



# NPA *Bulletin*

Volume 50 Number 3 September 2013

National Parks Association of the Australian Capital Territory Inc



**Hard times for  
Boboyan pioneers**



**Judy Kelly awarded life  
membership**



**Nature makes a  
comeback at Barrelli**

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

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## From the President

The Collins English Dictionary defines wilderness as ‘a wild uninhabited uncultivated region’. For many conservationists and bushwalkers it is the epitome of the natural environment, a place where nature reigns without human interference.

For others it is a ‘dismal’ place that offers opportunities for commerce or development. And it is this latter group that must be influencing the National Parks Service in New South Wales to conduct a trial of horseriding in wilderness areas in Kosciuszko National Park (KNP). It was with regret that the NPA ACT felt the need to respond to the recent community consultation about amending the KNP plan of management to allow horseriding in KNP’s wilderness areas.

While many horseriders show concern for the country, there are numerous examples of horse damage to sensitive areas in KNP. It would appear ludicrous for a Parks Service to propose to extend the possibility of such damage to its most pristine areas. Yet this is what is being proposed. I would encourage you all to go to the NPA ACT’s website to view its submission on the proposed trial.

On a more pleasant note, following the NPA ACT’s recent AGM I would like to welcome Graham Scully to the NPA ACT’s committee and welcome back Steven Forst. Both bring a range of skills to the committee. However, they have big shoes to fill as Kevin McCue and Clive Hurlstone both decided not to stand for election to the new committee. I must recognise the great contributions that Kevin and Clive have made during their time on the committee. Both have served as presidents and their leadership and energy will be missed at our committee meetings.

It was also a great pleasure to see Judy Kelly awarded Life Membership of the NPA ACT. I am an admirer of her passion for the environment and her enthusiasm in fulfilling the various roles she has taken on over the years. Well done Judy.

Over the coming year the NPA ACT will be focusing on membership. It will be looking at new ways to engage existing members and mechanisms to attract new members. It will also continue to work on the establishment of a new northern national park. A new activity will be engaging with Parks and Conservation on the management of the lands to the west of the Cotter and how best these can be used to provide opportunities that will take recreational pressure off our national parks.

I know that these will be just part of the work the NPA ACT will get through over the coming year as there are so many facets of this organisation.

You are also welcome to be part of the NPA ACT’s activities from walks and working parties to publications, there are opportunities for everyone.



**Rod Griffiths**

# Big win for common sense

MEDIA RELEASE, 4 July 2013

## National Parks Association of NSW welcomes changes to hunting program

NPA welcomes the announcement by the NSW Government that the Game Council of NSW has been disbanded, and that the Hunting in National Parks program has been significantly altered and will now be managed by professional staff of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS).

"The National Parks Association of NSW is pleased the Game Council has been disbanded by the NSW Government. This confirms our long held view that an agency issuing licences, advocating for hunters and attempting to change gun culture in NSW is not good for the community," says Justin McKee, Campaign Coordinator for National Parks Association of NSW.

"On matters of the recreational hunting in National Parks program, we applaud the Government for completely removing the involvement of minors. Public lands are not a place for children as young as 12 to be practicing their hunting skills now, or in the future."

"The Minister for Environment, Robyn Parker, should be thanked for her efforts in Cabinet that have restored her National Parks and Wildlife Service staff as the managers of pest eradication programs in NSW."

"While a volunteer hunting program will still commence in October, we acknowledge the significant alterations to the program from the initial approach considered, which have largely been in response to our campaign. These include:

- All recreational hunters in National Parks will be completely supervised by NPWS staff.
- The trial program will commence in 12 National Parks, not 75.
- There will be no use of bows and arrows, pistols or black powder weapons.
- Parks will be closed to the public when hunting programs are taking place.
- Recreational hunters will have high level training and competency in firearms handling and operation, equivalent to training done by NPWS staff.

"Our organisation fully supports the eradication of feral animals by the government. Deciding how that is done should be based upon achieving clear conservation objectives, and this should guide the parameters of the Minister for Environment's peer review of the Supplementary Pest Control Program."

"We will be watching the outcomes of the trial program closely. We are acutely aware that when hunting was trialled in 31 State Forests, it was extended to 343 State Forests within 9 months."

"The community has made its opinion on this matter very clear. They do not want recreational hunting in National Parks and will not respond kindly to a reinstatement of the previous program over time."

"We ask the Government to apply the stronger protocols we now see in the Supplementary Pest Control Program in National Parks, to our State Forests. Without this, government investment in pest animal control is wasted" says Justin McKee.

**Justin McKee, Campaign Coordinator for National Parks Association of NSW**

## More Good News!

### Labor Federal Government retains environmental approval powers at Federal level for time being

When NPA members receive their September Bulletin, the election will be over and the results in place, bar a hung parliament.

As we go to press, a reprieve was granted to the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC ): on July 16 the federal Labor Environment Minister, Mark Butler, announced that his government would retain environmental approval powers at federal level, resisting pressure from the state governments and big business.

Should there be a change of government, it is highly likely that full environmental approval powers will be granted to the states. It means that national parks and nature reserves would be open to mining, logging, mineral exploration, grazing, and commercial activities. A similar situation would arise with marine national parks.

World Heritage Areas would also be at risk. On Friday August 16, ABC news announced: "The Federal Opposition Leader, Tony Abbott, has unveiled the Coalition's economic growth plan for Tasmania and it includes a new deal for the forestry industry. Under the plan, the Coalition will also seek to remove the recent World Heritage Extension.

**Judy Kelly**

## NPA ACT moves to a brand new office

NPA has a brand new office in a brand new building - Unit 15/28 Lena Karmel Lodge, on Barry Drive, Acton. As before we are sharing accommodation with the Conservation Council of the ACT Region. Our 'old' building in Childers Street has already disappeared, to no doubt be replaced by a towering new edifice. NPA had six good years in that building with the Conservation Council (see photos, page 15).

After moving our physical assets over to the new premises on Friday 5 July, it took about another week for our custom-made furniture to be installed and painted, so that the occupation of the office was delayed. But all boxes have been unpacked and files, stationery, books and other objects have found a spot in the office. Our new computer was installed and is working much faster than the old one, and the office helpers have been able to continue their jobs with correspondence and membership renewals.

Many thanks to all the helpers who made the move relatively painless.

**Sonja Lenz, Secretary**



# 2013 Annual General Meeting



Members gather at the AGM.  
Photo Sabine Friedrich.

Despite the inclement weather, NPA had a very good turnout for the AGM, which was held on Thursday 15 August. Around 45 members came along for the show, and they did not leave disappointed. The highlights were President Rod's report on what had been a very busy and successful year for the Association, the elevation of Judy Kelly to life membership, the re-election of our key office holders and the election of two new committee members. With a tinge of sadness, however, we also witnessed the very well-earned retirement from the committee of Clive Hurlstone and Kevin McCue, both life members and former NPA presidents. Fortunately though, both Clive and Kevin will remain involved with NPA in other capacities.

The President's report to the AGM and the citation for Judy's life membership are reported elsewhere in this issue of the Bulletin.

## Financial position overall sound

In his report to the meeting, Treasurer Chris Emery noted that the Association had recorded a loss of around \$12,000 during the year, as against a profit of around \$21,000 the previous year.

This apparent turn around was due to the undertaking of projects totalling nearly \$30,000, comprising the purchase of the 'Trailrider' to facilitate disabled access to our national park and reserves; a contribution to the employment by the Conservation Council of a project officer to work on issues associated with the establishment of a northern national park in the ACT; a contribution to the employment of a project officer by NPA NSW to assist the campaign to stop hunting in NSW national parks; and transfer of

funds to the ANU's Fenner School for the first year of the NPA ACT scholarship.

Chris noted that the NPA was well placed to fund these projects. At the end of the year our total equity was around \$165,000, of which about \$52,000 was held in books and \$113,000 cash in hand. It was important, he said, to use our funds to advance NPA aims and objectives.

## Life Membership for Judy Kelly

Rod read out the citation for proposed life member Judy Kelly, listing her exemplary service to NPA, particularly through her strong and public advocacy of conservation and environmental issues. Her connection with NPA goes back many years through the Story family membership of the association since its inception. She joined the association in her own right in 1989, is a long-serving member of the Committee, and served as Secretary in 2000–2001. Judy was the founding editor of *Burning Issues* in 2003, a position she continues to hold. Her life membership was approved by applause, and Rod presented her with a fine certificate of recognition.

## Vice Presidency sole committee vacancy

David Large, the Returning Officer, noted that nominations had been received for all of the committee positions except Vice President. He invited new nominations for this position, but none were forthcoming. He then declared the new committee elected. The re-elected President, Rod Griffiths, thanked David for performing as Returning Officer. Rod also welcomed new members Steven Forst and Graham Scully to the Committee. Steven has

served on the Committee before, including a time as Treasurer. He is also a former Outings Convenor. Graham is a long-term member of NPA, and has also been very active with the Kosciuszko Huts Association over many years.

## Lofty presentation by Mike Smith

Our Guest Speaker was life member Mike Smith. Mike spoke on a visit he and Annette made to the Chamonix valley of south-eastern France in 2010 in company with members of the Brindabella Bushwalking Club.

Chamonix is bordered by the towering Mont Blanc range, and is the site of some of the most spectacular scenery and walking anyone could wish for. Mike's talk was accompanied by an excellent slide show of the stunning alpine panorama of high snow-covered peaks, glaciers and deep, glaciated valleys.

The President encouraged all to stay on and enjoy the supper and gluhwein provided by committee members. Nearly everyone did, and a nice time was had by all.

**Max Lawrence**

*Opposite page:  
The association's thanks go to Clive Hurlstone and Kevin McCue for their much appreciated work on the committee for many years.  
New committee member Graham Scully and re-joining member Steven Forst were welcomed to the committee by the AGM.  
Photos Max Lawrence.*

# President's annual report

Thank you to the Environment Sub-committee for putting together several major submissions during the year, notably on the ACT's Draft Nature Conservation Strategy, the Gungahlin Strategic Environmental Assessment and the proposed amendments to the KNP plan of management to trial horse riding in wilderness areas. These are all important opportunities for lobbying on behalf of the environment.

