



# NPA *Bulletin*

Volume 49 Number 4 December 2012

National Parks Association of the Australian Capital Territory Inc



**Another successful  
NPA art week**



**Wetlands now an  
urban feature**



**Stockyard Spur  
in style**

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

## CONTENTS

From the President .....2 <i>Rod Griffiths</i>	Parallel turns .....13 <i>Gerry Jacobson</i>
News, Good and Bad.....3	Wetlands projects now complete in Canberra’s north .....14 <i>Graeme Barrow</i>
From the Secretary .....3 <i>Sonja Lenz</i>	Blue Range Hut.....15 <i>Mike Smith</i>
ESDD Conservation Planning and Research Seminar.....4 <i>Christine and Michael Goonrey</i>	Two nights on Mount Gudgenby .....16 <i>Rupert Barnett</i>
Stockyard Spur in style .....5 <i>Max Lawrence</i>	Walking the Green Gully Track .....17 <i>Max Lawrence</i>
A short walk in the clouds of New Guinea .....6 <i>Christine Goonrey</i>	Rainforest ramble.....18 <i>Cynthia Breheny</i>
Remembering Jack Smart. ....7 <i>Max Lawrence</i>	Budawangs beauty .....18 <i>Cynthia Breheny</i>
NPA Art Week at Gudgenby Cottage .....8	PARKWATCH .....19 <i>Compiled by Max Lawrence</i>
The old slab Gudgenby Homestead .....10 <i>Babette Scougall</i>	NPA notices .....22
An update on Glenburn/Burbong .....12 <i>Col McAlister</i>	Meeting and speaker information .....23
Sitting in the landscape .....13 <i>Fiona MacDonald Brand</i>	NPA information and contacts .....23

## From the President

As I sit down to write this, who will govern the ACT for the next four years has been decided. Labor will have a minority government supported by the sole Greens Assembly member, who will take a ministry in the government. My congratulations to Labor and the Greens and I look forward to constructive discussions on the environment. However, I also recognise that the ACT Liberals had a number of positive suggestions in respect to the environment and the NPA ACT will also seek to engage with them over the next four years.

The decision of the Greens does look like it will result in the re-establishment of a single conservation agency in the ACT, something the NPA ACT has been lobbying for over the past few years. A single conservation agency would see conservation on-ground workers in the same organisation as the environmental policy-makers and the ACT Government’s conservation scientists. These three functions need to closely work together to achieve the best outcomes for the environment, and having them linked administratively helps facilitate this.

It is also expected that additional staff will be available to the ACT’s conservation agency, again something the NPA ACT has been calling for.

The NPA ACT will continue to lobby the new government to identify key areas in the Gungahlin rim where, to protect conservation values, development should not occur. There is the potential to achieve significant levels of connectivity between remnant lowland grassy woodlands in the Gungahlin rim. The NPA ACT continues to urge the government and its

agencies to take a strategic view of this area in order to achieve the best environmental outcomes.

However, simply increasing the area managed for conservation purposes in Gungahlin may have an unexpected downside if funding is not adequate to ensure an appropriate standard of ongoing management of the new conservation areas. There is a need to find innovative and effective funding sources for conservation management in the ACT. The ACT Commissioner for Sustainability and Environment has already produced a report outlining some possible funding mechanisms, including an environmental levy. The Capital Woodland and Wetlands Conservation Trust has been established by the ACT Government as another way of attracting funding for environmental issues. It is essential to investigate these and other funding avenues to provide a broad and sustainable funding base for conservation in the ACT.

Finally, on behalf of the Committee I wish you a safe and happy festive season. Don’t forget that the Christmas party this year is at Blue Range Hut on 9 December. I hope you can make it.



**Rod Griffiths**



# News, Good and Bad

## New ACT Government

As President Rod notes in his report, the ACT now has a new Labor-Greens coalition government.

The portfolios and Ministers directly relevant to NPA's sphere of interest are as follows:

- Shane Rattenbury: Minister for Territory and Municipal Services
- Simon Corbell: Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development.

Katy Gallagher remains as Chief Minister, and Andrew Barr is Deputy Chief Minister and Treasurer.

The Speaker is Liberal's Vicki Dunne, and as we go to press the Liberals have yet to announce their shadow ministry.

The Parliamentary Agreement reached between Labor and the Greens includes some very positive elements:

- Merge the ACT's existing conservation services into a single conservation agency to achieve better integration of biodiversity policy, planning, research and management;
- Provide resources for five additional Park Rangers;
- Provide an additional \$7 million over the next four years for nature park improvements, including

- ▶ Improved pest plant and animal management,
- ▶ Operational plans for all reserves, and
- ▶ More support for Park Care groups and restoration work.

## More bad news from across the border

### *Horse riding proposed for wilderness areas*

The New South Wales Government's *Strategic Directions for Horse Riding in National Parks*, released on 7 November 2012, is worse than anticipated. While the draft plan proposed a single wilderness area for a three year 'pilot trial' to see if horse riding should be extended to other wilderness areas, the NSW Government will now extend horse riding into five separate wilderness areas. At the same time the Government is cutting 350 positions from the Office of the Environment and Heritage including 150 frontline workers.

### *NSW Environmental Defender's Office facing drastic funding cuts*

Because the NSW Government has cut funding to the EDO NSW, the organisation faces an unprecedented threat to its survival after nearly 30 years of helping the people of NSW protect

their environment and heritage under law.

### *Hunting in NSW National Parks*

All of this comes on top of the O'Farrell government's opening of national parks to shooters and hunters. NPA NSW has well over 5 000 signatures for their petition opposing hunting in national parks. They need 10 000 signatures so they can table the petition in the NSW Parliament. See our November e-newsletter *Burning Issues* for further details on how you can help

### *And now it's grazing in NSW National Parks!*

The New South Wales Environment Minister, Robyn Parker, has announced a trial to check the social, economic and environmental impacts of ongoing grazing in red gum and cypress pine reserves. She says the trial will only take in areas where grazing was permitted before the national park and reserve declarations. The trial will be overseen by former Nationals' MLC Richard Bull.

Our friends in the NSW NPA have a huge task ahead in defending the conservation values of the national parks in their state, in which we in Canberra have a special interest. NPA ACT will be giving our friends our full support.

## From the Secretary

### There's a move coming ...

NPA ACT has been sharing the temporary office space of the Conservation Council (ConsACT) in Childers Street since April 2007. Now it seems that ConsACT — and with it the NPA office — will be moving into (more) permanent accommodation in the ANU's Lena Karmel Lodge in Barry Drive just around the corner from the current office. If everything goes according to plan the move will take place early in the New Year. A word of caution though: as this *Bulletin* goes to press, no contract has yet been signed.

### ... and a spring clean is in the air

In the process of preparing for the move into a slightly smaller space we have to try and lighten our load by disposing of out-of-date and unneeded papers, periodicals and other documents. Some of these documents are part of NPA's history and will be deposited in the ACT Heritage Library.

Others, like multiple copies of old NPA *Bulletins*, have become surplus to requirements as all of our *Bulletins* are now either already on the NPA website as digital files or will be progressively

placed there. One copy of each *Bulletin* going back to the 1960s is already in the Heritage Library and the NPA office also houses all *Bulletins* in several bound volumes.

If you are interested in having paper copies of these old records of NPA activities you are welcome to go through the box of old *Bulletins* — get in touch with me on 6251 1291.

See you at the Christmas Party — Blue Range Hut, Sunday 9 December!

Sonja Lenz

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

See *Burning Issues* for last-minute details of the party.

Notes: article on Blue Range Hut at page 15. Mud map page 21



NPA Christmas Party



# ESDD Conservation Planning and Research Seminar

On 2 August 2012 we attended a seminar at CSIRO Gungahlin Homestead organised by the Conservation, Planning and Research Unit of the ACT Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate (ESDD). There was a series of short presentations given mostly by staff. We had never seen so many rangers in the one room together, reflecting no doubt the split between the ACT Department of Territory and Municipal Services (TAMS) and ESDD resulting in more limited opportunities for rangers to access ESDD research. A seminar is planned again for next year and it is important that we support it.

## ACT threatened plant translocation projects

Greg Baines (Senior Vegetation Ecologist) spoke of three projects in the ACT involving the collection of seeds from a wild location and translocating them to another location. The first project involved the Tuggeranong Lignum (*Muehlenbeckia tuggeranong*) found in difficult habitat along the Pine Island to Kambah Pool corridor. There had been only 13 recorded plants. The Australian National Botanic Gardens (ANBG) grew clones and the project has achieved modest success in its aim of increasing the overall abundance and local distribution — there are now 32 plants. In future, plants are to be established in less difficult habitat.

The second involved the Button Wrinklewort (*Rutidosia leptorhynchoides*) of which there are 11 populations in the ACT and approximately 70 000–80 000 individual plants. They grow in woodlands and grasslands. The team tested whether plants grown as tube stock from seed in a nursery had a better survival rate than seed broadcast directly. They found that from 280 wild tube stock they could get 100 flowering plants but it took 15 400 broadcast seeds to obtain the same number of flowering plants.

The third project dealt with Small Purple Pea (*Swainsona recta*) which is found in only five locations including Mount Taylor and along the Canberra/Cooma Railway (Martin Chalk has had several work parties in the latter location). The project is seeking to deal with possible impacts from the Murrumbidgee to Googong pipeline.

## ACT vegetation classification and mapping

Greg Baines (Senior Vegetation Ecologist) and Margaret Kitchin (Senior Forest Ecologist) have a project that aims to have one vegetation classification system consistent across the ACT and adjacent areas of NSW. The classification system is primarily derived from survey data, and the map to be derived is to be a complete and consistent coverage over the ACT. The project deals with core natural resources and aids decisions about planning for conservation, development and fire, as well as park management and resource use. The project uses the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage classifications in *Plant Communities of South Eastern Highlands and Australian Alps within the Murrumbidgee Catchment of NSW*. In NSW there are 80 vegetation communities but only 34 of them are known in the ACT. Two new communities have been identified.

They are currently mapping the Kowen area. The planning timetable is to do the mid-Murrumbidgee Valley by November 2012 and the northern ACT by 2013. Mapping of the southern ACT depends upon future funding.

## Distribution and conservation of the Striped Legless Lizard and Golden Sun Moth

Murray Evans (Senior Ecologist) discussed the Striped Legless Lizard (*Delma impar*). It is a threatened species in the ACT. It lives primarily in natural temperate grasslands and is known to occur at four separate locations in the ACT — in the grassland areas of Gungahlin, Majura and Jerrabomberra valleys and at Yarramundi Reach on the shores of Lake Burley Griffin. It has possibly disappeared from the last location. The location of the Gungahlin Town Centre was moved to avoid disturbing this species and three grassland reserves have been declared to protect them. A lot of work is going into threatened species distribution maps.

