



# NPA *Bulletin*

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National Parks Association of the Australian Capital Territory Inc



**A hundred years protection for Namadgi**



**Things looking up for frogs**



**Namadgi Visitor Centre has a new art space**

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

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## From the President

Congratulations to all concerned for an excellent AGM. The NPA ACT has another strong and experienced committee and I look forward to working with them. And what a great talk by Adrienne Nicholson, about her trip to the Kamchatka Peninsula in Russia. Some amazing photos; I felt like I was travelling with Adrienne through this volcanic wilderness.

The NPA ACT will continue to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the gazettal of Namadgi National Park. Before the end of the year we will officially launch the new Yerrabi Track signs and don’t forget to put 19 October into your calendars. We will be holding a members’ picnic at Honeysuckle Creek on the day – see the outings program for more details. I hope to see you there.

Later this year, the NPA ACT will be utilising the new community exhibition space at the Namadgi Visitor Centre to host an exhibition of the artistic expressions of NPA ACT members. Again this will be badged as a 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary event. I know that the NPA ACT’s curators, Christine Goonrey and Adrienne Nicholson, are looking for additional exhibition pieces. So please don’t hesitate to contact them. They are looking for a broad range of media, which can be anything from poetry to photographs or paintings to sculpture. Let’s showcase the talent of NPA ACT’s members.

One of the tasks for the new committee will be the promulgation of a members’ survey. It has been many, many

years since we have formally sought the opinions of the membership. The survey will allow the committee to better understand the skills of the membership and help guide it in meeting the expectations of the NPA ACT’s members. So once the survey comes out please take the time to respond to it; your opinion is very valued.

I also know that the NPA ACT will continue to lobby for the creation of a new national park based on the ACT’s nationally important, lowland grassy woodlands. It will also be looking at innovative ways of expanding the use of the TrailRider, the ACT’s all-terrain wheelchair.

As usual, there will be many things to keep the NPA ACT busy in the coming year and I hope to meet many of you at these various activities.

All the best.

**Rod Griffiths**





# 2014 Annual General Meeting



NPA had another good turnout for its AGM, which was held on 21 August. Around forty members came along for the show, and they did not leave disappointed. The highlights were President Rod's report on what had been yet another very successful year for the Association; the re-election of existing committee members; the wonderful presentation by Adrienne Nicholson on her trip to Kamchatka; and the very convivial supper featuring Adrienne's gluhwein.

Rod's report and Adrienne's presentation are summarised elsewhere in this *Bulletin*.

## Financial position strong

In his report to the meeting Treasurer Chris Emery noted that, while the Association had recorded a loss of around \$8800 during the year, as against the previous year's loss of \$12700, the main feature of our finances remained our continuing high level of equity. At the end of the year this amounted to \$156000, of which NPA's publications constituted an inventory of \$58900.

This high equity has enabled the Association to continue a wide range of

projects to further the aims and objectives of NPA. In 2013–14 these included big ticket items such as the continuation of the scholarship program for Honours students at the ANU's Fenner School, and the printing of a whole new edition of NPA's *Field Guide to the Birds of the ACT*.

On the revenue side NPA continued to be strongly supported by members' donations, and by book sales, especially of the new bird book. Chris stressed especially that NPA needed to be alert to new opportunities for projects where NPA could make a difference in its areas of interest.

Chris also informed members that the financial statements of NPA as a not-for-profit organisation are open to the general public via the Web.

## Familiar faces on the new committee

With the exception of yours truly, all of the committee members from 2013–14 made themselves available for the new committee. There were no additional nominations, and the team was duly declared elected by returning officer

David Large. Secretary Sonja Lenz was elected as an 'ordinary' committee member (nothing ordinary about Sonja), having indicated earlier that she would like to step down as Secretary, but would like to continue on the committee and with her work in the NPA office. Subsequent to the meeting Bernard Morvell volunteered to take on the new position of Minutes Secretary, and Sonja agreed to continue as Secretary, but without the chore of keeping the minutes. Life member Sonja has now been our hardworking Secretary for almost a decade.

These arrangements were approved by the new committee out of session. Warm thanks are due to Sonja and Bernard, and indeed to President Rod, Treasurer Chris and the whole committee. But the position of Vice President remains vacant, as it has for several years.

Contact details for the new committee are shown on page 23.

**Max Lawrence**

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## Feral horses—ACT setting an example

Following publication in the March *Bulletin* of her graphic article on the damage being caused by feral horses in southern Kosciuszko National Park, Di Thompson wrote to the ACT Chief Minister and other members of the ACT Legislative Assembly. Her letter praised the ACT Government for the long-term position it has taken on the control of feral horses in Namadgi National Park, stressing that, without such action, Namadgi, all of its wetlands and Ramsar sites and alpine swamps, could now be like the deplorable state she observed in Kosciuszko NP during her November 2013 pack walk. Di pointed out that this consistent approach, especially with

respect to keeping Namadgi free of feral horses, has helped park managers achieve some outstanding results. That protection has allowed Namadgi recovery, even during continuing years of severe drought since the 2003 fires. Di has now received a reply from TAMS Minister Shane Rattenbury writing on behalf of the ACT Government. The Minister thanked Di for her positive feedback, and reaffirmed the government's commitment to protection of Namadgi's unique natural and cultural values from the adverse effects of introduced pest plants and animals. In particular, he stated that the ACT Government is

committed to the long-term control of feral horses in the Territory, as outlined in the 2007 *Namadgi National Park Feral Horse Management Plan*, which states a very clear goal: 'To prevent the re-establishment of feral horse populations within NNP'. He goes on to state that to date the implementation of this plan has seen the eradication of all known resident populations of feral horses within the ACT.

ACT is setting an excellent example in this area. It now remains for NSW to follow our lead.

**Max Lawrence**

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## Horses online!

In its current review NPWS is making a huge effort to turn back the horrific damage being done to Kosciuszko National Park (KNP) by feral horses.

You can help by contributing to an online conversation! Read on! Do take the time to view the short videos and some of the very different views of contributors.

You are invited to join the online conversation which will run until 30 November, at

[www.environment.nsw.gov.au/protectsnowies](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/protectsnowies).

Online you can access useful resources, hear from a wide range of interest groups and experts, join the conversation through social media, and

find out about the review process and other opportunities for everyone to have their say.

New conversation topics will start each week in the online social media component of consultation for this review.

**Graham Scully**

# President's Report to the 2014 AGM



It's really only when I sit down to write my President's report that I realise just how busy the NPA is. One of the things I like about the NPA is the breadth of activities it undertakes; from our great walks program to getting our hands dirty with work parties; from publications to public art exhibitions; and, of course, our constant championing of the natural environment.

I want to list some of the things we have achieved this year.

## Productive work parties

Our work parties have seen kilometres of old fencing and hundreds of feral trees removed in work parties across the ACT and into NSW. Martin Chalk has been looking after our work parties for many years now and continues to be wonderfully enthusiastic. In addition, Brian Slee led a short but highly successful pine wilding assault this year just outside of Stony Creek Nature Reserve. I am excited that the NPA is partnering with Gudgenby Bush Regenerators on a rehabilitation project in areas in the Gudgenby Valley affected by rabbit control measures. Important rehabilitation strategies will be learnt from this project.

## A dynamic outings program

Thank you to all our walk leaders, ably coordinated by Mike Smith. It was a real pleasure to lead my first NPA walk this year. I hope to see many of you on my next one. One special event was the Heritage Week walk with the TrailRider all terrain wheelchair. It was nice to see the TrailRider in action.

## Submissions on the environment and conservation

The Environment Sub-committee has maintained its overview of nature conservation matters in the ACT and region with submissions on:

- The ACT Trails Strategy
- The ACT Strategic Bushfire Management Plan
- The ACT 2014 Budget
- The ACT Environmental Offsets Policy
- The Expenditure Review of Parks and City Services.

As well as work on the Nature Conservation Bill, the Molonglo River Corridor Linear Park and feral horses (thanks go to Di Thompson for her

passion on the last-listed issue). There is a lot of experience among the members of the Environment Sub-committee and it shows in the quality of the NPA's submissions.

## Publications and exhibitions

This year saw the launch of a new edition of the NPA's *Field Guide to Birds of the ACT*. There had been lots of movement among ACT birds, all of which was carefully reflected in the new edition. Thanks to Phil Gatenby and the working party for creating a superb field guide.

The NPA was able to express its artistic leanings with another successful Art Week at Gudgenby. These are coordinated by Christine Goonrey and Adrienne Nicholson, and this year's event supported a fantastic exhibition, entitled 'Take A Pencil Too,' of NPA artistic output at the Namadgi Visitor Centre. NPA artists were also heavily represented at the recent opening of the community exhibition space at Namadgi Visitor Centre.

And for those who are around 100 years from now, don't forget to go to the opening of the Canberra Centenary time capsule and have a look at the NPA's contribution to that event.

## Sound finances

Our treasurer, Chris Emery, has ensured that our funds are sufficient for all our activities including support for The Friends of Glenburn, the creation of new signage for the Yerrabi Track and the NPA ACT Honours Scholarship with the ANU. Two scholarships were awarded in the past year. The first going to Amy Macris, whose recent general meeting presentation was warmly received, and the second to Bhiamie Eckford-Williamson who will be talking at a coming general meeting. I am very proud of the support the members of the NPA have given to the scholarship.

## Stimulating speakers

I would like to thank all the speakers at the NPA's meetings. The speakers have taken us on Bush Blitzes and into the Nunavut territory of Canada; they have challenged our thinking of Indigenous land management; and have taken us into the world of science communication. Our meetings would not be the same without their contributions.

## Adept administration

The work of the NPA would be so much poorer without the efforts of its members. Our office staff ensure that our administrative affairs run smoothly. Much credit goes to the NPA's retiring secretary, Sonja Lenz, for coordination of the office tasks. She has been a tireless worker for the NPA over many years. Certainly, she, Kevin McCue and Clive Hurlstone are stalwarts in the management of our publication sales.

