



# NPA *Bulletin*

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National Parks Association of the Australian Capital Territory Inc



**Christine Goonrey  
earns Life Membership**



**New NPA scholarship  
scheme announced**



**Good progress at  
Glenburn**



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

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## From the President

The recently completed Annual General Meeting was a great success with another strong committee elected. Thank you for giving me the honour of representing the NPA ACT as its president for another year. The NPA ACT is a well-respected organisation working for the environment on so many different fronts.

I also was very proud to be able to read the citation for life membership for our immediate past president, Christine Goonrey. What a fabulous supporter of the NPA ACT and the environment, providing excellent leadership on so many issues. Well done Christine, it is a truly deserved honour.

A copy of my report to the AGM is included in this edition of the *Bulletin*; it gives you an idea of the many activities of the NPA ACT and the active involvement of its members. It also recognises that the environment is facing many challenges in the near future. I believe that the environment movement has lost the attention of politicians and the general public on the breadth of issues facing our environment. While a deserved focus has been on climate change, this has meant that some of the 'greener' issues have slipped off the radar for our decision-makers. It is now time to remind politicians, bureaucrats and the general public of the many facets of the environment and the threats that face them.

With the swing to conservative governments in many of Australia's jurisdictions we are seeing pressure mounting to reverse the hard-fought environmental gains of the past decades. There are calls for greater land-clearing, expanded

access to conservation reserves and making conservation reserves 'pay their way' through commercial developments and licensing that detract from the very basis for the reserves.

We are continuing to see lobby groups fighting to reduce the extent of 'green tape'. This has been a major driver in the push to reduce the effectiveness of the key piece of Federal environmental legislation, the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act*. One positive coming out of this threat is the bringing together of Australia's environment groups, in a way not seen for a long time. The NPA ACT is proud to support the 'Protect the Laws that Protect the Places You Love' campaign and I urge all NPA ACT members to visit the NPA ACT's website to see the best ways of contributing to this cause.

Now is the time to dust off your activist shoes and subscribe to the NPA ACT's e-bulletin and to join the NPA ACT's Facebook page or log on to the NPA's website. There you will find important information and links to key campaigns and events, with ideas on how you can contribute to protecting our wonderful environment.



**Rod Griffiths**



# Save our environmental laws: join the *'Places you love'* campaign

The past few months have seen a very encouraging development in the battle to prevent the federal and state governments watering down our environmental protection laws. Thirty environmental organisations have been organising a campaign to show Australian governments how much we care about our environment. These organisations include all our National Parks Associations as well as Greenpeace, the Wilderness Society, all the Conservation Councils, the Australian Conservation Foundation, the Invasive Species Council, the Colong Foundation and many more.

*The attacks on our national parks and reserves over the past few years have been relentless.*

There is a pervasive belief among state and federal politicians that they can do what they like without suffering any political backlash. They have been telling groups like the National Parks Australia Council that voters don't care any more about our environment so why should they? It has become a badge of honour among all governments to remove legislative protections for protected areas and cater to the demands of special interests.

*Various groups, many still holding old grudges from the past, have seized*

*the opportunity to push through changes to legislation that protects our environment.*

Commercial and recreational horse-riding groups, hunters and shooters, timber loggers and cattle grazers have taken advantage of political changes to get special privileges passed into law. New interest groups, particularly high-impact recreational groups, are pushing for access to sensitive environments to enhance their recreational experience. Tourism operators, particularly the big developers, are lobbying for privatisation of our precious public spaces for their own profit.

*Let the politicians know that we cannot be taken for granted.*

Environmental groups, cash-strapped and overworked as we all are, have responded by building a national campaign to let the politicians know they can't take us for granted: **'Protect the laws that protect the places you love'**.

Big business is trying to do its usual whinge about 'green tape'. We reply: these laws are there for a purpose. They need to be better, stronger, more effective, not weaker, more invisible. We rely on our environmental protection legislation the same way we rely on legislation to protect our own property,

our own safety.

Politicians of all persuasions in all jurisdictions need to hear our voices loud and clear. **'Protect the places we love or lose office!'** They need to hear from each and every one of us that we rely on them to protect our environment with strong, effective laws that are actively implemented and publicly accountable. They need to hear from you and me and all our friends.

*Send a message to our Prime Minister.*

Log onto the <placesyoulove.org> website and begin by sending a message to our Prime Minister that you care about our environment. Follow the campaign on Facebook and Twitter. Tell your friends, your children, your relatives, to join the campaign.

Environment supporters don't have millions of dollars to buy whole page ads in newspapers. We don't have hundreds of thousands of dollars to pay lobbyists to hang around Parliament House schmoozing politicians. We don't have the money to run national offices churning out misleading information. We just have our votes and our voices. And very long memories.

**Christine Goonrey**

## NSW — A State of Disregard

Over the past few months the NSW government has dumbfounded all who care about the environment. Legislation has been passed that allows amateur shooters into 79 NSW reserves and a draft strategy has been released that proposes horse-riding in wilderness areas including the fragile alpine landscapes of Kosciuszko.

Many members of the NPA ACT have already expressed concerns about the impact of these events and rightly so. *The Game and Feral Animal Control Amendment Act 2012* provides access for amateur shooters right on the ACT's doorstep— Brindabella, Kosciuszko and Morton National Parks all being included. Until this Act is repealed, it is important that the regulations controlling shooting in conservation reserves specify that:

- Shooting only occur where it forms part of a scientifically-based pest

management program

- It be limited to shooters meeting strict levels of competency including environmental awareness and professional standards of shooting
- Risk assessments are conducted before shooting occurs with an adequate emphasis on safety issues
- Management of shooters is not an additional impost on rangers but is separately and adequately resourced so that current management activities in the reserves are not affected.

The NPA NSW is a wonderful source of material on actions to oppose this poor piece of legislation. This is accessible by <http://www.npansw.org.au> or via the useful links section of the NPA ACT's website.

Horse riders already have access to vast areas in Kosciuszko and opening up the fragile high-altitude wilderness parts

of this park to horse-riding has the potential to cause significant damage to these unique places. The sensitivity of the high alpine regions to degradation from hard-hoofed animals has been recognised by the Federal Government when it intervened to stop cattle grazing being resumed in the Victorian high country. The NPA ACT's concerns about this proposal are documented in its submission to the NSW Minister for the Environment (available via the NPA ACT's website under "our Policies/Submissions"). I would urge all members to write to the NSW and Federal environment ministers voicing their concern over this thoughtless proposal.

Don't let the NSW Government get away with its disregard for the environmental values in its national parks.

**Rod Griffiths**

# 2012 Annual General Meeting

Despite the inclement weather, NPA had a very successful Annual General Meeting on 16 August. The highlights — our President's report on our achievements during the year, the introduction of the student scholarship program, and the election of a very special member to Life Membership of the Association — are dealt with separately in this issue of the *Bulletin*.

Nevertheless, a number of other important items were dealt with that bear special mention. In particular, the executive team so capably led last year by President Rod Griffiths has fronted up again, and been re-elected. Only Sabine Friedrich decided to take a sabbatical. She will be missed, not only for her computing and design skills on the Publications Sub-Committee, but also for her friendly company and the tasty suppers she prepared for committee meetings. However, we will be keeping in touch with Sabine — her husband Chris Emery is carrying on his role as NPA Treasurer.

Details of the 'new' committee are shown on page 23. The position of Vice President remains vacant, and there are also vacancies for ordinary committee members. The elected Committee may choose to appoint members to such vacancies pending the election of a new committee at the next AGM.

Treasurer Chris Emery was out of the country at the time of the AGM, but he did provide very detailed financial reports to the committee, and Rod summarised the very healthy financial state they reveal. In short, at the end of the financial year NPA had assets totalling \$171 000, of which \$107 000 was cash on hand and at bank, and the remainder mainly book inventories. Income during the year exceeded expenses by \$9 000. This healthy situation results mainly from the success of our book publishing activities, especially the bird and Namadgi books. Our members have also been generous in their donations to the Association.

In discussing 'Other Business', the

issue of membership numbers came up. It emerged that numbers have been fairly stable in recent years at around 320, but that the age profile was a matter of real concern if NPA was to continue to grow and flourish. Tim Walsh highlighted the need for a campaign to attract younger members. Rod responded that embracing new technology and new ways of communicating is necessary. This issue will be put on the work plan for the coming year.

At the conclusion of the formal proceedings, NPA member David Large (having just acted as returning officer in the election of the 'new' committee) gave a very entertaining presentation on *Tramping in New Zealand – David, Tim and Ross in Hobbit Land*. His presentation was illustrated with wonderful photos of the amazing New Zealand landscape, together with comments on differences to the Australian landscape and Australian bushwalking in general. Ross Walker also contributed general comments and tips from his extensive experience of walking in Hobbit Land.

And to wind things up nicely, President Rod invited all to stay and enjoy the supper provided by members, and to sample Adrienne Nicholson's aromatic gluhwein.

**Max Lawrence (with thanks to Secretary Sonja Lenz and her excellent minutes)**



*Outgoing committee member Sabine Friedrich (centre!), pictured at the NPA's 50th Anniversary picnic in March 2010, with Syd Comfort and Clive Hurlstone.*

*Photo by Chris Emery.*

## NPA subscriptions and *Bulletin* format survey



First of all, thank you to all members who have paid their subscription for the 2012–13 financial year. The office now has to chase up only a few memberships — please check on page 5 to see whether you have received a red dot!

Many thanks also for responding to our survey about your preference for

future delivery of the *Bulletin*. The preliminary analysis shows the following results: of 215 respondents 140 prefer to receive the *Bulletin* as a hard copy in the mail; 56 members opted for a digital copy; and 19 members would like both.

When the outstanding membership renewals have been processed, the Publications Sub-committee will do a final analysis of the survey and, taking

costs into account, report to your management committee on the results and make recommendations.

The committee hopes to be able to take individual members' wishes into account sometime next year and provide digital copies of the *Bulletin* as PDFs.