Michael Mulvaney (Senior Environmental Planner) dealt with the Golden Sun Moth (*Synemon plana*), which is also a threatened species in the ACT. The ACT has 30 per cent of the known sites for the moth. There are currently 72 recorded sites. The moth

feeds on the roots of native grasses and, more recently, on exotic grasses like Chilean Needle Grass. At least 20 per cent of the moth's habitat has been cleared, or clearing is planned, and 80 per cent of the moths have been observed at 10 per cent of the sites.

## Conservation and recovery of ACT rare and threatened plants

This topic was presented by Lydia Guja (Seed Conservation Biologist) and Mark Clements (Research Scientist) from the ANBG and covered seed collection and growing of the Tarengo Leek Orchid (*Prasophyllum petilum*), the Brindabella Midge Orchid (*Corunastylis ectopa*) and the Canberra Spider Orchid (*Arachnorchis actensis*). They had regard to the different life history strategies of each species — habitat preference; flowering times and regimes; pollinators; reproductive strategies; mycorrhizal (fungal) associations; and seed dispersal/longevity. They stressed the need for good seed collection practices (they do not collect from the ground) and good hygiene.

## Improving in-stream habitat for fish in the Murrumbidgee and Molonglo Rivers

Lisa Evans (Senior Aquatic Ecologist) dealt with a project near Tharwa. Only 10 per cent of the native fish population remains in the ACT. The Tharwa area was chosen because it links two good habitat areas where listed species are found. There is a problem with sediment washed into the Murrumbidgee River — for example, large fish require 90–100 cm of water for passage and in summer the depth downstream of Tharwa is only 30 cm. They expect to start construction in February 2013 of two Engineered Log Jams. These are artificial habitat structures made of large logs and branches (snags) supplemented by rocks. Some existing rock groynes will be augmented and riparian plantings used to stabilise the bank and the log jams after construction. It has been difficult to source sufficient large logs.

Matt Beitzel (Aquatic Ecologist) has a project in the Molonglo River involving placement of reef balls on the riverbed to create cod caves. Each ball is made of concrete, weighs 500 kg, and is 0.8 m high and 1.2 m wide. It has a

(continued next page)

# Stockyard Spur in style

Stockyard Spur has a new walking track, which was officially opened to the public on 16 November. The track, complete with numerous timber and stone steps, leads up from the carpark at the western side of Corin Dam wall to join the Stockyard Spur Fire Trail. It replaces a rough footpad used by hardy souls over the years. Once on the fire trail, fit and experienced walkers can go on to such wonderful places as Pryors Hut and Mt Gingera. The new walking track is very steep, especially in its lower section, rising over 500 metres in its 2 km length.

While the track is likely to become a very popular — perhaps even iconic —

route for walkers, it also serves as a firebreak between the Bendora and Corin water catchment areas. It was constructed in-house by Parks Conservation and Lands firefighters in their off-season, and this enabled great savings compared to the cost of contracting the job out.

The Firies have shown environmental sensitivity in doing a great construction job, and at the formal handover on 16 November it was obvious they took great pride in their accomplishment, and with good reason. NPA was privileged to be invited to the handover, and to be invited to participate. Rod Griffiths

congratulated PCL on its work, and especially on finding a way to meet its fire management objectives without the need for roads and massive earthworks. Christine Goonrey told the assembled Rangers, Firies and staff that they belonged to the ‘best parks service in Australia’.

As well as Stockyard Spur, other new walking tracks are the Rendezvous Creek Trail and the Gibraltar Peak Trail at Tidbinbilla.

**Max Lawrence**

*See photographs front cover.*

---

## ESDD Conservation Planning and Research Seminar *(continued)*

smooth-surfaced inner ‘cave’ allowing entry of fish up to 80–90 cm long. There are also mini balls weighing 120 kg. The balls are seen as a fast and cost-effective method compared to re-snagging with logs. They are more costly but faster to deploy using cranes along the river.

### **Do surveys suggest the threat status of Southern Brown Bandicoot (*Isodon obesulus*) and Brush-tailed Phascogale (*Phasogale tapoatafa*) should be revised?**

Don Fletcher (Senior Ecologist) has looked at declared status, historic records of occurrences, evidence of continuing occurrences, management issues and surveys. It is important to know the particular requirements for matters like bushfire regimes. Expert advice on the most efficient form of survey method changes repeatedly.

Camera traps are rapidly replacing other survey methods due to cost (\$120 000 per 200 traps). In a recent camera trap survey they obtained 639 fauna records with mammals being 84 per cent of the hits, birds 15 per cent and reptiles 1 per cent. Two surveys in the past 13 years have cost \$30 000 and \$312 000 without detecting any Brush-tailed Phascogales or Southern Brown Bandicoots, but a thigh bone of a phascogale has been found in dingo droppings.

### **Managing kangaroo grazing pressure for conservation of grassland and woodland fauna**

Brett Howland (ANU PhD Candidate) presented this topic. As kangaroos no

longer have predators, their numbers are regulated by food availability. He looked at how much vegetation kangaroos needed in temperate grassland and/or box gum woodlands and at grass biomass. His hypothesis was that fauna favour high grass complexity.

He found 790 reptiles and 19 species like Boulenger’s Skink, Delicate Skink, Common Dwarf Skink and ascertained type of associated canopy cover, shrubs, trees, grass biomass and grass complexity.

His conclusions were that grass biomass and grass complexity are important; and that moderate grazing can promote grass complexity. Most of his plots were already overgrazed, so kangaroo management thresholds are needed. He identified areas in which it was more likely to find a particular species — for example, reptiles in large cover and grass complexity.

### **Kangaroo management — what do ACT residents really think?**

Claire Wimpenny (Research Support Officer) discussed two surveys. The first survey was in 2008, with a repeat in 2011. In between, the kangaroo management plan had been released, there had been three years of culling, unsuccessful legal challenges, community education and media coverage.

According to the results, Canberrans value kangaroos living in Canberra Nature Parks and support kangaroo culling in certain circumstances. The indications were that:

- 76 per cent of respondents considered it important to have kangaroos in the ACT (compared with 82 per cent in 2008)
- 79 per cent of respondents supported kangaroo culling under certain

circumstances (compared with 76 per cent in 2008). Thirteen per cent were against culling in any circumstances in 2011

- 70 per cent of respondents supported kangaroo culling to assist in the conservation of native grasslands and woodland mammals (compared with 59 per cent in 2008)
- 43 per cent of respondents exhibit a high or very high level of concern regarding the risk of hitting kangaroos while driving (identical to 2008). Six per cent of motor vehicle drivers in the past three years reported they had been the driver in a motor vehicle collision involving a kangaroo. Around half of these incidents involved an insurance claim and the death of a kangaroo
- while a high percentage (76 per cent) of residents were able to identify the Eastern Grey Kangaroo as a species living naturally in the ACT, other local species of kangaroos and wallabies were not well identified in the survey. The survey asked which of eight named species of wild kangaroos and wallabies lived naturally in the ACT. The correct answers were Eastern Grey Kangaroo, Wallaroo, Swamp Wallaby and Red-necked Wallaby. The wrong answers were Common Broad-faced Kangaroo, Yellow-footed Rock Wallaby, Red Kangaroo and Musky Rat-Kangaroo. No one got all the answers right.

**Christine and Michael Goonrey**



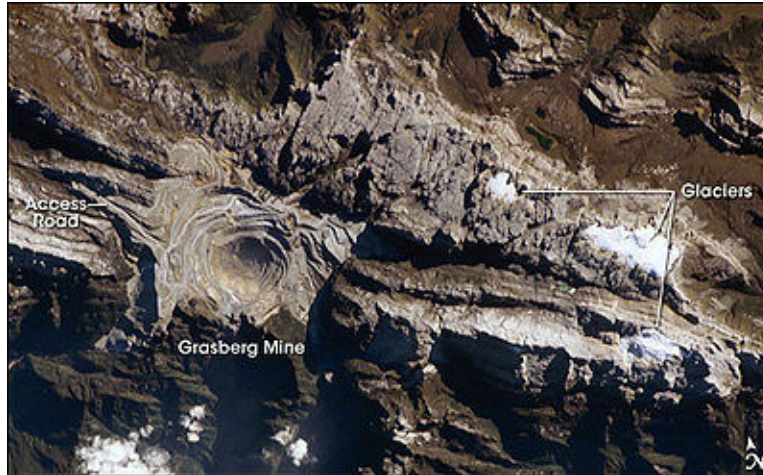
# A short walk in the clouds of New Guinea

Professor Geoff Hope spoke on the topic *Sub Alpine New Guinea — as big as Tasmania and its own amalgam of Australian and Himalayan high country* at NPA's July general meeting. Geoff began his career many years ago with a PhD scholarship to study there as a young man and has visited regularly ever since to study its unique vegetation. His talk took us through some of the most inaccessible and amazing parts of the New Guinea mountains and travelled through the centuries of change which these ranges have experienced.

The most surprising aspect of the New Guinea mountain ranges is that they have alpine areas, including glaciers, stretching 1 400 km from west to east and from 4° to 10°S. The ANU has had a field station at Mt Wilhelm in the Bismarck Ranges for the past 40 years where a lot of the research has been conducted.

Geoff started our journey across these ranges at Mt Jaya, 4°S and an altitude of 5 010 m. Here we met our first glacier, the remains of the Carstenz glacier. It was first sighted in 1643 by the explorer Jan Carstenz and was the first record by Europeans of snow and ice at the equator. Old glacial debris shows the ice has retreated and encroached time and time again, but now the ice is almost completely gone and the glacier melt is continuing, with only three small areas left in these mountains. It is the end of the 'Indonesian Ice Age'.

The Freeport mine in this region is now a huge 2 km deep pit in the range at 4 000 m altitude. Core samples in the nearby Yellow Valley show the vegetation goes back 12 000 years. Botanical surveys in the area have established that Himalayan species such as gentians and rhododendrons live up here, together with plants such as *Leucopogon* found in more southern areas (e.g. the Australian Alps), with evidence these are still actively speciating.



*Grasburg (Freeport) Mine and glaciers (Photo from Wikipedia)*

Geoff next showed slides of Mt Trikora and Lake Habbema. The ice cap here melted in the 1930s. Fossils have been found in caves in the area, including diprotodontids and a large wallaby. It has areas of cypress forest, and significant burning seems to have been going on for at least 10 000 years. Important trading routes cross these mountains.

By contrast, the Star Mountains on the border with Papua New Guinea (PNG) are isolated and have had little human contact. It is somewhat surreal working and living in this area as it gets 5–6 metres of rain a year, and the forest is stunted and invaded by peat. Mt Giluwe, at 4 360 m, is a large shield volcano near Mt Hagen, PNG. It is basalt, which means the ground is soggy but there are small remnant patches of forest on its flanks. Clearance started about 3 500 years ago. The volcano has been extinct for about 50 000 years but the oldest lava goes back to about 900 000 years. Cosmogenic dating shows clear signs of the different ice advances at 230 000,

67 000 and 25 000 years ago. This new dating method measures how long rocks have been exposed to cosmic rays, so is ideal for dating glacial landforms.