## High-quality Bulletin

We have been blessed with an excellent editorial team for the *Bulletin*. The retiring editor, Max Lawrence, has achieved the consistent publication of a very high quality document. During his time as editor he has overseen many excellent changes to the format of the *Bulletin* and it has always been done with good humour. Max has had strong support from Adrienne Nicholson and Ed Highley. Thanks are also due to Hazel Rath for her PARKWATCH contributions.

## ... and not forgetting

Finally, can I thank the committee members who haven't been mentioned already. Judy Kelly for her passion, letter-writing ability and her management of our e-newsletter *Burning Issues*. Graham Scully and Steve Forst for their work on promotion and engagement (supported in this by Steve Small). Last but not least, Esther Gallant, George Heinsohn and Bernard Morvell all provide important input into work of the committee as well as other roles in the NPA.

**Rod Griffiths**

## A winter's day

The white cockatoos  
In Limestone Avenue,  
As white as limestone,  
Are digging up the lawns.

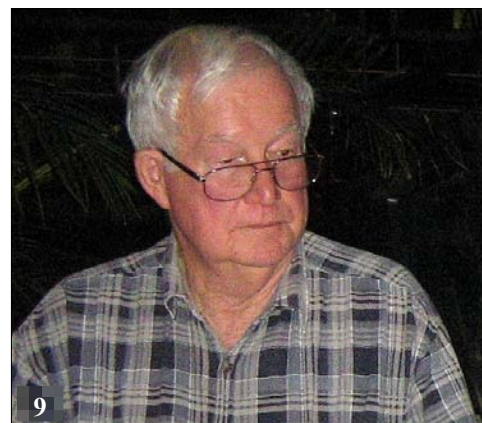
What do they find?

Grubs as white as limestone  
Tasty flesh, good winter food,  
Before the fruits of spring,  
After the seeds and nuts of autumn.

**Fiona MacDonald Brand, 2014**



# Your NPA committee 2014–15



1. Rod Griffiths, President and Convenor Environment Sub-committee
2. Sonja Lenz, Secretary
3. Bernard Morvell, Minutes Secretary
4. Chris Emery, Treasurer
5. Mike Smith, Committee member and Outings Convenor
6. Christine Goonrey, Immediate Past President
7. Esther Gallant, Committee member
8. Steven Forst, Committee member
9. George Heinsohn, Committee member
10. Judy Kelly, Committee member
11. Graham Scully, Committee member and Convenor Promotion and Engagement Sub-committee



Photos 1 to 10 by Max Lawrence, Photo 11 by Sabine Friedrich



# The Cotter River Ordinance, that other anniversary

On World Environment Day 2014, the one hundredth anniversary of the Cotter River Ordinance, and the approaching thirtieth anniversary of the declaration of Namadgi National Park, were marked by a field day for the local media at Gudgenby Cottage within the national park. With weather conditions favourable for helicopter flights over the nearby areas, the resulting still and video photos made good viewing on WIN that evening and in the *Canberra Times* on the following morning, some close-ups of Wedge-tailed Eagles being a bonus. John Thistleton covered the event for the *Canberra Times* in an article titled 'On a natural high: celebrating 30 years of Namadgi' while in interviews for WIN Television, National Parks Association life member Fiona Brand traced the developments that culminated in the declaration of the park and association president Rod Griffiths outlined current association activities and directions.

In his remarks introducing the day's proceedings, Brett McNamara, Regional Manager, National Parks and Catchments, drew attention to the significance of the 1914 *Cotter River Ordinance* as being the first legislation directed specifically to the protection of the Cotter and its catchment, an area that continues to be central to Canberra's water supply and since 1984 a core part of Namadgi. I was intrigued by this 100-year-old document and thought that readers may also be interested.

## Siting the National Capital: water the key

Seen through today's eyes this ordinance may appear as a moderate and overdue measure, but it marked a significant step in the evolution of a defined and protected water source for the emerging capital city. After years of energetic debate the *Seat of Government Act* 1904, passed in August of that year, provided that the seat of government territory should be located in New South Wales within 17 miles of Dalgety and comprise 900 square miles. However, this was by no means the end of the matter and vigorous challenges to this decision followed, the key issues being the location of the territory, its size and the adequacy of the potential water supplies. After some four years, new legislation making a Yass-Canberra site

### THE TERRITORY FOR THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT

No. 2 of 1914

#### AN ORDINANCE

#### For the Purpose of Preventing the Pollution of the Cotter River.

Be it ordained by the Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, acting with the advice of the Federal Executive Council, in pursuance of the powers conferred by the *Seat of Government Acceptance Act 1909* and the *Seat of Government (Administration) Act 1910*, as follows:-

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the *Cotter River Ordinance 1914*.

2. (1) No person shall, without the permission in writing of the Administrator (proof whereof shall lie upon him), fish for any fish, or use any device for taking fish, in any waters comprised in the area described in the Schedule to this Ordinance.

Penalty; Ten pounds or imprisonment for one month.

(2) In this section the word "taking" includes catching and all other means by which fish may be procured from the water.

(3) Any person who appears to be acting in contravention of subsection (1) of this section shall, on request by any person thereto authorized by the Administrator, and on production of such authority, give his name and place of residence; and any person who refuses to comply with such request, or who gives a false name or place of residence, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding Five pounds.

3. No person shall without the permission in writing of the Administrator (proof whereof shall lie upon him), camp or picnic upon the area described in the Schedule to this Ordinance.

Penalty: Twenty pounds or imprisonment for three months.

[Then follows the Schedule, the date, Twenty-fourth day of June, 1914, and endorsement by the Governor-General, R. M. FERGUSON.]

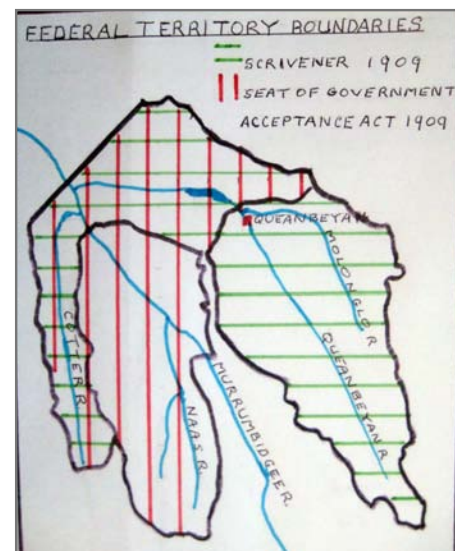
*Note. The Schedule runs to 16 lines but in essence describes the catchment of the Cotter from its junction with the Murrumbidgee southwards to the vicinity of Mount Scabby.*

of 900 square miles the seat of government was enacted and became law on 14 December 1908.

## Determining the Capital catchments

The Commonwealth then charged surveyor Charles Scrivener to make more detailed proposals for the Federal Capital Territory. These formed the basis for the selection of the specific Canberra site within the Yass-Canberra area and also, in subsequent negotiations with New South Wales, the boundaries of the Territory. Scrivener argued that all the river catchments affecting the city should be under Commonwealth control and proposed a Federal Territory that included the Cotter, Molonglo and Queanbeyan catchments and the town of Queanbeyan. The sketch map shows this 'molar tooth' suggestion. Should this proposal have been adopted the shape of Canberra's water supply may have been very different from the form it now has and Namadgi National Park, if created, is unlikely to be in the now familiar area. In the event, negotiations with New South Wales resulted in the Queanbeyan and Molonglo catchments and the town of Queanbeyan remaining within New South Wales while the Federal Territory gained the Cotter, Gudgenby, Naas and Paddy's River catchments. The *Commonwealth Seat of Government Acceptance Act 1909* and the complementary NSW Act were passed before the end of that year and the *Seat of Government (Administration) Act* in late 1910, leading to the Federal Capital Territory taking effect from 1 January 1911. The boundaries set then, remain.

(continued next page)



# Press Release: A hundred years of Parks and Conservation

History tells us that without the Cotter Catchment, Canberra would not be positioned on the limestone plains. The role water and importantly water catchment played was decisive in determining the location of not only the Federal Capital Territory as it was known, but the physical location and shape of the border for the national capital. The underlying philosophy of catchment management still resonates today through our management of Namadgi National Park as the Cotter Catchment provides over 80 per cent of Canberra's and Queanbeyan's potable water supply.

Today as land custodians we are indeed walking in the footsteps of those who foresaw the vital role the Cotter would play in the life of the national capital. In 1914, a significant piece of legislation was passed—the *Cotter River Ordinance*. This was one of the first pieces of legislation passed for the fledgling Territory designed to protect and conserve the values of the Cotter Catchment. For 70 years, until self government, the Commonwealth retained control of the Cotter Catchment.

To enforce the ordinance Rangers were appointed.

Ranger duties were focussed on preventing pollution of the Cotter River

and included enforcing restrictions on recreational activities, overseeing the passage of stock through the catchment, undertaking fire management and controlling pest species such as rabbits and wild brumbies.

The isolated nature, location and independence of the ranger position suited persons with a high-country pastoral background and attracted long tenures—only three people occupied the position as resident Cotter Ranger in its fifty-nine year existence. The first Cotter Ranger was Jack Maxwell appointed in 1927 until 1953, followed by Jack Silk (1953–1956) and then Tom Gregory (1956–1983).

The original Cotter Homestead predated the declaration of Canberra and belonged to Thomas and Hannah Oldfield. It was built in 1893. Today a single poplar tree denotes the location of this historic site. In 1913, Oldfield's Cotter Homestead was acquired by the Commonwealth as accommodation for the Cotter Catchment Ranger. Ranger Jack Maxwell lived in this homestead until 1930 when a section of Oldfield's Cotter Homestead was 'relocated' to the western side of the Cotter River, closer to firewood. Jack Maxwell lived in this relocated Hut for the next 23 years. The Cotter Hut we know today was then built in 1960 and was occupied by Tom

Gregory as the resident Ranger for 23 years.