**Sonja Lenz, Secretary**

# President's Report: 2012 AGM

## Dear colleagues

I report on yet another busy year for the NPA ACT. Here's a list of just some of our activities during 2011–12:

- The NPA ACT has now developed a presence on Facebook. It adds another tool for communicating the NPA ACT's messages. I would urge all members to become Facebook friends to keep abreast of what is going on.
- Thanks must go to the Environment Sub-committee for putting together several submissions during the year, notably on the ACT's trail policy and the Centenary Trail; on horse-riding in national parks and on the ACT's budget.
- The NPA ACT continues to lobby bureaucrats in the environment portfolio of the ACT Government and appeared before several of the ACT Legislative Assembly's Standing Committees.
- The results of the monitoring activities before and after the big orienteering event in Namadgi National Park in 2010 came out during the year just ended. This was a leading-edge report on the effect of a large-scale event on a conservation area. However, much more research needs to be done in this area so that we have a broad scientific basis to assess the effects of recreation activities in conservation reserves.
- The NPA ACT's Treasurer, Chris Emery, has laid the groundwork for an NPA-funded scholarship for honours students at the ANU Fenner School to work on conservation issues in the ACT's conservation reserves, including Namadgi National Park.
- Thanks continue to go to editor Max Lawrence and his working group, especially Adrienne Nicholson and Ed Highley, for maintaining an informative and excellent *Bulletin*.
- NPA ACT members contributed to the 'Letters to the Editor' in both Canberra and NSW, and the NPA ACT is regularly quoted or referred to in respect to environmental issues in the media.
- The long out-of-print field guide *Reptiles and Frogs of the ACT* was re-launched. This enhanced publication includes a number of new reptile species in the ACT.
- Our walks program forms a key activity of the NPA ACT and is a vital means of attracting new members. Well done to members of the Outings Sub-committee convened by Mike Smith and to all the walks leaders.

- Another important component of our activities are the regular NPA ACT work parties in Namadgi, and ACT and NSW nature reserves, which are ably coordinated by Martin Chalk.
- Our members are actively involved with the Conservation Council of the Canberra Region (ConsACT), Gudgenby Bush Regeneration Group, the Friends of Glenburn and the Ginninderra Falls Association.
- We have continued the successful NPA Art Week at Gudgenby Cottage which is now into its fourth year. Many thanks to Christine Goonrey and Adrienne Nicholson for being the driving forces behind this creative initiative.

On a sad note, Jim Webb, NPA President in the 1960s, and John Hibberd, Director of ConsACT and a good friend of the NPA, passed away during the year.

The coming year promises to be a busy one with significant environmental challenges. With the Federal Government abrogating its environmental responsibilities to state governments by watering-down the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* (EPBC) and the issues of recreational shooters being allowed into NSW national parks and proposals to let horse-riders into NSW wilderness areas, there will be plenty of work to be done. The recent amalgamation of all environmental groups into an alliance to campaign for the federal government to strengthen environmental laws against businesses lobbying for more and easier access to protected areas under the guise of 'cutting green tape' is a very recent positive development.

The NPA ACT will continue to:

- Support the campaign to 'Protect the Laws that Protect the Places You Love' on the EPBC Act.
- With ConsACT, campaign for protection of ACT lowland grassy woodlands, especially in the northern rim of Canberra, with the ultimate aim of establishing a new national park in the ACT.
- 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; and be actively involved in reducing the effects of Canberra's new suburbs on the environment.
- Institute an NPA ACT-funded annual Honours year scholarship, initially for

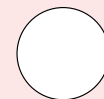
three years.

- Update and print the new version of the bird book and publish a book on common ACT insects.
- Continue the NPA Art Week in Gudgenby event where members can be inspired by nature to create works of art, some of which will form part of a display at Namadgi Visitor Centre.
- Continue to investigate ways of expanding our membership base, particularly through the use of social media tools.

All of this work relies heavily on the efforts of NPA members. In particular, I would like to thank the 2011–12 office bearers and committee, especially Sabine Friedrich who is stepping down from the committee this year, the conveners and members of the Publications, Outings and Environment sub-committees and the workers in the office — Annette Smith, Sonja Lenz, Clive Hurlstone, Lorraine Bell, Kathy Saw and Debbie Cameron — who all helped to guide the NPA ACT through 2011–12. Many thanks to Adrienne Nicholson and Clive for securing excellent speakers and scrumptious suppers for our general meetings. And our Christmas parties would not be the same without David Large and Tim Walsh whose antics at the Christmas auction have helped to secure significant member donations to the NPA ACT.

I look forward to working with you all throughout the coming year.

**Rod Griffiths**



## Red Spot? Subscription overdue.

**Subscriptions** for 2012–13 are now overdue.

If there is a **Red** spot on your *Bulletin* address sheet and above, the association's records show your current subscription has not been received. **Please check.**

Please take the time to make amendments to the enclosed renewal form if the information NPA holds confidentially in its database needs correcting. We also ask you for an indication of your preference for delivery of the *Bulletin* (in printed form, as digital copy, or as both printed and digital copy). Please send the whole form back with your payment details. Thank you!





# Life Membership for Christine

1.

*In recognition of her inspiring leadership and achievement in raising the public profile of NPA ACT the 2012 Annual General Meeting unanimously elected Christine Goonrey to Life Membership of our Association. She becomes the twenty third life member in the half century of the NPA's existence, and takes her thoroughly deserved place in the NPA hall of fame. What follows is the essence of the citation approved by the AGM.*

Christine Goonrey joined the National Parks Association in early 2003, and was elected to the committee later that year. She became association Secretary in 2004. She next served as NPA President, from 2005 to 2010, the longest continuous-serving NPA ACT President ever.



large 'sporting' events; and science/research-based management for conservation.

held in 2006, 2008 and 2010.

Christine helped set up the annual 'NPA Art Week at Gudgenby Cottage' (now in its fourth year) to showcase the treasures of Namadgi through the artistic skills of association members. This has been an interesting, and different, initiative for bringing the association's philosophy to public notice.

Christine represents NPA ACT on the National Parks Australia Council management committee and currently leads it as President, in the process revamping NPAC as the Australian national parks umbrella group.

More recently, she has initiated a program to have Aboriginal land management practices understood, acknowledged and, where appropriate, incorporated into ParkCare groups' activities; and where possible into ACT government land management practices.

Christine is a regular and loyal participant in NPA ACT work parties of all kinds, from hard labour to more

*(continued next page)*



2.

As President, Christine was a strategic and dynamic influence that lifted the NPA to new heights. She kept a keen eye on all matters 'conservation', publicly represented our organisation with great presence, and ably fielded questions from the media on many occasions. She always presented a well-informed and rationally thought-through point of view on the many issues that arose, some of which were matters of some controversy. Some examples are: opposing proposals for unnecessary, or unnecessarily big, new fire trails; support for feral horse control; the adequacy of ranger numbers to effectively oversee our parks and reserves; the suitability or otherwise of using conservation areas for

Christine involved NPA in the ACT Government's policies on management of ACT parks and reserves by arranging a regular monthly meeting with senior officials. In addition she had a 'seat at the table' for an environmental representative created on the Bushfire Council, through the ACT Conservation Council. She now sits in that seat. Thanks to Christine's involvement, the environmental values of our ACT parks and reserves are now acknowledged in the *Strategic Bushfire Management Plan*.

Christine contributed significantly to many NPA ACT submissions to Government; especially the *Namadgi National Park Plan of Management* and the *Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve Plan of Management*. Thanks to Christine's fighting spirit, the planned Orroral Fire Trail didn't go ahead — a great win for NPA.

Christine headed the planning committee for NPA's 50th anniversary and dreamed the *Namadgi* book, *Namadgi: A National Park for the National Capital*, into existence — quickly recognised as a significant achievement for the association, and an asset in promoting the ACT. She was also heavily involved in the three NPA symposia



3.

## Photos this page

1. *Contemplating Gudgenby, Yerrabi Track, October 2009.*
2. *Working the butchers paper, NPA Symposium, May 2008.*
3. *With Craig Allen, ABCTV, on Orroral Ridge, filming for ACT Stateline, May 2007.*

*(Photos by Max Lawrence)*





4.



5.

leisurely inspections and rare-species searches.

She is a regular contributor to the *NPA Bulletin*, with informative articles dealing with issues of urgent concern, as well as background articles on current issues.

We believe one of Christine's greatest contributions to NPA has been her ever-cheerful approach, even when the outlook seemed pretty bleak. Her ability to enthuse others has resulted in a very productive and influential decade in the NPA's existence. And even better, she continues her energetic and inspirational role as a member of NPA's executive committee, as well as her roles with the Conservation Council of the ACT and the National Parks Australia Council.

### AGM August 2012

While Christine was unable to be at the AGM to receive her award (of which she had no prior knowledge), she did send an email later to committee members. Her message was as follows:

*I am absolutely thrilled you have given me life membership of NPA ACT. I cannot think of an honour which would mean more to me ....Thank you, it is a huge privilege, especially when I look at what the other Life Members have achieved.*

*Thank you, thank you.*

**Thank you Christine!**



6.



7.



8.

*Photos this page*

4. Christine with husband Michael at the NPA Symposium dinner, May 2008.
5. Working on erosion control with Fiona MacDonal Brand, Gudgenby Bush Regeneration Group, August 2012.
6. Checking out the route of the proposed fire trail on Orroral Ridge, May 2007.
7. With Mary Porter MLA at the NPA Symposium, May 2010. (photo by Sabine Friedrich).
8. Christine, with her award, August 2012 (photo by Kevin McCue).

*(Photos by Max Lawrence unless attributed otherwise.)*

## Murrumbidgee–Ginninderra Gorges National Park Proposal

According to a letter dated 7 August 2012 from the Premier of NSW, Barry O'Farrell, he has forwarded to his Minister for the Environment, Robyn Parker, correspondence from the Ginninderra Falls Association (GFA) about the proposed national park. Ms Parker was to visit the falls on Monday 13 August, but unfortunately had to defer this. It is hoped that the visit can be rescheduled to take place fairly promptly.

Members will recall that the ACT Chief Minister, Katy Gallagher, undertook to write to Mr O'Farrell after the GFA's meeting with her in May. Ms Gallagher did so, and in her letter said the ACT would be happy to join any NSW working party set up to investigate the proposal. A reply was received, saying Mr O'Farrell would consider it. Ms Gallagher also wrote on similar lines to the Mayor of Yass, Nic Carmody, and the Member for Burrinjuck, Katrina Hodgkinson.

The Federal Member for Fraser, Andrew Leigh, has informed GFA that while the national park proposal had his 'in-principle support', precise boundaries would need to be worked out with existing landholders before he could give unqualified support.

GFA will hold its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 25 September at the Belconnen Library, starting at 8 pm. The guest speaker will be Luke Johnston, of ACT Parks and Conservation, who will talk about Murrumbidgee Corridor vegetation.

**Graeme Barrow, Committee Member  
Ginninderra Falls Association Inc.  
20 August 2012**



# NPA ACT to award annual scholarship

The executive committee of your NPA has decided to go ahead with funding an annual scholarship for an Honours year student, to be known as the 'National Parks Association of the ACT Honours Scholarship in Biodiversity Management in National Parks and Nature Reserves'.