Mt Wilhelm, at 4 510 m, is PNG's highest peak. Studies at Brass Tarn below it give a date of 11 000 years ago for ice retreat but the open environment appears only 5 000 years ago. Was anthropogenic fire the major player in keeping the area open, or was it climate change? This peak is quite accessible to

visitors.

Lake Gwam, below Mt Bangeta in the Saruwaged Range, is very strange because of its marked terracing, indicating higher lake levels in the past. It was first studied in 1956 and it appears the terracing may be caused by large growths of algae that dam it from time to time.

Mt Albert Edward in the Owen Stanley Ranges was the next significant mountain in our trip across the ranges. It has a high-altitude grassland plateau with forest remnants at up to 4 000 metres. However, burning has again largely deforested the area. At Kosipe, on the southern slopes at 2 000 m elevation, long-term settlement commenced perhaps as early as 45 000 years ago.

Each of these mountains is a unique bio-island with outstanding features such as huge rock shelters and glacial erratics. They document important information about changes to our environment, and the impact of humans on the landscape over many thousands of years. They hold an enduring fascination for scientists and travellers alike. And they are waiting for NPA members with itchy feet (and good rain jackets).

**Christine Goonrey**



*Aerial view of the Freeport Mine, high in the mountains*





# Remembering Jack Smart

NPA Life Member Jack Smart died in Melbourne on 6 October at the age of 92.

Born in Cambridge in 1920 to Scottish parents, Jack came into academia, and was an academic virtually all of his long life. Philosophy was his chosen subject, and it was this that brought him to Australia to take up the Hughes Chair at Adelaide University in 1950. At the time, Jack was a ripe old 29 years of age. His obituary in the *Canberra Times* maintains that it was his love of cricket that brought him to Adelaide and its famous oval. After a period at La Trobe University in Melbourne, he moved to the Australian National University in Canberra in 1976, and thereby commenced his long and happy association with NPA. In 1999 Jack and his wife Elizabeth moved back to Melbourne to be near their family, and Jack became an emeritus professor at Monash University.

In NPA we remember Jack as a very keen bushwalker with a great love of the Australian bush. He was a humble and unassuming man, and an excellent companion on walks, many of which he led. Whenever Steven Forst put on a packwalk (as he still does!) Jack more often than not would put his hand up and join the team.

Few of us who ventured into the bush with Jack realised that we had had an eminent person in our midst until his cover was finally blown when the *Australian* newspaper published a millennium supplement in 2000 nominating its top ten Australians in a number of categories. Jack made the list of top ten Thinkers.

Jack is remembered with great respect and affection by all those who walked and camped with him. 'Jack Smart' stories are still very popular topics of conversation around the campfire. Being a Thinker, Jack was not always the most practical of people when it came to bush navigation, and there are many tales of mishaps involving stumbles, tumbles and water crossings. He is especially remembered for his fuel stove which seemed to have a particular propensity to explode, luckily without injuring Jack or anyone else.

*Jack's 1999 farewell and presentation of Life Membership at Brandy Flat Hut: Beverley Hammond, Annette Smith, Clive Hurlstone (then NPA President), Jack, Steven Forst, Rob Forster, Jacqui Cole, David Hall, Yvonne Bartos, and Olive Buckman.*

*Photo by Max Lawrence*

Jack also had some stories of his own to tell. One I remember is from his time in the British Army during WW2. At one stage Jack and two companions were attached to an Army Intelligence unit. Their names of course were Smart, Sharpe and Keene. What else could they be?

On one occasion Jack in his professorial capacity gave a lecture to ANU Convocation. His smallish audience largely comprised NPA members and bushwalking friends, but this did not deter Jack. His topic was something like 'Why is there anything at all?' He approached this daunting task from just about every conceivable angle, ranging through astronomy, mathematics, physics, chemistry, and even theology. I'm not sure that he actually arrived at The Answer (maybe 42?), but he sure gave us plenty to think about, and we left with a new appreciation of the depth and expanse of philosophy as a discipline. This was a side of Jack we rarely if ever saw in the bush.

Before leaving Canberra to settle in Melbourne, Jack wrote

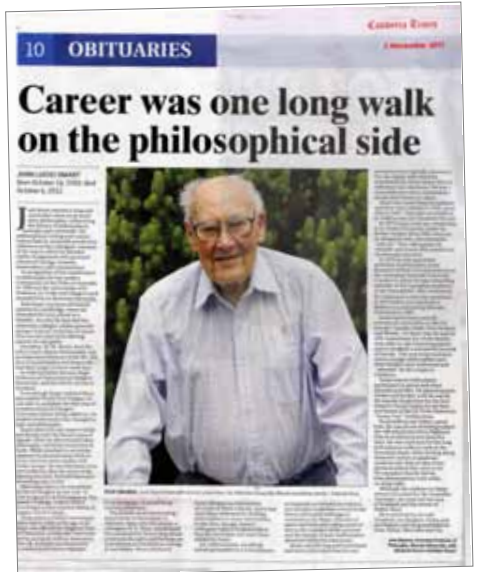
*... the NPA has meant so much to me, so many good walks and good friends, memories of wonderful talk on the track and round campfires ... I cherish the friendships that I have made in NPA.*

In a letter of condolence to Jack's family NPA President Rod Griffiths assured them that Jack too is very fondly remembered by NPA members.

**Max Lawrence**

## Postscript

Mrs Smart wrote a very nice reply to Rod's letter. In it she wrote that Jack often spoke of the happy memories he



*Jack's obituary, as it appeared in the Canberra Times, 1 November 2012*

had of the walks he had taken with the NPA while he was still active. She said it was the family's intention to come to Canberra — probably between Christmas and New Year — so that they could scatter Jack's ashes in Namadgi. She also mentioned that they might arrange a picnic for any of Jack's friends to attend, during which the ashes 'would be cast to the winds'.

Mrs Smart also wrote that she and the family 'would like to make a donation of one thousand dollars to the NPA ACT Scholarship Fund, in memory of JJC ...'

If you would like further details of Jack's picnic as they become available, please contact Max Lawrence.





# NPA Art Week



*Evening in the cosy cottage (Hazel, Fiona, Cynthia and Christine).*

*The Gudgenby Cottage (Readycut).  
Watercolour by Cynthia Breheny*

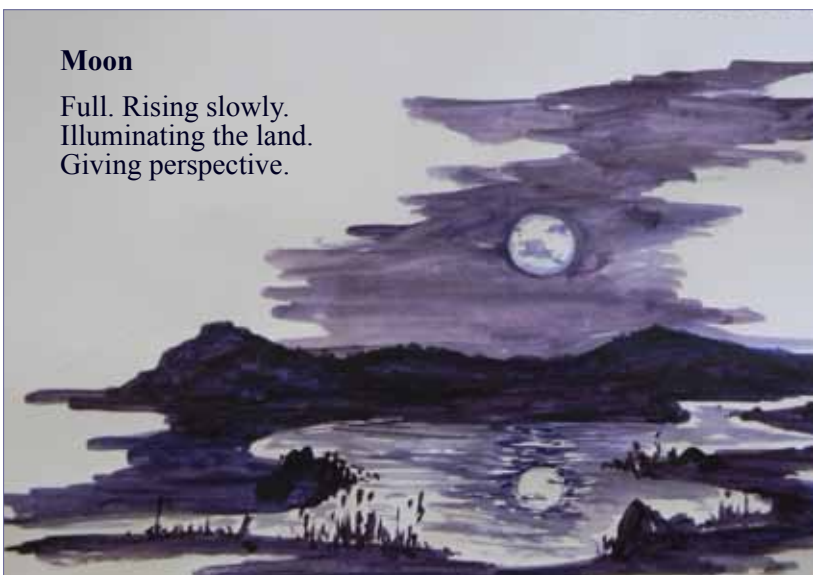


*Having first discovered a 'dinosaur skull' Sebastian Thompson also painted some living lizards and the sun. Photo by Di Thompson*



## **Moon**

Full. Rising slowly.  
Illuminating the land.  
Giving perspective.



*Haiku by Barbara de Bruine*

*Sketch by Chris de Bruine*

*Photo of Chris at work by Adrienne Nicholson*





# at Gudgenby Cottage, 2012



*Creek study from Gudgenby Cottage by Gary Thompson.  
Photo of Gary at work by Adrienne Nicholson*

## Participants in NPA Art Week in September 2012

**Overnighters.** Di and Gary Thompson, Christine and Michael Goonrey, Barbara and Chris de Bruine, Adrienne Nicholson, Babette Scougall, Fiona MacDonald Brand, Hazel Rath, Annette Smith, Cynthia Breheny

**Visitors.** Ben Thompson with Rachel and Sebastian, Rod Griffiths, Gudgenby Bushie workers, Brett McNamara, Park Rangers and staff [and two policemen one midnight!]



### Snow

Snow  
Falling  
Down in drifts

Flurries settle  
Melting as they land  
Forming puddles

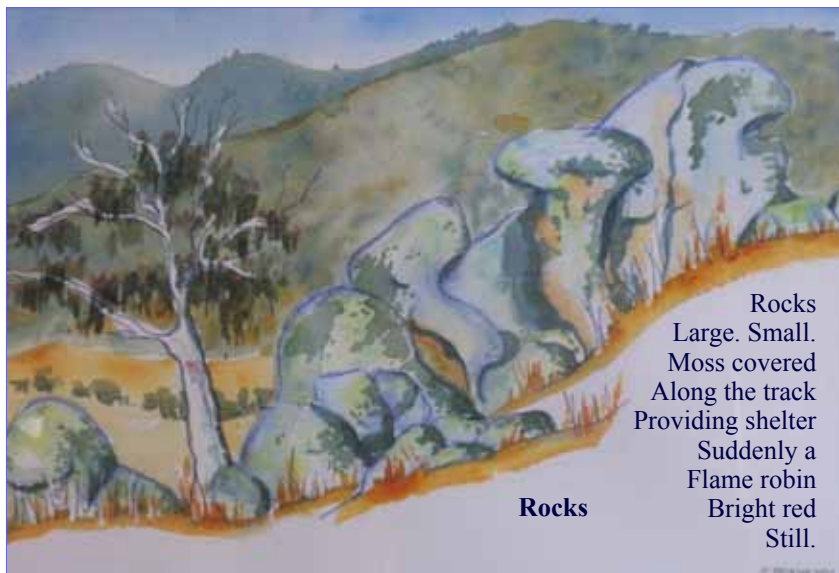
Watch your step  
Home near  
Warmth

*Syllable poem by Barbara de Bruine. Photo by Adrienne Nicholson*



*Dianne Thompson's popular installation, **Breakfast**, which she made on the front lawn.*

*Watercolour by Cynthia Breheny  
Syllable poem by Barbara de Bruine  
Photo of Cynthia at work by Adrienne Nicholson*



### Rocks

Rocks  
Large. Small.  
Moss covered  
Along the track  
Providing shelter  
Suddenly a  
Flame robin  
Bright red  
Still.