In 1984, Gudgenby Nature Reserve and the Cotter Catchment were consolidated to form Namadgi National Park. The vision of a national park for the nation's capital was finally realised.

It could be seen that the *Cotter River Ordinance* 1914 laid the foundations for the Parks and Conservation Service as we know it today given its emphasis on conservation land management. It was a result of this legislation that the historic Bulls Head forestry village, Mt Franklin toilet and Pryor's Hut are today located out of the ACT and in NSW so as not to pollute the Cotter catchment.

It is reassuring that some 100 years later Rangers still play a critical role in protecting the natural and cultural values of the majestic Cotter Catchment. As land custodians today, we walk in the footsteps of our forebears.

**Brett McNamara**  
Regional Manager

*5th June 2014. On the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of the declaration of Namadgi National Park, and 100 years since the passing of the Cotter River Ordinance of 1914.*

## The Cotter River Ordinance, that other anniversary *(continued)*

### The crucial Cotter

With the area of the National Capital now determined and the basic legal and administrative structures in place, planning and building the new capital could proceed. The design competition was launched in April 1911 with the results being announced in May of the following year. Work on the Cotter Dam, the first storage dam, and the

associated powerhouse and pipeline essential for the city's water supply commenced in 1912 and was substantially finished in 1915.

The ordinance that has just turned one hundred had its origins in this development period primarily to protect the quality of the city's water supply but remains to mark the need to preserve these natural areas.

**Syd Comfort**

*Left. Fiona Brand being interviewed by John Thistleton of the Canberra Times.*

*Right. Rod Griffiths being interviewed by WIN TV.*

*Photos supplied by Syd Comfort.*





# Plenty more frogs in the gene pool?

The June 2014 general meeting was a very special occasion for both NPA and its guest speaker Amy Macris. Amy is the first holder of NPA's Honours Year Scholarship for students at the ANU's Fenner School of Environment and Society. The topic of her thesis, and her talk to us, was *'The impact of chytridiomycosis on genetic diversity in alpine tree frogs'*.

Chytridiomycosis has been labelled the 'worst wildlife disease', and threatens hundreds of frog species worldwide. Amy's project investigates whether genetic diversity is lower in populations of alpine tree frogs exposed to this fungal disease, compared with unexposed populations.

Amy gave us an excellent presentation aided by a good PowerPoint display that managed very successfully to guide us through the quite daunting maze of complicated scientific nomenclature involved.

It seems that, despite their name, which suggests they dwell in treetops,



the subject species are indeed much like other frogs, dwelling in alpine swamps and wetlands. Also like other frogs and amphibians generally they have been affected by chytridiomycosis, often severely, since at least the early 1980s. This condition is caused by the fungal pathogen *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (Bd for short).

In south-eastern Australia, Bd has led to severe declines in alpine tree frog populations, and to local extinctions. But some populations have managed to avoid exposure. These include sites at Grey Mare in Kosciuszko National Park and Bullfight in Victoria. Sites included in the study that have been exposed to Bd include Mulligans Flat and Orroral in the ACT; Kiandra, Three Mile, Ogilvies, Eucumbene and Sponars in NSW; and Dinner Plain in Victoria.

Amy's study involved collection and analysis of DNA samples from populations at each of the sites, starting with hand trap calling frogs. When asked to she gave a most

impressive call rendition and was rewarded with spontaneous applause.

When all the analysis was complete, it showed that there were in fact no significant differences in genetic diversity between the exposed and unexposed populations. This suggests that, while the populations declined, they remained sufficiently large to maintain their diversity, with high mortality being compensated with recruitment.

This was in fact a most promising result. It shows that genetic diversity is not a concern, and management needs to concentrate on population level issues, such as habitat protection. It is also a promising sign for other species persisting with endemic Bd infection. If genetic diversity is retained, this may eventually promote the evolution of resistance to Bd. Recolonisation of areas lost to tree frogs is seen as unlikely.

After her presentation and questions from a very interested audience, Amy was warmly thanked by President Rod, who presented her with a copy of NPA's Namadgi book. She then joined us for supper.

**Max Lawrence**

*Alpine tree frog, Litoria verreauxii alpina.  
Photo from Amy Macris.*



## NPA scholarship

*Bhiamie Eckford-Williamson (centre) with Rod Griffiths and Chris Emery on the occasion of his award of the second NPA Scholarship. Bhiamie's thesis will address the roles and responsibilities of young people in Aboriginal environmental ranger programs. In the ACT the establishment of the Murumbung Yarung Murra Rangers has given the opportunity for Traditional Owners to make their contribution to the ongoing management of our National Park and nature reserves.*

*Photo by Sabine Friedrich*





# News from the Friends of Glenburn

There are three important things to report from The Friends of Glenburn.

## Capping the walls of Colliers

The most important is that the capping of the walls of Colliers Homestead ruins is now finished. This will protect the walls from rain and wind erosion and should extend their life by some 50 years or more.

For this, many thanks go to senior ranger Dean Darcy and to several hard-working volunteers. They worked three full days mixing, carrying and spreading mortar. Dean is a qualified bricklayer and he provided the expertise required. Thanks Dean and the enthusiastic volunteers.

## Correspondence with the ACT Heritage Council

My correspondence with the ACT Heritage Council continues.

In response to a request for an update on progress, I was advised that the

several heritage nominations in the Glenburn/Burbong Historic Precinct do not rate as a priority even to be considered this calendar year. One of the nominations, covering most of the Glenburn sites, is 15 years old!

In my reply, I expressed sadness this state of affairs. I went on to say that The Friends of Glenburn and the ACT Parks Service have put a lot of time and money into the area and it was about time that the Heritage Council did its bit. It is long overdue.

I also repeated my offer to show members of the council the sites. I do not think that any of the council have seen them.

I look forward to the council's response.

## Possible new interpretive signs and a walking trail

With Max Lawrence's help, I have prepared, for the Parks and Conservation Service, material on several possible new interpretative signs and the route of a walking trail through the Glenburn/Burbong Historic Precinct.

The signage relates to the precinct overall and:

- the Glenburn shearing shed complex
- the charcoal kilns site
- the Kowen School site
- Curleys Homestead site.

There are already interpretative signs at the Colverwell graves, Glenburn Homestead (inside and out),



Colliers Homestead ruins and orchard, and at Coppins Homestead ruins.

I am confident that the Parks Service and The Friends of Glenburn, with possible further assistance from the National Parks Association of the ACT will, in the not too distant future, have developed a most interesting, informative and attractive tribute to the early European settlers in the Glenburn/Burbong area, mainly in the second half of the 1800s. They worked hard, educated their children and knew how to have a good party from time to time.

The small rural community has long disappeared. But I am sure that Queanbeyan and Canberra residents will increasingly value the structures that remain.

**Col McAlister**

*The expert trowellers at Colliers Homestead, Senior Ranger Dean Darcy (above) and Matthew Higgins (left).*

*Photos by Max Lawrence*



## ACT Parks Murumbung Yurung Murra Cultural Tour

### An invitation to members of the National Parks Association (NPA)

**Tidbinbilla, Saturday, 20 September**

**9:30 am to 12:30 pm**

In recognition of the National Parks Association (NPA) involvement in establishing Namadgi National Park and the ACT Parks and Conservation Service 30 years ago, the ACT Parks Aboriginal Rangers invite NPA members and their families on a free guided walk and talk at Tidbinbilla on Saturday 20 September.

Gain an insight into the cultural landscape of the region and learn about some of the significant heritage sites, plant resources and Aboriginal land management practices on a Murumbung Yurung Murra Cultural Tour at Tidbinbilla. Join ACT Parks Aboriginal Rangers on a short guided walk to Hanging Rock and the Wetlands, and participate in the interactive activities and discussions round the campfire at the Ribbon Gum amphitheatre.

**Booking** and other details can be found on the NPA website: [www.npaact.org.au/eventitems.php](http://www.npaact.org.au/eventitems.php)



# Kamchatka: the far east of the Russian Far East

At the Annual General Meeting our guest speaker was life member Adrienne Nicholson who gave an inspiring presentation of her trip last year to *Kamchatka: the far east of the Russian Far East*. Kamchatka is the sub-Arctic north-south extending peninsula at the east of the Russian mainland and according to Adrienne difficult to get to, but well worth the effort.

As part of the Pacific 'Ring of Fire' it has many volcanoes, some recently very active, and Adrienne showed us many lava flows—one red hot flowing down the mountain not far from their accommodation—cinder cones, thermally active areas (with a geothermal power station for the main city Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky), steam vents, sulfur deposits, boiling mud,

volcanic bombs, ropey lava and lots of volcanic ash.

In contrast she also showed us colourful wildflower meadows, tundra with dwarf willows and many different types of berries and fungi as well as forests with a variety of birch, alder and larch species.

Fascinating were her slides of a multitude of strikingly coloured caterpillars and other insects; of playful marmots and brown bears in the distance. Moose and beavers are being re-introduced after having been hunted to extinction. Adrienne also gave us a glimpse of the folklore of the indigenous peoples. Photos of this exotic destination enthralled her audience and it was 10:00 pm before the meeting closed.

Sonja Lenz



Indigenous dancers.



Club-moss mountain heather.



A beautiful lunch stop.



Black capped marmot.

Photos Adrienne Nicholson

## Burbidge-Chippendale spring wildflower walk Black Mountain

Saturday 11 October 9.30 – 12 noon: Black Mountain Wildflower Ramble. Belconnen Way entry to Black Mountain Nature Reserve, just before Caswell Drive turnoff (look for balloons). An easy guided walk following the tradition set by Nancy Burbidge and George Chippendale. This will be a social occasion: BYO morning tea, hat, sunblock, water and stout shoes.