In addition:

- the NPA ACT has continued to lobby bureaucrats in TAMS on environmental matters, with regular meetings being held with key managers
- it has been active in the NPAC's campaign to provide protection for national parks under federal legislation – as part of this campaign it met with the federal environment minister and the opposition shadow environment minister
- locally, it has been an active supporter of the local campaign to preserve the woodlands in the ACT's north
- it has sought to improve access to the natural environment surrounding Canberra for mobility impaired people through a donation to the ACT of an all-terrain wheelchair.

## NPA-funded scholarship

The NPA ACT is eagerly awaiting the announcement of the first recipient of the NPA-funded scholarship for honours students at the ANU Fenner School. Nominations for the scholarship will close at the end of August.

## NPA moves office

We have moved. The NPA ACT has moved into new office accommodation in Lena Karmel Lodge on Barry Drive in

the city. Thanks go to all who were involved in the preparation for the move as this ensured that it went very smoothly. We continue to be assisted in accommodation by the Conservation Council so please come and visit the new premises.

## Active publications program

Thanks go to the *Bulletin* editor Max Lawrence and his working group, especially Ed Highley and Adrienne Nicholson, for maintaining an informative and excellent *NPA Bulletin*. Thanks also to our webmaster Chris Emery for his excellent work in providing comprehensive and up to date online information to members, and to Judy Kelly for producing our monthly email *Burning Issues*.

Significant work has been completed on a new edition of the *Field Guide to the Birds of the ACT*. It is going to be an excellent new edition with nine new birds and updated artwork by Nicholas Day. Well done to the working group headed by Phil Gatenby for this exciting project.

## Dynamic walks and works programs

Our walks program forms a key activity of the NPA ACT and is a vital means of attracting new members. Many thanks to the 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 work parties in Namadgi as well as ACT and NSW nature reserves which are ably coordinated by Martin Chalk.

## Wide-ranging cooperative activities

Our members are actively involved with the Conservation Council of the Canberra Region, Gudgenby Bush Regeneration

Group, the Friends of Glenburn and the Ginninderra Falls Association.

And I would like to thank Christine Goonrey and Adrienne Nicholson for organising yet another NPA Art Week at Gudgenby Cottage. I am very impressed with the quality of the work produced by our artists.

## Success built on members' efforts

All of the NPA ACT's work relies heavily on the efforts of its members. In particular, I would like to thank the 2012–13 office bearers and committee members and especially Clive Hurlstone and Kevin McCue who are stepping down from the committee this year. Both Clive and Kevin are life members and past presidents of the NPA ACT. I know I will certainly miss their knowledge and skills at committee meetings. However, I do know that both intend to be actively involved in other NPA ACT activities.

Thanks also go to 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 Ball, Kathy Saw and Debbie Cameron who do a great job. Many thanks also to Clive and to Adrienne Nicholson for securing excellent speakers and scrumptious suppers for general meetings. And Mike Smith has continued to be our Public Officer and David Large our Returning Officer at the AGM. Finally, thanks to all the life members and general membership because your support is vital to the NPA ACT achieving its many objectives.

**Rod Griffiths**

## Outgoing committee members ..... and new faces on the committee



# Nomination of Judy Kelly for Life Membership of NPA ACT

Judy's connection with NPA ACT goes back many years through the Story family membership of the association since its inception. Judy joined the association in her own right in 1989. She has been a member of the general committee since 2000 and was Secretary in 2000–2001. She was a member of the *Bulletin* Working Group for a number of years from 2001 and founding editor of *Burning Issues* in 2003, a position she continues to hold. Other particular contributions she has made to the association include those set out below.

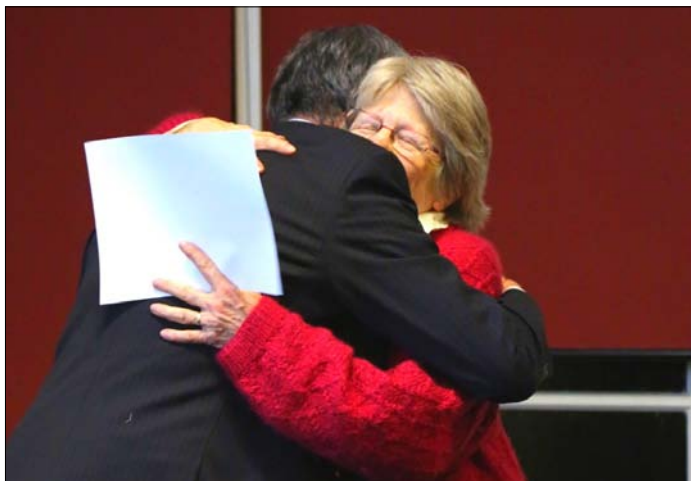
- *NPA Bulletin* – contributed many articles over a long period – all of a high quality and some, such as a biography of Nancy Burbidge, of major significance
- presentations at general meetings
- participation in association walks
- involvement in formulating the association's position on many issues; for example, on Great Australian Bushwalks
- active involvement in major events such as the 2010 symposium, Art at Gudgenby Cottage 2011 and the 2008 photographic competition
- organisation of association publication holdings on relocation of the office to Civic
- contributions to the Namadgi book
- major contributions to the fiftieth anniversary of the association through joint editorship of the anniversary issue of the *Bulletin* and initiating, researching and coordinating some events.

In more general terms, Judy has brought a strong commitment to conservation issues relevant to the charter of the association, together with the capacity to present them effectively in committee, general meetings and through her writing. She has also contributed to the conservation debate in the wider community particularly by her well-researched and presented letters and articles.

Although not always particularly visible within the association she is a dedicated member committed to a strong conservation ethic and takes her place in the forming of the backbone of the NPA.



*Rod presents Judy with her certificate...*



*...and gives her a hug. Photos Sabine Friedrich.*



*Invitation to*

**NPA's Christmas party  
at Nil Desperandum**

**Sunday 8 December, 11.30 am**

*For details, see December outings program, or the website for last-minute details.*

# Dananbilla: the overview



*A view from Dananbilla over the surrounding farmlands and remnant Box Gum grassy woodlands. Photo courtesy Rainer Rehwinkel.*

*Dananbilla Nature Reserve, located between Young and Cowra and about 50 km north-west of Boorowa, has been the focus of much energy and effort on the part of NPA ACT members during 2013.*

*This is the first of three articles on Dananbilla in this issue of the NPA Bulletin.*

*This article provides an overview of the ambitious NSW Government project, of which Dananbilla and 'Barrelli' are but part: the Dananbilla – Illunie Protected Area Network. The second article, by NPA Work Party Convenor Martin Chalk, describes the project specifically undertaken by NPA to remove fencing from the property Barrelli, which has recently been acquired by the NSW Government for incorporation into the reserve. The third article by Brian Slee delves into some of the history of Barrelli. - Ed.*

The guest speaker at NPA's June 2013 meeting was Rainer Rehwinkel, Senior Threatened Species Officer in the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage. His topic was 'Dananbilla Nature Reserve – from isolated back country nature reserve to Protected Area Network'. In his presentation Rainer described how, with great imagination and foresight, Queanbeyan NPWS rangers Andrew Moore and Susan Jackson have transformed this small isolated nature reserve into a world-class system of on- and off-park reserves that protect a significant area of the endangered Box Gum woodland communities and their associated

flora and fauna.

Rainer's presentation described how the reserve was commenced in 1983 with the gazettal of 1,855 hectares of Western Slopes Dry Forest set in a matrix of mixed cropping and grazing country in one of the most highly modified landscapes in Australia.

Box Gum grassy woodlands are listed under both State and Federal legislation as endangered ecological communities. It is estimated that more than 90 per cent of the pre-European distribution has been lost, with less than half of the remainder likely to meet the minimum condition criteria of the listed ecological community. This situation has largely arisen because Box Gum woodlands typically occur on fertile landscapes ignored by early reserve-acquisition programs, which tended to concentrate on dry stony ridges often with scenic values. The 1983 Dananbilla acquisition is itself a case in point. Land clearing, heavy grazing, introduction of feral weeds and animals, firewood collection, and general 'tidying up' of dead wood etc. have completed the sad story of the Box Gum woodlands.

Starting in 1999 a program of acquisitions and negotiations led to the eventual formation of the Dananbilla – Illunie Protected Area Network, or PAN. The focus of the PAN has been on the conservation of the region's Box Gum woodlands.

Today, the nature reserves of the PAN have grown from the original 1,855 hectares to cover an area of 8,300 hectares, much of which comprises ecologically endangered Box Gum woodland communities. In addition, the PAN now has a significant area of land under private conservation, including conservation agreements, wildlife refuges and other covenants. These private areas also include Box Gum grassy woodlands.

The extension of the PAN has been by increments over the years. The Barrelli addition of 519 hectares occurred in 2012, and is by no means the largest. Large sums of money were required to purchase freehold title lands, mostly sourced through the Commonwealth's National Reserve System. The lands have been managed through their transition from grazing to nature conservation, and the NPWS has worked very closely with the whole rural community in the area. The degree of cooperation and participation has been very rewarding for all concerned.

To conclude his very heartening presentation Rainer wound up with a short slide presentation of the emergent flora and birdlife of the Dananbilla – Illunie Protected Area Network. He was warmly thanked by President Rod.

**Max Lawrence**

# Of fences and nature reserves

In the spring of 2012, I was contacted by NPWS ranger Susie Jackson, to see if the NPA could assist the NPWS with some fence removal in a newly acquired section of Dananbilla Nature Reserve. There was only one answer I could give and the Dananbilla Project was born.