Eligible applicants will be students who:

- have been successful in gaining entry into the Honours year of a program of study through the Fenner School of Environment and Society
- have an excellent academic record
- are intending to undertake research in areas pertaining to the conservation of flora and fauna in National Parks and Nature Reserves in the ACT and surrounding areas
- have willing and suitable supervision
- are Australian citizens.

Application will be by a one-page submission to the Fenner School Honours Convenor. Applicants will be required to describe their research topic and its relevance to biodiversity management in national parks and nature reserves, their motivation for undertaking research on this topic, and the difference that award of the scholarship would make to their research plans.

Your committee has committed funding of \$9 000 per year for three years, and will review the ongoing budget each year in the hope of being able to extend the scholarship as a rolling three-year program.

The funds will come from our accumulated profits and donations. It is very pleasing to report that we have already received a donation stating a preference that it be spent on the scholarship program. This generous donation will more than cover the scholarship's first year of expenditure.

It is expected that each year's successful student will be the guest speaker for at least one of our general meetings to explain their field of study and meet members.

**Chris Emery, Treasurer**



*ANU Fenner School of Environment and Society. Photo by Sabine Friedrich*

## Generous donation

The benefactor referred to in Chris's article is Fiona MacDonald Brand. Fiona is a modest person, but she has agreed that details of her \$10 000 donation be published in the hope that it might encourage others so inclined to step forward too. We should indeed all be doing what we can to encourage and equip new generations of young people to carry on caring for — and fighting for — the protection of the natural environment. Theirs is likely to be an increasingly uphill struggle, and they will need all the help we can give them.



*Photo by Max Lawrence*

The NPA executive committee and indeed the whole NPA membership are extremely appreciative of Fiona's generous donation and her decision to 'go public'.

Fiona is a Foundation and Life Member of NPA, and was our second secretary, half a century ago (the first was Nancy Burbidge!). She has been actively involved with NPA over its whole lifespan, and still turns up at work parties and general meetings.

Thank you Fiona ... for everything!

## Sunday 9 December, Blue Range Hut, 11:30 am

See December Outings Program or *Burning Issues* for last-minute details.



### NPA Christmas Party





## Lost Valley

pushing my body  
up a grey-green hillside  
tight gluts  
and breathless ...  
bird song at evening

descending  
into my lost valley  
and finding  
that forest clearing  
where my scalp tingles

clouds come down  
and fill the valley ...  
limestone cliffs  
and drizzling rain ...  
sound of waters rushing

in my dreams  
I squeeze through  
the cave entrance  
feeling my way ...  
confined in a dark world

wind  
that stirs the treetops  
grey sky  
that threatens snow ...  
time that stands still

**Gerry Jacobson**



## Words from Garema Place



This striking public artwork is in Garema Place, Canberra, 2012. The full text reads as follows.

*“The mountains are very old and an ongoing life force that strengthens the ancestral link of our people. We are a living, spiritual connection with the mountains. We retain family memories and stories of the mountains, which makes them spiritually and culturally significant to us. Our spiritual knowledge and cultural practices still exist and need to be maintained ... Our people travelled from many directions over long distances to gather peacefully on the mountains for trade, ceremony, marriages, social events and to settle differences. The cycle of life and many seasons influence the movement of our people through the mountains to the sea and the desert. The stars, clouds, sun and the moon guided people to and from places of importance. These travel routes continue to be used and spoken about today ... Let us not forget the past while we look forward to the future. Past and present practices make us strong and we are committed to making this a better country for all.*

The Kosciuszko Aboriginal Working Group, 2004  
Public art in Garema Place, Canberra, 2012”

# Glenburn/Burbong historic sites — many happenings and more on the way

Over the past few months the Parks Service and the Friends of Glenburn have been busy. And the high level of activity will continue.

The Parks Service has installed gutters, downpipes and a metal rainwater tank at the pise hut of Glenburn homestead. This will reduce rainwater splash impact, which has contributed substantially to the erosion of the pise walls of the hut, particularly the western wall.

The Parks Service has also removed the unsightly chain wire security fence at Glenburn Homestead. It is being replaced by a rabbit-proofed, post-and-rail fence, which will be much more pleasing to look at. As at 11 August, the new fence was almost complete. It looks great.

Finally, the Parks Service has had two interpretive signs made, which will be erected at Glenburn homestead and Collier's homestead ruins and orchard. They also look great.

The Friends of Glenburn will erect the signs during its September work party. The Friends gave the Parks Service written material and photographs for it to draw on in preparing the content of the signs.

Well done Parks Service.

The Friends of Glenburn group has held several work parties. A big thank you to all participants.

The grass inside the two fences at the Colverwell graves has been whipper snipped and mowed.

The Glenburn homestead site has been mowed and generally cleaned up. Gravel and rocks were placed around the



*Rhonda Boxall, great great granddaughter of John and Catherine Coppin, at Coppins Homestead site, 25 June 2012.*

*Photo Col McAlister*

tank outlet and gravel was placed along the eastern side of the slab hut. Some rabbit burrows were filled with stones and soil, which were rammed home with a crowbar. Several blackberry bushes nearby were cut and dug up. The ranger took two very large trailer loads of thistles, and other weeds, blackberry canes and rubbish were taken to the Goo-gong depot for burning.

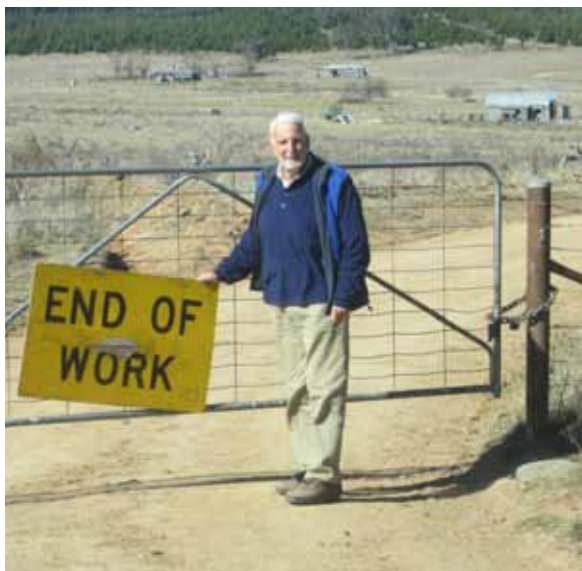
Also at Glenburn homestead eight rigid plastic sheets were placed over wallpaper and newspaper remnants, and the wooden posts of the internal fence were painted with linseed oil. Both actions will protect and conserve the materials.

## Proposal to repair pise

The Friends also put a proposal to the Parks Service that they (the Friends) contract a rammed earth construction company based in Wagga Wagga to demonstrate how volunteers can successfully repair pise. The proposal is

*Len Haskew ponders the meaning of life, Glenburn, 5 August 2012.*

*Photo Max Lawrence*



currently on hold. But, in the meantime, soil has been collected from the banks of Glen Burn Creek and samples have been made by Graham Scully using recipes provided by the company. The sample mixes were dried, moistened with water, rammed into a plastic cylinder and then slowly dried. They are strong and the colour is a good match to the pise at Glenburn homestead.

## Blackberry clearance reveals 1890s artefacts

At the Coppin's homestead site, 14 volunteers spent some 90 hours over two days clearing it of blackberries. Many, many blackberry canes were cut with loppers, pulled out, raked up and consolidated into a very large pile for later disposal by the Parks Service. The blackberries had almost totally swallowed up the site and, before the Parks Service poisoned them, they were up to 4 metres high! The new growth in spring will be poisoned by the Parks Service.

Clearing the site of blackberry canes has revealed 1890s artefacts that have not been seen for many years. We can now see the whole of the stone chimney and its stone and brick surrounds that were in the main building. In addition, we can now see a very large fireplace that was located in a separate kitchen, a depression surrounded by stones that marks the site of a well and other bits of stone, timber, metal and pottery remains from the homestead complex.

The uncovering of these artefacts means that the site is much more significant than previously thought, and much more protection and conservation work will therefore be required.

## Joint Parks–Friends effort to repair Coppin's homestead chimney

Because of work health safety (WHS) considerations, the Parks Service has not agreed to the Friends propping the Coppins chimney to stop it collapsing. As a consequence, the Friends have offered to purchase the necessary treated timber if Parks staff will do the work. Discussions are continuing with the Parks Staff on WHS issues generally.

Once the chimney is propped, the Friends will repoint it and the recently uncovered fireplace. In addition, the fire-

*(continued next page)*



## Glenburn/Burbong historic sites ... (continued from page 10)

place will be capped to reduce future erosion.

The Friends have not been active at Collier's homestead ruins and orchard nor at Curley's ruins and orchard, primarily because wet weather had made vehicular approaches through the paddocks too boggy.

### Canberra Bushwalking Club chips in

A new initiative by the Canberra Bushwalking Club on 11 August saw very significant inroads to the blackberries at Collier's. The Club held a work/walk at Glenburn/Burbong and nine keen members cut, raked and stacked blackberry canes for a combined total of 40 hours. The large clump near the ruins is gone, and an even larger clump near the quince copses has been largely demolished. The new growth is to be poisoned by the Parks Service in spring.

A big thank you to the Canberra Bushwalking Club, especially to John Evans. John organised the event through



*John Evans and his CBC crew get stuck into the blackberries at Collier's homestead 11 August 2012. Photo Col McAlister*

the Friends of Glenburn. Thanks also to the Parkcare and Landcare Coordinator, Philip Selmes, who lent two high-power brushcutters to help with the task.

On 5 August, an NPA walk to Glenburn/Burbong was held to look at progress and hear about the future plans of the Parks Service and the Friends.

The Friends of Glenburn has a work

party scheduled for Saturday 1 September. A large number of tasks have been agreed with the Parks Service. They will see the Colverwell graves site, the Glenburn homestead site and the Collier's homestead ruins site generally tidied up. The Glenburn homestead site will also be planted with grass seed. In addition, the interpretive signs mentioned above will be erected at the Glenburn homestead site and the Collier homestead ruins and orchard site.

Over the next few months, the Parks Service and the Friends of Glenburn will be meeting to discuss work priorities, including how best to spend the \$3 200 balance of the National

Parks Association's 'grant' and Glenburn/Burbong-preferred donations to NPA. The latter now stand at just over \$1 400. Thanks to those who have made donations. More, of course, would be most welcome.

**Col McAlister**



Jim Webb passed away in Wagga Wagga on 2 July, aged 86.

Jim was President of NPA ACT in 1966, a year when the campaign for a national park for the national capital was in full swing. Although this ambition was not to be realised for nearly two decades more with the establishment of Namadgi National Park, this was a period when the foundations of our Association were being well and truly laid.