Please **book on**  
[friendsofblackmountain@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofblackmountain@gmail.com).  
Contact Linda Beveridge on 6262 5551



The six-wheel drive 'truck/bus'.



# First exhibition at new art space

TAMS Press Release, 23 July 2014

An exhibition of artworks by the National Parks Association of the ACT, and Ngunnawal paintings and artefacts, at the Namadgi Visitor Centre, celebrates the opening of the new Namadgi Community Access Exhibition Space.

National Parks and Catchments, Business Operations & Visitor Services, Deputy Manager, Jennifer Griffiths, said the exhibition, which opened on Thursday 24 July 2014, was the first of many great shows to be held in the revamped space.

“Our old conference room at the Namadgi Visitor Centre has been converted into the Namadgi Community Access Exhibition Space. The space will be used to host exhibitions for a variety of indigenous and non-indigenous artists,” Ms Griffiths said.

“The plan is to have a new exhibition every three months so the public can have the opportunity to experience art in the natural setting provided by Namadgi National Park. We will be working closely with the Tuggeranong Arts Centre in organising our exhibitions.

“We are encouraging the public to come and see this new show and celebrate the new use for this space. Selected works of art will be for sale.

“Our next exhibition will open in October this year to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Namadgi National Park.”



*Photos provided by  
Rod Griffiths*

# Country

...through gaps in silence, what  
made itself granite goes home.  
– Les Murray

It's close in, that granite country. The hills of Namadgi. It's my country in a sense. Adopted.

Out there somewhere in the remote centre. Geological field work. I have the same first name as a local man who died recently. So people avoid my name. I'm *Kuminjay* (substitute name). They're curious about me. Someone asks where my country is. I have to think quickly. In this Aboriginal context I need to know my country. Belong to a place.

I do define it. The granite hills of Namadgi. My local hills. And when I get back home to Canberra I start to walk those hills. Purposefully. To get to know them. Camp in them. To make them my country. Well, they say that if you stay in a place long enough, the spirits of the land will talk to you.

listening ...  
wind in the trees  
and the song  
of unseen birds ...  
whistlers ... warblers ... screechers

When I leave work I walk more often. Especially the Wednesday walks. Mostly in the Namadgi National Park. With a peer group of fit retirees. And almost anywhere in Namadgi is stunningly beautiful.

grey granite boulders  
tinged with orange sunlight  
in a wild forest  
of silver gums  
and gold flowering pea

But it changes after the 2003 bushfires. For a year or two there is bushfire ash. Clear walking but desolate. And then regrowth of shrubs and trees. Ten years after the fires, regrowth is dense. Head high. Unpleasant to walk through.

in and out  
the granite tors  
pushing  
through the regrowth  
stumbling ... tripping

And now I'm not fit enough for the Wednesday walks. Will I bushwalk again? Will I get back to my country? Or will I, like many of the brothers out there, have to use a landcruiser? Get some whitefella to drive me?

Gerry Jacobson



## WANTED

### NPA Bulletin Editor

After more than seven years and 29 editions in the Editor's chair this bloke has decided it's time to give someone else a go.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the job, and heartily recommend others to get involved. Ed, Adrienne and Hazel are a great team to work with. They must be—they've put up with me for so long. And we've got an excellent crew of contributors that never fail to deliver good stories and photos for each issue. All in all, a beaut thing to be part of.

While it is a big ask to expect someone to commit to the job permanently, we do have a couple—plus me—who are prepared to do it on a turn-about basis. I suspect this is the way to go in future if our little rag is to thrive and prosper under new blood with new ideas.

Photo. Adrienne, Max and Ed still smiling as a finished Bulletin goes out to members.



To this end we now have a pretty comprehensive 'Procedures Manual' that we hope will make the learning curve much easier for newcomers to climb. The very first task for a new Editor should be to come up with a better title than 'Procedures Manual'. Ed is also beavering away on a Style Manual that should help us to consistently produce a professional quality *Bulletin*.

Interested? Join the rush to contact Kevin McCue, convenor of NPA's Publications Subcommittee. Kevin's contact details are on Page 23.

The pay is lousy (but there are rich other rewards).

Max



## Trailrider opportunities

Agreement has just been reached between NPA, Parks and Conservation Service and Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) to host a demonstration of the Trailrider to a wide range of individuals and organizations on the 19th of November.

Training will be arranged prior to the demonstration for volunteer sherpas by CVA for around 15 volunteers drawn from CVA, NPA and possibly from other bushwalking groups. Expressions of interest in the training course can be sent to Graham Scully  
scullymob@southernphone.com.au

## Member Survey

We in the NPA ACT, like most other environmental organizations, are facing many challenges in the current political climate where protections for the environment are being threatened on a daily basis. To more effectively meet these challenges we are conducting a membership survey to help the committee become more aware of the needs and skills of our members and to garner your views on our effectiveness and changes we could make.

We are hoping for a good response as your information will provide us with vital information and ideas on how we can best work together to operate and develop our wonderful organisation. A summary of the results will be published in a later *Bulletin*.



# Kimberley reflections 2014

Ash and smoke then  
Clear BLUE skies.  
Deep clear water,  
Refreshing cascades,  
Amazing reflections.

Glowing red cliffs at sun rise and set,  
Milky Way, Southern Cross, full moon.  
Dragonflies: small and red, large and dark.  
Rainbow bee-eaters swooping over water,  
Pairs of corellas in high synchronised flight,  
Circling wedgies and black kites,  
Noisy cockatoos and corellas,  
Little bird with dawn solo.

**GREEN ANTS!!**

Pandanus clogged streams,  
Sticky spinifex, prickly pandanus,  
Head-high cane grass.  
Leafless trees with large red flowers,  
Sweet Grevillea nectar.

Cozy campsites,  
Smokey fires and blackened billies.  
Rock platforms for walking and camping,  
Cliffs to climb and streams to wade,  
Sandy beaches for resting.  
Sacred chasm,  
Ancient rock art.  
Body and soul rejuvenated!

**Esther Gallant**





# Ginninderra Falls parkland proposals: an update

In 2011 a North Canberra community group, the Ginninderra Falls Association, developed a proposal to create an outstanding regional park just north of the ACT border around the confluence of Ginninderra Creek and the Murrumbidgee River that included Ginninderra falls. The association's aims were:

- to restore public access to the Ginninderra Creek and Murrumbidgee River corridors and Ginninderra Falls
- to create a sustainable public park for recreational, educational and ecological purposes.

For several years now the Riverview Group urban development company has been preparing plans for the West Belconnen township that involve housing construction in NSW south of Ginninderra Creek and adjacent land in the ACT bordering the Murrumbidgee River corridor. Over the past few months the Riverview Group has held planning workshops and cross-border government discussions to finalise planning proposals for the development in both ACT and NSW. These have now been completed and a Cross Border Services Committee that included NSW and ACT government and local authorities has, for the time being, been discontinued.

Riverview Group planning proposal documents for land use rezoning in NSW and ACT are now complete and have been submitted to ACT and NSW Government planning departments for comment. Once issues raised by government departments are addressed,

these documents will be made available for public comment and feedback prior to rezoning approval being considered.

The Ginninderra Falls Association maintains that current maps in the public arena for the footprint of the West Belconnen Urban Development indicate that the parkland along the Murrumbidgee River and Ginninderra Creek corridors is compromised and inadequate for long-term viable and attractive public parkland development. The association contends that it is very important that the urban footprint be revised to include wider river and creek parkland corridors.

When planning proposal documents become available to the public, the Ginninderra Falls Association urges community groups to make representations to the ACT and NSW planning authorities to ensure that the river and creek parkland corridors are at least 300m wide along all stretches of the waterways and that urban development does not intrude into areas with significant natural heritage.

During an assessment of the area in 2013, the NSW Parks and Wildlife Service conducted an investigation into the feasibility of developing a national park centred on the Lower Ginninderra Falls and adjacent Murrumbidgee corridor. Although the NSW Government was unwilling to fund a national park whose principal beneficiaries would be the residents of the ACT, the National Parks and Wildlife Service acknowledged that:

Based on population projections for Canberra to 2050, current visitor estimates suggest that a national park for the Ginninderra Falls area could be in excess of 50,000 visitors per annum.

The Ginninderra Falls area of interest contains significant scenic as well as natural and heritage values. The area of interest has a range of recreational opportunities for the increasing population of the ACT and Yass Valley Council areas. Establishment of any reserve would require significant commitment from the NSW, ACT and local governments, the community and potentially private enterprise.

The Ginninderra Falls Association contends that there are compelling arguments for strong cooperation between the ACT and NSW governments, together with the Yass Valley Council, to create a regional park that will preserve an area of outstanding natural beauty along parts of the Ginninderra Creek–Murrumbidgee corridor, including the Ginninderra Falls, and greatly enhancing the region's tourist potential. This development will create commercial opportunities that will significantly improve the value of the surrounding area as a focus for cross-border enterprises with links to existing vineyards and broad-acre developments.

**Doug Finlayson**  
**Ginninderra Falls Association**  
**July 2014**

## Bettong numbers on the rise

ACT Parks and Conservation Service Director Daniel Iglesias says recent population monitoring at Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary suggests that the number of Eastern Bettongs (*Bettongia gaimardi*) in the reserve is increasing as expected.

Eastern Bettongs were reintroduced to Mulligans Flat as part of a joint project run by the Australian National University, CSIRO, the Tasmanian Government, the Capital Woodland and Wetlands Conservation Trust, and the ACT Government.

'About half of the 60 adults and 29 pouch young were released into the Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary and half were housed at Tidbinbilla Nature

Reserve. Since then more than 40 bettongs have been bred at Tidbinbilla, with some released at Mulligans Flat', said Environment and Sustainable Development Director-General Dorte Ekelund.