Dananbilla Nature Reserve is located 200 km north of Canberra by road, between Young and Cowra. The reserve sits astride the Dananbilla and Illunie ranges and the original section, comprising 1,855 ha, was gazetted in 1983. Further additions saw the reserve extended beyond the ranges into the rolling country in the east. Then, in 2011, NPWS concluded the acquisition of the Barrelli property of approximately 550 ha, which added further to the eastern expansion.

Dananbilla is close to three other nature reserves (Koorawatha, Illunie and Gungewalla) and the Bendick Murrell National Park. The nature reserves, combined with a number of Voluntary Conservation Agreements over private lands in the area, form the Dananbilla–Illunie Protected Area Network; a conservation concept that has been developed over many years by Susie Jackson and fellow ranger Andrew Moore.

The Barrelli extension to Dananbilla is a former sheep property and has a few buildings (including a farmhouse, shearers' quarters etc.) and some 11 km of stock fencing. To transform the 'farm' into a nature reserve, NPWS had to deal with all of these human additions. The farmhouse, buildings and surrounding land are to be excised and sold – easy. The fences had to be removed – not so easy.

The Dananbilla Project was conceived by Andrew Moore as four 2-day work parties to be conducted one per month between March and June 2013. The general approach was to remove alternate sections of fencing so that the external boundaries could be opened up relatively quickly. The sections left in place would then be removed at a later date. NPWS supplied all the tools and equipment required and allowed the NPA volunteers to 'camp' in and around the Barrelli farmhouse. (As the farmhouse offered little besides one bed, some chairs at the end of their useful lives and a solar hot water shower, the farmhouse experience was close to camping!).

The overnight work parties held to date have been advertised in the Outings Program, and have comprised a core of about eight hardy NPA souls. The removal process was a manual one employing the use of wire cutters, thick leather gloves and star-picket pullers. Each fence included one or more strands of barbed wire, which quickly reduced the thick gloves to something less than chamois. While some of the terrain consists of open, rolling country, there are also sections of steep and rocky gullies, which slowed the work considerably.

The removed fencing material was relocated to various dumps around the



*Dumped metal fencing material. Photo Martin Chalk.*

Barrelli extension by a contractor employed for the project and will be recycled for use elsewhere by NPWS or sold for scrap.

At the time of writing, I estimate that we have removed about 7 km of the fencing. A further work party is planned for late October – early November to continue the work. The hope is that this work party will run over 3 days, to give the participants the opportunity to walk in the reserve and inspect some of the rare plants there, with Andrew or Susie providing expert interpretation.

Although the visual effect of removing the fencing should not be a surprise, I am continually amazed by the change in the 'before and after' scene (see photos below). The location of the site atop the local water catchment adds to this visual impact.

**Martin Chalk, Volunteer Coordinator**



*Before: Barrelli - fencing in place across main Murrell Creek gully.*



*After: Barrelli - fencing removed. Photos Martin Chalk.*



# What's in a name? *Barrelli* ...and Dananbilla



Thursday 7 March 2013, and we were following NSW National Parks ranger Andrew Moore as we drove north of Murringo. Five kilometres from town he turned right to Murringo Flats; the sealed road soon turned to gravel; we turned left to Windermere and once past that property were on wheel tracks across paddocks. It was here we began encountering NPWS signs: 'Barelli Trail'.

This was our introduction to Dananbilla Nature Reserve (midway between Young, Cowra and Boorowa). The signs led to the run-down homestead, which was to be headquarters for each of NPA's four 2-day work parties in coming months. The 557.89 hectare (1,378.54 acre) property on which the homestead stands was purchased by the NSW Government in 2012, drawing on Commonwealth funds; 519 hectares of which are soon to be gazetted as part of the Reserve. It was our task to demolish many kilometres of farm fences to give effect to this purpose.

## ***Barelli*: an Italian flavour?**

We knew there would be a house where we were going, but why did it have an Italian-sounding name: *Barelli*? I had encountered grain-growing Italians in WA (east of Merredin is Della Bosca country), and Griffith, NSW, is renowned for its Latin vineyards but, from my experience, Italians rarely occu-

piated remote grazing land.

Andrew explained at our first briefing that the property was allocated for soldier settlement following World War 2 and had been occupied by Elliotts. I began imagining that 'elli' in *Barelli* came from that surname and expected to find 'Bar' derived from a forename. However, the cadastral map showed initials W.G.

I left the subject alone but noticed Martin Chalk, work party leader, was referring to *Barrelli* (double 'r') in email messages. Pedantry got the better of me, so I checked the 1968 Commonwealth electoral roll in the National Library for Hume division, Koorawatha subdivision, and found:

*ELLIOTT, Wilfred George, Grazier, Barrelli, Crowther*

*ELLIOTT, June Gertrude, Home duties (same address)*

## ***Barrelli*: a wedding of names**

It did not take long to find in the NSW marriage index that they wed in Young district in 1949 and that June's maiden name was Barrett. As if to confirm a family penchant for naming properties by linking surnames, I found that Wilfred's twin brother, John, had married Margaret Sutherland the previous year and that their orchard block at Wirrimah was *Landedli*.

So the caption to the Dananbilla work party photo (*NPA Bulletin* June 2013, p.

16), which refers to *Barelli*, is incorrect. It is understood that NPWS will amend its signage as the opportunity arises.

The Elliotts raised a daughter and four sons at *Barrelli*. After the parents died the family offered the property for sale but did not find a private purchaser. The government is expected to sell the homestead and about 40 hectares as a hobby farm.

## **Dananbilla Nature Reserve: a noble enterprise**

The decision to withdraw land from primary production causes one to pause, as it involves the destruction of what would have been expensive and labour-intensive fencing. But the land's future role as part of a Reserve aimed at restoring and preserving the original ecosystem, most examples of which have been lost to agriculture, will be a noble one. Come see Dananbilla's beautiful Box and Red Gum grassy woodlands, and the Superb Parrots, at future work parties.

Incidentally, according to an oral history source, Dananbilla derives from 'where Dan an' Bill are', the names of two local shepherds (see Plan of Management on internet). A parody of Aboriginal nomenclature?

**Brian Slee**



*Top: Barrelli sunrise.  
Left: Barrelli Homestead.  
Right: Kathy Saw and Clive Hurlstone at work.  
Photos Max Lawrence.*



## Beyond

morning magic –  
hills aglow with sunlight  
clear and calm  
I sink into the landscape  
sink into myself

all the rhythms  
of walking the Earth ...  
uphill plod  
and bouncing descent ...  
rhythms of the body's knowing

the sea mist clears  
and I see beyond  
that timbered ridge  
to a cloudcapped range  
beyond ... and beyond?

hand to heart  
and heart to hand  
circling around  
wanting the dance  
to go on for ever

evening glow  
and venus shine  
chapel song  
and darkening sea  
lingering ... yearning

**Gerry Jacobson**

## Refreshing addition to Hospital Creek Hut

Hospital Creek Hut, just off the Old Boboyan Road about 5 km south of the Yankee Hat car park, now has a water tank attached, and there's a new sign too, to tell you where you are. Graeme Barrow, in the 1995 edition of his *Exploring Namadgi & Tidbinbilla*, wrote:

*There's a description of this hut as "basic and spartan" and few would quibble with that. It is built of corrugated iron, has but one room plus a verandah, and a dirt floor—one of three graziers' huts in Namadgi National Park to do without a timber floor; what some might regard as a necessity even in a refuge as crude as this.*

There have been no improvements since then, apart from the aforementioned tank and sign, but the grassy slope in front to the hut would be a pleasant enough overnight camping spot, now with water on tap.

**Ed Highley**



*Hospital Creek Hut. Photo Ed Highley.*



## OAM to Den Robin

Former NPA Vice President and long-term friend of NPA Eleanor Denise (Den) Robin was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours List. Den's award was for service to the protection of the environment and the conservation of Indigenous and cultural heritage.

Den's citation referred to her long and varied contributions in a wide range of areas involving work in Canberra and New South Wales, and her current home state of Tasmania. In Canberra she worked successively in the Parliamentary Press Gallery, Aboriginal Affairs and the Australian Heritage Commission, while at the same time being involved with NPA and many other good causes.

She was Vice President of NPA in 1982 and 1983, and played an important role in NPA's campaign for the establishment of Namadgi National Park – a campaign which, as we all know, bore fruit in 1984.

On moving to the NSW south coast, Den and husband Geoff maintained their close association with NPA, and hosted several memorable NPA car camps at their property 'Burrawang'. Even when they moved on to Tasmania they stayed involved. I personally fondly remember their good company on a 2007 walk with NPA members taking in the Overland Track and Frenchmans Cap. Den and

Geoff both came along to a recent NPA general meeting to meet old friends during one of their frequent visits to our fair city.

Den's citation notes her ongoing community level involvement as a member of the Tasmanian Field Naturalists' Society, the Friends of Melaleuca (heritage listed site) and the South Channel Quilters. No stopping this girl!

*Den and husband Geoff at Lake St Clair.. Photo Max Lawrence.*

**Max Lawrence**

# Gudgenby Bush Regeneration Group



*The Gudgenby Regeneration Group at work on the fire trail. Mount Gudgenby in the background. Photo Max Lawrence.*

The July work date occurred on a beautiful day, and better still, 18 members arrived at the carpark of the Namadgi Visitor Centre. We drove to the work site, off Old Boboyan Road, round Black Dog Corner to a fence line under Mount Gudgenby. This area had once grown pines enclosed by a well-built rabbit-proof fence. The area had been restored with bushland, but the collapsing fence was a danger to native animals. Star pickets had to be extracted and the strands of wire and mesh rolled up. It was hard work all day with lunch providing a welcome rest at midday. As my small task was to cut out two large briars that had grown into the wires of the fence, I had plenty of time to watch Mount Gudgenby during the changing light moods of the day.