In later life Jim Webb was a popular Wagga talkback radio host who first

## Vale Jim Webb



appeared on ABC Riverina Radio in the 1980s. He was a horticulture expert known for his unrivalled knowledge and popular tips on how to make the most of garden areas. According to the *Wagga Daily Advertiser*, Jim's daughter Wendy Lockley said her father was a high-spirited man who had a passion for conservation. He had a long and varied career, getting a start in the NSW government's parks and gardens division before moving to CSIRO. In his later years he focused his talents on mine regeneration work in Broken Hill before using his energy and experience to host television and radio gardening shows with the ABC.

In his earlier years in Canberra Mr Webb was a very keen and active member of the Canberra Alpine Club (CAC), as well as being involved with NPA. CAC stalwart Alan Bagnall remembers Mr Webb's many roles in the CAC in an article in the latest edition of

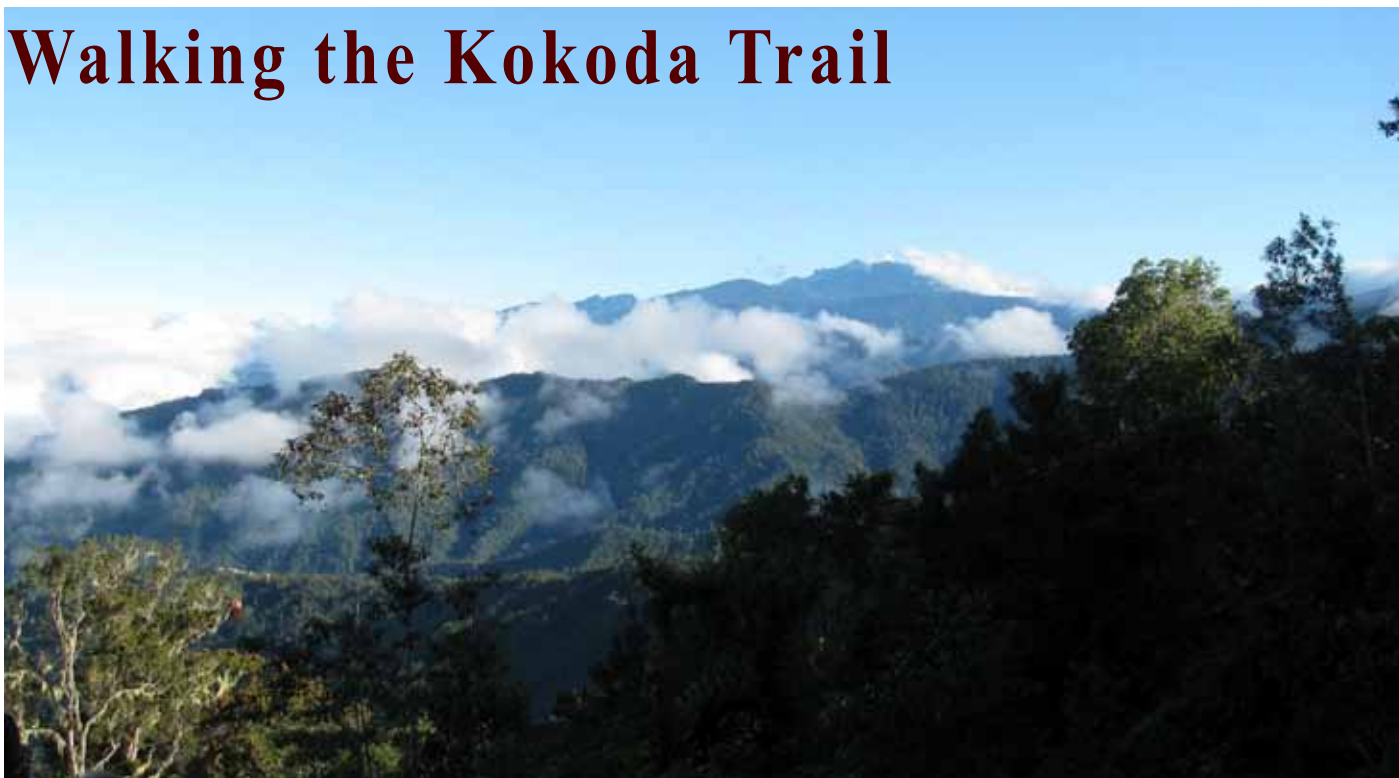
the Club's *Frozen Acres*. Jim Webb was a member of the CAC from 1947 til the early 1960s, and was an active committee member, including serving a time as president. He is perhaps best remembered for his role in getting the 'brumby tow' set up at the club's Mt Franklin chalet. This was basically a rope tow powered by a Harley Davidson motor bike mounted on a sled. This was subsequently joined by another tow based on an Austin A40 car, the remains of which are still in place on Mt Franklin.

Jim Webb died after a long battle with skin cancer. The funeral service was held in Wagga. Alan and Mrs Bagnall, together with Stan Goodhew, represented the CAC at the service. Thanks to Margaret Aston for bringing Mr Webb's passing to our attention.

**Max Lawrence**

Photo from *Wagga Daily Advertiser*

# Walking the Kokoda Trail



In early June 2012, I took part in a guided trek with Adventure Kokoda on the Kokoda Trail in Papua New Guinea. We took 10 days to walk about 100 km from Kokoda to Owers Corner over the Owen Stanley Range; i.e north to south. Most days involved climbs of between 500 and 800 metres and the maximum distance covered in a day was 15 km. The history of the Kokoda campaign is generally well known, is described in the *NPA Bulletin* of March 2005 and will not be repeated here. However, it's noted that by walking from north to south we were following the direction of the Australian withdrawal from Kokoda to Imita Ridge near Owers Corner in August–September 1942.

There were 12 trekkers in our group ranging in age from early 20s to 65. Most of us elected to pay the extra fee for a personal porter so that we needed to carry only a day pack. In all there were about 20 general porters who

carried food, tents and their own personal items. The personal porters would carry the gear of a trekker (up to 10 kg) plus their own gear making for a total pack weight of about 18 kg. I was unsure whether to have a personal porter but decided to have one as I did not know how I would handle the heat and humidity and was happy to give someone employment. Half-way along the track I asked my porter if I could carry the pack for a bit each day (he had looked a bit worn out one lunchtime after a particularly difficult climb). This was a good experience for me, as it made the walk much more challenging and gave me a bit more insight into what the soldiers must have undergone with much heavier packs and more difficult conditions. In the final days I carried the pack for most of the day.

## Early starts

The routine for most days was for a wake-up call at 5:30 am, breakfast, then departure at about 6:45 am and finish walking for the day anywhere between midday and 3:30 pm. Several porters carried the tents (each person had a tent to themselves) and they would have them set up by the time the trekkers arrived at the campsite. Most campsites were located beside creeks. Those that weren't, had cold-water

showers fed by pipe from a creek higher up the mountain. Either way, a refreshing wash could be had at the end of the generally hot sweaty days. Meals were cooked by several of the porters under the instruction of the boss cook, Frank. Each campsite had huts in which meals were served and in which we could shelter on the few afternoons when there was light rain. These huts also became the favourite clothes-drying place in the evenings when a fire was lit.

I believe that one of the advantages of walking from north to south is that it is easier to acclimatise to the conditions. In the first few days the distances are relatively short as the track ascends up the Eora Creek valley, although the second day had an 800 m climb to Isurava. The southern half of the track goes across the grain of the terrain and involves numerous steep ascents and descents. It was also somewhat muddier than in the northern half.

*(continued next page)*





# Report on a snow walk

**Walk:** Pounds Creek, 8 July 2012

**Participants:** (5) Brian Slee (Leader), Max Smith, Peter Anderson-Smith, Rupert Barnett, Kathy Saw

**Weather:** Cold, sunny, wispy high cloud, breezy at altitude.

**Leader's comments:** This was NPA's first excursion on snow to Pounds Creek since the 2011 attempt was abandoned. A 13 km walk in conditions good enough to allow inclusion of Anderson East Ridge (1 950 metres).

We convened at Calwell but on opposite sides of the Club, eventually coalescing and setting off at 6:30 am. Early starts have been necessary to secure parking at Guthega but, despite school holidays, there was plenty of space. On the foggy trip down temperatures dipped to  $-6^{\circ}\text{C}$ : it was clear and  $+1^{\circ}\text{C}$  when we arrived before 9 am.

New signs marshal skiers into forming a convenient path from Guthega to Farm Creek bridge. However, the

'highway' south to Illawong is less organised and, on this day, was established well down the slope. We stayed high, making good time on firm snow, and were at Illawong Bridge at 10:30 am.

The leader, a slow adopter, was on MSR snowshoes after 16 years on Yowies and happily breezed up the first hill beyond the bridge, using the heel-lift devices. However, it is a demanding route to Pounds Creek, so when we stopped for morning tea at a spot where the whole route ahead was in view, we discussed possible shortcuts.

We crossed an open area, via a huge snow gum, before single-filing up the steep 'Twynam-Pounds' ridge where we were greeted by a chilly breeze and a full frontal of Anton (2 000 metres). And our first elaborately-coiffured icy rocks. The effort to get there was making sense. Light and snow abundant.

From here it was north, crunching gently down to a snow bridge over Pounds Creek and up a hillock for lunch. The waterfall was partly concealed by an

ice shawl. A small avalanche marked the slope beyond.

At 1 pm we proceeded to the foot of Anderson East Ridge where two of the party headed east toward 'Gills Knob' creek while the rest climbed the ridge. More ice waves on the summit. The light was changing: Watsons Crags were defined and beautifully illuminated, Mt Tate painted in pearly greys. Down-hilling to join the others was a delight. Skiers waste descents.

After a rest, surrounded by snow gums, we turned south down a slope, again crossed Pounds Creek (glowing like a candle) and followed Peter back to our outward track and the bridges. We were at the cars soon after 4 pm. After feeding our faces at Jindabyne, we were in Calwell around 7:30 pm.

A long day, so thanks Max and Rupert for all the driving and to everyone for a good day out.

**Brian Slee**

*(See photo on back cover)*

## Walking the Kokoda Trail *(continued)*

### Friendly welcomes from the locals

For me an unexpected highlight of the trip was the friendly welcome we received from the locals in the villages that we passed through. Another was meeting one of the Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels in the village of Kagi. He proudly showed us his certificate of recognition and medal from the Australian Government (rather belatedly in December 2011). He said that he was 15 years old in 1942. The Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels were affectionately remembered by the soldiers for the care they gave to the sick and wounded, and it was a pleasure to thank him for his service. They were reported to have the devotion of a mother and the care of nurse. We recognised this gentle nature in our porters as they were always on hand to assist us, especially at the river crossings and on the many steep slippery sections of track; they seemed genuinely concerned for our welfare. By the end of the trek a good bond had developed between the trekkers and porters.