'The first full population monitoring project since the bettongs were reintroduced was completed by the Australian National University with the ACT Government and volunteers over the last few weeks, and it looks like there are more than 90 bettongs at Mulligans Flat. A good number of younger bettongs were also recorded.

'This is very encouraging, as it suggests the population is increasing as expected. Reintroduction projects are

notoriously difficult to establish so we are very excited the population is doing so well. This is a testament to the smart work of all the partners.'

*City News, 13 June 2014*



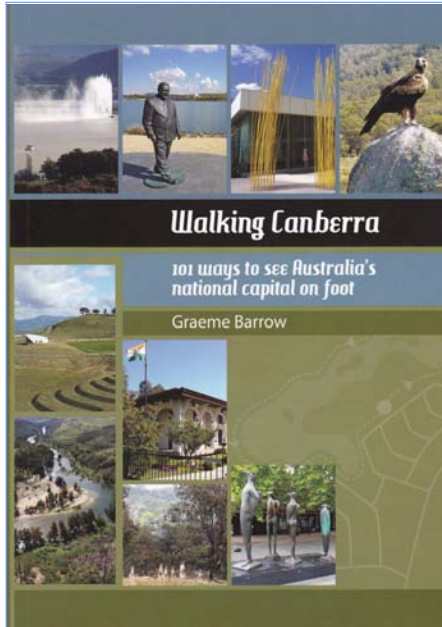


# Book review

## Walking Canberra: 101 ways to see Australia's national capital on foot

Graeme Barrow, Dagraja Press, Canberra, 2014

160 pages, RRP \$29.95



Gungaharra Creek, Scrivener Hill, The Valley Ponds, Gubur Dhaura, Hill Reserve, Palmerville, Goodwin Hill, Palmer Trig, Stranger Pond, McQuoids Hill. All are places in Canberra you may have never heard of, yet they are among the 101 destinations detailed in Graeme Barrow's latest publication. If you think you know the city, think again: it is evolving in fascinating ways.

This is not a pamphlet but a beautiful book, designed by Mariana Rollgejser who also contributed so brilliantly to NPA's 2011 *Namadgi* masterpiece. Sixty maps and almost 200 photos are included. Each walk is numbered and listed on pp 2–3, and is then easily found in the text as walk numbers appear

prominently on every page. The emphasis is on new walks or new things to see, and also on short walks, a feature established in *Exploring Tidbinbilla on Foot* (2009). It delves intently into the innards of Canberra and its suburbs. Seventy-eight walks are graded 'Easy' with 20 'Moderate' and three 'Hard'. The longest is 8km. Two take three hours while the remaining 99 are almost equally divided into less than an hour, or 1–2 hours.

About 17 of the walks appeared in Graeme's *Walking Canberra's hills and rivers* (2006) but a few old favourites, such as Tuggeranong Hill and Mt Arawang, are absent. Cooleman Ridge perhaps could have been included as it looks new with its now prolific display of hardenbergia and that cute pond at the Kathner Street end. I would also have added a Charnwood Homestead to Mt Rogers walk. However, the author, seeking to reach a target (100 walks were required to match the original 2013 centenary concept of the book), fudged a little: Walk 43 is similar to 51, likewise Walks 89 and 90. Nine walks were lassoed into an 'Out of town' section to make up numbers, although only four are significantly separate from the city.

Canberra Centenary (CC) Trail, opened late 2013, is only briefly referred to. Much of the CC pre-existed anyhow. However, the new One Tree Hill section, reputedly the best of the CC, features in Walk 94.

Each walk is located with reference to Gregory's 2014 street directory: this is now available in UBD Gregory's *Compact Canberra* (the 2015 glovebox version of the Canberra street map) which perpetuates Gregory's page and grid references.

The author has chosen a 'Top 10' among the walks and has included a wide variety. Some will find the public art walks of greatest interest. For me it is

Canberra's artificial lakes and ponds which star. (Graeme discusses them in Walk 9.) Water is being slowed down everywhere before heading west. When I lived in Perth I found its numerous suburban lakes a delight. In Canberra much of the stormwater used to speed its way down concrete channels. All credit to those responsible for the ponding program, which comes at great expense. Woden waits expectantly for Yarralumla Creek's conversion.

Being unfamiliar with Gungaharra Creek (derived from Gungahlin and Ginninderra), I headed for Franklin to path test Walks 9 and 10. They took an hour to complete: the guide worked well and while the ponds, birdlife and vegetation were as described, it was a revelation to see the extraordinary development of the surrounding suburb. Enthused, I later completed nearby Walk 8, Gubur Dhaura hill: apart from the views, which are rightly described as sensational, there are lovely old Apple Boxes and loads of Aboriginal and European history. Two Superb Parrots seen. Whole new world out there.

Do we need another Canberra walks book? After all, Marion Stuart's picturesque *Canberra's best bush, park & city walks* (Woodslane Press) is only 4 years old. More than half its 46 walks are covered, one way or another, in Graeme's book. So for some readers, maybe not, but Graeme Barrow has done excellent work, up to the usual high standard. The research that has gone into the book is easily overlooked because it is effortlessly displayed. And, yes, the author still gets very grumpy about traffic noise.

Turn off your screens, walk out the door and you will soon find yourself in the Bush Capital's greatest asset. *Walking Canberra* will be an ideal companion.

Brian Slee



## NPA CHRISTMAS PARTY



Sunday, 14 December  
from 11:30am

Contact: NPA committee members

This year's NPA Christmas Party will be at Gudgenby Cottage, Namadgi National Park. Turn in to the right at sign on the road to Yankee Hat carpark.

All the usual features; bring your picnic lunch and Christmas cheer — nibbles, Christmas cake and some drinks will be provided.

Check *Burning Issues* for details.



# The 'false' beeches



*Deciduous Beech at Crater Lake, Cradle Mountain.*

'She's made a mistake; if that word isn't *Orthofagus*, surely it's *Northofagus*?' I thought to myself.

But a mate—he was doing botany—assured me the teacher was correct, and explained that *Nothofagus* meant 'false' or 'bastard' beech. 'Alright, why is it false?' 'Because when the botanists of Europe like Linnaeus started describing plants in a formal way they knew almost nothing about Southern Hemisphere plants, so when these were studied a name was needed which made the connection.' 'Oh'.

But there was still something unfair there. I'd grown up in Tasmania with myrtles often present. I'd also recently started bushwalking, and there was nothing 'false' about that majestic cathedral of myrtles beside Lake St Clair nor that scratchy dwarf form we pushed through to reach the gaunt mountains above. The teacher had been looking at the dried plant specimens collected on my walks, and called that one *N. cunninghamii*. Then another surprise; she said the crinkled leaf collected from the snarl we'd struggled through on the slopes of Cradle Plateau was the same genus, and called *fagus* or tanglefoot, *N. gunnii*. I'm sure that, at the time, we used the alternative nuance of *Notho*.

Around then too I got a thrill when helping dig drains through the sandy plains near home I noticed some leaves in a dark layer. They were surely original, of myrtle! This was later

confirmed and their age put at over 50000 years; I was amazed but it was but one step in my development of a greater sense of Earth time.

Was it a couple of years later the person I was chatting with took an unexpected interest in that story—it turned out she was 'doing' a PhD on myrtles. So I learnt they also occur in a few pockets in Victoria, there's another species in NSW and a few more in New Guinea, New Caledonia, New Zealand and South America. That reminded me of the question: How could plants occurring on these widely separated southern continents be related not only to each other, but to the even more remote 'true' beeches (family: Fagaceae), when highly adaptable plants like eucalypts and wattles hardly made it out of Australia?

Fortunately, many before me had asked the same questions—and got into awful (academic) arguments about one of the proposed answers: that maybe continental drift does happen! Alfred Wegener (1880–1930) and others had proposed that idea decades earlier but been rubbished, and its opponents had not

readily retrieved those theses from the rubbish bin. In that debate Tasmanian geology and vegetation, and *Nothofagus* in particular, were playing a key role, and the contra position dissipated quickly after the late '50s as reports came in about fossils of *Nothofagus* in Antarctica and of spreading rifts along the ocean floors—the continents were indeed moving. Now, by picturing those movements in reverse you could recreate Gondwanaland, and there the *Nothofagus* distributions are linked on one long stretch of coast! Reverse further (but fast-forward through decades of research) and there's the trail apparently linking it to the northern beeches.

As a postscript, it's widely accepted (e.g. by the Angiosperm Phylogeny Group) that the southern beeches should be placed in a botanic family of their own. It's also probably the antecedent of Fagaceae.

Back on the ground in Tasmania, optimal rainfall and protection allow pure stands of ancient trees to reach over 40 metres. With less rainfall, eucalypts become dominant and myrtles a part of an understorey that includes endemic conifers, leatherwoods and horizontal scrub. Some of these unique occurrences have long been included in national parks and forest reservations. As well, part of the 500000 hectares to be conserved under the *Tasmanian Forests Agreement Act 2013* will add buffer zones to these as well as important new areas. However, the progress of that vision remains unsure; it was some 70000 hectares already added to the

*(continued next page)*

*Gondwanan distribution of Nothofagus, AL Poole 1987*







*Antarctic Beech, Nothofagus moorei, at Barrington Tops.*



*Deciduous Beech at Cradle Mountain.*



*Myrtle Beech, Nothofagus cunninghamii, in a Canberra Garden.*

State's World Heritage listings under the Agreement that the current federal and state governments sought to rescind, and they retain that aim despite the World Heritage Commission's rejection in June 2014 of their arguments.

At exposed altitudes myrtles survive as small dense shrubs, and fagus is often not far away. The latter can grow to a small tree but is more fire-sensitive and commonly survives only as a belt of tangled shrubs that defines the tree line. As a result its total cover is about 10 square kilometres, only a bit bigger than Lake Burley Griffin. All of its range has long been included in national parks.