## **Mount Gudgenby**

*Like a crouching lion,  
stony boney skull,  
snow white beard,  
it guards the western end  
of the stream-laced  
Gudgenby Valley,  
one time dwelling place  
of the First People.*

**Fiona MacDonald Brand**

## **NPA ACT Art Week at Gudgenby Cottage**

### **Change of date!**

This year's *Art Week at Gudgenby Cottage* will be held from **Saturday September 23 - Sunday September 29.**

For more information, please contact  
Adrienne Nicholson on 6281 6381 or  
Christine Goonrey at [cgoonrey@grapevine.com.au](mailto:cgoonrey@grapevine.com.au) or on 6231 8395

# Bush walks

## In snow on Gingera

**Walk:** Sunday 19 May 2013

**Participants (6):** Brian Slee (Leader), Bernard Morvell, Andrew Matthews, Steve Hill, Greg Lawrence, Rupert Barnett

**Weather:** Cloudy, cold and windy

### Leader's comments:

Balmy May suddenly turned to winter on the Wednesday before the walk. By Thursday, Mt Franklin Road was closed by snow. However, subsequent low temperatures did not preserve the season's

first fall and the ranger at Bulls Head thought we would come across nothing more than patches of the white stuff. He was correct until we were within 30 metres of Gingera's peak (1,857 metres) where the scene was transformed by a complete cover.

We had met at Cooleman Court carpark at 8 am (amid a sea of McDonald waste) and took off, yet again, in two white Subarus for the 80-minute trip into the Brindabellas, parking below Mount Ginini. 5°C and breezy. Maybe that hurried us on, as we were at Pryors Hut (5 km) for morning tea not much more than

an hour later. There was a brief respite at the arboretum where we inspected a pair of discarded Scarpas and a border marker, and ritually uprooted Scots pine wildings.

Climbing from the fire trail, the mountains east were lit by fleeting sun. Gang-gangs swayed in the crown of a tall gum. On the summit, snow everywhere and ice clinging to branches lurching in the west-erly. We visited the trig (group photo) and a southern viewpoint. Bimberi was capped by cloud shelving in at 1,900 metres, softening the light yet not diminishing its clarity. All known peaks were declared to be in their proper place! We retreated east of the ridge about 12.15 for lunch on the edge of the trees. 2°C. Mercifully, even Rupert was in long trousers.

Steve pronounced that we would be in snow along the 1.4 km ridge going north, and so we were. Diversions west for views of Brumby Flats and Goodradigbee River were abbreviated by freezing wind. It was a plod at times so the plan to climb Little Ginini was canned, allowing us time to enjoy the descent from Gingera's majestic northern slope.

Another short stop at Pryors and we were on our way. Back at the cars at 4 pm, and at Weston before 5.30 pm. A day made memorable by the magic of snow.

**Brian Slee**



*Rupert Barnett on Gingera. Photo Brian Slee.*

## South Tuggeranong

*This report from Spring last year may stir people to start walking this spring! Ed.*

**Walk:** South Tuggeranong, 18 November 2012

**Participants (6):** Brian Slee (Leader), Margaret Power, Philip Gatenby, Chesley Engram, Jan Gatenby, Margaret Innes

**Weather:** Cool, partly cloudy, breezy from about midday.

### Leader's comments:

By reversing the direction taken when this route was first offered in winter 2011 (since good walks start with the climb), our first objective was Tuggeranong Hill (855 m) when we departed the meeting point, Lanyon Marketplace, about 8.50 am. We followed the footpath through Conder from Box Hill Avenue to Freeman Street, then up the stairs to the base of the hill. Like Mount Taylor (same height), there is no way to avoid the steep slope to the top, so we headed straight up through trees, disturbing kangaroos on the way to the trig marking the open summit. Great views all round.

At lower levels, the weediness had been depressing to observe but higher up the situation was better with helichrysums flowering en masse in grassy meadows. There were hibbertia and billy buttons too. Two of the group avoided the summit by contouring around the hill and we met up briefly on our descent, behind Calwell.

A collision with a road was inevitable so we crossed Tharwa Drive and then found an underpass at Drakeford Drive. From here we skirted south of Covenant College (observing a pair of red-rumps balancing on a fence) before crossing Woodcock Drive into Bonython. An unmarked road took us west before we climbed fences and crossed paddocks to Mount Stranger trig (660 m). Although disgracefully weed-infested (Paterson's curse, thistles, verbascum, horehound) it offered lovely views west during a break. The reservoir to the east was graffiti-free.

After inspecting the elaborate cubbyhouse in a nearby kurrajong, we descended on the path behind Bonython to almost-deserted Stranger Pond and then on through bushland to Pine Island South,

where we again reconnected with our erstwhile walking companions who had driven there to join us for lunch. Competition for tables was negligible – few people were present, apart from someone resting on a mattress and a bunch of canoeists on the river. Magpies carolled, expecting food; a magpie lark tended its young in a mudbowl nest above us.

The wind was rising, so about 1 pm we headed off on the riverside track. Here the weed de jour was St John's wort. Further along, however, brilliantly red grevillias were in flower, pinky cream and orange varieties too. The area is favoured by dog walkers and several passed by. The Murrumbidgee flowed mightily.

From Point Hut we followed the dis-used road and a foot pad to Point Hut Pond. More people were around, enjoying this suburban treasure. Following the bike path east we were at Michels for afternoon tea before 2 pm. A 15-km walk worth repeating but perhaps not in spring when the weeds are busy partying and making too much noise.

**Brian Slee**

# Boboyan tragedies

Knowing the history of a region can enrich bushwalking experiences and can also help us to appreciate the lives of those who were there before us. The Boboyan Valley especially has a rich and colourful pioneering history. Here are two stories from its past that will make a visit to the valley more interesting.

## Tragic accident

It was on the cold winter's day of 24 June 1850 that Thomas Westerman and his wife Mary [nee Garrigan] and their baby daughter, Mary Ann, were making their way along the rough dray track between Queanbeyan and the Monaro that followed the Naas River and Creek. They were on their way to [or from] Bolero Station where Thomas worked as a stockman. On the steep, winding section of the mountainous track that leads over the Boboyan Divide, the dray overturned, crushing both mother and baby. For some reason they weren't buried next to the track where the accident occurred. Instead, Thomas went downhill and across Bulls Flat Creek to the Boboyan Homestead, about four kilometres away. Was he seeking help? Was one of them perhaps still alive? Or maybe he was unsure of what to do. He was in a very remote and mountainous part of what was then called Maneroo, with no local authorities within easy reach, yet the deaths would have had to be reported.

Unfortunately, descendants of the early local families no longer have available to them that level of detail about this story. Too many years have passed. It is known only that the bodies of the two Marys were laid to rest on the small hill west of Boboyan Homestead, above the old orchard there.

By 1850, Flora and Will Brayshaw were in residence at Boboyan Homestead. They had taken over the McKeahnie end of the Boboyan Valley in partnership with John Crawford after Charles McKeahnie moved to Gudgenby. [Flora and John were the daughter and son of Alexander and Mary Crawford, who shared the valley with the McKeahnies during the 1840s.] Perhaps Flora and Will suggested burying the two Marys near their homestead so that they could take care of the graves, in an effort to help comfort the grieving husband and father. It would likely have been seen as a preferable outcome to have them buried near an established farmhouse rather than let them be lost somewhere along an infrequently used dirt track.

It's believed that these are the first burials at Boboyan Station, but they weren't the last. Fifteen years later, 6-year-old Sarah Brayshaw, daughter of Flora and Will, died of diphtheria. She lies beside them, along with another child believed to be a Woodfield[?], details unknown. All are unmarked graves, although initially a small picket fence surrounded the three graves.

Thomas Westerman and Mary Garrigan were married on 7 November 1847 in the little Catholic church at Bolero Station, with Tom's employers, Thomas and Margaret Rourke, acting as witnesses. All four of them made their mark in the marriage register. Father Kavanagh of Queanbeyan officiated at the simple ceremony. It was also he who baptised baby Mary Ann [b.15 September 1848] on 16 May 1849 while on his circuit ministry.

Because he was once a convict, a lot of information is available in the records about Thomas Westerman. Briefly, he was born in Yorkshire in 1807; was a short man, 5' 2" tall; had brown eyes, dark brown hair and a ruddy complexion; had lost a front upper tooth; and had many tattoos on his arms [and was therefore easily identified when he absconded in 1838 from his first master, Thomas Macquoid of Wanniasa]. He'd been convicted of 'street robbery' at the Wakefield Assizes, was given 7 years transportation, and arrived in Australia on board the convict ship *Susan* in 1836. After absconding, he was re-assigned to Henry York, owner of Adamindumee squatting run, hence his nickname 'Yorky's Tom'. He was granted a ticket of leave in 1841 and received his Certificate of Freedom in 1844. He was then free to choose where he worked and how he lived. At age 40 he married Mary Garrigan planning a happy future with her. But that wasn't to be.

Mary Garrigan, on the other hand, we know very little about. There is no mention of who her parents were on any of the available certificates, or where she was born or under what circumstances she came to the colony. The entry in the Coronial Inquest Register is very brief. It gives the names, the date of death and the notation 'Accidentally killed'. Mary was then just 28 years old and Mary Ann, 21 months. Unfortunately for researchers, Mary is probably the most common girl's name during that period and the surname Garrigan [Garagan/Corrigan etc.] is also fairly common. Until further details about her become available, we can only speculate. There's a lot more research to be

done there.

[To complete Tom's outline story: 3 years after the dray accident, Tom married another Mary, Mary Riley this time, and their first child, born at Coolemon Station, was a son whom they named Thomas Bernard. It is this Thomas B. who established LonsVale on Grassy Creek, the property we now call Westerman's. Old Yorky's Tom remained in the Monaro district for the rest of his life. He died in 1865 at Alum Creek at Shannons Flat. And his widow Mary remarried a couple of years later. But that's another story.]

