snowy River Area based out of Jindabyne and has been working in this location for nearly 14 years. She notes:

When the staff from the Southern Rivers CMA told me back in 1999 that in ten years there would be no willows along the Snowy River within Kosciuszko National Park, I told them they were dreaming. But here we are ten years on and there's not a willow standing. This is an example of weed control on a landscape level and it's an amazing achievement.

One of the spin offs from this project has been the opportunity to brush up on kayaking and canoeing skills and the opportunities to get out on the river in some very remote locations, Pam says.

We will always have to do some level of maintenance to ensure there is no reinfestation and an annual kayak trip down the wild and rugged bits of the Snowy River to check for seedlings after the spring thaw might be hard work but someone's got to do it.

News from the Alps, Issue 41 (2011)

North Stradbroke Island update

NPAQ has participated in further discussion with government, and more widely, with a view to ensuring full delivery of the government's commitment to a much expanded national park on North Stradbroke Island, and within the timescale that has been promised. NPAQ previously has welcomed the declaration a new national park comprising 20% of North Stradbroke Island and incorporating the former Blue Lake National Park. NPAQ is concerned, however, about various issues, including our understanding that there is overlap of mining interests and a known Ramsar site, the need to fully protect rare flora and fauna, and public access to the expanded national park.

*NPA News Qld, Vol. 81
No. 4 (May 2011)*

Compiled by Hazel Rath

NPA notices

National Parks Association Calendar

	September	October	November	December
Public holidays	—	Mon 3 Mon 10	—	Mon 26 Tues 27
General meetings	Thurs 15	Thurs 20	Thurs 17	—
Committee meetings	Tues 6	Tues 4	Tues 1	Tues 6
NPA Christmas Party				Sun 11
GBRG Christmas Party				Sat 10
Gudgeny Bush Regeneration ¹	Sat 17 ²	Sat 8	Sat 12	Sat 10
PA Art Week at Gudgenby Cottage	Sat 10 to Sun 18 September			
Further details: 1. GBRG. Meet Namadgi Visitor Centre, 9:15am or Yankee Hat car park 10:00am 2. NB September GBRG work party is one week later than usual				



New members of the association

The NPA ACT welcomes the following new members:

Kathryn Kelly
Kathryn Greenwood
Quentin Moran
Margaret and Denis Wylys
Otto Hello
Alan and Mary Foskett
Bernard Morvell.

We look forward to seeing everyone at NPA activities.

This *Bulletin* was prepared by
Editor: Max Lawrence
Sub-editor: Ed Highley
Presentation: Adrienne Nicholson

Sunday 11 December 11:30am

Namadgi Visitor Centre

Bring your picnic lunch (barbeque available).

Nibbles, drinks and Christmas Cake provided.



NPA Christmas Party



A short walk beforehand, (or after lunch) may eventuate.

The usual fund-raising treasure auction; bring your no-longer-needed bits and pieces.

An event that should not be missed.

Check *Burning Issues* for late information.

For sale

HIGH PLACES from Maxim's to Mountains



This memoir by NPA member

Francis Lawrence

is available from the author.

franciscanberra@yahoo.com.au

The cost is \$25.00 and Francis has generously offered to donate \$5 to NPA from each copy sold.

Saturday 10 December

Gudgenby Bush Regeneration Group Christmas Party

at Gudgenby Cottage after morning work party.

See *Outings Program*

Good news



The NPA's sought-after frog and reptile field guide, by Ross Bennett, will soon be available again. Watch out for it.

Cover photographs

Front cover

Main photo. Dianne Thompson with a patch of Orange hawkweed in KNP (article page 14).

Photo provided by Di Thompson

Insets. Top. Upper Ginninderra falls (article page 6).

Photo Max Lawrence

Centre. Ted Fleming on Scrivener Hill (article page 7).

Photo by Syd Comfort

Bottom. Rod Griffiths presents Mike Smith and Annette Smith with Life Memberships of NPA (see pages 4-5).

Photo by Chris Emery

Back cover

Volunteer work party activities undertaken by NPA members.

Books published by the National Parks Association of the ACT.

General Meeting

Third Thursday of the month, (not December or January)
8:00pm, Uniting Church hall, 56 Scrivener Street, O'Connor



Thursday 15 September

The inertia trap — climate change and the oceans.

A film Produced and Directed by NPA member Kathryn Kelly

Internationally renowned climate scientists give a clear and easy to understand explanation of the changes happening in world oceans.

The film runs for 45 minutes and Kathryn will answer questions about the making of the film and its content.

Thursday 20 October

A question of truth.

Graeme Barrow

Long-standing NPA member, author of many regional walking and touring guides and local histories

The *Ly-ee-moon* passenger steamer was wrecked in mysterious circumstances at Green Cape south of Eden in 1886 with the loss of 71 lives.