Walkers who have fronted tanglefoot will remember the experience! However, it is more widely noted as Australia's only winter deciduous plant. There are a few trees and shrubs in northern Australia that are dry-season deciduous, but it is fagus that can put on a striking display. The novelty of that on this continent is muted by our regrettable preoccupation with introduced plants but

fagus has no equivalent, and many people take the opportunity to visit suitable areas in late autumn. At Mt Field near Hobart, for example, there's a Fagus Festival.

The best display I've seen is around the slopes below Cradle Mountain, but to find other spots provides a great excuse to go exploring. So it was that in late April five of us headed across the Central Plateau, only to discover that for this year's 'turn' we were a fortnight early; all we got was a scatter of yellow on some bushes, and that under often drizzly skies that hid the grand views in the area.

Yet fagus is not quite alone. In the subtropical forests of the East Coast is *N. moorei*, the Antarctic Beech. Its leaves are much larger but it is described as semi-deciduous and, in May, trees in the Australian National Botanic Gardens did exhibit some rich red branchlets. Intriguing too is the observation that none of the four *Nothofagus* species of New Zealand are deciduous, yet a few of

the 10 in South America are, and that mystery is enhanced when one learns that genetic dating indicates that both these deciduous occurrences evolved about 35 million years ago, long after Australia and South America separated from Gondwanaland. It's possible the fragile seeds somehow crossed the oceans between or that the timing may be a coincidence, but apparently neither is likely.

The story of the survival of *Nothofagus* and most other Australian plants during the last ice age, and indeed the whole of the 100 million years since the breakup of Gondwanaland, is also fascinating, but let's just note here that during recent interglacial periods myrtles also existed in the ACT area, shown by pollens in sediments at Lake George for example. However, I think it unlikely we'll see myrtles for sale in local nurseries soon, but they can be bought in Tasmania and the one in my garden seems to think climate change will make Canberra wetter again, and it's going to lead the *Nothofagus* fightback.

**Rupert Barnett**

*Photographs by Rupert Barnett*



*Deciduous Beech and Pencil Pines at Lake Wilks, Cradle Mountain.*



# Bushwalks

## Googong Dam, Bradleys Creek

**Date:** Sunday, 13 July 2014.

**Participants:** Brian Slee (Leader), Peter Anderson-Smith, Rupert Barnett, Michaela Popham, Margaret Power.

**Weather:** Frosty at first, sunny; light cold breeze.

**Leader's comments:** In March, Neville Esau led a walk near London Bridge where Googong Dam begins backing up. An NPWS pamphlet available at the carpark showed tracks radiating from the dam itself, 8km north of there. So when a gap appeared in the NPA program, I offered to lead a walk to Bradleys Creek. Only problem was that, like most Canberrans (apart from fishermen and paddlers), I knew nothing about the place.

Bradleys flows into the dam (formerly into the Queanbeyan River) from scrunched up hills east of the dam—Queanbeyan escarpment. On an exploratory walk, once I reached the creek, I found no grand destination. Nearby 'Hell Hole', shown on Mike Smith's map, was elusive and no one knew anything about it. So this was a track to nowhere in particular. Yet, for all that, the walk proved satisfying and invigorating on one of mid-winter's few sparkling days.

Anyone approaching the dam will be surprised to find a McMansion suburb now muscling up to the entrance gate. Regrettably, it is also visible from the walk. We had piled into Rupert's Forester at Kingston station at 8:30am and departed from the downstream



Googong Dam. Photo Rupert Barnett

picnic area soon after 9. After following 'Black Wallaby' track above Queanbeyan River's cascades, with views to the dam wall, we headed south to Googong lookout, passing cute roos on a frosty hill. Weedy with verbascum and horehound but commendable efforts are being made to revegetate the promontory. Wattle and Indigofera showing first blooms.

From there we headed east and followed the old fire trail, climbing 200m steeply through trees onto the escarpment, before turning south onto the main trail. Lovely views west across rippling water to the snowy Brindabellas. It was up-and-down on the ridge from there to Gorman Trig (879m). Morning tea 11am. As Margaret observed of the oddly placed trig structure, it appeared to have slid down the hill into the trees, leaving behind the marker peg.

All altitude gained was then lost in descending to Bradleys Creek, passing grazing land to the east. Healthy young eucalypts are proliferating in the forests. We continued up the hill on the other side of the creek, finding a loggy refuge out of the breeze for lunch, overlooking the valley. Sunny and nice.

On the return trip we stayed on the main trail, descending steeply to water's edge—a wooden bench located half way down allows for a break in the journey and for spectacular Cinemascope viewing. Wow! After making our way along the edge of the dam, we took the shortcut from the lookout turnoff back to the picnic area, arriving 3:15pm. 15 km. Anyone know of a 'destination' in the area?

**Brian Slee**

## Tate West Ridge

**Date:** Sunday 20 July 2014.

**Participants:** Brian Slee (Leader), Peter Anderson-Smith, Margaret Power, Max Smith.

**Weather:** Clear sky; cold and windy in exposed areas.

**Leader's comments:** Australian snow is 'wet'. So when the powdery dry stuff falls in large quantities over wide areas, the bunnies get excited. Snowy Mountains trips take longer—like 15 minutes through Jindabyne on our way down, 12 minutes through Cooma on return. Still, the traffic flowed, and apart from dodging a roo near Michelago, we had an uneventful journey.

As NPA's first snowshoe walk to Tate

West Ridge, this was to be 13km, and a 400m climb, on a round trip from Guthega. With a blue sky and solid snow, conditions were excellent, except for a cold, unrelenting headwind on Guthega Ridge. Once on Tate West Ridge, we confined ourselves to its eastern edge: on a still day the extra 2km circuit to its outer limits would be a possibility. 'Next time' perhaps.

Guthega has a new chairlift; would it add to parking pressure? Our 6:10am departure from Torrens aboard Max's Outback would hopefully be early enough. Yes, near full at 9am, but parking next to the Pondage service road suited our purposes.

It was sago, not powder, snow on the

initial slog up to Guthega Ridge. Once we levelled out, any thought of powder disappeared: the surface was studded with knobs and knuckly lumps of ice. Skeletal Snow Gums, left over from the 2003 fires, bore great chunks in weird, wind-swept encrustations. Similarly the granite boulders. We plodded for an hour into the wind, stopping for morning tea on an open slope that was, mercifully, wind-free. Fine views west to Tate and Gills Knobs.

From there we kept right of Guthega Trig and descended to Windy Creek, north of Consett Stephen Pass. In contradiction to its name, the western side of the creek was calm so lunch was

*(continued next page)*



# PARKWATCH

*Edited extracts from recent journals and newsletters*

## **Celebrating 35 years of sustainable bushfire management**

Established in 1979, the Nature Conservation Council (NCC) of NSW Bushfire Program has been instrumental in promoting sustainable bush fire management across the state. Through policy, advocacy and education, the Bushfire Program has been both a driving force and a respected voice in bushfire management for the past 35 years.

An integral part of the Australian ecology, bushfire is intrinsically linked to the life cycles of many species of plants and animals. This intrinsic link between fire and healthy ecosystems, however, can be broken if appropriate and naturally occurring fire regimes are disrupted. Fires that occur too frequently or intensely can kill new banksia plants before they develop fire tolerance, remove bandicoot and bristlebird habitat, and destroy tree hollows or the entire hollow-bearing tree. Conversely, fires that occur too infrequently are also capable of disrupting this synergistic relationship. Sustainable bushfire management should be underpinned by ecological principles, with ecological sustainability and the protection of life and property complementary, rather than hierarchical considerations.

One of the roles of the Bushfire Program is to ensure that these principles of ecological sustainability are met. Under the *NSW Rural Fires Act 1997* the NCC is able to nominate a representative to each of the Bushfire Management

Committees (BFMCs) across the state. These committees are responsible for preparing and regularly reviewing draft bushfire risk management plans and for evaluating and endorsing hazard-reduction burn programs proposed by land managers.

In addition to supporting representatives on BFMCs and providing interactive community workshops, the Bushfire Program also has a significant role in advocacy on bushfire policy matters. A longstanding rapport with agency representatives at all levels has resulted in ongoing collaboration in the review and development of policy. Recently, the program prepared and widely distributed a fact sheet on the existing processes available to private landowners to enable them to undertake bushfire hazard reduction on their lands. The primary objective of the program when providing input is to ensure that all policy and decisions have science and practical knowledge as their foundations.

This year marks 35 years of advocacy, education, collaboration, policy development and research by the Bush Fire Program. As the program progresses and evolves, it will continue to be one of the leading voices in ecologically sustainable bushfire management.

*Nature NSW*, Vol. 58, No. 2  
(Winter 2014)

## **NPA NSW branch news**

Far South Coast Branch members recently attended a forum organised by citizens of Narooma concerned about a local council decision to allow guns to be displayed at HuntFest 2014. The Stop

Arms Fairs in Eurobodalla (SAFE) team has begun a public awareness campaign to let locals know about a council decision that was made without proper community consultation.

Narooma is a beautiful coastal town and SAFE wants to help promote the area as a safe holiday destination for people who want to appreciate the Nature Coast and its wonderful national parks. If you would like to find out more or offer support visit the SAFE website [www.safe.websytle.com.au](http://www.safe.websytle.com.au)

*Nature NSW*, Vol. 58, No. 2  
(Winter 2014)

## **International court case**

Japan's whalers have killed over 10,000 whales in the Southern Ocean since 1987. Mostly Minke Whales, they were killed under the guise of 'scientific research', as the International Whaling Commission (IWC) banned global whaling in 1986. As long-time advocates of a legal solution to bring an end to Japanese whaling, the Australian Marine Conservation Society (AMCS) welcomed the Australian Government's decision to finally challenge the whalers in the international courts.