The tiny graveyard at Boboyan Homestead is, in 2013, a sad and lonely place. There's no longer any sign of the picket fence or the three mounds that Noel Luton said were there when his family took over the Boboyan property from the Brayshaws in the 1960s, just six metal star pickets marking out a possible site of the graves. As it is now, the two Marys may as well have been abandoned somewhere along the remote hillside track where the accident happened. Maybe it's time for some archaeological research to be done at Boboyan and perhaps a sign or something be placed there.

## The 'Lone Pine' ruins

*Much of this information was provided by Dollie Oldfield and Jim Crawford, two of Dan and Dalla Crawford's children, on visits to this site. Dollie and Jim are now deceased. It is not always possible to check facts collected orally against printed sources.*

About 3 kilometres north-west of the scene of the fatal dray accident, lie the lonely ruins of what we now call 'Lone Pine'. This was also the scene of a much later tragic death, as well as an accident that altered forever the lives of the family attempting to establish a home at Sheep Station Creek. It's a story too interesting to be left untold.

Only the stone footings of the chimney and scatters of foundation stones remain, now overgrown by suckers of the black locust tree [*Robinia pseudoacacia*]. The small three-roomed timber homestead was built for Dan Crawford and Dalla Westerman, who married on 27 July 1910 at St Paul's Church of England in Cooma. She was only 22 years old and he was 42. Dalla was the second-youngest child of Thomas B. Westerman and his wife Mary Jane [nee Perry] of LonsVale; Dan was the second-

*(continued on next page)*

## Boboyan tragedies *(continued from page 13)*

youngest of five sons of Ned and Sarah [nee Feeney] Crawford, who lived in the original Crawford house, now known as the Old Station, on Naas Creek. It is likely that Dalla and Dan had known one another all their lives. While Lone Pine is a rarely visited site now, it once held the big plans and hopes of a newly married couple.



*Dalla Crawford dressed for stock work.  
Photo courtesy of Dollie Oldfield*

It is believed that Dalla's father did the stonework for the chimney and foundations, and the wood for the house was hand-cut at the Crawford's timber mill on Bradley's Creek in Yaouk, probably by Dan and his brothers. The style of the house was similar to that of the original Crawford Homestead at Naas Creek. From the front verandah of the house they had a beautiful view across a large section of their Sheep Station Creek property. It is likely that the pine tree that gives the ruin its present name grew from a cone taken from Dalla's parents home, LonsVale. When I first mentioned the name 'Lone Pine' to Dollie, she asked me what property I was talking about. She'd never heard the name before. She said that she didn't think her parents gave their first home a name at all.

By the end of 1910 Dan and Dalla's first child [Irene] was born at LonsVale, not at their own home. It seems that while Dalla's mother was willing to assist at any births, they had to take place at LonsVale, not at Dalla's new home – an interesting mother/daughter arrangement that later had a serious consequence. Dollie said that in 1912 when her mother's second child [Cletus] was due, Dalla found she could no longer mount a horse so she had to walk to her mother's with Dan by her side, on horseback with baby Irene. That's over 11 kilometres using present-day tracks. Perhaps there was a shorter bridle trail back then? For the third birth, however, Dalla



*Lone Pine as it is today. Photo Annette Smith*

wasn't given the chance to walk to her mother's, the birth came on too suddenly. Dan left Dalla with a pillow and the two children and galloped off to fetch his mother-in-law, but by the time they got back to Dalla she'd delivered the baby herself. It was stillborn, and is buried 90 metres or so east of the homestead ruins. There is now a commemorative plaque on a rock nearby. This grave also had a picket fence around it in the early days.

Dan and Dalla's fourth child was Ted, born in 1916 [again at LonsVale], the same year that Dan was kicked by a horse as he entered the home paddock. It was interesting to stand where the gate to the house used to be and listen to Dollie and Jim discuss the details of their father's accident. Jim thought his father was bending over hobbling one horse and another one kicked him. Dollie thought he was holding the mare's tail as it was going through the gate. It kicked him as he stepped into the yard. They ended up agreeing to disagree.

Soon after the accident the family found that they had to move to Dan's brother George's place at Long Corner near Adaminaby. This is where Dollie was born in 1918. Old Mrs Crawford also lived there. Dan's injuries were treated at Cooma Hospital off and on for nearly a year, but finally he was sent to Sydney where his leg was amputated. From then on he was unable to ride a horse, a terrible consequence for a farmer/grazier. Horses were essential to all farm work back then.

Dan had started buying up land soon

after his father's death in 1908. He initially extended his inherited land by leasing two 80-acre blocks to the west of his Naas Creek block, and later purchased two other larger blocks nearby. In total Dan owned, shared or leased blocks 31, 32, 33, 36, 37, 45 and 46 along Naas and Sheep Station creeks, on which he ran cattle and horses, but never sheep.

As Jim remarked, his Dad wasn't ever a sheep man. None of the old mountain Scots were. For the 8 years he lived



*Dan Crawford (on crutches) with Dalla and her parents, Mary Jane and Thomas Westerman. Photo courtesy of Dollie Oldfield*

*(continued on next page)*

## Boboyan tragedies *(continued)*



*What remains of one of the fork fences across the swampy Sheep Station Creek.  
Photo Annette Smith*

at Sheep Station Creek, Dan worked hard to improve his property and successfully establish himself in the region. The old wooden fork fence lines, parts of which are still standing, tell of the hours of backbreaking toil done there. His two fence lines across Sheep Station Creek formed his Calves Paddock, with the northern one probably being Lone Pine's boundary. Much of that valley was very marshy. After his leg was removed he had no choice but to find land that was easier for him to farm and to start again. They sold out in 1919, purchased Fairy Dell on Alum Creek at Shannons Flat and lived there for the rest of their lives. At about the same time, Davey Brayshaw was expanding his holdings and bought the Sheep Station properties, and it was

Davey who sold the timber from the 'Lone Pine' house to the Chalker family.

Dollie explained to me that Dan was able to assist with quite a lot of the farm work from the horse and buggy he used to get around on and he also kept a wonderful vegetable garden for the family, but it was Dalla who had to do the stock work, helped by her children as they grew older. She was an excellent horse-woman. To add to their income, Dan turned to curing bullock hides and, by hand, cut and plaited long bullock whips, breaking-in halters with long leads, and long catching ropes, some of them of six plaits and very thick, strong enough to stand the strain from wild bulls. He became known throughout the district for his leather work.

Our visit to the 'Lone Pine' site with Ranger Graham Hirth in March 1990 was the first time Dollie had been to the site of her parent's first home. Jim on the other hand said he visited every year, mainly to collect fruit from the large cherry tree that grew on the hill behind the homestead. He searched for the tree during our visit but it was no longer there.

### Loop walk

These three sites could be visited on a long day walk, about 16 km.

**Babette Scougall**

### Sources

*This article was pieced together from personal communication with Dollie Oldfield, Jim Crawford, Noel Luton and Steve Brayshaw, and from information supplied by ACT Archives and Matthew Higgins' book "Voices from the hills".*



*A plaque for baby Crawford.  
Photo Ed Highley*

*Left: The 'old' office in Childers Street, now gone.  
Right: Secretary Sonja with the office all packed up.  
Photos Max Lawrence*



# Strange story of the stolen steam engine

*This article appeared in the Cooma Monaro Express on 8 August 2013*

Truth is sometimes stranger than fiction. And a brazen theft involving a very large historic steam engine proves the point.

The daring theft earlier this year of the historic steam engine from the Kosciuszko National Park had a happy ending with its return a couple of months later.

But police want to track down the thief or thieves and bring them to account for their crime.

To remove such a large piece of machinery weighing an estimated two tonnes would have taken planning and special equipment.

Cooma detective senior constable Stephen Hopkin said the steam engine was stolen from the site of the old Kelly's Providence Mill, which is near Alpine Creek, in the Kosciuszko National Park, close to the Snowy Mountains Highway, about 20km west of Adaminaby.

"It was stolen by unknown persons between Friday February 1 and Wednesday March 20, 2013," Detective Hopkin said.

"After the theft, it is believed the steam engine most likely would have travelled through Adaminaby, and was subsequently stored at an unknown location prior to being delivered to Cooma."

The audacious thief then 'donated' the engine to a local Cooma business, which subsequently contacted police, realising

the circumstances of the man's possession of the steam engine were suspicious.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) said the steam engine that was removed was in its original position, and was owned by the Kellys who moved to the site in 1936. The mill was operated until 1946 when it was sold to Betts, owner of the Adaminaby Hotel, and moved into Adaminaby.

"The engine utilised the water from the race dug by hand by the gold diggers," the NPWS spokesperson said.

"The engine had a water gauge on the front - water had to be taken out of the gauge at night to keep the glass from breaking when it froze.

"The old Kelly's Providence Mill site is associated with other sawmills in area including Broadheads' on Alpine Creek and mills in the Connors Hill area.

"Timber from these sawmills was used for construction of buildings and huts in the area including Kiandra township and timber for floorboards for the Old Parliament House in Canberra," a NPWS spokesperson said.

"This engine is important as it not only tells the story of history of the area for future generations but is associated with many families who owned or worked on the mill or delivered timber and materials, many whom are still living in the area.

"People can appreciate the history much more if they can see the engine in situ to get an understanding of how hard

it would have been to get it there by bullock team on rough tracks, not like the sealed roads we have today.

"We need people to help to keep an eye on our historic heritage. Someone stole the boiler/engine from the mill near Connors Hill about five years ago."

NPWS said all heritage items within Kosciuszko National Park are protected and anyone found removing or damaging items carry serious penalties.

"We are just glad to get it back and hopefully people realise the importance and significance these items have to the history of KNP."

Detective Hopkin said while police and the National Parks and Wildlife Service are glad the steam engine has been returned, police would like to receive any information about the theft.

"Police would like to hear from any person, who can indicate who stole and transported the engine from Alpine Creek, where it was stored after the theft and who subsequently delivered it to Cooma," Detective Hopkin said.

"Any information, no matter how small, would be appreciated, including descriptions of the vehicle used to transport the steam engine or the persons involved in the theft and/or transport.