### The Isurava Memorial

Another highlight of the trek was to visit the Isurava Memorial, which is located

at the battle site where the Australians held up the Japanese advance for four vital days. It is also a stone's throw from the place where the deeds of Private Kingsbury won him a posthumous Victoria Cross. Each plinth of the memorial carries a word that collectively sums up the Kokoda campaign — Courage, Endurance, Mateship, Sacrifice. At times it was an emotional trek. One particular instance was when our guide, Rowan, gave us a briefing at the wartime Eora Village site before we followed the track away from the creek. He described the desperate withdrawal up that track where the best that could be done to delay the Japanese advance was for the fit soldiers to set ambushes to buy time so that their sick and wounded mates could walk or crawl up the steep muddy track away from the Japanese. Only the most seriously wounded could be carried on stretchers. This was early September 1942 — 70 years ago almost to the day of publication of this issue of the *Bulletin*.



### Elation, then awe

It was only a short but steep walk on the final day to the track end at Owers Corner. Our elation at having completed the challenging walk was shattered a few hours later when we saw the thousands of headstones in the Bomana War Cemetery just outside Port Moresby. Having walked the track over 10 days and being constantly reminded of what the soldiers endured, the visit to the cemetery was an appropriate time to pay our respects. Lest we forget.

**Mike Bremers**

*Photos by Mike Bremers*

# Queen's Birthday Honours to Klaus Hueneke and Ted Edwards

Well known 'Mountain Man' and NPA member Klaus Hueneke was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. His award was for services to conservation and Australia's heritage, particularly the huts of the alpine High Country.

An AM also went to Ted Edwards, honorary fellow of the Australian National Insect Collection. His award was for services to taxonomy. His specialty is moths and butterflies. He's a friend of NPA and is advising NPA on our forthcoming field guide to the insects of this region.

Klaus has made several contributions to our little journal, and has offered the following précis of his very eventful life to date, with no doubt many more chapters yet to be written.

## About a man called Klaus Hueneke

I was born at the end of a long and trying labour, in Rolfshagen, a tiny village near Rinteln, Germany. It was just before the Nazis finally capitulated. With the rest of my family I cruised across to Australia on a very big ship in 1955 and lived in a simple fibro cottage on a hillside called Glenroi Heights in Orange for seven years. Most of the time at Orange High I was confused, out of my depth and terribly self-conscious but still clever enough to get to Teachers College.

I've been a jack of many trades and, until about twenty years ago, master of none. I've tried my hand and brain at teaching manual arts, photo-journalism, environmental planning, being a meticulous academic, ski instructing, mountain guiding, running adult education courses, and, not to forget, being a father and partner. I have lived in Newcastle, Yanco, Dapto, Wellington, Sydney and Canberra, and in an ashram near Bombay for a month.

One of my passions is the Australian Alps. I have photographed them, interviewed numerous old timers who were born around them, skied and walked them from one end to the other, and by degrees managed to turn them into something I could make a living from. The BIG breakthrough came in 1982 when ANU Press published *Huts of the High Country*. Now in its seventh printing it has sold 14 000 copies, a great start for a writer. Having seen what publishing was all about I set up

Honorary fellow of the Australian National Insect Collection, Ted Edwards, has been named on the Queen's Birthday Honours list for services to taxonomy, and is pictured with a Northern Queensland rainforest moth.

Detail of photo by Stuart Walmsley in the *Canberra Times*.



Tabletop Press in 1984. Initially I published my own books, e.g. *Kosciusko — where the Ice-Trees Burn* and *People of the Australian High Country*, but having developed expertise in this field I was soon called upon to help others. They included Alan Andrews with *Kosciusko — The Mountain in History*, Matthew Higgins with *Skis on the Brindabellas*, and Gwen Wilson with *Murray of Yarralumla*. I've collaborated with Mark O'Connor the Olympic poet, on a volume of poetry and photos called *Tilting at Snowgums* and I've reprinted some old classics.

Having printed these books they needed to be sold, so with loaded campervan I took to the road and covered numerous bookshops in Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne and sundry watering places in between. I discovered that I could be a specialist wholesaler of books about the Australian Alps and proceeded to buy in books from other publishers.

In 1996 I decided that I would suspend writing about the life and adventures of others and write about my own. This turned out to be much more demanding than I had thought, especially if I was to be honest and sincere about it. The result was *One Step at a Time*. Since then I have produced the award-winning book *Huts in the Victorian Alps* and two photographic books *Mountain Landscapes and Historic Huts* and *A String of Pearls — the South Coast of NSW*. In between books I've produced over 100 feature articles and photo essays for magazines and newspapers.

I'm an honorary life member of various clubs and, in my younger days, obtained many Life Saving Awards including the Award of Merit and the Distinction. The interest in

lifesaving followed my clumsy rescue of two people from the Georges River when I was 14 years old. At university I completed an Arts degree with Honours and a Master of Science in plant ecology. I belong to an exclusive but quite large group of candidates who did not complete a PhD. University taught me many things, but not how to make a living. Life taught me that. It also taught me that if you enhance your community with a substantial body of work you may get an Order of Australia. This happened in 2012.

I've had a number of dramatic dalliances and three meaningful, long-term relationships with women (in tandem, and not like some Mormons, all at once!) and am now married to Patricia, a herbal-medicine practitioner. I have, over the years, helped to bring up six children, two of whom are my own. I now have five grandchildren, Jarrah, Angus, Zoe, Ben and Hailey.

I love Australia and being Australian, and, having sung the words in several choirs, think our national anthem should be *I am Australian*. I tend towards Republicanism but have a soft spot for the current Queen. I would like our parliament to be more inclusive and less adversarial. I follow an ancient spiritual tradition called Siddha Yoga and like to meditate and chant.

More than anything else I'm a human being trying to make sense of life, death and all things in between. I've had fleeting glimpses of the Holy Grail but not yet grasped its full splendour.

Klaus Hueneke





# Book review

## ‘Magnificent’ Lake George: the biography

by Graeme Barrow

Dagraja Press

114 pages, \$30 at bookshops or from the author

Until I read Graeme Barrow’s ‘Magnificent’ *Lake George: the biography*, I considered myself something of an expert on Lake George. However, Barrow’s book has shown me that my experience of the lake is but a moment in time. His book covers the period from the Tertiary (geological) Era — 400 million years ago — that saw the formation of the Lake George Range on the western side of the lake, to the modern era that saw the coming of wind turbines to the eastern side of the lake.

Early in the book, Barrow answers the two most frequently asked questions about the lake: how deep can it be and why does the water come and go? In the past 150 years the depth has ‘rarely exceeded 6.1 metres’ although today’s studies give a depth of 4.5 metres when the lake is considered full. And the variations in volume are caused by variability in rainfall and evaporation.

After a comprehensive chapter on the Indigenous occupants of the Lake George region, Barrow devotes several pages to Joseph Wild. Wild came to Australia as a convict and, despite an urban English upbringing, quickly became an expert bushman. After he gained experience with Barrallier and botanist Robert Brown, his services were sought-after by every European explorer in this region (Hume, Throsby, Meehan). Wild had no inclination to self-promotion, so his role in exploration is often neglected — but not by Barrow. He concludes this chapter ‘... it is fitting that Joseph Wild should be honoured as the discoverer of Lake George, on 20 August 1820’.

Many and varied are the descriptions of Lake George and its surrounds given by early travellers and settlers in the area. Of course, those who saw the lake ‘full’ were more generous in their description. In 1820 Governor Macquarie writes of his ‘admiration of the magnificence and size of this noble sheet of water’. But, in 1837, a Thomas Walker sees ‘... a level plain, as even as a bowling green, not a rise nor a tree nor an object of any kind to interrupt the view, with the exception of “mobs” of cattle scattered over the surface like flies resting on a billiard table’.

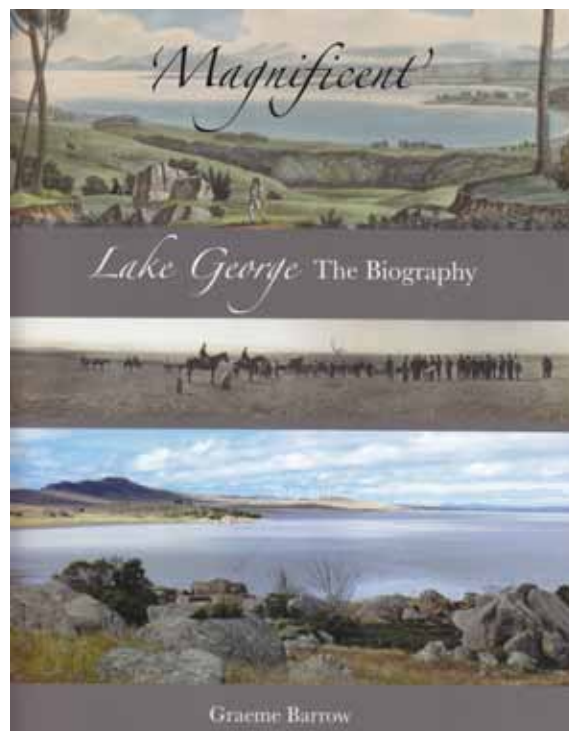
Barrow takes the reader around the lake to all the properties and their various owners, past and present. He ends this chapter with the current owner of Douglas (on the south-west shore) reporting that, in 1964, the house was ‘in a neglected condition and rampant vegetation including enormous clumps of blackberry obscured views of the lake’. My first contact with the lake was to come to this spot blackberry picking with my parents in about 1960.

I knew of the two major drownings in the lake during the 1950s: the Duntroon cadets and the Lynch family. However, I was not aware of the details and associated drama. Barrow has skilfully combined quotes from survivors with his own descriptions to produce a moving account of these tragedies in a chapter titled ‘A lake that kills’.

There are many fascinating, historical photographs contrasting with those taken by Barrow in recent times. There are also several maps which, at their original size, would have added considerably to the reader’s picture of Lake George. However, when reduced to a size that occupies a quarter of a page of the book, the maps become frustratingly indecipherable. (This is a common fault in books of this genre.) While I was reading ‘Magnificent’ *Lake George: the biography* I had to hand three maps of the 1:50 000 series of New South Wales: *Lake George*, *Gunning* and *Lake Bathurst*. These maps clearly show the points of the lake, creeks, hills and homesteads referred to in the text of the book.