# The old slab Gudgenby Homestead

*This article is in response to a request made during the NPA Art Week at Gudgenby in August.*

Visitors often ask for information about the old slab dwelling at Gudgenby and where it used to stand. Perhaps the floor plan and especially the photos (facing page), taken by Frank and Dollie Oldfield while they lived there in the 1940s and '50s, will help to fill the gap in knowledge about the old place. Frank Oldfield was then employed to manage Gudgenby Station for the Bootes family. He and Dollie were the last managers to live in the slab dwelling, though they probably didn't realise it at the time that that would be so. When the Bootes family visited from Bywong (their other station) they lived in the Hudson ready-cut cottage. Managers and their families always lived in the old slab homestead. Hence the connecting footbridge.

Back in 1989, Frank's widow, Dollie (nee Crawford), kindly allowed me to copy some of her family photographs

and she and her daughter, Dawn, sketched the floor plan of the old McKeahnne-built homestead on the back of an envelope for me. They remembered the old place well. Drawing the plan brought back memories for Dollie. I made a note of some of Dollie's comments as she went through the photos with me:

- There was no running water or electricity while they were there, only open fires, a fuel stove for cooking, kero refrigerator and lamps. It was a cold place to live in.
- The road was bad especially in wet weather and they were sometimes cut off.
- A party-line telephone wasn't installed until the 1950s. You can see the telephone cups attached to the eaves of the old house next to the lounge-room chimney.
- The bedroom wing stretched across the side of the hill with the end room high up off the ground. There were

two steps down to this wing, which was a later extension.

- The sunniest verandah was the one in front of these bedrooms. The walls of three of the bedrooms were lined with pressed-metal sheeting.
- The small building next to the old homestead could have been a separate kitchen in earlier times.
- They used it as a meat room at one end and a laundry at the other. There was a covered walkway between.
- The gate to the right of the kitchen chimney was the one mostly used. It led to the back door.
- From the front gate you had to go downhill a little to the homestead.
- Foxes were shot at Gudgenby and the pelts were made into rugs.
- They had a swimming hole down near the willows.

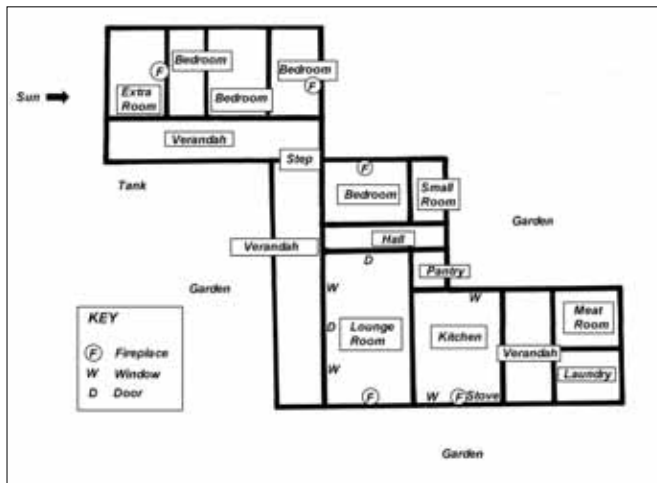
**Babette Scougall**

## Timeline for Gudgenby Homestead

- |                 |   |   |  |
|-----------------|---|---|--|
| 1844            | First pasturage licence for Gudgenby (15 000 acres) issued to Edward Severne.<br>Charles McKeahnne of Bobeyan employed as manager.                                  |   |  |
| 1845            | Charles McKeahnne sold his half of Bobeyan and moved to new slab house at Gudgenby with his family (wife Elizabeth, Alexander, Jane and Elizabeth Julia).           |   |  |
| 1848            | Son George born at Gudgenby.  |   |  |
| 1851            | Son Charles Henry born at Gudgenby.   |   |  |
| 1853            | Dr William Sherwin purchased Gudgenby; McKeahnne kept on as manager.  |   |  |
| 1856            | Charles McKeahnne purchased Gudgenby. Oldest son (Archibald) arrived from Scotland with his uncle and grandmother. Old Gudgenby homestead extended.                 |   |  |
| 1858            | Gudgenby now 24 320 acres.  |   |  |
| 1859            | Charles McKeahnne completed purchase of Booroomba from William Davis.   |   |  |
| 1860            | McKeahnne moved his family to Booroomba, leaving newly wed Alexander at Gudgenby (then 29 000 acres), and Archibald moved to Orroral when he married Mary McMillan. |   |  |
| 1873            | Alexander McKeahnne sold Gudgenby to Charles Seth Greenfield and bought Rosedale (Bolero).  |   |  |
| 1860s and 1880s | Robertson Land Acts — Gudgenby land title became fragmented by selection, conditional leases and scrub leases.  |   |  |
| 1885            | Greenfield died of consumption at James Cunningham's Tuggeranong.   |   |  |
| 1890            | A.E. Sendall and F.K. Chisholm (of Goulburn) held Gudgenby land until 1923.   |   |  |
| 1892            | Lukins and Masters (of Tooma and Corryong) held leases until 1907.  |   |  |
| 1900            | Bill Ward leased Gudgenby land until 1913 when he sold to Patrick Smith.  |   |  |
| 1907            | Lukins and Masters sold 28 458 acres to A.B. Triggs (known as the Sheep King). Triggs kept Gudgenby for   | 7 months only (too wet and flukey for sheep). Triggs sold to Marmaduke Watson Lee who married Myrrha Rustin. Her brother Jack Rustin and Tom Brayshaw were his head stockmen. |  |
|                 |   | 1910  | Lee built a three-bedroom timber house with shingle roof using timber from his newly established mill at Gudgenby.   |
|                 |   | 1923  | Sendal and Chisholm sold their conditional lease to Marmaduke Lee. A.W. Bootes bought Bywong from Anthony Horden.  |
|                 |   | 1924  | Marmaduke Lee died.  |
|                 |   | 1925  | Gudgenby sold to William S. Bootes (who had already purchased Orroral in 1910).  |
|                 |   | 1926  | A.W. Bootes sold Orroral to Andy Cunningham and continued to live at Bywong, visiting Gudgenby only occasionally. Tom Oldfield employed as manager, living with his large family in the old slab homestead built by McKeahnne in 1845. |
|                 |   | 1927  | The Bootes built the Hudson Ready-Cut House for their own use when visiting from Bywong.   |
|                 |   | 1928  | Electoral Roll for Gudgenby: Adelaide & Thomas Oldfield, station manager; Jessie & Granville Crawford, labourer; Lucy Perkins, school teacher.   |
|                 |   | 1935  | Tom Oldfield left Gudgenby and Ted Brayshaw took his place as manager.   |
|                 |   | 1945  | Frank Oldfield became manager. Returned to Top Naas in 1955.   |
|                 |   | 1954  | Bootes family moved to Gudgenby.   |
|                 |   | 1964  | The old Lee- and McKeahnne-built places were pulled down and the new homestead erected.  |
|                 |   | 1984  | Namadgi National Park gazetted.  |

*(With grateful thanks to Judy and Tony Corp for their generous help.)*





*Left. Floor plan of the old slab Gudgenby Homestead based on a sketch drawn by Dollie Oldfield with help from her daughter on the back of an envelope (not to scale).*



**Photographs.**

1. The old Gudgenby Homestead — Section on the left is the accommodation extensions of 1858; middle section is the old slab homestead built in 1845 (side view), lounge-room chimney on left and kitchen chimney on right; the building to far right was used as a meat room/laundry in 1950s. An open breezeway covered by an iron skillion roof connected it to the main building. To the left of the chimneys is the front gate leading to the front door of the slab dwelling.
2. The family dog in front of the laundry/meat room. Dollie thought that this may have been the original separate kitchen in earlier times. To the left is the kitchen chimney, which was large enough to have both an open fire and a fuel stoe within its walls.
3. Frank Oldfield with two of his children, Tony and Dawn, with the bedroom wing behind them and the slab homestead to the right.
4. Dollie Oldfield in front of the bedroom wing. Note the end room overhanging the slope of the hill and the identifiable rounded hill on the skyline.
5. Dollie, Dawn and Tony in front of the poplars with the old orchard further up the hill.

*(All photos taken between 1947 and 1955 by Dollie and Frank. Unfortunately, they aren't with us now — Frank died in 1980, Dollie in 2007.)*



# An update on Glenburn/Burbong

New post and rail fences have been installed at Glenburn homestead and the Colverwell graves. They certainly set off both sites admirably.

Interpretive signs have been erected at Glenburn homestead and Collier's ruins and orchard. They both look great and visitors to the sites will now be able to easily put the buildings and their locations into their historical context. The Parks Service has agreed to prepare another interpretive sign for the Coppin's ruins and orchard site. When completed, The Friends of Glenburn will erect it.

## Tackling the blackberries

Clearing blackberries remains high on The Friends agenda. After the excellent work by the Canberra Bushwalking Club in August, The Friends have now virtually eliminated old blackberry canes from the immediate vicinity of Collier's ruins and orchard site. This was done at a work party on 10 October and, for the nine participants, an added bonus was to see the huge pear tree in the orchard in full bloom. Masses of heavy, white blossoms. Magnificent.

On 14 November, The Friends cleared blackberry canes around the remnant orchard trees at Coppins ruins site as well as some to the north and south of the chimney and fireplace. The only site still to be cleared of blackberry canes is the Curley's hut site.

It will then be up to the Parks Service's staff to poison the emerging new shoots in all the sites that have been cleared of blackberry canes. Otherwise, some 250 hours of volunteers' work will go down the drain.

## Tea for the victors

On 17 October a morning tea was held at Glenburn homestead for some of the staff of the Googong Park's depot (which is responsible for Glenburn/Burbong) and some members of The Friends. Brett McNamara also made time to attend. He thanked the Park's staff and The Friends' volunteers for all the hard work over the past few years and commented most favourably on what has been achieved in such a

brief period. He said it underscored the power of a community group and the Parks Service working towards a common goal (in this case the protection and conservation of early European artefacts). He saw us all as custodians for the future.

But there is still much to be done at Glenburn/Burbong, particularly to the structures of Glenburn homestead, Coppin's ruins and Collier's ruins. Progress will depend on work health and safety issues being resolved, and money — lots of it.

The Parks Service's budget is always tight but we remain hopeful of its continued support. The Friends still have access to some \$3 300 from the NPA 'grant' and generous personal donations. In coming months, we will be discussing with the Parks Service how to make the best use of this money.

**Col McAlister**

*The very old and very big pear tree at Colliers in full flower, and now with the blackberries beaten back.*  
Photo by Max Lawrence





# Sitting in the landscape



Photo by Adrienne Nicholson

Just as the kangaroos in the Namadgi landscape sit erectly or sprawl, sun on their backs or their fronts, some NPA members had a blissful week of living in the Namadgi landscape. For several

hours each morning we sat in the sunny warmth on the front verandah of Gudgenby Cottage, observing the ebb and flow of visiting birds. They were Dusky Woodswallows and Welcome Swallows, Thornbills, Pipits, Blue Wren families, Willy Wagtails and Eastern Rosellas. Distantly, magpies, ravens and kookaburras called.