"The engine is sizeable and someone in the community must have seen it since it left the Kosciuszko National Park. Members of the community with information can contact detective Stephen Hopkin at the Cooma police station.



*The Connors Hill steam engine pictured soon after the 2003 fire. It disappeared not long thereafter.*

*Photo Di Thompson*



# Nuts over a dingo

'A dingo has taken my baby', was the cry at Uluru many years ago.

'A dingo has taken our nuts', cried Hannah and Klaus at Palm Valley, not that far from Uluru.

The large jar of imported, expensive and delicious nuts had been much anticipated. There were hazels, brazils, cashews, walnuts and macadamias. They were meant as a before dinner snack for a week.

We were famished after carefully nosing and crawling the Bush Tomato, a much loved 25 year old 4WD ute that could tell more stories about the rugged interior than the souls of Burke and Wills, up four kilometres to Palm Valley. It has a grotto of rare and exotic palms strung out along an old water course in between sheltering, high red cliffs.

We were down the dry and rocky Finke River about 18 kilometres from Hermannsburg, the white-walled mission set up by long suffering Lutheran priests (from near Bremen, my old home town) in the middle of God forsaken Central Australia about 130 years ago. Determined to bring 'naked wild beings' into the fold and teach them religious German hymns (which, surprisingly, they took to), they were immigrants of a different kind to us.

Hannah had nibbled a few nuts, put others in the lid and dashed a few metres to get something from the Bush Tomato. I was a mere six metres away, posterior in the air, jostling a sleeping mat into a coffin-size tent.

Loitering and camouflaged under a river red gum in gathering dusk, the dingo seized the moment, darted from the shadows, dipped his lower jaw into the opening, clamped it shut and took off down the valley.

'A dingo has taken our nuts', rent the air.

'We saw him.'

'The little bugger.'

'God he was quick.'

'Put your food away folks', yelled other campers.

I rushed after him but, like a ghost, he vanished into thin and rapidly cooling air.

Our snack was not meant to be.

Next day someone found the empty jar in amongst a scattering of empty food and lolly bags. The dingo was smart, he was doing well.

That afternoon we were far more cautious. We wiped the table, sealed the tents and left nothing behind but a bottle of olive oil.

The Ampitheatre, a giant valley surrounded by tiers and cliffs of red rock reaching into unlimited blue sky, and dotted here and there with giant pagodas of more rock, was just up the dirt track.

We marvelled at delicate snails able to live under shade-giving and water bearing fig trees, sticky black dollops of gae (shit!?) left over from stick-nest rats, extinct for 80 years, and the delicate flowers of corkwood (*Hakea suberea*) hanging like immature bunches of grapes.

Hannah spied a mistletoe bird with a muff of purple under its neck. I headed for some overhangs to search for hand stencils. 'Ouch', watch that spinifex. There was so much to explore, interpret, compare and contrast, so much to draw and photograph. Before we knew it the sun was going and the cold coming.

At the camp we were greeted by a big commotion. Everybody had dingo on their mind.

'He's been back and taken something from your camp.'

'I saw him with something in his mouth.'

'We chased him away.'

'He disappeared down the creek.'

'We've told the kids to stay close.'

Well what do you know! He made off with the bottle of olive oil. Surely he wouldn't get the lid off. It was a screw top. Hannah, with head torch, went down to have a look at his secret stash. There it was, empty, not a drop left. He'd drunk the lot.

That night Hannah made a large damper which she left to rise inside a sleeping bag in a zipped up tent and then baked in a camp oven on hot coals from a communal fire pit.

A dozen grey, brown and brindle nomads had gathered round, eager to keep warm, feel the ambience and share some outback dramas. A family from Melbourne with firewood on the roof were taking 6 months to cruise around the centre and the west. Another couple came across from Mt Isa via the Sandoval Highway. It had lived up to its name.

Someone else raved about the Musgrave Range. 'We got bogged out there last week.' All were equipped for anything the outback might throw at them. About 9 o'clock the aroma was too much, the creation had to be unveiled.

The damper was a cracker, hollow to the tap with a crust, but not burnt. Hannah carved it up, I added a dollop of butter and passed it round. Someone brought some syrup. YUM, YUM. It

went down a treat. Better than Jack Absolom could make.

Hannah was riding a wave. A great moment for freshly baked dessert out in the desert. The desert which is not a desert at all.

Someone noticed a shadow. It's that damned dingo, he's still skulking around. He wants some too. The conversation turned.

'You know they shoot them on Fraser Island'.

'Yes, a boy died after being bitten'.

'They've been here for 4000 years'.

'The howl goes right through me.'

'I wonder if he ate all those nuts.'

'He must have got constipated.'

'Don't worry, I'm sure the olive oil cleaned him out.'

'Someone should market a new brand of nuts as 'dingo nuts'.

'Better still, what about "Well Oiled Dingo Nuts".'

'Yes, that's it.'

With a laugh and a chuckle we all packed up our chairs and snuck off to a warm bed.

The dingo went back to his little stash and dreamt about intrepid nomads he could ambush and fleece tomorrow.

**Klaus Hueneke**

**(Hannah is my niece)**



*You wouldn't think that a dear little pup like this would ever pinch anybody's food. Photo courtesy Dr Andrew W. Claridge, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service*

# PARKWATCH

*Edited extracts from recent journals and newsletters*

## A dangerous daisy

It was 2007 when people really noticed the shift. Keith McDougall, botanist with the NSW Parks Service, nearly ran off the road. Louise Peach, Kosciuszko National Park Ranger had only been in the job a year, but she could see that it had become an issue. And pretty as it looks to the unknowing, to those in the know the carpet of snowy blooms was almost sinister. Of course we are talking about the apparently innocent Ox-eye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), pretty enough for someone to pop it into their garden, not realising it would eventually escape to spread into, and threaten, a natural landscape.

Most people working across the Australian Alps – in parks agencies, catchment management authorities, local councils – understand the weed issue. They also appreciate that it's a constantly shifting issue because of fire, drought, human impacts and climate among other factors. And if you then focus on each of the different weed species, they each behave differently. Pull this all together and you begin to see that the only way to effectively deal with them would be to have the botanists and park managers working side-by-side. Not surprisingly, that's the approach the Australian Alps Program took when it brought together around 30 people in early February for the latest operational field day. Looking at the group who were setting up camp at the historic Currango Homestead in Kosciuszko National Park, it was a perfect mix – rangers and field staff from the three parks plus technical experts. At the end of the 2 days, everyone there had been fully briefed and able to swap some priceless on-the-ground advice. Currango was an ideal location because it allowed in-the-field moments and quick access to Kelly's Plain, which is the 'heartland of the Ox-eye Daisy'.

The workshop was split into two. Keith took one group onto the plain, a subalpine grassland dotted with bogs. The other group went into the woodlands where they looked at herbicide trial plots and examined management options. Both are threatened communities and he has set up test plots to assess the daisy's potential to out-compete endangered native species. There was a good discussion about how best to revegetate weedy dozer lines (cut through the landscape as

part of ongoing fire management). And to balance the challenging and slightly grim aspect of weed management, the stay around Currango was made especially hospitable. From the glorious meals eaten outdoors to the night time entertainment provided by NSW National Parks Officer Tony Stubbs' outdoor slide show of his peregrine falcon studies. It helped remind us why we go to such efforts to look after these landscapes.

*News from the Alps, No. 44*

## It's all about canopy

Marking the tenth anniversary of the 2003 fires with a symposium on fire was an almost inevitable decision for the Australian Institute of Alpine Studies. One of the presenters at the symposium, Phil Zylstra (a research fellow at the University of Wollongong) put it thus: 'There's no indication of a fire of this scale in the few centuries prior to European occupation. Quite possibly it is the first natural fire of that scale in modern times'.

Apart from its almost unique status, the 2003 fire season has become a reference point for the study of fire in the Alps. There is opportunity to look back from here, through 50 years of data on fire behaviour. It's equally a place to look forward to a new era of fire that is clearly influenced by climate change. Phil Zylstra's current work has made good use of those 50-odd years of data, and he was able to present the essence of his findings at the symposium. He debunks a commonly held belief – that the older the forest, the more readily it burns. And while the wider community may still believe otherwise, those present at the symposium were very supportive of the revised view. In basic terms, Phil's report is based on asking which is more likely to burn when set alight by natural causes – an older forest of Snow Gums that has matured to the point where its canopy is quite separate from the forest floor; or an area of the same type of forest that has been burnt some time recently and where there is usually no distinct break between canopy and understory growth. Earlier work by Phil used a fire-behaviour model he had developed based on physics and the geometry of the forest to predict trends in flammability for the forest type, suggesting that the most flammable period was in the younger stages.

'I looked the map data gathered since 1957 relating to Snow Gum forest over

the two states and the territory to see if fire did favour one fuel age rather than another. I was looking to see if the model could predict the trends.' And that is exactly what has happened over the past 50 years. Despite the common belief that a long unburnt forest would burn more readily, the map data suggested that it couldn't in fact be the case. 'The data validate the model and offer empirical proof. We can see that Snow Gum forests burnt up to 14 years previously are 2.3 times more flammable than mature forest.'

Of course this isn't to suggest that hazard reduction burning does not have a place in managing these landscapes, but rather that a greater understanding of forest type and its response to fire is useful information to have.

*News from the Alps, No. 44*

## Program update

Research into the social and ecological impacts of feral deer, a 3-year project just commenced, is investigating the impacts of deer across the Alps. With the significant increase in the deer population over the past few years, there remains little scientific research on the social and ecological impacts of deer within the Australian Alps. This project will carry out an assessment (both desktop and field based) of the ecological assets in the Australian Alps potentially at risk from feral deer, and undertake field monitoring to determine if detrimental effects are actually occurring. Dr Andrew Claridge from NSW NPWS has commenced preliminary work on stage 1 of the project.