Barrow must have spent an extraordinary amount of time researching Lake George. He covers many different aspects of the lake — e.g. surveying, the coming of settlers, the lake as a national capital site, scientific studies, a speedway, yachting, fishing, bird life — this would have required investigation of many different sources of information. (I wonder how many interesting but irrelevant stories he found in the course of his research.)

I would have liked some details of the foottraces across the dry lake bed conducted by the Canberra Cross Country Club. These would have been



held during the 1970s or '80s. And I've seen pictures of a tower on the southern end of the Lake George Range erected by the New South Wales astronomer Smalley. Was it part of his baseline that is mentioned in the book? Ian Fraser, in his review of ‘Magnificent’ *Lake George: the biography* (*Canberra Times*, 14 July), laments the non-mention of a particular bird survey of the lake.

I suspect many readers with some experience of Lake George, while enjoying the book, will have information they consider worthy of inclusion — which they assume Barrow was not aware of. However, to include every reader’s personal interest in Lake George would result in an unwieldy *Lake George: the Encyclopaedia*. In ‘Magnificent’ *Lake George: the biography* Barrow has successfully prioritised and selected a manageable range of diverse aspects of Lake George. Enough for any reader — including those who claim ‘expert’ knowledge of the lake. Certainly enough for our National Parks Association to organise one, or several, interesting day walks around the Lake George environs.

Russell Wenzholz

# The thrill of Cape York's 'tip'



*A familiar photograph taken at the 'Tip'.*

It's a thrill to stand on the most northerly point of the Australian continent at Cape York, although being brought to this spot in 21st century comfort is far removed from what explorers and adventurers must have encountered in earlier years when they struggled through rainforest and forded rivers to reach what is known colloquially as the 'Tip'. Before Europeans turned up, Indigenous people knew this celebrated spot by the name Pajinka. Or did they? More on this intriguing topic later.

A coach brought my group to the end of the dirt road to the Tip, after which the only exercise needed was a walk up and along rock for about a kilometre. The Tip itself is marked by a signpost fixed in black rock proclaiming that 'You are standing at the northernmost point of the Australian continent'. How many thousands of photographs have been taken at this spot I wondered as I stood next to the post for the obligatory picture. By the look of it, this spot is washed often by the swirling sea.

The blue-green waters of Endeavour Strait, and islands and beaches, are scenic attractions up here, but for the coach-borne traveller on a timetable there

is little else to occupy one's attention. I guess, like Thursday Island, it is enough to say that you have been to the Tip. Those who 'do it rough' may have more exciting tales to tell.

I was amused to find that on a cairn on the walk to the Tip distances to many places were noted, but not Canberra. The capital of the nation may, in people's minds, be a long way from here and of little consequence, but even so I thought it should have figured among all those other distant places. Later when thinking about it I felt irritated, much like Tasmanians do when the island state is left off maps of Australia.

## ... a mystery of sorts

The Tip does have a mystery of sorts in the Pajinka Wilderness Lodge, within easy walking distance of the end of the road. It is said to have been the brainchild of an outfit called Bush Pilots Airways in the 1980s but, in 1992, it was bought by the Injinoo Aboriginal Corporation as 'part of a plan to regain control over their traditional lands and achieve long-term self-sufficiency'. Yet its fate was to be shut down (I have been unable to discover when), and today the jungle is reclaiming it. Confusingly, at least one signpost on the access road still advertises the resort as a going concern and the internet still refers to it as a place where you can go and put your feet up and contemplate the joys of your own 'modern bathroom' and 'private verandah'.

According to the information on the net, the lodge has '24 comfortable bungalows ... and can accept [a maximum of] 50 guests'. However, another source reporting on the resort in

1997 said it had six bungalows 'featuring 24 rooms'.

The lodge was set in 'groomed tropical gardens around a pool fed by a freshwater spring'. With my coach ready to depart, I had only a cursory look at this failed retreat where the bungalows are derelict with gaps in floors and

cobwebs and dirt in rooms. There was no evidence of any 'groomed tropical gardens'.

Somebody should take down the road sign and remove references to Pajinka on the internet, otherwise people searching for accommodation near Australia's most northerly point will be disappointed. A Cape York map lists a campground at the Tip, also bought by the Injinoo Corporation in 1992, but I have been unable to find out anything about it. Maybe it has gone the same way as the wilderness lodge.

## ... Injinoo or 'By Jingo'?

There's another puzzle over Pajinka, said to be the word for Cape York in the Injinoo language. One author, in a book published in 1996, scoffed at this notion, saying that after checking what he called the language of the Gudang people (ancestors of the Injinoo) at Cape York, written down by John Macgillivray, a naturalist on board HMS *Rattlesnake* in 1849, no such word existed. Instead, Pajinka was derived from the English expression, 'By Jingo', the name of a station on the Campaspe River south of Charters Towers. The station became Pajingo before Aboriginals decided to pronounce the word Pajinka. This folksy tale does seem improbable given the distance of Charters Towers from Cape York, while it could be argued in addition that Macgillivray may not have noted down all the Gudang words. In 2003, a list of indigenous words deposited with the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies in Canberra noted Pajinka, pronounced Pah-jin-kah, as the name for the tip of Cape York, and gives two alternatives, Panjinka and Panjin. Right or wrong, it would surprise if Pajinka fell out of favour now.

## Black Mountain ... satanic appearance

Away from the Tip, there are many extraordinary sights on the huge Cape York Peninsula, one of the most dramatic being Black Mountain, 25 km south of Cooktown. Visitor information rightly says it is an 'imposing mountain of massive granite boulders, stacked on one another' and warns that people have been injured and died in attempting to climb it. Microscopic algae and lichens growing on exposed surfaces of the

*(continued next page)*



*Jungle is reclaiming the Pajinka Wilderness Lodge.*



## The thrill of Cape York's 'tip' *(continued)*

pinkish grey granite give the mountain its satanic appearance.

Elsewhere, waterfalls are a delight, with Fruit Bat Falls off the Old Telegraph Track sought-after by swimmers who delight in sitting below the falls and having the rushing waters pour over them. Another waterfall, Bloomfield Falls south of Cooktown, is a spectacular sight with its waters gushing out like some gigantic plume before sweeping down the Bloomfield River, the haunt of crocodiles, as are so many other waterways.

A booklet lists 18 national parks and reserves on the peninsula, and looking through it I regretted not having the time to experience more than just a couple.

**Graeme Barrow**

*(Photographs by the author.)*



*Thousands of boulders make Black Mountain dangerous to climb.*



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*Fruit Bat Falls stretches across Eliot Creek.*

## Syd and Barbara celebrate 60 years



*Then and ...*

Syd and Barbara Comfort, long-term stalwarts and friends of NPA have recently celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary. Syd is a former NPA President and Treasurer, and a former long-term editor of this august publication. He is a Life Member of NPA. Together Syd and Barbara have

several times hosted NPA members to tea in their wonderful award-winning Mawson garden, and over the years have offered wise counsel and moral support to many NPA committees and office bearers. Syd was one of the principals of the Gudgenby Bush Regeneration Group for many years, and still fronts up from time to time on outings and work parties.

Their anniversary celebration was shared with their five wonderful 'children', many grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Congratulations Syd and Barbara. May there be many more happy anniversaries!



*... now — THIS is a knife!*

# Offa's Dyke National Path



**Walk:** Prestatyn, North Wales Coast to Chepstow, Severn Estuary

**Distance:** 285 km (177 miles)

Some years ago I had a holiday in North Wales staying in a B&B near Corwen and doing a number of day walks over a two-week period. One of these walks took us along part of Offa's Dyke. Ever since I have been intrigued by the story of how an eighth century Anglo-Saxon king (757–796 AD), Offa, King of Mercia, had ordered the construction of a massive earth ditch and bank. The purpose was to 'mark an agreed definitive frontier between his Kingdom of Mercia and the Welsh kingdoms to the west of it'. Like the better known Hadrian's Wall (which I walked a few years ago) it enabled human traffic and trade to be controlled and may have hindered or prevented cattle raids. It was built after two brutal incursions into South Wales had failed to quell the troublesome Welsh.

The modern walking path, about 285 km in total, follows just over 97 km of the original 129 km dyke. The dyke is constituted with its bank to the east and ditch to the west. From the bottom of the ditch to the top of the dyke can be up to 9 metres. It must have been a formidable enterprise requiring a detailed understanding of the topography of the region



and significant administrative and engineering skills. It was, of course, hand dug, perhaps by slaves, perhaps by the forced participation of local villagers. Written records of the period and the exact manner in which the fortification was constructed are not available.

Offa's Dyke Path is one of the 15 national trails in England and Wales funded by Natural England (successor to the Countryside Commission) and is administered by the Offa's Dyke Path Management Service based in Knighton.

I walked from north to south because this is the route offered by the company I went with (Drover Holidays). Most walkers seem to go the other way but I don't think it really matters.

A word about Drover Holidays. This is a small company, based in Hay-on-Wye, specialising in cycling and walking holidays in Wales. They hire out bikes, suggest itineraries, arrange accommodation and luggage transport and, in the case of their walking holidays, will provide a guide if required. I took the option of a fully guided, 14-day walk with accommodation and luggage transfer included. Arrangements were flawless and my two companions, David and Sally (strangers at the start but firm friends at the end) delightful. Our two guides, both Anna, who did half the route each, were pleasant, knowledgeable about the history, flora and fauna of the route and good navigators. We had two days off (Llangollen, of international music festival fame and Hay-on-Wye of literary festival and book shop renown). Both towns were ideal stopovers: fascinating and chock full of interesting things to see and do.

## The walk

Drover Holidays describes this as 'a fairly strenuous walk'. Average days were 6–8 hours walking, covering distances of about 20–25 km. There are about 850 stiles to climb over. The country we travelled through is as varied as Wales itself — gentle farmland, steep hillsides, moorlands, pine

plantations, country lanes with hedgerows and/or dry stone walls, ancient woodlands, ridge walking and surprisingly steep scree fields. Sheep are everywhere.

There are three testing sections. The crossing of the Clwydian Range, between Bodfari and Clwyd Gate early in the walk, the route along Hatterrall Ridge in the Black Mountains between Hay-on-Wye and Pandy and then the series of switchbacks north and south of Knighton. The highest point on Offa's Dyke Path is 703 m on the Hatterrall Ridge.