We were entertained by three young joeys joyously hopping around their mothers or exploring further afield. A glossy skink lizard fed on the grass in front of the verandah and three more skins sunned themselves on the chimney and tank stand.

Wandering out further afield, sunlight glittered on the wind ruffled Gudgenby Creek with its reed beds



bending, frogs croaking and ducks rising and calling. A White-faced Heron arrived and stalked the creek's shallows looking for yabbies. Over a far ridge top two eagles slowly circled and rose higher and higher.

We rested on a huge low rock slab, just as Aboriginal people had done for thousands of years, listening to the souging of a cold wind in the hillside trees reminding us that winter wasn't past, not yet!

**Fiona MacDonald Brand**  
**Gudgenby Cottage,**  
**28 September 2012**

*The photograph of Gudgenby Homestead below was taken in 2010. This shows it as it is now, with a garage under. The skyline suggests it was taken from approximately the same angle as photograph 4 on page 11. Photo by Babette Scougall*



## Parallel turns

It was the greyest, heaviest of days: Thredbo the day after the landslide. Twenty or more people were entombed in the rubble and a frantic rescue effort was underway.

I went there with a geological team to see if we could assist. On the way down we heard the news that rescuers had contacted someone still alive under the rubble. And while we were there they brought Stuart D out. I remember that a ragged cheer went up from the workers, and then they went back to digging ... for the body of his wife!

fear vibrates  
tears flow ... it's dark within  
dark without  
voices are calling ...  
cries in the night

I busied myself measuring slope angles, mapping drainage features, trying to build a picture of how the landslide had occurred and whether it was still

dangerous. Now and then I looked round at the chaotic scene: scores of emergency workers, machinery, floodlights, TV crews. We queued with the workers at a Salvo's kiosk serving coffee and sandwiches. But all day that heaviness in my stomach ... literally in the valley of the shadow of death!

blinded ...  
can't see the way ...  
lost  
on a long hard road  
that's paved with tears

Later we finished our work and debriefed. I paused and looked around as we left the site. I happened to look up. And there high on the opposite slope were skiers coming down the Thredbo runs, carving the exquisite patterns of parallel turns, enjoying their day in the snow.

**Gerry Jacobson**

# Wetlands projects now complete in Canberra's north



*Dickson Wetland is more advanced than Lyneham.*



*The new Lyneham Wetland.*

When this article was written in early November, Dickson was a pretty sight with young trees, shrubs and grass, and rushes or reeds skirting the water's edge. Lyneham on the other hand had a raw look about it and it is likely to be many months before its appearance reaches the idyllic standard set by Dickson. Families of ducks were paddling about at both locations.

## Valley Ponds project well underway

The ACT Government was also engaged in building another wetland complex called the Valley Ponds, off The Valley Avenue in Gungahlin. Construction of three interconnected wetlands at this site began in February 2012, with two of them being built on a tributary of Ginninderra Creek.

As with Dickson and Lyneham, the intention is to improve water quality, increase urban biodiversity, provide stormwater for irrigation purposes, and slow the speed of water flows. Collected stormwater at the Valley Ponds will irrigate an enclosed oval under construction and top up a pond at Gungahlin College, also used for irrigation.

An existing dam has been enlarged to form Pond 1 of the complex, and this pond and Pond 2 will receive stormwater from the Gungahlin Town Centre and Burgmann Anglican School, opposite the wetland. Stormwater from the nearby suburb of Palmerston will be fed into the deeper Pond 3, which will have steeper sides than the other two. For safety reasons it will be fenced and have dense

plantings of native reeds, grasses and shrubs.

According to a government brochure issued some time ago, the Gungahlin wetlands (presumably at that stage two small existing ponds that have been kept) attract birds including Latham's Snipe, herons, native quail, black swans and grebes, and support frog and turtle populations. Budget papers put a total cost of \$6.5 million on the Valley Ponds and stormwater harvesting scheme. The estimated completion date is December 2012, but this is unlikely to be met.

## Confusion over costs

Before the recent ACT election, a row blew up in the media over the cost of various wetlands and associated works such as irrigation infrastructure. The Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission (ICRC) claimed that the Integrated Urban Waterways Project for several Canberra catchments, at June 2012, had a budgeted cost of \$61 million, of which \$50.8 million was to be paid by the ACT Government. Yet the original budget had been \$17 million, with \$3.5 million coming from the ACT Government and the rest, presumably, from the Commonwealth. The ACT Government countered that its agreed contribution was \$6.8 million, later increased to \$7.5 million, with the Commonwealth contributing \$10.2 million.

Bemused readers of press reports then learnt from a government spokesman that the \$50 million referred to by the ICRC (actually \$50.8 million) was a budgeted amount, not spent, 'for

specific wetlands projects ... revised down to an actual figure of \$38.87 million' with projects at Weston and Tuggeranong scrapped. I attempted to make sense of all these millions with inquiries made to (then) Environment Minister Simon Corbell's office and the bureaucracy. During this fruitless mission I was given a classic bureaucratic run-around with officers refusing to return calls. One did undertake to get back to me the next day, but never did.

Perhaps the last word on this dispute over costs should be left to Ian Falconer, of the Conservation Council, who wrote in the *Canberra Times* on 8 October 2012: 'What [wetlands] cost I leave others to argue, but their long-term value will be great for Canberra'. Anyone who has admired the beauty of the Dickson wetland and can visualise what Lyneham and the Valley Ponds will look like, must surely agree.

## New Lake Ginninderra project

The ACT Government is also funding a wetlands redevelopment at Lake Ginninderra off Emu Bank, although I was unable to discover whether it is part of the Integrated Urban Waterways Project that attracted the ire of the ICRC. Construction was proceeding when this article was written, but a ridiculous pall of secrecy has been cast over the project known as 'Eastern Valley Way Inlet Stage 2'. Inquiries to government and ministerial officers were ignored (as were questions about the Valley Ponds, Dickson and Lyneham including emailed

*(continued next page)*



# Blue Range Hut

## Uriarra's Italian connection

The area now known as Blue Range in the Uriarra area was first settled in 1843 by the Macdonald family. It was resumed by the Commonwealth Government in 1912. To solve the erosion problem in the area, caused by overgrazing by sheep and rabbits, planting pine forests commenced in 1926.

Much of this original forest was destroyed in the 1939 bushfires.

When World War II broke out in 1939 all unnaturalised Italians in Australia were interned and many of the Italian men from Sydney were separated from their families and brought to Canberra to work on the Blue Range forest. In the early 1940s (possibly 1943) a camp was established at Blue Range by the then Department of Interior to house the Italian interns working on the forests. The Italian interns were working for the then Forest and Timber Bureau and the work involved clearing, preparation of land, planting, cutting hardwood, regeneration in neighbouring forest plantations, raising pine seedlings and producing charcoal from the harvested hardwoods. The charcoal was produced on site in simple pits. It was used for 'producer gas', a substitute for petrol, which was in short supply during and immediately after the war.

The Italians interns were considered as 'free aliens', they were not guarded

but employed on work considered to be of national importance due to the shortage of other labour in the war years.

At its peak the camp consisted of a galley (the Blue Range Hut), a shower hut, a washroom and toilet, approximately 20 two-man huts, various tents, a tool shed and an equipment store. In the 1940s–50s the camp was a relatively isolated place, so the Italian workers, to create a more favourable environment and to gain some self-sufficiency, planted fruit trees, diverted the stream to irrigate carefully maintained terraces and built a small swimming pool.

Some of the Italians stayed on after the war, and others joined them to continue the forestry work. However, by the early 1950s worker numbers dwindled and in 1954 the camp was closed. After the closure the two-man huts were moved to the Uriarra Forestry settlement and the Green Hills Scout Camp.

The 2003 bushfires destroyed the surrounding forests, some arboreta in the area and most of the remaining huts and buildings of the camp, except the galley now known as the Blue Range Hut. This



Blue Range Hut. Photo by Mike Smith

hut had been rebuilt/renovated in 1988 probably as part of the conversion (started in 1966) of the site by ACT Forestry into a picnic and limited camping area. Other evidence of the camp that still remains are fruit trees, the shower and toilet block slab, equipment store, the creek diversion, the swimming pool and the charcoal pits.

The contribution of the Italian community to forestry in the ACT was commemorated on Italy's national day in 1985 with a plaque installed on the stone chimney of the hut and unveiled by the Italian Ambassador.

The information above comes from TAMS and a historical article by Michelle Couzens held in the ACT Library.

Mike Smith

See for yourself, this year's

**NPA Christmas Party**

is at Blue Range Hut. Sunday 9 December.



## Wetlands projects now complete in Canberra's north

(continued)

queries). The experience strengthened my view that voice mail and emails actually hinder communication rather than improve it. It is all too easy for bureaucrats and ministers' staff to refuse to reply to messages left on voice mail and to ignore emails. No one seems to bring these people to account and the inquirer is left floundering.

In desperation I consulted budget papers regarding the project at Lake Ginninderra and found reference to a cost of \$4.52 million and a completion date of June 2013. A noticeboard (!) at the site said water quality and habitat at the lake would be improved in the upgrade and better walking and cycling amenities provided including a new inlet bridge. Why the secrecy, Mr Corbell?

**Graeme Barrow**

*Lynham Wetland is still raw around the edges.*

*Photos by Graeme Barrow*



# Two nights on Mount Gudgenby

The thing is, one is never quite sure where those 'occasional showers' will fall. Last year I'd proposed an overnight walk to Mt Gudgenby but when possible rain was forecast I understood when those who'd expressed an interest withdrew. But the forecast improved as the weekend neared, and the terrain of Namadgi National Park does offer very satisfying walking, so I went anyhow.

I'd been in the area a number of times but still hadn't been to the top of Gudgenby; its distinctive double peak is clearly visible from many places including Old Bobeyan Road, and I considered it deserved a visit. I'd tried before; the first time, in Spring of 2003 I'd explored up the valley of Bogong Creek for a few kilometres, climbed south onto the ridge, then followed it south-east. The forest was just starting its recovery from the January fire, and provided open walking until the crest became jumbles of broken rock. Here some of the scrub was unburnt, thick and slow — a reminder of what the crest could become again soon.

The summits are groups of tall tors at the end of the granite ridge. First was a shallow saddle perhaps 50 m wide; a mix of slab, boulders and shallow soil. From it rounded slopes lead up to the tops. The saddle had burnt, but patches of grass within black thickets provided some shelter for the tent.

*... woken by squally rain and hail*

The eve was cool as I wandered the saddle and closest summit looking for photos. The main top was only a few minutes further south, but I left that until my departure next morning. With sunset there were a few minutes of hurried activity as I sought the best photos, but soon escaped into the tent. It wasn't long until I was woken by squally rain and hail — the forecast was spot-on. But it soon eased, though the wind continued strong and cold.