*News from the Alps, No. 44*

## Park attack

Some governments apparently believe national parks are sluggards, and want to put them to work for multiple purposes – as luxury resorts, shooting ranges, cow paddocks, firewood depots and playgrounds for riding, biking and driving. At the same time, public funds to acquire and manage parks are dwindling. The federal government has abandoned the grants program that has been a major driver for growth of the national reserve system. It all adds up to an alarming demotion of conservation in many national parks and the demotion of national parks as a conservation strategy. National parks are the only land tenure that accords priority to nature. The 'car-

*(continued next page)*

## PARKWATCH *(continued)*

dinal principle' requires, to the greatest extent possible, preservation of their natural condition. The changes afoot white-ant the cardinal principle and effectively reduce the area managed primarily for nature. They exacerbate a pre-existing problem of insufficient management budgets.

Governments in the eastern states have embarked on aggressive agendas to 'open up' parks to commerce and recreation. They can ill-afford it. Queensland and NSW have the lowest proportions of protected areas, much lower than the national average, and Victoria is the most damaged state, with the highest proportion of threatened species. National parks have long been used for ecotourism, both genuine and dubious, and damaging activities such as skiing, fishing and horse riding have been permitted in some parks. But their intensification is an assault on the very idea that, in national parks, conservation comes first (cardinal principle). 'Respect for their role in conservation of biodiversity is at an all-time low', observes Christine Goonrey, president of the National Parks Australia Council. This reflects the broader trend of commercialism trumping the public interest and increasingly ugly political sentiments about conservation.

Few disagree on the need for more investment in park management, but opening parks to high-impact recreation will make management much more difficult and stretch already thin budgets. One vociferous complaint is that the parks are festering sources of weeds and feral animals for neighbouring farms. Journalist Michael Duffy denigrated parks as a 'sort of toxic ecological volcano, spewing out fire, kangaroos, weed seeds and feral animals such as wild dogs into the surrounding countryside'. In fact 'good neighbour' works are generally prioritised in parks, sometimes to the detriment of programs more important for conservation. The flow of weeds and pests is often the other way, epitomised by the spread of highly invasive pasture grasses. Those who criticise national parks as sources of weeds do not usually support restrictions on planting invasive plants, or holding landholders to account for the spread of weeds or pests that threaten conservation or agriculture.

Given all the species about which little is known, and the many complex, interacting threats, managing land for nature is surely one of the most difficult of jobs, requiring concerted focus from well-qualified, well-resourced rangers and researchers. Declining nature won't

get the attention needed (or even be detected) if park managers are diverted by recreational and commercial activities and starved of funds. The community has a long history of fighting for parks, and success at stopping previous proposals. The idea of public lands being diverted for private commercial interests in particular triggers the famed egalitarian instinct of Australians and there is widespread sympathy for the 'fair go' idea that nature should be given priority in some portion of Australia. The governments demoting conservation on parks would find that most Australians believe that saving nature is productive and should remain the highest purpose for national parks.

*Nature NSW*, Vol. 57, No. 2  
(winter 2013)

### Ever wondered what goes bump in the night?

Have you ever wondered what animals are using your land? A number of landholders from the Illawarra-Shoalhaven area have, and to answer this question they became NPA (NSW) Citizen Scientists. Once trained, our citizen scientists set up NPA's infra-red motion detecting cameras to monitor what animals are using their properties. In order to attract animals to the cameras, they made bait balls consisting of honey, rolled oats and crunchy peanut butter. This mixture was rolled into a large ball and an air vent cover was secured over the bait ball. This was because we wanted small mammals to be attracted to the smell of the bait but not be able to eat it! Camera traps have become a very common biodiversity-monitoring tool as they are non-invasive and cause minimum disturbance to animals. In addition, cameras can be left unattended in the field for several weeks, so they are a very cost-effective tool.

Our citizen scientists are using cameras to explore the effects of foxes on small mammals. Scientific studies have shown that elimination of foxes can lead to the successful recovery of several species, including the Long-nosed Potoroo and bandicoots. The cameras are left active for 2 weeks, then reviewed. Interestingly, large numbers of foxes are being recorded, with relatively few small native mammals being seen. This result was a surprise to many of our citizen scientists who had not noticed fox activity on their land and are now working with the National Parks and Wildlife Service to implement pest control strategies. Following the implementation of pest control, cameras will again be set up to

monitor for re-establishment of small native mammal populations. Our motion-detecting cameras will allow our citizen scientists to see for themselves how both native animals and pest species are using their land, and take action accordingly.

*Nature NSW*, Vol. 57, No. 2  
(winter 2013)

### Forests or firewood?

National parks alone are not enough to prevent biodiversity loss. More than 90% of land in NSW is outside the reserve system. Our native wildlife do not care about the tenure of land they live on. In many regions, native vegetation has been highly modified or cleared, with remaining vegetation having significant conservation value.

The Private Native Forestry Interim Act was introduced to regulate logging on private lands and has been in operation since July 2007 with over 225,000 ha of logging approvals issued. The PNF Act requires no environmental surveying prior to logging approval and, unlike other Property Vegetation Plans (PVPs), no input is required from local catchment management authorities. Landholders who agree to abide by the PNF code of practice are automatically granted bio-certification by the NSW Environment Minister and, with this arrangement, do not need separate approvals under either the Native Vegetation Act or the Threatened Species (TS) Act. The code of practice relies on claims that it provides an extensive suite of protective prescriptions for threatened species. While any list of protective measures is problematic when no surveys are required to identify them, the release of the final draft code of practice has revealed a flawed document with many forest-dependent species unmentioned or left with inadequate protection. One such species is the Gang-gang Cockatoo *Callocephalon fimbriatum*. In NSW this species is listed as vulnerable under the TS Act but does not rate a mention in the code of practice for southern NSW. This interim forestry act is the classic example of policy-making on the run, but after nearly 6 years of logging you would expect that the department could have managed to at least list correctly the known threatened species of our forests and woodlands.

Local forestry networks have publicly stated that they aim to use this legislation to access over a million hectares of private land to supply firewood markets in Canberra and Sydney. When laws purporting to protect biodiversity are

*(continued on page 20)*

## PARKWATCH *(continued from page 19)*

used to streamline firewood logging in threatened species habitat and endangered ecological communities then that law is a farce. If such a product came from overseas we would ban it. In NSW it comes with the Environment Minister's approval. The native trees of the Southern Tablelands are rarely sawlog quality and have been largely protected because of the lack of an economic driver. The Office of Environment and Heritage, which we once turned to for protection, has become just another politicised agency, approving the rise of a coordinated firewood industry. The response from OEH is that the end product – firewood – is not their concern and does not alter environmental outcomes.

The Gang-gang Cockatoo is the faunal emblem of the ACT, where it is not yet considered threatened. Many Gang-gang breed in remnants of forest and woodland in the Southern Highlands and Tablelands before wintering at lower altitude around Canberra. The people of Canberra should reflect that while fewer of these cockatoos will be coming down to Canberra this winter, more firewood will be, and that they are burning threatened species' homes to warm theirs. All thanks to the NSW Government.

*Nature NSW*, Vol. 57, No. 2  
(winter 2013)

### **Cradle Mountain – hands off our parks**

Cradle Mountain is often used as the 'poster child' by those promoting commercial development in national parks. But what is the real situation?

Cradle Mountain–Lake St Clair National Park is one of the four large national parks that make up the SW Tasmania World Heritage Area. The park predates World Heritage listing in 1982. The original reserve at Cradle Mountain was proclaimed in 1922 and extended to include Lake St Clair in 1936. World Heritage listing resulted in major changes to the way these parks were managed. It raised their profile nationally and internationally, with resulting increases in visitor numbers. It also brought Commonwealth Government money for management and improved infrastructure. One of the first projects reviewed in 1986 by the Tasmanian World Heritage Area Consultative Committee was a proposal for a visitor centre, including park headquarters, interpretative displays and walker registration.

The proposed site on the shores of Dove Lake was to include parking for

buses and up to 100 cars. A short distance down the valley a new campground would be established. All this would require multiple buildings, some 12 km of upgraded road, a similar distance of power line, sewage treatment suitable for a subalpine area, and a water supply. This would have a massive environmental and landscape impact on the area, the buildings and car parks being visible from all the surrounding mountains. After discussion it was suggested that a site outside the park boundary be considered at Pencil Pine Creek. This site, which was adopted, meant reduced requirements for road upgrading, no electricity line, simplified water and sewage systems, removal of camping in Cradle Valley, and reduced environmental and landscape impacts. Ranger housing and maintenance facilities have also been moved to this location. The overall result has been a big win for the environment, the park and the public, with some great new facilities and a big win for the budget. The cost saving at the time was in the order of 50% of the original project cost, or about \$7 million. This equates to about \$20 million in today's values.

Today, there is again talk about moving the visitor centre to a new location, but the proposed location is further outside the park boundary, not inside the park. A shuttle bus ferries people between Cradle Valley and Dove Lake, removing the need for further major roadwork.

Rather than being an example of private development in national parks, the Cradle Mountain case study is an example of how development outside the park is both cheaper and better. It's better for tourism, better for the developers and, most importantly, better for the national park and the environmental values that it is protecting.

*Park Watch (VNPA)*, No. 253  
(June 2013)

### **Tragic day for Queensland's national parks**

On 21 May the Liberal–National Party state government introduced legislation to permit grazing in five Queensland national parks, and this number could increase. National Parks Association of Queensland Executive Coordinator Paul Donatiu said it was a tragic day for Queenslanders and national parks.

'Cattle grazing will threaten the survival of at least 20 rare animals and

plants that occur in the five parks, including the vulnerable Squatter Pigeon and the endangered Julia Creek Dunart', he said. NPAQ completely rejects the arguments justifying grazing: that these places were grazed previously, that they are degraded, and that grazing will do little or no damage. Paul said that for decades until the mid-1990s, many parts of Queensland were extensively cleared.