Besides some excellent and varied walking, the route offers cultural heritage treasures such as the Jubilee Tower on the top of Moel Famou (554 m) in the Clwydian Ranges. This now ruined tower was built in 1810 to celebrate 50 years of the reign of George III in 1810. Other places of interest include the Thomas Telford-designed, World Heritage-listed Pontcysyllte Aquaduct on the Llangollen Canal, numerous ancient churches and fascinating churchyards, the haunting and remote Valle Crucis Abbey and Llanthony Priory, and Wordsworth's Tintern Abbey, the last somewhat spoilt by an excess of tourist facilities. Ruined and rebuilt castles (Chirk, Powis, Montgomery, Monmouth and Chepstow are a few) and enigmatic hill forts dating from the Iron Age abound. Those of a literary bent are spoilt in their choice of poets related to the region including A.E. Houseman, George Herbert, William Wordsworth, Gerard Manley Hopkins, R.S. Thomas and John Ceiriog Hughes. Diarists of interest include Francis Kilvert. Travel writers like John Hillaby and Bruce Chatwin are relevant.

The walk is a delight in matters flora and fauna. Spring flowers were common, particularly in hedgerows, along canal towpaths, and in graveyards and cottage gardens. Some of the flowers seen were bluebells, daffodils, cornflowers, gorse, yarrow, many species of orchids, wild garlic, buttercups and cowslips. The ubiquitous fields of yellow rape (canola to us) dominated many farmland vistas. Birds were ever present, including the red kite, recently saved from extinction (see [www.welshkitetrust.org](http://www.welshkitetrust.org)), ravens, skylarks, pheasants and buzzards.

## Conservation issues

When walking through the British countryside it is always a challenge for an Australian to work out just who is

*(continued next page)*



## Offa's Dyke National Path *(continued)*

responsible for the management of the land one is on. The hard-fought but now liberal British Right to Roam walking environment (*The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000* and *The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009*) and customary local rights of way makes most private land, especially farmland, open to use by walkers. Then there are national parks, private conservation parks, National Trust land, the Woodland Trust and scores of reserves looked after by local groups. The many organisations involved in the conservation of natural areas in the UK demonstrate the pressures under which most land is from human use. Far more so than in Australia where population pressure on open spaces is far less — despite the constant battle by organisations like NPA to restate the sanctity of Australian national parks from so-called eco-tourism developments, horse riders, the reintroduction of grazing and, more bizarrely, the pressure to allow hunting of feral animals.

There are numerous specific-purpose groups in the UK, such as the People's Trust for Endangered Species, which promotes the conservation of hedgerows, traditional orchards and graveyards so that such endangered species as dormice and hedgehogs have some hope of survival.

Some of the government-designated land through which one travels on this walk include the Brecon Beacon National Park, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, National Nature Reserves and 'agricultural schemes to encourage farmers to manage their lands in an environmentally responsible way and to protect and enhance natural

resources, historical and cultural features and habitats and wildlife'.

An interesting conservation initiative in Wales is the innovative Heather and Hillforts Landscape Partnership Scheme. Funded by the National Lottery, its purpose is to bring together graziers, landowners, archaeologists, conservationists, schools, community groups, tourism businesses, walkers and others to care for the future of the upland area of the Clwydian Range and Llantysilio Mountains. Its aim is to link the conservation and restoration of the natural and historic heritage of the Clwydian Range and Llantysilio Mountains and to encourage greater understanding and enjoyment of these uplands among residents and visitors alike.

This is being done by such activities as erosion management, protection of historic sites, restoration of moorland damaged by illegal off-road vehicle use, guided walks, stone wall restoration, workshops, school work parties, interpretive signs, discrete car parks and picnic facilities, improved public transport, comprehensive walking guides and historical re-enactments. Improved methods of managing moorlands are being developed and promulgated.

### Economic issues

The British authorities, unlike most of their Australian counterparts, have long recognised the economic advantages to



local communities of long-distance walking routes. The provision of accommodation, transport, supplies, purchase of locally produced arts and crafts, services, pubs, fuel and so on is of considerable importance to rural communities.

### Accommodation and food

One of the very real advantages of a walk of this kind is that all accommodation and most of the meals were selected and booked by Drover Holidays. When taxis were needed at the end of a day and the start of the next one this too was taken care of. This meant that one's whole attention could be put into the walk itself and usually the significant pleasure of a pint or two of real ale each evening in the village pub.

This was a wonderful walk through glorious and historically interesting scenery in bright, fine spring weather. My companions were delightful and the guides expert and unobtrusive.

**Timothy Walsh**

*(Photos supplied by the author)*

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*Heather and Hillforts of the Clwydian Range and Llantysilio Mountains*, Denbighshire County Council, Ruthin, Wales

[www.heatherandhillforts.co.uk](http://www.heatherandhillforts.co.uk)



# PARKWATCH

## MDBA caught in the Act

Legal analysis of the draft Murray–Darling Basin Plan by the Environmental Defender’s Office shows the plan fails to meet the requirements of the *Water Act 2007* and may be invalid. The Water Act established the Murray–Darling Basin Authority, giving it the power to ensure Basin water resources are managed in an ‘integrated and sustainable way’. But the EDO’s legal analysis of the draft plan has found it puts social and economic considerations before the issue of what extraction level is sustainable. It also says the MDBA’s decision to more than double groundwater extraction does not appear to be based on the best available science and does not align with the precautionary principle, both of which are requirements of the Act. The MDBA comes under fire too for its interpretation of its powers under the Act, in which it can set binding targets for environmental, water quality and salinity that the states must meet. The EDO says the authority has chosen to give these provisions their weakest interpretation and make targets non-binding only.

*Nature’s Voice* (VNPA) No. 12  
(April–May 2012)

## National plan for wildlife corridors

The federal government recently released draft plans for national wildlife corridors aimed at restoring and managing ecological connections in the Australian landscape. Prepared by an independent advisory group including former VNPA director Doug Humann, the plan aims to rebuild and reconnect the landscape. Federal environment minister Tony Burke said national wildlife corridors would lay the foundation for a new, collaborative, whole-of-landscape approach to conserving biodiversity and strengthening resilience of landscapes in the face of climate change.

‘You can look at a map of reserved areas and sometimes it looks like someone has dipped a toothbrush in paint and splattered different unconnected dots across the land’, he said, commenting on landscape fragmentation.

Environment groups have welcomed the draft, and note that ‘corridors’ are not intended to be just two lines of eucalypts beside a paddock. For the vision to translate to reality, most wildlife corridor projects, from small to grand, will still need to be driven by the community. The persistence needed through changes of

governments and policies is best based in the community — although genuine partnerships with governments are very important. Resources to do the work are essential. An investment in community leadership can give a six-fold return to on-ground outcomes, according to Alan Curtis’ work at Charles Sturt University.

‘Biodiverse carbon plantings, paid for by offsetting for emissions, should also make a major contribution to biodiversity outcomes in these corridors’, says Doug Humann, adding that: ‘A landscape consisting only of single-species plantations would be a wasted opportunity in the long task of ‘reknitting’ the landscape’.

*Nature’s Voice* (VNPA) No. 12  
(April–May 2012)

## Australia can save its woodland birds

We have a very good chance of being able to save most of our endangered native woodland birds, one of the biggest field studies ever conducted in this country suggests. Researchers from the ARC Centre of Excellence for Environmental Decisions, the Commonwealth Government’s National Environmental Research Program and the Australian National University have found that many native birds that were feared headed for extinction have shown remarkable rates of recovery on farms where regrowth and plantings of native trees are flourishing. In a huge field-science effort, the team monitored no fewer than 193 sites on 46 farms across southern NSW over 10 years, to study the effect on native birds of different ways of managing native vegetation.

‘It’s an extremely encouraging result’, said team leader Prof. David Lindenmayer. ‘We’ve seen a big increase in the numbers of rare and endangered birds on farms in southern Australia, despite the drought. It’s really good news and a true credit to all the farmers who have worked so hard to protect and restore native vegetation.’

The team’s research indicates that plantings and regrowth areas, where grazing pressure has been reduced, have seen the biggest return of native birds — compared with ‘old-growth’ areas still being heavily grazed. ‘We think this is because, in both new planting and regrowth areas, there is an understorey of young, vigorous trees and shrubs which is attractive to many woodland birds, including rare and endangered species such as the diamond firetail, hooded

robin, flame robin and black-chinned honeyeater. In heavily grazed old-growth areas, on the other hand, the ground between the trees is more open and less attractive to these types of woodland birds.’

The scientific evidence suggests both regrowth and new planting areas provide a real lifeline for imperilled native birds. The survey found an average of 29 bird species in new planting areas, 25 in seedling regrowth areas and 20 in areas resprouting after fires or land clearing, compared with only 15 bird types in old-growth areas where trees were all mature or ageing.

‘This means we now know how to do revegetation of the Australian landscape so that it is both more effective at bringing back native species — and costs less to do’, Prof. Lindenmayer says. ‘This calls for farm planning at a whole new level, but the hundreds of farmers who are working with us are already into this. They are very excited by the results we’ve been seeing. For the first time there is a clear measure of the quality of their stewardship of the native landscape. They can see the benefits for themselves — and success is motivating them to try even harder.’

The team’s findings suggest that a range of vegetation growth types are likely to be required in a given farmland area to support the diverse array of bird species that inhabit Australian temperate woodland ecosystems.

*Park Watch* (VNPA) No. 249  
(June 2012)

## Another hawkweed found in the Alpine National Park

Weeds are eco-terrorists — terrorists of ecosystems. As invaders of our national parks, they should provoke fear and funding — fear of their ecological consequences, and funding for research and projects aimed at their eradication. Hawkweeds have done just that. Their invasion of Victoria’s Alpine National Park has provoked serious concern among botanists, ecologists and land managers, and they have attracted funding for research and for their survey and eradication.

Orange hawkweed was the first hawkweed to be detected growing wild in Victoria. In 1999, small orange daisies in weedy Falls Creek ski village were identified as a subspecies of *Hieracium aurantiacum*. Unsurprisingly, orange hawkweed has since been found on the Bogong High Plains in the Alpine NP

(continued next page)



## PARKWATCH (continued)

above Falls Creek. Sadly, it has also been found naturalised in Mt Buller Alpine resort and Kosciuszko NP. In summer, grasslands ablaze with indigenous and naturalised yellow daisies, yellow-flowering hawkweeds are more difficult to detect.

King devil hawkweed was first noticed in December 2003 in a sea of yellow daisies near Rocky Valley Storage Dam. Another yellow-daisied hawkweed was discovered during a volunteer survey last December. On our first day, we were shown hawkweed's distinctive hairy leaves. Our leader, Hawkweed Project Officer Kylie Chew, detected them in grassland near the aqueduct north of Langford Gap after some of us had walked right over them. The patch of king devil hawkweed was quite large, but the hairy leaves are not easy to see in the grass — unless you are on your knees.