Either the captain or the third officer lied about what happened, but which one? Form your own opinion after this talk.

Thursday 17 November

There's a bear in there: a natural and cultural journey from Central Park to Skagway.

Matthew Higgins

Historian, writer and film maker

Matthew visited North America in 2010; we follow his journey from New York, across Canada by rail, and by wildlife cruise to Alaska. Hear and see birdwatching in Central Park, bears in Glacier Bay, sea otters off the Alaskan Coast, stunning glaciers and peaks and much more.

This talk was inspired by last year's International Year of Biodiversity.

National Parks Association of the ACT Incorporated

Inaugurated 1960

Aims and objectives of the Association

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

Office-bearers

<i>President</i>	Rod Griffiths	6288 6988 (h)
	blackdog@cyberone.com.au	
<i>Vice-President</i>	Vacant	
<i>Secretary</i>	Sonja Lenz	6251 1291 (h)
	sonjalenz67@gmail.com	
<i>Treasurer</i>	Chris Emery	6249 7604 (h)
	chris.emery@optusnet.com.au	

Committee members

Sabine Friedrich	6249 7604 (h)
	sabine.canberra@gmail.com
Christine Goonrey (Immediate Past President)	6231 8395 (h)
	cgoonrey@grapevine.com.au
George Heinsohn	6278 6655 (h)
	george.heinsohn@gmail.com
Clive Hurlstone	6288 7592 (h) 0407 783 422 (mob)
	cjhurls@bigpond.net.au
Judy Kelly	6253 1859 (h)
	judy.kelly@tpg.com.au
Max Lawrence	6288 1370 (h)
	mlawrence@netspeed.com.au
Kevin McCue	6251 1291 (h)
	mccue.kevin@gmail.com
Bernard Morvell	0401 679 254 (mob)
	bernard.morvell@daff.gov.au
Mike Smith	6286 2984 (h)
	msmith@netspeed.com.au

Conveners

<i>Outings Sub-committee</i>	Mike Smith	6286 2984 (h)
	msmith@netspeed.com.au	
<i>Environment Sub-committee</i>	Rod Griffiths	6288 6988 (h)
	blackdog@cyberone.com.au	
<i>Publications Sub-committee</i>	Sabine Friedrich	6249 7604 (h)
	sabine.canberra@gmail.com	
<i>Bulletin Working Group</i>	Max Lawrence	6288 1370 (h)
	mlawrence@netspeed.com.au	

The NPA ACT office is in the Conservation Council building, Childers Street, City. It is staffed by volunteers but not on a regular basis. Callers may leave phone or email messages at any time and they will be attended to. The post office mail box is cleared daily.

Phone:	(02) 6229 3201	0412 071 382
Website:	www.npaact.org.au	
Email:	admin@npaact.org.au	
Address:	GPO Box 544, Canberra ACT 2601	

Subscription rates (1 July to 30 June)

Household membership	\$44	Single members	\$38.50
Corporate membership	\$33	<i>Bulletin</i> only	\$33
Full-time student/Pensioner	\$22		

All the above subscription categories reduce to \$11 if a donation of \$100 or more is made.

Advertising

The *Bulletin* accepts advertisements and inserts. Contact the Editor for information and rates.



The NPA ACT website is hosted by our generous sponsor BluePackets.

NPA Bulletin

Contributions of articles, letters, drawings and photographs are always welcome. Items accepted for publication may also be published on the NPA website. Items accepted for publication will be subject to editing. Send all items to The *Bulletin* Team, admin@npaact.org.au, or the postal address above.

Deadline for the December 2011 issue: 31 October 2011.

Printed by Instant Colour Press, Belconnen, ACT.

ISSN 0727-8837



Preservation of post and rail fence at an historic cemetery

Variety of work parties undertaken by members of the National Parks Association of the ACT.



Removal of feral pine seedlings and trees in nature conservation areas



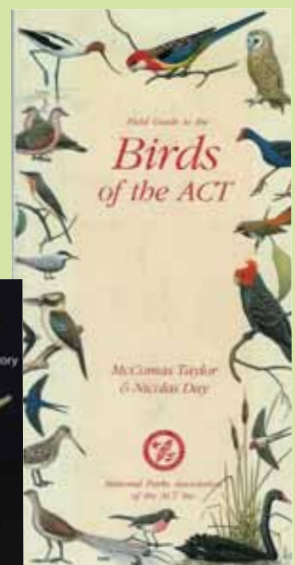
Maintenance work at an historic hut



Rabbit-proofing the fence at an historic homestead



Searching for an endangered plant species in grassland



Books published by the National Parks Association of the ACT. Contact the association office or visit the website.

For information on NPA ACT activities, please visit our website

<http://www.npaact.org.au>