The Australian Government instigated legal action against the Government of Japan in the International Court of Justice in an attempt to end the killing. The case was heard in June–July 2013, with the verdict handed down on 31 March 2014. AMCS and fellow Australians were overjoyed to hear the ICJ rule that Japan's whaling program in the Southern Ocean breaks international law and must stop immediately. This is a

*(continued on page 20)*

## **Tate West Ridge** *(continued)*

declared below an infant cornice. It was actually warm!

Feeling revitalised, at one we climbed onto the Ridge and gazed at Watsons Crags' fabulous snowy profile. Victoria's Bogong stood white in a blue-black sea; Grey Mare prominent in the west. We climbed south, stopping for more awesomeness on an unnamed 1970m peak. From there we could have returned via Mt Tate but whereas I had been nervous of avalanches on that route, now it was ice. In the event, we descended to Consett Stephen and rounded the Trig to the south. All the while casting glances straight down Guthega Valley: a do-able route? Do not know.

A tail wind is much more fun. The snow remained firm on Guthega Ridge



*Tate West Ridge. Photo Brian Slee.*

until a spongy and delightful descent to the ice-covered Pondage. Back at the Outback at 3:30pm. Several pretty wallabies seen on the way to the usual

break at Jindabyne's Sundance. We were in Torrens at 7:10pm. A hard walk but worth repeating.

**Brian Slee**

binding ruling by the ICJ with no appeal. Japan has already said they will comply with the ruling.

The momentous decision to take legal action took years of behind-the-scenes hard work by conservation groups and legal experts. AMCS worked towards a legal end to 'scientific' whaling in the Southern Ocean for many years, working with government, lawyers and scientists to convince our leaders to mount this case. This is a just and wonderful outcome that we should celebrate.

*Nature NSW*, Vol. 58, No. 2  
(Winter 2014)

### **Extract of an open letter to the Honourable Tony Abbot MP, 12 March 2014**

Dear Prime Minister

We are writing to you as 114 members of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), the world's leading organisation of protected area professionals covering senior figures from academia, public land/sea management agencies and the NGO community. We believe protected areas deliver on many priorities of your government: a sustainable national economy, regional economies, Indigenous employment, and national health and well-being goals among them.

As Australians, we are all custodians of one of the most remarkable places on earth. The majority of Australia's plants and animals are not found anywhere else. Our land, seascapes and unique animals are valued by Australians, attract visitors from all over the world and are a defining part of who we are as people. The most effective protectors of these national assets are our World Heritage areas, national parks and other protected areas.

The Australian Government and its leader, the Prime Minister, have a special responsibility on behalf of the people of Australia, and the people of the world, to safeguard this richness and pass it on to future generations by taking a lead in conservation and sustainable development. However, the Australian members of the World Commission have expressed rising concern about policy reversals and regressive legislative and management changes affecting conservation and protected areas at both state and federal level in the past two years in Australia. This retreat from many years of leadership and achievement by governments of all political persuasions is both unfortunate and unprecedented. We believe science and the national interest require instead a strong commitment to Australia's leadership in

conservation and continued building of our systems.

The IUCN's World Parks Congress in Sydney in November will be an excellent opportunity to showcase this commitment. The main aim of the Congress will be to articulate the vital role of protected areas in conserving nature while delivering essential ecosystem services and position protected areas within goals of economic and community well-being.

An important fact is that Australia has not completed its protected area system. Australia is a long way from achieving a fully representative protected area system, with nearly 40% of bioregions having less than 10% representation and over 10% of subregions having no representation at all in the National Reserves System. We do not agree with any idea that our protected area system is sufficient or that we have too many protected areas. We do not accept the description of protected areas as being 'locked up', which implies that the only beneficial use of land or ocean is for the extraction of commodities. It ignores the reality that protected intact ecosystems are highly productive of multiple benefits. It also leads to the erroneous view that protected areas exclude people. With well over 100 million visits a year, protected areas in fact 'open up' access to land for healthy recreation. Importantly Indigenous Protected Areas also get Traditional Owners back on their country as well as generating significant employment and measureable improvements to community health.

Protected areas produce many other social values and services, from cultural connection, health, wellbeing and adventure, to freshwater catchments and filtration, erosion prevention, pollination, carbon capture and resilience to climate change, fishery nurseries and many more. For example the clean, clear water from catchments of the Australian Alps national parks contributes an estimated \$9.6 billion worth of water annually.

Senior representatives of WCPA would welcome meeting with you to discuss these issues and explore ways of ensuring continued progress. We have made this an open letter as the issue has recently become a live debate in the community and members have expressed their desire to have their views contributed.

Yours faithfully,

Prof Marc Hockings, Vice Chair for Science and Management

Dr Graeme Worboys, Vice Chair for Connectivity Conservation and Mountains

Penelope Figgis AO, Vice Chair Oceania, IUCN World Commission on Protected areas, Sydney

*Nature NSW*, Vol. 58, No. 2  
(Winter 2014)

### **Raising the wall of Warragamba Dam**

In March 2014, 'Stage One of the Hawkesbury–Nepean Valley Flood Management Review' announced that the proposal to raise the wall of Warragamba Dam by 23 metres was again being actively considered by the NSW Government. There are, however, plenty of reasons why this billion dollar proposal was so solidly rejected 20 years ago.

The review by the Office of Water claims that raising the dam is the 'most effective infrastructure for providing regional flood mitigation', despite admitting it would be expensive, take a long time to implement, and be environmentally destructive. If built, it would still not eliminate flood risks for western Sydney communities. It will, however, inundate up to 7,500 ha of the southern Blue Mountains, perhaps the most protected natural area in the country. This area is not only part of one of our most recognised national parks, but also is World Heritage listed, wilderness declared, with wild rivers and special area catchment status to boot. The visual impacts of temporary flooding will be hundreds of kilometres of bare riverbanks, visible from Burragorang, McMahons and even Sublime Point lookouts. These riverbanks will become smothered in silt and weeds. Over three-quarters of the threatened Camden White Gums are found in Kedumba Valley in the Blue Mountains National Park. These would be at risk of being killed by artificial inundation if the dam wall were raised.

The trigger for this proposal was allegedly the 2011 Brisbane floods when, ironically, major flood mitigation by the Wivenhoe and Somerset dams upstream failed and arguably made flooding worse. One positive example of sensible land-use planning came out of the inquiries after the Brisbane floods. The plan for the township of Grantham drawn up after the floods includes relocation of residential homes from the floodplain to higher ground outside the flood zone.

The solution for Sydney is obvious. Build planned growth areas outside the Hawkesbury–Nepean floodplain with government funding for insurance, voluntary purchase and/or relocation of

(continued next page)



## PARKWATCH (continued)

low-lying homes. Homes need to be protected from the path of all floods, not just the smaller floods that the proposed 23 metre raising would prevent.

*Colong Bulletin*, No. 254 (May 2014)

### Troubled waters

Your legs ache as heavy beads of sweat drip from your brow. It's been hours since you began hiking and your water is warm and far from refreshing. You arrive at a seemingly pristine creek and the urge to fill your canteen is overwhelming. The water is cool and fast-moving—you assume it's safe to drink. A week later, however, you realise your mistake. A quick upstream sip could leave you doubled over with abdominal pain, vomiting, fever—and worse. Although scooping water straight from a river can be tempting, it is important to consider the entire catchment. Bacteria, viruses and chemicals can contaminate even remote water sources in wilderness areas.

Waterborne contaminants fall into three categories: chemical, algal blooms and pathogens (including viruses, bacteria and protozoa). Ingesting chemicals will not usually cause significant harm after one exposure. But algae can be toxic. Cyanobacteria produce toxins that are among the most potent of poisons and pose a variety of health risks when ingested, inhaled or touched. Symptoms can include rashes, abdominal pain, vomiting, liver swelling, kidney damage and respiratory paralysis.

Waterborne viruses can occur if there are human settlements within the catchment area. 'Viruses are only found near sources of human faecal contamination', says Greg Jackson, director of The Queensland Department of Health's Water Program. 'You won't find viruses in a natural source unless there's a septic tank upstream. Since viruses are unprotected bundles of DNA, they won't survive long outside a host'.

Bacteria such as *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) and *Campylobacter* are common in Australia and can be spread between species. Transmission occurs when faecal matter from animals or humans enters a water supply. Consuming bacteria by drinking, cooking with or swimming in contaminated water can result in a severe gastroenteritis.

Protozoa are single-celled organisms that draw nutrients from their hosts. Some are harmless, but others can be life-threatening. *Giardia* and *Cryptosporidium*, for example, can survive outside a host for long periods.

Collect water that is running, clear and free of debris—and all water needs to be filtered. After filtration, water should

be boiled, treated with chemicals, or exposed to UV radiation. 'Boiling is the only method that achieves 100% removal of all pathogens', Greg says. 'At 85°C, nearly all disease-causing organisms are killed.' If boiling is impractical, adding iodine or chlorine tablets is a common way to treat filtered water. 'Many chemical treatments don't kill the organisms but, rather, render them sterile so they cannot reproduce in your gut.' The amount of chemical added and the length of time that the water is exposed to it must be precise.

When using UV treatment, the water must be very clear because UV light cannot easily pass through cloudy fluids. The light can be administered by inserting a UV pen torch into your water bottle for a minute. The radiation deactivates bacterial DNA, which prevents micro-organisms from reproducing and causing disease.

*Australian Geographic*, No. 121 (July–August 2014)

### Experimental horseriding

One of the last acts of the departing Environment Minister, the Hon. Robyn Parker, was to approve horseriding trials in five protected wilderness areas. It is indicative of politics within the NSW Government that this controversial decision was announced by the National Party Member for Monaro, John Barilaro. On 8 April he said: 'In Kosciuszko, this trial will give riders access to 32 kms of trail including the Nine Mile Trail and the Ingeegoodbee Trail in the Pilot Wilderness'.