Later, at the hawkweed 'crime scene', another plant was carefully dug up and sent to the herbarium. Then came the disturbing news. At the herbarium Neville Walsh recognised the hairy leaves and yellow flower of a hawkweed never before found growing wild in Victoria — mouse-ear hawkweed *Hieracium pilosella*, the species name meaning 'somewhat hairy', referring to the whiskery leaves. Because it aggressively colonises low-fertility tussock grasslands, mouse-ear hawkweed is ecologically particularly dangerous. When you marvel at the summer floral brilliance of the High Plains grasslands and heathlands, continue to look out for the orange and yellow daisies and whiskery leaves of hawkweeds. But do not touch them! Never! Hawkweeds are invasive species. An extremely careful protocol must be followed for their removal and databasing — flagging, tagging and bagging individual plants and spraying colonies, to be undertaken only by trained hawkweed workers. And there is always the possibility of misidentification. We well-intentioned non-experts may mistake various yellow daisies and hairy-leaved rosettes for hawkweeds. If you see plants that you think are hawkweeds, send photos and their exact position to your local national park headquarters.

*Park Watch* (VNPA) No. 249  
(June 2012)

## Diving the Coral Sea

Diving for me started where I grew up in Cairns. Our family holidays were all about snorkelling, and diving on the

Great Barrier Reef. In 2011, I decided my Christmas present to my Mum would be a dive trip for both of us with Mike Ball, to Osprey Reef on the Coral Sea. To be honest, in my naivety it had never occurred to me that there was any reef beyond the Great Barrier Reef.

Our first dive on the way out to the Coral Sea was on the Ribbon Reefs where a huge manta ray circled us while cleaner fish picked out his parasites — a good reminder that the Great Barrier Reef is still a living treasure. But Osprey Reef opened my eyes to real underwater beauty. We saw clear blue water with more than 50 metre visibility, an incredible number of reef sharks and some of the biggest hump headed parrot fish and Maori wrasse I have ever seen. We also saw small creatures such as nudibranch, leaf fish and hermit crabs. I was overwhelmed by the vast stretches of undamaged and unbleached colourful coral.

I was shocked and saddened when I learned on our last night on the dive boat that the proposed Coral Sea Marine Park will leave most of the reefs in the Coral Sea unprotected. I would like to see them protected as they are for future generations to enjoy and for the fact that they hold so much of the beauty of the underworld in one place.

Lucy Graham in *Habitat*  
Vol. 40, No. 2 (2012)

## More than rain to make Murray right

After a wetter than average year in the Murray–darling Basin many people seem to think the problems of Australia's most important river system are solved. They're not. Rain and floods have returned life to many parts of the river system, but if they are to provide more than a temporary boost before the next drought hits, our federal parliament will need to sign off on a strong Murray–Darling Basin Plan this year. When I say strong plan, I mean a plan that results in a river not poisoned by salt, that flows, that is alive. Anything less threatens the future of the river and regional communities, not to mention Adelaide's drinking water.

For too long we've been taking too much water out of the river for the system to remain healthy. Opponents of a strong basin plan tell us Australia has to make a choice between vibrant regional communities and a healthy river. There is no such choice. The best protection for farming, regional and metropolitan communities is to keep our rivers — the country's lifeblood — flowing and

healthy.

So why do some of South Australia's federal MPs duck for cover when it comes to the Murray? One would hope it is not because more of the water that gets taken out of the Murray–Darling is extracted by powerful irrigators in Queensland, NSW and Victoria, where the major political parties have their biggest support bases. Environment groups are reminding SA's federal politicians about their responsibility to represent the interests of the communities that sent them to Canberra.

Because it's going to take a concerted, bipartisan effort from SA political players, federal and state, to wrestle the basin plan out of the grip of powerful industries upstream that want to delay, water down and thwart the blueprint. Water Minister Tony Burke and Opposition Leader Tony Abbot have spent most of their consultation time in NSW and Victoria, where vested interests are trying to make sure the basin plan puts as little water back into the river as possible.

A successful Murray–Darling Basin Plan must serve the national interest, not the self-interest of big irrigation companies. It's time for politicians — of all political persuasions and at all levels of government — to speak up for the Murray. And it's up to the rest of us to hold them to account.

*Habitat* (ACF) April 2012

## Bandicoots release offers hope for species recovery

Captive-bred eastern barred bandicoots are being released into native grasslands at Serendip Sanctuary near Lara as a significant step in the recovery of this critically endangered species. Up to ten of the small marsupials will be released into four hectares of regenerated habitat to help build the population, which is considered extinct in the wild. This is a vital step in preparing the species for release in Woodlands Historic Park later this year, where the population is projected to reach a sustainable number.

The bandicoots were bred at Melbourne Zoo, where they were prepared for the move to their new home. As part of the recovery project, they also inhabit sites at Mt Rothwell Biodiversity Interpretation Centre and Hamilton Community Parkland.

*Nature's Voice* (VNPA) No. 12  
(April–May 2012)

Compiled by Hazel Rath

# NPA notices



## National Parks Association Calendar

|  | September                        | October        | November | December           |
|--|----------------------------------|----------------|----------|--------------------|
| Public holidays                        | —                                | Mon 1<br>Mon 8 | —        | Mon 24<br>Tues 25  |
| General meetings                       | Thur 20                          | Thur 18        | Thur 15  | —                  |
| Committee meetings                     | Tues 4                           | Tues 2         | Tues 6   | Tues 4             |
| Gudgeny Bush Regeneration <sup>1</sup> | Sat 8                            | Sat 13         | Sat 10   | Sat 8 <sup>2</sup> |
| NPA Art Week at Gudgenby Cottage       | Sat 22 to<br><sup>3</sup> Sun 30 |                |          |                    |
| NPA Christmas Party <sup>4</sup>       |                                  |                |          | Sun 9              |

## New members of the association

The NPA ACT welcomes the following new members:

Anna and John Hyles  
Shirley and Warwick Daniels  
Matt Haidn  
Joanna Gilmour and  
Matthew Jones.

We look forward to seeing everyone at NPA activities.

This *Bulletin* was prepared by

Editor: Max Lawrence

Sub-editor: Ed Highley

Presentation: Adrienne Nicholson

Further details: 1. GBRG. Meet Namadgi Visitor Centre, 9:15am or Yankee Hat car park 10:00am  
2. GBRG Christmas Party  
3. Visitors welcome on **Open Day** Saturday 29 September (10:00 am to 3:00 pm)  
4. NPA Christmas Party. Notice page 8.



## Sunday 9 December, Blue Range Hut, 11:30 am

See December Outings Program or *Burning Issues* for last-minute details.



## Reminders.

**NPA publications.** Contact the office, information page 23.

**Art Week at Gudgenby Cottage**  
**Open Day** (10 am to 3 pm)  
Saturday 29 September

**Black Mountain wildflower ramble**  
Saturday 13 October  
See Outings Program

**NPA Christmas Party**  
Sunday 9 December, Blue Range Hut  
See Outings Program and *Burning Issues*

## Black Mountain Wildflower Ramble

Sat 13 October  
Spring Wildflower Ramble.

Belconnen Way entry to Black Mountain Nature Reserve, just before Caswell Drive turnoff (look for balloons).

An easy guided walk with Laurie Adams, Isobel Crawford, Jean Geue and Peter Ormay. Following the tradition set by Nancy Burbidge and George Chippendale this will be a social occasion. Bring your friends (especially those who are new to plant identification), morning tea, hat, sunblock, water and stout shoes. Please book on [friendsofblackmountain@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofblackmountain@gmail.com). Contact Jean on 6251 1601



## Cover photographs

### Front cover

**Main photo.** Brian Slee and Kevin McCue tackle a big pine wilding, Gibraltar Creek area, on the August 2012 NPA Work Party.

Photo Rupert Barnett

**Insets. Top.** Christine Goonrey earns Life Membership (page 6).

Photo Sabine Friedrich

**Centre.** Fenner School at the Australian National University (page 8).

Photo Sabine Friedrich

**Bottom.** The new post and rail fence at Glenburn homestead, 11 August 2012 (article page 10).

Photo Col McAlister

### Back cover

**Upper photo.** Peter Anderson-Smith, on NPA ACT snowshoe outing (report page 13).

Photo Brian Slee

**Lower photo.** The road to Newnes, Wollom National Park.

Photo Rupert Barnett



# General Meeting

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



## Thursday 20 September

*Team Green Gully*

**Di Thompson**

NPA ACT Member

In March 2012 a group of NPA members walked the Green Gully Track, a rather gruelling but fulfilling walk in the Oxley Wild Rivers National Park. NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service have presented the walk as a historical journey making use of former stockmen's huts each with their own unique histories. Di, with a long time interest in remote huts, will tell us how successful the park service has been in weaving these histories together and how the walkers fared amongst the gorges.

## Thursday 18 October

*Hawaii: Paradise Lost or Preserved?*

**Esther Gallant**

NPA ACT Member

Sixteen days, five islands, eighteen parks and reserves and countless lectures on geology, volcanology, conservation efforts, culture and natural history were included in this amazing tour. There was time to question the experts, and also to enjoy the sunsets and walk on the beach. The islands are filled with beautiful flowers and birds — most of them exotic!

## Thursday 15 November

*The Murray–Darling Basin Plan.*

**Emeritus Professor Ian Falconer, AO, DSc, FRSCHEM and Member of the MDBA Community Committee**

The Plan is effectively finalised, and now awaits the Commonwealth Government decision on taking it to Parliament. As can be expected, there is no agreement at either political or community level on the content of the Plan. Ian will tell us why there has been so much contention in the development of the plan and how the present iteration of the plan will balance environmental and economic demands.

### *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) |
|                       | rod.blackdog@gmail.com      |               |
| <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**

|  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Christine Goonrey (Immediate Past President) | 6231 8395 (h)                    |
|  | cgoonrey@grapevine.com.au        |
| George Heinsohn                              | 6278 6655 (h)                    |
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| Judy Kelly                                   | 6253 1859 (h)                    |
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| Kevin McCue                                  | 6251 1291 (h)                    |
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| Bernard Morvell                              | 0401 679 254 (mob)               |
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| Mike Smith                                   | 6286 2984 (h)                    |
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#### **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) |
|                                   | rod.blackdog@gmail.com    |               |
| <i>Publications Sub-committee</i> | Kevin McCue               | 6251 1291 (h) |
|                                   | mccue.kevin@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.

|                 |                                |              |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Phone:</b>   | (02) 6229 3201                 | 0412 071 382 |
| <b>Website:</b> | www.npaact.org.au              |              |
| <b>Email:</b>   | admin@npaact.org.au            |              |
| <b>Address:</b> | 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 2012 issue: 31 October 2012.**

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For information on NPA ACT activities, please visit our website  
<http://www.npaact.org.au>