*... peppered with sago snow from low cloud*

Next morning I was up promptly, hoping for sunrise photographs but instead found myself being peppered with sago snow from low cloud. The rock surfaces had become glazed with ice, and there was no way I would try to approach the summits or the steep slabs on the south side. So when it was time to head out it was a relief to find a safe route around the north-side flank.

Last year's walk was eight years after the fire. I'd checked regrowth along the valley slopes a few weeks earlier and concluded it was okay — head-high and getting thick maybe, but quite pushable between frequent grassy leads and animals pads.

*... Bitter Pea heaven ... it became taller, denser, stronger*

So my route retraced that recce, only to find that as I continued the leads became rare, and the Bitter Pea less pliant. Once beyond the cliffed flank of the summits it became time for Plan B, and I headed directly up. This was Pea heaven though; it became taller, denser, stronger, and when the slope became rubbly boulders it simply wove together over them, making footwork even more difficult. Finally, Snow Gum regrowth and fallen spars entered the mix to create a palisade in which even a snake (there, a Highland Copperhead) was having trouble.

*... a pair of eagles riding the updrafts or standing vigilant*

However persistence eventually won, and I could turn south-east along the broken crest. There was little evidence of previous walkers and progress remained picky, so it was with relief that I pushed into the shallow saddle found on the previous trip. It was good to sit a while — watch a pair of eagles riding the updrafts or standing vigilant on the tors, look with wonder at the jungle covering my previous tent site, note the changing colours of the great humps of Namadgi's mountains.

The sun set with a moment of red, the night settled quietly. Next morning the clouds were high and thin, the mists along the valleys light. The new sun splashed red over Snow Gum tips and mountain tops, then promptly hid. For a while the sky became washes of dreamy watercolour, then transmuted to mottled mauves and greys on pink on silver.

There might have been a shower way out there, but by then I had reached the tall tors of Gudgenby's summit.

**Rupert Barnett**



*Gudgenby north peak, morning.  
Photo by Rupert Barnett*



# Walking the Green Gully Track

The guest speaker at the September 2012 General Meeting was well known and very active NPA personality Di Thompson. Di's topic was 'Team Green Gully' and she went on to give a very interesting account of the NPA walk she led around this newly developed walking route in northern NSW.

Di's interest in this walk was stimulated when she just happened to get into conversation with a fellow traveller at Mungerannie on the Birdsville Track (as one does). It seems this fellow had sold some land to the NSW Parks Service because it was no longer viable as a cattle run, and NPWS had developed a walk through it as a historical journey making use of huts previously used by the stockmen.

The Green Gully Track is a four-day loop walk into the Green Gully Gorge, which is part of the Oxley Wild Rivers National Park east of Walcha. You stay in stockmen's huts each night 'immersing yourself in the cultural heritage of the area as well as the natural beauty of the vast Apsley Macleay Gorge system and Macleay Gorges wilderness area', as the blurb goes. Each hut has stretcher beds with mattresses and cooking facilities provided, so no need to carry tents, stoves or fuel.

Because of the small size of the huts, group size is limited to six people, and each group has exclusive use of each hut as they progress each day. Bookings are absolutely essential, and fees are commensurate with the facilities provided.

The walk is stated by NPWS to be 'challenging', and this was also the experience of Di's group. There are four days and four huts to be sampled. Starting at Cedar Creek Cottage you proceed on the first day to Birds Nest Hut, then to Green Gully Hut, Colwells Hut, and back to Cedar Creek Cottage on the fourth day. Total distance is nearly 65 km, and by NPWS reckoning each day involves eight hours walking. Be warned there are significant climbs and it can get very hot, and very wet, not necessarily at the same time. For more details, explore the website <nswnationalparks.com.au>.

For Di's walk, there were more than the maximum six for a group, so Team Green Gully became two teams. Di's team comprised herself and husband Gary, Mike Smith and Meg McCone. The other team, which actually walked two days ahead of Di's group, comprised Esther Gallant, Tim Walsh, David Large and Kathy Saw. The teams



proceeded separately and did not see each other along the way. While some problems were encountered, and overcome, all returned safely and happy.

**Max Lawrence**

*Photos by Esther Gallant*

*Above. Green Gully overlook*

*Below. Birds Nest Hut, kitchen with 1972 calendar.*

*Bottom. Green Gully Creek, which way to go?*





# Rainforest ramble

Walk: Monga National Park,  
2 September 2012

Participants: Barrie Ridgway (leader),  
Rupert Barnett, Cynthia Breheny,  
Brian Slee, Annette Smith and  
Mike Smith

‘A lovely creek, under huge tree ferns and plumwood forest, on a floor deep in humus’, read the compelling description of this day walk. Four of us drove from Canberra to meet two from the coast at Dasyurus Picnic Area off the Kings Highway near the Clyde Mountain in Monga National Park.

The cool day was conducive to bushwalking: up a gully between trunks of tree ferns, with sun filtering through a network of fronds overhead: tree ferns with vertical trunks, tree ferns with multiple heads, tree ferns with horizontal trunks, trunks enveloped in moss and, sadly, the remains of tree ferns that had been chopped off by garden lovers before this precious area became a national park. A tangle of vines twisted, knotted and swung around the trees. The roots of plumwood (or pinkwood) trees enveloped tree ferns on which their seeds had germinated. These trees, *Eucryphia moorei*, are of the same genus as the Tasmanian tree from which the

highly prized leatherwood honey is sourced. Its wood was used by early settlers for cabinet making and possibly for axe and tool handles. White petals from the plumwoods carpet the valley floor in summer. Lyrebird calls echoed through the forest: a fine tail feather and a lyre feather found in our path, proving their presence.

Lunch was enjoyed in the quiet of this moist, moss and lichen encrusted fern gully. Soon after, we were climbing a steep slope, pushing through scrub entwined with prickly lawyer vine until, thankfully, we reached a fire trail close to Mount Monga (960 m). After walking under tall eucalypts and corymbias along a pleasantly open fire trail, we descended down an overgrown track back to the 4WD track that soon led to Dasyurus Picnic Area (at 680 m) though we spotted no quolls after which it had been named. In November waratahs specific



to this area (*Telopea mongaensis*) will be flowering: yet another good reason to explore this wonderful national park. Thanks to the leader for a memorable wilderness experience.

**Cynthia Breheny**  
*Photo by the author.*

# Budawangs beauty

Walk: Ngaitung Falls and Mount  
Talaterang, Budawangs,  
6–8 October 2012

Participants: Steven Forst (Leader),  
Di Thompson, Gary Thompson,  
Rupert Barnett, David Large and  
Cynthia Breheny

This walk in the Mount Bushwalker area is arguably the best reward for effort of any walk within a 4-hour drive of Canberra. Steven’s 3-day excursion contracted into 2-days due to rain and thunder activity, and due to much appreciated Thompson hospitality at Broulee.

A mass of flowers greeted us at the start to our walk on the Little Forest Plateau. We passed through a couple of kilometres of flowers of many species, before emerging onto a cliff edge from which extensive views of the sandstone cliffs and valleys of the Budawangs spread out before us. We continued through flowering peas and species of *Epacris*, *Melaleuca*,

*Prostanthera*, *Acacia*, *Goodenia*, *Leptospermum*, *Helichrysum*, *Utricularia* and more, to erect tents on the edge of the cliff at Ngaitung Falls where the creek falls through a series of deep pot holes, then down the cliff face to emerge in Pigeon House Gorge Creek.

Steven, Rupert and Cynthia descended, scrambling at times, to Mount Talaterang. Fronds of rock orchids *Thelychiton speciosus* occupied rock shelves and dainty pencil orchids *Dockrillia striolata* emerged from vertical rock faces, both species in abundance. From Mount Talaterang we could just detect our tents perched on the edge of the distant cliff, and views down into the Clyde River Valley and beyond to the ruggedness of the Budawangs.

We dined at Ngaitung to the surprisingly loud croaking of tiny frogs, two of which I watched cavorting together in the shallow pool on the cliff top. Our return the next morning was a delightful floral experience. Thank you Steven.

**Cynthia Breheny**

*Photo of the Castle and Byangee Walls by the author.*





# PARKWATCH

*Edited extracts from recent journals and newsletters*

## Dodgy Costs of Green Tape

It still takes me by surprise when I am reminded how far removed economics is from a science, and how loaded it is with values, assumptions and interpretations.

In August, *Places You Love* was launched, a campaign by the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) and 30 other environmental groups, to protect the laws that protect the places we all love.

The biggest business lobbies in the country have been attacking these laws, claiming they just wrap business in green tape, adding huge costs and leading to delays on projects.

The Business Council of Australia (BCA) has taken direct aim at weakening the federal environmental laws that have been pivotal in protecting places such as the Great Barrier Reef, the Tarkine, the Franklin River, Fraser Island and the Victorian Alps.

Our friends at 'Economists at Large' critiqued the economics underpinning BCA's arguments.

What they found was startling: BCA had cherry-picked figures to make the costs of environmental approvals seem extremely high. They reported that the environmental laws cost the average project \$30,000 to \$100,000 when, in fact, a closer look at their source report shows that for 38 per cent of projects the costs are only \$1,000.

Using a common economic trick, BCA highlighted the costs of environmental regulation, but totally failed to assess the economic benefits that come from protecting our special places— billions in tourism dollars, clean air and water.

Despite strong claims by BCA that these laws hold back productivity and competition, they provided no evidence that this was the case.

But most importantly, as David Redfearn tweeted, the health of our unique environment should always be prioritised above and beyond expanding the short-term profits of our biggest companies.

*habitat, ACF, October 2012*

## Three Capes Track proposal

Tasmanian tourism operators say they have a world-class product to sell but, given reports that visitors to the state have recently declined by five per cent, argue that a lack of money for marketing is choking the industry.

However, is it just about spending more to promote the state? Or, as Premier Lara Giddings was reported as saying, is it about spending existing budgets in a smarter way?

If the Premier is right, why then is the government heavily promoting its proposal to build the Three Capes Track within the Tasman National Park at a cost of \$33 million instead of promoting the diverse and world-class tourism opportunities that already exist on the Tasman Peninsula?

Extravagant claims that 10,000 people per year will walk the Three Capes Track must be questioned, given that the world-famous Overland Track still attracts only around 8,000 walkers per year. The lure of the Three Capes Track will be eroded, given that camping, one of the great joys of being outdoors for many, will not be an option.

Given the competition from existing walking tracks within Tasmania, together with its high cost and impact on the conservation values of the Tasman National Park, the Tasmanian National Parks Association believes there is a better alternative that is more appropriate for the management of the Tasman National Park and which will provide greater economic benefits.

This alternative is based on the concept behind the Great Ocean Walk in Victoria. Based on a partnership between tourism operators and Parks Victoria, this walk offers a much wider range of options to walkers and tourists.

*TNPA News, Winter 2012*

## Bilbies on burrowed time

When a mining company sets its sights on industrialising a region newly listed with National Heritage status it's worth checking (and counter checking) their claims about potential impacts on local biodiversity.