'In that period, countless thousands of native animals and birds suffered horrible deaths during and after clearing. A few properties with intact parcels of bush remained uncleared because of the stewardship of past owners, and also because the land was too poor or too inaccessible for grazing', he said. Some of these areas became national parks. Since the 1990s, rangers, conservation groups and volunteer organisations have worked to rehabilitate degraded areas within recent park acquisitions.

'Cattle will spread weeds, trample the habitat of native animals, and destroy waterways in these parks', Paul said. 'That a government should seek to compromise the integrity of our national parks, which cover less than 5% of the state, when grazing occupies 65%, is beyond belief.'

*Park Watch (VNPA)*, No. 253  
(June 2013)

### **Campaign updates from ACF**

- After several wet years Australia's parched Murray–Darling river system is back from the brink, but for how long remains to be seen. Because the Australian Government rapidly bought back irrigation water entitlements over the past few years, the river will enter the next drought with at least 1 500 billion litres more than it had during the last – just short of half what government scientists believe is necessary to keep the Corong alive during extreme drought. Yet they plan taking another 11 years to get the second half, meaning we could be caught short if drought conditions return before then. Having successfully pushed for more water to be returned, ACF remains determined to see it returned early enough to make a difference for the nation's longest river.
- The plan for a future Tasmanian timber industry and future protection for the state's high-conservation forests continues to gain public momentum as environmentalists, workers and industry work through the final details of a durable pathway to peace. However,

*(continued next page)*

## PARKWATCH (continued)

the state parliament's legislative council, hesitant to give its final approval, leaves some uncertainty for both forest workers and the forests themselves. While the parliament deliberates, both the Commonwealth and state government and signatories to the peace deal continue to uphold their commitments, as evidenced by the nomination at the end of January of 170,000 hectares of magnificent forest for World Heritage listing. This paves the way for the permanent protection of iconic tall forests in the Upper Derwent, Styx, Weld and Upper Florentine valleys, along with many other important areas with similar values.

- 2012 was the year in which our decade-long campaigns on the Murray–Darling, Tasmanian forests and ocean protection came to fruition. Over the coming months we will be assessing the major drivers of threats to freshwater and coastal environments in order to better understand the opportunities for ACF to make a difference.

*Habitat*, Vol. 41, No. 2  
(April 2013)

## News from Queensland

- Horse riding in National Parks: NPA Council is most concerned that changes that appear likely to be made to the Nature Conservation Act may include some expansion of horse riding in National Parks. NPAQ has a longstanding policy that horse riding must continue to be prohibited in National Parks and we will be pursuing the matter vigorously.
- Proposed George Haddock Memorial Walk: John Bristow and Rob Hitchcock reported to the Council that the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed George Haddock Memorial walk on Fraser Island, a proposed addition to the Fraser Island Great Walk, has now been submitted to the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service as a basis to move to the next stage of the project.

*NPA News (Qld)*, Vol. 83  
Issue 3 (April 2013)

## Marine conservation

The NSW Government has declared an amnesty on fishing from beaches and headlands in marine sanctuary zones while a newly formed Expert Knowledge Panel undertakes a 6-month assessment of recreational fishing access to these areas. With this decision, the government is undermining the credibility of its Expert Knowledge Panel before it is even formed. If it genuinely cared about achieving a credible outcome, it would at least wait for the panel's advice before making changes to marine protection. The government needs to step back and actually let this new body do its job.

*Nature NSW*, Vol. 57, No. 2  
(winter 2013)

Compiled by Hazel Rath



### Red spot?

Subscriptions for 2013/14 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!

## Black Mountain wildflower ramble

Saturday, 12 October

Meet at 9:30am at Belconnen Way entry into Black Mountain Nature Reserve, just east of Caswell Drive turnoff (look for the balloons). Finish about 12 noon. Join wildflower lovers for the Burbidge/Chippendale tradition of celebrating the spring flowering with the 42nd annual Black Mountain wildflower ramble. Discover the surprising diversity of tiny orchids, bush peas, wattles and billy buttons with experienced guides, easy bush tracks and good company. All welcome. BYO morning tea, hat, sunblock, water and stout shoes.

Please book with Jean Geue, 6251 1601 or

[friendsofblackmountain@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofblackmountain@gmail.com)

## A few words on the distribution of the *Bulletin*

Dear members

Thank you to everybody who has sent us their completed membership renewal forms and given us the information requested on how they prefer to receive the *Bulletin* from this issue on. Unfortunately, not everyone ticked the little boxes, so our

assumption is that those particular members want to continue to receive the *printed* version of NPA's quarterly publication.

If you find that we did not deliver this copy in your preferred format (the options are: printed, digital or both), please let us know and we will endeavour to get it right next time.

We ask you to please bear with us until we get the *Bulletin* to all our members in the right format.

It is now especially important that you inform us about any changes to your email addresses. Thanking you,

Sonja Lenz, Secretary



# NPA notices

<b>National Parks Association Calendar</b>				
	September	October	November	December
Public holidays	Mon 30	Mon 7	—	Wed 25-Thur 26
General meetings	Thur 19	Thur 17	Thur 21	—
Committee meetings	Tues 3	Tues 1	Tues 5	Tues 3
NPA Art Week at Gudgenby Cottage <sup>1</sup>	Mon23-Sun29			
Gudgenby Bush Regeneration <sup>2</sup>	Sat 14	Sat 12	Sat 9	Sat 7

Further details: 1. Contacts: Adrienne Nicholson 6281 6381, Christine Goonrey 6231 8395  
 2. GBRG Meet at Namadgi Visitor Centre, 9:15am or Yankee Hat car park 10:00am

## New members of the association



The NPA ACT welcomes the following new members:

Judy Bourne, Krissa O'Neil & Gary Marshall  
 Sandra Henderson  
 Ailsa Brown & Ross Andrews

We look forward to seeing you all at NPA activities.

## Bird field guide



The second edition of the NPA ACT's popular *Field Guide to the Birds of the ACT* is about to be published.

Thanks to Phil Gatenby and his working group, the draft will be finalised and sent to the printers at the end of September.

Keep your eyes peeled for this lovely new book that contains nine additional bird descriptions and illustrations by Nicolas Day. Have a look at the back cover page of this *Bulletin* for a sneak preview of some of his exquisite bird paintings.

This *Bulletin* was prepared by:  
 Editor, Max Lawrence;  
 Sub-editor, Ed Highley;  
 Presentation, Sonja Lenz

## Public viewing of Murrumbidgee Gorge, Wallaroo

### Ginninderra Falls Association

The GFA has arranged for a special public viewing of this seldom seen wonder on

**Sunday, 22 September 2013**

**2.30pm - 4.00pm.**

**153 Woodgrove Close, Wallaroo NSW.**

This is a rare opportunity to see this part of the Murrumbidgee with its grand wooded gorge, still completely in private hands.

Please bring refreshments, rug or seating.

Special thanks to Allen Mawer.

Visit the GFA website for more information, including lunch options at the nearby wineries.

**[ginninderra.org.au](http://ginninderra.org.au)**

From Hall take Wallaroo Road, Gooromon Ponds Road, Brooklands Road, Woodgrove Close.

## GBRG Christmas party

Join the work party and then enjoy a convivial Christmas lunch and a leisurely stroll through the regeneration area on

**Saturday 7 December.**

Meet at Namadgi Visitor Centre at 9:15 am or Yankee Hat car park at 10:00 am.

Bring a plate to share.

For further information, contact Michael Goonrey on 6231 8395 or Clive Hurlstone on 6288 7592

## Cover photographs

### Front cover

**Main photo.** Mount Gingera in the snow (article page 12).

Photo Steve Hill

**Insets. Left.** Lone Pine ruins (article pages 13-15).

Photo Annette Smith

**Centre.** Honorary Life Member Judy Kelly (article page 6).

Photo Max Lawrence

**Right.** Kathy Saw and Clive Hurlstone working (article page 8).

Photo Max Lawrence

### Back cover

Samples of the new illustrations by Nicolas Day for the second edition of NPA's **Field Guide to the Birds of the ACT**

# General Meetings

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



## Thursday 19 September

*Bringing artists, scientists and environmentalists together*

**Julia Landford**

President, Wildlife and Botanical Artists Inc.

Artists play an important role in the advocacy and promotion of Australian flora and fauna. Ca. 15 years ago, Wildlife and Botanical Artists (WABA) was established to provide a network for emerging and professional artists in the region. WABA includes members from all over Australia, working collaboratively with a range of stakeholders to bring together artists, scientists and environmentalists.

## Thursday 17 October

*Macquarie Island - a World Heritage site returning to its natural wonder*

**Trish Macdonald**

Station Leader, Macquarie Island  
2011-12

(formally ACT Parks and Conservation Service)

In 2011 a world-first feral animal control program was launched on Macquarie Island to rid the island of rabbits, rats and mice, bringing an end to 200 years of human-initiated environmental degradation.

## Thursday 21 November

*Bushwalking - why would you want to!*

**Rupert Barnett**

NPA ACT member and walks leader

Rupert will reflect briefly on why we might go bushwalking and its links with the NPA. He will also show photos from some of the local and overseas walks he has found satisfying.

### **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**

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Esther Gallant	6161 4514 (h)	galla001@umn.edu
Christine Goonrey (Immediate Past President)	6231 8395 (h)	cgoonrey@grapevine.com.au
George Heinsohn	6278 6655 (h)	george.heinsohn@gmail.com
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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 Unit 15/28 Lena Karmel Lodge, Barry Drive, Acton, together with the Conservation Council. It is staffed by volunteers on an irregular basis. Callers may leave phone or email messages at any time and they will be attended to. The post office mail box is cleared daily.

**Phone:** (02) 6229 3201 0412 071 382

**Website:** [www.npaact.org.au](http://www.npaact.org.au)

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**Address:** GPO Box 544, Canberra ACT 2601

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

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

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

#### **Advertising**

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

#### **NPA Bulletin**

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

**Deadline for the December 2013 issue: 31 October 2013.**

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