Having walked Nine Mile Pinch into the Pilot Wilderness I cannot understand how anyone can use this track and claim to care about their horse, let alone the environment. The Nine Mile requires the horse to carry its rider up a steep 900 metre climb to the Ingeegoodbee Valley. The horse camp at the base of the climb on the Pinch River is often thick with weeds. I fear this track may be the wick that ignites an explosion of weeds in Australia's most heavily overgrazed subalpine wilderness.

To legitimise horse riding in wilderness, amendments were made to three national park plans of management and were backdated from April to February 2014 to foreclose appeals to the Land and Environment Court. These amendments were supported by flimsy generic internal environmental reviews and approved by NPWS internal processes without any public comment or review.

The Hon. Robert Stokes replaced Ms Parker as Environment Minister on 28 April. His first action was to open a

new section of the Bicentennial Trail – an investment of \$420,000. Called the Boardmans track, 'The 22 km stretch between Tom Groggin and Geehi camp grounds now takes visitors through fern gullies and includes the most picturesque creek crossings', Mr Stokes said. It was bulldozed through Kosciuszko National Park, after being approved by an internal NPWS process with no public comment or review. On 10 April, Shadow Environment Minister, Luke Foley said:

... horse riding is totally inappropriate in protected wilderness areas. These areas were set aside under wilderness legislation established 27 years ago by former Environment Minister Bob Carr to preserve the biodiversity and beauty of these areas from human interference. The Act explicitly directs that wilderness areas should only be open to 'self-reliant' recreation. Riding a horse is hardly self-reliant. The heart of our alpine wilderness is not the place to be sanctioning the use of large introduced species disturbing and trampling our unique and pristine environment.

We welcome Mr Foley's support in the fight to stop horseriding abuse in the wilderness.

*Colong Bulletin*, No. 255 (July 2014)

**Compiled by Hazel Rath**

# NPA notices

National Parks Association Calendar				
	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Public holidays	Mon 29	Mon 6	—	Thurs 24-Fri 2
General meetings	Thurs 18	Thurs 16	Thurs 20	—
Committee meetings	Tues 2	Tues 7	Tues 4	Tues 2
Gudgeny Bush Regeneration <sup>1</sup>	Sat 13	Sat 11	Sat 8	Sat 13 *
Art Week at Gudgeny Cottage	Sat 6–Sat 13	—	—	—
NPA Christmas party				Sun 14 <sup>2</sup>

Further details: 1. GBRG. Meet at Namadgi Visitor Centre 9:15am, or Yankee Hat car park 10:00am. \* December half day work followed by Christmas lunch.  
2. Gudgeny Cottage (Ready-cut) from 11:30am

## New members of the association



The NPA ACT welcomes the following new members:  
Philip and Rebecca Lawrence  
Michael and Jacqui Lawrence  
Alison Lawrence  
Bronwen and Damon, Tulley and Freya Lewis, (4 family members)  
Ruth Smith  
Fiona Fraser  
Peter Rowe and Julie Kendal-Rowe  
We look forward to seeing everyone at NPA activities.

### Membership fees for 2014-15 are now overdue

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

Please take the time to make amendments to the enclosed renewal form if the information NPA holds confidentially in its database needs correcting. Please send the whole form back with your payment details. Thank you!

Sonja Lenz, Secretary

Don't forget that this year, Namadgi's 30th anniversary, the NPA's beautiful **Namadgi** book is only \$15 for members.

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

Any great photos? If you have high resolution photos you would like to see in the *Bulletin*, or on its covers, contact the Editor.

(Sacred Kingfisher in Garran, Adrienne Nicholson)



### CHRISTMAS PARTIES

NPA SUNDAY 14 DECEMBER

GBRG SATURDAY 13 DECEMBER

Retiring Editor Max Lawrence says a great big THANK YOU to all his co-workers on the NPA *Bulletin*—and especially to Adrienne Nicholson, Ed Highley, Hazel Rath, Sonja Lenz and all of our wonderful contributors.

Namadgi National Park is officially 30 years old.

Join their Picnic  
4 October 1-5pm

Namadgi Visitor Centre

Please book

Parks30yearAnniversary@act.gov.au

### Cover photographs

#### Front cover

**Main photo.** Peter Anderson-Smith and Margaret Power on Guthega Ridge (article page 18) *Photo Brian Slee*

**Insets. Left.** Founding member and life member Fiona Brand being interviewed by the press (Cotter River Ordinance article page 6) *Photo supplied by Syd Comfort*

**Centre.** Alpine Tree Frog, the subject of Amy Macris's presentation to the June meeting (page 8). *Photo supplied by Amy Macris*

**Right.** The new art space at the Namadgi Visitor Centre (see page 11). *Photo supplied by Rod Griffiths*

#### Back cover

**Main photo.** A new use for the interpretive signage at the Mt Taylor summit. *Photo Max Lawrence*



# General Meetings

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



## Thursday 18 September

*Life at the top: Clement Wragge's Mt Kosciuszko weather station 1897-1902*

**Matthew Higgins**

Writer, historian, film maker

For five years a group of mainly young men lived on top of Australia gathering weather data for one of Australia's most colourful meteorologists, Clement Wragge. Wragge was an unconventional scientist and his Kosciuszko project saw people live on the summit year-round at a time when it was considered madness to try to do so. The young weather men had a significant and intimate experience of Australia's highest places.

Matthew Higgins is known to many NPA members for his previous talks to the association and for his books and walks in the high country.

## Thursday 16 October

*Towards a digital parks service*

**Daniel Iglesias**

Director, ACT Parks and Conservation Service

The potential of the digital experience to change the way land managers interact with stakeholders and manage protected areas is bounded only by the imagination. It is difficult to imagine a replacement for physically experiencing nature, but a progressive Parks Service needs to engage digitally to enhance visitor appreciation of the natural world and to capture, process and apply data in a meaningful way.

## Thursday 20 November

*Aboriginal environmental ranger program*

**Bhiamie Eckford-Williamson**

NPA sponsored Honours student at ANU

Bhiamie will open his presentation with a brief personal history including a painting by his father of the creation story of the Narran Lakes, near Brewarrina. His ANU honors thesis investigates the roles and responsibilities of young people in Aboriginal environmental ranger programs. In the ACT the establishment of the Murumbung Yarrung Murra Rangers has given the opportunity for Traditional Owners to make their contribution to the ongoing management of our National Park and nature reserves. It is important to reflect on the success of these Ranger programs while looking to the future and asking, what can we do better?

### 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)
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#### Committee members

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Graham Scully	6230 3352 (h)	scullymob@southernphone.com.au
Mike Smith	6286 2984 (h)	msmith@netspeed.com.au

#### Conveners

<i>Outings Sub-committee</i>	Mike Smith	6286 2984 (h)
	msmith@netspeed.com.au	
<i>Environment Sub-committee</i>	Rod Griffiths	6288 6988 (h)
	rod.blackdog@gmail.com	
<i>Publications Sub-committee</i>	Kevin McCue	6251 1291 (h)
	mccue.kevin@gmail.com	
<i>Bulletin Working Group</i>	Vacant	
<i>Promotion and Engagement Sub-committee</i>	Graham Scully	6230 3352 (h)
	scullymob@southernphone.com.au	
<i>Work party co-ordinator</i>	Martin Chalk	6292 3502 (h)
	mchalk@grapevine.com.au	

**The NPA ACT office** is in Unit 14 / 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 (mob) 0410 875 731 (if urgent)  
**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.

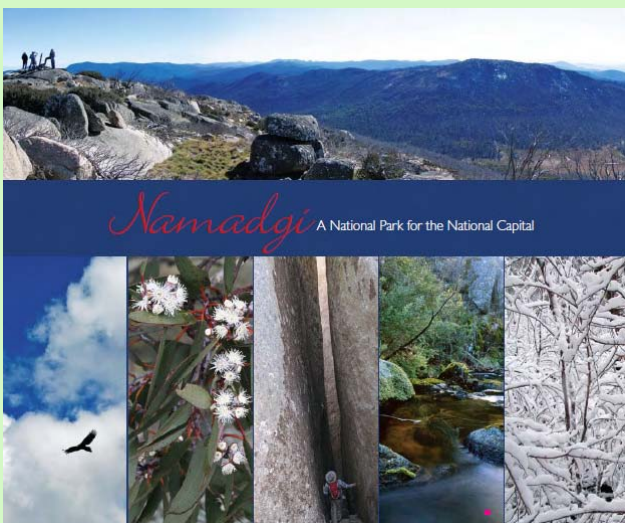
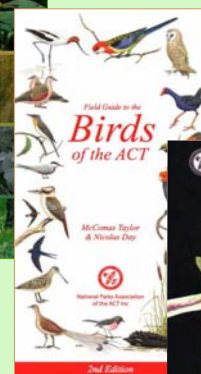
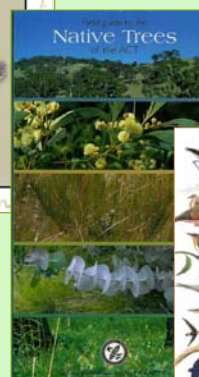
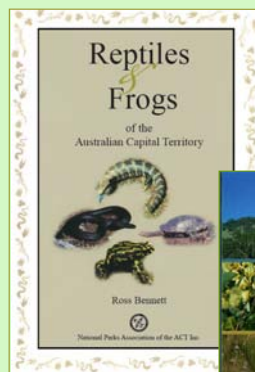
**Deadline for the December 2014 issue: 31 October 2014.**

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Interesting books  
 Beautiful books  
 Informative references



ACT Souvenirs

Send to friends overseas

The great range of NPA field guides or a beautiful book about Namadgi National Park are available from the office and some bookstores. Note that the Namadgi book will be available to members at the special discount price of \$15 during Namadgi's 30th anniversary, this year.

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