Such is the case at James Price Point in the Kimberley, where Woodside, BHP Billiton, BP, Chevron and Shell are attempting to build the joint venture 'Browse' gas hub.

The Woodside Browse LNG Precinct Environmental Impact Assessment stated that there 'was scant evidence of Greater Bilby activity' in the region — so a group of researchers from the University of Melbourne supported by the Australian Conservation Foundation decided to test this claim.

The research team installed night cameras close to James Price Point, in an area marked for bulldozer clearing for Woodside's exploration work. The

footage revealed photographic and video evidence of active adult and juvenile bilbies, as well as over 40 burrows with fresh diggings— clearly indicative of a resident population.

As far as we are aware this is the only recorded population on the Dampier Peninsula bioregion— an area of 83,460 km<sup>2</sup>. The last confirmed report of a live bilby on the Dampier Peninsula was in 1991, making this recent find highly significant.

*habitat, ACF, July 2012*

## Cat crisis deepens at Currawinya

Much of western Queensland has experienced exceptional wet seasons in recent years. However, these seasons have resulted in significantly increased numbers of feral animals across the landscape, including feral cats. The cats have been responding to eruptions in the Long-haired Rat (*Rattus villosissimus*) population. These rats are renowned for rapidly increasing their numbers following good conditions.

The Currawinya bilby fence is a predator exclusion area that aims to protect a translocated population of threatened Greater Bilbies. An electrified predator proof fence was established around an area of 29 km<sup>2</sup> within the Currawinya National Park in 2002, with bilbies being released there in 2005. Previous monitoring of the bilby population inside the fence demonstrated it was stable, albeit small.

After floodwaters from the latest wet season had subsided, monitoring was carried out in March. It revealed that many cats were present inside the fence and that very few bilbies could be found. QPWS Rangers immediately mobilised and destroyed 20 cats. Further monitoring revealed the seriousness of the issue, and a strategic baiting program was conducted. Remote cameras have now revealed there are still many cats inside the enclosure.

While the next stage of the Currawinya project is in the planning stage, teams of QPWS rangers were deployed to protect the naturally occurring population of Greater Bilbies inhabiting Astrelba Downs National Park in central west Queensland. Rangers destroy between 40 and 60 cats every night, and most disturbing is the fact that these numbers are not reducing. These are big cats — some weighing in at 9 kg and most of the females with very large litters of kittens.

*(continued next page)*

## PARKWATCH (continued)

Analysis has shown that feral cats have been mainly eating the Long-haired Rats, but when the supply of native rats runs low, the cats will start preying on bilbies, kowaris and other small native mammals, as well as frogs, lizards and birds.

*NPA News, QNPA, October 2012*

### Baillieu Backflips on bandicoots

The Baillieu Government has backflipped on the protection of another Victorian species — the endangered Southern Brown Bandicoot.

The government appears to want to scrap vital habitat corridors planned for the endangered Southern Brown Bandicoot in Melbourne's rapidly expanding south-east region.

Plans for these corridors were developed under national environmental laws, but it seems that the Baillieu Government won't let a threatened species stand in the way of a few houses.

The VNPA calls on federal Environment Minister Tony Burke to ensure that the Victorian Government undertakes community consultation and obtains independent scientific input on threatened species plans for Melbourne's urban development areas.

*Nature's Voice, VNPA,  
July–August 2012.*

### Protecting an ocean icon

A recent announcement by the federal government has shown just how far we've come in our journey of appreciating our incredible marine life and matching it with actions. On 14 June Environment Minister Tony Burke proposed the world's largest network of marine reserves, including protection of our iconic Coral Sea.

The Coral Sea is a tropical marine jewel, offshore from the Great Barrier Reef. Long overshadowed by its world-renowned neighbour, in recent years the Coral Sea has attracted attention on its own merit as one of the healthiest areas in the world's global oceans.

Its crystal clear waters still pulse with tropical reef life and large populations of ocean giants — tuna, marlin and sailfish — still cruise its depths. Widely regarded as a paradise for sea turtles, manta rays, dolphins, whales and reef fish, its southern seamounts are a haven for sharks and other predators.

*NPA News, QNPA, August 2012*

### Time to protect dingoes

In March 2010, the Humane Society International (HSI) nominated the dingo

as a threatened species under federal environmental laws. We did this due to widespread concerns that the dingo is under threat on a number of fronts, including from hybridisation with wild dogs, compounded by the confusing array of state laws that variously classify the dingo as anything from a pest to a native species. HSI believes the maze of conflicting laws is detrimental to the dingo, and may lead to their disappearance from the Australian environment.

Many might wonder why the disappearance of the dingo matters — after all, they were introduced to Australia. Recent research on this is clear. Dingoes have now been a part of Australia's environment for so long that they can be considered to be native. Scientists have discovered that many populations of our native mammals, such as the dusky hopping mouse, are positively associated with dingoes. They are therefore an essential part of a healthy functioning ecosystem.

*Newsletter, HSI, July 2012*

### Totems with a profound message

Over the next 6 months, a sign with a simple, strong message will be installed across the Australian Alps. When the project is complete, the vast majority of visitors to the Alps will encounter these 'totems', and be exposed to a profound message.

The totem idea was born during the first gathering of Traditional Owners from across the Australian Alps. That was back in 2005, and those present collectively encouraged parks managers to find some way to communicate to parks visitors the Traditional Owner's long-standing connection with the landscape.

Various options were explored until the agencies and the Australian Alps Traditional Owners Reference Group agreed on this final totem format. The totem signs carry the words: *Australian Alps First Peoples. Our Country. Our Heritage. Places where spirits dance.* Visually they bring together the eagle, moth and the mountains — key elements with special significance to those cultures with connections to this landscape going back thousands of years.

The first totem was put in place at Namadgi National Park with Adrian Brown, Ngunnawal Caring for Country Ranger, playing a hands-on role, noting at the time that 'These totems are important because they show people that

there is a past; a history of Aboriginal people in the Alps; an existence for thousands of years'. As the finishing touches were put to the sign, a lone eagle soared overhead in an stunningly fitting affirmation of this project which aims to promote both a sense of welcome and respect. Keep a lookout while you're out and about ...

*News from the Alps, Australian Alps National Parks, No. 43  
[See photo on page 23]*

### Buffel Grass — the cane toad of the plant kingdom

The spread of the introduced cane toad in Australia and its significant damage to native biota is now well known among the general public. However, less well publicised is the impact of Buffel Grass, *Cenchrus ciliaris*, another deliberate introduction.

The perennial grass is native to Africa, India and Asia. It was introduced to central and northern Australia by various government agencies and other pastoral interests beginning in the 1920s (but particularly from the 1950s to 1980s) to provide fodder for stock and for dust control. It is now widespread in Queensland, Western Australia, the Northern Territory and South Australia where it poses a major threat to biodiversity.

In the South Australian arid zone alone it has already been identified as a threat to EPBC Act listed threatened species — altogether eight plant and eight animal species.

Buffel Grass also poses a threat to sites of Aboriginal cultural significance; for example, the rock art of Uluru. Planted there to control dust a few decades ago, Buffel Grass now forms dense monocultures around the rock with fuel loads far exceeding the native vegetation that it replaces. This increases the chance of hotter and more frequent fires which not only threaten the rock art, but also tourist infrastructure and public safety.

*Xanthopus, Nature Conservation Society of South Australia,  
Winter 2012.*

### Quad bike tours proposed for National Park

A commercial venture is seeking approval from Sunshine Coast Regional Council as a 'home based business' for up to 12 quad bikes twice per day, 7 days per week, 360 days a year along a narrow and dangerous public road and

*(continued next page)*



## PARKWATCH (continued)

into Woondum National Park, which is part of the UNESCO Noosa Biosphere Reserve.

Situated in the Noosa hinterland locale of Cooran this 1,700 hectare reserve supports upland eucalypt forests with magical sheltered gullies of rainforest which provide habitat for a diverse array of native species. Woondum National Park is integral to the protection of the vulnerable and endangered Red Goshawk, and is also home to the rare Powerful Owl, Giant Barred Frog and the Tusked Frog.

Petitions have already been raised highlighting the community's outrage of the danger of quad bikes on our roads and in national parks.

*NPA News, QNPA, September 2012*

### Hands off our parks!

National parks and conservation reserves are primarily there for nature conservation. They're not there for cow paddocks, firewood depots or hotels, says VNPA.

The Victorian Government has opened the door to private developments in our national parks. The decision followed a report by the Victorian Competition and Efficiency Commission which, while actually suggesting that the priority for developments should be outside parks, left the door ajar.

There are at least four reasons why the government's decision to hand long-term leases in our national parks to developers is short-sighted, ill-considered and irresponsible:

- private developments will grow and grow

- regional tourism doesn't need developments in parks
- high-end tourism is not the best way for parks to contribute to society
- all parts of a national park are needed for nature conservation.

It has previously been, and should remain, an important bipartisan role of governments to be vigilant protectors of the great and irreplaceable natural heritage in our national parks.

*Park Watch, VNPA, September 2012*

### 'No Hunting in our National Parks!' campaign

The people of NSW are up in arms over a government decision to allow shooting in national parks.

There are a number of key reasons why there is such strong opposition, from so many varying voices in NSW, to recreational hunting in national parks:

- the Minister for Environment and Heritage is committed to bringing more people into our national parks. It is unsure how this will be achieved when this decision is deterring people from using them.
- The resources of the NPWS are already stretched, making it extremely difficult to effectively manage volunteer hunting to ensure animal welfare and public safety.
- Anti-hunting protesting will be prevented by making it an offence: 'to interfere with a person who is lawfully hunting game animals on public hunting land'.
- This decision undermines the core values of national parks being for the

protection of nature and the enjoyment of the NSW public.

*Nature New South Wales, NSWNPA, Spring 2012*

### NSW Management of Public Lands Inquiry

Three government MPs and one from the Shooters and Fishers Party have initiated a NSW Upper House inquiry into the management of public land in NSW, including state forests and the national park estate.

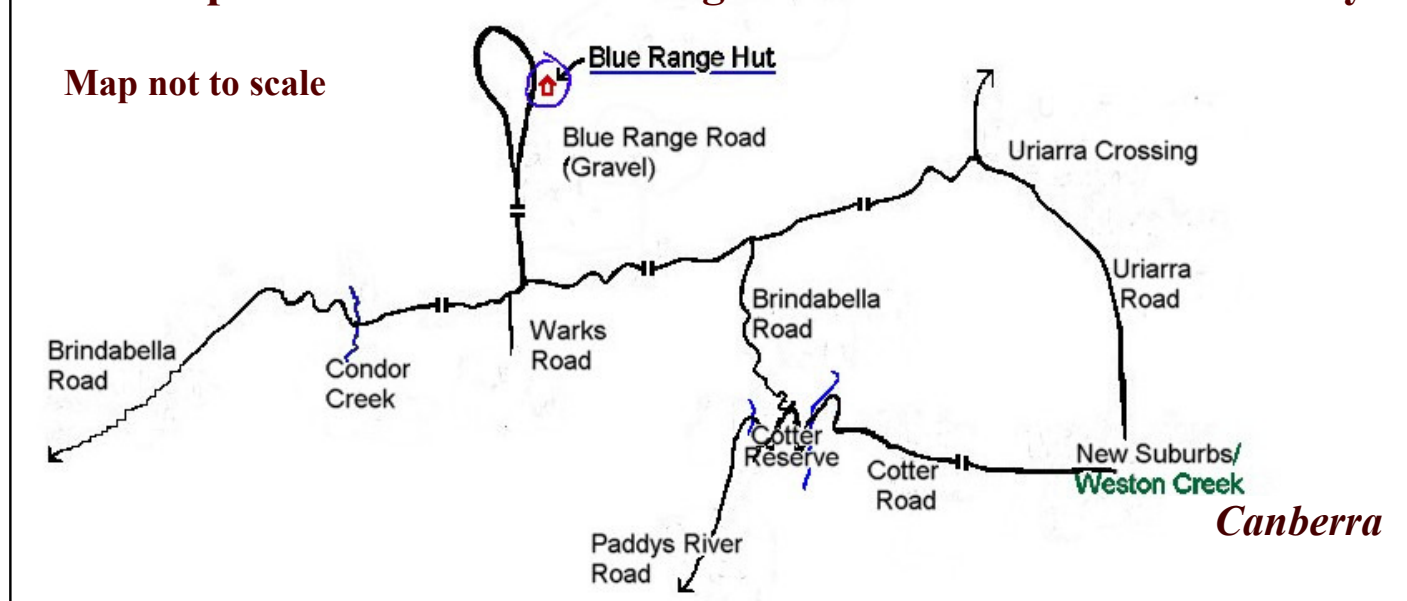
NPA of NSW is concerned that this inquiry will be used to halt the reservation of parks and to justify the degradation of the existing national park estate through grazing, logging and high impact recreation such as four-wheel driving and horse riding. The terms of reference for the Inquiry are highly skewed in favour of short-term economic interests and fail to adequately cover the importance of a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system to provide resilience for our natural environment now and into the future.

These views have been put to the inquiry through a written submission NPA of NSW lodged in August. The inquiry will be holding public hearings before issuing a report in April 2013.

*Nature New South Wales, NSWNPA, Spring 2012*

Compiled by Max Lawrence

## Mud map directions to Blue Range Hut for NPA Christmas Party



# NPA notices



## National Parks Association Calendar

	December	January	February	March
Public holidays	Tues 25 Wed 26	Tues 1 Mon 28	—	Mon 11 Fri 29-Sat 30
General meetings	—	—	Thur 21	Thur 21
Committee meetings	Tues 4	—	Tues 5	Tues 5
Gudgeny Bush Regeneration <sup>1</sup>	Sat 8 <sup>2</sup>	—	Sat 9	Sat 9
NPA Christmas Party <sup>3</sup>	Sun 9			

Further details: 1. GBRG. Meet Namadgi Visitor Centre, 9:15am or Yankee Hat car park 10:00am  
 2. GBRG Christmas Party  
 3. NPA Christmas Party. Notice below.

## New members of the association

The NPA ACT welcomes the following new members:  
 Ben and Rachel Thompson.  
 We look forward to seeing everyone at NPA activities.

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



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

Bring your picnic lunch (barbeque available). Nibbles, some drinks and Christmas Cake provided.

**NPA Christmas Party**

Please contact a committee member if you need a lift.

Mud map directions to Blue Range Hut on page 21. NPA sign on Brindabella Road at the Blue Range Road turnoff

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

*President Rod Griffiths and the management committee wish all NPA members and their families a safe and happy Christmas break and all the very best for the New Year.*

### NPA Scholarship

NPA's decision to award a scholarship to an Honours Year Student in the ANU's Fenner School of Environment and Society, as outlined in the previous *NPA Bulletin*, has been warmly supported by NPA members.

Following Fiona MacDonald Brand's very generous donation of \$10 000 as previously reported, another member has contributed a similar amount. That member for the present prefers to remain anonymous. The family of our late Life Member Jack Smart has also offered to contribute a large sum in Jack's memory (see page 7).

The future of our scholarship scheme looks very secure indeed, but the more people offer, the more we can do.



### Reminders.

**General meetings.** There is **no** General Meeting in either December or January.

**NPA publications.** NPA field guides and books would make good Christmas presents! Contact the office, information page 23.

### Cover photographs

#### Front cover

**Main photo.** Fiona MacDonald Brand tries out the start/end of the new Stockyard Spur Track (page 5). Photo Max Lawrence

**Insets. Left.** Cynthia Breheny studies Gudgenby Homestead during NPA Art Week (pages 8-9). Photo Adrienne Nicholson

**Centre.** The new wetlands at Lyneham (page 14). Photo Graeme Barrow

**Right.** Bushwalkers, park staff and firefighters involved in the track construction, on the new Stockyard Spur Track (page 5). Photo Max Lawrence

#### Back cover

Gudgenby Homestead. (see Art Week pages 8-9)

Watercolour by Cynthia Breheny

## Saturday 8 December Gudgenby Bush Regeneration Group Christmas Party



at Gudgenby Cottage  
after morning work party.  
See *Outings Program*





Indigenous Ranger Adrian Brown helps install a Totem in Namadji National Park. See Parkwatch News from the Alps extract page 20.

## General Meeting



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

### Thursday 21 February

*The Christchurch earthquake sequence —  
lessons for Australia*

**Kevin McCue**

Adjunct Professor, Central Queensland  
University and NPA ACT Life Member

The earthquake sequence was not surprising to seismologists but the degree of damage and social disruption beggared belief. What happened and why can be explained but what would be the consequences for Australia if such an event happened under an Australian city? Could it really happen here? Are we prepared?

### 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)
	george.heinsohn@gmail.com
Clive Hurlstone	6288 7592 (h) 0407 783 422 (mob)
	cjhurls@bigpond.net.au
Judy Kelly	6253 1859 (h)
	judy.kelly@tpg.com.au
Max Lawrence	6288 1370 (h)
	mlawrence@netspeed.com.au
Kevin McCue	6251 1291 (h)
	mccue.kevin@gmail.com
Bernard Morvell	0401 679 254 (mob)
	bernard.morvell@daff.gov.au
Mike Smith	6286 2984 (h)
	msmith@netspeed.com.au

#### Conveners

<i>Outings Sub-committee</i>	Mike Smith	6286 2984 (h)
	msmith@netspeed.com.au	
<i>Environment Sub-committee</i>	Rod Griffiths	6288 6988 (h)
	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

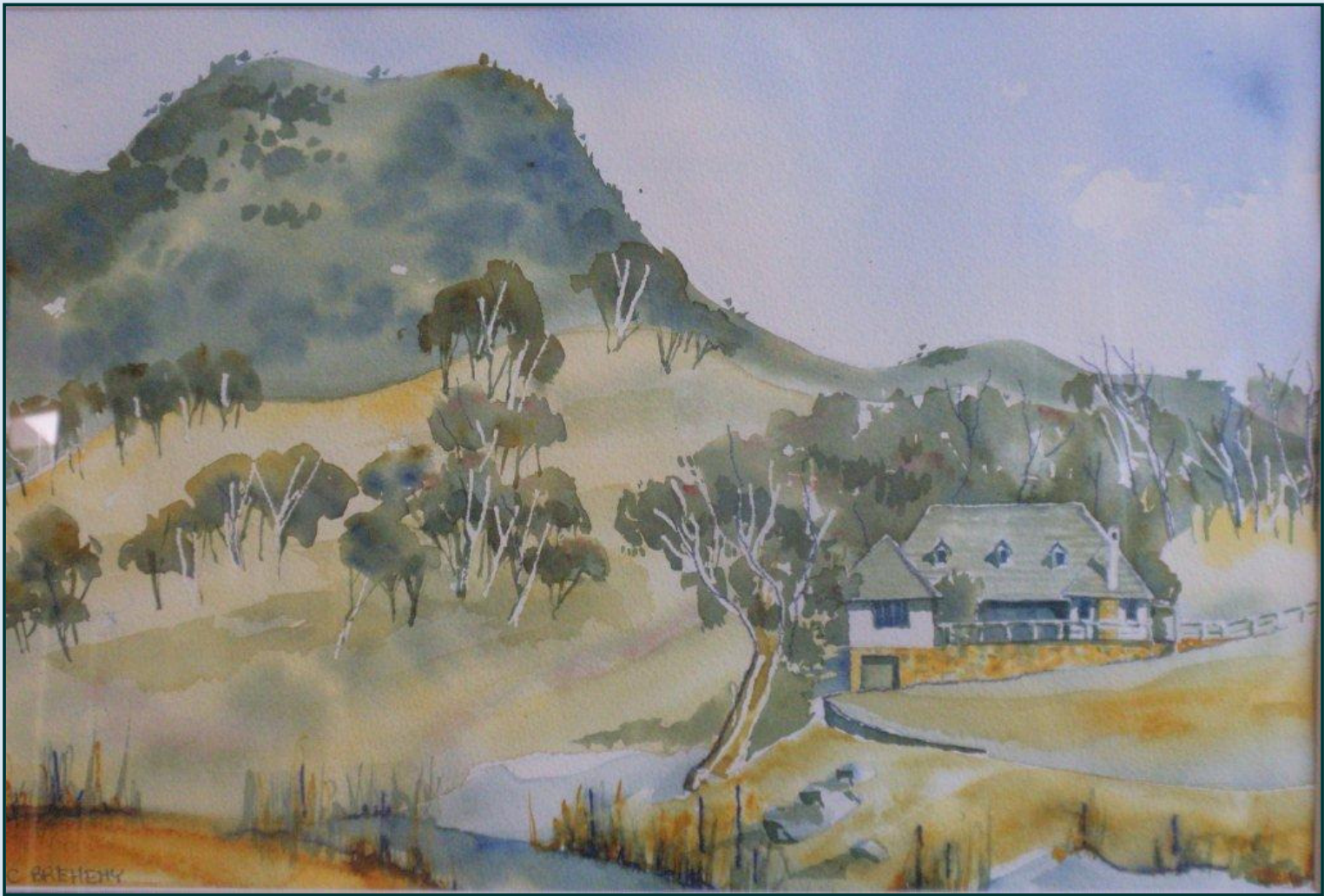
Contributions of articles, letters, drawings and photographs are always welcome. Items accepted for publication may also be published on the NPA website. Items accepted for publication will be subject to editing. Send all items to The *Bulletin* Team, admin@npaact.org.au, or the postal address above.

**Deadline for the March 2013 issue: 31 January 2013.**

Printed by Instant Colour Press, Belconnen, ACT.

ISSN 0727-8837





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

Christmas gifts? Consider the great range of NPA field guides or a beautiful book about Namadji National Park. Available from the office or some bookstores.

